

MANDATE PROPOSAL OF THE
Working Group on Spatial Planning
and Sustainable Development
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE
CONFERENCE)

1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them

The Working Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development will continue to promote efforts in the field of spatial planning and development to implement the "Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development" of the Alpine Convention and further strategic framework documents e.g. the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 (ACTS 2050) as well as translating the Territorial Agenda 2030 objectives for implementation in the Alpine context to ensure a good quality of life in the Alps. The UN Agenda 2030 SDG's will be taken into account in all activities, especially SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 13 (Climate action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals). The Working Group will conduct its work based on the perimeter of the Alpine Convention taking into account the various territorial effects on neighbouring areas outside this perimeter e.g. the perimeters of the Interreg B Alpine Space Programme and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).

Starting in this mandate period and based on efforts by the EUSALP Joint Paper on Spatial Planning, the Working Group will as a follow-up to the Alps2050 project evaluate its policy recommendations and outline how priorities could be implemented in national, regional and local planning practice. The Working Group will work on a common vision and perspective for the Alpine area using synergies by building on the results of the RSA 9 Alpine Towns. This shall also include guidelines towards joint Alpine Spatial Planning through more harmonized spatial plans and integrated territorial development programmes (Art. 8, 9 Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development) with emphasis on climate change adaption.

2. Objectives

Description of the objectives to be achieved until the XVIII Alpine Conference

1. Improvement of cross-border cooperation in spatial development in the AC

Based on the results of the assessment study on cross-border cooperation conducted in the previous mandate, ways to optimize cross-border cooperation in

spatial planning and development will be further explored and concretised. The focus will be on needs for and obstacles impeding necessary cross-border cooperation. This may include the preparation of a project proposal for transnational or bi-national funding programmes (e.g. Interreg), but also bilateral optimisation of cross-border cooperation in spatial planning.

2. Follow up to the ACTS 2050 and the implementation pathways

Contributing to the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) implementation pathways on Spatial Planning (IP_SP1: Alpine wide concept "Spatial planning for climate protection" as well as IP_SP2: "Spatial planning measures for reducing the need of individual car traffic") and further activities for teaming up as started on soil protection.

3. Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective

The Alpine regional development is based on a series of important instruments, including the Alpine Convention, the Interreg Alpine Space Programme, and the macro-regional strategy EUSALP. In recent years, the visions and objectives of spatial development have been addressed in a more explicit way: The findings of the RSA 9 are a starting point to build the perspective, in particular its exploration of the Alpine settlement system. Further important points of reference are the Implementation Protocol Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, ESPON Alps2050, the EUSALP Joint Paper on Spatial Planning as well as the Interreg-projects AlpGov/AlpGov2. The insights of these processes shall be brought together and work towards an alignment of objectives started. This will happen through the combination and alignment of spatial development proposals in a cartographic and topic-oriented manner, including participatory steps from the involved domestic and Alpine institutions, to come in the end to a consolidated version on the transnational level.

Additionally, following up on recommendations of the Alpine Convention's report on Economical Use of Soil and the respective report of the Compliance Committee, a practice-oriented implementation guideline for the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol shall be elaborated. This guideline will address the target group of regional and municipal planning authorities and decision makers. Existing implementation guidelines will be taken into account and updated.

3. Planned outputs

Description of the planned outputs, with reference to the objectives

1. Project Proposal for transnational or bi-national funding programmes or specific activity to improve cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial planning in the Alpine Convention perimeter.
2. ACTS 2050 implementation pathways contribution to the following steps:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP_SP1: Step 1a: Definition and provision of data concerning the impact of climate scenarios on land use • IP_SP1: Step 1c: Discussion paper on growth and shrinking for climate-sensitive spatial structures in the Alps and workshop on growth and shrinking processes in the Alps • IP_SP1: Step 3: Alpine-wide survey on challenges land saving targets are facing in Alpine countries (based on the collection of land saving targets carried out in the mandate 2021/2022) • IP_SP1: Step 4: Guidelines for municipalities for assessing and activating inner-urban development potentials • IP_SP2: Step 1: Definition of expectations towards sustainable mobility in the Alps • IP_SP2: Step 2: Best practice collection of accessibility solutions
<p>3. Refinement of the knowledge basis laid by the RSA 9, compilation of further existing studies, draft alignment of proposals, participatory feedback-loop and consolidated draft with a view to elaborate an Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective. Elaboration of a brief implementation guideline for the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol for the target groups of regional and municipal planning authorities and decision makers.</p>

4. Work plan

Outline of the foreseen timetable (meetings and other activities, main milestones scheduled)
The Working Group plans 2-3 regular meetings per year with additional meetings if necessary. Meetings shall be organized physical or virtual as appropriate.

5. Cooperation

Description of the planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with all Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention, focussing on exchange with the Transport Working Group and the Soil Protection Working Group. Cooperation with the Alpine Climate Board (ACB): regular exchange with the ACB on the pathways towards the Alpine Climate Targets related to spatial planning. • Cooperation with EUSALP activities in the field of spatial development, most notably in the Action Groups 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and in particular on the basis of the EUSALP declaration "Sustainable Land Use and Soil Protection" as well as the strategic priority policy area "Spatial Planning". • Continue cooperation with the AlpPlan-network of spatial planning experts in the Alps in order to strengthen ties between the Working Group and planning practitioners at various spatial levels.

- Cooperation with the Alpine Space Programme and other bodies of cross-border Interreg-Programmes e.g. to share and use existing project results and expertise.
- Cooperation with the Alpine Town of the Year Association and Alliance in the Alps, specifically on the issue of guidelines for municipalities.

6. Communication

Description of the communication goals, targets and respective planned measures

- Dissemination of the results by each member within national administrations, different planning levels and other forms of public relations.
- Systematic communication activities of the Working Group using existing communication formats (e.g. AC homepage, website of ACB, network of the Alpine Soil Partnership).
- Outreach activities to related processes and identification of future cooperation opportunities, including other Alpine Convention bodies and events, structural funds programmes, EU cooperation projects in relation to spatial development (e.g. ERDF or CAP) and/or Territorial Agenda 2030 related actions.

7. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Description of how the proposed objectives and activities shall contribute to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (biodiversity and ecosystems / climate action / quality of life / interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs of the aforementioned areas)

The Working Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development will strengthen sustainable spatial planning and help the Contracting Parties to combine sectoral activities and policies through its cross-sectoral and holistic approach and by including different interest groups and stakeholders at different local and regional levels.

It will pay attention to priority area 1 (conserving and valuing Alpine biodiversity and ecosystems) by fostering spatial connectivity of ecosystems and habitats as well as green infrastructure and develop further activities to link sustainable spatial planning and prudent use of soils, which are crucial for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in the Alps.

It will strengthen the priority area 2 (taking ambitious climate action) by continuous work on concrete implementation pathways of the ACTS 2050 and the Climate Action Plan 2.0 in the field of spatial planning and through its cross-sectoral approach with aspects like soil protection and transport.

It will also enhance the work of priority area 3 (enabling a good quality of life for the people in the Alps). Quality of life is linked to all spheres of sustainable development while spatial planning is crucial for the territorial quality of life as mapped by ESPON

research. Settlement structures and small and medium sized towns as considered in the RSA 9, efficient mobility, and good quality of natural resources all play an important role to promote quality of life and its perception by inhabitants in the Alps, and correspond to the main objectives of the Working Group.

8. Chair

The chair will be held by Germany.