

MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP *on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development* for the period 2021-2022 until the XVII Alpine Conference

1. Introductory remarks

Based on the work conducted by the Alpine Convention's Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning and its main outputs (Murnau Declaration, International Conference "Sustainable spatial development in the Alps" in 2016, following and steering the work done in the scope of the ESPON Targeted Analysis "Alps2050"), the Working Group on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development will 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 adapting the new EU Territorial Agenda 2030 for implementation in the alpine area. 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). Looking beyond 2022, the Working Group will as a follow-up to the Alps2050 project evaluate its policy recommendations and outline how priorities could be implemented in federal, regional and local planning practice. The Working Group will work on a common vision and perspective for the Alpine area and develop 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 adaptation.

2. Objectives

Description of objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment of status of cross-border spatial development in the Alpine Convention Assessment of the current state of cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial development – particularly coordination of spatial planning and sustainable territorial development – in the Alpine Convention area (Art. 4 Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development) with a specific focus on the ACTS 2050. As a first step, the most relevant results of previous activities (Murnau Declaration, International Conference "Sustainable spatial development in the Alps" in 2016, ESPON Targeted Analysis Alps2050 and results of the follow-up workshop in Munich) in the field of spatial development will be summarised as a basis for further work of the Working Group. 2. Follow up to the ACTS 2050 and the implementation pathways Contributing to the prioritised Alpine Climate Board (ACB) implementation pathways on Spatial Planning (IP_SP1: Alpine wide concept „Spatial planning for climate protection“) as well as on Soil Protection (IP_S2: Defining Alpine wide guidelines for minimised land take and sealing) by taking part in the Matchmaking process and further activities for teaming up. 3. Involvement in the development of the new RSA Contributing to the 9th Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 9) on Alpine Cities regarding aspects of spatial planning and development, e.g. urban-rural linkages, civil participation in planning processes, climate adaptation and resilience through spatial planning or

settlement structures, subject to the specific assignment by the ad-hoc Working Group for the preparation of the RSA.

3. Tasks

Description of outputs

1. Study report on the assessment of cross-border cooperation and coordination of spatial planning in the Alpine Convention perimeter; documentation of identified areas of cooperation and synergies; proposals for pilot actions on cross-border or transnational spatial planning and integrated territorial development.
2. ACTS 2050 implementation pathways contribution: contribute to the following steps of the implementation pathways:
 IP_SP1: Step 1b: Collection of good practices for growth and shrinking strategies
 IP_SP1: Step 3: Survey on land saving targets and challenges
 IP_S2: Step 1: Define land-take/land-sealing and the need to stop both
 IP_S2: Step 2b: Coaching of spatial planners
3. Contribution to the RSA9 by drafting a chapter on aspects of spatial planning and development for the next report subject to the specific assignment by the ad-hoc Working Group for the preparation of the RSA.

Work plan

The Working Group plans 2-3 regular meetings per year with additional meetings if necessary. Meetings shall be organized physically or virtually as appropriate.
 For the Assessment report (1) a first draft is envisaged by mid-2021 and a draft report by the end of 2021 followed by stakeholder participation and fine-tuning in 2022.
 The contribution to the ACTS (2) and the RSA (3) will follow the timeline of the relevant actors and may include seminars or workshops with partners as well as a kick-off and closing event.

4. Cooperation

Cooperation with other Working Groups/Boards and partners

- Cooperation with all Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention, focussing on exchange with the Soil Protection Working Group, the Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP) and the Transport 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 – especially joining the process on teaming up (e.g. Matchmaking Workshop).
- 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”, which is currently being developed in the scope of AlpGov2, most notably by Action Groups 4, 6, 7 and 8: regular exchange and information on activities and participation at the workshops.
- Establish cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the AlpPlan-Network of Alpine spatial planning experts. (The network was established in 2020 in the framework of the Interreg OpenSpaceAlps-project. “OpenSpaceAlps” intends to promote sustainable development of Alpine open spaces by enhancing spatial planning governance).
- Cooperation with the Alpine Space Programme and other cross-border Interreg programme bodies to make use of relevant existing project results and expertise.

5. Communication

Communication activities of the Working Group

- Dissemination of the results by each member within national administrations, at different planning levels and through other forms of public relations.
- Systematic communication activities of the Working Group using existing communication formats (e.g. Alpine Convention homepage, new website of ACB, network of the Alpine Soil Partnership) striving for a future communication plan.
- 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.

6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Conference

Contribution to and coherence with the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2017-2022 of the Alpine Conference as well as the Convention and its Protocols

The newly founded 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 transversal and integrated approach and by including different interest groups and stakeholders at different local and regional levels. It will strengthen the priority 2 (taking action on climate change) by taking up the work of the ACB and through its cross-sectoral approach. It will also pay attention to priority 3 (conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape) by fostering spatial connectivity of ecosystems and habitats as well as green infrastructure. With regard to spatial planning patterns, priority 5 (promoting sustainable transport) will play a central role. The Working Group Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development will work towards aligning spatial visions in the Alps. This requires a focus on governance in close collaboration with the important stakeholders as in priority 6 (Leading role in EUSALP).

7. Chair

The chair will be held by Germany.