



AlpPlan - alpine spatial planning network

Strategic Framework

ARL European Working Group *AlpPlan*

“Living document”
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Preface

AlpPlan (alpine spatial planning network) is a European Working Group (EWG) in the Alpine region, resulting from a cooperation of the Interreg Alpine Space project *OpenSpaceAlps* and the Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association (ARL). After the end of the *OpenSpaceAlps* project, it is continuously financed and coordinated by the ARL in accordance with its internal provisions. This strategic document is intended to provide guidance for the further development of the network.

Organisational structure

AlpPlan is managed as a **European Working Group (EWG)** within the organisational structure of the ARL. For that, it follows the [Rules of Procedure for ARL EWGs](#). It is important to underline that the cooperation is based on a voluntary basis and that the principle of subsidiarity stays valid. Only natural persons can become members, but not organisations or companies. Interested persons can apply for membership at the ARL office by filling out the necessary contact form. The ARL Executive Committee (“Präsidium der ARL”) decides on the admission of members in agreement with the Steering Committee. Members are appointed by the ARL Executive Committee for a period of five years. Reappointment is possible. Moreover, also guests of the network and external persons shall be invited to suitable events and activities.

The **Steering Committee (SC)** consists of the chairperson, two deputies, the responsible officer at the ARL office and the secretary. The chairperson and his/her deputies are appointed by the ARL Executive Committee on the proposal of the General Assembly of the EWG for a period of five years. One subsequent reappointment to the same function is permitted. The chairperson appoints the secretary. The implementation of the decisions of the Steering Committee (e.g. the establishment of working formats) is subject to approval by the ARL Executive Committee.

In order to ensure a balanced spatial representation and to establish relevant links to planning and research communities as well as international networks/working groups, the Steering Committee appoints voluntary ***AlpPlan* Focal Persons**. They have a consulting function towards the Steering Committee, serve as a first contact for (potential) members in their respective countries and embrace the work of *AlpPlan* towards their respective professional and scientific networks.

Strategic objectives

The **overall objective of *AlpPlan*** is to promote cooperation and coordination in the field of spatial planning in the Alpine region, especially from a cross-border perspective. Through mutual exchange and cooperation, the network is committed to contributing to sustainable territorial development from an ecological, economic and social perspective. The realisation/ implementation of binding international treaties/agreements (mainly the Alpine Convention including its protocols) and relevant political strategies (e.g. the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region – EUSALP) by means of spatial planning form a content-related framework for the work of *AlpPlan*. *AlpPlan* is committed to ensuring close cooperation with appropriate institutions. This includes in particular relevant Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention and EUSALP Action Groups as well as potential cooperation initiatives with other mountain regions organizations’

The **benefit of the network** is seen particularly in the fact that *AlpPlan* brings together both scientific expertise and practice-oriented application perspectives. In doing so, the network takes on a role that accompanies political strategies and processes in an advisory function, but generally offers an independent and open exchange between the members.

Based on the current structure and working principles, a **step-by-step process** towards an independent network with institutionalised membership and the associated organisational functions/capabilities is envisaged. This process is divided into short-, medium- and long-term objectives below.

Short-term objectives

- Becoming operational by providing effective organisational and governance structures for the network
- Expanding the network by contacting new potential members in all alpine countries
- Increasing the awareness for *AlpPlan* among the alpine research and planning communities, as well as increasing its “visibility”
- Establishing a close cooperation of EWG *AlpPlan* with the working group “Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development” of the Alpine Convention
- Establishing (close) cooperation with European cooperation projects with high relevance for alpine territorial development

Mid-term objectives

- Expanding the thematic scope of the network and the associated cooperation partners
- Adding the possibility of institutional membership to the network
- Starting a negotiation process with public (planning) authorities in the alpine countries on the establishment of an independent organisation supported by the participating parties
- Enhancing communication activities in order to extend the outreach of the network outputs

Long-term objectives

- Becoming an independent network with its own legal status, supported by the participating parties
- Raising third-party funds through participation in European projects

- Acquiring an official observer status for the Alpine Convention
- Extending collaboration with mountain regions organizations' beyond the alpine area

Working formats and activities

The network activities should bring together different disciplinary perspectives, both from scientific research and from the practice of spatial planning (and related public tasks). The **possible types of activities** are diverse and should include, for example:

- Open exchange formats on changing focus topics for the aim of mutual learning
- Accompanying and cooperating with European cooperation projects by organising joint events
- Advisory activities for policy development and planning practice, e.g. through joint positions and face-to-face consultations
- Scientific research activities with concrete application relevance
- Public relations activities towards specific target groups
- Exchange and cooperation formats with European initiatives/bodies (e.g. CoR, Euromontana, ...)

In order to document the results or recommendations arising from the activities, different **types of products** are feasible:

- ARL Position Papers
- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Guest contributions in publications of other organisations or projects
- Thematic collections on ARL International
- Multi-media formats such as Science Clips

To insure a realistic and concrete implementation of the networks' objectives, a specific **Action Plan** is developed by the Steering Committee, which operationalizes concrete activities for the network as basis for the specific organisational and budget planning. The Action Plan needs to be revised every 3 years by the Steering Committee in coordination with the *AlpPlan* members and has to be confirmed by the ARL Executive Committee ("Präsidium der ARL").

Edits and Amendments

As a "living document", this document can be updated or revised according to development of the strategic orientation of the network. We invite all *AlpPlan* members to suggest edits and amendments, which will be collected by the ARL office (contact: alpplan@arl-net.de) for consultation with the *AlpPlan* Steering Committee.