

Rethinking trans-national cooperation and the role of open spaces in spatial planning – kick-off-meeting of the alpine spatial planning “AlpPlan” network

Thursday, 29th October 2020, 09:00 – 14:30, ONLINE MEETING

Written summary of the final discussion



What are currently the most important topics of transnational importance in alpine spatial development? Is open space safeguarding a matter of interest?

- *Pedrazzini*: Open space safeguarding is a matter of interest. In particular, the question of abandoned land (e.g. abandonment of mountain agriculture) in some areas of the Alps must be addressed as well. There is also the need to link open spaces in metropolitan areas to the alpine green infrastructure.
- *Zucchelli*: We are the Lead Partner of LUIGI project, we work on GIS connections in the urban rural areas of some cities of the Alpine spaces. We just suggest to work also among big cities around the alpine spaces. We have the power of the number of people interested in open spaces, and that policy makers are also useful for the target of this new expert group.

How can the "AlpPlan" network provide added value in addition to existing transnational cooperation platforms? (Alpine Convention, EUSALP AGs, ArgeAlp,...)

- *Sötz*: There are already a lot of cooperation structures and experiences. There is no need to make further plans/strategies, but to get the good recommendations on the ground.
- *Bartol*: AlpPlan network can be a platform for an exchange of information further to hold permanent discussion of themes that are interesting for all. Nevertheless, it would be useful to have something like a mission statement based on which we would structure the future work and involve different stakeholders.
- *Zademach*: Critical discussion about the value of this additional network is to be appreciated. But we have to stress the value of the exchange between academia/research and planning practice, which works very successfully in the Academy for Territorial Development and could become a unique selling point of the AlpPlan network.
- *Ulrich*: From the perspective of the Bavarian politics and administration there is interest in exchanging best practices on how to safeguard open spaces and how to improve settlement structures. Bavaria is willing to contribute to the network, e.g. by having international conference together with the network.
 - *Klee*: bringing together the different understandings of open space and best practices for open space planning as a first activity of the network and basis for further discussion.
- *Zwettler*: A network like AlpPlan could go deeper into the detailed discussion on spatial planning approaches, compared with EUSALP and AlpConv working bodies.



- *Künzl*: EUSALP spatial planning initiative will develop a vision and roadmap but a cooperation with the AlpPlan network could be crucial to develop concrete measures for implementation. However, communication is important to sharp the picture of the different actors/networks and their different objectives.
- *Bartol*: It would be very valuable to have the transnational collection of open space approaches as a starting point of the network. In addition to the exchange on instruments, there is the need to develop a common vision/perspective, as EUSALP AGs mainly do it.

How can we facilitate continuous exchange between relevant stakeholders in spatial and sectoral planning? Who are the most important stakeholders to address?

- *Voghera*: European Documentation Centre on Nature Park Planning (Observer of OpenSpaceAlps, member of IUCN) can support transnational exchange and cooperation on open spaces and will participate in the network.
- *Sötz*: We need to address people from regional administrations and to exchange the planning solutions that work best in different contexts.
- *Novljan*: Is this network only supposed to last for the project duration of the OpenSpaceAlps project or is it supposed to last longer? If the latter applies, we would need to look for funding options.
 - *Klee*: from today's point of view, the network will be funded by the ARL until 2022 with a strong intention to extend the funding after this period. These European working groups are designed as a permanent working group as long as there are members willing to participate and ideas/activities.
- *Weizenegger*: If you want to achieve something in the long term, funding is also important but it depends on the intrinsic motivation of the people. Therefore, communication will play a crucial role to reach important stakeholders in various regions.



Considerations on the future network development (closing statement)

- in the first half of 2021 we will offer an **international capacity building seminar** for young professionals, scholars and advanced students on alpine open spaces (*date depends on the Covid19 developments*)
- in 2021/2022 a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in alpine spatial planning** is supposed to be negotiated and signed by different competent authorities (defining the objectives and working procedures of the future AlpPlan Network) (prepared in a previous workshop)
- together with the Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association (ARL) we intend to establish an **online platform for continuous coordination** of the network
- **annual conferences** will deal with current topics of alpine spatial development

Next steps

You can find the documentation of this event on our project website

(www.alpine-space.eu/projects/openspacealps/en).

In order to stay informed about the network activities and to receive invitations for events, please subscribe to the **AlpPlan network newsletter** on our project website.



About OpenSpaceAlps and the AlpPlan network

The project OpenSpaceAlps - Sustainable development of alpine open spaces by enhancing spatial planning governance - was approved on the fourth INTERREG V B tender of the Alpine Space Programme. Six institutions from Austria, France, Italy, Germany and Slovenia as well as numerous observers are involved in the implementation of the project.

The project's aim is to foster sustainable development of the Alpine Space by maintaining open spaces as a part of alpine Green Infrastructure through an interlinked, multi-level transnational governance. By applying a participatory approach, we aim to strengthen and coordinate regional, national and trans-national spatial planning processes and to improve the capacities of spatial and sectoral planners in their role for balancing different land uses. Hence, the objective of the project is to initiate and moderate a process towards trans-national learning and the adoption of new spatial planning approaches in the Alpine Space countries.

For the AlpPlan network, the OpenSpaceAlps project cooperates with the Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association (ARL), a renowned competence centre for sustainable territorial development. The network is supposed to bring spatial planning experts, professionals and decision makers from alpine countries and regions together and to give them the opportunity to discuss issues of trans-national importance in alpine territorial development.

OpenSpaceAlps project website: <https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/openspacealps/en/home>

ARL website: <https://www.arl-net.de/en/content/the-academy>

Contact information

Questions about the specific event and the AlpPlan network

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