

## Nature Restoration in practice – from initiatives to implementation

Action Group 7 (AG7) focuses on developing ecological connectivity and thus to strengthen, improve and restore biodiversity, as well as ecosystem services in the entire **EUSALP** territory (EU strategy for the Alpine region).

The **Action Group 7** has identified the **Nature Restoration Law (NRL)** as its **flagship initiative**, recognizing its strategic value as a key instrument for implementing **ecological connectivity** and promoting **green and blue infrastructure** to support biodiversity conservation.

Following the adoption of the Regulation by the European institutions, which requires Member States to prepare specific **national Workplans**, AG7 promptly requested a dialogue with the **European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment (DG Environment)** to highlight the central role of the **Alpine region** as a critical area for ecosystem conservation and restoration.

During the exchange, it was emphasized that although many Alpine regions have not yet adopted specific regulatory frameworks on the matter, **numerous projects financed through European funds** have already been developed. These initiatives demonstrate the existence of **best practices** already being implemented, both through **territorial partnerships across the Alpine Arc** and within **cross-border cooperation frameworks**.

In this context, AG7 has launched an initiative for the **systematic mapping and collection of relevant projects** related to the Nature Restoration Law, with the aim of:

- consolidating and showcasing the existing best practices.
- contributing concretely to the development of national Workplans.
- strengthening the role of the Alps as a model region for nature conservation and ecological transition.

**The collection of projects** was carried out through the **members of AG7** and was structured based on a file that indicated the topics outlined in the NRL in Annex 1 (*Habitat type code as referred to in Annex I to Directive 92/43/EEC - EUNIS code*). For those projects that did not fall within the categories indicated in the annex, a **different column containing the project's keywords was used**.

This approach was intended to make the **tool immediately usable for verifying**, during the development of the Workplan, the **experiences and best practices already initiated and/or ongoing** in one area of interest.

Additional data related to financial size, project type (e.g., Life, Interreg, etc.), and year of implementation were subsequently added.

Each entry has the **option to utilize filters**, allowing for easy retrieval of the relevant description of interest.

As of today, **more than 150 projects** have been collected. The majority of these are **funded by the Life program (58 projects)**, and the most common themes are related to **river habitats** (blue infrastructure) and **forests** (green infrastructure).

The file is a work in progress, free to use and is based on publicly available data.