



INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
FOR NATURE CONSERVATION



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SPATIAL PLANNING



Interreg  
Alpine Space  
AlpGov  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



AlpGov Networking event:

## »Green Infrastructure 4 Green Future / Zelena infrastruktura za zeleno prihodnost«

Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve, Koper, Slovenia  
20<sup>th</sup> of September 2019

### Report



Tina Trampuš,  
Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature conservation,  
EUSALP Action Group 7 co-lead and AlpGov project partner

Blanka Bartol,  
Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning,  
EUSALP Action Group 7 Member

Izola, November 2019

Event was organised by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (Zavod RS za varstvo narave), EUSALP Action Group 7 co-lead, in cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Project “AlpGov” is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.



Event was organised within the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2019.



Contact:

Tina Trampuš, EUSALP AG7 co-lead representative and AlpGov ZRSVN team coordinator  
Zavod RS za varstvo narave, OE Piran, Trg Etbina Kristana 1, 6310 Izola, Slovenia

T +386 5 6710 904

E [tina.trampus@zrsvn.si](mailto:tina.trampus@zrsvn.si)

W <http://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-7>; <http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpgov/en/home>

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## **Summary**

“Green Infrastructure 4 Green Future” was the networking event, organised within the series of workshops prepared by EUSALP Action group 7 from 2017 to 2019. It was organised within the AlpGov project (»Implementing Alpine Governance Mechanisms of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region«).

The Action group 7 focuses on the theme of ecological connectivity and Green Infrastructure. While workshops on Slovenian coast in first two years were prepared to involve relevant target groups and stakeholders in developing proposals for concrete activities and strategic initiatives, this time we bring together project partners and actors that are already involved in the implementation of projects related to the AG7 thematic goals. The idea was to discuss different project results under the common umbrella of Green Infrastructure (GI).

The issue of Green Infrastructure is getting more attention in EUSALP and other macro-regional strategies and programs / financial mechanisms. Many initiatives want to use this concept to implement activities on site, while on the other hand a lot of work has been done fitting to many different topics but in a way addressing the planning and management of GI. Already on previous events it became clear that it is a challenge for AG7 and other actors to keep the overview of realisations in the thematic area, so stakeholder appreciated sharing and exchange of information on past activities and results.

38 participants from Slovenia and Croatia engaged in presenting the results of projects from various financial mechanisms. Numerous and colourful results reflected the work done in recent years on the issues of GI, ecological connectivity and ecosystem services. Both planning and management aspects were presented and discussed.

Introduction gave focus to the suggested guiding questions and introduced the GI concept as a promising approach of looking at the big picture and comprehensively plan and manage the environment. Presentation on biodiversity widened our perceptions, as it pointed out the four-dimension GI (green – vegetation, water, underground and air), suggesting to widen the limited two-dimensional (and 2D mapped) GI. Presentation on Slovenian national spatial strategy gave overview of the possible approach on comprehensive planning.

Kokra river corridor example, showed results of around 15 years of activities done by the nature conservation public service. Project results from VIPava, Life Stržen and project Join us (Vezi narave) that are still in progress, showed different examples of nature conservation activities, implemented with the support of the EU funds, mainly contributing to conservation of targeted (N2K) species, a specific aspect of GI management.

Second part of presentations and reflections addressed the project AlpGov and the work of Action Group 7 where different actors bring together various implementation initiatives in the EUSALP territory, stretching out to other countries (connection to the wider EUSALP and EUSAIR area). Research, planning and stakeholder involvement within project LOS\_DAMA! shows diversity of demands for GI in Alpine cities and possible approaches to

fulfil it, while project PERFECT tackles spatial planning and GI on regional level (Ljubljana region). Results on ECO KARST & BEECH POWER projects show possible alignment of GI to economy and concrete engagement of local stakeholders.

Reflections and discussion ones again showed that the perception of the GI concept very much depends on the standing point of involved stakeholder that come from different sectors, have different backgrounds, work experiences or/and expectations. Different perceptions make understanding (and planning) complex and the need for exchange and discussion is constantly present. Even though it is not very likely that diverse actors could agree on the common definition, the EU definition of GI is a starting point while further and deeper understanding is developed in parallel to joint planning, implementation and reflection on results. In this respect, the organisation of the networking event and exchange was warmly welcomed and need for further contact and collaboration strongly supported. That way the chances for capitalisation and synergies increase. Project planning can be improved, more targeted and to also avoid duplication of work.

Event was organised by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (Zavod RS za varstvo narave – ZRSVN), the EUSALP Action Group 7 co-lead, in cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Link to ZRSVN web page with presentations and PDF report:

<https://zrsvn-varstvonarave.si/o-zavodu/strokovna-srecanja/teden-sredozemske-obale-2019/>

Event on EUSALP web page:

<https://www.alpine-region.eu/events/%C2%BBgreen-infrastructure-4-green-future%C2%AB>

## **Background**

Implementation of EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) was launched in 2016 and concrete implementation steps are on the way, including activities within the project AlpGov<sup>1</sup>. EUSALP Action Group 7<sup>2</sup> is working in the fields of Ecological connectivity and Green Infrastructure (GI) aiming at developing Alpine green infrastructure in the whole EUSALP territory, constantly spreading the network of cooperating actors. In parallel to the AG7 work, many activities on different government levels and project from EU programs have been implemented on the ground, with the content that seems related to GI. Even though this might not be visible at first sight, it is possible that many project results are directly contributing to the implementation of the Green Infrastructure concept in EUSALP and wider territory. The amount and size of results is growing so it is difficult to have an overview. For this reason, it is necessary to exchange results and experiences in order to jointly work toward the common goals, including the implementation of GI network.

In the last few years, AG7 have among others organised two networking workshops within Mediterranean Coast and MRS Week – 2017 in Koper<sup>3</sup> and 2018 in Izola<sup>4</sup>. Both gave overview on some of the current activities regarding ecological connectivity and also served as an opportunity for dialogue and cooperation of interested partners. One of the goals was also to reach out of the Alpine region, towards other mountain regions (e.g. Dinaric Arc) and cooperation with other macro-regional strategies (EUSAIR, EUSDR).

To foster the dialogue and exchange on results/experiences regarding GI and ecological connectivity, 2019 event was planned by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (Zavod RS za varstvo narave) – EUSALP action group 7 co-lead and AlpGov project partner in cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

Reports from previous events were prepared made available online, together with presentations and recommendations, so to be able to capitalise on previous work and exchange among actors dealing with GI related issued.

## **Objectives**

One of the main objectives of EUSALP Action Group 7 is to trigger tangible implementation initiatives and in cooperation with partners from relevant sectors make Green Infrastructure concept come alive in EUSALP territory.

Representatives of various organizations and project implementers from cross-border and transnational cooperation programs will present experiences and practice of planning and managing GI. We will discuss how results and (project) activities contribute to biodiversity conservation, to quality of life and wellbeing as the core elements of GI and how multifunctionality of GI benefit concrete living space.

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<sup>1</sup> “Implementing Alpine Governance Mechanisms of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region”, acronym AlpGov, Interreg Alpine Space Programme project, Timeframe 06/2016 – 06/2019;

<sup>2</sup> AG7 – Green Infrastructure – To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory; <https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-7>

<sup>3</sup> Results from the 2017 Workshop in Koper »Networking for Ecological Connectivity and Green Infrastructure«: [http://www.zrsvn.si/sl/informacija.asp?id\\_meta\\_type=73&id\\_informacija=888](http://www.zrsvn.si/sl/informacija.asp?id_meta_type=73&id_informacija=888)

<sup>4</sup> Results from 2018 Workshop in Izola: [http://www.zrsvn.si/sl/informacija.asp?id\\_meta\\_type=73&id\\_informacija=916](http://www.zrsvn.si/sl/informacija.asp?id_meta_type=73&id_informacija=916)



The aim of the event is to capitalize on current results and check how can they contribute to implementing the of EUSALP AG7 goals, perspectives of Alps 2050<sup>5</sup> and Alpine GI declaration 2017<sup>6</sup> and to strengthen the understanding of the GI concept and cooperation among stakeholders and actors involved.

### **Target group and participants**

Invitations were sent to diverse addresses to get the attention of general and professional public: Government organisations, expert and research institutions, development agencies and other; Spatial planners, nature conservation experts and NGOs, project managers; EUSALP AG members, participants of the AlpGov Workshops (2017, 2018), actors of all MRS; General public.

Stakeholders from EUSALP and EUSAIR (Croatia) were invited, including participants of AlpGov workshops organised in Koper (2017) and Izola (2018). Interest was expressed among stakeholders from Slovenia and Croatia.



There were 38 participants present at the workshop, representatives from different organisations, from ministries to research institutes and nature park managers, mainly from Slovenia:

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia; Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation; Agricultural institute of Slovenia; Slovenia Forest Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia; Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia; Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia; Urban institute of Ljubljana; University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture; Slovenian Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy; Inspectorate of environment and spatial planning (SI); Strunjan Landscape Park; Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve; Municipality of Ankaran, Landscape park Debeli rtič; Public institution Natura Histrica (HR), Directorate for European Integration (BIH); Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia – Direzione Ambient; IUCN Commission for Education and communication;

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.espon.eu/Alps2050>

<sup>6</sup> „ALPINE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – JOINING FORCES FOR NATURE, PEOPLE AND THE ECONOMY” – Declaration 2017: <https://www.alpine-region.eu/results/28-alpine-states-and-regions-adopted-political-declaration-%E2%80%99Alpine-green-infrastructure-%E2%80%93>

## Introduction

The main points of the work programme for the day were introduced:

- Conceptual framework of GI – overview;
- GI planning and management – overview of concrete examples and results, presentations and discussion;
- Reflections and lessons learned: How do (project) activities fit to the implementation of GI concept, how they fulfil the needs for establishment of multifunctional and biodiversity supporting green infrastructure?
- Discussion and conclusions;



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**»Green Infrastructure 4 Green Future«**

Škocjanski zatok, Koper

20<sup>th</sup> of September 2019

Workshop is organised by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation EUSALP Action Group 7  
co-lead in cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning.

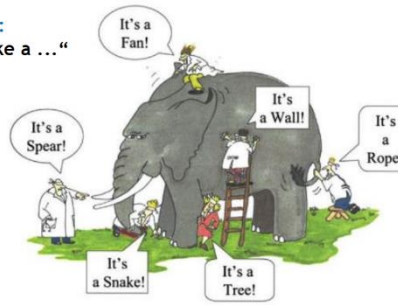
 EUSALP  
EUROPEAN UNION  
SLOVENIA

 European  
Commission

 Interreg  
Alpine Space  
AlpGov  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Project "AlpGov" is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.


**Perception:**  
„It looks like a ...“



It's a Fan!  
It's a Wall!  
It's a Rope!  
It's a Tree!  
It's a Snake!  
It's a Wall!

**Elephant = Green Infrastructure?**

**Big picture!**







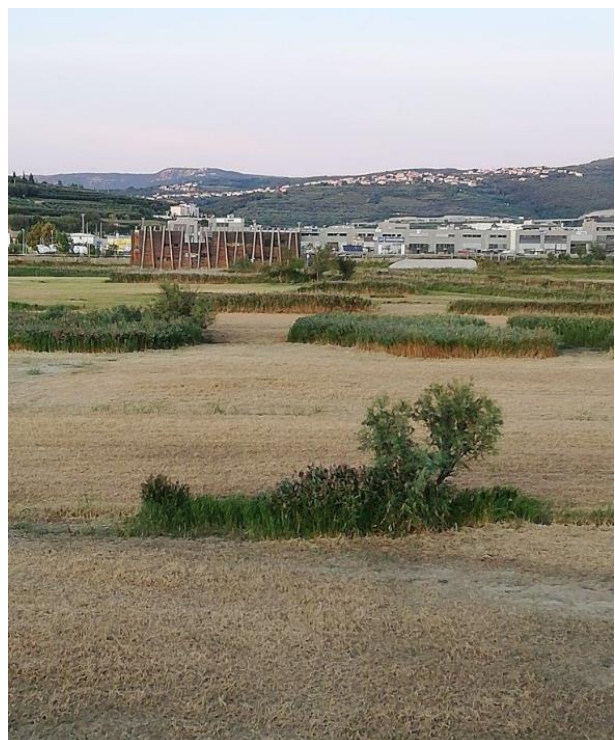
Andreja Jerina, from the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed her greetings and wished good work and collaboration. As the representative of Slovenian National Coordinator of Macro-regional strategies, she emphasized the importance of striving for coherence among all European macro-regional strategies, also in the field of Green Infrastructure.

## BIG PICTURE – GI /landscape



*Photo Luka Vidic: Sava, Medvode and Alps with Triglav*

Additional /optional field trip was offered to visit Škocjanski zatok Nature reserve – Slovenian coast green infrastructure in function.





## Projects, activities and results



The aim of the presentation sessions was to get an overview of the current situation of project implementations in the field of ecological connectivity and green infrastructure. Presentations were meant to focus on specific points and address specific questions:

What are the

- **Benefits for**
  - a) **nature and biodiversity**
  - b) **the society**
- **Target beneficiaries**
- **Natural or semi-natural character** of GI network
- **Multifunctionality**

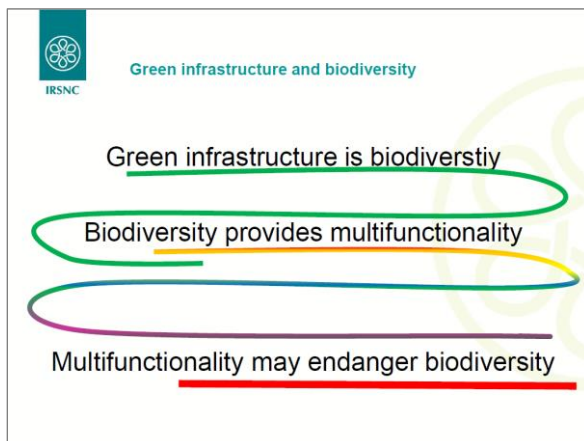
Other points for discussion that were addressed in the presentations:

- **Landscape elements:** forests, green hedges, water, grasslands, orchards, stone walls, other
- **Functions** of the area: conservation of nature/ biodiversity/natural heritage, conservation of cultural heritage and/or landscape, food production, productivity of soil, functions of forests, flood protection, recreation, combination, other
- **GI planning and/or management**
- **Strategic aspect**

### Presentations – 1. Part:

- GI and biodiversity
  - GI and multifunctionality /spatial planning
- GI planning and management – concrete examples and results:
- Kokra river corridor,
  - VIPava,
  - Life Stržen,
  - Join us (Vezi narave)

First two presentations gave deeper view over the issue of green infrastructure. **Biodiversity aspect** was presented as a basic of green infrastructure. Without some form of biodiversity, the natural aspect, there is no green infrastructure. Usually the planning and perception of the content is limited to the ground level – 2D view. The presentation introduced the idea of the broader concept that takes into account the complete 3D space – beside the vegetation type (green) and water (blue), we should also be aware of the air (white/light) and underground space (brown/dark).

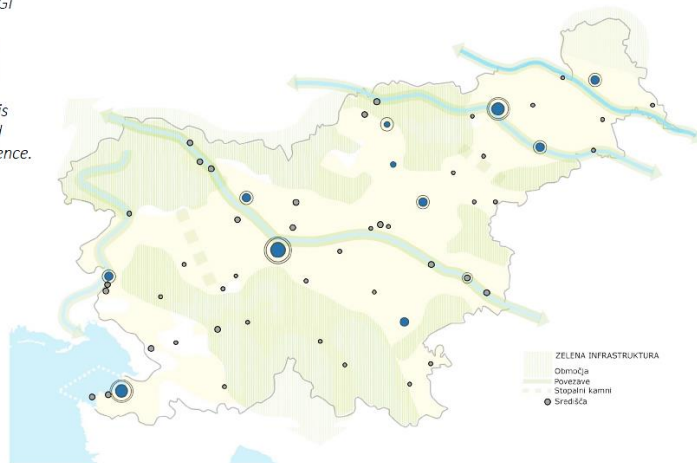
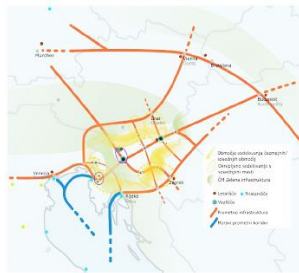


Second presentation focused on the **spatial planning aspect** and presented the green infrastructure content in the redrafted Slovenian Spatial Development Strategy (SPRS). She briefly presented the history of the development of GI concept (the term only appeared in the last 10 or 15 years), the GI as a planning process and also the main GI principles applied also in the national strategy.

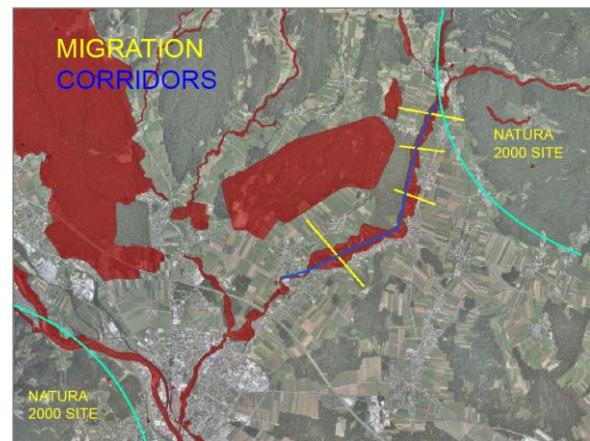


### *GI as one of the key topics of spatial development concept*

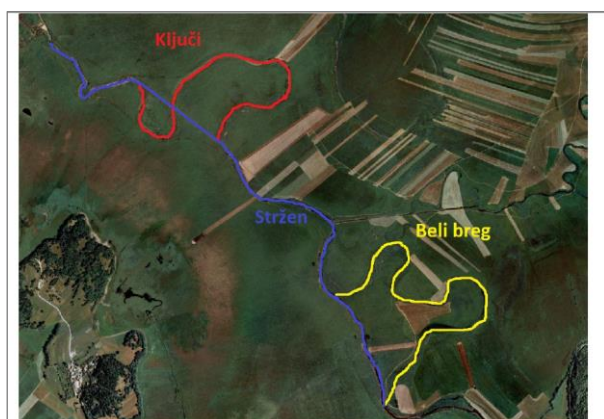
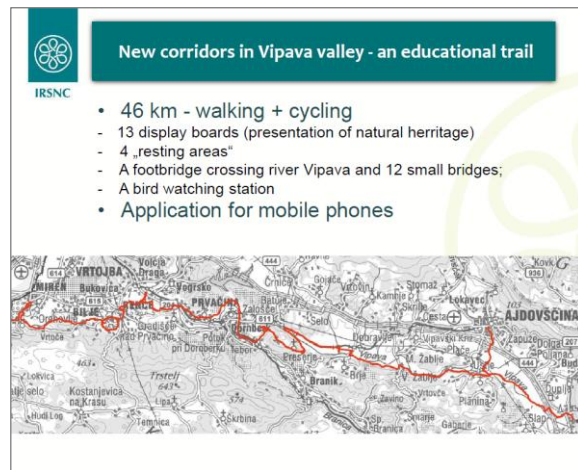
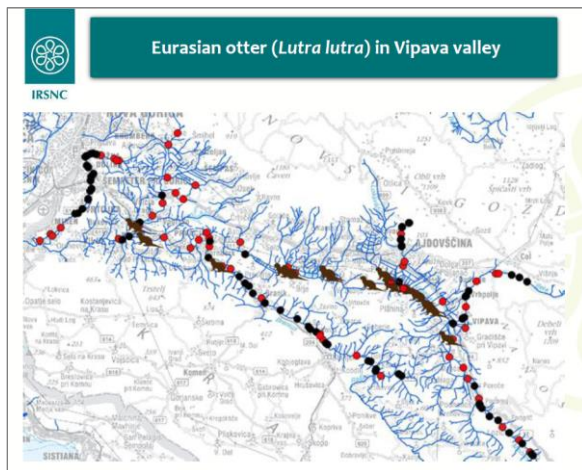
*Green infrastructure on national level is connected to GI on wider, international level. The most important connections are naturally preserved areas of Alps and Dinaric mountains, as well as cross-border rivers Soča, Sava, Drava and Mura. On the national level, the connectivity between the Alps and Dinaric mountains is secured to support ecological functions on national and international level and increases climate change resilience.*



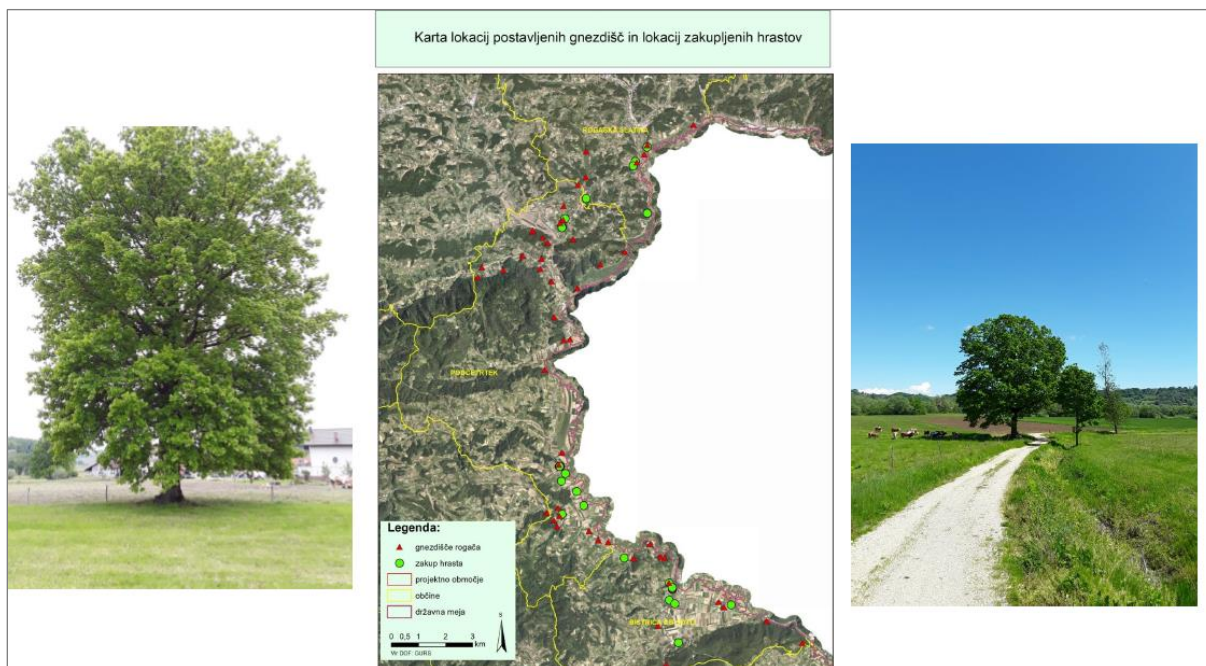
Few presentations focused on the aspect of planning and managing of GI. While most of them showed the results of different project activities, the first one was the example of the work of the Institute of the RS for Nature Conservation Regional Unit Kranj that spans over 10-15 years. The example of Kokra river corridor shows how through the involvement of the Institute in different spatial planning procedures and other legal 'interventions', the most important green parts of the corridor (in respect of ecological connectivity) were preserved. The challenge of keeping constructions ... out of the corridor is still present although there is a bigger awareness of the importance of connectivity and permeability.



Presentations about **Vipava river, Stržen /Cerčniško Lake** and project **Join us** showed result of measures that support the biodiversity conservation and /or include measures for improving the status of the natural habitats (renaturation of the river meander, establishment of a network of beetle important oaks ... ).







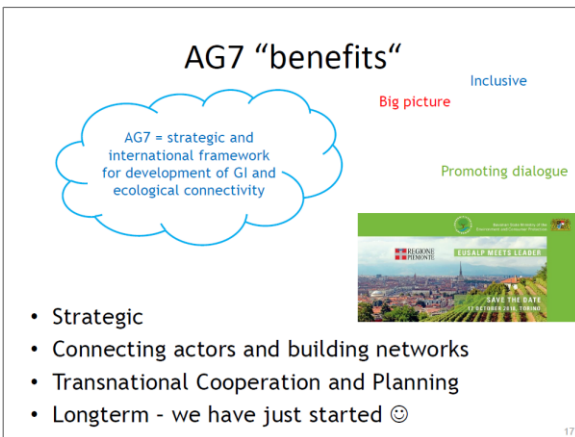
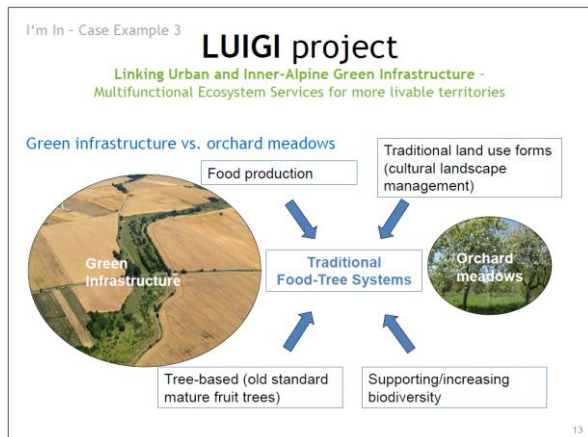
Presentations 1 part – See Annexes 5 - 11.  
(PDFs in better resolution are available for direct download on the [ZRSVN webpage](#)).

## Presentations – 2. Part:

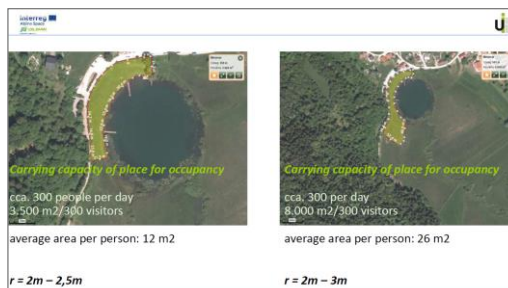
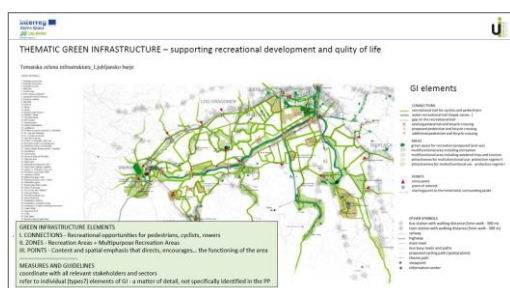
GI planning and management – concrete examples and results:

- EUSALP AG7 and AlpGov
- LOS\_DAMA!
- PERFECT
- ECO KARST & BEECH POWER

Green infrastructure is, together with ecological connectivity, the core theme of the work of **EUSALP Action Group 7**. Numerous implementation initiatives were developed in recent years to bring the strategic concept to practice and to connect stakeholders throughout the EUSALP territory. Projects LUIGI, INNsieme and Impuls4Action derive directly from the discussion and proposals of AG7 members or/and give opportunity to bring the work forward.



Area of Ljubljana march planes is one of the pilot areas in **LOS\_DAMA! project**. Thematic GI was developed together with the research and planning on the specific area of recreation – Podpeško jezero / Lake Podpeč.





### THEMATIC GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – three users groups

**Inhabitants:**

- Everyday use (on foot, by bike)
- Quality of life
- Health and wellbeing
- Public good / public interest

**Sunday tripper**

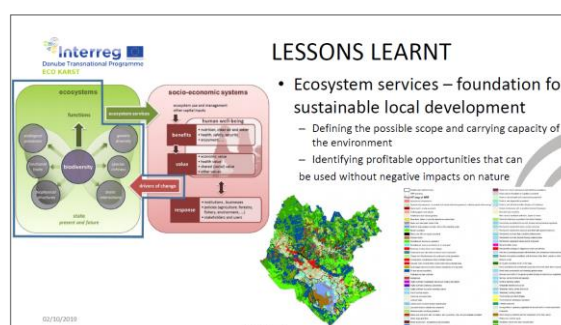
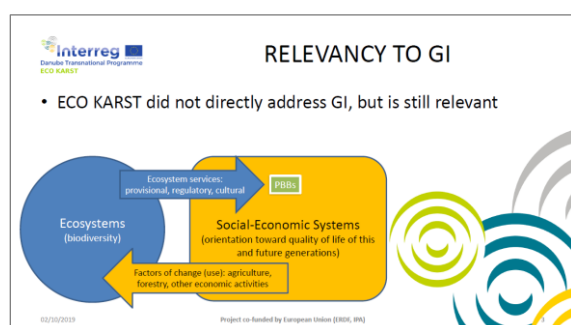
- Quality of life
- Health and wellbeing
- By bike, by public local bus

**Tourist**

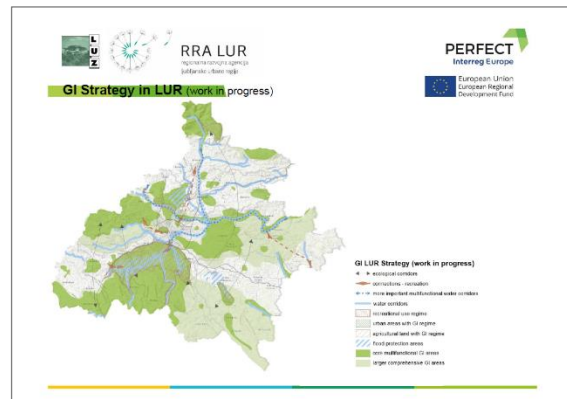
- Economic activity,
- Organized, guided
- Tourist offer vs. recreation
- Larger groups on a same time

- Living in the area
- Starting Areas: settlements + schools + population density
- 300m pedestrian recreation areas
- Walking as a way of recreation - longer distances
- Cycling as a way of recreation - longer distances
- Facilities and public accessibility of the outdoor spaces of schools and other institutions
- Points of interest to provide accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists LPP stations and pedestrian accessibility radios
- Living outside the area (too far for walking)
- Visit occasionally, on weekends, seasonally
- Main purpose is recreation, socializing, active leisure
- A sustainable way of mobility is encouraged - LPP & bike
- Attraction areas for hikers and bikers
- Starting and destination points for recreational walking and cycling
- Entry points to area (+ LPP stops)
- Cyclist accessibility and links - importance of information and orientation
- The importance of spatial capacity – load / nr. of visitors / no major income for the area
- Points and areas of interest for a tourist visit
- Accessibility for buses
- Accessibility for larger groups of cyclists
- Importance of site capacity and connections

Project **ECO KARST** explored the possibilities of using the ecosystem services approach and supporting the local economies.



Project PERFECT is dealing with the regional spatial plan of Ljubljana urban region.



Presentations 2 part – See Annexes 12 - 15.  
(PDFs in better resolution are available for direct download on the [ZRSVN webpage](#)).

## Reflections

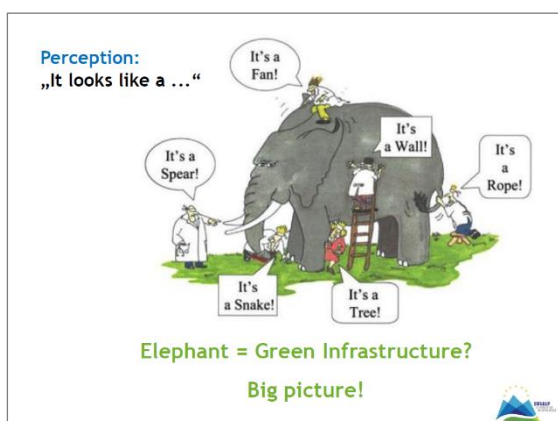
The work of EUSALP AG7, together with this workshop aims at

- At creating synergies
- At amplifying
- At integrating under the old/new umbrella



We are striving to address common (larger) goals:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Climate change adaptation
- BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE



We are trying to bring together different (pieces) of the same picture:

- Different sectors / different perception
- Different landscape elements - focus of different sectors
  - Rivers – water management,
  - Forests – forest service/management,
  - Green hedges, orchards, grasslands – agriculture, ...
- Multi-functionality – it is provision of different ecosystem services

Let's see, what is common, equal / similar?  
What is a big picture?



1) What do you like about presented initiative? What was good, useful ...?

Original (SLO / HR)	Translation
Všeč mi je bila misel, da moramo ZI razširiti na zrak in pod zemljo.	I like the idea, that we should widen (the perception of) GI to the air and under ground.
Upoštevanje 3D prostora pri načrtovanju ZI.	3D space should be taking into account when planning.
Boljše upoštevanje vseh štirih ZI: zelena, modra, (siva), (svetlomodra).	To better take into account all 4 types of GI: Green, blue, (grey-underground), (light blue-air)
Celovit pristop prostorskega planiranja : svetlo, modro-zeleno, temno.	Holistic approach to spatial planning: light, blue-green, dark
Dojemanje širšega spektra ZI – ozračje, podzemlje.	Perception of wider GI spectre – air, underground.
Enotna definicija ZI.	Unified /unique definition of GI needed?
Vprašanje: V čem je razlika med ZI in npr. Naturo 2000?	Question: What is a difference between GI and for example Natura 2000?
Dvig zavesti o pomenu ohranjanja biotske raznovrstnosti.	Rising awareness about the importance of biodiversity.
Povezovanje med naravo in urbanim, a je treba pristopati previdno, da »urbano« ne okrne narave.	Connecting nature to urban, but we need to be careful, so the 'urban' does not diminishes/destroys nature.
Enakovredno obravnavanje različnih funkcij, npr. rekreacije.	Tackling different functions on equal basis t, e.g. recreation.
Vključevanje javnosti v proces vključevanja ZI.	Inclusion of general public into the GI process.
Neposredna komunikacija z deležniki, lokalnim prebivalstvom.	Direct communication with stakeholders, locals.
Eco Karst – povezava lokalnega razvoja z naravnimi potenciali območja.	Eco Karst (project) - connection of local development to natural potentials of the area
ZI skupaj z naravo ob določeni mobilnosti družbe in narave ter upoštevanju zmogljivosti nadzora.	GI together with nature with some mobility of the society and nature and with taking into account the capacities for control/monitoring
Izmenjava idej in projektov – navdih za naprej.	Exchange of ideas and projects – inspiration for the future.
Razpoložljivost ekosistemskih storitev je neločljivo povezana z biodiverzitetjo.	Availability of ecosystem services is inseparably? connected to biodiversity.
Ustvarjanje (renaturacija) čim bolj naravnih ekosistemov.	Creation (renaturation) of ecosystems, as natural as possible.
Upoštevati širši kontekst tako prostorsko kot vsebinsko (migracije,...).	To take into account wider contexts, both spatially and thematically (migrations)
Prioritetno ohranjati.	Priority of conservation.
Izboljšanje ekonomske varstvenih območij.	Improvement of economics of conservation areas.
Eco Karst – konkretni rezultati projekta, rad z lokalnim stanovništvom	Eco Karst – concrete results of the project, work wit local inhabitants.



## 2) Suggestions for improvements to strengthen the GI aspect?

Original (SLO / HR)	Translation
Potrebno je izboljšati način medsektorskega povezovanja, tudi s skupnim izobraževanjem na temo načrtovanja ZI.	Improvement of trans-sectoral cooperation is needed, together with the joint training on the GI planning.
Za smiselno umeščanje projektnih aktivnosti najprej potrebujemo regionalno planiranje.	For reasonable embedding of project activities, we first need regional planning
Preprečevanje slabih praks pri načrtovanju urejanja prostora, upoštevanje naravnih danosti – preventiva.	Prevention of bad practices of spatial planning, taking into account natural assets – prevention principle.
Sistem prioritet na območjih in nato celovit pogled oz. pregled na vse projekte.	A system of priorities on territories allows for a holistic/integrated view, overview of all projects.
Konstruktivno sodelovanje med lokalnimi deležniki in stroko.	(Improving) constructive cooperation between local stakeholders and experts.
Raziskovalci <--> načrtovalci: sodelovanje, razumevanje, dobre prakse.	Researches <--> planners: (enhancing) cooperation, understanding, good practices
Prilagajanje nastopa in vsebine ZI lokalnemu kontekstu.	Customizing the presentation and GI content to the local context.
Še vedno ne vemo točno, kaj ZI je oz. preširok pojem.	We are still not completely sure what is GI; the concept is too wide.
Nejasnosti, različno pojmovanje: jasno ločiti med ZI kot gradbeno, turistično, bivalno in naravovarstveno interpretacijo. Negativno skupno mnenje!	Not clear, different conception: to distinguish clearly among GI as construction, touristic, living and nature conservation interpretations. Negative joint opinion!
ZI je javni interes, zato jo mora podpreti vsaj lokalna skupnost, ne le posameznik.	GI is a public interest, so it should be supported at least by the local community, not only individuals.
Predlog: dobro bi bilo poenotiti pristop do GI in poiskati sinergije (narava & družba, urbano & podeželje).	Suggestion: It would be good to have more coherent approach regarding GI and look for synergies (nature & society, urban & rural).
Pomen ZI za ohranjanje biodiverzitete, izobraževanje in osveščanje.	The importance of GI for nature conservation, education and rising awareness.
Potrebno povezati različne analize posameznih ES in potreb narave v skupni rezultat.	Need to connect different analyses of individual ES and needs of nature into joint result.
Potrebno je prepoznavati čim več različnih ekosistemskih storitev, ne samo turistično – rekreacijske, tudi osnovne življenjske potrebe (svež zrak, mir, tišina,...).	Recognition of diverse and numerous ecosystem services is needed, not only tourism /recreation but also basics for life (fresh air, peace, silence ...)
Ekosistemske storitve so lahko dvorezen meč, ker bodo lastniki zemljišč zaračunali ES širši družbi.	Ecosystem services could be a 'tricky principle', since the landowners can/could ask payment (from wider public) for providing ES.
Ekonomska evakuacija ekosistemskih storitev.	Economical evaluation of ecosystem services is needed.
Preveč antropocentričen pogled (zgolj iz potreb ljudi) se nam ne zdi primeren. Izhodišče naj bo vedno ohranjanje naravnega potenciala.	Too anthropocentric view (only the needs of people) doesn't seem appropriate. Preservation of natural potentials should always be a starting point.

Original (SLO / HR)	Translation
Izobraževanje otrok o biotski raznovrstnosti.	Children education on biodiversity is needed.
Zagotoviti Stalen vir financiranja in trajnost rezultatov.	Constant financial source and durability of results.
Vprašanje, kaj bo po desetih letih ostalo od teh politik/načrtov/ ravnanja z okoljem.	It is a question, what will after ten years stay from all this policies / plans / management of the environment.
Što aktivnija i učestalija diseminacija rezultata projekta s pozitivnim utjecajem na bioraznolikost/GI.	Active (as much as possible) and frequent dissemination of project results with positive influences for biodiversity / GI.
Ozkost projektnega pristopa, nesodelovanje med projekti, premalo strateškega premisleka.	The narrowness of project approach, non cooperation between projects, not enough strategic consideration.



## **Conclusions**

The concept and implementation of Green Infrastructure (GI) is still unclear to general public as well as many professionals and public administrators. There are also divergent views on what should be at the forefront of GI – nature or human needs, or how to balance the benefits that GI is expected to have for nature, human and the economy. All the positive and negative aspects of the GI or the related ecosystem services should be further reconsidered and studied.

The role of a holistic, integrated approach to the thematic area and spatial planning was recognized. Cross-sectoral cooperation, cooperation with local communities and education /communication at all levels need to be strengthened. Project planning and cooperation in the field of Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services is currently not strategic, but rather unrelated and fragmented, which on the other hand also applies to the (project) results and their sustainability.

With cross-sectoral approach and exchange among actors (current and potential project partners) project planning can capitalise on past results and be improved to become more targeted and strategic.

Exchange of results under the common Green Infrastructure umbrella and collaboration of different actors engaged in GI and ecological connectivity related issues is strongly encouraged in the future.

It is suggested that above conclusions are taken into account in different bodies and by various stakeholders, namely

- EUSALP AG7 leaders and members,
- Actors from EUSALP, EUSAIR, EUSDR dealing with the GI issue,
- Funding bodies and financial instruments preparing and launching calls that are supporting the implementation of GI and ecological connectivity concept,
- Actors (and potential project partners) who engage in the preparation of future GI projects.



Thanks to the staff of the Škocjanski zatok Nature reserve that welcomed us in their wooden building – visitors centre in the heart of the multifunctional and biodiversity reach area in Koper, one of the best Green infrastructure examples on Slovenian coast.



AlpGov Networking event  
»Green Infrastructure 4 Green Future / Zelena infrastruktura za zeleno prihodnost«  
Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve, Koper, Slovenia  
20<sup>th</sup> of September 2019

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