



EUSALP Action Group 7

“To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory”

MINUTES from 4th Action Group Meeting

that took place at the EUSALP Action Group Forum in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

14/15 February 2017

The following minutes are reflecting the key results of discussion. Details from the discussion, inputs from the Action Group Leaders (AGL), other members and guests as well as the signed list of participants are documented in the Annexes.

14th of February 2017

Plenary session of all EUSALP Action Groups took place regarding the overall AG Forum Programme. AG7 continued its work after lunch, with Session I – Introduction and AG 7 Work Plan.

There were participants from 6 states/regions and EU level plus 10 NGO's/thematically related projects present at the meeting thus showing a broad basis and high level of engagement in the work of AG 7. The concept preparing a draft work plan was presented by AGL (see presentation in Annex). Interactive discussion took place in two smaller groups. The first one discussed the draft **Mission statement** of AG 7 (Annex 3). The second was on the proposed **implementation initiatives**. Eight Implementation initiatives are proposed in the draft work plan. Proposals are described following a common template and structure of all EUSALP AGs and were distributed prior to the meeting to all AG 7 members. Participants of the discussion underlined the added value from visualizing the chronological sequence of the initiatives (see PPT slide 10) and confirmed this approach. No objections on any of the proposals and no suggestions for additional or alternative initiatives have been formulated.

The current concept for **Ministers Conference** in autumn 2017 was presented by AGL and the program for the **workshop with the Alpine metropolises**, planned for 31.5.-1.6.2017, was presented by the City of Munich (LOS_DAMA! lead partner). It was agreed that the first day of the workshop will be used to draft the declaration that should be signed by the environmental ministers at the conference in October 2017. To engage further regions not being member of AG 7, organisers will ask via the EUSALP EB and via the official invitation letter for further participants and contributions for this drafting process. On the second day of the workshop the discussion for drafting the Memorandum of Understanding for the cities network (also to be signed at the occasion of the ministers' conference in October 2017) will be focussed. A detailed programme for both days will follow.

Some of the other AlpGov activities planned for 2017 were presented by AGL. One activity of major importance in 2017 is to prepare AG7 input for joint EUSALP Platform of Knowledge (PoK). Involvement of an external expert is foreseen and the concept of the study will be presented to members for feedback.

Third session was dedicated to further develop the **AG7 project framework**. After a short introduction with the recapitulation of previous work, discussion was organised with the use of carousel technique:

Participants rotated between three stations and discussed three issues: (1) Spatial priority areas, (2) Characteristics of a good project and (3) Learning/success stories. Major points from the discussion were captured on flipcharts and maps. Discussion was concluded with the recapitulation of main findings and by defining the procedure and coordinators for future work. (see more in Annex 5, 6 and 7)

15th of February 2017

Participants gathered at the interactive session “AG meets Projects” where three projects were presented: Two of these projects are financed by the Alpine Space Program – **ALPBIONET2030** (presented by Guido Plassmann) and **HyMoCares** (presented by Willigis Gallmetzer). The third project, **GreenInUrbs** is a COST project and was presented by Carlo Calfapietra.

Key findings for future cooperation:

ALPBIONET2030	HyMoCares	GreenInUrbs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaining implementation partners for ALPBIONET2030 outside alpine »core area« with support of EUSALP AG 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capitalize existing overlapping of HyMoCares pilots and AG 7 priority /action areas: consider HyMoCares pilots for AG 7 project framework and make use of synergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take up project results and tools in AG 7 work especially assessment framework and guidelines for natural based solutions; Connect GiU-tools to EUSALP PoK.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide easy to understand examples for the implementation of a permeable landscape matrix for communication issues (Success stories) to AG 7. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep up permanent communication and mutual invitations (HyMoCares LP to AG 7 meetings and vice-versa). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain partners and arguments for the EUSALP GI Cities network. Some GreenInUrbs cities are Alpine cities (capitalize synergies).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider SACA areas (blue marked in the publication Alpine Nature 2030) for AG 7 project framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish contact to HyMoCares partners and observers in AG 7 cross-sectoral dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute and use training and educational material (e.g. for workshop with schools) developed in GreenInUrbs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize funds through joint coordinated approach on regional and local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jointly »add« ESS concept to educational tools developed so far for water quality assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep up permanent communication and mutual invitations (HyMoCares LP to AG 7 meetings and vice-versa).

The work continued in the session “Triggering “cross-thinking” & “cross-acting” – Workshop 3 “To grid the Alpine grids” that was prepared for members of AG 7 (ecological connectivity), AG 4 (transport) and AG 9 (energy). The workshop had three key note speakers on three different Trans European Networks: **TEN-T** (transport) was presented by Dr. Helmut Adelsberger (InfraConceptA) and **TEN-E** (energy) was presented by Sebastian Gras (DG Energy, European Commission). Giacomo Luciani from DG Environment, European Commission, presented background and ideas on the Green Infrastructure network **TEN-G – a possible new member in the TEN-family**. Some of the common issues for all three networks are all European interest (high strategic value), priority corridors and public participation. (For more details please see documentation from the workshop on OwnCloud – folder EUSALP AG Forum TEN).

Program for AG 7 members ended with the joint wrapped-up at the AG Forum plenary session.

Conclusions:

- All AG members are invited to give feedback to the draft work plan (version February 2017) according to the timeline described as follows, so the final version of the AG 7 work plan can be prepared and transmitted, according to the Rules of Procedure of EUSALP AGs, to the EUSALP Executive Board before the end of March 2017.
- Participants will continue working on different elements of the work plan. The Mission statement will be redrafted (by Alessandro, Francesca and Ruedi) and new version will be sent to all members for feedback (March 2017). The final version will be used for the work plan and also published on the EUSALP web page.
- Participants are invited to provide comments and/or additional proposals on the implementation initiatives by March 3, 2017. Proposals will be used to redraft the AG 7 work plan.
- Joint workshop with the Alpine cities (May 31 and June 1, 2017 in Munich): Participants are invited to send additional proposals for cities that should/might be involved beyond the LOS_DAMA!-network and on potentially interesting projects (to be involved e.g. for keynotes or as guests). Proposals (with names of contact persons) should be sent to Matthias Lampert by March 3, 2017.
- AG7 project framework – Annapaola Rizzoli took over the coordination of work regarding the characteristics of a good project. Notes from September 2016 (Minutes from the 3rd meeting discussion on Gramona Farm) and this meeting will be used to proceed with the preparation of the description of a good AG7 / ecological connectivity project.
- Learning / success stories – new template for collecting stories was prepared on the basis of discussion. AG members are invited to give feedback. Template will be used to describe stories and their usefulness for AG7 and communication in the future.
- Further procedure for the work on spatial AG 7 “action” areas will be developed based on the results of the 4th AG meeting (see also ASP meets projects).
- ‘AG meet project’ session showed the possible cooperation and synergies between AG work and projects. AG members are invited to work together with project partners on communication (e.g. preparation of common materials), developing tools, project implementation etc. Lead Partners of the projects will be further involved in the AG 7 communication flow.
- There are several events planned in the near future (e.g. ASP Meet & Match Forum - Together we move mountains!, Milano (IT), 21 March 2017; GreenInUrbs - GI conference, Orvieto (IT), 4-7 April 2017; Conference on media and communication in 4 MRS, Portorož (SI), 5-6 April 2017). AG 7 members are invited to participate and report back to other members.

Next steps

- Draft Work plan to be finished before 31st of March 2017.
- Workshop on “GI and Alpine urban areas” with drafting session for Ministers’ declaration on 31 May – 1 June 2017, Munich.
- AG 7 will meet next time at the occasion of the above mentioned workshop on 31 May and 1 June 2017 in Munich. Besides the mainly focussed discussion of the joint declaration of ministers on GI and the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cities network, a draft version of the AG7 section of the EUSALP Platform of Knowledge (discussion on the draft study, external expertise) will be issued.

Annexes:

Annex 1	Meeting Agenda
Annex 2	Meeting program and input AGL – presentation AGL
Annex 3	Mission statement – draft and notes from discussion
Annex 4a,b	Workshop with Alpine Metropolis 2017 (LOS_DAMA!) – presentation by Matthias Lampert (City of Munich)
Annex 5	AG7 project framework – Interactive discussion on Spatial priority areas
Annex 6	AG7 project framework – Interactive discussion on Characteristics of a good project
Annex 7	AG7 project framework – Interactive discussion on Learning (success) stories
Annex 8	Project ALPBIONET2030 presentation by Guido Plassmann (alparc)
Annex 9	Project HymoCares – presentation by Willigis Gallmetzer
Annex 10	Project GreenInUrbs – presentation by Carlo Calfapietra
Annex 11	List of participants - signed
Annex 12	Photos and graphics from the meeting
Annex 13*	EUSALP AG Forum Session Workshop 3: “To grid the Alpine Grids” – programme
Annex 14*	TEN-T (transport) – presentation by Dr. Helmut Adelsberger (InfraConceptA)
Annex 15*	TEN-E (energy) – presentation by Sebastian Gras (EC DG Energy)
Annex 16*	TEN-G (green infrastructure) – a possible new member in the TEN-family? – presentation by Giacomo Luciani (EC DG Environment)

*Annexes 13-16 are to be found in the separate folder on OwnCloud (EUSALP AG Forum TEN)

Participants of 4th AG 7 Meeting in GAP

The following persons have been present at the meeting:

	<i>Country / Organisation</i>	<i>Name</i>
1.	DE	Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst
2.	DE (Baden Württemberg)	Brigitte Koehler-Neumann
3.	DE (Bavaria)	Michaela Künzl (AGL)
4.	DE (Bavaria)	Florian Ballnus
5.	DE (Bavaria)	Marianne Badura
6.	IT (Trento)	Annapaola Rizzoli
7.	IT (Trento)	Alessandro Gretter
8.	IT (Trento)	Francesca Cagnacci
9.	SI	Blanka Bartol
10.	SI	Tina Trampuš (AGL)
11.	CH	Ruedi Haller
12.	ALPARC	Guido Plassmann
13.	Club Arc Alpine	Alfred Ringler
14.	City of Munich – LOS_DAMA!	Sylvia Pintarits
15.	City of Munich – LOS_DAMA!	Matthias Lampert
16.	AlpES LP	Caroline Pecher
17.	IUCN CEC	Katalin Czippán
18.	WWF	Angelika Abderhalden
19.	Alpine Space Programme	Primož Skrt
20.	European Commission, DG Environment	Giacomo Luciani
21.	GreenInUrbs Project	Carlo Calfapietra
22.	HyMoCARES (ASP project)	Willigis Gallmetzer