



EUSALP MEETS LEADER

GRAZIE, PIEMONTE!

17 OCTOBER 2018, TORINO

AG 7-Workshop: a Milestone for People and Green Infrastructure!

What was the challenge?

Clean air, fresh water, productive agriculture and forestry, a stable biodiversity or natural hazards protection – these are priceless services of the Alpine landscape for people and economy, in the Alps and around. A “Green Infrastructure”(GI) is delivering these services, but new challenges like climate change lie ahead. The common task for all Alpine actors, including EUSALP Action Group 7, is to maintain and improve these Green Infrastructures – but how?

What was the idea?

The idea of community-led local development approach (CLLD) mobilizes and empowers local people and communities for shaping their own future. Could the local level also be the key for maintaining Green Infrastructure for future generations? Existing LEADER case studies reveal a promising potential, but is it feasible in practice? Which political, financial or further framework conditions are necessary?

What have we done?

The EU Alpine Strategy (EUSALP) Action Group 7 invited LEADER actors and European decision makers to jointly explore innovative ways and to find mutual benefits – for people, for nature and for rural areas and economies. This strategic workshop addressed the following objectives:

- Introducing LEADER-mechanisms and processes to EUSALP AG 7
- Introducing EUSALP mechanisms and the concept of Green Infrastructure to LEADER representatives
- Identifying potentials for joint action and matching macroregional strategy with local LEADER activities
- Checking feasibility of implementing Green Infrastructure projects within LEADER
- Collecting recommendations for AG 7, LEADER and European decision makers with a view to post 2020

What are the results?

The workshop provided a variety of interfaces and great opportunities for collaboration. However, further steps and preconditions are necessary. Here are the main recommendations:

Recommendations for AG 7:

- Use LEADER as a well-established and efficient instrument to improve GI on the basis of CLLD
- Inform and inspire LEADER Action Groups (LAGs).
- Strive for multi-fund solutions for financing TEN-G projects/processes

- Define categories of intervention for funding programmes incl. LEADER
- Include a LEADER representative as member of AG 7
- Give impulses for an informal network of Alpine LAGs

Recommendations for LAGs:

- Be inspired by the benefits of multifunctional Green Infrastructure for people, nature and economy
- Collect information and knowledge on regional GI features and transnational networks
- Integrate GI topics in regional development concepts, communication and priorities
- Build up networks with other LAGs and with possible GI actors
- Propose and finance GI relevant projects
- Engage on local level for getting enough resources for transnational cooperation
- Participate in an informal Alpine LAG network

Recommendations for EU programmes

- Use LEADER as a well-established and efficient instrument to improve GI on the basis of CLLD
- Harmonize and mainstream GI topics in several funds/programs
- Harmonize national/regional programming specifically for transnational GI approaches
- Foresee a dedicated budget, that has to be spent for transnational cooperation on GI
- Trigger harmonization of rules among states
- Check use of multi-fund solutions and usage of ERDF for GI

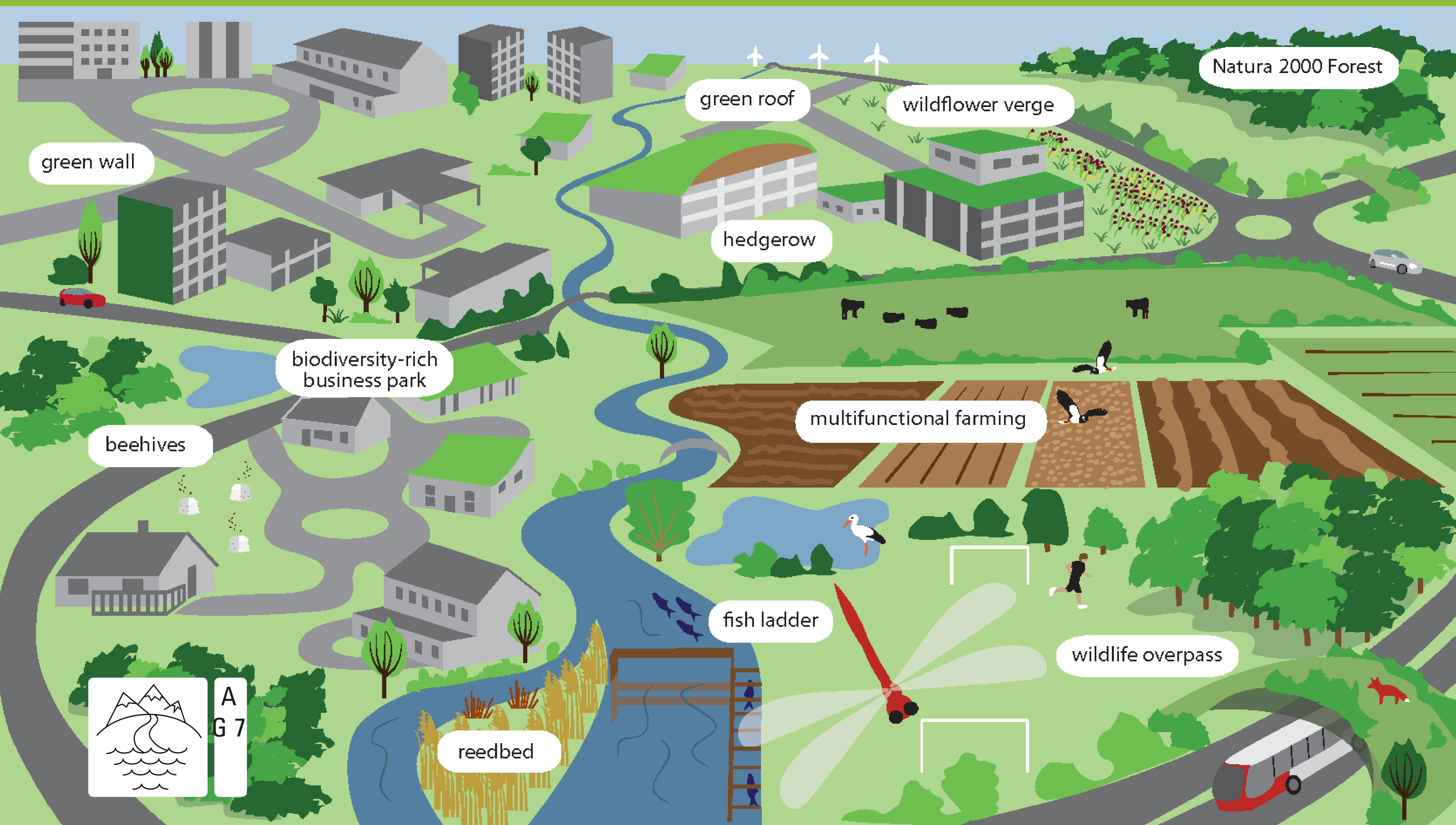
What are the next steps?

In the next weeks the recommendations will be sent to concerned target groups in the Alpine Region and on EU level. Hopefully they will enrich the political work, e. g. during the programming phases.

Proposals for optimizing the recommendations or helping hands for implementation are very warmly welcomed. Please leave your comments and proposals on this poster or get in contact with the Co-Leads of AG 7

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Alpine Green Infrastructure – For nature, people and the economy

27 Alpine states and regions adopted in 2017 the political declaration “Alpine Green Infrastructure – Joining forces for nature, people and the economy”.

Based on that declaration EUSALP AG 7 identified in 2018 the following implementation priorities:

- Peatland chain across the Alpine bow
- Alpine high biodiversity grassland
- Multifunctionally managed mountain forests
- Alpine Orchard meadows network
- Re-dynamisation of larger rivers, multifunctional management of large-scale river valleys
- Transalpine network/cooperation of smaller rivers
- Mountain agriculture dialogue
- Urbanised lowland and cities

For each of these GI topics AG 7 agreed on next implementation steps and on persons in charge.

In a strategic workshop with LEADER actors from local, regional, national and EU level the potential for future strategic cooperation has been spotlighted and recommendations have been derived.

Currently, for the Alpine orchard meadows network a project application for the 4th call of the Alpine space programme is under preparation, together with Alpine metropolises.

