

CLISP – Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space



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PARTNERSHIP

- LP Umweltbundesamt - Environment Agency Austria (EAA) | Austria
- PP1 BMLFUW - Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Forest Department | Austria
- PP2 Regional Government of Salzburg, Department of Spatial Planning | Austria
- PP3 Office of the State Government of Styria, Department 16 - State Planning and Regional Development | Austria
- PP4 Office of the Government of Upper Austria, Department of Spatial Planning | Austria
- PP5 StTMWIVT Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology, Department for Regional Planning and Development | Germany
- PP6 MATT - Italian Ministry for the Environment, the Land and the Sea | Italy
- PP7 EURAC - European Academy of Bolzano | Italy
- PP8 Province of Alessandria | Italy
- PP9 UIRS - Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia | Slovenia
- PP10 UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme, Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention | Austria
- PP11 ARE - Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development, Strategy Group Politics of Rural Areas | Switzerland
- PP12 Grisons, Office for Spatial Development | Switzerland
- PP13 Principality of Liechtenstein, Ministry of Environmental Affairs, Land Use Planning, Agriculture and Forestry | Liechtenstein



SETTING THE PROBLEM: HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ALPINE REGION?

Climate change is expected to affect spatial development in the Alpine Space more severely than in other European regions. Temperature increase, changes in amount, distribution and intensity of precipitation, decreasing snow cover, and more severe weather extremes are expected to cause a variety of adverse climate change impacts in the region.

Doing nothing is likely to increase vulnerability of the fragile Alpine regions and municipalities, and therewith damages together with economic and human costs.

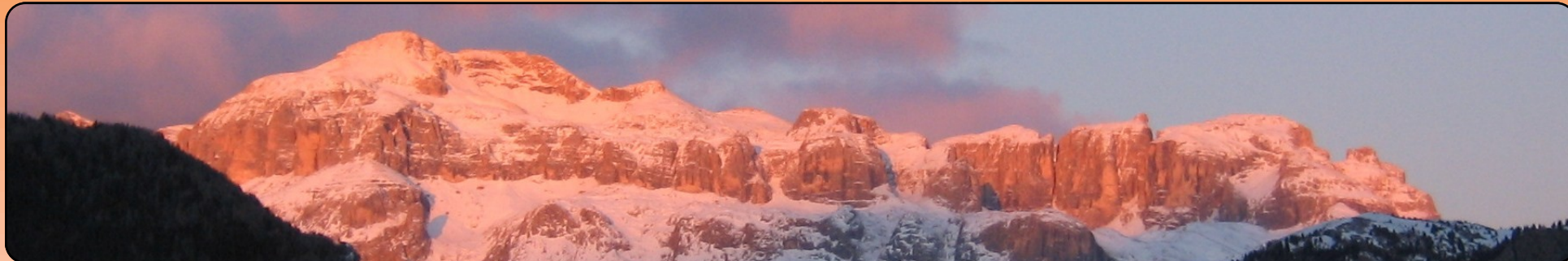
It is known that spatial planning has major steering capacity in accomplishing adaptation, containing vulnerability and increasing resilience of complex environmental-human systems.

However, the knowledge, procedures and tools required for fulfilling the key-role in adaptation attributed to spatial planning, for instance, by the EU Green Paper on Adaptation and the EU Territorial Agenda are still widely lacking.

Most of the sectors which may be affected by the impacts of climate change are already subject to spatial regulations and plans, although spatial planning systems differ between administrative regions and countries.

Some of the instruments already in use in the Alpine territory may be employed to tackle the challenges of climate change, with small or no modifications. Others should be advanced expressly aiming at responding to new impacts linked to climatic phenomena. CLISP will analyse the existing situation, develop options to improve the current spatial planning policies of the Alpine regions involved, and implement a comparable work programme in the selected model-regions.

A substantial improvement of the capacity of the Alpine regions to respond to the challenges of climate change can be achieved by adjusting the existing policies, instruments and procedures of spatial planning, and by introducing new adaptation measures - which consider and integrate the risks to spatial development brought about by climate change.



THE CLISP PROJECT: ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE BY ENHANCING SPATIAL PLANNING POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS

The CLISP project was approved in the 1st call of the Alpine Space Programme launched by the European Commission, under the third priority of the Programme, dealing with environment and risk prevention.

Fourteen institutional and scientific partners from all around the Alpine arc take part in the CLISP consortium.

Stressing the importance of spatial planning as a key to achieve sustainable development in the Alps and to effectively respond to climate change is a primary goal of the CLISP project.

The intent of the CLISP project is to prevent, reduce and mitigate adverse climate change impacts on spatial development and to effectively manage climate change related spatial conflicts. In order to safeguard sustainable economic and social development in the Alpine Space, CLISP shall provide adequate climate-proof planning strategies. As adaptation to climate change is still a novel field for spatial planning policy and the administrations managing them, CLISP is to be regarded as a strategic pilot project.

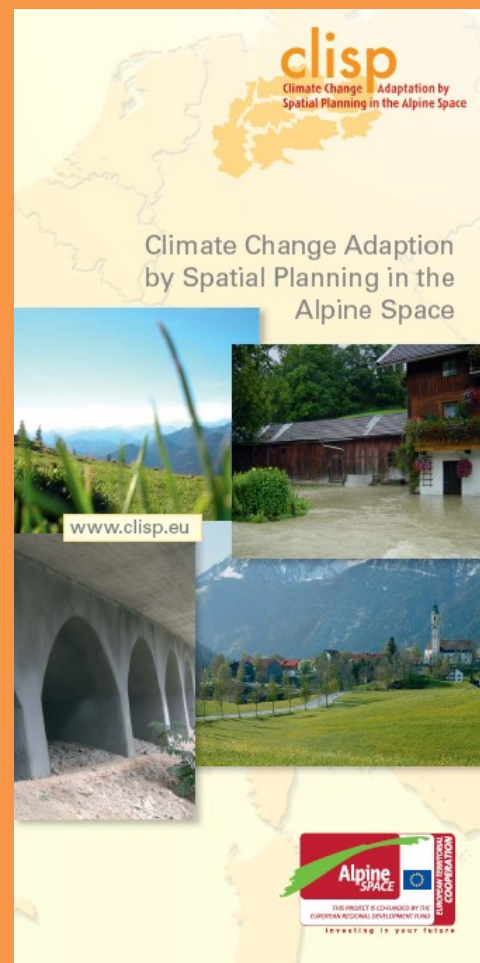
The main objectives of the project are:

- Developing new climate-proof planning strategies for sustainable spatial development on transnational, national and regional level.
- Providing knowledge on spatial vulnerability to climate change impacts and resulting spatial conflicts in Alpine regions and municipalities.
- Analysing the “climate change fitness” of spatial planning systems and identifying strengths, weaknesses and enhancement options.
- Promoting risk governance approaches to the management of climate-related risks by conducting risk communication activities in model regions.
- Establishing a transnational expert network on spatial planning and climate change.
- Transferring results and experience to the whole Alpine Space and other European mountain regions.

In the project, very diverse local environments and economic systems are represented by the selected model-regions. Spatial planning policies and instruments are different in each of them, though often they aim at managing the same issues. The project aims at evaluating spatial planning systems in a comparative way and at identifying their capacities to cope with climate change and its impacts on the Alpine territory. CLISP will provide recommendations to policy makers, responsible persons in local public administrations and the private sector on how spatial planning could be enhanced substantially in order to deliver effective adaptation. This could require either the refinement of existing instruments or the introduction of new approaches which may help in stepping forward in the adaptation to climate change in the Alps.



INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY



Download the flyer on:
www.clisp.eu

The Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology has produced a project flyer.

The flyer's digital version is available on the CLISP website in all the project languages (English, German, Italian, Slovenian).

MID-TERM CONFERENCE

The CLISP public midterm conference will be organised back to back with the midterm conference of the ClimAlpTour project, aiming at enhancing the visibility of these two outstanding Alpine Space projects and at focusing on their common goals and possible synergies.

Therefore the two conferences will take place in very strict connection on 26th-27th of May 2010 in the climate-sensitive area of southern Piedmont. The region located in the vicinity of the towns of Ovada and Acqui Terme has historically been subject to floods and is well prepared to respond to this kind of natural hazards with appropriate planning tools.

The local interest for innovative planning instruments to face the expected higher frequency of occurrence of natural hazards together with the closeness of mountain areas, which are facing the challenge to introduce innovative elements in their tourist offer, make the location extremely appropriate to hold both projects' midterm conferences.

The dimension of the combined event and the innovative message which it will bring to the region are very likely to attract a remarkable public and to involve local stakeholders in a sound discussion on climate change and its consequences on the alpine and local area.

Further information on the CLISP mid-term conference will follow with upcoming issues of the project newsletter.



JOINT EFFORTS FOR ADAPTATION: ONGOING NETWORKING OF ALPINE SPACE CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

Initiated by the CLISP Lead Partner Umweltbundesamt (Environment Agency Austria), five Interreg IV B Alpine Space climate change projects approved in the 1st Call of the Alpine Space Programme 2008-2013 have linked up in a thematic project cluster. Since February 2009, three common meetings have been held to exchange information and identify synergy potentials between the Lead Partners of the CLISP, AdaptAlp, Alp-Water-Scarce, PermaNET and ClimAlpTour projects that are all focussing on different aspects of climate change adaptation issues. By keeping the other projects up-to-date about activities and contents, redundancies can be avoided, synergies exploited and information and publicity measures effectively enhanced. What started out as a coordination effort on Lead Partner level has by now increasingly grown into a fruitful information exchange about project-related issues of common interest on partner and expert level.

Cooperation is ongoing, for instance, in the fields of climate modelling and the organisation of joint public events. Synergy effects shall be extended and searched for jointly also with other running initiatives in the Alps, such as the cc.Alps project of the CIPRA. The networking is welcomed by the Alpine Space Programme, which strongly encourages the creation of such thematic project clusters. The next meeting of the five ASP projects is planned at the beginning of 2010 in Munich together with the JTS.

CLISP EXPERT WORKSHOP: HOW FIT ARE SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Organised by WP5 Responsible the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), the expert workshop "Evaluating the climate change fitness of spatial planning" was held on March 25th, 2009 in Ittigen (CH). Spatial planning experts from Germany, Switzerland, Austria and UK as well as CLISP project partners and subcontractors discussed questions such as: Are the Alpine countries spatial planning systems fit for facing climate change? What are the strengths and weaknesses of our instruments and can they be improved? How can we better adapt to climate related risks?

The stage for discussion was set by five key note experts speeches giving an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of spatial planning in coping with climate change. In two workshop parts, participants worked on defining evaluation criteria that shall be applied in the CLISP project to review the "climate change fitness" of spatial planning systems and discussed appropriate "climate change fitness" self-evaluation tools giving guidance for climate change adaptation to regions and municipalities. The evaluation criteria developed during the workshop are currently being applied by Partners in their territories. The Workshop was also highly successful in supporting an intense knowledge exchange among experts from spatial planning and related fields and in gaining a deeper insight into the "climate change fitness" of spatial planning systems.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7-8 December 2009, Belgrade, Serbia — Regional development, spatial planning and strategic governance: <http://www.iaus.org.yu/eng/index.html>
- 7-18 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark — Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol: http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php?year=2009
- 21-22 December 2009, Geneva, Switzerland — Intergovernmental Meeting for the high-level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services: http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/index_en.html
- 21-27 February 2010, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania — Fourth International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation: <http://community.eldis.org/.59b70e86/CBA%20Conference%20Announcement.pdf>
- 26-30 September 2010, Perth, Scotland (UK) — Conference "Global Change and the World's Mountains", with a special session on "Global change in the Alps: impacts and adaptation". In occasion of the special session several running Alpine Space projects on climate change issues, including CLISP, are expected to be represented and to provide contributions. <http://www.perth.ac.uk/specialistcentres/cms/Conferences/Perth2010/Pages/default.aspx>

LINKS

- Alpine Space Programme: www.alpine-space.eu
- CLISP – Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space: www.clisp.eu
- AdaptAlp – Adaptation to Climate Change in the Alpine Space: www.adaptalp.org
- Alp-Water-Scarce – Water Management Strategies against Water Scarcity in the Alps: www.alpwaterscarce.eu
- PermaNET – Longterm Permafrost Monitoring Network: www.permanet-alpinespace.eu
- ClimAlpTour – Climate Change and its Impacts on Tourism in the Alpine Space: www.climalptour.eu
- European Commission for the Environment — The matter of Climate Change, possible solutions and the European Climate Change Program (ECCP): http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/home_en.htm
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): www.ipcc.ch
- The European Journal of Spatial Development: <http://www.nordregio.se/EJSD/>
- European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON): www.espon.eu

COLOPHON

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