

Interreg
Alpine Space



EUROPEAN UNION



**OPEN
SPACE
ALPS**

European Regional Development Fund



OpenSpaceAlps


**Guide to project
main results**

01 **OpenSpaceAlps project**

Sustainable development of alpine open spaces by enhancing spatial planning governance



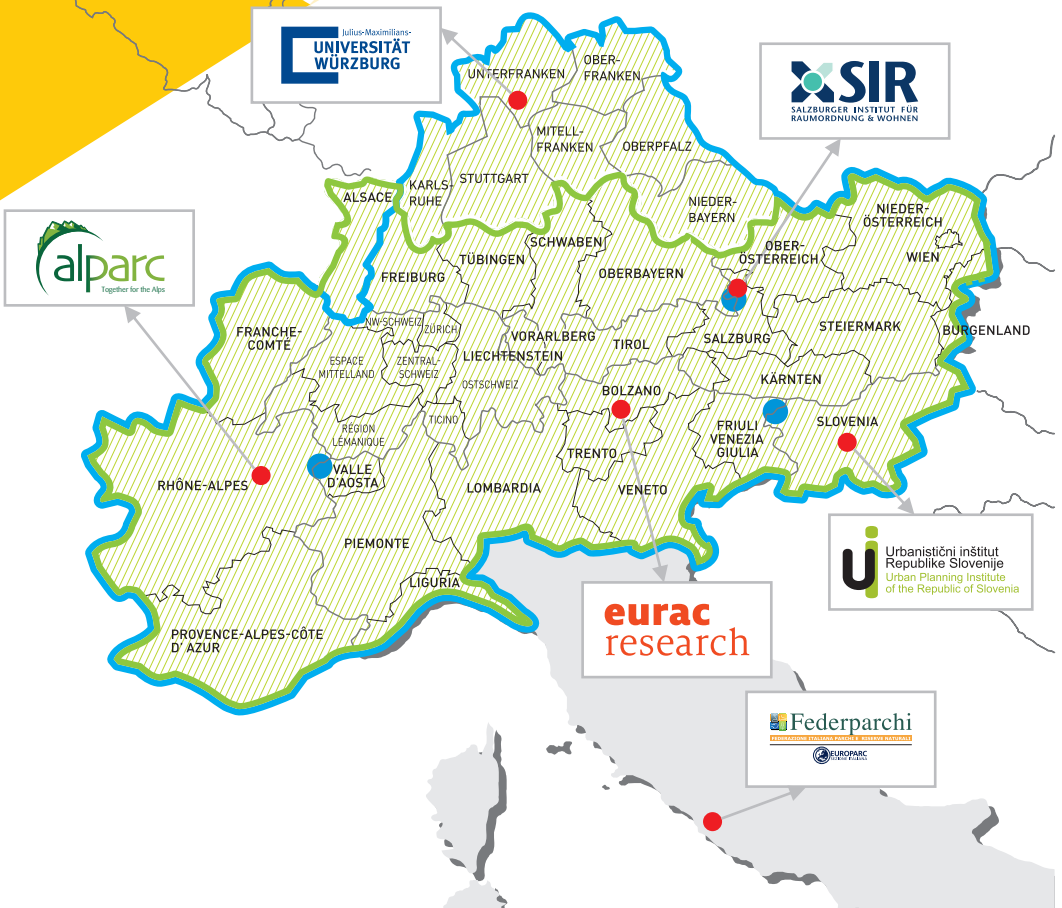
Open spaces are rich in resources and fulfil central functions for human life. Spatial planning plays a key role in coordinating their safeguarding and use. In the project, open spaces were visualised for the whole Alpine Space area.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, there are several tall, dark green coniferous trees. Below them, a valley with green fields and a few small buildings is visible. In the distance, there are rolling hills and mountain ranges under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. A large white geometric shape, resembling a stylized mountain peak or a large arrow pointing downwards, is overlaid on the lower half of the image. The top edge of this white shape is a horizontal line with a diagonal hatching pattern. The bottom edge of the white shape is a solid yellow line. The text is placed within the white area.


Working with stakeholders from the municipal to the international level resulted in identification of cross-cutting approaches for better spatial governance. Their implementation will be promoted beyond the project duration!

**Acting together
for open spaces in
the Alps**

02 Project partners and pilot regions



- EUSALP AREA
- ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME 2014-2020 COOPERATION AREA
- PROJECT PARTNER LOCATIONS
- CROSS-BORDER PILOT AREAS



Open minds
love open spaces

03 What is open space?

In view of the different planning systems in the Alpine states, finding common definitions and concepts was essential for the OpenSpaceAlps project. The concept of open space used for spatial planning is not about the absence of human land use (in the sense of „wilderness“), but about limiting intensive (built/technical) forms of land use. The project-specific definition of open space has three definition levels:

1st definition level

Area kept free of buildings, technical infrastructure and soil sealing

2nd definition level

Area outside closed settlements, commercial and industrial areas and other special designated areas that is also kept free of noise and other anthropogenic disturbing effects (immissions)

3rd definition level

Landscape area that is **largely** undeveloped (threshold-dependent) in terms of technical infrastructures, soil sealing and motorised traffic as well as their disruptive effects


More details are available in the definition report.



04 A vision for open spaces

The coordinating role of spatial planning with all the components of sustainable territorial development relevant to open spaces now and in the future needs to be strengthened. In 2030, spatial planners, economists and ecologists work together to find the best way to use available land and maintain open space on the basis of common criteria and a common understanding. The coming generations will then be able to decide themselves on how to use the unbuilt space.




A scenic view of the Alps with a white hexagonal graphic overlay containing a yellow triangle and text. The background shows a vast mountain range under a cloudy sky, with a valley below featuring a river, green fields, and small settlements. The foreground is dominated by dark green evergreen trees.

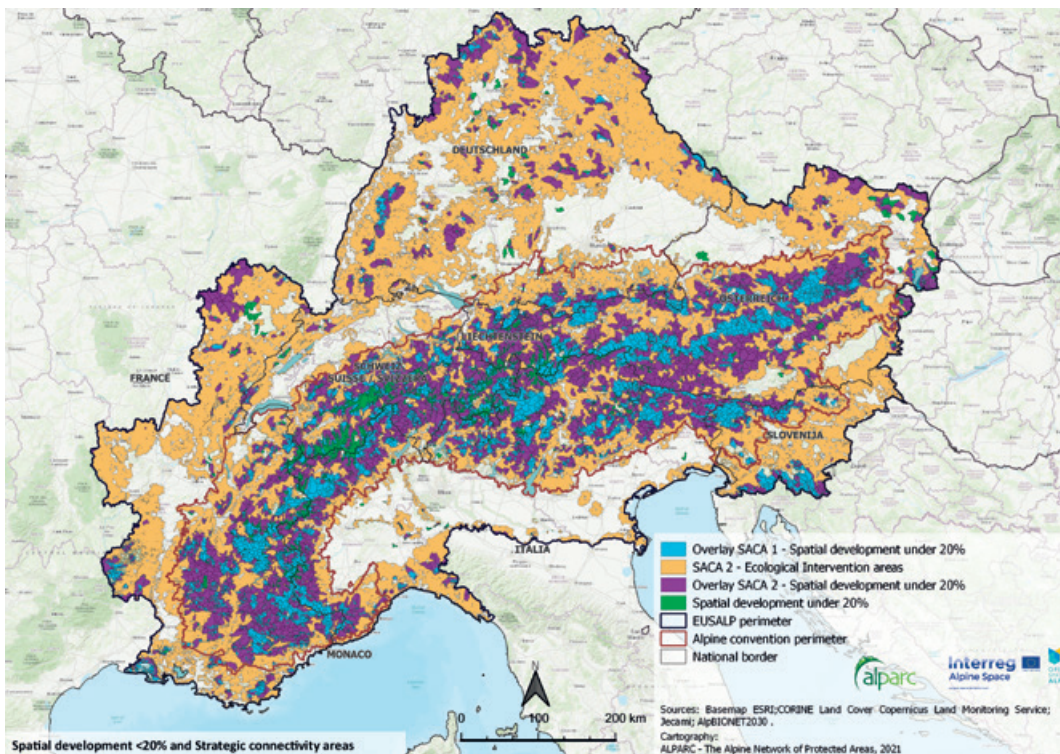
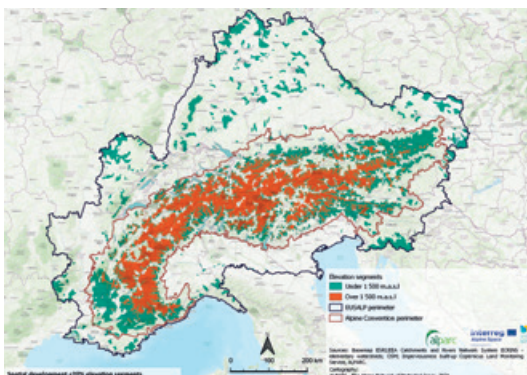
**Green open spaces:
our legacy for the
Alps**

05 Mapping open spaces in the alpine area

The Alps-wide mapping is a planning tool for spatial planners and natural conservation experts. The tool makes it possible to identify different levels of spatial development and integrate data on nature protection or land use among others. The spatial development indicator is based on the observed area covered by a selection of infrastructures, the result is the identification of large semi-natural spaces in the Alps.



Let's stand up
for open spaces in
the Alps!



06 Working with stakeholders

Spatial planners, politicians, non-governmental organisations and administrative sectors were involved to collect local knowledge about

- endangered open spaces
- types of pressure
- existing planning gaps.

For the OpenSpaceAlps project pilot sites it was revealed that settlement expansions around the major cities are affecting agriculture in lower areas, and tourism impacts on the landscape in higher altitudes. To react to this, pilot implementation strategies for awareness raising and improving intermunicipal collaboration were elaborated.



**Buffer infrastructure
Buffer infrastrutture**

- Buffer infrastructure - Buffer infrastrutture
- Regional boundary - Confine regione

Cartography:
P.Laner,
Eurac Research - Institute for Regional Development
Projet: Interreg Alpine Space OpenSpaceAlps

Sources: Basemap: ESRI. Buffer for infrastructure based on Infrastruttura Regionale dei Dati Ambientali e Territoriali (IRDAT) of Friuli Venezia Giulia, OpenStreetMap Contributors.



**Open Spaces
Spazi aperti**

- Open Spaces - Spazi aperti
- Regional boundary - Confine regione

Cartography:
P.Laner,
Eurac Research - Institute for Regional Development
Projet: Interreg Alpine Space OpenSpaceAlps

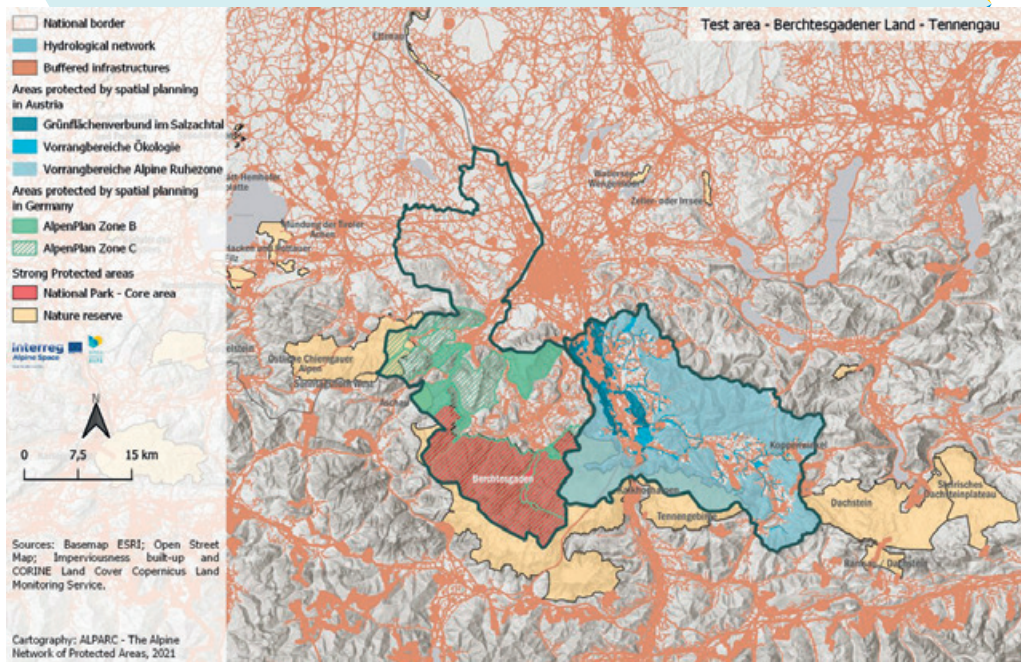
Sources: Basemap: ESRI. Open Spaces based on Infrastruttura Regionale dei Dati Ambientali e Territoriali (IRDAT) of Friuli Venezia Giulia, OpenStreetMap Contributors.

07 Criteria for safeguarding open spaces

Stakeholders from the border regions were invited to discuss the potentials for harmonisation of open space planning. The main finding was that transnational collaboration in the domains of agricultural areas and ecological linkages could be improved.

To support harmonising the criteria for the most endangered open spaces that are less protected by spatial planning, a Priority Criteria List was compiled.

An overview of the local stakeholders' opinions is available from the OpenSpaceAlps project website.



Let them free: natural open spaces for the Alpine resilience

08 Improving knowledge and capacities – Planning Handbook

The OpenSpaceAlps project aims to promote the transnational exchange of application oriented knowledge on sustainable spatial planning. A planning handbook was developed as an orientation/guidance for consistently safeguarding open spaces.

In the handbook, planning principles and integrated planning strategies are presented and discussed. They are based on a comparative study of spatial planning practice and the involvement of numerous stakeholders.



**Planing principles:
Safeguarding
open spaces**

**Planning to
safeguard agricultural
production**

**Planning for the
prevention of natural
hazards**

**Planning to secure/
restore ecological
connectivity**

**Planning for the
management of
intensive tourism
development**

**Planning of
renewable energy
installations**

**Planning to
safeguard (local)
outdoor recreation**

**Planning to
safeguard local/
regional climatic
compensation
areas**

**Planning of
settlement
structures**

**Planning for the
preservation of
landscape**

**Planning to preserve
little developed/
near-natural areas**

**Planning for
multifunctional
open spaces**

09 Policy and implementation oriented recommendations

The recommendations help to understand open spaces as an essential part of the European green infrastructure. They give topic-specific guidelines for the improvement of (spatial) planning processes at different administrative levels:

- policy recommendations are intended for political and administrative decision-makers at various levels
- implementation recommendations are addressed to experts in the field of spatial planning.

The document Strategic Recommendations is short and concise. Explanatory details are available in its extended version.

A hiker with a red backpack is seen from behind, standing on a dirt trail in a lush, green mountain landscape. The trail is surrounded by vibrant wildflowers and green grass. In the background, a large, rugged mountain peak rises against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and scenic, representing a natural, open space.

Taking action for a
green, open and
connected Alpine
Space



10 An alpine-wide spatial planning network – AlpPlan network

Based on the idea that approaches to open space planning should be developed across borders, the OpenSpaceAlps project and the Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association have joined forces to build an alpine spatial planning network. The AlpPlan network aims to provide the planning professionals, experts and decision-makers from the entire Alpine region with a platform for transnational exchange and cooperation.



11 Outlook



In the near future, several developments and trends are expected to cause additional pressure on open spaces and result in new challenges as regards their safeguarding. Renewable energies will gain significant upwind and will need to be accommodated in the alpine open spaces.





The consequences of climate change will push activities, such as winter tourism, to higher altitudes, bringing about comprehensive structural and natural changes. Only the continuation of planning and safeguarding will ensure proper maintenance of the precious alpine landscape.



Alpine Space -
open for
generations to
come!

