



LIVEABLE

The Alpine Space programme is an Interreg European transnational cooperation programme involving seven countries (AT, CH, DE, FR, IT, LI, SI). It co-finances projects to make the region more innovative, develop low carbon solutions, valorize the cultural and natural heritage, and improve transnational governance. With this **project brief** the Alpine Space Interreg volunteer introduces highlights from projects of the priority 3: Liveable Alpine Space. More at: www.alpine-space.eu

For Alpine populations *food heritage* goes beyond mere products; but in times of globalization, depopulation and an ageing population the Alpine community is facing the risk of losing an important part of its identity. In this framework, **AlpFoodway's** contribution to **valorising and enhancing the protection of Alpine food cultural heritage** is significant. It links food heritage to marketing and consumer culture, favouring a bottom-up and participative involvement of citizenship. To safeguard and commercially valorise Alpine food heritage, project partners have set in motion the realisation of an inventory examining its core values.

“Having a picture of what Alpine food heritage means for communities but also experts”. To Renata Meazza, project partner from Lombardy Region, this was the main aim of this first action, which will be determining not only for the creation and promotion of a *transnational Alpine identity* but also for the

project's ultimate aim: fostering the valorisation and protection of Alpine food heritage to create a *sustainable development model* for local Alpine communities.

Reconciling youth with the Alps: this is the challenge taken up by **YOUrALPS** project partners. They want to promote and strengthen an *Alpine mountain-oriented education sector* with the aim of better informing young generations on the value and opportunities offered by Alpine natural and cultural heritage. The main result of the project will be *the structure of and international mountain-oriented education network in the Alps* (OurAlps) and the development of a school model, *the Alpine School model*, which will be innovative in its pedagogical approach and its practical, participatory activities. The starting shot for its development was *the YOUrALPS Summer School*, a four-day fruitful exchange of the

pilot sites on the goals, expectations and approaches to this innovative school model which paved the way for the *first test phase in pilot-schools*. At the end of the test phase, in January 2018, activities are to be evaluated on the basis of *Alpine school criteria* and further pilot-actions will follow before the implementation due to the end of 2019.



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Improving the development and maintenance of peri-urban green infrastructures and landscapes in the whole Alpine region. This is what **LOS_DAMA***! project partners strive for, acknowledging the importance of protecting and valorising peri-urban landscapes as

the links between rural and urban areas. These territories, though, are not only unique in their natural and cultural diversity; they also face special challenges such as an ever-increasing land use pressure due to cities' growth and transformation. For this purpose, LOS_DAMA! project partners focus (among others) on the development of a *metropolitan Alpine city network* which can provide for a joint vision on the issue and exchanges of valuable know-how on long-term relations between urban and metropolitan authorities, viewed as the key drivers of peri-urban cooperation. The signing of the LOS_DAMA! *Memorandum of understanding and cooperation* (Mou) marked the commitment of eight authorities, with more signatories to come. Municipalities are collaborating with stakeholders in sustainable planning and management of local green infrastructures in the seven project pilot regions (and beyond) and will develop tools, methods and policy recommendations for the valorisation of peri-urban landscapes.

What are ecosystem services (ES) and what is their significance in the Alpine Space framework? The first aim of the **AlpES** project is to provide an answer to this question by developing an Alpine-specific common under-



standing of ES. The project's ultimate aim is to involve and support as many stakeholders as possible in the *implementation of the ES concept into environmental governance*. To achieve this, the project has carried out a *mapping and assessment of the 8 identified most significant ES for the entire Alpine Space* and is currently evaluating the results in nine test regions. AlpES project partners set up a conceptual framework to address ES in the Alps (including definitions and classifications, with a focus on main human benefits). They also analysed existing mapping, assessment approaches and useful instruments for ES implementation from the transnational to the regional level. Now the focus is on the publication of the results of the ES mapping in the project's *WebGIS*, the evaluation of the ES mapping results at the transnational and test-region level, and the development of a capacity-building model to train stakeholders to the management of ES.

From the provision of drinking water to irrigation for agriculture to the natural habitat for a myriad of organisms **Alpine river ecosystems are an essential element for the well-being of all living species** and, as such, they should be protected and well-managed so as to ensure a correct enjoyment of this valuable water resource. This is the field of action of **SPARE**, which brings together stakeholders from five pilot regions and a team of scientists, biologists and water and environmental engineers demonstrating the importance of an integrated and participative approach to river management. This approach and, in particular, how to involve citizens in river management and how to introduce the issue into decision-making, represented food for thought during the International Knowledge Exchange Workshop held in September in Slovenia. The detailed study of the five Alpine river basins and the first-hand insights by experts on their own experiences and reference practices determined the success of the workshop in providing support to the specific needs of the different pilot sites.



*in Bavarian dialect "Los Dama!" means "Let's start!"

This **project brief** has been written in December 2017 by Kelly Kocks, volunteer at the Alpine Space programme, in the framework of the Interreg volunteer youth initiative (IVY). More about IVY: www.interregyouth.com

