

Deliberazione della Giunta Regionale 25 settembre 2017, n. 49-5684

**Adesione della Regione Piemonte alla Dichiarazione EUSALP - "Joint declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure" - per l'impegno dei Paesi e delle Regioni alpine in favore dello sviluppo di una politica ambientale comune e supporto al Memorandum of Understanding per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali, finalizzato a promuovere la valorizzazione delle Infrastrutture Verdi.**

A relazione dell'Assessore Valmaggia:

La regione alpina è caratterizzata da un'ampia gamma di elementi naturali, culturali e geografici comuni. La ricchezza e la bellezza sono valori propri di questi territori, un patrimonio per diversi servizi ecosistemici che, se gestiti in maniera sostenibile, diventano elementi fondamentali per un'economia verde e un ambiente salutare.

La società umana dipende, infatti, dalle risorse che trae dalla natura legate all'alimentazione, alle materie prime, ad acqua e aria pulite, alla regolazione delle condizioni climatiche, alla prevenzione delle alluvioni, all'impollinazione e alle attività ricreative. Tuttavia, molti di questi benefici, definiti come servizi ecosistemici, sono utilizzati nella convinzione che la loro disponibilità sia illimitata e sono considerati alla stregua di prodotti gratuiti, il cui vero valore non è apprezzato fino in fondo.

In Europa si sta sistematicamente depauperando il capitale naturale, compromettendo la sostenibilità a lungo termine e minando la resilienza agli *shock* ambientali. La protezione del capitale naturale e il riconoscimento del giusto valore dei servizi ecosistemici sono, quindi, tra gli elementi trainanti del percorso verso una crescita intelligente, sostenibile e inclusiva, ossia la priorità dell'UE costituita da Europa 2020.

Le sfide attuali come il cambiamento climatico, la riduzione della biodiversità, la trasformazione dell'uso del suolo, la dispersione urbana e la crescente frammentazione del paesaggio, rappresentano sfide comuni per le città e le aree metropolitane dello Spazio Alpino e richiedono il coinvolgimento dei leader politici per condurre la regione alpina verso un futuro sostenibile, i cui benefici saranno evidenti per l'ambiente naturale, le persone e l'economia.

La comunità scientifica è concorde nel ritenere che le infrastrutture verdi e blu soddisfano importanti funzioni di supporto, approvvigionamento e regolazione e che questi ecosistemi mettono a disposizione servizi in grado di mitigare il cambiamento climatico, ridurre i rischi di catastrofi, fornire risorse ed incrementare la biodiversità, fornire spazi ricreativi e migliorare la salute umana. Inoltre, un *network* di infrastrutture verdi, strategicamente pianificato e coerentemente gestito, garantisce i benefici a favore dell'ambiente naturale, urbano e rurale anche per le generazioni future.

Il Parlamento europeo con la Risoluzione sulla politica di coesione delle regioni montuose dell'UE sottolinea che l'Europa intera dipende dai servizi ecosistemici forniti dalle regioni montuose.

In linea con l'obiettivo di salvaguardia del capitale naturale e degli ecosistemi sono anche alcune politiche e strategie europee quali:

- *Strategia sulla Biodiversità*: mira alla conservazione e all'uso sostenibile delle risorse naturali e sottolinea che, entro il 2020, gli ecosistemi e i loro servizi devono essere mantenuti e migliorati attraverso la valorizzazione delle infrastrutture verdi e il ripristino di almeno il 15% degli ecosistemi degradati;
- *Strategia per le Infrastrutture Verdi*: mira a promuovere lo sviluppo di infrastrutture verdi in tutta l'UE, utili per garantire uno sviluppo economico, sociale ed ecologico e contribuire alla crescita sostenibile;
- *Piano d'azione per la natura, le persone e l'economia*: promuove un quadro strategico per sostenere ulteriormente l'attuazione, a livello europeo, delle infrastrutture verdi; inoltre,

contribuisce al raggiungimento degli obiettivi delle Direttive sulla natura per migliorare la fornitura di servizi ecosistemici essenziali in tutto il territorio dell'UE e per valutare come le soluzioni basate sulla natura (*Nature based Solutions*) possano contribuire a costruire una rete spaziale e funzionale di infrastrutture verdi a livello europeo;

- *Dichiarazione congiunta dell'Assemblea Generale di EUSALP* del 13 febbraio 2017: basata sul Piano d'azione EUSALP, per la creazione della regione Alpina come modello per lo sviluppo di una rete europea di Infrastrutture Verdi (TEN-G), che affida agli attori di EUSALP l'attuazione di questi obiettivi;
- *Agenda territoriale dell'Unione Europea 2020*: mira ad integrare e bilanciare lo sviluppo dei territori ed a gestire e connettere le risorse ed i valori ecologici, paesaggistici e culturali delle regioni europee.

Nell'ambito della Strategia EUSALP, l'*Action Group* (AG) 7 lavora per garantire lo sviluppo della connettività ecologica e per rafforzare, migliorare e ripristinare la biodiversità, nonché i servizi ecosistemici, mirando a creare uno schema macro-regionale globale che applica la Strategia dell'UE per l'Infrastruttura Verde (GI).

L'AG 7 fornisce il quadro per lo sviluppo di una rete strategica di aree naturali e semi-naturali, comprese le caratteristiche delle aree rurali e urbane che insieme - funzionalmente interconnesse - garantiscono diversi vantaggi per la natura, benefici sociali e prosperità economica per gli esseri umani.

Durante la Conferenza dei Ministri dell'Ambiente delle regioni EUSALP sulle infrastrutture verdi – che si terrà a Monaco di Baviera il 2 ottobre 2017 – il Ministro dello Stato bavarese Ulrike Scharf ha annunciato di voler assumere impegni, attraverso la sottoscrizione della Dichiarazione, denominata “*Joint declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure - Joining forces for nature, people and the economy*”, per stabilire le Alpi come una “regione modello europea” per l'Infrastruttura Verde.

Il Ministero dell'Ambiente bavarese, nell'ambito della stessa Conferenza del 2 ottobre, ha altresì promosso, in collaborazione con la città di Monaco (capofila del progetto europeo LOS\_DAMA!), la sottoscrizione di un Protocollo d'intesa, denominato “*Memorandum of Understanding - Realising the potential of peri-urban landscapes in alpine metropolitan areas*”, per la creazione di un network di città metropolitane finalizzato a creare cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali per la promozione della valorizzazione, la progettazione ed il mantenimento degli spazi aperti e dei paesaggi peri-urbani, riconoscendo l'importanza delle loro qualità e funzioni per le aree urbane e l'intero spazio alpino.

La Regione Piemonte è partner del progetto europeo LOS\_DAMA! e sta operando per dare attuazione agli indirizzi europei in materia di infrastrutture verdi, servizi ecosistemici e cambiamento climatico nel quadro di un percorso volto ad affrontare, in maniera organica e coordinata, l'individuazione di azioni coordinate e finalizzate a ridurre la vulnerabilità dei sistemi naturali e socio-economici e aumentare la loro resilienza.

Considerato che:

- la Strategia EUSALP invita le istituzioni regionali, nazionali ed europee a: I) incorporare il concetto di infrastrutture verdi (GI) peri-urbane nelle politiche regionali, in particolare nella pianificazione integrata e intersettoriale; II) introdurre strumenti di finanziamento per lo sviluppo e la realizzazione di infrastrutture verdi, nonché strumenti adeguati per la loro valorizzazione nel tempo; III) includere nel modello di Rete Trans-Europea dell'Infrastruttura Verde (TEN-G) della regione alpina le infrastrutture verdi peri-urbane;

- con la “*Joint declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure - Joining forces for nature, people and the economy*”, i rappresentanti degli Stati e delle Regioni nel territorio della Strategia dell'UE per la regione alpina (EUSALP), si impegnano a fornire delle basi durevoli per la collaborazione tra i partner firmatari al fine di proteggere, valorizzare e gestire in modo sostenibile gli spazi aperti, i paesaggi e le infrastrutture verdi;
- il “*Memorandum of Understanding - Realising the potential of peri-urban landscapes in alpine metropolitan areas*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali, ideato nell'ambito di Interreg V B EU progetto LOS\_DAMA! (*Landscape and Open Space Development in Alpine Metropolitan Areas*), intende valorizzare gli elementi dell'infrastruttura verde esistenti e sostenere lo sviluppo o il ripristino di altri spazi di alta qualità, colmare strategicamente le lacune nel sistema di rete, in stretta collaborazione con tutti gli attori coinvolti e attraverso il miglioramento del coordinamento interterritoriale della rete di infrastrutture verdi.

Atteso che:

- la “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure*” e il “*Memorandum of Understanding*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali pongono obiettivi in linea con le politiche e le strategie europee in materia di infrastrutture verdi e tali strategie sono confermate dalla ricerca scientifica, concorde nel ritenerle un supporto fondamentale ai servizi ecosistemi in grado di mitigare il cambiamento climatico;
- la “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure*” e il “*Memorandum of Understanding*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali sono pienamente conformi con tutti gli obblighi di diritto internazionale applicabili, nel pieno rispetto della normativa nazionale italiana e degli obblighi derivanti dall'appartenenza all'Unione Europea.

Ritenuto:

- fondamentale l'assunzione di specifici impegni da parte della Regione Piemonte al fine di concorrere fattivamente, congiuntamente ad un numero significativo di istituzioni regionali e nazionali, alla definizione e valorizzazione di una infrastruttura verde e fornire un modello per una più ampia cooperazione internazionale tra le nazioni;
- che la sottoscrizione della “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure*” e del “*Memorandum of Understanding*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali possano fornire alla Regione un valore aggiunto in termini di condivisione di esperienze, conoscenze, strumenti, metodi, tecnologie, buone pratiche utili per sviluppare un'efficace politica sul tema delle infrastrutture verdi e dei servizi ecosistemici.

Visti:

- la “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure - Joining forces for nature, people and the economy*”, allegata alla presente deliberazione per farne parte integrante, nel quale sono riportati gli specifici impegni che la Regione Piemonte intende assumere per lo sviluppo di una politica ambientale comune sulle infrastrutture verdi;
- il “*Memorandum of Understanding - Realising the potential of peri-urban landscapes in alpine metropolitan areas*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e

regionali, ideato nell'ambito di Interreg V B EU progetto LOS\_DAMA!, allegato alla presente deliberazione per farne parte integrante, nel quale sono riportati gli specifici impegni che la Regione Piemonte intende supportare sui temi della valorizzazione, progettazione e mantenimento delle infrastrutture verdi.

Dato atto che la presente deliberazione non comporta oneri a carico del bilancio regionale.

Attestata la regolarità amministrativa del presente provvedimento ai sensi della d.g.r. 1-4046 del 17 ottobre 2016.

Tutto ciò premesso;

la Giunta Regionale, unanime,

*delibera*

- aderire alla Dichiarazione EUSALP denominata “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure - Joining forces for nature, people and the economy*” tra i rappresentanti dei Governi regionali e nazionali, assumendo gli impegni riportati nella dichiarazione;
- aderire come *Supporter* al Protocollo d’Intesa denominato “*Memorandum of Understanding - Realising the potential of peri-urban landscapes in alpine metropolitan areas*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali, ideato nell'ambito di Interreg V B EU progetto LOS\_DAMA! (*Landscape and Open Space Development in Alpine Metropolitan Areas*), sostenendo gli impegni riportati nel Protocollo;
- dare mandato all’Assessore Alberto Valmaggia di sottoscrivere la “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure*”, alla firma dei rappresentanti delle istituzioni regionali e nazionali della Regione Alpina, e di sottoscrivere come *Supporter* il “*Memorandum of Understanding*” per la cooperazione tra municipalità, autorità metropolitane e regionali, nell'ambito di Interreg V B EU progetto LOS\_DAMA! (*Landscape and Open Space Development in Alpine Metropolitan Areas*);
- dare ampia diffusione dei contenuti della “*Joint Declaration Alpine Green Infrastructure*” e del “*Memorandum of Understanding*” medesimi e degli impegni regionali al fine di coinvolgere e responsabilizzare istituzioni, cittadini e in generale tutta la società civile sulla centralità e importanza del tema anche per il nostro territorio.

La presente deliberazione sarà pubblicata sul Bollettino Ufficiale della Regione Piemonte ai sensi dell’art. 61 dello Statuto, dell’art. 5 della l.r. 22/2010, nonché degli artt. 23, comma 1, lettera d) e 40 del d.lgs. 33/2013.

(omissis)

Allegato



## **Joint declaration**

### **Alpine Green Infrastructure – Joining forces for nature, people and the economy**

The Alpine region is characterized by a wide range of natural, cultural and geographic features. Its richness and beauty are values of their own, assets for various ecosystem services also thanks to a sustainable land use over centuries and thus indispensable components of a green economy and a healthy environment. Current challenges like climate change, biodiversity erosion, depopulation, land abandonment and increasing landscape fragmentation call for political leadership for sustainably leading the Alpine region into the future - for the benefits of nature, people and the economy.

A strategically planned and coherently managed network of Green Infrastructures aims at continuously providing these benefits by nature in rural and urban settings also for future generations. In close collaboration of all involved actors and by improving cross-territorial coordination such a Green Infrastructure network intends to valorize existing Green Infrastructure elements and to support the deployment or restoration of other high quality spaces for jointly closing strategic gaps in the system.

We, the representatives of the states and regions in the territory of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP),

HAVING REGARD to

- the European Parliament resolution on cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU outlining that the entirety of the EU depends on the ecosystem services being provided by the European Mountainous Regions<sup>1</sup>
- the targets of the EU Biodiversity Strategy<sup>2</sup> stressing that, 'by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing Green Infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems';

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament resolution of 10 May 2016 on cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU

- the EU Strategy for Green Infrastructure<sup>3</sup> which aims at promoting the development of Green Infrastructure across the EU for delivering economic, social and ecological benefits and contributing to sustainable growth;
- the Alpine Convention and particularly its Protocols “Nature protection and landscape conservation”<sup>4</sup> calling for the creation of a national and cross-border network of protected areas, biotopes and other environmental assets, “Mountain Farming”<sup>5</sup> and “Mountain Forest”<sup>6</sup> emphasizing the importance of sustainable management of mountain pastures and forests by farmers and forest owners and the recent Report on the State of the Alps “Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region”<sup>7</sup> calling for the consideration of ecosystems and biodiversity as an economic asset in the Alpine area;
- the Action Plan for nature, people and the economy<sup>8</sup> calling for a strategic framework for further supporting the deployment of EU-level Green Infrastructure, with a view to contribute to the goals of the Nature Directives so as to enhance the delivery of essential ecosystem services throughout the EU territory and for exploring how nature-based solutions can contribute to build up a spatial and functional network of Green Infrastructure at European level;
- the Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 recognizing that ecological values, environmental quality and cultural assets are crucial to well-being, health and to economic prospects and that territorial integration and cooperation can create a critical mass for diminishing economic, social and ecological fragmentation<sup>9</sup>;
- the Joint declaration of the General Assembly of the EUSALP of February 13, 2017 calling, based on the EUSALP Action Plan, for “Establishing the Alpine region as a model region for the development of a European Network for Green Infrastructure (TEN-G)” and entrusting EUSALP actors to implement these focus topics to the best of their ability;

<sup>2</sup> EU Biodiversity Strategy, COM(2011) 244 final, OJ C 264 of 8.9.2011

<sup>3</sup> Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital, SWD(2013) 155 final.

Working Document adopted at the same time as this communication SWD(2013) 155 final

<sup>4</sup> Protocol „Nature protection and landscape conservation”,

<sup>5</sup> “Protocol on the implementation of the 1991 Alpine Convention in the field of mountain farming”

<sup>6</sup> “Protocol on the implementation of the Alpine Convention relating to mountain forests”

<sup>7</sup> Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region, Report on the State of the Alps, Alpine Signals – Special Edition 6

<sup>8</sup> An Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, COM(2017) 198 final

<sup>9</sup> Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 – Towards an Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions, 2011

jointly declare:

### ***Emphasizing the benefits of Green Infrastructure***

1. We recognize that realizing an Alpine Green Infrastructure, as a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services and being coordinated in a cross-border way, is an appropriate instrument to utilizing synergies with various policy fields and therefore ensure sustainable and livable future development for the benefit of nature, people and the economy for future generations.
2. We consider Green Infrastructure as important also in urban and metropolitan areas, in which around 75 % of the EU population lives, to interlink urban, peri-urban and rural areas and to provide appealing and healthy places to live and to work in.
3. We shall therefore give Green Infrastructure greater awareness in European, national, regional and local policies and highly welcome the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure as well as the accompanying initiatives taken by the European Commission to support Green Infrastructure deployment throughout the EU.

### ***Making the Alpine region a model region for Green Infrastructure***

4. We consider the EUSALP region with its unique features and the already elaborated comprehensive knowledge as an appropriate model region for further developing an Alpine Green Infrastructure, also with a view to mutually inspire implementation of Green Infrastructure with other mountain areas or other EU macro-regional strategies in Europe.
5. We welcome the initiative of the Alpine protected areas network by including its core areas into an Alpine Green Infrastructure system and underline that this Alpine network shall also encompass non-protected areas in the whole EUSALP territory to ensure structural and functional landscape connectivity.
6. We recognize a multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholders approach with an active and early involvement of concerned stakeholders as crucial for the success of the different initiatives developed in this framework in order to sustainably ensure the ecosystem services provided to the people when at the same time fostering socio-economic benefits and encouraging sustainable land-use practices.

### ***Providing appropriate governance and financing mechanisms***

7. We commit to providing resources for the implementation of an Alpine Green Infrastructure to the best of our abilities and to act as ambassadors for integrating Green Infrastructure into other sectors, declare our willingness to intensify transnational and cross-territorial cooperation and to embed our national and regional Green Infrastructure policies into a coherent European Green Infrastructure network while explicitly including non-EU-member states.
8. We will jointly act to strengthen the ability of regions and stakeholders to invest in capacity building and to create green jobs based on Green Infrastructure.
9. We expect with high interest the guidance, being under preparation by the European Commission, aimed at providing a strategic framework for further supporting the deployment of EU-level Green Infrastructure including the development of selection criteria for projects of European interest and we call for an active involvement of regions in this initiative.
10. We emphasize the necessity for making better use of existing funds especially through integrating different funding sources, fostering synergies of national and regional funds with funds under shared management of the EU and Member States as well as centrally managed EU funds, for more simplification for applicants and administration and for better mainstreaming Green Infrastructure requirements in the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020.
11. We call on the European Commission to further pursue the approach of developing a TEN-G instrument and to establish appropriate financing mechanisms, especially supporting cross-territorial and cross-sectoral implementation and governance.

### ***Taking further action for implementing Alpine Green Infrastructure***

12. We entrust EUSALP Action Group 7 to support the positioning of the Alpine Region as a candidate for a EU-level Green Infrastructure by
  - identifying priority areas being of trans-European importance as Alpine segments of an European Green Infrastructure network,
  - developing criteria for selecting those priority areas and EU relevant Alpine Green Infrastructure projects in the above mentioned priority areas,



- setting up test cases of EU relevant Alpine Green Infrastructure projects to elaborate appropriate governance mechanisms for an improved transnational and cross-sectoral coordination, based on comparable experiences like the existing TENs,
  - initiating – on a voluntary basis – together with diverse sectors and land owners concrete implementation measures on the spot to close strategic gaps in the Alpine Green Infrastructure network, to explore appropriate funding schemes and to support inter-communal/regional cooperation,
  - promoting dialogue with and, if appropriate, participation of all relevant stakeholders, involving civil society, and building upon the knowledge gained e. g. by the Alpine Convention and its Working Groups and Platforms, such as the Platform Ecological Network and its Pilot Regions, the results of Green Infrastructure projects relevant for the Alpine Region, as well as knowledge gained at EU level in supporting the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.
13. We explicitly welcome the initiative of the Alpine metropolitan areas to build up a network of cities and metropolitan areas based on Green Infrastructure and encourage all EUSALP states and regions to support this network in its efforts to further strengthen the multi-level cooperation with EUSALP bodies; and we also encourage the Alpine cities network to develop and strengthen cooperation with other Green Infrastructure related urban initiatives in Europe.
14. We emphasize the importance of cooperation with other mountain ranges in Europe and invite EUSALP Action Group 7 to organize – in cooperation with Alpine states and regions, the European Commission, the Alpine cities and metropolitan areas network as well as partners from all EU macro-regional strategies – further exchanges on European Green Infrastructure.
15. We ask the future EUSALP Presidencies to pursue efforts towards establishing an Alpine Green Infrastructure.

Done at Munich, 2 October 2017

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Realising the potential of peri-urban landscapes in Alpine metropolitan areas.

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

between cities and metropolitan authorities  
in the Alpine region to improve the  
development, design and maintenance of  
peri-urban green spaces and landscapes,  
acknowledging the importance of their  
qualities and functions for urban areas and  
for the Alpine region as a whole.

Munich, 2017



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

between



As of October 2, 2017 the above cities and metropolitan authorities have already pledged to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation.

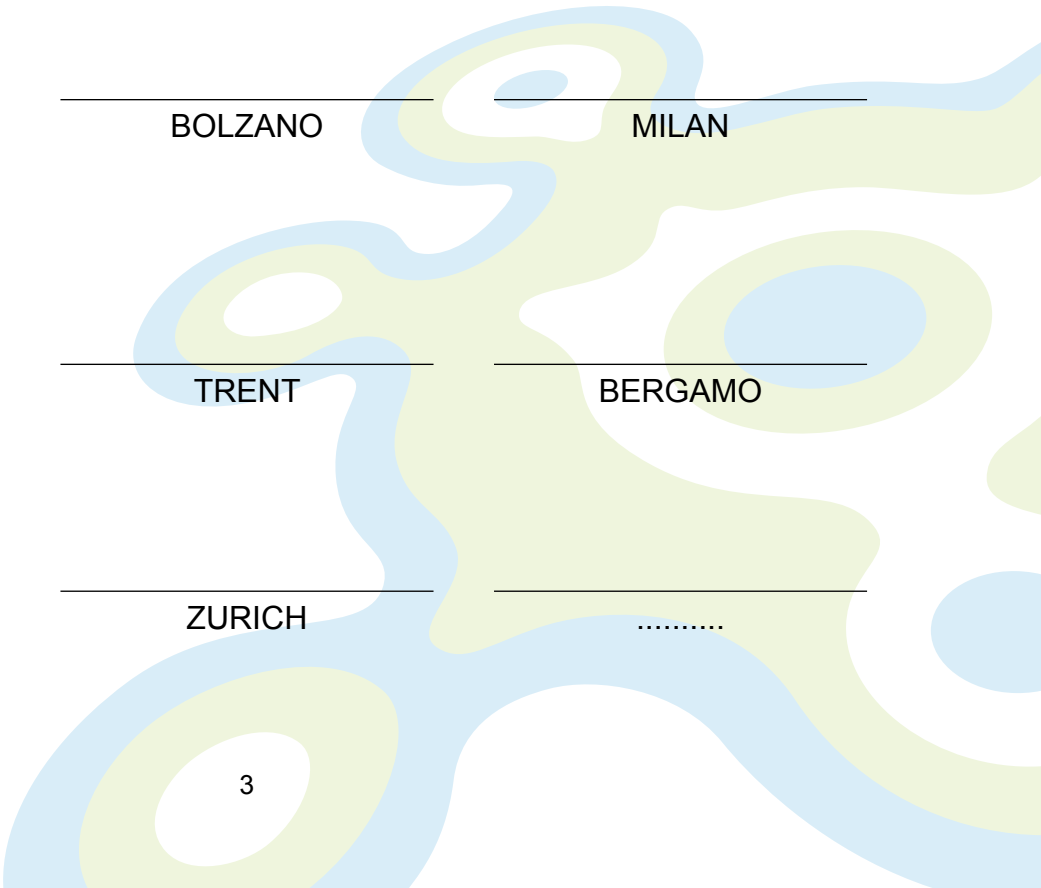


This project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.

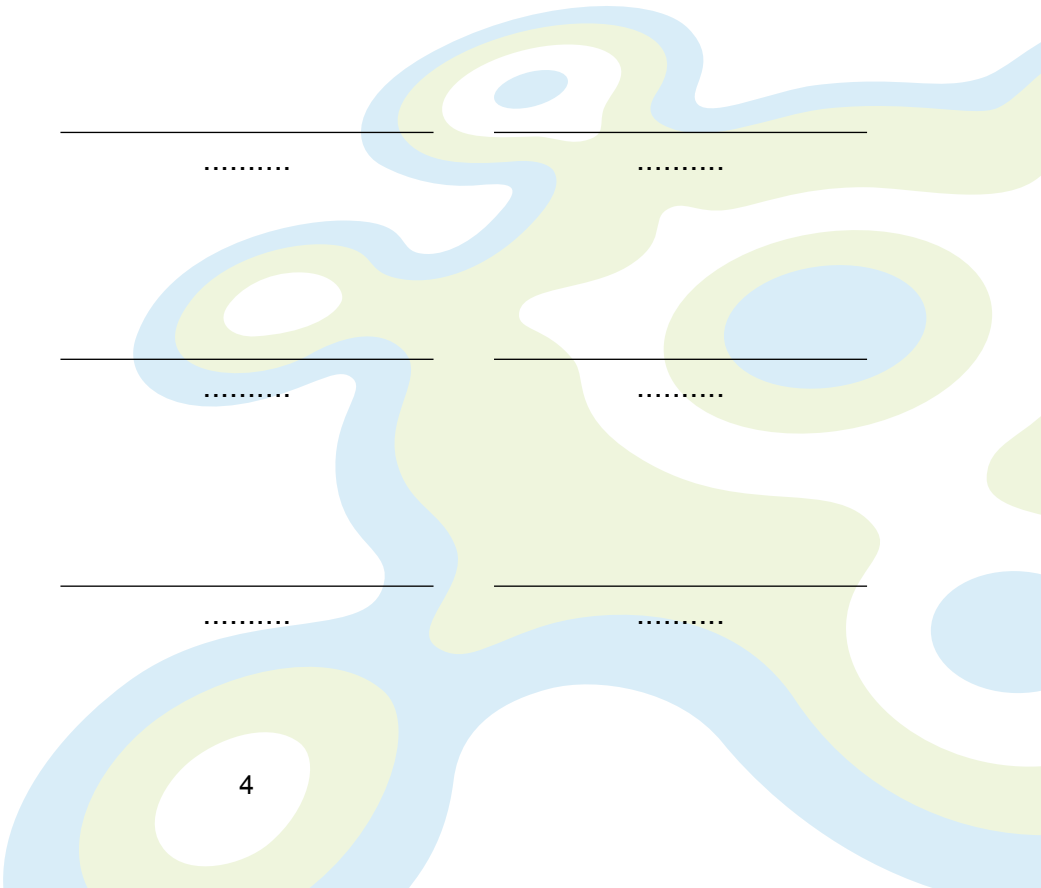
As the mayors and representatives of the undersigned cities and metropolitan authorities, we speak for a considerable share of the population in the Alpine region. In signing this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation, we acknowledge the increasing need for attractive, well-managed urban and peri-urban open spaces and commit to creating a solid basis for collaboration as we strive to protect, enhance and sustainably manage our open spaces as landscapes and as green infrastructure.

Munich, October 2, 2017

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_____ CHAMBÉRY	_____ GAM	_____ LYON
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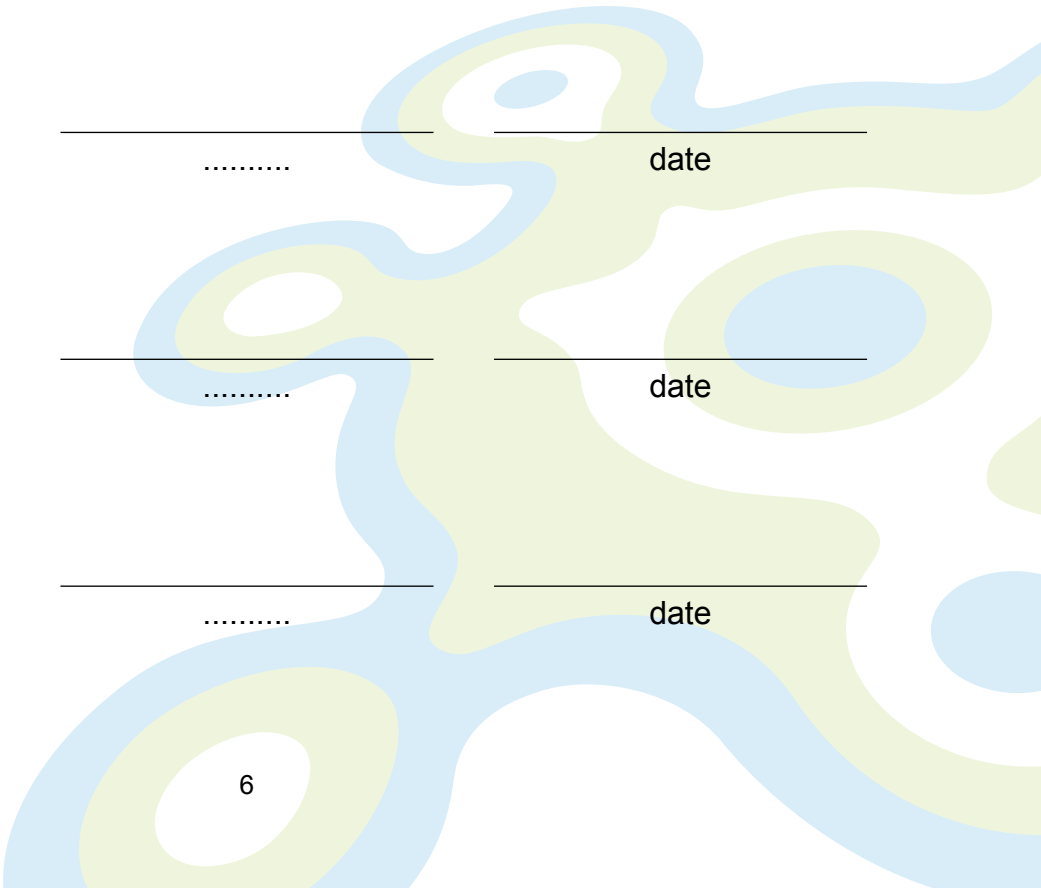
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## PREAMBLE

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Alpine region is home to unique natural and cultural diversity, exceptional on the European scale, to which our metropolitan areas contribute significant impulses and a variety of open spaces and landscapes;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the globally attractive cities and metropolitan areas in and around the Alpine core – in all their variety – face common challenges: Growth and transformation result in land use pressure, urban sprawl and sociodemographic changes with strong effects on open spaces, especially in peri-urban areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING the importance and the special challenges of rural Alpine areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING the interdependency of all Alpine areas, resulting in opportunities and barriers for sustainable development;

ACKNOWLEDGING that peri-urban areas possess significant potential to enhance quality of life. In caring for peri-urban landscapes as links between urban, rural and near natural areas, we also protect Alpine cultural and natural assets;

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that green spaces and bodies of water such as streams, rivers and lakes have the potential to constitute green and blue infrastructure for a better environment and a higher quality of life. These infrastructures fulfil important provisioning, regulating and supporting functions. They supply food, water and energy, help to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce disaster risks. They also provide for recreation and human well-being, as well as creating physical space and scope for biodiversity.

The undersigned partners have reached the following understanding:

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that climate change presents a huge challenge to the whole territory of the Alpine region and demands collaboration and joint action;

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that accessible and inclusive open spaces contribute to environmental justice and social integration;

SPECIFICALLY NOTING that peri-urban open spaces, perceived as landscapes, are vehicles of identity, values and meaning;

RECOGNISING that, within the green infrastructure network in the Alpine region, urban and peri-urban open spaces need special attention because

- they offer significant potential for multifunctional use, for sustainable development and for the quality of life in metropolitan areas;
- they are valuable and vulnerable, despite their often unspectacular appearance, and they are indispensable to citizens as everyday landscapes;
- they are a scarce resource in comparison to the high pressure for utilisation through different groups and uses;
- they are necessary to complement the demand for housing, business and transport development;
- they help to better tackle and ease the pressure on Alpine core landscapes by contributing to the provision of recreation, fresh air and more;

RECOGNISING that these spaces also require special management to enhance their qualities as green infrastructure in an environment of complex ownership patterns, stakeholders with non-excludable interests, engaged citizens and users.



## COMMITMENT

We hereby declare our commitment to providing a durable basis for collaboration between the above-mentioned partners in striving to protect, enhance and sustainably manage our open spaces as landscapes and as green infrastructure.

To this end, we agree

- to recognise the functional importance and value of urban and peri-urban green infrastructure;
- to cooperate with all public authorities in the metropolitan context in order to build territorial alliances and achieve mutual benefits for urban, peri-urban and rural areas;
- to cooperate with stakeholders and citizens;
- to strive for legal frameworks to effectively put supporting measures into practice on all levels;
- to develop instruments and procedures to adequately address the multifunctional and collective character of urban and peri-urban open spaces;
- to identify areas and infrastructure suitable for improvement or for transformation into green infrastructure;
- to allocate and raise sufficient funds for investment and ongoing maintenance, as well as seeking new models of financing.

## CENTRAL FIELDS OF COOPERATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Building on our extensive experience and successful policies, we trust in collaboration to even better protect, enhance and manage our open spaces with their natural and cultural assets.

We will

- mutually exchange and learn from each other and

- pool the experience emerging from our continuous work on the regional and local levels with specific regard to
  - \* implementation and management approaches, advanced tools, financing and instruments, in particular adequate instruments to achieve consensual solutions;
  - \* holistic, integrated and cross-sectorial planning, implementation and evaluation;
  - \* valorising landscapes to tap into their natural, cultural and socioeconomic potential;
  - \* improved governance, stakeholder involvement, citizens' empowerment and co-creation;
  - \* effective communication;
- increase broader awareness of the importance of our concerns and strive for greater impetus for open space issues in the context of cooperation between cities and regions;
- give input to policymaking at transnational and European level, with special emphasis on the EUSALP process. We explicitly welcome the initiative of the representatives responsible for environmental policies of the states and regions in the EUSALP territory to make the Alpine region a model region for green infrastructure;

We will actively seek to deepen and enlarge our network beyond the LOS\_DAMA! project, and we are

INVITING all other interested cities and metropolitan authorities to join this Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation; and

INVITING all other interested authorities, institutions and organisations to publicly support our efforts as declared in this Memorandum.

## **EMBEDDING OF COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN A MACROREGIONAL AND EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

Our collaboration and agreed activities will contribute to the successful implementation of European policies. .

Within the multilevel governance approach adopted by EUSALP, we acknowledge our responsibility to contribute to its successful implementation throughout the whole Alpine region. European and transnational strategies require capacity for implementation at local level to be anchored. Our metropolitan areas are willing to co-design the peri-urban and urban dimensions of these strategies.

In particular, we acknowledge and will contribute to the further development of

- the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure, which aims to promote the development of green infrastructure across the EU in order to deliver economic, social and ecological benefits and contribute to sustainable growth;
- the Territorial Agenda of the EU (2011), which aims to integrate and balance spatial development and to manage and connect the ecological, landscape and cultural assets and values of regions;
- the Urban Agenda for the EU (2016), which strives to involve urban authorities in the design of policies, to mobilise them for the implementation of EU policies, and to strengthen the urban dimension in these policies;
- the EUSALP process and, specifically, the joint declaration by the regional and national environmental ministers in the Alpine region: ‘Alpine Green Infrastructure – Joining forces for nature, people and the economy’.

Based on our current understanding of the challenges we face together and our common objectives, we consciously place our trust in ongoing multilevel cooperation. To be able to fully contribute to EUSALP, we are confident that the regional, national and European levels will

- continue to cooperate with the local and metropolitan regional levels within the framework of EUSALP;
- enhance the legal and other supportive frameworks to put suitable policies and measures into practice and to involve stakeholders in the processes;
- incorporate peri-urban green infrastructure requirements in regional policies and support our approach through their own strong commitment to integrated and cross-sectorial planning and implementation in cooperation with stakeholders;
- set up funding schemes for the development and implementation of green infrastructure and adequate instruments and tools for finance and maintenance;
- establish the Alpine region as a model for the development of a European Network for Green Infrastructure (TEN-G), as envisaged, which will include our peri-urban green infrastructure;
- sustain and increase support for pilot projects and exchange;
- help to bridge the gaps between knowledge and practice through funding for relevant activities;
- invest in the transfer of good practise and broad dissemination;
- develop and implement communication activities to reach out to citizens in order to showcase the success of EU policies and multilevel cooperation;
- support civil society and acknowledge its great importance to landscape and open space development.

## **EFFECTIVENESS AND DURATION**

The Memorandum will take effect on the day when it is signed by all parties. It is open to the signature or support of all authorities, institutions and organisations which are interested in contributing. This Memorandum has permanent validity and may be periodically reviewed. It can be terminated subject to six months’ written notice.

LOS\_DAMA! facts:

Duration: 2016 - 2019

Lead: City of Munich

Partners: 6 cities, institutes  
and regions and 3  
universities

Observers: 18 including  
the Cities of Zurich, Milano,  
Graz, Salzburg and Ljubljana  
as well as Metropolitan City  
of Turin

Cooperation: with EUSALP  
AG7 on the development of  
Green Infrastructure

[www.alpine-space.eu/  
projects/los\\_dama/](http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/los_dama/)

