Recommendations for the methodological approach in WIKIAlps and its transferability, potential benefits for stakeholder, decision maker, researcher and entrepreneurs

Results of Work Package 4 Alpine Spatial Development

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Aim of the project and these recommendations

WIKIAlps was one of the strategic capitalisation projects of the Alpine Space Programme. It had the main objective

- to improve the accessibility of project information and results in the two thematic fields "Inclusive growth" and "Ecosystem management and resource efficiency"
- to give information about transnational needs and challenges of sustainable spatial development
- to provide information about stakeholders in the Alpine Space.

Furthermore, the project analysis capitalised on the already available information about spatial development in the Alpine space, analysed their interrelation and highlights not recognized synergies, remaining gaps, achievements that could be further implemented, emerging contradictions and potential requirements and benefits for sustainable transnational spatial development.

The objective of this recommendation is to give condensed information on the methodology applied for the development of the WIKIAlps wiki and its transferability for other thematic fields and applications in the Alpine area. Further information on the applied methodology can be obtained from the wiki and background working papers on the project homepage.

The WIKIAlps approach

In order to cover the diversity of interests and perceptions of spatial development, WIKIAlps has adopted a three-dimensional approach to look at Alpine spatial development:

- **Project perspective:** analysis and capitalisation of selected projects from the thematic fields "Inclusive growth" and "Resource efficiency and ecosystem management" from the Alpine Space 2007-2013 programming period.
- **Policy perspective:** analysis of transnational issues and needs on the basis of spatial policy documents.
- **Stakeholder perspective:** development of a competences matrix of stakeholders based on an analysis of stakeholder institutions.

For all these perspectives, information has been collected, analysed, reorganised and prepared for publication in www.wikialps.eu. In the following, the methodological approach that has been developed and applied for these three perspectives is explained.

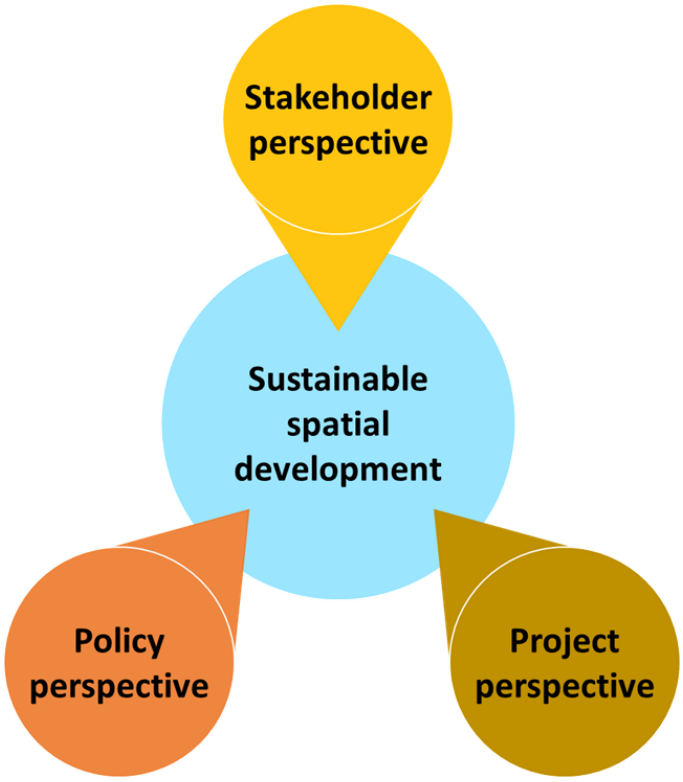

Figure 1 Three perspectives of the WIKIAlps approach

WIKIAlps followed two complementary approaches, which are also reflected in the type of final products

- A self-evolving information platform – the wiki, which allows to change and to extend the information provided on projects, documents and stakeholders and also to deliver via the comment options of the wiki a feedback to certain issues.
- Well-structured information – the WIKIAlps database, providing information for experts using keywords and categories to enable a better structured access and comparability of information on projects, transnational needs and stakeholders.

The two approaches are linked as the wiki provides explanations on the database contents and the database refers to the respective pages in the wiki.

Project perspective

The general idea of the project perspective was to make the extensive and sometimes even confusing amount of projects and project results easier accessible for stakeholders and decision makers.
In WIKIAlps, the idea to improve accessibility was implemented by two aspects:

- Access to all projects via only one platform: The wiki is in a certain way comparable to a “one stop shop”. All projects and project results (as far as somebody includes them) can be

accessed through one website. There is no need to know the names or acronyms of single projects to find their results, as they can be accessed via the wiki.

- Providing additional information about single projects and their outputs: Adding information like metadata about projects and their outputs should make it easier for people not familiar with the Programme to find projects and result which are relevant for their special interests. Some of the additional information allow the grouping and regrouping of projects.

One big advantage of the wiki is that everybody can (after registering as a user) contribute in an easy way and add information about projects. So even after the WIKIAlps project end , the wiki remains as an editable online tool and its contents will hopefully grow.

Within WIKIAlps, the project analysis was carried out as a pilot activity, limited to projects of the thematic fields “Inclusive growth” and “Resource efficiency and ecosystem management” from the Alpine Space 2007-2013 programming period.
The methodological approach consisted for this pilot activity in a two step approach (cf. Figure 2). In the first step - the **project screening -** all 28 projects and their results from the two thematic fields have been analysed. In a second step, 8 selected projects have been subjected to an **in-depth analysis**. The final step consisted of the identification of synergies among the projects.
The main reason for the two-step approach was to limit the effort of the project analysis within the scope of this project. If there is a clear decision for the project analysis and the scope of projects to be analysed, it can also be carried within one step.

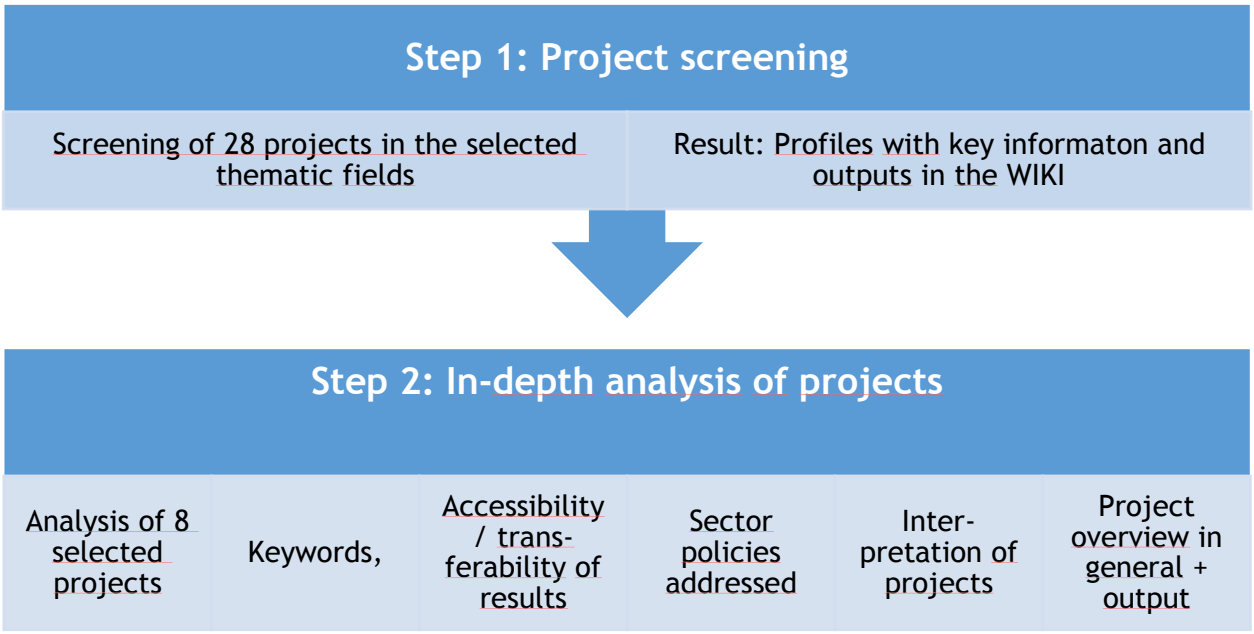

Figure 2: Scheme of two-step approach for project analysis

Step 1 Project screening

The intention of the project screening was to provide an overview of all the projects in the two thematic fields, to reorganise and complement them with further information and to select the projects to be analysed more in depth.

The following 28 projects have been screened in the WIKIAlps project:

"Inclusive growth"	"Resource efficiency and ecosystem management"
ACCESS	AIM
ALIAS	Alp-Water-Scarce
AlpHouse	ALP FFIRS
Alps Bio Cluster	Econnect
CABEE	GeoMol
CAPACities	greenAlps
COMUNIS	MANFRED
DEMOCHANGE	NEWFOR
InnoCité	PermaNET
MORECO	recharge.green
NATHCARE	SedAlp
PLAT.F.O.R.M	SILMAS
RURBANCE	SHARE
SPHERA	Start_It_Up

Furthermore, the projects DIAMONT, ViSiBLE and AlpInfoNet have been added to the wiki – by WIKIAlps project partners (DIAMONT) and partners from the ViSiBLE and AlpInfoNet projects.
In the screening, each project has been analysed following a standardised form, gathering the information outlined in Table 1. The information has been collected from the Alpine Space Programme's website and the project websites. At this screening stage, no deeper research for project information has been conducted to limit the amount of work. The information gathered is presented in the wiki in dedicated project pages. Each project page can be exported from the wiki as a project factsheet to a pdf-file. This is a function which is available for all wiki pages (cf. mini guide on "How to use the wiki").

Table 1 Categories for the project description

Category	Content
General information	Acronym, duration, priority area of the Alpine Space Programme, website, project summary, partner information
Hypotheses	Hypotheses on how the project might support sustainable spatial development are assigned to the project. The hypotheses are listed also in the wiki here.
Topics	All projects are assigned to topics of sustainable spatial development. These 10 topics have been identified a priori by

	the WIKIAlps partners on the basis of two main documents [1] and adjusted to mountain environments. A list of the topics is available in the wiki here
Keywords	Keywords for the project based on the keywords provided already in the Alpine Space Programme website. These keywords have been amended by further key words if necessary by the WIKIAlps authors. A definition of all keywords based on official documents is given in the wiki here. This clearer definition turned out to be necessary to enable a common understanding for the keyword application.
Project results	The outputs of the projects are listed and additional information is provided about the results category, the language(s), target group(s) and a short explaining remark.

Tools for grouping and analysis of projects

Hypotheses

The WIKIAlps project aimed in its pilot activities to provide information on spatial development in the Alps. Spatial development is a mixture of planned and unplanned effects with a high complexity of interacting processes. Sustainable spatial development is a term with many facets, which cannot be identified with one single definition.

To reflect this complexity in the WIKIAlps project, 22 hypotheses have been identified, which characterise the most important aspects of sustainable spatial development. These hypotheses describe basic cause-and-effect relationships outlined in several key transnational documents[2]. They do not claim to fully represent every aspect of sustainable spatial development. However, they cover a reasonable scope of important aspects. Furthermore, as they are based on official documents, they can claim to offer some "inter-subjectivity". The task of the hypotheses was to reduce the complexity of spatial development with its driving forces, pressures, impacts, states and responses while still avoiding oversimplistic cause-effect conclusions. However, it was not the mission of WIKIAlps to develop a complex reference framework for sustainable spatial development. The hypotheses simply served as a reference for the analysis of the projects and they can be used to group or interrelate projects. A complete list of them is available in the wiki here.

[1] The documents are: The Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development for the European Continent (CEMAT 2000), Alpine Convention Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development

[2] The documents on which the hypotheses are built on are: Strategy Development for the Alpine Space, Report on the State of the Alps "Sustainable Rural Development and Innovation" (Summary), Alpine Convention Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 strategy (COM (2011) 21), Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM (2011) 244 final), European Commission (2011): Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe. COM(2011) 571 final.

Topics

There are two international documents dedicated to spatial development, which are particularly relevant for the Alpine Space:

1. The “Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent” which were published by the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) in 2000.
2. The Spatial Planning Protocol of the Alpine Convention.

Both documents served the WIKIAlps project to identify a list of topics for sustainable spatial development, which can be accessed in the wiki here. In the wiki, each topic is described in detail.

The above mentionded CEMAT principles have been adjusted to mountain environments and their requirements to make the topics more relevant for the Alpine area.

Step 2 In-depth analysis

In the in-depth analysis, eight selected projects (ACCESS, COMUNIS, DEMOCHANGE, Econnect, InnoCité, MORECO, PermaNET, SILMAS) have been analysed more in detail in order to obtain more precise information.
The selection of projects has been carried out on the basis of the hypotheses and topics identified in the project screening and an assessment by the WIKIAlps partners of their relevance in regard to spatial development. However, this selection step was only needed for the limitation of the project analysis and is not a mandatory part of the project analysis.

As Figure 3 shows, the in-depth analysis was again structured in two steps:

1. Descriptive analysis of outputs: further analysis of each single project output.
2. Interpretative analysis: deeper look at each project and its results in total.

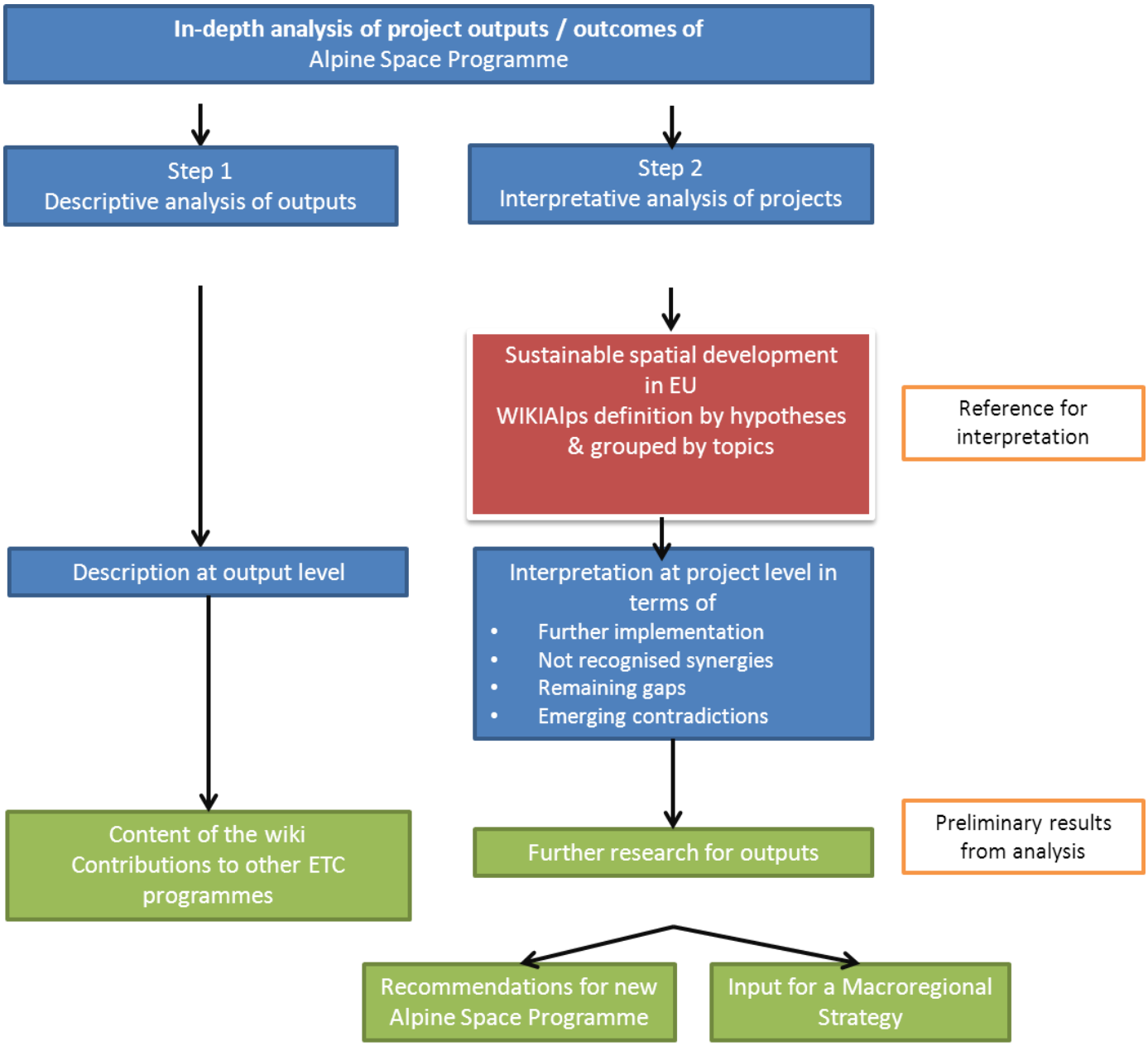

Figure 3 Scheme of the in-depth analysis

Descriptive analysis of project outputs

During the project screening, some basic information about project outputs was already included to the wiki (cf. Table 1). This information was enlarged in the in-depth analysis to enhance the visibility of single project outputs and facilitate their selection by potential users. In order to explain future users what information is given, a short title for the information and some questions to be answered are given in the following table. All these explanations are also available in the wiki here.

Table 2 Further information about single project outputs

Title	Questions to be answered	Example
Territory / area of application	In which region is the result valid, was it developed / applied? Have there been common criteria or characteristics for territories of application/pilot areas?	population decline tourism intensity natural endowment (lakes, forests)
Time frame	When has the result been compiled? Is it 'aging' (like data, recommendations) or timeless (like a label)?	Data are from 2000 to 2010
Keywords	Keywords should highlight the main focus of the result. These can be used to detect synergies and interrelations between project outputs and to group them.	Energy supply service of general interest
Accessibility	Is there full access of data and maps for capitalization (open access, limited access, restricted access)?	Available only as pdf data can be downloaded
Transferability and re-usability	Is the tool, method, indicator etc. useful in other regions, in other contexts etc.? Are adaptions needed / if yes which adaptions? What resources are needed for adaption? Is it applicable for the whole Alpine Space or only for parts of it? If the tool, method, indicator is applicable for parts, for which parts? Are the results applicable for other ETC areas ?	The SWOT analysis online-tool is usable for other regions and contexts
Sector/sectorial policies addressed	Which sector or sectorial policy is addressed or could be affected by the results of the project?	education, social care, health, spatial development, regional development, environment, management of natural resources, agriculture, rural development, energy, businesses, trade, transport, ICT, migration

Interpretative analysis of projects

Besides the more descriptive information about the results, WIKIAlps focused on the detection of benefits in the two selected thematic fields. To specify these complex relations, an interpretation of the projects results in the light of their contribution to sustainable spatial development was added to the project information.

How to interpret the contributions of the projects?

Again, leading questions were used which help to answer the overarching question "How can the project results contribute to sustainable spatial development (SSD)?"

In order to relate the project results to SSD, the hypotheses dedicated to the project and its results in the project screening were checked again to assess whether they are the best fitting ones. The estimations were verified by interviews with former lead partners or project partners of the respective project.

The following questions helped to estimate the project's contribution to SSD:

- Are the results or some of them directly or indirectly suitable or applicable for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration?
- Which of the project results are usable for which aspect of SSD and which are the most relevant for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration?
- Are there results, which need further steps to be useful for practitioners / politicians and civil servants / administration?
- Which kinds of stakeholders have been involved, how have their competences been used in the project and are there options for a better implementation?
- Are the results (tool, method, indicator, recommendation) directly or indirectly addressing the strategic objectives for the Alpine Space as elaborated in the Strategy Development for the Alpine Space (JTS 2013)?
- What could be long-term outcomes of this project? If none, why is there a low impact, why a high impact? What is needed to achieve outcomes in the long-run?

A compilation of these project outcomes is provided in the wiki and in the working paper on the in-depth analysis.

As shown in Figure 4, the WIKIAlps team used four main objectives of the project to analyse the project results.

Figure 4 Further objectives to be answered in the project analysis

The information has been compiled in a table format (cf. Figure 5) and from there it has been inserted in the wiki where it is accessible through the wiki project pages for the 8 above-mentioned projects.

Further synergies	Achievements that could be further implemented	Remaining gaps	Emerging contradictions
In order to make a benchmarking on the base of indicators, the main difficulty was to find comparable data of the test sites. There is no common alpine database. A lot of data has already been collected by various projects, but this information is dispersed and their use is often restricted due to copy rights. These constraints make synergies in data usage difficult. Concerning the question: have methodologies been developed which could be make better accessible or transferable for other SSD-relevant tasks?" it can be said that the development of pilot projects is very much related to persons. These persons are indicated in the pilot project section of the final synthesis so that they can be contacted. However after several years these persons might have moved and the knowledge on the particular pilot project risks to be lost for an interested user. The ACCESS approach, including the 8 strategies: Strategy 1: Aggregating offer Strategy 2: Alternative delivery mechanisms Strategy 3: Different types of providers Strategy 4: Improve marketing and demand Strategy 5: Improving reachability and strengthen communication networks Strategy 6: Strengthen rural-urban linkages Strategy 7: Improve Governance, Co-design and Codelivery Strategy 8: Reinforce SGI related policies can be applied in other alpine territories.	Theoretically the pilot projects made during the ACCESS project in the pilot areas could be extended to a larger area. However an implementation must always be justified by needs of the local population and the feasability (finances, technical approach etc.) of a foreseen activity. In the partnership it was decided - for reasons of to develop the pilot projects on a nuts 2 level.	Selected hypothesis and gaps: 1) Coordination of sector policies to prevent exploitation of natural resources and single-sector economies: No gaps between the project results and their practical usability for SSD (in terms of the selected hypotheses): The ACCESS project states that coordination of sector policies is important to ensure coherence and avoid duplication. Furthermore services of general interest in low density areas need to search for possible synergies and economies of scale forcing coordination, perhaps more than anywhere else. Thats why the pilot projects as well as the elaborated strategies take into account and try to further a sectoral coordination of policies. 2) Sensitive Alpine territory requires appropriate and diversified measures (consensus-oriented multi-stakeholder approach): No gaps between the project results and their practical usability for SSD (in terms of the selected hypotheses): All ACCESS projects followed a co-design and co-delivery scheme. These involve mechanisms which do involve service providers, public authorities, and service users in designing the types of services and how they are provided. It is important to have the end user in mind at all stages, but especially in the initial ones. These mechanisms are closely related to governance and depend on an open and inclusive policy making. 4) Rural-urban partnership requires vital networks and processes	The following contradictions can be identified in relation to the Access project: Public policies request innovative approaches and solutions however the Access partnership encountered in some cases a lack of flexibility in existing policies, which are not suitable for atypical projects, transversal or multisectoral projects, or projects which mobilize public-private partnerships .

Figure 5 table formatted information for entry in the wiki

Policy perspective

The policy perspective aimed at identifying transnational needs and challenges in terms of sustainable spatial development in the Alpine space. This identification was based on the analysis of relevant documents ranging from the regional up to the transnational level, and selected relevant research results as well. A list of the analysed documents can be accessed here in the wiki and is provided in annex 1. Furthermore, a selection of glossaries on spatial development terminology can be accessed through the wiki. The assumption is that this document analysis produces a consolidated framework of required and complementing steps necessary to promote sustainable spatial development on a transnational level to which individual projects can contribute.

One main focus of the WIKIAlps project was to identify and to categorize contributions of Alpine-Space projects to transnational SSD. One preliminary working step in this regard is to investigate, which transnational implications are being made in regional, national and international spatial development documents, strategies and plans.
The underlying assumption is that these documents address issues of particular relevance for spatial development on a national and regional level. Spatial development per se is non-specific and requires a normative framework in regard to its policy objectives. Spatial development as understood in the WIKIAlps project, therefore, requires sustainability criteria for spatial development as outlined by the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning (CEMAT 2000) and the Alpine Convention Implementation Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development.
The definition of cross-border/transnational needs and requirements of spatial development refers either to spatially relevant issues that require activities of two or more member states or to needs or

activities of one member state that have far-reaching consequences that also affect other member states or if such consequences can be obviously concluded from the type of activity.

Methodology

A total of 31 documents have been analysed, covering different spatial entities. 21 documents focussed on national or regional spatial development within one country. 6 specifically addressed cross-border regions between two countries, while the remaining 4 addressed spatial development in more than two countries.
Among the 21 national or regional documents were 6 documents from France, 2 documents from Switzerland, 2 documents from Germany, 7 documents from Italy and 4 documents from Slovenia.
The analytical framework for each document comprised the following questions:

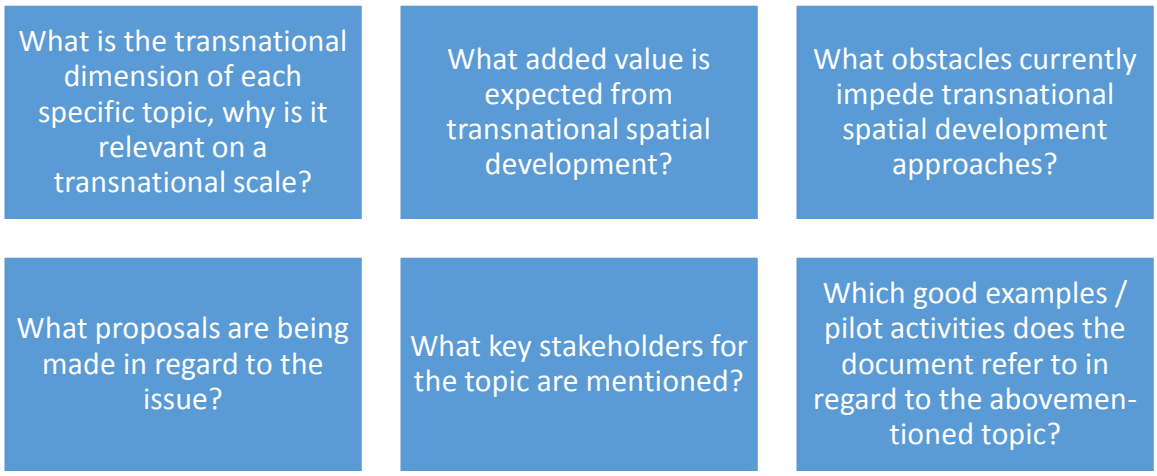

Figure 6 Guiding questions for the analysis of spatially relevant documents

The analysis of spatial development documents produced a total of 182 different transnational needs. Most of these individual needs contain a detailed description of the transnational dimension, the added value that can be expected from respective improvements, the obstacles that currently impede and relevant stakeholders required for transnational spatial development.
To be able to carry out a quantitative analysis of this data collection, the following steps have been carried out.

- Step 1: Each of the individual entries should be indexed with an individual keyword
- Step 2: Related keywords can be summarised to a keyword category.

The aggregation of individual entries to keyword categories deemed useful as the individual entries turned out to be so numerous that an analysis based on them would have delivered no clear results. A quantitative analysis of the transnational needs can then be based on these keyword categories (cf. Figure 7).

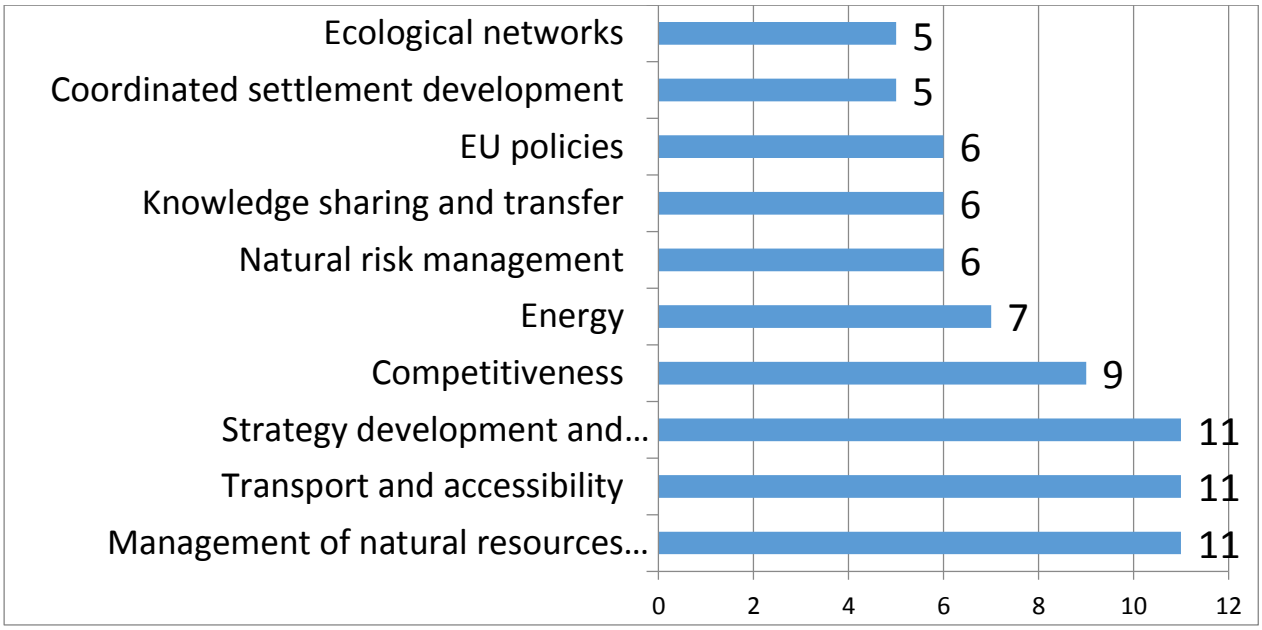

Figure 7 Document analysis referring to the added value expected from transnational spatial development

Results

The results of the document analysis have been integrated in the WIKIAlps database. They can be accessed by navigating to the "Transnational Needs" tab (cf. Figure 8). Further information can be obtained from the wiki and the working paper on transnational needs.

Search Tools

Search for a Project | Search for Stakeholder

Projects | Stakeholders | Outputs | **Transnational Needs**

Country	Planning Document	Transnational Need	Specific Dimension	Type	Added Value	Obstacle
Trans...	European Commission (1999): ESDP European Spatial Development Perspective. Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union. Agreed at the Informal Concil of Ministers, Potsdam, May 1999. Brussels. Wiki Link - Direct Link	Loss of Biological Diversity and Natural Areas	Biodiversity	Implemented in two or more countries	Management of natural resources and ecosystems	Lacking awareness of cultural and natural heritage
CH	Schweizerischer Bundesrat (2012): Strategie Nachhaltige Entwicklung 2012–2015. Bern. Wiki Link - Direct Link	Enhancing and protecting natural resources and natural heritage	Ecosystem and Biodiversity	Significantly affecting other member states	no reference	no reference
FR	Conseil Régional de la région Rhône-Alpes (2013) : Schéma Régional de Cohérence Ecologique Rhône-Alpes. Wiki Link - Direct Link	Ecological continuities & corridors	Ecosystem and Biodiversity	Significantly affecting other member states	Ecological networks	Administrative, legal and cultural differences

Figure 8 Screenshoft of database on transnational needs

Stakeholder perspective

The stakeholder perspective in the WIKIAlps project had two dimensions. The first was the intention to put a specific emphasis on a continuous contact with and a feedback from stakeholders and to

consequently integrate them in the project process. This should ensure that the stakeholders' needs are properly identified, and that they are committed as active participants of an Alpine spatial development platform to be established.
Stakeholder involvement was practically implemented by hosting two "WIKIAlps transnational working tables" in May 2014 and several bilateral talks between WIKIAlps partners and stakeholders from their countries.

The second dimension was the intention to underline the complex structure of actors and networks involved in spatial development processes across the Alpine Space and make it visible in a competences matrix of stakeholders. In this regard, the stakeholder perspective can provide valuable information about stakeholders and facilitate the creation of strategic partnerships across the entire Alpine arch highlighting institutions involved in Alpine spatial development.[3]

As WIKIAlps capitalised projects of two thematic fields ("Inclusive growth" and "Resource efficiency and ecosystem management") of the Alpine Space programming period 2006-2013, the list of all project partner institutions of these almost 30 projects was used for the elaboration of an exemplary matrix of competences. According to the scope of the area, the thematic width and number of involved stakeholders, the stakeholder analysis has been carried out with institutions instead of focusing on single persons as it is usually performed. The general approach is shown in Figure 9.

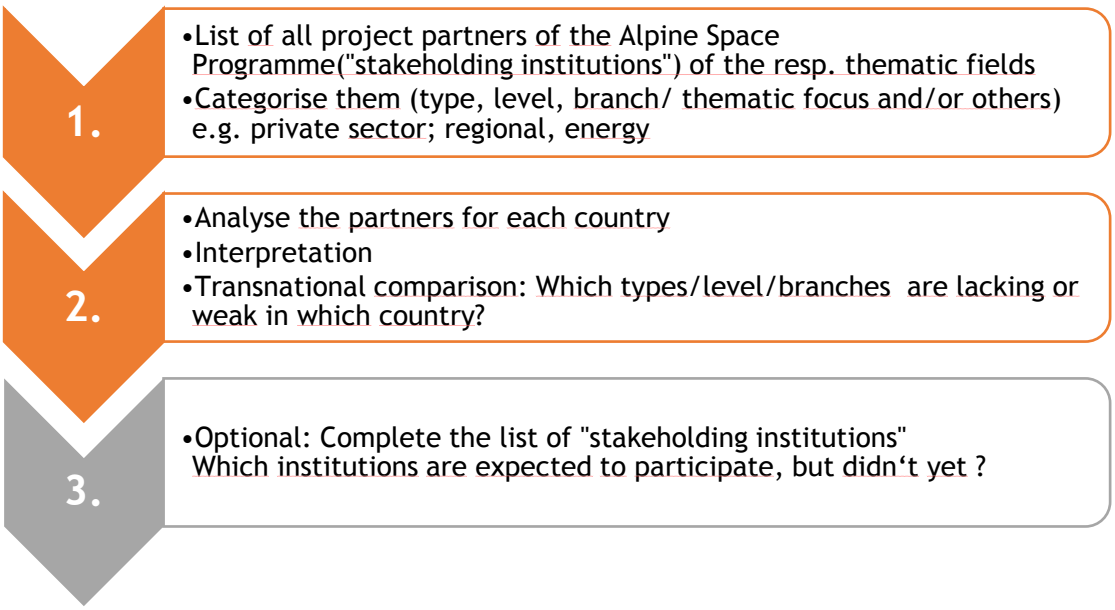

Figure 9 Steps of the stakeholder analysis

[3] While the transnational working tables and the bilateral talks were part of Work Package 3, the mapping of stakeholders relevant for spatial development in the two selected thematic fields was part of Work Package 4 and is therefore described in the following. The synthesis booklet, furthermore, provides information about the transnational working tables and the bilateral talks.

First step

Data on project partners provided by the JTS from the Alpine Space Programme already contains basic information such as the name of the institution in national language and English, the town where the stakeholder is located and a contact email-address. To characterise the competences of the stakeholders, the WIKIAlps partnership decided to add further information as listed in Table 3.

Table 3 Information collected about stakeholders

Added information	Explanation and example
Name (english)	Name of the institution in English
Name (original)	Name of the institution in its mother tongue
Country	Abbreviation of the Country
Town	Location of the institution
NUTS3	Region where the stakeholder comes from
Website	Internet adress
Type	Types are for example (Spatial planning) Authority, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Development agency, Environmental agency, Intermunicipal association, NGO/NPO, Protected areas management body, Provider of public services, Research institute/centre, University/Institute of applied science …
Sector	Private, public, private-public
Spatial level	The spatial level at which the stakeholder acts, these are: Local, Regional, National, International
Branch	European NACE-classes upper level
Thematic focus or main interest	List of thematic fields in which stakeholders have their main competences and interests. For example agriculture, spatial planning, forestry, ecosystems etc.
Relation to the Alps	Where is the stakeholder located: within the perimeter of the Alpine Convention, within the Alpine Space or outside?
Relation to the Alpine Space Programme	Did the stakeholder participate in the Alpine Space Programme (ASP) as lead / project partner, subcontractor or observer? How many projects did the stakeholder participate
Influence: resources	The resources of the stakeholder, like for example members (in the case of NGOs), manpower, knowledge/expertise etc.
Influence: “means”	What are the stakeholders’ “means” of influence? For example planning policy, project action, education, expertise sharing, lobbying etc.
Influence: degree	Have stakeholders a low, medium or high degree of influence on sustainable spatial development in their area?
Influence: area	What is the area of their influence: local, regional, national or international?

Second step

To gain information about the stakeholder landscape of the Alpine Space, the WIKIAlps project partners analysed the collected information for each country and interpreted on a national basis types, sector, spatial level, thematic focus, degree and area of influence. The comparison of this step showed common features as well as differences. These interpretations are accessible in the wiki (here).

Third step

An additional third step would be to look beyond those institutions that are already involved in Alpine Space projects in these two thematic fields to identify additional relevant instutions. This is a complex task and depends strongly on the issued being discussed. In WIKIAlps, this step has only been carried out exemplatory for Germany, revealing relevant authorities and stakeholders from the public and private sphere that have not been part of the Alpine Space Programme yet.

A further description of the method is accessible in the wiki (here) and as a working paper. The mini-guide describes how to use the "Matrix of competences". The contents of the stakeholder factsheets are accessible in the Wiki (here).

Obviously, the matrix of competences as finalised at the end of the WIKIAlps project is not yet exhaustive for such a general issue as sustainable spatial development and even for the two thematic fields of inclusive growth and ressource efficiency. But the methodology applied offers a good framework which could be filled eith further stakeholder entries.

Transferability of the approach

In general, the approaches of the project analysis, document analysis and stakeholder analysis are transferable to other contexts. The following limitations need to be kept in mind:

- Project analysis: The guiding questions for the document analysis need to be operationalised in a way that they can actually be extracted from the documents. If analytical questions are too complex, chances are that documents will provide very heterogeneous and fragmentary answers. The wiki, however, is a dynamic tool and can be extended to projects of other Alpine Space programming periods, other thematic fields other even other funding programmes.
- Document analysis: It turned out that documents rarely provide more detailed information on issues of transnational needs e.g. in regard to the added value that is being expected or obstacles that impede a stronger transnational perspective. Identifying these aspects for every transnational need would require an in-depth document analysis that also involves interviews with relevant experts.
- Stakeholder analysis: The methodology applied to the stakeholder analysis is sufficient to provide a schematic overview of the "stakeholder landscape" in regard to the two thematic fields. An in-depth stakeholder analysis would require a more concrete issue in order to assess, which stakeholders are relevant, their degree of influence and their interest in the specific issue. To reduce the level of subjectivity, the estimation of the "degree of influence" and the "area of influence" was made by different persons independent from each other.

Practical benefits for stakeholders and decision makers

Summing up, what practical benefits can stakeholders and decision makers expect from applying the WIKIAlps methodology in their respective fields? In this regard, the idea behind every type of wiki clearly also applies to WIKIAlps: It grows in relevance with the number of contributors and entries. That means, practical benefits for stakeholders and decision makers will increase by the rate they share their experience and project results in WIKIAlps.

Accessibility of project information

The categorisation and indexes developed in WIKIAlps can serve as a starting point for referencing projects, their results and spatial planning documents in the Alpine Space. Individual project results are accessible in the Wiki as well as in the output section of the database. Accessibility of project information increases considerably, once these results can be filtered and sorted by keywords describing for example topics, stakeholders and types of results.
The indexes and categories developed in WIKIAlps can therefore serve as a blueprint when feeding projects and documents into WIKIAlps.

Searchable project information

Project information might be shared also from other thematic fields of the Alpine Space Programme, from its former programme periods or from other funding schemes such as INTERREG A and C, EU research prorammes such as Horizon 2020, national R&D projects or work carried out within the Alpine Convention working groups and platforms. Such an extension would increase the relevance and added value for stakeholders and decision makers in the Alps and for everybody using the wiki.
On the other hand, projects increase their Alpine-wide visibility once their approach and results are available through WIKIAlps which is a core intention of project funders and project partners.

Accessibility of spatial-development documents in the Alpine Space

There is clearly a lack of reciprocal access to spatial development documents in the Alpine Space. While being aware of relevant documents for their immediate spatial area, authorities, stakeholders and the interested public is not fully informed about respective documents across the border or even on a transnational level. Consequently, the opportunity WIKIAlps provides to authorities to document and upload their planning documents and strategies once again increases the Alpine-wide awareness of and access to these documents.
An improved knowledge of each other's strategic spatial development objectives can foster an Alpine-wide understanding of policy objectives and synergies in regard to cross-border efforts.

Accessibility of stakeholder information

Stakeholders interested in a closer Alpine-wide exchange or project participation could increase their visibility by adding their institution and its field of expertise in the stakeholder database. However this requires maintenance of the database which is not yet assigned to an institution. This stakeholder

overview can serve as a starting point for regional or thematic stakeholder analyses in the Alpine Space.
Based on the analysed stakeholders in the two thematic fields, the Alpine Space Programme seems to be most interesting for the public sector and less interesting for the private sector or the civil society. In some countries, especially universities and research institutions seem to be over-represented, especially when considering their direct influence on sustainable spatial development. There could be a lack of transferring the insights of research to the local stakeholders, which have generally a high influence at least by holding many spatial planning competences.
Facilitating the project management requirements would probably help to make the Alpine Space Programme more attractive to local and supra-local institutions. The latter may be lacking on resources (financial as well as personal).
Apart from the self-evident added value of transnational exchange of experience, a comprehensive database of relevant stakeholders in the Alpine Space can also improve the quality of project partnerships: Searching appropriate partners and institutions from so-far unfamiliar parts of the Alps becomes easier and more targeted for stakeholders and decision makers through a database such as WIKIAlps.

Annex 1 Analysed documents

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