

Governo del territorio e geografie non convenzionali

Alcuni spunti di riflessione a partire dai progetti NoStaGeo e InTerAlp

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TAP Governance of New Geographies

The Thematic Action Plan Governance of New Geographies **aims to develop methods for identifying and understanding emerging functional areas.** This includes examining their **social and economic characteristics**, as well as their **potential for integrated development.** The TAP will also **assess existing governance mechanisms** for these areas and **propose improvements.** This includes promoting a **more functional approach to planning and governance**, along with fostering collaboration between different stakeholders, such as civil society, youth initiatives, and others.

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ESPON NoStaGeo: Territorial governance of Non-Standard Geographies



Project Objectives

- **Define and delineate non-standard functional territories** and analyse their **hard and soft governance** arrangements across Europe.
- Provide policy advice on **how to design effective governance arrangement** for such territories.

Project Team

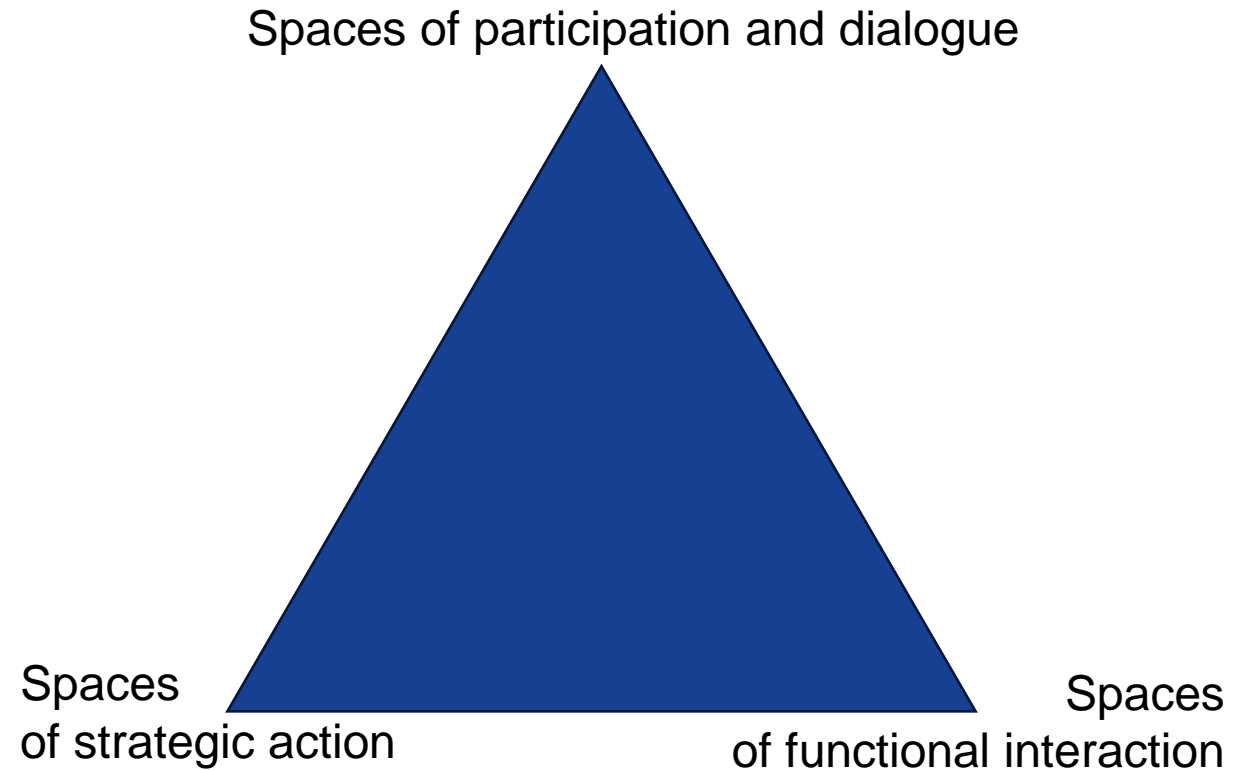
- **Spatial Foresight**, TU Wien, OIR, Nordregio, Politecnico di Torino
- Thematic experts + National experts

Work Packages

- WP1: Selecting “emerging geographies”
- WP2: Identifying themes of analysis
- WP3: Mapping and analysis of development trends
- WP4: Mapping and analysis of territorial governance mechanisms
- WP5: Case studies
- WP6: Visualisations and policy recommendations

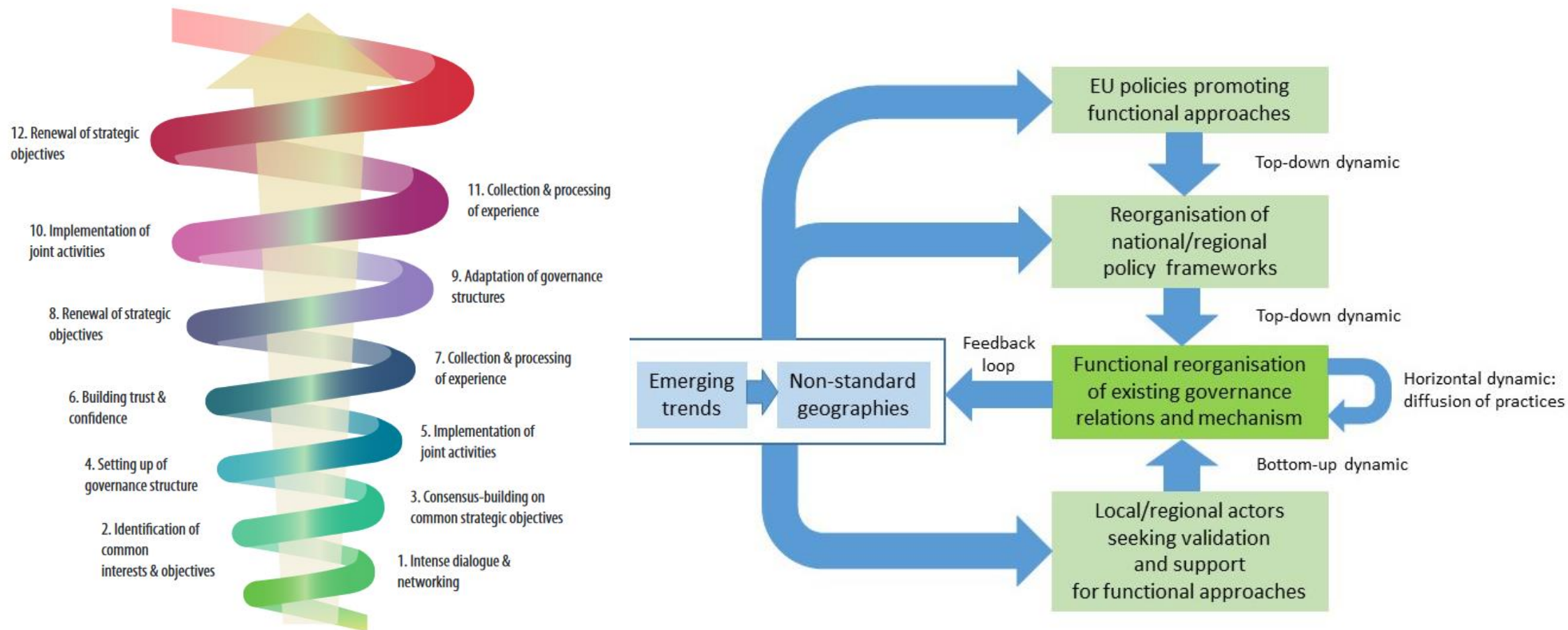
Definition of Functional Areas

- A functional area is a geographical area:
 - Formed by a large set of linkages/interactions/interdependencies
 - Which are related to a certain theme/function (e.g water provision, SGI provision, resource exploitation)



Functional areas and territorial governance

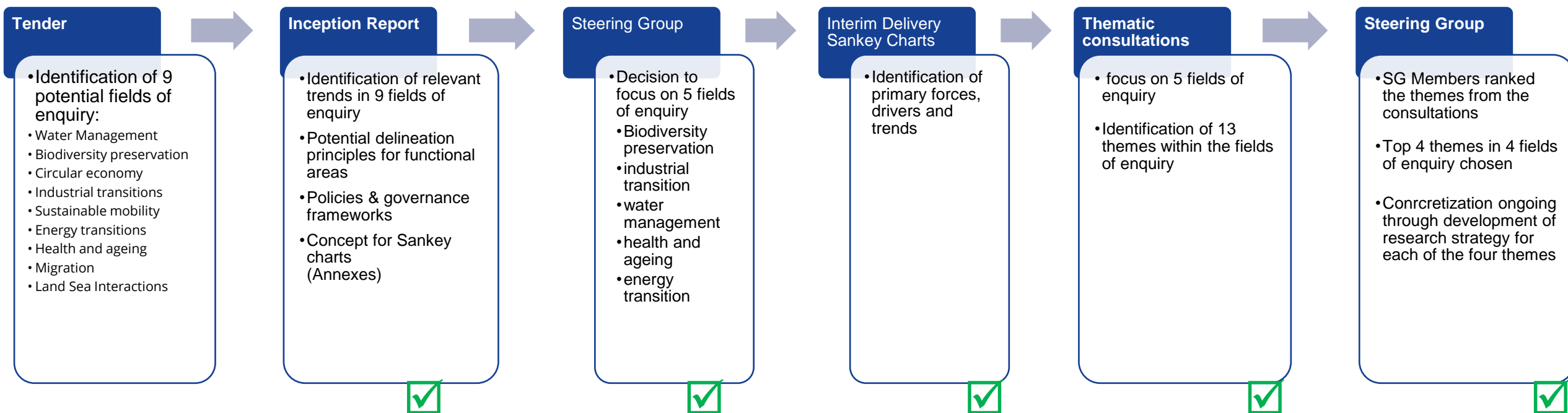
Focus on functional areas as an evidence-informed creative processes



Source: ESPON ACTAREA (2017).

Standard and Non-standard Functional Areas

- Standards functional areas: Functional Urban Areas (FUAs) and Labour Market Areas (LMAs)
- Non-standard functional areas are functional areas relating to other functions than commuting. In the context of the NoStaGeo project, these functions are related to **emerging trends**.



Emerging trends Infographics

- <https://indd.adobe.com/view/11993e76-45c5-4c72-ae2f-474b95deb916>

Further narrowing down:

- Water Management → focus on water supply in metropolitan regions
- Biodiversity Preservation → focus on ecological connectivity
- Energy Transitions → focus on local and regional energy saving strategies
- Industrial transitions → focus on just brown to green transitions (JTM – TJTPs)

Just Brown to Green Transitions

- How can spatial patterns of green and just industrial transition be defined?
- What strategies have been developed at national/regional/local level to support regional industrial transition pathways?
- What are local and regional economic conditions and skills requirement?
- What governance structures are in place (e.g. in JTP)?
- What are the cross-sectorial coordination activities in place to achieve the just transition agenda goals?

Local and Regional Energy Saving strategies

- What are governance structures and collaboration mechanisms?
- What are linkages between governance levels?
- Do governance mechanism allow for inclusive governance?
- How do strategies account for specific local dimensions tied to energy consumption?
- What are the barriers and facilitators for holistic approaches (e.g. in terms of sectoral scope or stakeholder involvement) in energy-saving strategies at local and regional levels?

Next steps

In parallel, for the identified four themes:

- WP3 – Socio-spatial delineation activity
- WP4 – Pan-European analysis and assessment of Territorial governance
 - Country reports (July – September)
 - Comparison and visualisation (October – January 2025)

Then:

- WP5 – Case studies (Since January 2025)

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ESPON InTerAlp: Interface Territories across the Alpine Region



Politecnico
di Torino



ESPON



Co-funded by
the European Union
Interreg



Context and approach

Alpine 'interface territories' links mountainous and inner-Alpine areas with pre-Alpine lowlands.

They join highly dynamic flows and interdependencies as well as controversial stakeholder interests in a rather limited spatial framework.

The In-TerAlp project focuses on questions and challenges related to the 'interface territories' of the Alpine region adopting three main entry points:

- The geographical focus
- The focus on flows and interlinkages
- The governance focus

Task 1

Mapping flows and interlinkages in
Alpine interface territories

WP0 ,Concretisation of spatial and thematic focus‘

WP 1 ,Socio-economic analysis‘

WP 2 ,Analysis of environment and energy flows‘

WP 3 ,Delineation of Functional Interface Areas and
spatial characterization‘

WP 4 ,Case Studies with mapshots‘

Task 2

Mapping Governance structures of
Alpine Interface Territories

WP0 ,Concretisation of spatial and thematic focus‘

WP1 Analysis of spatial planning and governance from a
multilevel perspective

WP2 ,Analysis of sectoral governance and instruments‘

WP3 ,Positioning governance effectiveness‘

WP4 ‘Case studies with institutional mappings‘

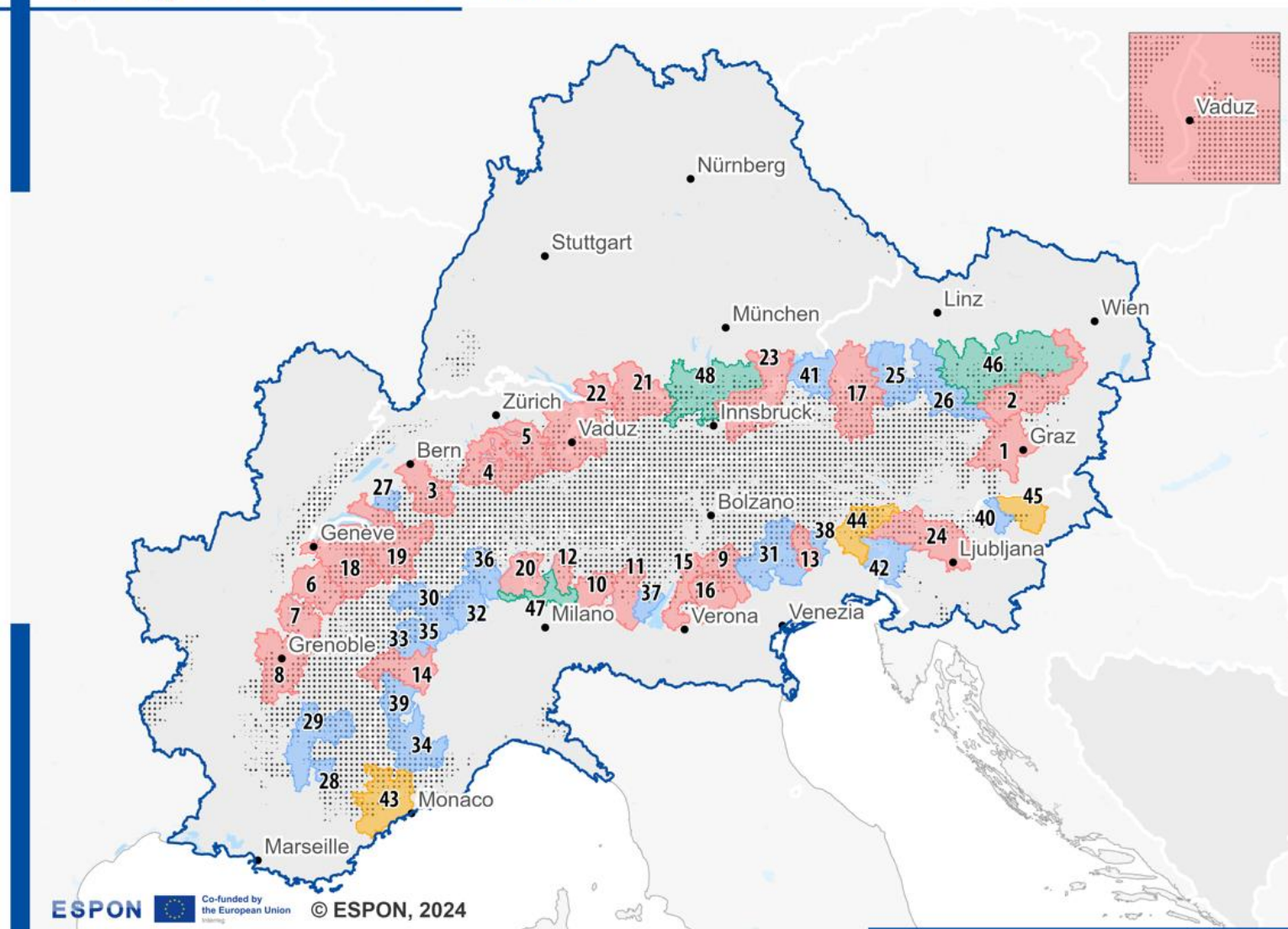
Task 3

Proposals for more effective territorial planning for Alpine interface territories

WP 1 ,Development of policy guidelines‘

WP 2 ,Elements for Alpine Spatial Planning Perspective‘

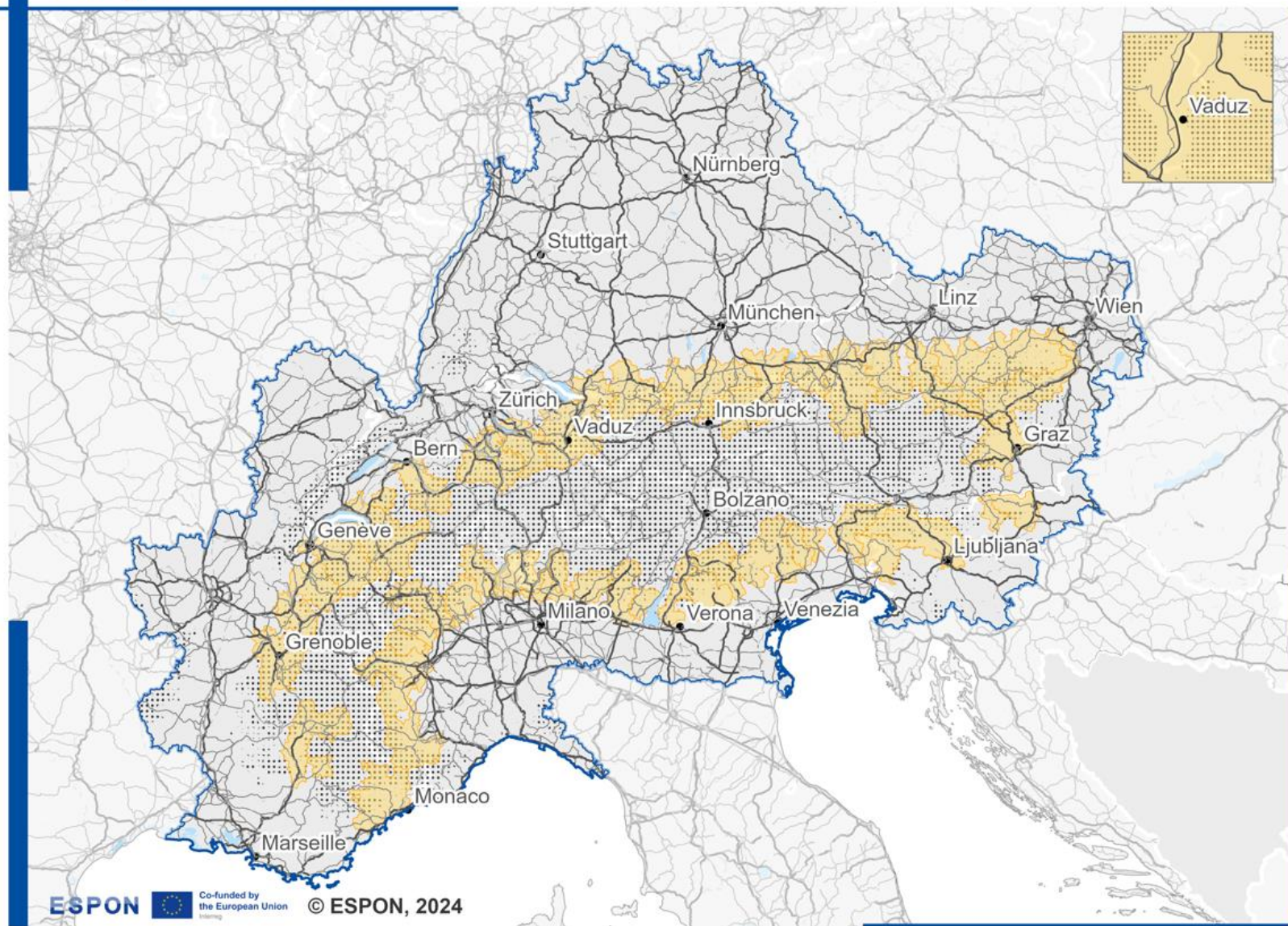
Typology of Alpine interface territories



Regional level: LAU/NUTS3
 Source: ESPON InTerAlp, 2024
 Origin of data: European Commission,
 Eurostat (ESTAT), GISCO, EU-DEM, 2022
 © EuroGeographics for administrative boundaries

Spatial typology	Alpine interface territories
Urbanised	(1) Graz (AT), (2) Vienna/Mürz Valley (AT), (3) Bern/Thun (CH), (4) Zug/Luzern (CH), (5) Zürich/Schwyz/Glarus (CH), (6) Annecy (FR), (7) Chambéry (FR), (8) Grenoble/Rhône-Alpes region (FR), (9) Bassano del Grappa (IT), (10) Bergamo (IT), (11) Brescia (IT), (12) Lecco (IT), (13) Pordenone (IT), (14) Turin (IT), (15) Trento (IT), (16) Vicenza/Schio (IT), (17) Salzburg (AT/DE), (18) Geneva/Annemasse/Thonon-les-Bains (CH/FR), (19) Rhone Valley (CH/FR), (20) Lugano (CH/IT), (21) Allgövia (DE/AT), (22) St. Gallen/Alpine Rhine Valley (DE/CH/AT/LI), (23) Rosenheim (DE/AT), (24) Ljubljana/Julian Alps (SI/AT)
Rural	(25) Gmunden (AT), (26) Liezen (AT), (27) Bulle (CH), (28) Digne-les-Bains (FR), (29) Sisteron/Gap (FR), (30) Aosta Valley (IT), (31) Belluno/Piave Valley (IT), (32) Biella/Borgomanero (IT), (33) Ciriè (IT), (34) Cuneo/Cottian Alps (IT), (35) Cuornè (IT), (36) Domodossola (IT), (37) Gavardo/Salò (IT), (38) Maniago (IT), (39) Pinerolo (IT), (40) Velenje (SI), (41) Bad Reichenhall/Berchtesgaden Alps (DE/AT), (42) Gorizia/Nova Gorica (IT/SI)
Urban-rural	(43) Nice (FR), (44) Udine (IT), (45) Maribor (SI)
Peri-metropolitan	(46) Vienna/Lower Austria fringe (AT), (47) Milano fringe (IT), (48) Munich fringe (DE/AT)

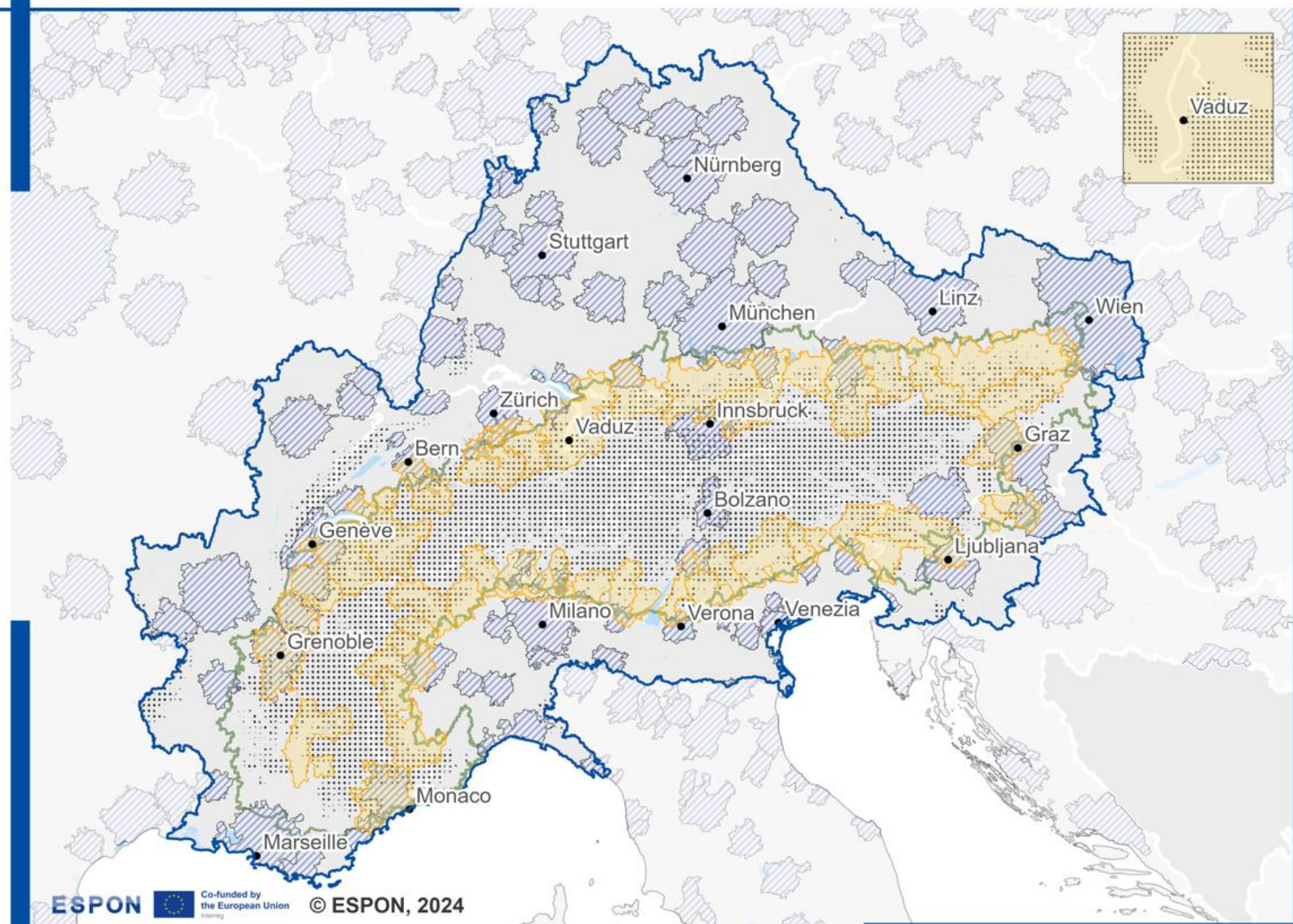
Transport infrastructure



- Railway
- Primary road
- National motorway
-  Interface territories
-  High altitude ($\geq 1.000\text{m a.s.l.}$)
-  EUSALP

Regional level: LAU/NUTS3
Source: ESPON InTerAlp, 2024
Origin of data: EU-DEM, 2022
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and transport infrastructure

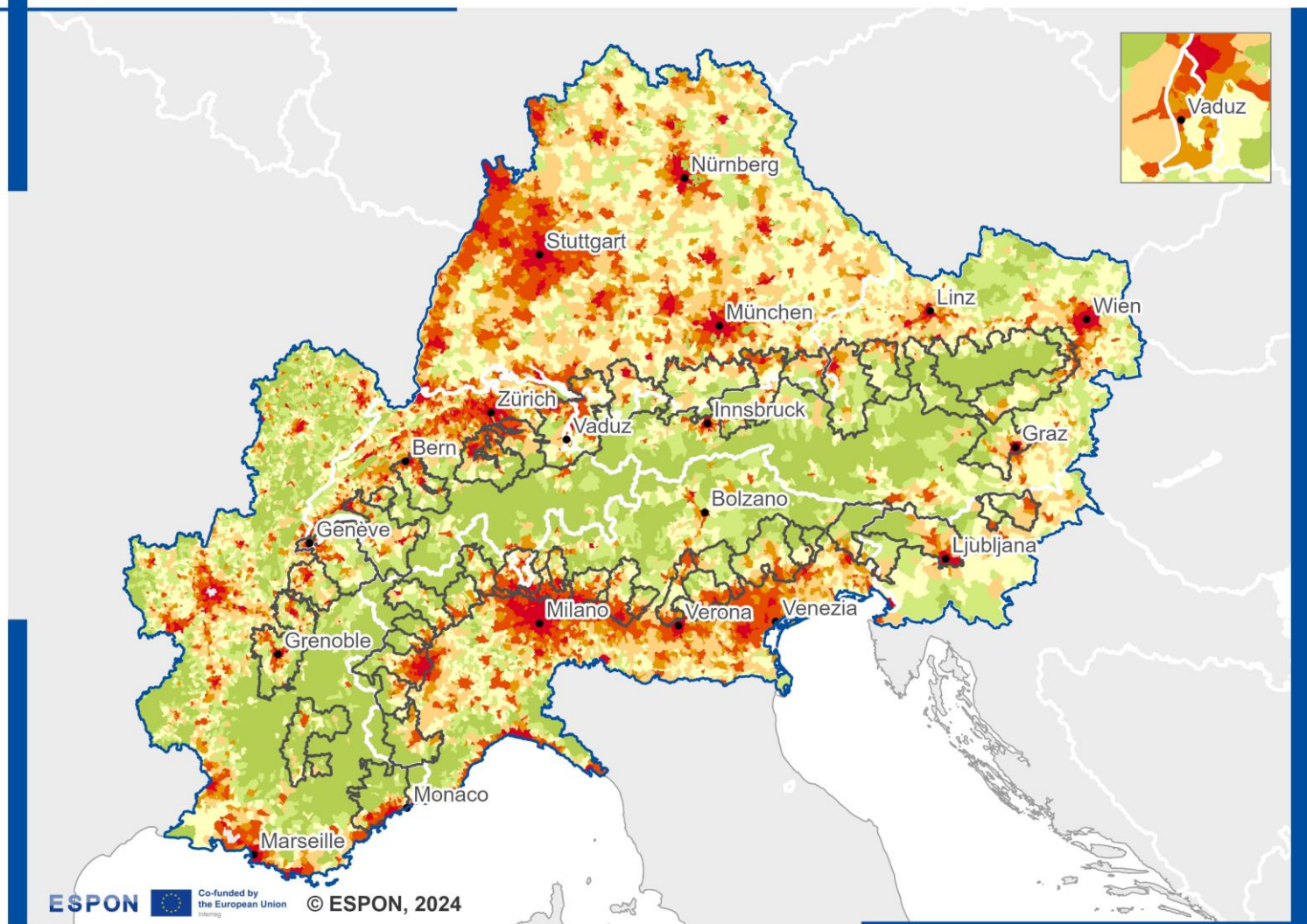
Alpine interface territories



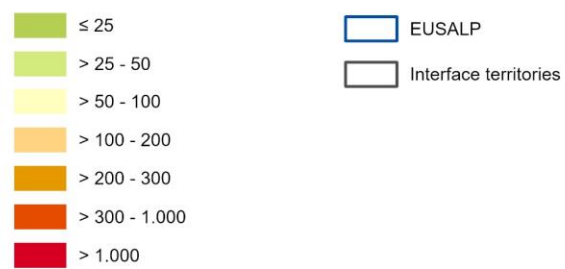
- Interface territories
- Functional Urban Areas
- High altitude (≥ 1.000m a.s.l.)
- EUSALP
- Alpine Convention

Regional level: LAU/NUTS3
 Source: ESPON InTerAlp, 2024
 Origin of data: European Commission,
 Eurostat (ESTAT), GISCO, EU-DEM, 2022
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Population density

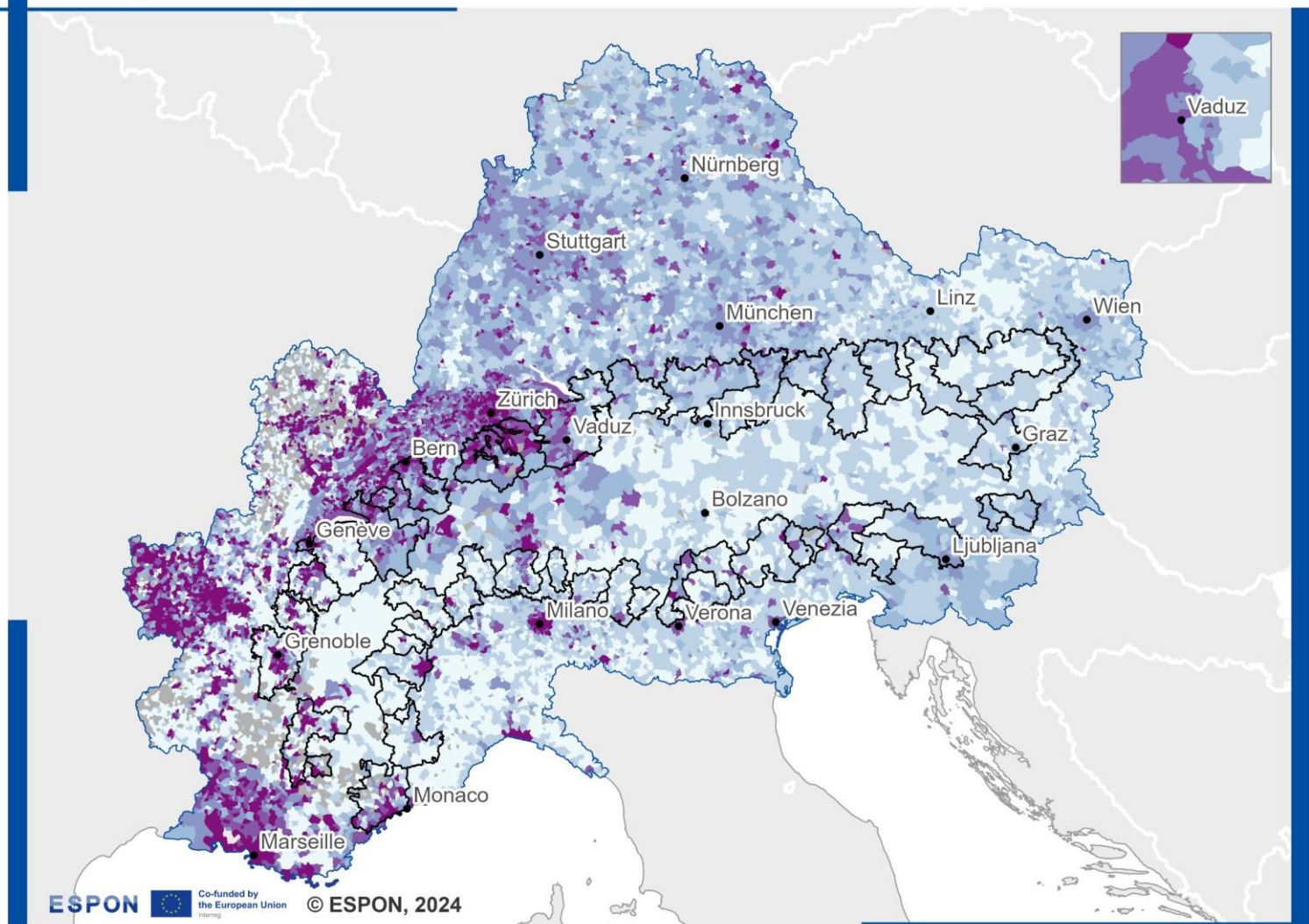


Population density 2023 (inhabitants/km²)

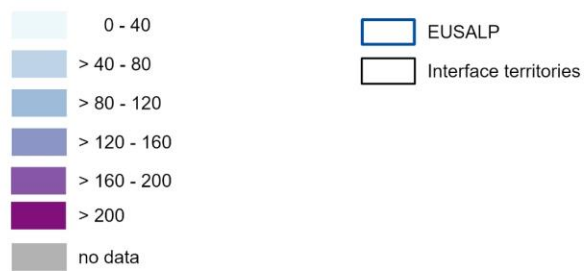


Regional level: LAU
 Source: ESPON InTerAlp, 2024
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Average internet speed

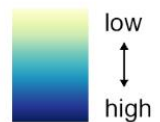
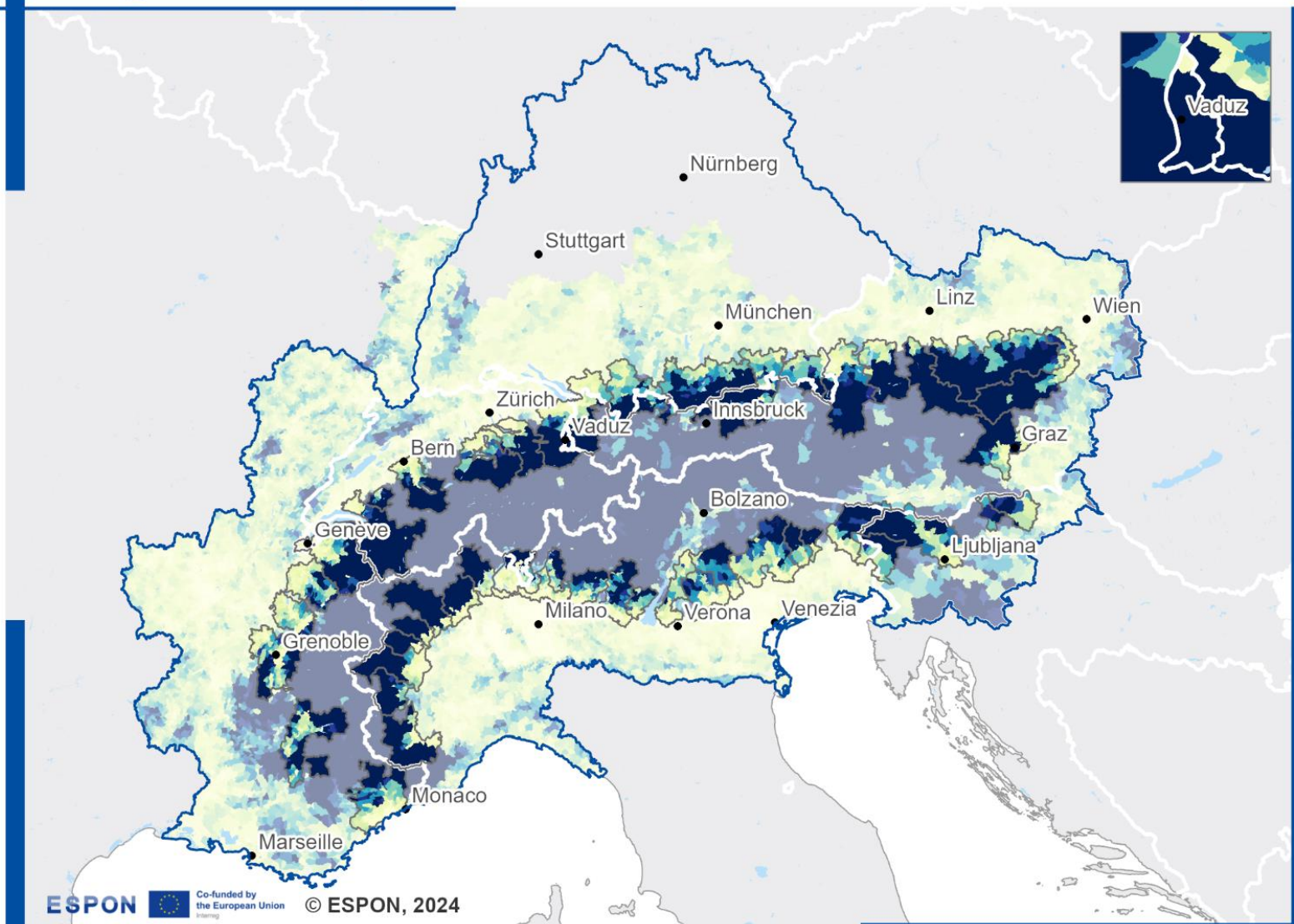


Download speed in Mbps (2022)



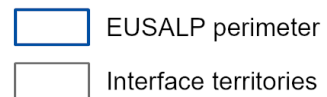
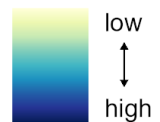
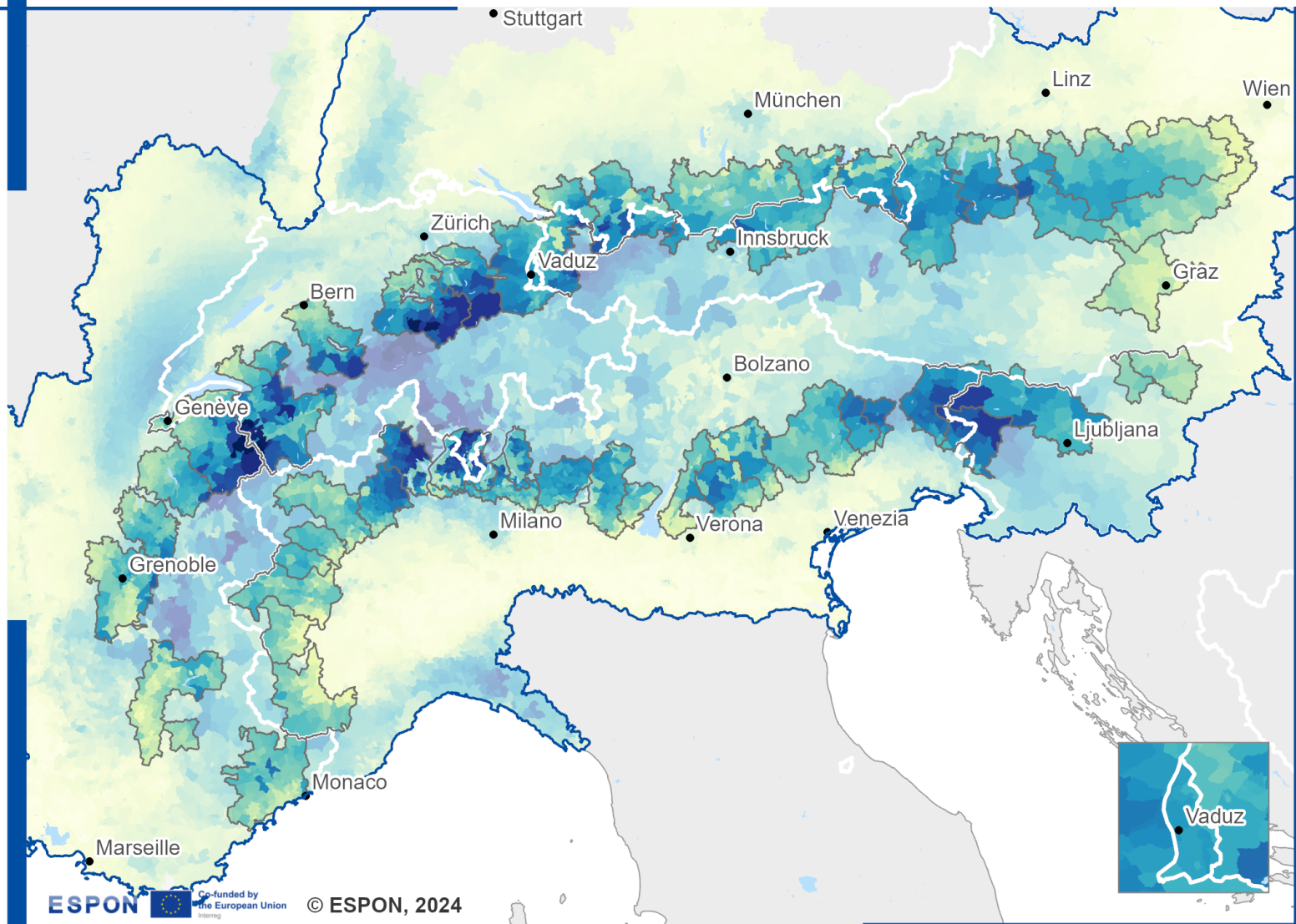
Regional level: LAU
Source: ESPON InTerAlp, 2024
Origin of data: O. Gjergji on www.europeandatajournalism.eu, 2022,
Speedtest by Ookla Global Fixed and Mobile Network Performance Maps.
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Ecological connectivity



Regional level: LAU
Source: InTerAlp, 2024
Origin of data: Corine Land Cover; OpenStreetMap
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Water availability

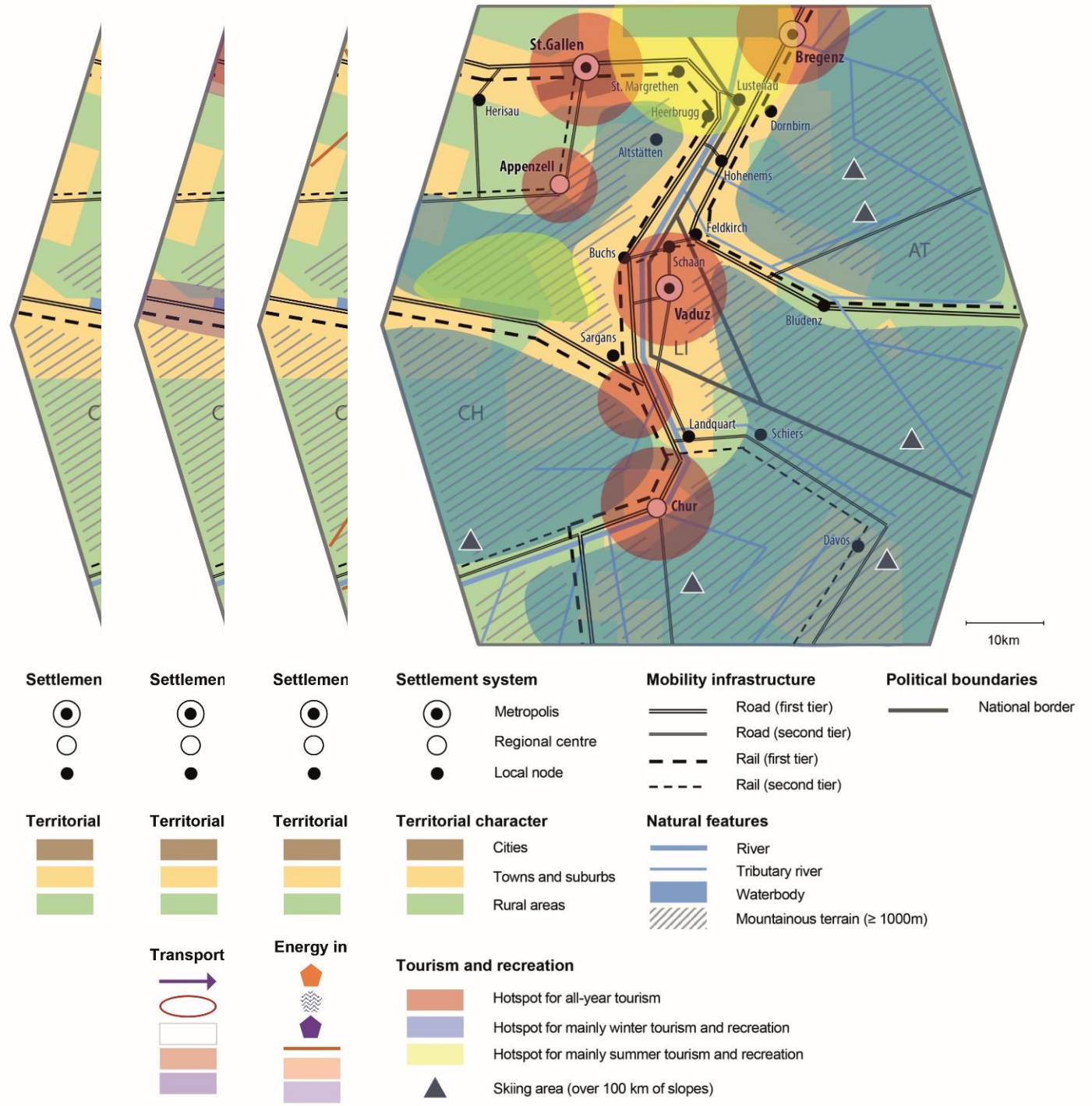


Regional level: LAU
Source: InTerAlp, 2024
Origin of data: Project AlpES
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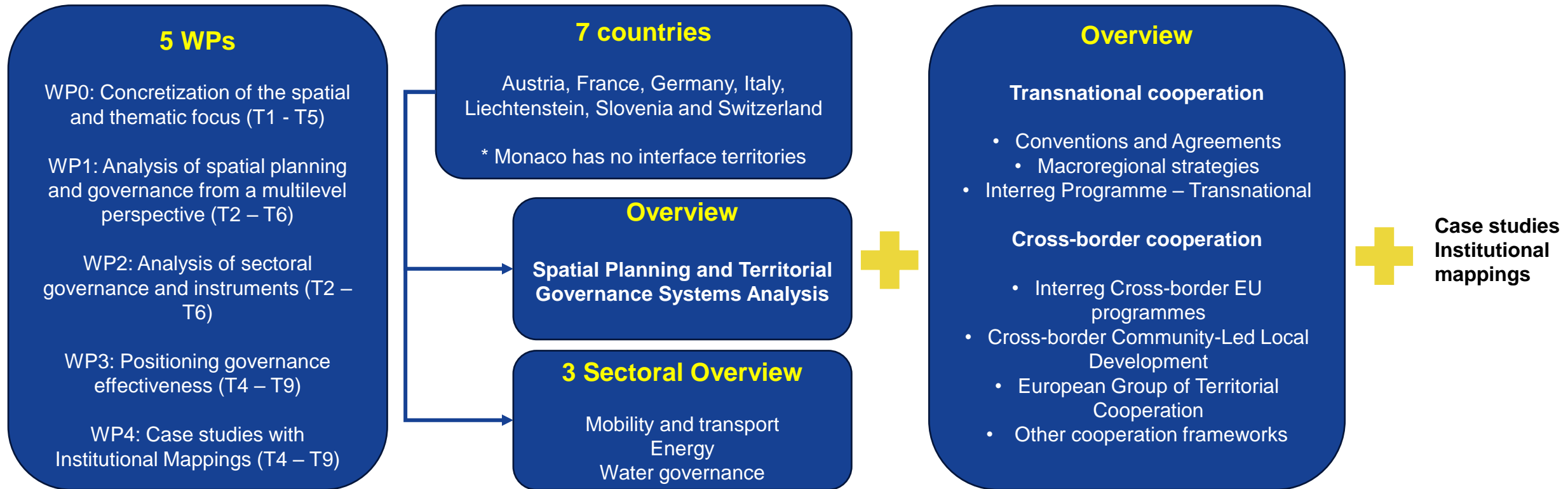
InTerAlp

Case study regions

- Alpine Rhine Valley
- Turin
- Munich-Tyrol
- Ljubljana / Julian Alps
- Grenoble
- Vienna / Lower Austrian Alps



Governance Analysis



Central Level

Country	Name (English translation)	Prepared by?	Statutory vs. non-statutory	Mandatory Vs non-mandatory	Binding Vs non-binding	Nature of the document	Relevant for Alpine Interface?
AT	Austrian Spatial Development Concept	Austrian Conference for Spatial Planning (OROK)	Statutory	Mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy	YES – it sets Alpine area at the centre of its development concepts
FR	Territorial Development Directive	State through prefectures	Statutory	Mandatory	binding	Strategy/coordination	YES
	Future Mountains Programme	National Agency for Territorial Cohesion + various ministries.	Non- statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Programme	YES
	National Strategy for Protected Areas	Ministry of Ecological Transition; Ministry of the Sea	Non- Statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy	PARTIALLY
DE	Concepts and strategies for Spatial Development in Germany	Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning	Non- statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy	PARTLY
IT	National Strategy for the Internal Areas	Ministry for South and Territorial Cohesion	Non- statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy	YES
	National Biodiversity Strategy	Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security	Non- statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy	PARTLY
	Fund for the development of Italian mountains	Department for Regional Affairs and Autonomy	Non- statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Programme	YES
LI	Spatial Development Strategy	Office for Building Construction and Planning	statutory	Non-mandatory	no	strategy	YES
	Mobility Strategy	Office for building Construction and Planning			no	strategy	YES
SL	Spatial Management Policy of Republic of Slovenia (2001)	Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning	Non-Statutory	Mandatory	Binding	Strategy, Coordination,	PARTLY
	Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050	Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning	Statutory	Mandatory	Binding	Strategy, Coordination, Regulative	YES - integration of Alpine natural systems and connecting green infrastructure between Slovenia and neighbouring countries.
	Slovenian Development Strategy 2030	Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development	Non- statutory	Mandatory	Binding	Strategy	YES
CH	Territorial Concept Switzerland	Confederation, Cantons, Cities and Municipalities	Non-statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy / Vision	YES – it explicitly acknowledges the importance of the Alpine dimension
	Federal Agglomeration Policy	Federal Council	Statutory	Mandatory	Binding	Regulative	YES
	Policy for mountain regions and other rural areas	Federal Council	Statutory	Mandatory	Binding	Regulative	YES
	Sustainable Development Strategy)	Federal Council	Non-statutory	Non-mandatory	Non-binding	Strategy	PARTLY

Preliminary findings (to **validate** with national experts)

Central level

- All countries have at least one document at the national level that is relevant for Alpine interface areas.
- These documents differ in relation to their nature (i.e. strategy, development programme, regulation/normative)
- Sometimes, the recognition of the importance/relevance of the Alpine region is clearly defined (for instance, the Territorial Concept Switzerland (CH), the Austrian Spatial Development Concept (AT) and the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia 2050 (SL)) while sometimes only partially.

Apart from strategies, it seems relevant to highlight the importance of “development programmes” like:

- In France that has a dedicated programme focused on mountain regions called “Avenir Montagne”.
- Similarly, Italy has identified an economic tool specifically to promote the "aree montane" (i.e., *Fondo per lo sviluppo delle montagne italiane*).

Preliminary findings (to **validate** with national experts)

Sub-national level

- In France there is a document targeting the “mountain” regions (hence not exclusively the Alps) the so called “*Plan Montagne Régionale*” that transpose national directives to this scale. Another example is the Interregional Plan of the Alpine Massif – the plan adopts a multi-level governance approach to the development of the Alpine space and is characterised by policies aimed at the overall development of the mountains.
- In Germany, the Bavarian Alpine Plan aims for the environmentally compatible development of the Bavarian Alps.
- In Italy, the Turin Metropolitan city has adopted the “Piano Strategico Metropolitano”, in which Turin is considered “an alpine metropolis”, also reinterpreting the Alps as reinterpreted as a productive territory. It brings a change in the territorial imaginary

Preliminary findings (to **validate** with national experts)

Mobility and Transport

- Generally, central authorities define mobility and transport policies, while local levels adapt and implement them. The Alpine region is often referenced in strategic transport initiatives (like TEN-T) and transnational agreements, such as the Transport Protocol of the Alpine Convention (the IT National Integrated Transport System clearly mentions that).
- In some countries, sub-national levels are not so relevant. In Slovenia, for instance, the sub-national sector mainly participates in European projects.
- Local level focuses on small initiatives dealing with soft mobility (sometimes trying to coordinate their actions adopting CBC approach). Mainly project-based approach.

Energy

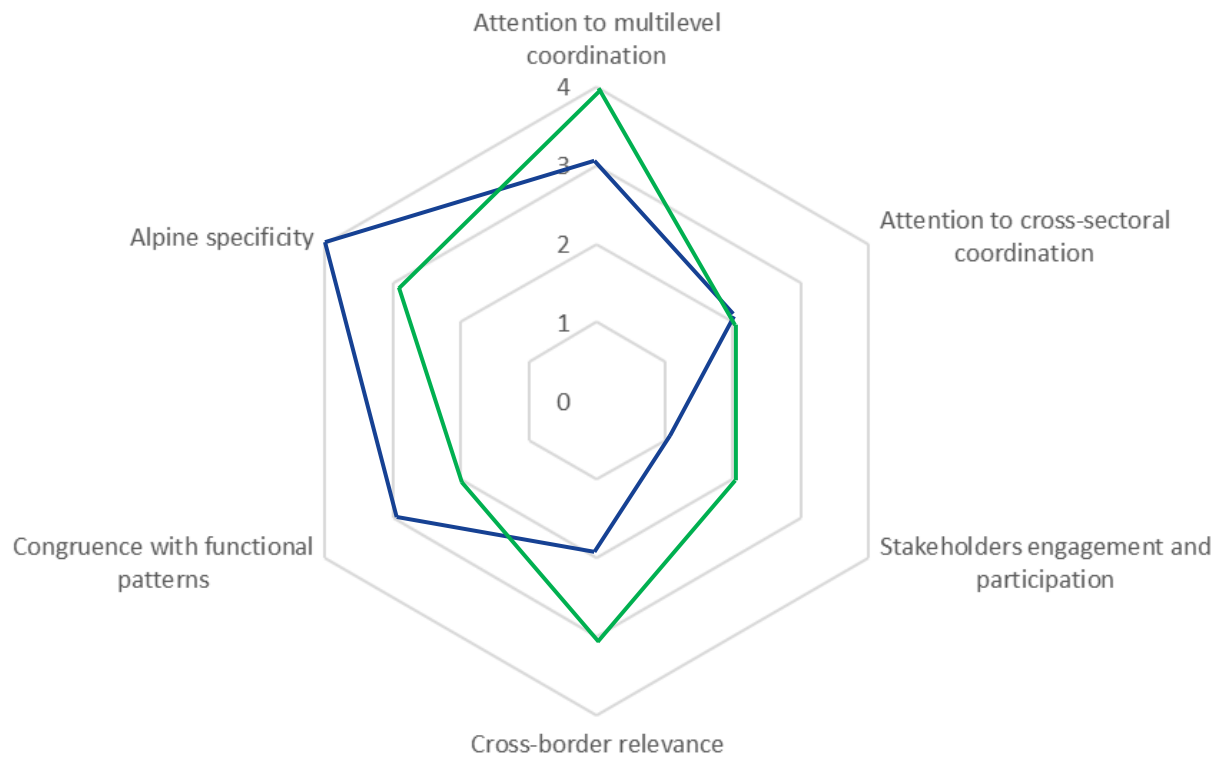
- As the mobility and transport sector, energy is very much hierarchal organised (each level shares their resp. accordingly).
- At the local level, it seems relevant to highlight the importance that renewable energy communities are gaining thanks to the support in Germany, Italy (Lombardy boasts the first Alpine REC) and other countries.

Water Governance

- Water governance is multiscale in all countries, depending on the natural resources available. Compared to the SPS and TG, this sector features ad hoc unit levels and plans, such as river basin plans, and relies on configuring "water functional areas."
- The Alpine dimension becomes significant when focusing on protecting natural resources.

Assessment of territorial governance

Degree of Alpine integratedness



Assessment criteria

- **Multilevel coordination:** how the described instruments are provided of a multilevel perspective, upward and downwards
- **Cross-sectoral coordination:** how the described level instruments aims at coordinating with sectoral instruments and perspectives, with particular reference to the three sectors under investigation (i.e. transport, energy and water)
- **Stakeholder engagement and participation:** preparation of the described instruments foresees mobilising actors beyond the public sector and opens the decision and policymaking arena to private actors and civil society.
- **Cross-border relevance:** whether and how cross-border issues are taken into account by the described instruments
- **Congruence with functional patterns:** the extent to which the governance perimeters constituting the scope of the identified instruments pay attention to the actual functional territorial dynamics.
- **Alpine specificity:** how (and if) described instruments dedicate attention to Alpine territorial characteristics and dynamics, with particular reference to the Alpine interface territories

Transnational Cooperation

- Multilateral agreements in the Alpine region
- Bilateral Agreements in the Alpine region
- Macroregional strategies

Multilateral agreements in the Alpine region

Main Topic	Name of the Instrument	Alpine Territorial Focus
Integrated development	Alpine Convention	Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Principality of Liechtenstein, Principality of Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland
Environmental preservation	Convention for the Protection of the Waters of Lake Constance	Germany, Austria, and Switzerland
Economic development	ARGE ALP	Germany (Bavaria), Austria (Salzburg, Tyrol and Vorarlberg), Italy (Trentino, Alto Adige and Lombardy), and Switzerland (Canton of St. Gallen, the Canton of Ticino and the Canton of Grisons).
Transport	Simplon-Allianz	Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Principality of Liechtenstein, Principality of Monaco, Slovenia, Switzerland
	other add	

Transnational cooperation – INTERREG B

Action: mapping of the territorial eligibility of NUTS 2 regions

Objective: coordinate actions for better benefiting from EU transnational funds.

Programme	Austria	Germany	France	Italy	Liechtenstein	Slovenia	Switzerland
Alpine Space	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Interreg Euro-MED			X	X		X	
Central Europe	X	X		X		X	
Danube		X				X	
North-West Europe		X					X
IPA Interreg ADRION				X		X	

Cross-border cooperation (overview)

CBC

Name of the Instrument
Interreg VI-A Austria-Germany/Bavaria
Interreg VI-A France-Italy (ALCOTRA)
Interreg VI-A France-Germany-Switzerland (Upper Rhine)
Interreg VI-A Germany-Austria-Switzerland-Liechtenstein (Alpenrhein-Bodensee-Hochrhein)
Interreg VI-A France-Switzerland
Interreg VI-A Italy-France (Maritime)
Interreg VI-A Italy-Austria
Interreg VI-A Italy-Slovenia
Interreg VI-A Italy-Switzerland
Interreg VI-A Slovenia-Austria

EGTC

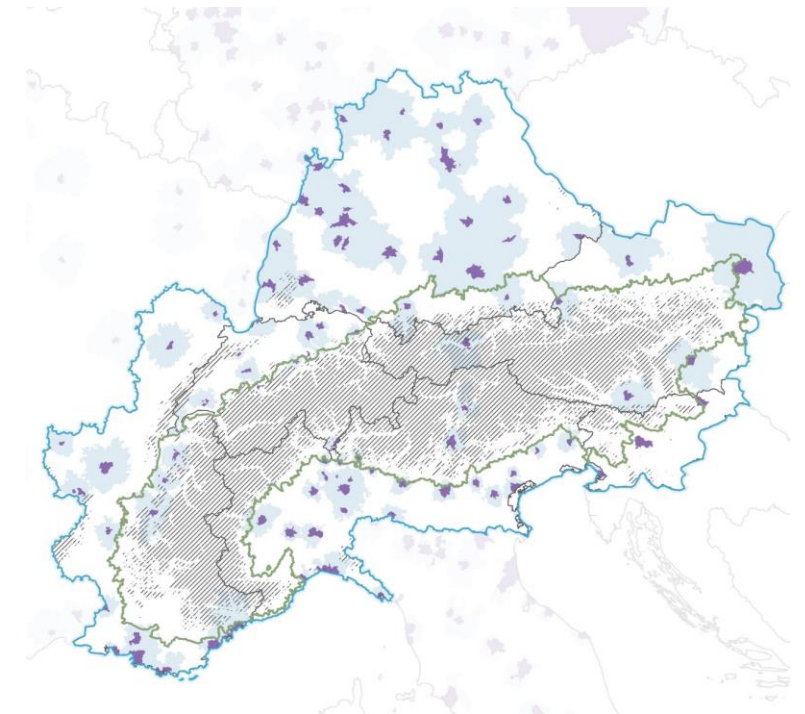
Name of the Instrument
EGTC GO
GECT Euregio Tirol - Alto Adige - Trentino
GECT "Euregio Senza Confini r.l. – Euregio Ohne Grenzen mbH" Parc européen / Parco europeo Alpi
Marittime – Mercantour
Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale (G.E.C.T) Parco Marino
Internazionale delle Bocche di Bonifacio (P.M.I.B.B)
EGTC European Campus of Studies and Research
EGTC Euregio Connect mbH
EGTC Alpine Pearls
EGTC Wissenschaftsverbund
EUCOR The European Campus

Other frameworks

Name of the Instrument
Contratto di Fiume Transfrontaliero italo-francese del Roia/Roya
Green hydrogen for the Alps
Strategic Framework for the Süd Alpen Raum
Velotal Rheintal

LAGs in CBC

Name of the Instrument
Community-led local development regions Dolomiti Live and HeurOpen
HEurOpen

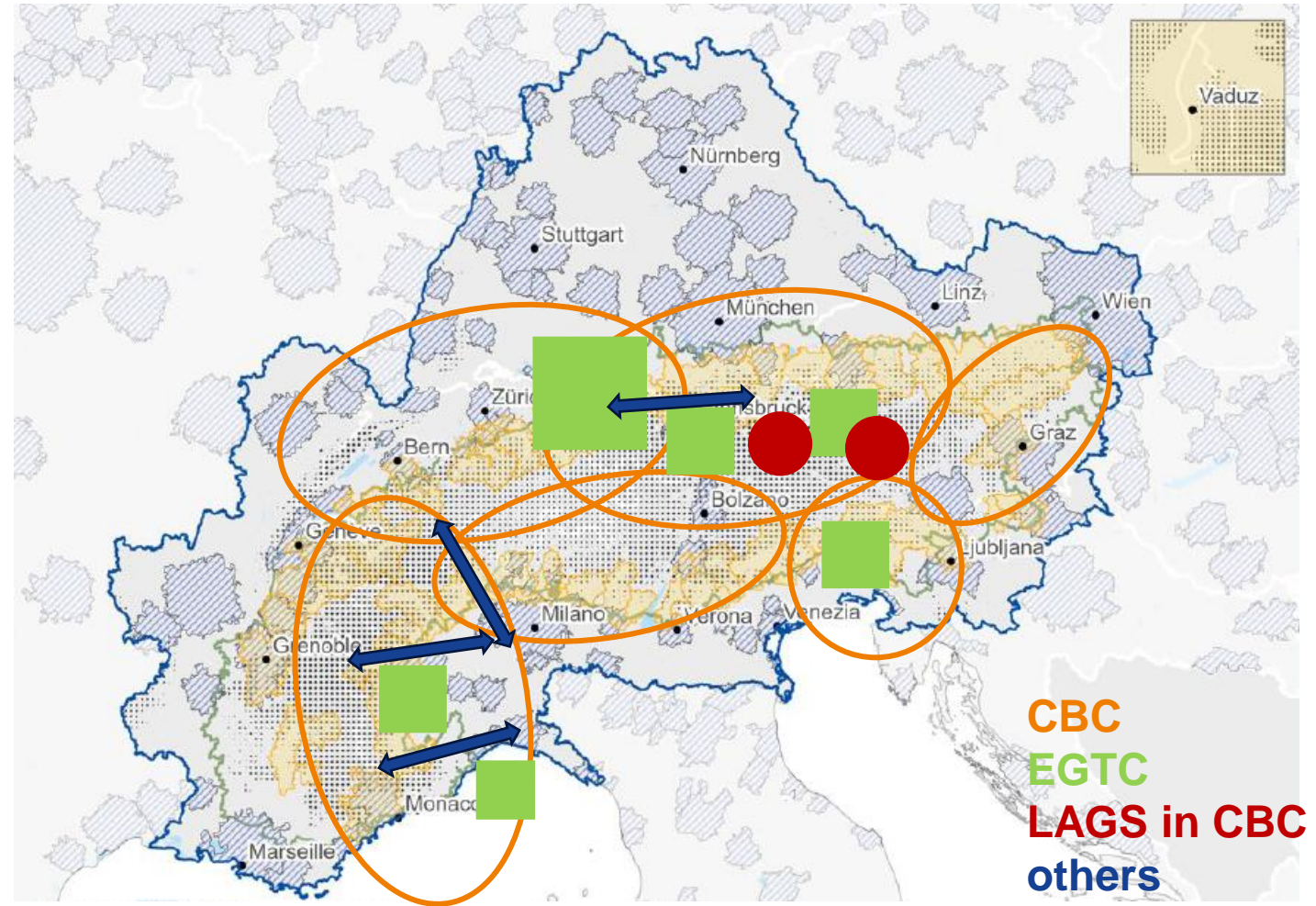


Cross-border cooperation (interface territories' governance)

Topic: the Interplay between Interface Territories and CBC Experiences

Action: Mapping of the CBC initiatives at NUTS 2 (when possible NUTS 3) level and overlaps with the identified interface territories

Objective: Coordinate the CBC initiatives on the interface territories.



Lines of thought towards the policy brief

Common challenges

- Develop spatial perspectives, soft instruments, strategies, visions at the pan-Alpine level
- Funneling, gateway, narrowing situations
- Learn from other interface territories

Cross-border governance

- Increase cross-border cooperation, soft spaces, intermunicipal cooperation (mandate perimeters)
- Functional integration, non-standard geographies

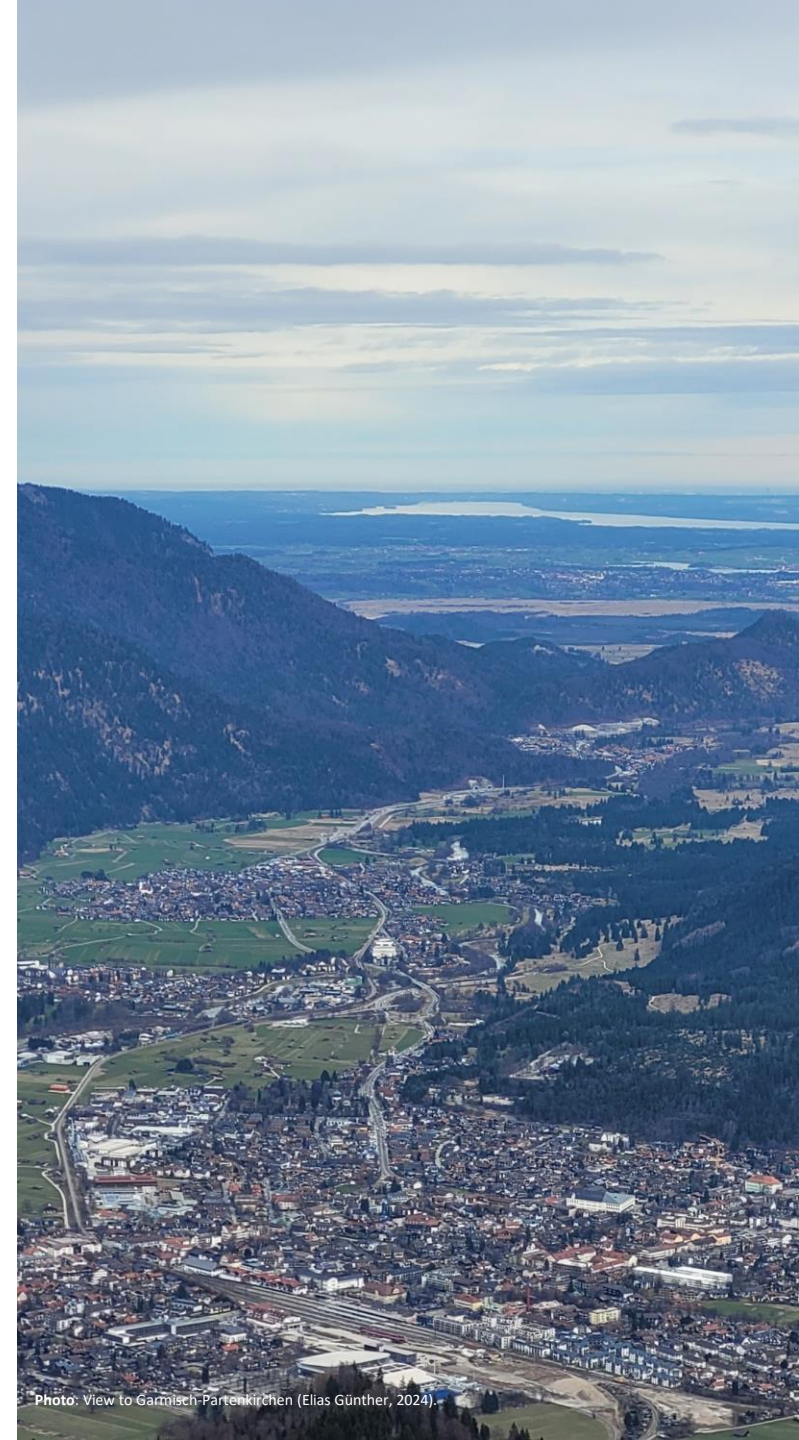


Photo: View to Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Elias Günther, 2024).

// Thank you

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