

Transnational Workshop

The Legal Framework of Protected Areas in each Alpine State

organized
in the framework of the project



financed by
EU ETC Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013



organized by
European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen (EURAC research)
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore – Centro Studi Val d'Ossola

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Domodossola – 16 April 2009



**Centro
Studi
Val d'Ossola**

Workshop Place

Centro di Spiritualità Rosminiana
B.ta Sacro Monte Calvario, 8
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Workshop secretariat and registration

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Accommodation in Domodossola

Associazione Pro Loco Domodossola Ufficio Informazione Turistica
Piazza Matteotti, 24
I-28845 Domodossola (VB)
Tel.: +39 0324 248265 e-mail: www.promodossola.it

How to get to Domodossola?



By train:

from Milano centrale: 1:30 hrs approx.,
from Bern: 2:30 hrs approx.
from Zurich: 3 hrs approx.
For schedules please see
www.trenitalia.com or www.sbb.ch.



By car:

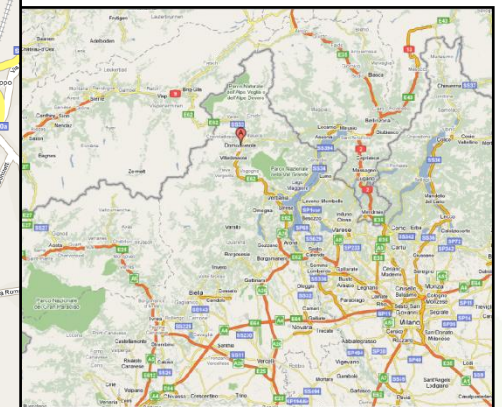
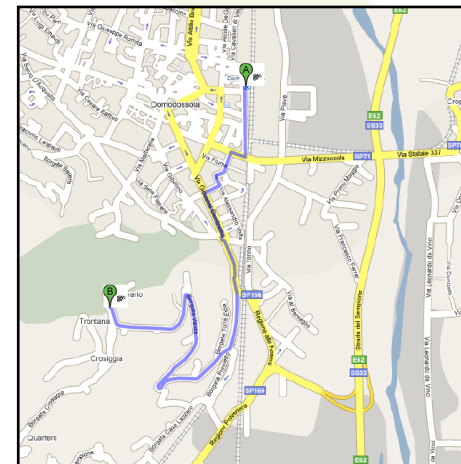
from Milano: via Stresa (A26/E62)
from Bern: via Früttingen – Visp and
Simplon.
from Luzern: via Luzern-Altendorf-
Bellinzona and Locarno.



By plane: from Milano-Malpensa airport: there are two buses in the morning and two buses in the afternoon. Comazzi lines: reservation before 12:00 hrs from the previous day, calling the number +39 0324 240333 (www.comazzibus.com).



The **Centro di Spiritualità Rosminiana (B)** is situated within a UNESCO World Heritage property, located **2km from the Domodossola rail station (A)**. It can be reached by foot, bus or taxi.



Background and objectives

This workshop is the first of two workshops (the second workshop will be organized by CIPRA in France) to explore the legal barriers to ecological connectivity in the Alps. The workshop aims at identifying the legal situation of protected areas in each Alpine State (types of protected areas and their legal framework), with an emphasis on transboundary issues, such as Natura 2000 and Emerald Network and the creation of an Alpine Ecological Network. Particular attention will also be given to the new legal instrument adopted by the European Union, the EGTC. The workshop is also an opportunity to share experiences on the legal situation of protected areas in each Alpine State. These workshops are part of the legal component of the ECONNECT project.

Structure

The workshop will last one day and it will be divided into two parts: one on the legal situation in Austria, Germany, Slovenia and at the European Union level; one on France, Italy, and Switzerland. The framework will be informal: the consultations will be based on a series of background documents, one per topic, which will be available beforehand and will be presented briefly during the workshop; the participants are then expected to actively contribute to the discussion; the key outcomes of the consultations will be documented and will contribute to the analyses of legal barriers to ecological connectivity.

Outcomes

The results of the workshop will be gathered in a series of documents (national assessments, comparative analyses) providing an overview on legal barriers that can hinder the creation of an ecological network, with a particular emphasis on the pilot areas of the future Alpine Ecological Network; these documents are aimed at being published and widely disseminated among stakeholders by 2010. These workshops are organized to gather expert knowledge on legal barriers to ecological connectivity.

The ECONNECT Project

The project ECONNECT aims at the enhancement of ecological connectivity in the Alpine space. Protection of biodiversity and natural heritage requires an integrated approach which beyond protected areas considers high biodiversity areas and corridors as linking elements of an Alpine ecological network. International actors, scientific institutions and local partners have joined forces to demonstrate needs and options for action and develop innovative instruments for ecological connectivity.

For more information: www.econnectproject.eu

Background documents

- Draft national assessments (Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland).
- Draft EGTC analysis.
- Legal instruments for transboundary cooperation.

These documents will be circulated electronically to the registered participants prior to the meeting.

Working Language

English

PROGRAM

08:30 – 09:00 hrs: Registration

Morning session

09:00 hrs: *Opening remarks on the structure and methodology of the workshop.*

09:30 hrs: **AUSTRIA. Issues:** national assessment; specificities of the Austrian legal system on nature protection; cooperation between transregional and transboundary protected areas; concept of ecological connectivity in law.
Discussion.

10:15 hrs: **GERMANY. Issues:** national assessment for Germany and focus on the realization of the Biotopverbund and spatial planning (implementation of the paragraph 3 of the Federal law on nature protection; implementation in Bavaria; cooperation with transboundary protected areas).
Discussion.

11:00 – 11:30 hrs: Coffee break

11:30 hrs: **SLOVENIA. Issues:** Slovenian national assessment; cooperation between Slovenia and Italy/Austria as regards Natura 2000 and protected areas in general; concept of ecological connectivity in law.
Discussion.

12:15 hrs: **EU INSTRUMENTS. Issues:** Natura 2000, EGTC and transboundary cooperation (the aspects of cooperation; the transboundary cooperation in the other directives).
Discussion.

13:00 – 14:00 hrs: Lunch break

Afternoon session

14:00 hrs: **FRANCE. Issues:** French national assessment; presentation of the recent legal developments concerning the concept of ecological connectivity; the cooperation with transboundary protected areas.
Discussion.

14:45 hrs: **ITALY. Issues:** Italian national assessment and focus on the cooperation between transregional and transboundary protected areas.
Discussion.

15:30 – 16:00 hrs: Coffee break

16:00 hrs: **SWITZERLAND. Issues:** National assessment for Switzerland; ecological connectivity in law; cooperation with transboundary protected areas.
Discussion.

16:45 hrs: **INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS. Issues:** The traditional legal instruments for transboundary cooperation in the Alpine States.
Discussion.

17:45 – 18:00 hrs: *Concluding remarks on the different legal frameworks of nature protection in the Alps.*