

Brainstorming seminar in Vienna, 22th November 2013

MINUTES

List of Participants

Bach Martina (ÖROK)
Bäumel Egon (Land Steiermark)
Belihart Susanne (prisma-solutions)
Bizjak Aleš (izVRS)
Blancher Philippe (Asconit Consultants)
Bodzsar Borbala (Municipality of the 18th district of Budapest)
Cesca Matteo (ARPA Veneto)
Danelli Andrea (RSE)
Esser Ellen (Energiewende Oberland)
Evrard Nicolas (AEM)
Harum Till (Joanneum Research)
Hinterhofer Manuel (ÖFV, ARGEFA)
Jouve Daniel (CNR)
Koller-Kreimel Veronika (BMLFUW)
Kremser Helga (BOKU)
Leduc Sylvain (IIASA)
Mammoliti Mochet Andrea (ARPA Aosta Valley)
Marence Miroslav (UNESCO-IHE)
Muhar Susanne (BOKU)
Mostafavi Hossein (BOKU)
Pelizzaro Piero (Kyoto Club)
Peviani Maximo (RSE)
Rauch Pablo (BOKU)
Reckendorfer Walter (Verbund)
Šantl Sašo (IzVRS)
Šavli Klemen (IzVRS)
Scharl Anita (hydrophil-iC)
Schinegger Rafaela (BOKU)
Schmutz Stefan (BOKU)
Schwaiger Karl (BMLFUW)
Skroza Andrea (IzVRS)
Stare Eva (JTS)
Szabó Eszter (Municipality of the 18th district of Budapest)
Tramberend Peter (Umweltbundesamt)
Wagner Klaus (BMLFUW)
Walzer Chris (VETMED)

09:30 Alpine Space Programme (Eva Stare, JTS Alpine Space)

Ms. Stare, project officer of the Joint Technical Secretariat presents the Alpine Space programme and the 2014+ strategy development. The status of implementation of the ASP 2007-2013 is the following: 5 calls completed, 57 projects approved, 100% ERDF committed, average ERDF grant: 1.9 m Euro, average of partners per project: 12-13, overall no. of partners involved: 650+.

Call 1 - closed, results available

- **ECONNECT:** Improving Ecological Connectivity in the Alps

The Alps are one of Europe's largest biodiversity pools (some 43,000 species) and, at the same time, one of the most intensively exploited mountain ranges (some 100 million tourists per year). ECONNECT has shown that the reduction of habitat fragmentation in the Alpine Arc is essential in achieving effective biodiversity conservation. The project explored the best options for coordinated action and developed innovative tools to promote Alpine-wide ecological connectivity (JECAMI - the online tool for decision-makers based on Geographical Information System).

- **Alp-Water-Scarce:** Water Management Strategies against Water Scarcity in the Alps

Alp-Water-Scarce has provided tools to mitigate the risk of water scarcity, and has proposed instruments for the long-term management of water resources that support decision-making. The project developed a guideline based on climatic scenarios for the calculation of prediction of future water resource availability and recommendations for managers and policy-makers on water management and water scarcity in the Alps. Key results: Early Warning Systems in Carinthia (A), Arly (F), Piave (I) and Slovenia, Guideline: monitoring and modelling of mountain water resources, A GIS-supported atlas with information on the 23 pilot areas.

Call 2 – all closed, results available

- **SHARE:** Balancing river ecosystems and hydropower requirements

Hydropower (HP) is the most important renewable resource for electricity production in the Alpine areas but creates serious environmental impacts. RES-e Directive requires renewable electricity enhancement, on the other hand the Water Framework Directive obliges Member States to reach a water bodies "good" ecological status, intrinsically limiting the hydropower exploitation.

SHARE project has developed, promoted and tested a decision support system to merge on an unprejudiced base river ecosystems services and HP requirements using a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) methodology adjustable on specific cases in 11 pilot areas.

- **SILMAS:** Sustainable Instruments for Lakes Management in the Alps

Alpine lakes are attractive for a wide range of sectors, from tourism to industry, and a privileged location for residence. But this particularly fragile natural environment, its water resources and its biodiversity must be protected.

SILMAS developed a range of tools for practitioners and policy makers to ensure a sustainable management of Alpine lakes and their catchment areas. Alongside, the project focused some activities towards pupils and tourists, providing a large quantity of educational material for all publics.

Call 3 – high implementation phase, final outputs and results in preparation

- **ALPSTAR:** Towards carbon neutral Alps – Make best practice minimum standard

With a relevant and extensive network of partners, observers and stakeholders, the ALPSTAR project initiates a multilevel governance approach to manage climate change. It implements climate change strategies on the territory through pilot actions and is clustering existing good practices for further transferability. So far, the project established the transnational ALPSTAR Policy Board to assure exchange and coherence between different policy levels. The ALPSTAR best practice platform was established with over 60 good practices in implementation of climate change mitigation as well as adaptation measures.

Call 4 – mostly these projects are finishing the investigation and methodology development phase and are moving on to planning and implementation

- **AlpStore:** Strategies to use a variety of storage forms to allow extended accessibility and integration of renewable energies

AlpStore follows up on the AlpEnergy and CO₂-NeutrAlp projects focusing on the problem of storage of energy from renewable energy sources (RES). The objective of the project is to overcome the problem of storing energy produced from RES in order to foster the production of electricity from such sources. The project will deliver a concept that, once tested in 12 sites, will demonstrate its viability and transferability.

- **recharge.green:** Reconciling Renewable Energy Production and Nature in the Alps

recharge.green intends to develop tools and an integrated strategy for renewable energy production that is in line with environmental concerns. Therewith, the project addresses the increasing pressure on the Alpine environment due to the growing importance of renewable energies.

- **SedAlp:** Integrated sediment management in Alpine basins

SedAlp focuses on the integrated management of sediment transport in Alpine basins. It is directed towards an effective reduction of sediment-related risk while promoting the enhancement of riverine ecosystems and reducing the impacts of hydropower plants. The SedAlp project includes piloting actions in various representative Alpine river basins of all involved countries and contributes to sediment and wood transfer monitoring in a large set of Alpine catchments, in order to understand spatial and temporal variability of processes. Planning, warning and predictive tools will be provided together with sediment and wood management recommendations for hazard mitigation and protection of people.

- **SEAPAlps:** Supporting local authorities in the implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans in the Alpine Space Area

SEAPAlps aims to promote energy planning at local level applying a shared methodology at transnational level. The project seeks to improve energy efficiency in local areas responding to the need to coordinate and manage the use of raw material and natural resources for energy planning.

Call 5 – just starting, very short projects, ending by the end of 2014, with limited budget and slim partnerships

- **AIM** will valorise and balance the Alpine Space projects achievements related to water and energy, through specific dissemination actions addressed to relevant policy and management actors impacting on EU, national and regional policies.
- **GreenAlps** will shape the framework for a sustainable and efficient European nature and biodiversity conservation policy for the Alps. The project will contribute to a significant reduction of the fragmentation of Alpine natural or semi-natural habitats, calling for a long-term orientated land use planning, new ways of cooperation and a precautionary approach of other key sectors.
- **START_it_up** will capitalise on the knowledge pool developed by previous projects concerning natural hazard, risk management (NHRM) and risk governance (RG), by enhancing it into a transnational common "state-of-the-art". Based on the partners expert network the project will pave the way towards an institutionalised NHRM-standardisation process and a RG policy forum, authorised by governmental and standardisation institutions.

Strategy development in figures:

more than 400 stakeholders participated to 6 workshops organised in 5 Alpine countries, over 700 submissions to the web-based survey were received from all 7 countries and more than 300 stakeholders got together to sum up the dialogues at a transnational conference in February 21st 2013 in Milan.

With the closure of the current programming period, in 2013 the programme bodies are intensively working on the preparation of the Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020. This includes the development of programme documents (Operational Programme, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Ex-Ante Evaluation) as well as establishment of programme management and control system together with guidance, templates and monitoring system.

The Operational Programme as the strategic and functional backbone of the future programme is being developed by the drafting team and will be approved by the Task Force 2014+ comprising representatives of all involved partner states.

Stakeholders are invited to have their say through commenting the draft Operational Programme during the public consultation, which is organised on-line, starts on 1st November and closes on 29th November 2013. With the aim to increase efficiency and simplify procedures and forms for the

beneficiaries, the emerging territorial cooperation programmes are also developing harmonised tools to be used in programme implementation and monitoring.

Programme documents will be submitted to the European Commission in spring 2014. The first call of the new programme can be expected in early 2015.

10:00 SESSION 1 – Presentation of relevant Alpine Space projects/tools (to be analysed by AIM) - Chair: *Maximo Peviani, RSE Milan*

- 1) Mr. Mammoliti Mochet, lead partner of **SHARE** from the Environmental Protection Agency of Aosta Valley presents the project

The energy sector has changed drastically over the last few years. We are using more and more energy and energy prices are perhaps more volatile and unpredictable than ever before. While global oil consumption has increased by 20% since 1994, oil and gas prices have nearly doubled in the EU over the past two years. At the same time, remaining fossil fuels are becoming more and more concentrated in some countries with sometimes unstable conditions, while the threat of climate change is pushing us towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The EU represents 25 countries and 450 million energy consumers. Within the EU, energy demand continues to rise by 1-2% per year. Over 80% of our energy use is based on fossil fuels - gas, oil and coal. In ten years, we could be using 10% more energy and within a generation we could be importing almost all the oil we use and 80% of our gas too. The energy challenges are apparent. Increasing demand, and as its corollary, growing consumption, pose various challenges: ensuring sufficient and secure energy supplies, combating increasing dependency on energy imports, making adequate investments in new technologies and tackling environmental effects, especially the greenhouse effect. It is possible to successfully meet these challenges: energy related problems are relatively recent, many technical options already exist or are under development and the stakeholders are willing to collaborate on solutions. On the other hand, over and above the costs involved in meeting up these challenges, it is necessary to change consumer habits and recognise the urgency of these problems. In general, there are two main ways of tackling these challenges: reducing energy demand by changing consumption habits or using energy in a “greener”, more diverse and more efficient manner.

The main final products are:

- 1) Handbook - A problem solving approach for sustainable management of hydropower and river ecosystems in the Alps.
- 2) Generic frame of SHARE MCA decision tree to support multi criteria analysis for different cases of alternatives evaluation.

The main final tools are:

- 1) SMART MINI-IDRO –SHARE Project Customized Version. An EXCEL tool to evaluate hydropower economic viability on the basis of the main hydropower project parameters.
- 2) VAPIDRO-ASTE 4.0 – SHARE Project Customized Version. A GIS tool to evaluate the hydropower residual potential in a watercourse.

3) SESAMO software - application which implements the classic multi attributes analysis, as described in KEENEY and RAIFFA, 1993.

4) CASiMiR software suite: Fish & Benthos habitat modelling, Hydropower optimization (JORDE 1996, SCHNEIDER et al. 2001).

<http://www.share-alpinerivers.eu/>

2) Mr. Cesca, project partner of Alp-Water-Scarce from ARPA Veneto presents the project Alp-Water-Scarce outputs and results

1) *The handbook "Water Management in a Changing Environment"* offers an overview on the main outputs of the project.

2) *Recommendations for water managers and policy-makers* (translated into EN, FR, DE, IT and SI).

3) *A guideline on monitoring and modelling, discussing the challenges of water resources management in Alpine catchments.*

4) *A climate scenario guideline* describing possibilities for the calculation of future scenarios as a basis for projections of future water resources.

5) *Development of 4 early warning systems* (Arly catchment (France) – Carinthia (Austria) – Piave basin (Italy) – Slovenia). The Early warning system is a combined analysis of the main hydro-meteorological variables. Therefore, time series starting approximately 25 years ago were selected. The evaluation of the EWS is performed from March to June, in the most important period for the filling of the reservoirs. The purpose/main idea of these early warning systems is to give an alert in case of the permanence of the developed index below a threshold value.

6) *"Stakeholder Forum"* for stakeholder deep involvement.

3) Mr. Walzer, lead partner of **recharge.green** from the Veterinary University Vienna presents the project

The expected project results are:

1) Assessment of the status quo of Alpine renewable energy production and potential (with maps).

2) A set of qualitative indicators to compare legal frameworks, stakeholders, processes, energy market drivers, avenues of cooperation.

3) A trade-off analysis (renewable energy production vs. biodiversity conservation/ecosystem services).

4) A decision-support system for renewable energy development considering ecological trade-offs and economic dimensions.

<http://www.recharge-green.eu/de/>

4) Mr. Walzer, lead partner of **ECONNECT** from the Veterinary University Vienna presents the project

“ECONNECT envisions an enduringly restored and maintained ecological continuum, consisting of inter-connected landscapes, across the Alpine Arc region, where biodiversity will be conserved for future generations and the resilience of ecological processes will be enhanced”.

Assumptions must be made:

- 1) Larger tracts of interconnected and permeable landscapes in undisturbed and human-dominated landscapes maintain more biodiversity than fragmented landscapes, which enables regeneration and renewal to occur after ecological disruption.
- 2) Following disruption, smaller less diverse ecosystems may suddenly shift from desired to less desired states and their capacity to generate total economic value may decrease.
- 3) Functioning ecological processes are the foundation for the adequate provision of ecosystem services.

“The challenge consists in identifying indicators and metrics that permit the tracking of connectivity changes – improvements in the way nature is managed and used”.

Joint Ecological Continuum Analysis and Mapping Initiative – JECAMI

CSI: The CSI is a combined analysis of structural landscape connectivity and landscape permeability.

SMA: Species Map Application - Analysis of umbrella species application to detect barriers and corridors between two spatially separated locations for one of the umbrella species on an alpine scale.

CARL: The network approach. Connectivity analysis of Riverine Landscape

“Do not underestimate communication problems due to language. Similarly recognize and appreciate cultural-working traits”.

<http://www.econnectproject.eu/cms/>

5) Ms. Esser, project partner of SEAPAlps from Energiewende Oberland represents the project

Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAP) are based on the methodology of the Covenant of Mayors Initiative, which is a European cooperation movement of mayors in which signatories voluntarily commit to meet or even exceed the EU climate goal of 20 percent CO2 reduction by 2020.

A sustainable climate methodology will be developed which takes into account the different climatic, geographic and economic conditions of the Alpine Space Area. The concept covers issues like sustainable tourism as well as the adaptation to climate change.

The decision-making process will be employed in the following phases:

- Discovery of informative (name, address, etc.) and thermal/electric consumption data relative to the public buildings run by the Municipality;
- The creation of an IT energy archive of the buildings on an Excel file by inserting previously acquired data;
- The classification of buildings according to an energy performance (EP) index based on unitary-energetic consumption. It will be considered a priority to act on the less efficient buildings that have a higher unitary energy conservation level (equal to the type of intervention);

- Concentration of the analysis on the buildings that have greater absolute consumption, giving less priority to those, which show lower consumption;
- Identifying the various possible energy efficiency interventions by grouping them according to type;
- Attributing an intervention priority to every building while keeping in consideration the possible financing options;
- Distributing the interventions into different annuities based on the priorities identified and economic availability, assigning a description to each intervention including the relative indexes of energy performance and type of financing chosen.

<http://seap-alps.eu/hp2/Startseite.htm>

6) Mr. Cesca project partner of **SedAlp** from ARPA Veneto represents the project

Outputs relevant to be capitalised by AIM:

- 1) Guideline for the identification of morphological impacts related to existing and new hydropower plants and gravel extraction.
- 2) Guideline for planning and designing of effective flood protection systems, river training and restoration projects that have lower impact on sediment continuity.
- 3) Report on the results of the evaluation of restoration projects with respect to measured sediment fluxes...
- 4) Report on spatio-temporal variability in sediment transport.
- 5) Guideline for improved planning of hydropower plants aimed to improve the longitudinal sediment continuity between upstream torrential headwaters and downstream river reaches.
- 6) Policy recommendation on sediment management to support RBMP.
- 7) Recommendation on good governance on sediment-related issues across the Alpine Space.

The main problem is that the results are not expected before autumn 2014/spring 2015, therefore only a few of these documents will be available for AIM.

<http://www.sedalp.eu/>

11:00 Strategic cooperation between AIM project and SEE Thematic Capitalization

Mrs. Bodzsàr from the Municipality of the 18th district of Budapest resents SEE Capitalization & Thematic Pole Low carbon communities.

The South East Europe programme is a Transnational Co-operation Programme in the framework of the Regional Policy's Territorial Cooperation Objective aims to improve integration and competitiveness in the SEE area in the programming period 2007-2013.

The programme is supporting projects developed within four Priority Axes: Innovation, Environment, Accessibility, and Sustainable Growth Areas. The programme gathers 16 countries in total from EU Member States and candidate or potential candidate countries.

The aim of AIM- Pole cooperation:

The achievements from projects in both programmes can be capitalized within a larger community of end-users.

Cooperation may include:

- 1) Mutual participation at meetings and seminars.
- 2) Joint or interlinked publications, website interlinks.
- 3) Extension of the stakeholder database and/or output pool, developed by the Thematic Pole, to the AIM project (and as such, to the Alpine Space area) to reach relevant actors at all level and reveal content synergies between the two areas.
- 4) AIM website provides a platform to visualize the Low Carbon stakeholder database and/or output pool (excel format visualized online).
- 5) Invite AIM partners and stakeholders to the next meeting (dissemination and preparation for the upcoming funding programmes) of the Thematic Pole (February 2014 Budapest).

http://www.southeast-europe.net/en/achievements/capitalisation_strategy/pole7/thematicpole4lowcarboncommunities

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break merging into World Café

11:30 SESSION 2 –World Café: Identify the Alpine Space region's needs for the new programme period

The objectives of the World Café were to:

- 1) Discuss challenges in the Alpine space region in terms of renewable energy production, water resource management and ecosystem preservation & restoration.
- 2) Collect feedback from the Stakeholders.
- 3) Improve the AIM project schedule and directly involve the opinions and needs from the stakeholders.

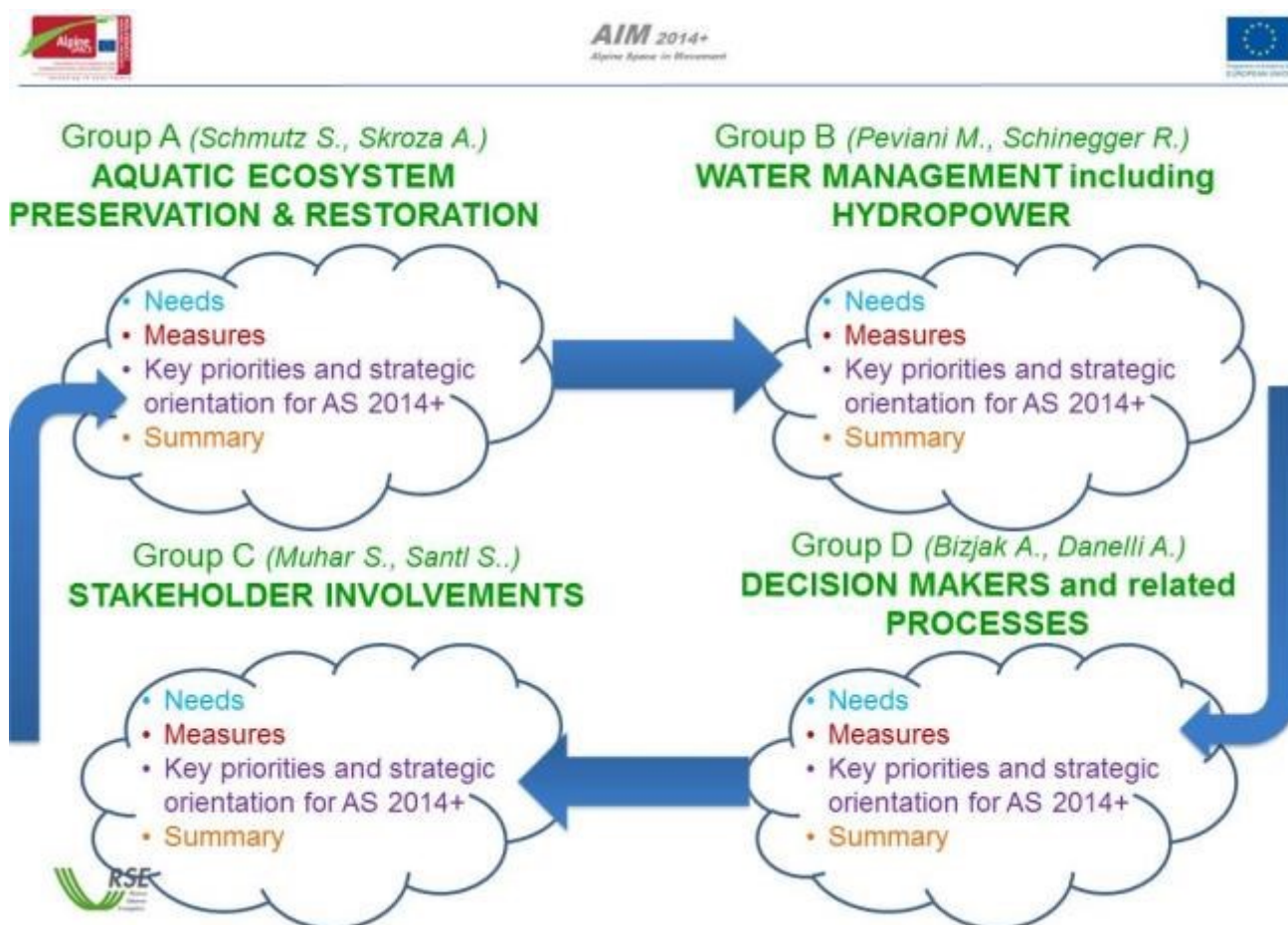


Fig.1: Topics of tables of the AIM World Café

- **Group A: Aquatic ecosystem preservation & restoration (moderators: Stefan Schmutz (BOKU) and Andrea Skroza (IzVRS))**

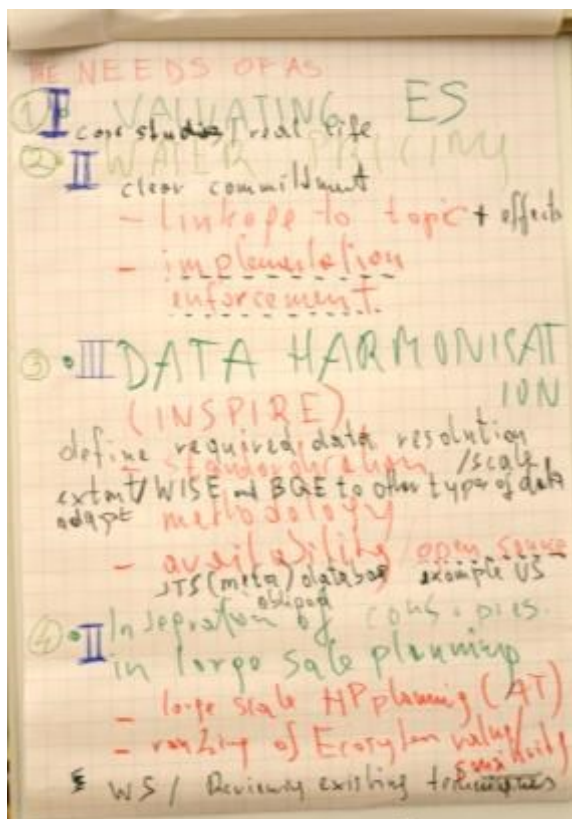


Fig.2: Flipchart group A



Fig.3: S. Schmutz and A. Skroza – Group A

The group “aquatic ecosystem preservation and restoration” identified four topics of high importance:

- 1) Valuating ecosystem services
- 2) Water pricing
- 3) Integration of conservation issues – need for a “MASTERPLAN”
- 4) Data harmonisation

- **Group B: Water Management including hydropower (moderators: Maximo Peviani (RSE) and Rafaela Schinegger (BOKU))**

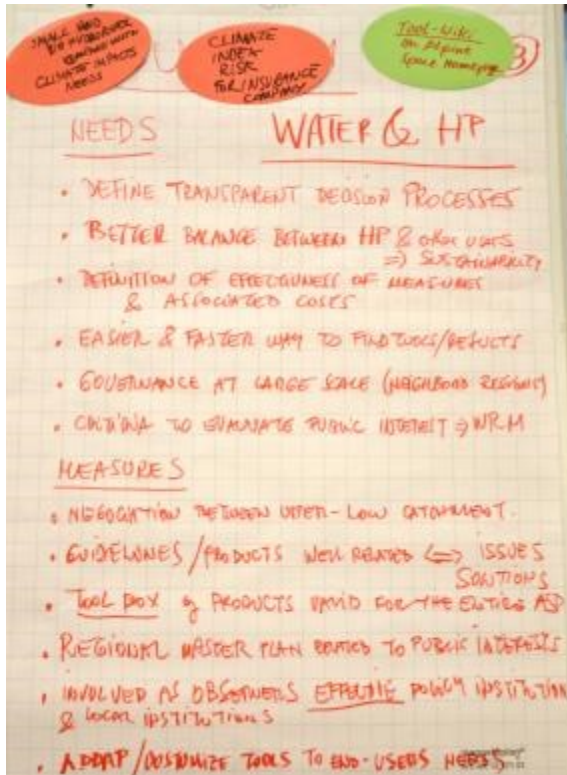


Fig.4: Flipchart group B



Fig.5: Group B with M. Peviani and R. Schinegger

The group “water management including hydropower” identified three key priorities for ASP 2014+:

- 1) Improve communication and product transfer to end-users
- 2) Tools harmonization, correlating tools/products with issues and solutions, and promoting good practices and successful experiences
- 3) Define common policies valid for the entire ASR, related to water management and hydropower projects including the role of water storage, adaptation to climate change and energy-ecosystem sustainability

- **Group C: Stakeholder involvement (moderators: Susanne Muhar (BOKU), Sašo Šantl (IzVRS))**

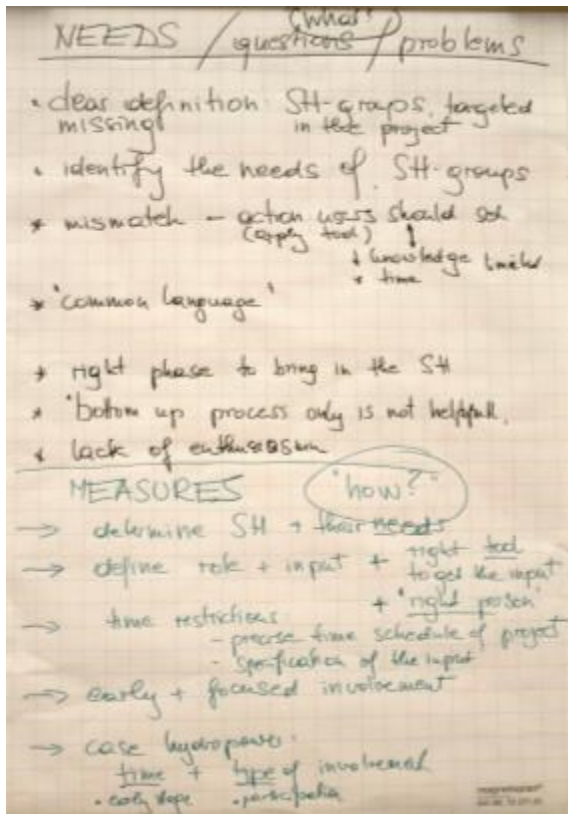


Fig.6: Flipchart group C



Fig.7: S. Muhar writing down the comments

The group “stakeholder involvement” identified four key priorities for ASP 2014+:

- 1) Stakeholder involvement before solution development
- 2) Clear definition of groups and requirements
- 3) ASP – clear requirements of participation process and stakeholder engagement
- 4) Sustainable projects: addressing needs of the society and tax payers, financial sustainability

- **Group D: Decision making processes (moderators: Aleš Bizjak (IzVRS) and Andrea Danelli (RSE))**



Fig.8: Flipchart group D



Fig.9: Group D with A. Bizjak and A. Danelli

The group “decision making processes” identified four key priorities for ASP 2014+:

- 1) Cost efficiency
- 2) Decision makers have to be involved in the project preparation phase
- 3) Improvement of communication and collaboration between the different levels (EU - national – regional – local)
- 4) Investigation of the needs of the decision makers

14:20 SESSION 3 – Plenary session – Chair: Stefan Schmutz, IHG BOKU Vienna

Mr. Schmutz reports the outcomes from Session 2.



Fig. 10: Plenary session

15:20 SUMMARY SESSION: Round table with the observers - Chair: Aleš Bizjak, Water Institute Slovenia

The round table was composed by the following observers (from left to right): Mr. Andrea Mammoliti Mochet (ARPA Aosta Valley), Mr. Matteo Cesca (ARPA Veneto), Mr. Daniel Jouve (CNR), Ms. Veronika Koller-Kreimel (BMLFUW) and Mr. Piero Pelizzaro (Kyoto Club).



Fig. 11: Round table

Four key questions were posed to the observers:

- 1) What are the main challenges and opportunities to be explored towards the establishment of sustainable water energy-nexus in the AS region 2014+?
- 2) What are the main challenges and opportunities to be explored regarding stakeholders involvement in the context of the water-energy nexus in the AS region 2014+?
- 3) What are the main challenges and opportunities to be explored regarding decision making processes in the AS region 2014+?
- 4) What are the interests and what could be contribution of the observers to the AIM Project and related AS region 2014+?

Each observer answers the questions and then Mr. Aleš Bizjak gives a summary:

- There is a great need transdisciplinarity.
- Contemporary project processes should be highlighted with social and anthropogenic component.
- Users need to be considered as targets - we should listen to them - needs suggestions, calls for help.
- Mass media communication shall be improved - put info on local & regional level, these targeting shall be precisely selected to avoid the patchy structure of information (only capital knows everything, folks not).
- Plans should not be locked in working tables - shall be shared among partners.
- Tools need to be used in future time to ensure sustainability of project & products.
- Seek for governance on the large scale.
- Stick with needs articulated today - they are observer needs.
- While drafting/planning projects or terms of reference - we strongly should consider existing tools - especially the ones used by administration & stakeholders - upgrades of existing tools.
- EU adaption strategies shall be respected as one of the pillars of EU development in future time and therefore should be considered by AIM.
- Project should be as much as possible open to stakeholders - meet them as often as possible
- Training of tools is necessary.

16:20 Final conclusions – Maximo Peviani, Lead partner of AIM

- There is a lot to do & we have to do it
- At this meeting, we covered almost all target groups, consultancies, HP companies, regional & national administrations, environmental agencies, NGO's, associations, research companies.
- This was the first step - now we can take this experience to do the next steps.
- Achieve the goals even if there are conflicts!
- It is good that we started to talk about the weak points and related needs & measures, should be followed in all other events of AIM.
- There is a very large lack of communication between projects, between projects & stakeholders and between projects & JTS.

- We have to concentrate the attention on the stakeholders.
- There is a lot of lack for users to reach tools - improve communication of tools and users.
- Tools are often not well explained - we have to make the effort to analyse and sum them up.

16:30 End of the meeting



Fig. 12: Participants of the brainstorming seminar