

Restitution of workshop 3 by the Alpine Center on Natural Risks

## « An integrated approach in territorial planning »

Conference of the French Presidency of EUSALP in Chamonix, 30th Sept. 2020

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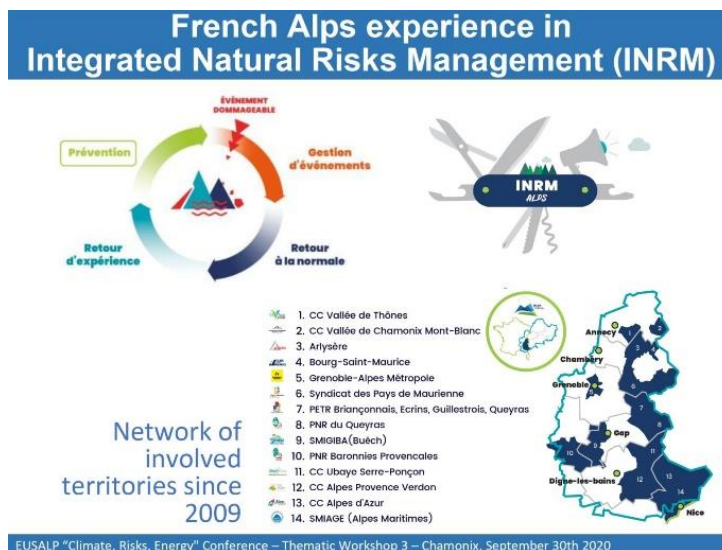
Faced with increasing risks in the context of global change, Alpine cities and towns need to adapt their prevention, anticipation and crisis management tools and to better integrate risk management into territorial planning and urban development, involving all actors.

In order to develop local strategies of resilience to these challenges, Alpine cities are also poles of competence, research and innovation.

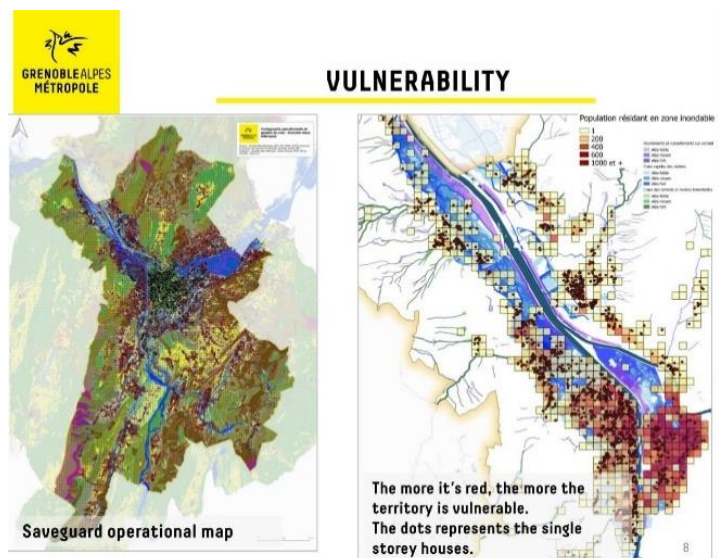
This workshop aimed at identifying the challenges, presenting pilot initiatives and discussing cooperation perspectives **to share good practices in Integrated Natural Risk Management (INRM)** in cities of the Alpine Region, in line with the work program of [EUSALP Action Group 8 on climate change adaptation and major natural risks management](#). It brought together 30 participants, both face-to-face and virtually.



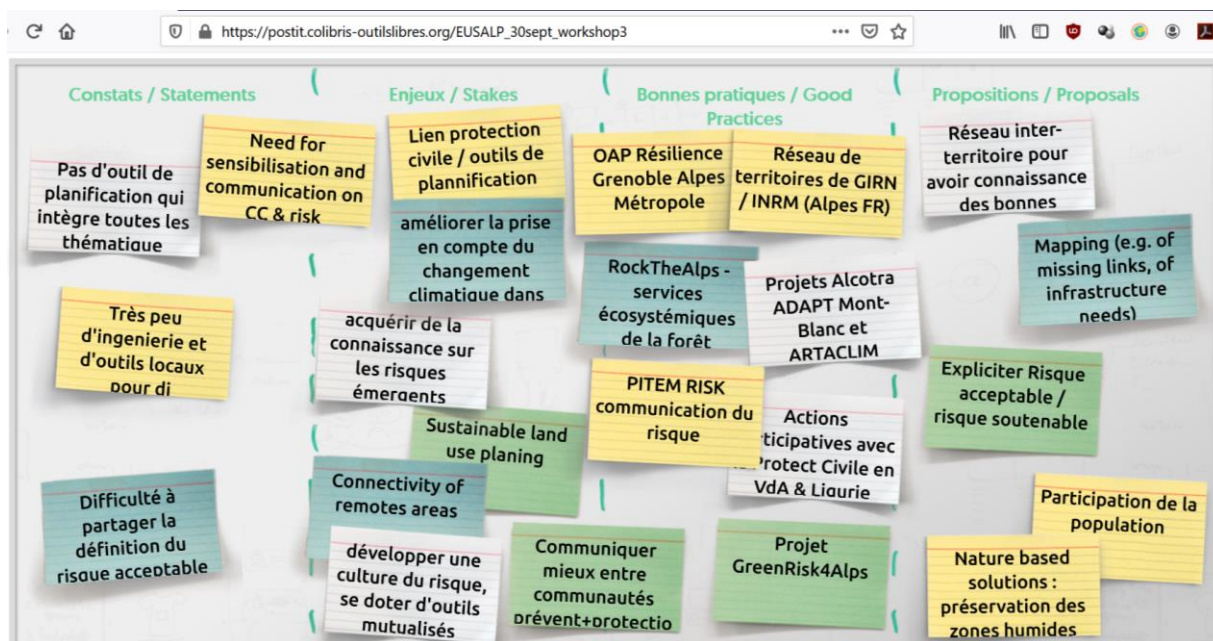
To introduce the workshop, **the PARN** presented the issues related to the integration of risk management and climate change adaptation in territorial planning – which is one of the topics of the EUSALP Action Group 8 work plan – and then the French experience of the network of [Alpine Territories of Integrated Natural Risk Management \(TAGIRN\)](#), which since 2009 have developed innovative approaches and specific tools for mountain risks management, adapted to alpine specificities.



The **Grenoble-Alpes Metropole** (*Amir Strkonjic*), which has been carrying a [TAGIRN project](#) since 2018, presented its experience in integrating risk management into spatial planning, as part of its [Territorial Strategy for Metropolitan Resilience](#) and its "Local Plan of Intercommunal Urban Planning" (PLUi), which includes a dedicated "Planning and Programming Operation" (OAP "Risks and Resilience") defining guidelines for taking risks into account in town and land planning. This Alpine metropole of nearly 450,000 inhabitants, exposed to all types of natural hazards as well as technological hazards, has set up a proactive policy to better take risks into account, based on a four-part strategy: (1) not to deny the risk, (2) to avoid risk and withdraw from the most exposed areas, (3) to objectify and contextualize risk analysis, (4) to adapt urban planning in building zones with projects developed in an integrated way, such as for example the "Portes du Vercors" urban restructuring project, resilient to the flooding risk, with buildings on stilts to let the water runoff, raised housing levels, elevator machinery in the upper part to be out of water, etc.



On this basis, a **collaborative work** was conducted with the participants, representatives of local authorities, State services and civil society, partly in the room and partly remotely. Animated from an online post-it table that everyone could feed, this dedicated time for exchange allowed to conduct a collective reflection to identify the challenges and priority needs of Alpine territories, as well as proposals for concrete actions, in terms of adaptation, anticipation and resilience.



The presentations and exchanges thus made it possible to identify the main issues, findings, gaps and needs in terms of integrating natural risk management into territorial planning, to share experiences of innovative approaches and good practices (see the table of post-its above), then to identify possible avenues of proposals for future cooperation programs 2021-2027 which were more specifically discussed.

The **proposals to better integrate territorial planning** identified during the workshop through the questions "(1) *what are the levers?* and (2) *how to share them?*" are the following:

## 1. The levers of action for integrated planning

- Developing a **multisectoral approach** to break down silos and take into account all the issues of the territory, as early as possible in development projects:
  - Develop operational approaches to share the notions of "**acceptable risk**" and "**sustainable risk**" and integrate them into territorial planning and management.
  - Develop **territorial engineering**, with dedicated human and material resources, to develop planning tools adapted to the specificities of the territory (geographical, social, economic) allowing to cover the gaps in the fields of knowledge and engineering and **to foster a risk dialogue**<sup>1</sup>.
  - **Integrate crisis management tools** into planning tools (cf. notion of "residual risk").
  - Better integrate **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)** by assessing all the ecosystem services provided by forests, forest soils and wetlands (protective roles against gravitational hazards, flood control, economic resources, recreational areas, etc.).
- **Mainstreaming existing solutions and good practices**, such as those identified during the workshop:
  - **The TAGIRN network (INRM territories)** in the French Alps.
  - The integration of risk management into the **planning tools** (e.g. PLUi and OAP of the Grenoble-Alpes Metropole as part of its territorial strategy "Risks and Resilience").

<sup>1</sup> E.g. actions implemented by Grenoble-Alpes-Métropole in support of small municipalities that do not have these resources, in particular for dialogue with the State.

- Projects dealing with **the integration of climate change adaptation into territorial planning and the development of cross-sectoral strategies** (e.g. Alpine Space [AlpGov](#) and [GoApply](#) projects and [the CAPA Platform](#) on adaptation, Alcotra [AdaPT Mont-Blanc](#) and [ARTACLIM](#) projects on climate adaptation planning).
- The improvement of **risk governance** through an integrated and coordinated prevention policy at regional level, with a view to adapting to climate change, in order to provide concrete and operational responses at local level.
- The deepening and integration of the notions of **acceptable and sustainable risk**, already initiated by the French-Italian cross-border network of risk prevention actors during previous programming ([RiskNET](#) project).
- **Nature-based solutions (NBS)** based on ecosystem services ([AlpES](#) project) which are provided by protection forests ([RockTheAlps](#), [GreenRisk4Alps](#) projects), forest soils ([Links4Soils](#) project), wetlands ([HyMoCARES](#), [SPARE](#) projects) or "green infrastructure" ([LOS DAMA](#), [LUIGI](#) projects).
- **The resilience of territories** ([CORESTART](#) project), notably through the improvement of anticipation and reaction capacities, a better integration of Civil Protection with planning (cf. concept of "sustainable risk", and better communication tools on risks).

## 2. How to share them?

### Proposal 1 - Network of Resilient Alpine Territories

- Set up and lead a **network of resilient Alpine territories**, allowing to bring existing solutions to the attention of local actors and representatives and to share good practices, using territorial cooperation mechanisms at different scales (local, regional, national, macro-regional), for territories ranging from small rural/mountain communities to Alpine metropolises.

### Proposal 2 - Risk Governance

- Define and characterize the notions of **acceptable and sustainable risk**.
- Develop **communication, awareness raising** and **training** of the stakeholders and the population of the territory.
- Develop **territorial engineering** through the provision of human and financial resources, internally and externally.
- **Integrate civil protection tools** into planning tools.

### Proposal 3 - Nature-based solutions

- Agree on a **common definition** of nature-based solutions.
- **Develop and disseminate tools** to characterize ecosystem services.

## Resources

### Documents (PDF):

- [Presentation support PARN](#)
- [Presentation support Grenoble-Alpes-Métropole](#)

### Workshop restitution web page (in French):

<https://risknat.org/atelier-3-une-approche-integree-dans-la-planification-territoriale-conference-suera-chamonix-2020/>