PRIN 2015

*TERRITORIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DELLA COESIONE TERRITORIALE
DELLE REGIONI ITALIANE*

*Modello, su base place evidence, per la valutazione di policy rivolte allo sviluppo della
green economy in aree interne e periferie metropolitane*

International Conference
*Territorial Impact Assessment of Territorial Cohesion
in Italy and Europe*
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University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

ESPON - LinkPAs: territorial cohesion & environmental policy

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Introduction & policy

Project-led cohesion policies and actions

- The Italian Ministry for the environment has been involved as a partner or observer in many cooperation projects on different levels (international, transboundary, sub-national, etc.)

- All these projects promote cohesion on different levels and with slightly different meaning

- Examples of cooperation frameworks include: Interreg (Alpine Space, Central Europe, SEE, etc), EU Twinning projects (Balkan, Caucasus and other countries), ESPON (EU), international cooperation projects with UN agencies or programs in transition countries (e.g UN Environment, UNDP, etc.)

- Cohesion is achieved through environmental policies in terms of capacity building (UN, Twinning), development and application of methodology (INTERREG, ESPON, etc.) and stakeholder dialogue & training (e.g. sub-national level projects)

- The Ministry's approach to project development, management and implementation strongly supports the creation of cohesion among territories on different levels in line with the goals common to international negotiations where the Ministry is formally involved

- We will present an example strongly linked to "governance of natural assets" and green economy: the ESPON LINKPAS project.

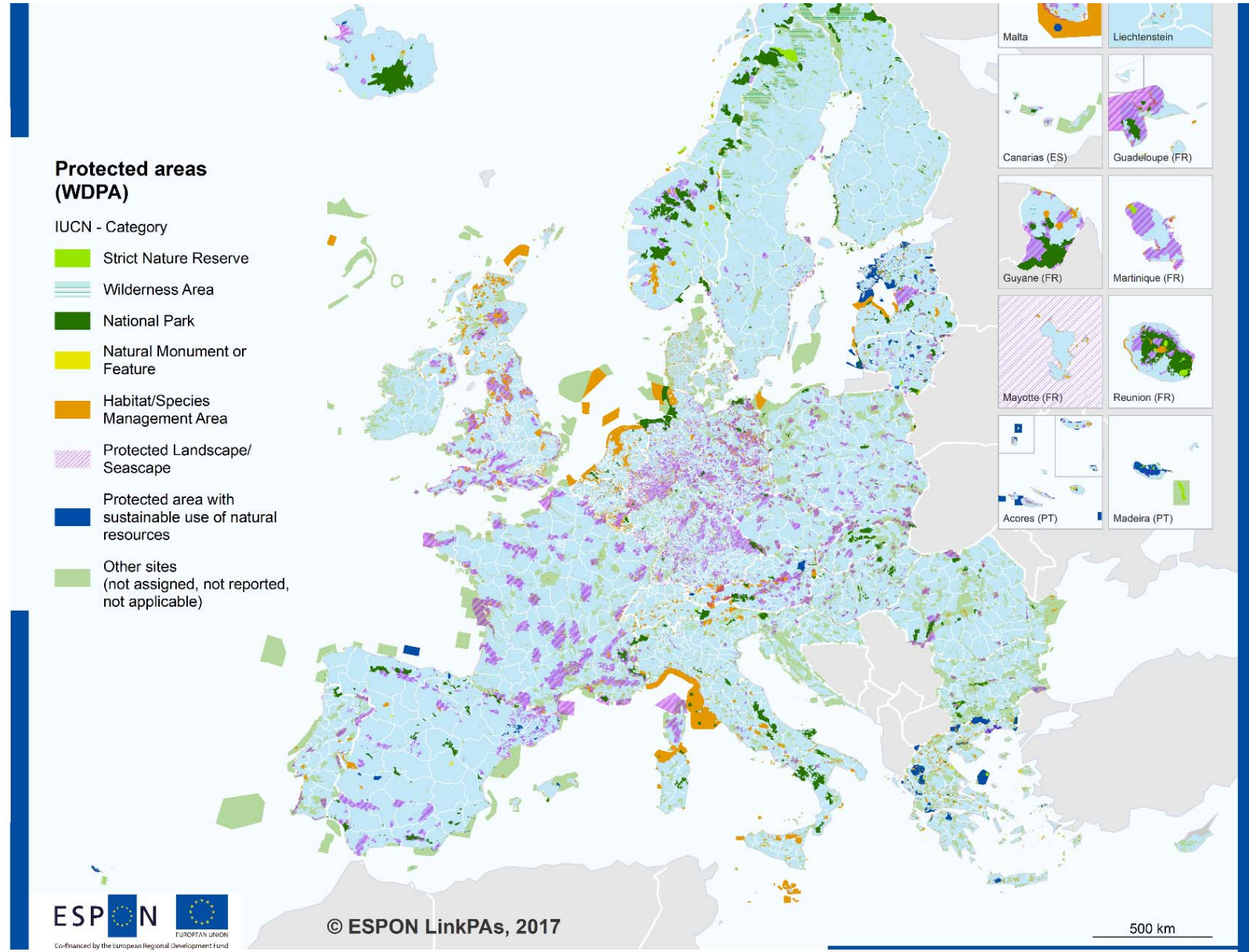# The role and meaning of protected areas in contemporary policy making

- Environmental policies are becoming "viruses" spreading to other policies Sustainable development is a "virus" for economic and social policies, as UN SDGs confirmed in 2015

- Protected areas historically were a case for "segregation" in the best interest of societies

- The links between networks of protected areas and other policy domains are to a large extent unexplored

- A strong potential for a more effective use of protected areas across other policies exists, as Ecological Network theory and Green Infrastructure policies show

- LinkPAs was developed to explore this viral potential and better analyse real examples in Europe

- The project was supported by national institutions, international networks of protected sites, regional governments, local governments and other stakeholders across Europe

- The Italian Ministry for the Environment was among the initiators of the process that brought to the approval of the project

The process and its policy conclusions

- We will discuss the case with LinkPAs and identify the main findings concerning policy impacts and interlinkages that represent some of the most significant outcomes of the project as such

- For doing so, we will present the general goals of the research, the involved territories, the most significant types of PA networks identified, their governance structure, the intercepted policy domains and the potentials of PA netowrks

- We will finally draw some conclusions on the enabling conditions for strengthening PA networks as active policy actors beyond the nature conservation policies and measures to include other domains – particularly the ones linked to green economy, green jobs and climate action in general
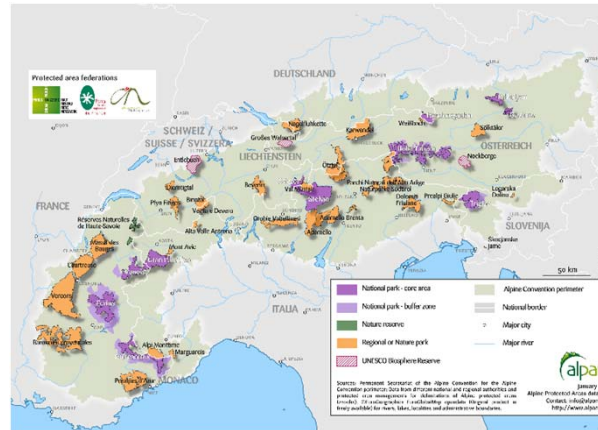
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Challenges and regions involved

Protected areas (WDPA)

IUCN - Category

- Strict Nature Reserve
- Wilderness Area
- National Park
- Natural Monument or Feature
- Habitat/Species Management Area
- Protected Landscape/ Seascape
- Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources
- Other sites (not assigned, not reported, not applicable)

Malta · Liechtenstein · Canarias (ES) · Guadeloupe (FR) · Guyane (FR) · Martinique (FR) · Mayotte (FR) · Reunion (FR) · Acores (PT) · Madeira (PT)

© ESPON LinkPAs, 2017

500 km

Regional level: NUTS3 2013
Source: ESPON project LinkPAs, Eurac Research 2017

ESPON

EUROPEAN UNION
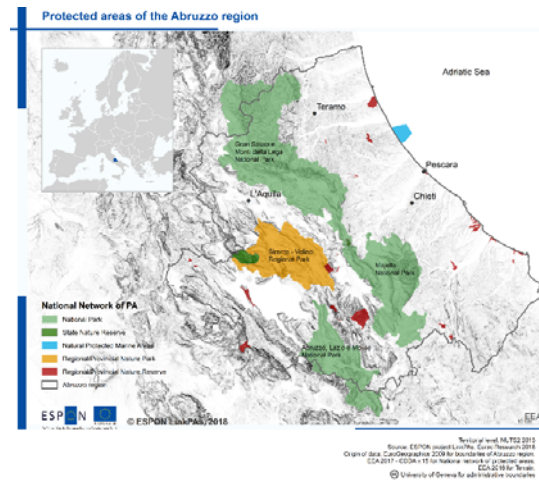Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

5 key questions from 4 stakeholders at different territorial levels

1. Different types of NPAs in European mountains and in the stakeholder territories

2. NPAs contribution to developing and implementing sustainable territorial development strategies

3. Policy sectors NPAs impact on

4. Actions and/or policies needed to ensure a sustainable and integrated management of natural resources in mountain areas

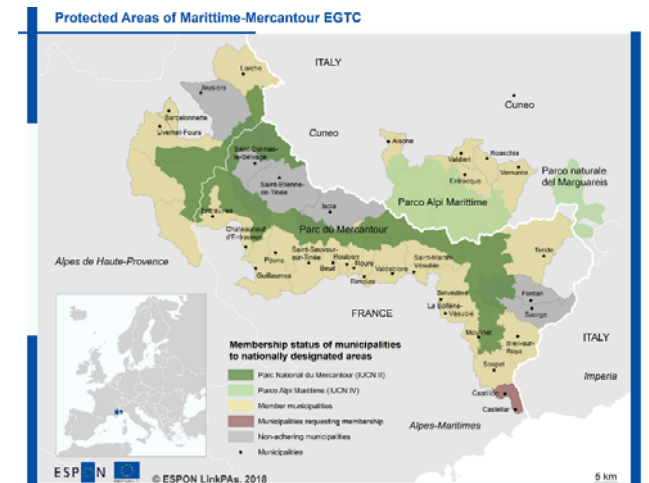5. NPAs role and governance in supporting local business development
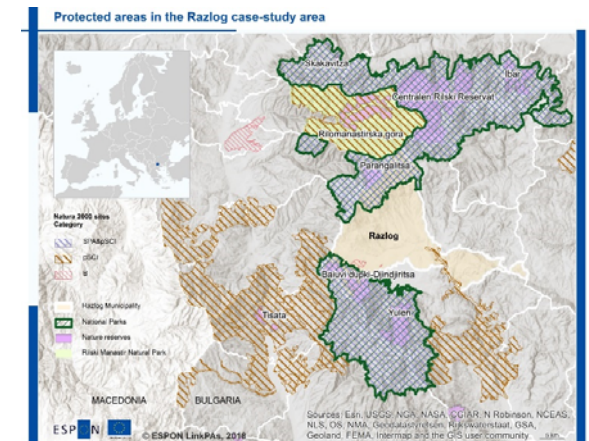
ALPARC (international NPA)

Marittime-Mercantur (transboundary NPA)

Abruzzo (regional NPA)

Razlog (local NPA)

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mappe significative (place evidence – max 4 mappe) e commento

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Protected Areas (PAs) in Europe (28+4 countries)

Green Infrastructure, Green economy (policy sectors) where NPAs impact on

Institutional set up	Countries
Only one national network depending on a single agency	Czech Republic; Germany; Hungary; Ireland; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Iceland; Liechtenstein; Norway; Switzerland
More national networks depending on different sectoral agencies	Bulgaria - Cyprus – Denmark- Malta
One or more national and sub-national networks	Croatia; Estonia; Finland; France; Greece; Italy; Portugal; Spain; Sweden
Only regional (county) networks	Austria – Belgium - United Kingdom

MODEL 1	NPAs established in the framework of agreements or Conventions with a wider perspective (e.g. ALPARC)
MODEL 2	NPAs based on a shared programme to face common challenges from an ecological and/or environmental point of view (as Razlog and Abruzzo Region which could develop towards model 3)
MODEL 3	Territorial networks: NPAs for the management of specific physiographic units (e.g. EGTC Alpi Marittime /Mercantour)
MODEL 4	NPAs as platforms addressing different topics and aimed at sharing experiences (e.g. EUROPARC, MedPAN, European Geoparks Network, Protected Micro-Reserves, SAPA)

- NPAs: backbone of EU Green Infrastructure Strategy

- NPAs help bio-diversity conservation across EU in compliance with post-2010 biodiversity policy

- NPAs can implement shared measures on diverse topics, integrated in planning instruments (according to national/regional legislation)

Actual and Potential Role of NPAs in defining and implementing territorial development strategies depends on territorial and policy context (countries integrating biodiversity within planning vs. countries with different planning tools for environment and development)

NPAs Actions

Level targeted

- NPAs integration into EU policies and implementation
- NPAs integration into EU funding mechanism and access to alternative funding
- Research on value of biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Collection of NPAs initiatives - analysing impacts, cost and benefits
- NPAs strategic goals and indications
- Communication, participation and education
- Scientific imput
- Procedural frame

EU

- Provide and promote a NPAs framework and goals for greater EU coherence
- Provide best practices, experience and guidance
- Communication and education
- Promoting stakeholder involvement
- Legal framework
- National policy

National

- Promote inter-regional and regional NPAs
- Advice on NPAs integration into EU funded operational programmes
- Providing best practices, experience and guidance
- Promoting regional stakeholders involvement

Inter-regional Regional

- Fund targeted local actions
- Network design
- Use of external resources
- Social input
- Local policy
- Attract private investment
- Supporting SMEs within trans-national market

Local

Mountain NPAs: are they different?

In **mountain regions**, NPAs play a particularly strategic role in territorial development.

In Europe, **most mountain regions extend across national borders**: cooperation between neighboring countries is crucial for their sustainable development

Mountains (with large forests in Europe) **provide ecosystems services**: protected areas play a strategic role in promoting a more balanced development model.

Policy sectors

- NPAs interlink different sectors, promote synergies, overcome sectoral limits and administrative boundaries

- **LinkPAs analysed Green Infrastructures related policy sectors** according to the EU Commission

- LinkPAs found **sector policies impacted by NPAs** based on analysis of **policy documents** and **plans** in stakeholders' regions:

  - **Biodiversity conservation**

  - **Tourism and recreation**

  - **Education**

  - **Agriculture and Forestry (multifunctional resilient agriculture and forestry)**

  - **Investment and employment**

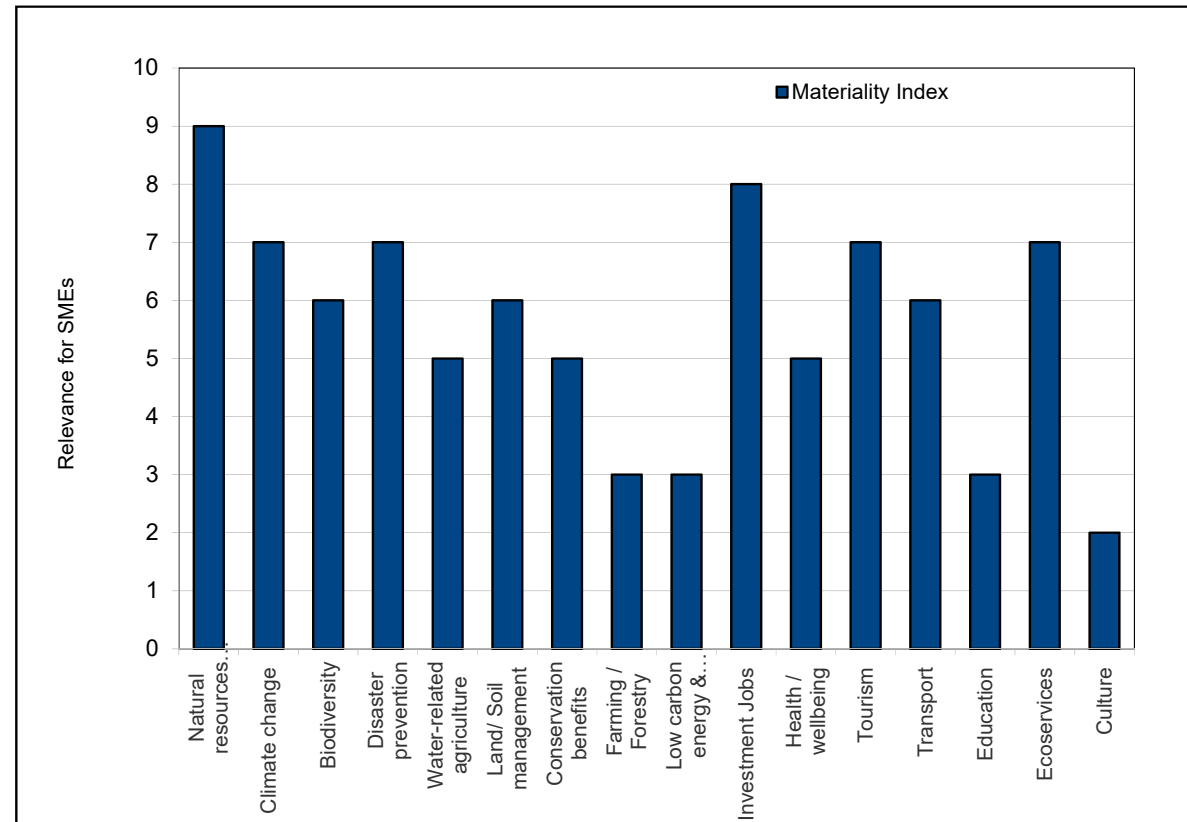 - **Transport (sustainable mobility)**

  - **Ecosystem services**

Figure: Relevance of GI policy sectors for SMEs (LinkPAs 2018)

NPAs and territorial development: links

NPAs impact on territorial development by:

- **influencing regional or national policies**

- **exchanging knowledge and experiences**

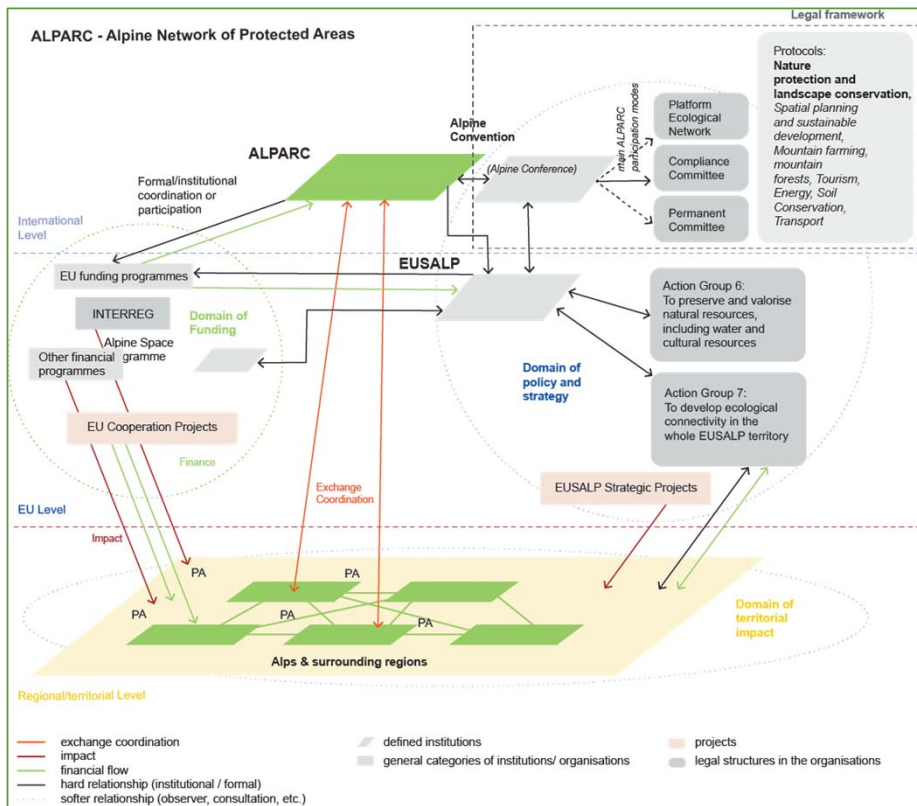- **obtaining funds for projects' development.**

Therefore, NPAs need:

Policies/strategies and funding instruments are key requirements to achieve territorial impact.

Territorial impact studies that help link policy and funding with results

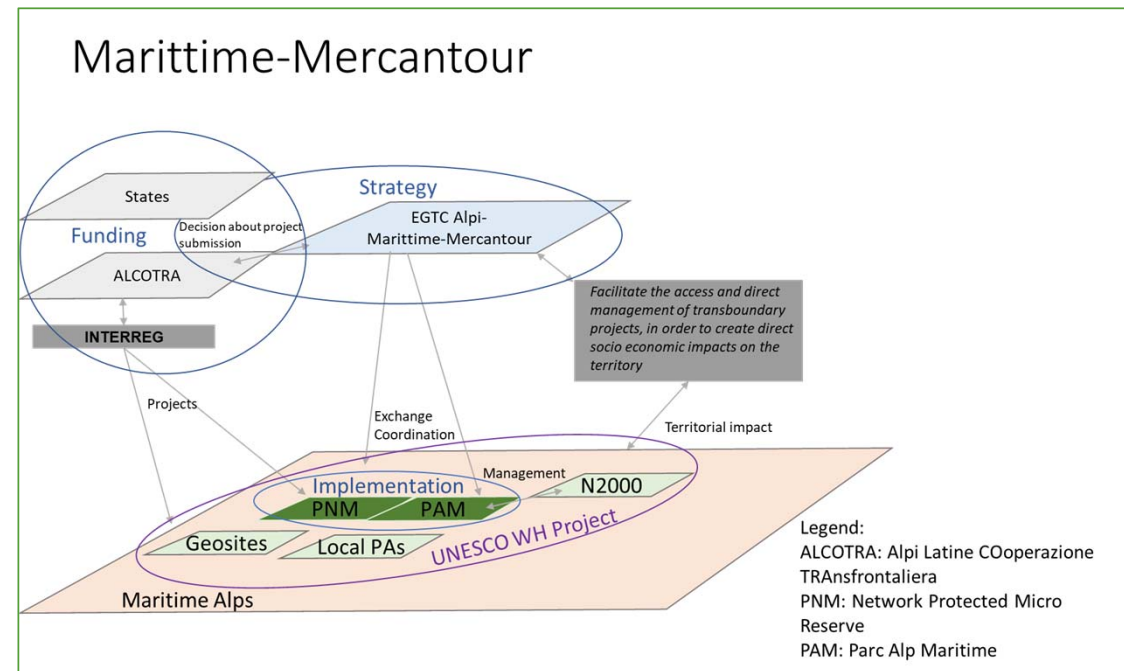**Exchange and coordination (being the only aspects not linked to funding)** that have territorial impact

Therefore:

- *NPAs can fully shape and manage PAs but*

- *NPAs need to be linked to funding programs, strategies or policies to achieve changes in in legislation, planning or administrative processes*
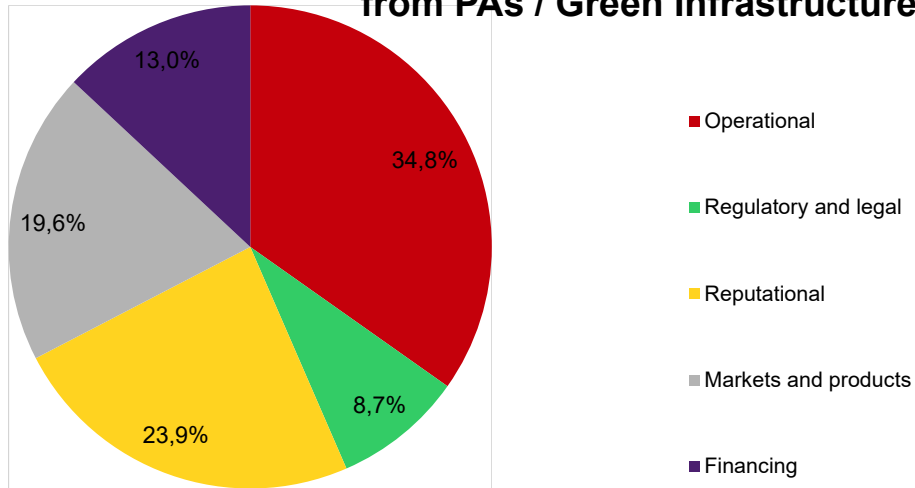
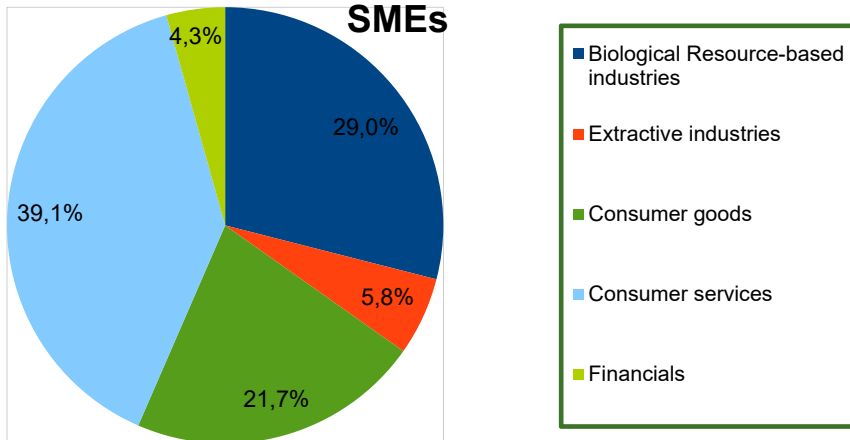Spheres of influence of ALPARC case study: (1) Domains of Funding, (2) Policy and Strategy and (3) territorial impact

Spheres of influence of Alpi Marittime – Mercantour case study: (1) Domains of Funding, (2) Policy and Strategy and (3) territorial impact

Share of categories of business opportunities for SMEs from PAs / Green Infrastructures

- ■ Operational — 34,8%
- ■ Regulatory and legal — 8,7%
- ■ Reputational — 23,9%
- ■ Markets and products — 19,6%
- ■ Financing — 13,0%

Business Opportunities from PAs for SMEs

- ■ Biological Resource-based industries — 29,0%
- ■ Extractive industries — 5,8%
- ■ Consumer goods — 21,7%
- ■ Consumer services — 39,1%
- ■ Financials — 4,3%

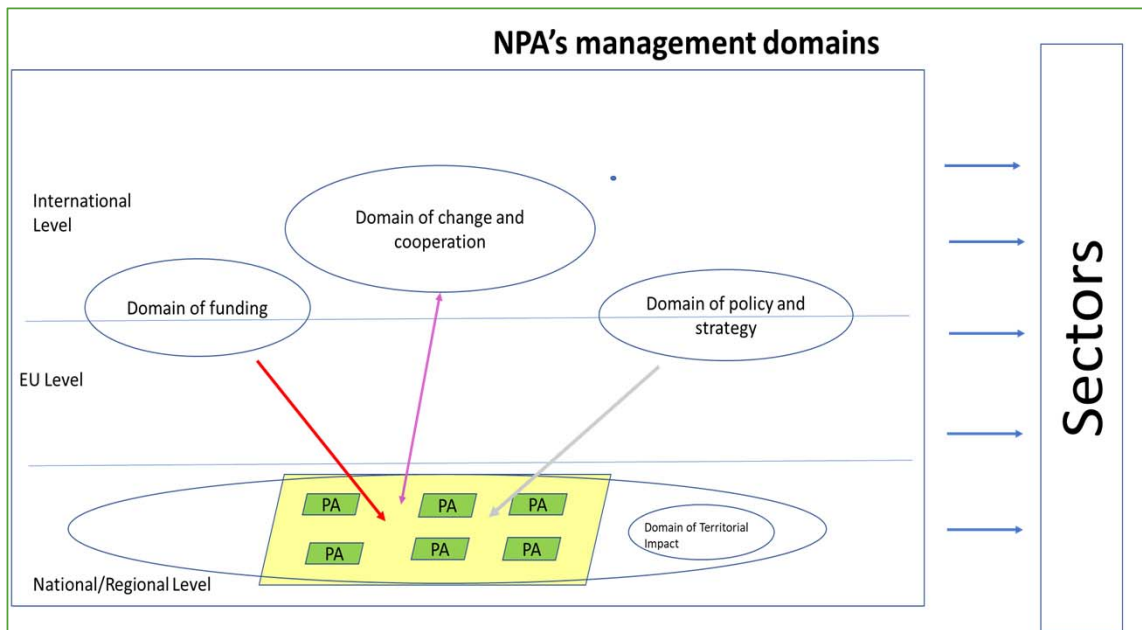| Category of policy instruments	Non-Standardised governance needs to manage green policy instruments in PAs and mountain zones
Regulatory instruments (command & control)	assuring compliance and enforcement of rules, effective PA management and financing effective monitoring on enforcement, knowledge on local communities and issues, know-how on stakeholder consultations
Economic instruments	mechanisms for knowledge sharing, information on resource endowment, information on tax bases (potential), shared database for environmental, ecosystem and assets information
Information	shared database for environmental, ecosystem and assets information, available knowledge on green consumerism / green marketing, availability of good institutional relationships (vertical governance e.g. for GPP), availability of good business relationships (horizontal governance), knowledge and trade-off management

New management model for NPAs' impact on sustainable territorial development by case studies

NPA's management domains

- **Implementing territorial cooperation** (orienting policy; managing international and EU relationships; linking with EU cooperation programs; assessing PA actions qualitatively and quantitatively, etc.)
- **Linking to governments, regions, and municipalities** in accordance with their institutional set-up and sectoral focus
- **Coordinating PA actions**
- **Collaborating on and promoting development strategies**
- **Applying policies on GIs** based on territorial diversity
- **Technically interacting with politics** (lobbying).

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Conclusions and
first policy suggestions

Lesson learned

✓NPAs require a clearly defined mission and objective that must be supported by a clear mandate.

✓NPAs capacities and competences need to be considered

✓NPAs activity requires continuity and institutional formalisation

✓NPAs are the most effective tools for sharing knowledge

✓NPAs objectives, strategies and mandate need to be aligned in mountain zones

✓Remain focused on NPAs policy role in matter of CC mitigation

✓NPAs need to be equipped with adequate funding instruments, capacities and competences if they are to fulfil additional roles

Conclusions…in general

- Improving the EU GI policy in order to make the EU Biodiversity Strategy more effective

- Experimenting with new multi-level governance models

- Extending the NPAs field of action across different territorial dimensions (identity, traditions, legislation, regulations, attitudes, economic activities, etc.) and within the framework of EU policies

- Adopting ecoservices accounting within the framework of territorial diversity

- Stressing the experience of NPAs in the sustainable management of natural resources

- Supporting the designing and/or implementation of policy instruments to involve local business in territorial development

- Promoting training and professional education for improving capacities on the NPAs to support the development and growth of SMEs within PAs and in surrounding territories.

- Enhancing the NPAs' role in implementing Integrated Territorial Investment, Structural Funds (ESIF) and EU Infrastructural Plans to help PAs management in mountain area.

and …for mountain areas

- Agree on a set of common measures (e.g. drafting sub-forms of operative and infrastructural projects) directly targeting PAs with very low I&R profiles.

- Propose policies aimed at helping communities deal with the digital transition, especially those in mountain PAs; help local SMEs improve their international outlook;

- Focus on the middle-aged population and on women and migrants, encouraging them acquire new skills that can help them re-enter the labour market.

- Link I&R to local SMEs to increase their access to new ESIF with a more strictly joint collaboration between SMEs, regional institutions, and the educational/research system;

- Encourage communication, disseminate projects and results across the local/regional system so as to foster public-private cooperation within PAs;

- Accept and commit to major European and international agreements; agree to the experimental use of the European strategic impact assessment processes, particularly TIA and SEA, as applied to policies, programmes and plans at different subsidiary levels

Thank you

Autore (Unità), University of ......

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