



Workshop 1/1:

Alpine views: from imagination to action (NRP 48 synthesis 1)

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Concept:

A pristine and unaltered view on landscapes and habitats of the Alps (and other mountainous areas) does not exist. There exists a rich panoply of socially embedded images in the Alps that is used in culture, media, public relations but also in policy and planning. Such images do not only shape landscape experiences, they also play an important role in negotiations and conflicts in and around the Alps. To uncover such patterns of perception is a first step in order to find common grounds and to overcome obstacles in discussions. The thematic synthesis I of the NRP 48 addresses such issues, and – using results of a dozen of projects – forges a new concept of dealing with perceptions of landscape.

To see and experience landscape and to talk about it leads to the emergence of its inherent diversity. This includes both its natural and built abundance as well as its human made depictions and symbolisations. Therefore, this natural and mental diversity is crucial for the ascertainment of what landscape can be. In order to describe the diversity and to be able to grasp it, we discern between six landscape dimensions.

The focus of the *corporal and sensuous dimension* are the sensations that are connected to landscape experiences. Thereby, landscape is not only seen or regarded, rather all senses are addressed. Different expectations of a (beautiful) landscape and questions regarding pleasure and enjoyment are in the centre of the *aesthetic dimension*. Feelings of belonging are often connected to landscapes and therefore landscapes are connected to identity (*dimension of identification*). The fourth dimension we call the *political dimension*, in which stakeholders and interest groups enter processes of negotiation. The economic dimension does not only concern values that can be expressed monetarily but also values that are connected to security. The *ecological dimension* finally addresses different ecological concepts and their normative impact.

The workshop wants to focus on differences in perceptions and why they are different, starting with the fact that concerns of conservation are not always in line with aesthetic requirements for the shaping of landscapes.