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Transboundary governance models of biodiversity protection: case studies for an enhanced protection of natural resources in Europe

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1. Funding

2021-2022 Joint Call

Supporting the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems across land and sea

36 projects funded out of 209 eligible preproposals



biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership



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2. Consortium

eurac
research

Eurac Research
Bolzano, Italy

Lead Partner



ARCTIC CENTRE
University of Lapland

Arctic Centre, University
of Lapland
Rovaniemi, Finland



UNIVERSITAT ROVIRA I VIRGILI

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Tarragona, Spain



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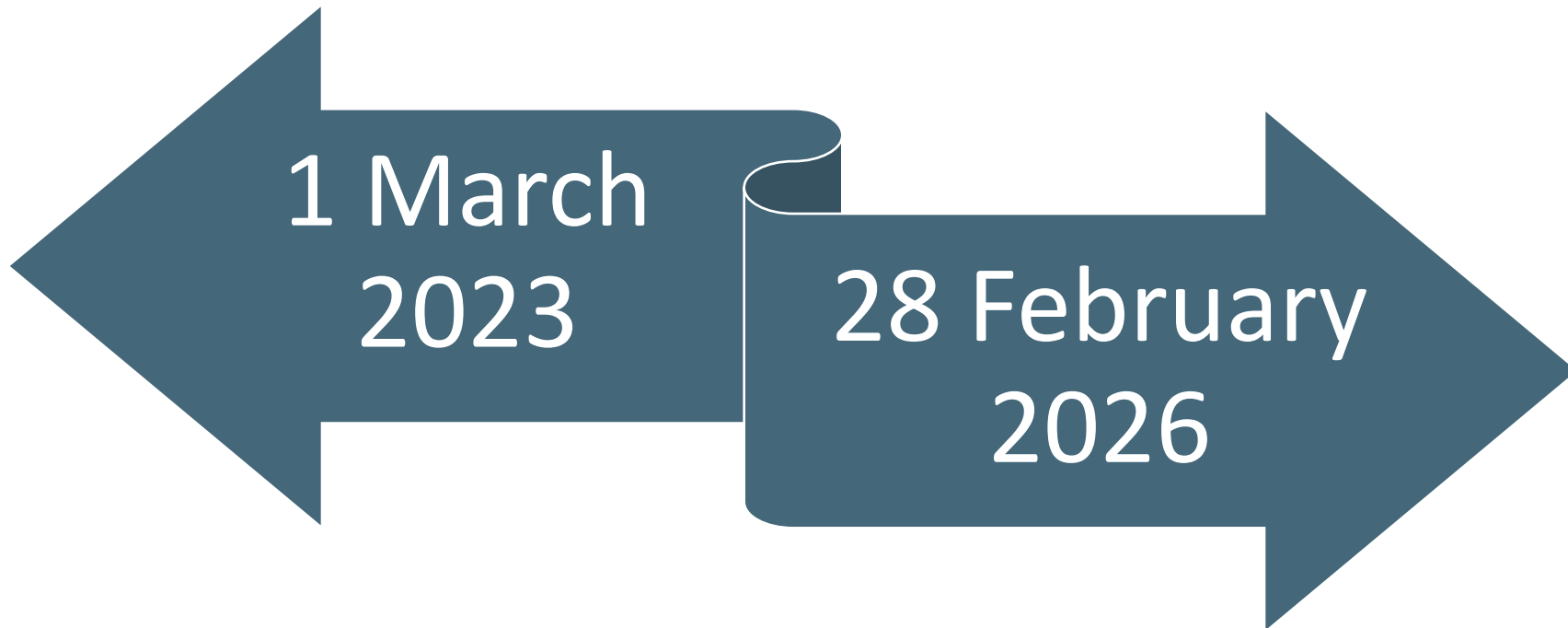
University of Ghent
Ghent, Belgium



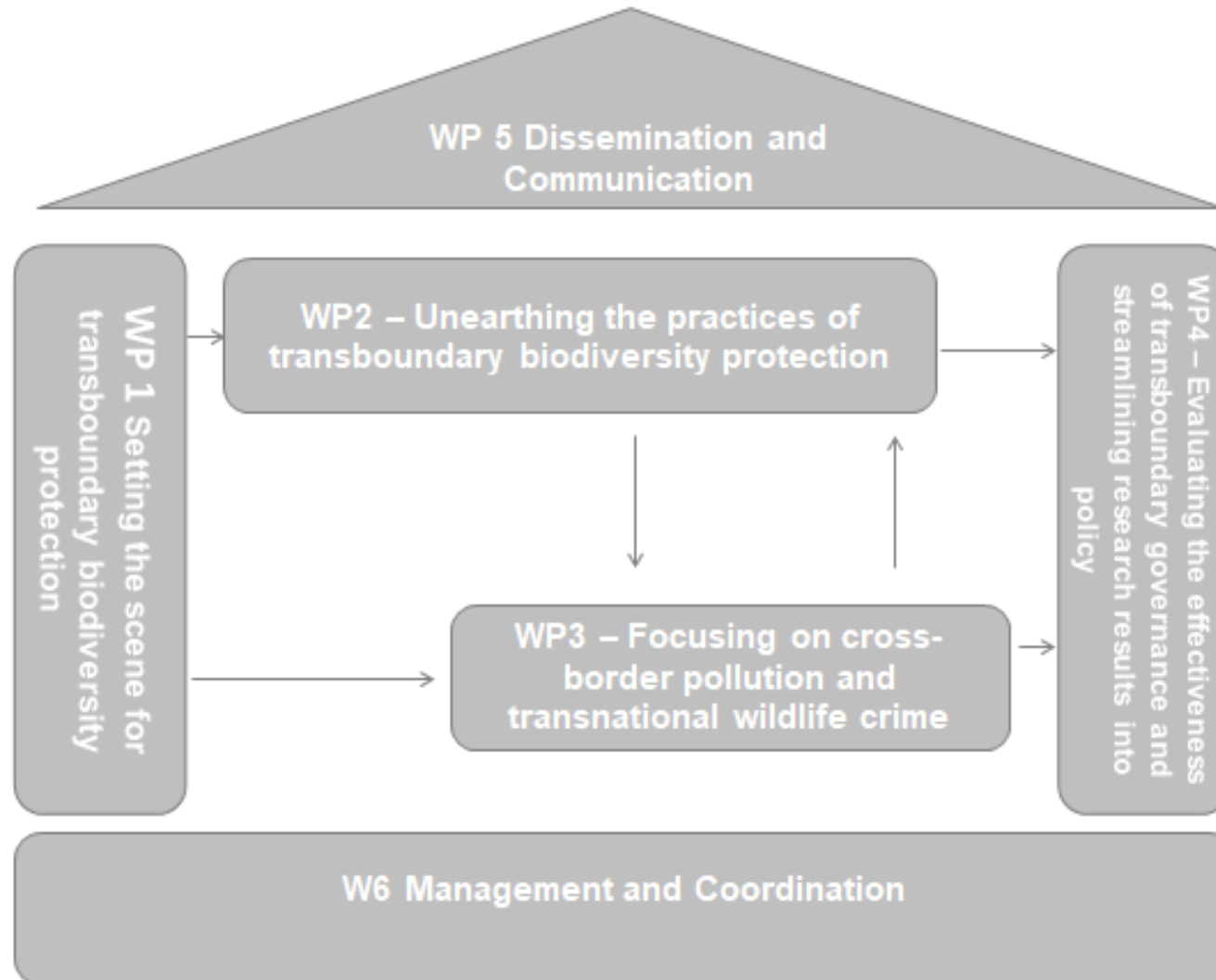
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3. Dates

36 months



7. Work packages



4. Main goals

1. To study the transboundary governance of biodiversity protection
 - a. Which actors
 - b. How they interact
 - c. Whether it has a positive impact on biodiversity

2. To identify successful examples of transboundary biodiversity conservation
<https://www.transnature.eu/map>

1. To improve the transboundary governance of biodiversity protection



TRANSNATURE MAP

by **eurac** research



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Select Continents ▾

Select Countries ▾

Select Ecosystem ▾

Select Classification ▾

Joint Authority

Disclaimer

77 Cases

Ai/Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park

Alaska-Yukon-British Columbia Borderlands

Bavarian Forest and Šumava Transboundary Park

Białowieża Forest

Binational Autonomous Authority of Lake



mapbox

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Source: [Transnature](https://www.transnature.org/)

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Map of case studies



- **1. EGTC ZASNET**
- Spain – Portugal
- **2. Westerschelde**
- Belgium – the Netherlands
- **3. Prealpi Giulie and Triglavski Narodni Parks**
- Italy – Slovenia
- **4. From Baltic to Barents**
- Finland – Norway - Sweden

5. Case studies



1. EGTC ZASNET

Spain – Portugal



2. Westerschelde

Belgium – the Netherlands



3. Prealpi Giulie and Triglavski Narodni Parks

Italy – Slovenia



4. From Baltic to Barents

Finland – Norway - Sweden

Source: [Transnature](https://www.transnature.eu/)



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Spain/Portugal

ZASNET EGTC and transboundary biosphere reserve Meseta Ibérica



Source: [Transnature](#)

ZASNET European Group for Territorial Cooperation and transboundary biosphere reserve Meseta Ibérica

The ZASNET EGTC established in 2010 at the North-Eastern border of Portugal and Spain to cooperate inter alia in the environmental sector.

‘Meseta Ibérica’ as the first Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (TBR) in the framework of the MAB Programme. The TBR embraces natural parks and Natura 2000 sites and ZASNET is its managing authority.

The EGTC as a participatory body to ensure the involvement of civil society/local communities in the governance of this transboundary natural space.



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The Netherlands/Belgium

The Scheldt Estuary



Source: [Transnature](#)

The Scheldt Estuary is situated between the southwest of the Netherlands and the northwest of Flanders, Belgium.

The basin area important for water birds, migrating fish species, porpoises, and diverse rare habitats.

Since the 16th century, several bilateral treaties and committees between Belgian and Dutch authorities to balance ecological governance with the economic interests.

The Scheldt Estuary Development Scheme (2010) has three objectives:

1) safety, 2) accessibility, and 3) natural recovery.



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Italy/Slovenia

Julian Alps: Prealpi Giulie and Triglav parks



Source: [Transnature](#)

Cooperation between the Triglav National Park (Slovenia) and the Prealpi Giulie Natural Park (Italy) started in 1996 aimed at protecting the mountainous habitat.

In 2009, the EUROPARC Federation declared the Triglav National Park and the Prealpi Giulie Natural Park as a transboundary area, the Julian Alps Ecoregion.

The Julian Alps Ecoregion is aimed at protecting and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the area through tourism.

In 2014, the Alpine Convention certified them as a pilot transfrontier region for ecological connectivity. Furthermore, they are currently applying to become a UNESCO MAB Transboundary Biosphere Reserve to reinforce their cooperation.



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Finland/Sweden/Norway

From Baltic to Barents



Source: [Transnature](#)

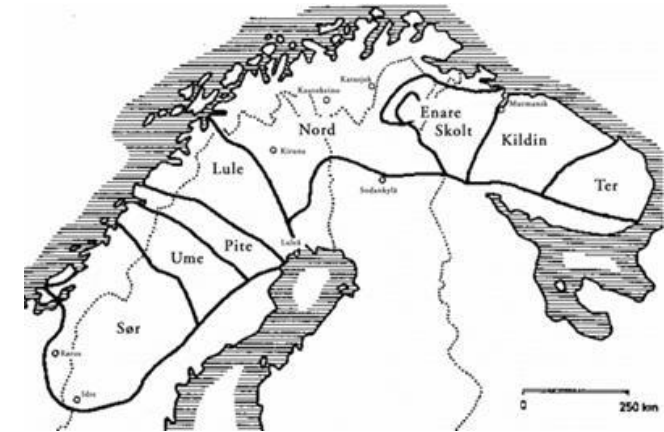
Lapland (Finnish: Lappi) is Finland's northernmost region. It is part of both the **Sámi** homeland and the Barents region.

Its western part is included in the **Meänmaa**, a region that, like **Sápmi**, is not defined by national boundaries.

This case study focuses on the western, northern and eastern border regions of Lapland which include marine protected areas, mountainous habitats, and inland waters.

In these borderlands, rivers provide connections for people and wildlife.

These connections have allowed for cross-border cooperation for the protection of the natural environment. These include border-river management institutions and grassroots efforts involving local communities and indigenous people.



Source: [Transnature](#)



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5.1 Case study - From Baltic to Barents (FI-SWE-NO)

1. Areas of interest

- **Tornionjoki-Muonionjoki river basin**
 - Tornionjoki river as boundary between Finland and Sweden; important spawning river for salmon and anadromous whitefish
 - Finnish-Swedish-Transboundary River Agreement (2009) → established an international river basin district
 - Fishing rule integral part of the Agreement
 - Transboundary River Commission as cross-border cooperation body for e.g. water management and protection
- **Finnish-Norwegian River Basin District (Tana, Neiden, Munkelva, Pasvik)**
 - Joint water management based on Agreement between Finland and Norway establishing a Commission
 - Most of river district is located in Sámi native region
 - Tana river e.g. one of Europe's largest salmon rivers (RAMSAR area)
 - Finnish-Norwegian Tana Monitoring and Research Group, (MoU2010, 2017)



Source: [Transnature](#)



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5.1 Case study - From Baltic to Barents (FI-SWE-NO)

1. Areas of interest

- Haldi Transboundary Cooperation Area

- Located along Finland's, Norway's and Sweden's country border
- Joins Käsivarsi Wilderness Area in Finland and Reisa National Park and Raisduottarhaldi Landscape Protection Area in Norway
- EUROPARC Transboundary Area (Haldi TBA)
- Cooperative management area established in 2020 → cooperation strategy 2021-2030 (with revision scheduled for 2025) aiming to preserve high natural, cultural and recreational values of the area



Source: [Transnature](#)



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6. Methods

1. Empirical Research

- a. Desk research
- b. Map
- c. Interviews and focus groups

2. Stakeholder engagement

- a. Stakeholder engagement meetings
- b. Interviews
- c. Policy recommendations



Thanks for your attention!

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