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Stakeholder engagement, participation and mediative process support

Insights from two case studies in Austria

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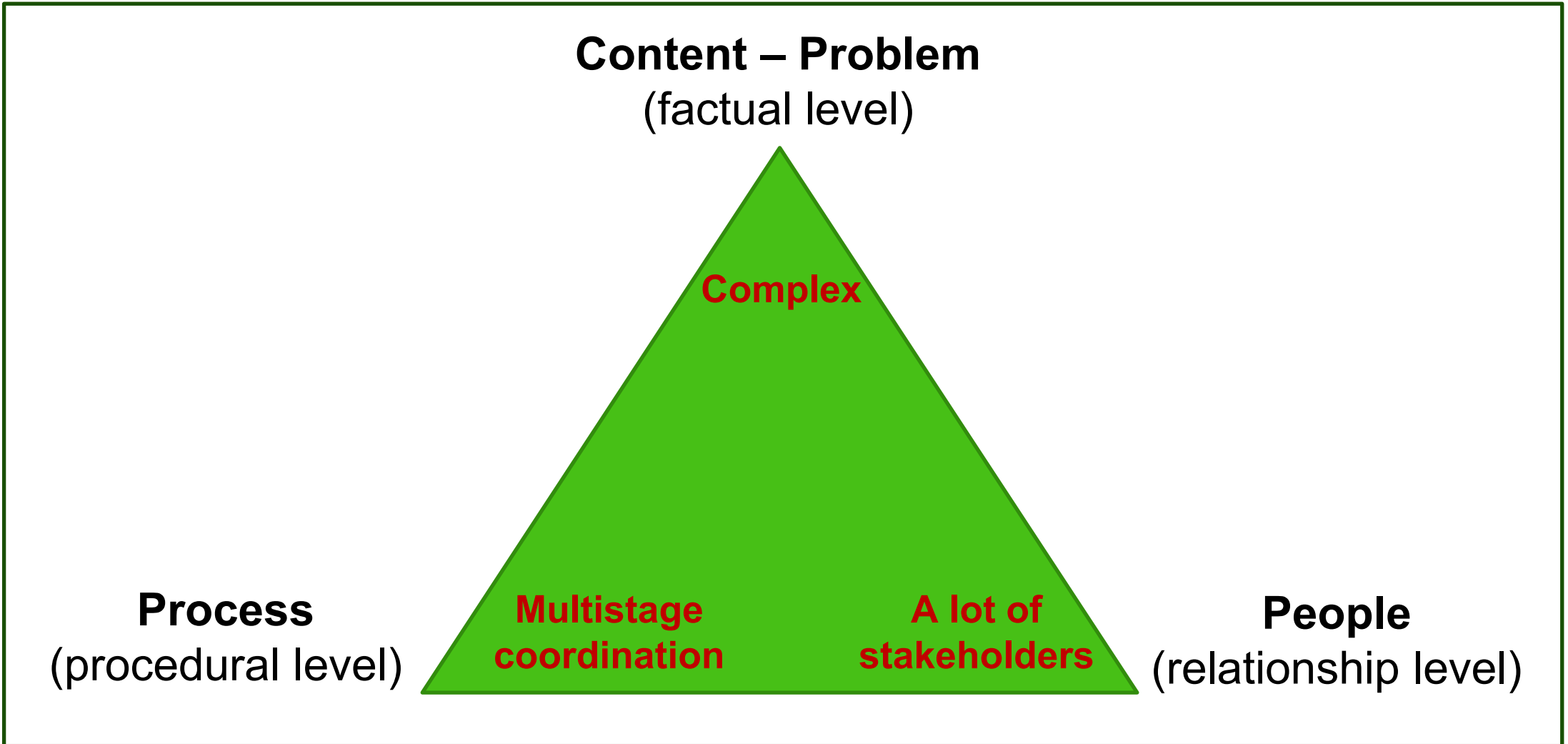
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Participation: Three levels of consideration



Source: Adapted from LechtAlps, based on Moore (1986) and Walker and Daniels (1997: 22).102 and F. Madden, B. McQuinn /Biological Conservation 178 (2014) 97–106

When is external process support and mediation especially helpful?

- Complex setting regarding
(a) content
(b) many different interests
- Many people involved – big groups
- (Highly) conflicted topics or situations



Complexity - Dynamics behind conflicts

Avalanche of topics



Photo: WSL-Institut für Schnee- und Lawinenforschung SLF, adapted by EMC

I - Individual

- values and faith
- habits
- knowledge
- identity
- interests
- needs
- feelings/emotions
- cognitive characteristics
- weighing up the costs and benefits



I



WE



ENVIRONMENT



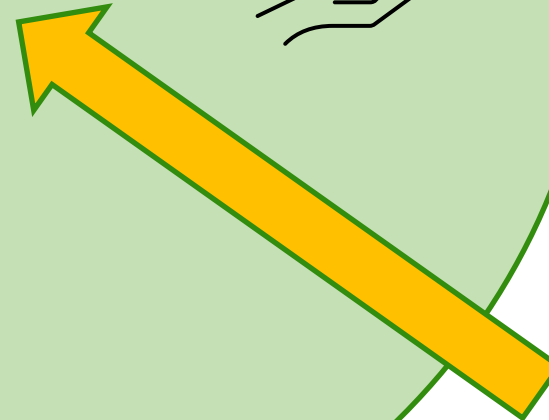
WE – social environment

- social affiliation
- relationships
- social norms



ENVIRONMENT – Physical environment

- time
- space
- environmental factors (e.g. weather)

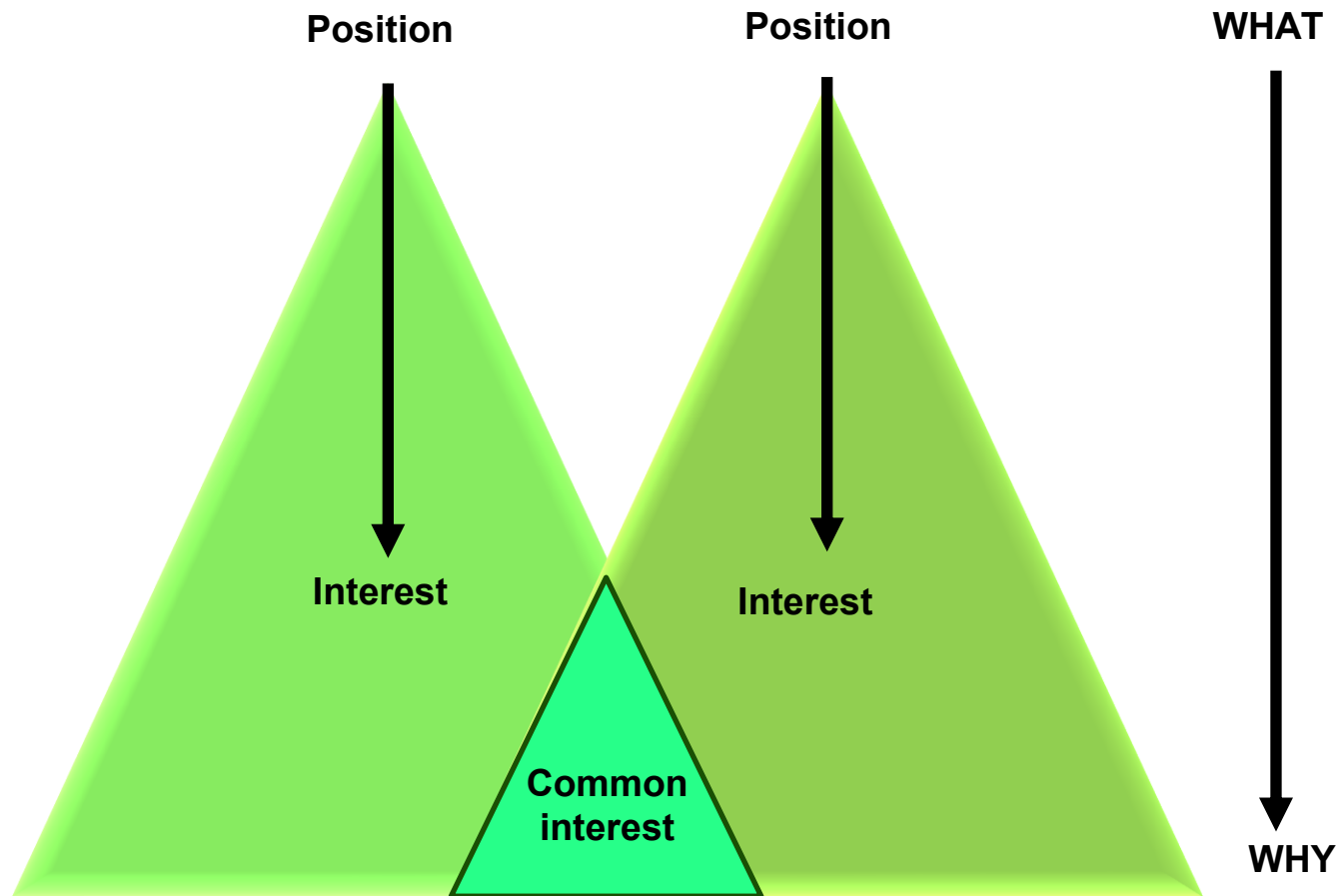


Human
BEHAVIOUR



Method example

Harvard concept – from positions to interests



Case study 1: Mediative process support within the LE-project „Lynx action-plan in Austria“

Objective:

- To carry out preparatory work for a broadly supported species protection project for the lynx (*Lynx lynx*) to enable the long-term survival of the species in Austria.

Specific goals:

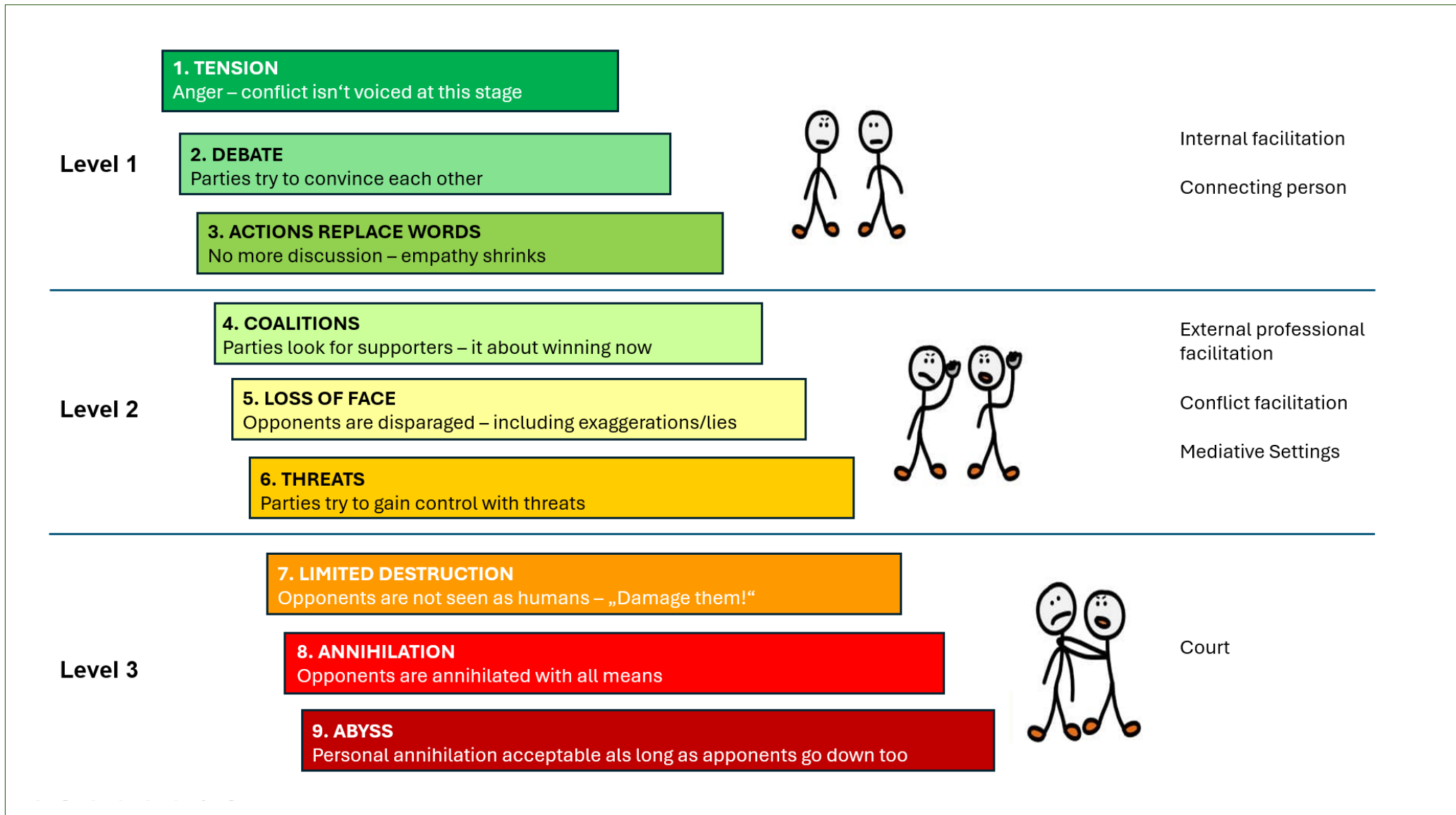
- Involve all relevant stakeholders
- Enable broad exchange and discussion on the topic
- Build trust and cooperation among partners
- Create technical basics
- Develop a joint follow-up project
- PR work

Period: 2022 – 2024

Partners: ÖBf, Stadt Wien, WWF AT and Naturschutzbund AT



Conflict Escalation Model



Method example 2 – When people do not want to speak anymore with each other



<https://keoghmediation.com.au/what-is-shuttle-mediation/>

Case study 2: A multi-stakeholder conflict on Mountainbiking in forests around Innsbruck (AUT)

Objective:

- To establish a participatory process for successful conflict management
- enable nature- and socially compatible cycling in and around Innsbruck

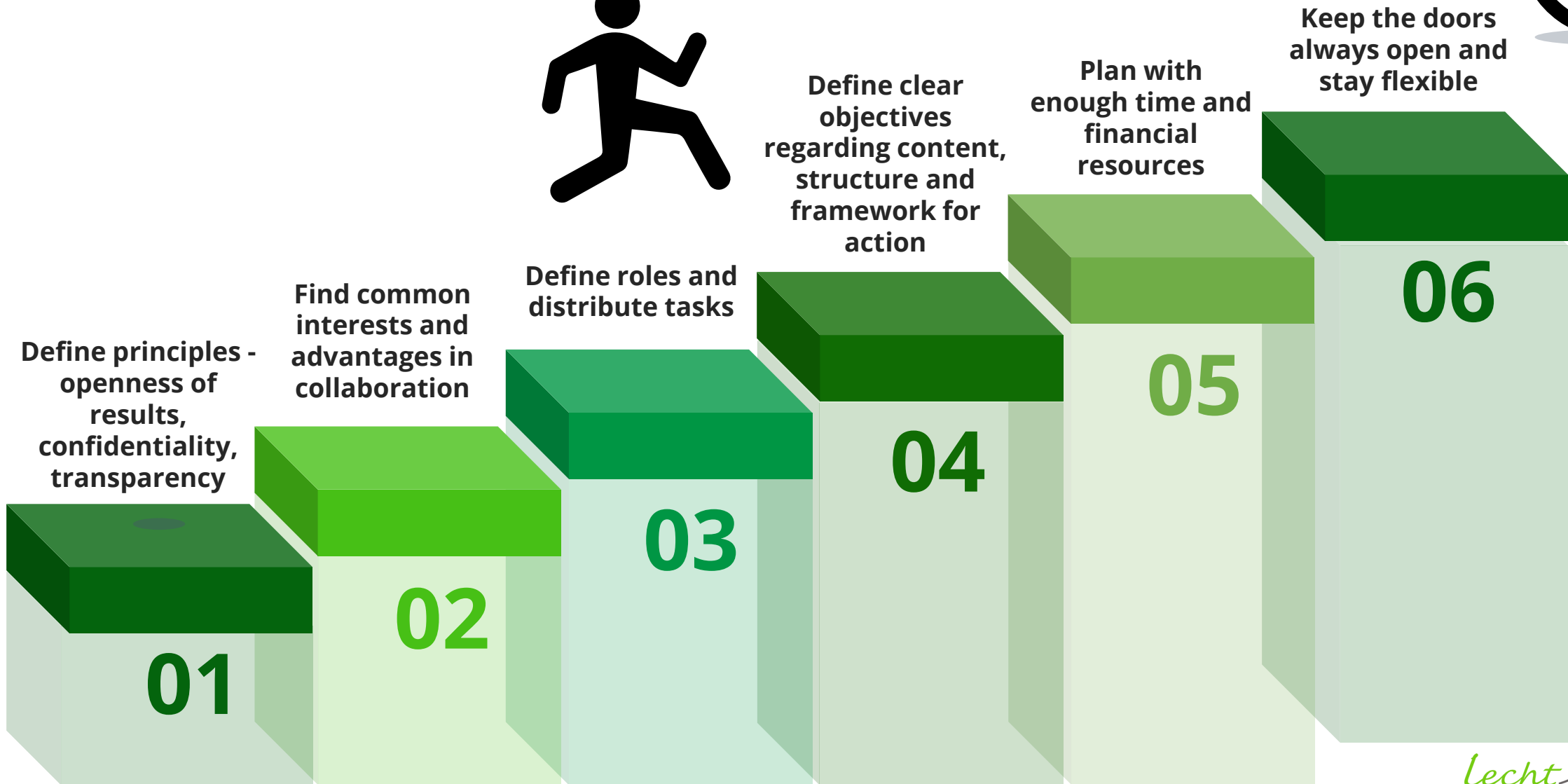
Specific goals:

- Create step by step a trusting, transparent basis for cooperation
- Involve successfully as many affected parties as possible
- Establish viable formats and structures

Period: 2022



Important steps for establishing cooperation



Why focusing on good relationships and resilient networks?



Mediative work in environmental conflicts helps ...

- Reducing conflict escalation and social polarization
- Using techniques for conflict management, de-escalation and process design
- Strengthening the capacities for dialogue and cooperation among involved parties above differences
- Improving social justice in conflict situations
- Establishing resilient networks





Environmental Mediation Initiative



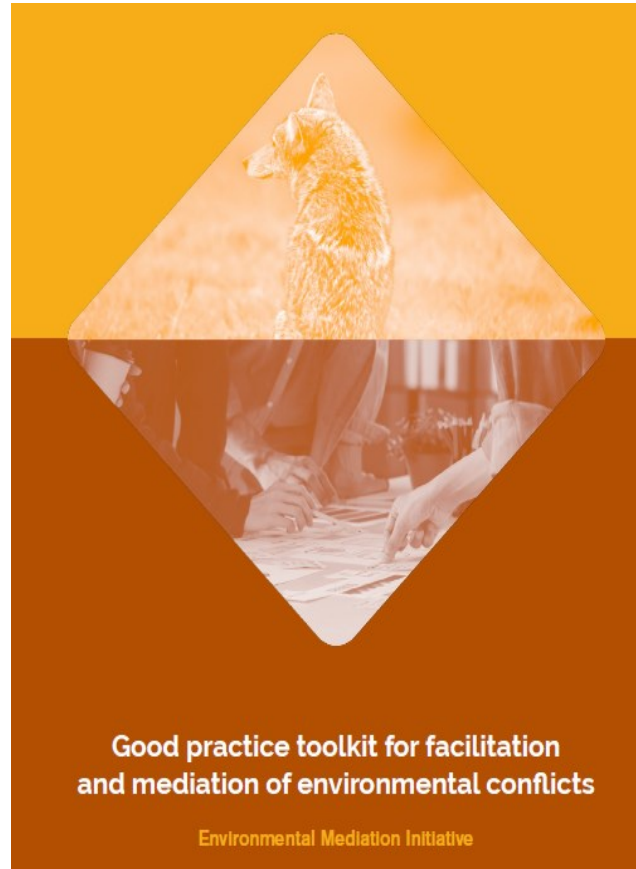
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Environmental Mediation Initiative

New European training curricula for facilitating environmental conflicts.
Erasmus+ - Small-scale partnerships in adult education



Download here:
<https://lechtalps.com/environmental-mediation-initiative/>



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Thanks for your attention!
Questions?

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Mit den Menschen, für die Alpen!

www.LechtAlps.com

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