



The key to staying out of trouble is often within your reach! But, out of laziness or - even worse - arrogance, we ignore it and end up unwillingly paying the price. Poor **Mr Birdwhistle** experienced this first hand, when he saw his dream holiday, which was meant to be a relaxing break from employee work, turn into an actual "life lesson", with a few unexpected bruises. This happens because we would often like to do what we want, without too much effort, and without the effort of following the rules. Moreover, if they are unwritten rules, like the rules of the woods, things become even more complicated. In **Lofty Haven**, however, there are rules, and we decided to put them in writing so people can follow them.

They include **no flying** in the areas where birds of prey make their nests, so that we don't disturb them during brooding. There is also a rule to only ride bicycles on the **designated trails**, avoiding high speed, out of respect for those who prefer to experience nature by walking or picking mushrooms, but also to avoid damaging the trails and the flora and fauna. In the car, especially in mountain areas, driving at **moderate speed** is essential to avoid unpleasant accidents with animals which, following trails unknown to us, may suddenly cross the road. These are just a few examples describing the many possible types of interactions with animals or other

people who use the territory according to patterns that are different from ours - which means that sharing these spaces requires **precise rules**, besides common sense. Understanding that we are not above the natural environment, but rather a part of it, leads us to **respect others**, whether they are humans, animals or plants. This awareness helps us to avoid negative and painful consequences, but it also helps us to see the wonder of this world, full of opportunities that go beyond the "postcard" images in our minds. Our friend Birdwhistle learned this lesson well. Next time, he will surely listen to the advice he receives, and will be happy to return to **Lofty Haven** better informed and ready to discover a shared mountain environment, full of life thanks to being intact in all its parts, and that we are privileged to be able to share.

Have Fun!

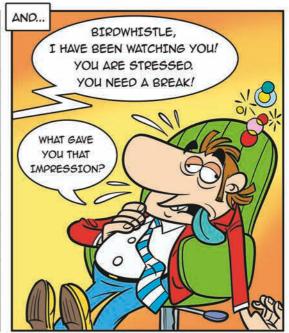
A Respectful COLLEGES

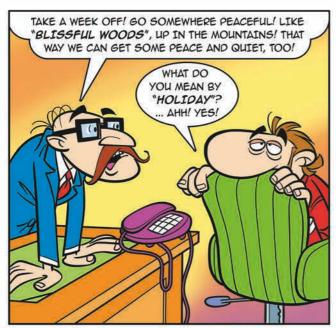
ARTWORK BY MORENO CHISTE - SCRIPT BY NINO RUSSO







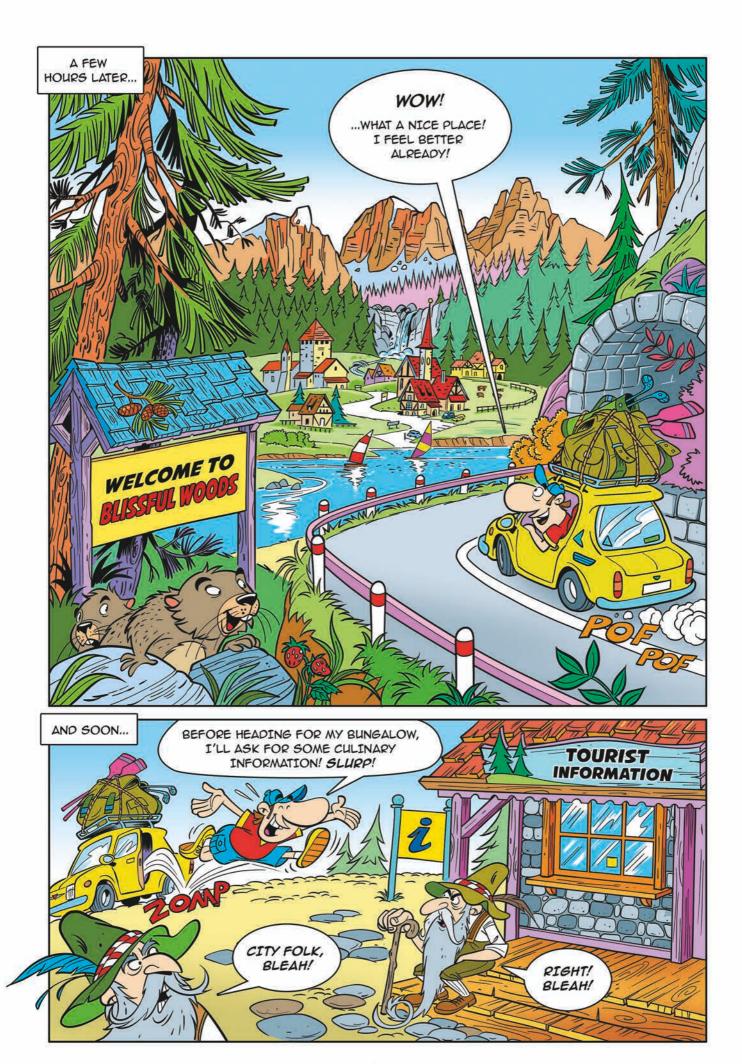


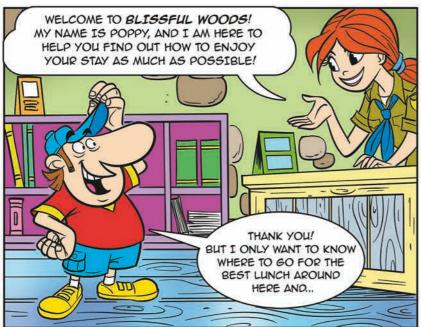




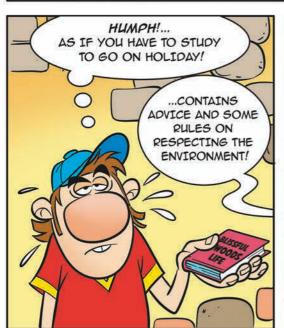








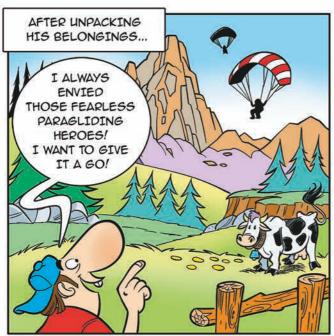


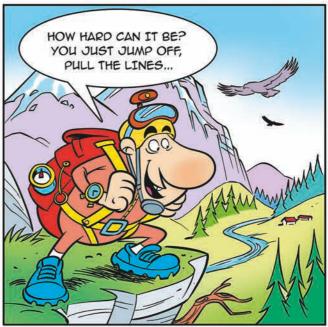














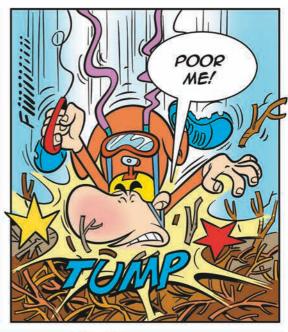




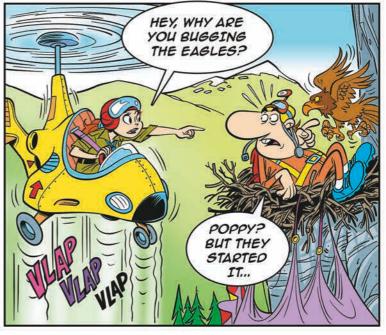






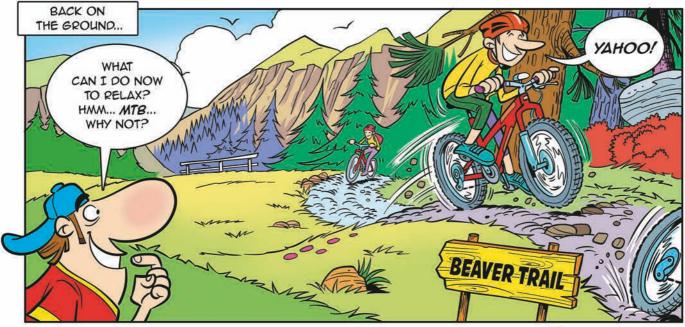






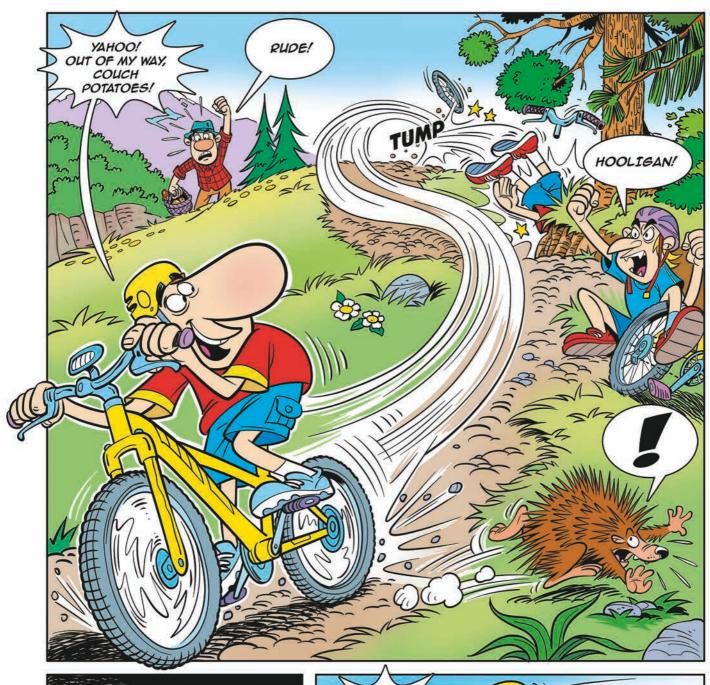




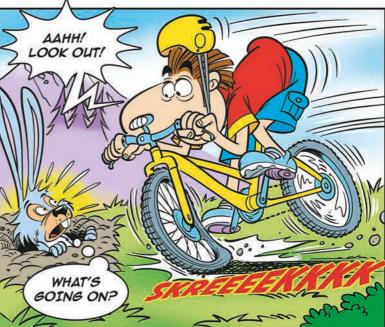


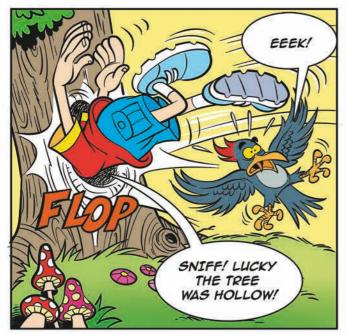


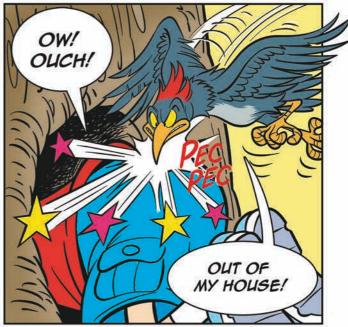


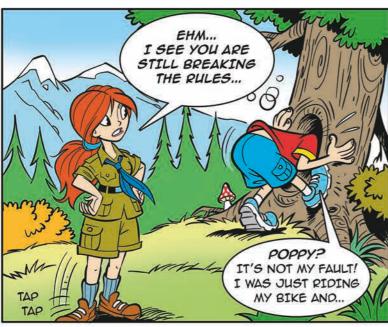


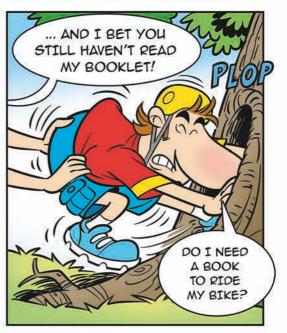




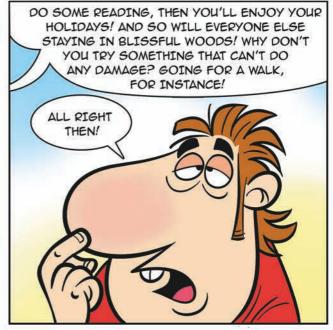








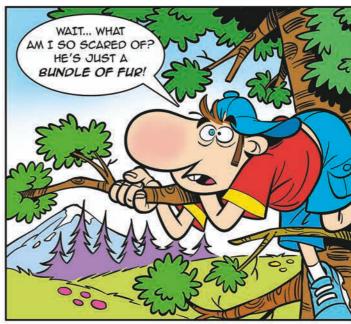








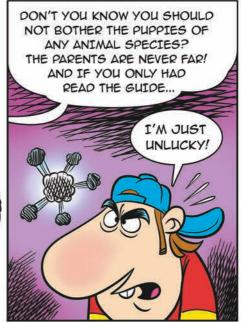




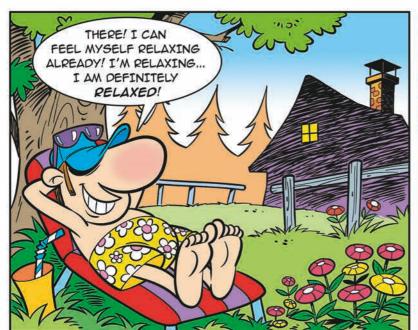




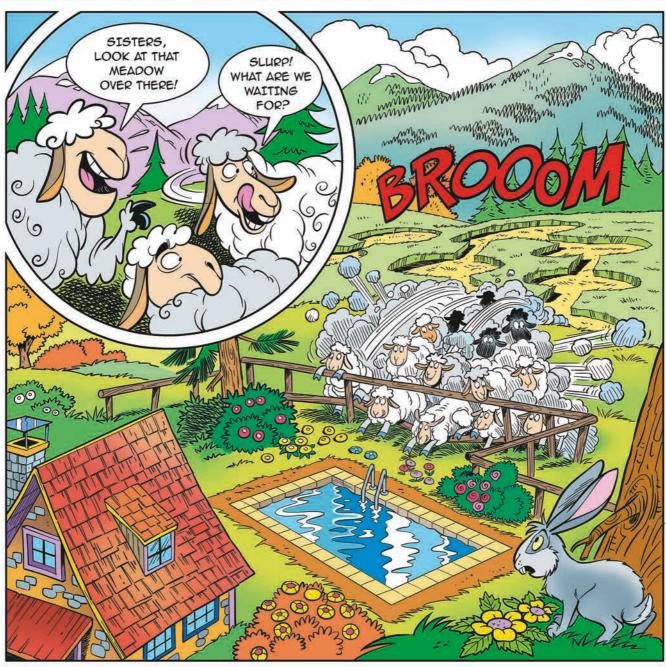




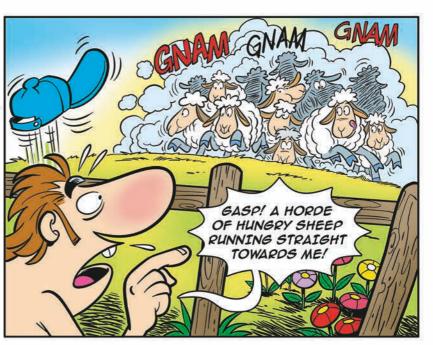


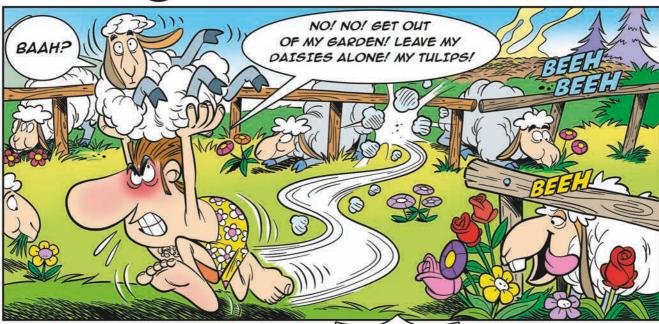


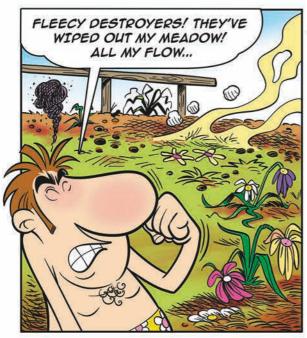


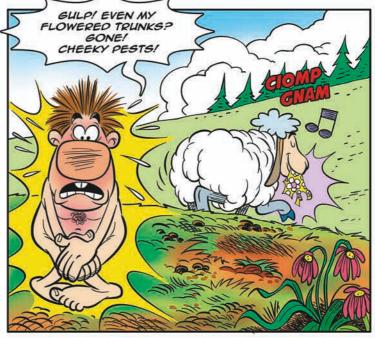














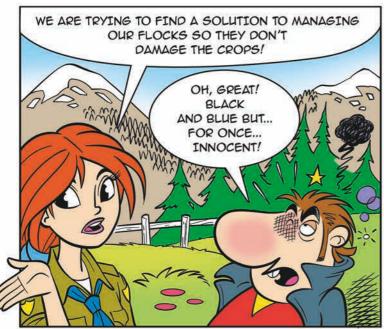


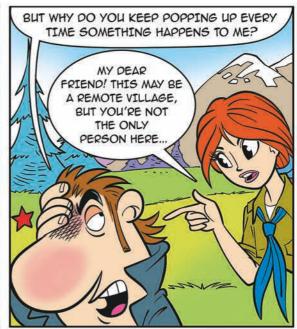


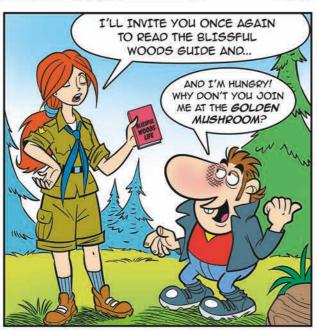






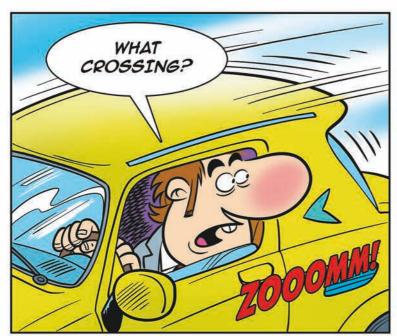






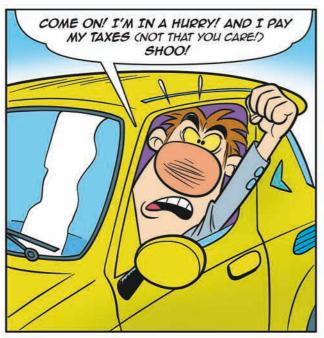












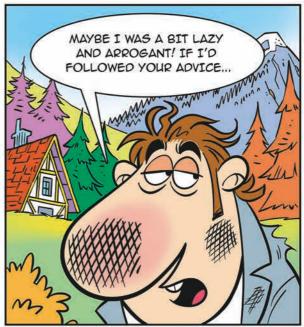






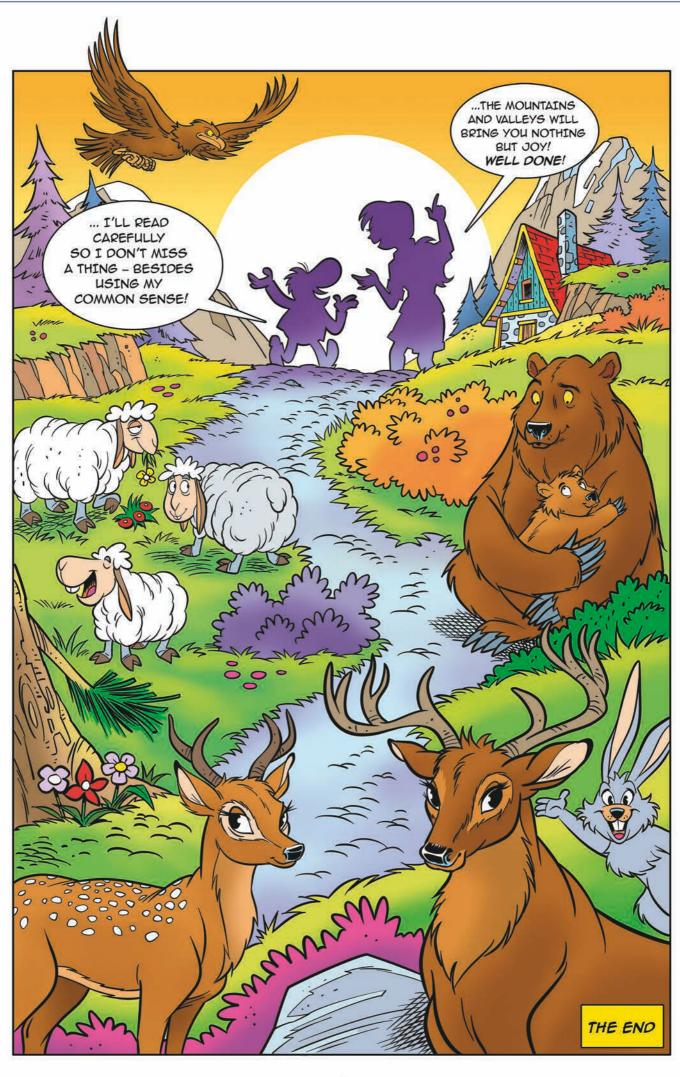














The AlpBioNet2030 Alpine Space project has the main objective of studying the ecological connectivity throughout the Alps, and identifying physical, natural and social barriers that currently prevent concrete implementation throughout the territory.

By ecological connectivity, we mean the discipline that studies the potential of a specific territory to guarantee an *ecological continuum* of natural environments, and at the same time the minimum area required to ensure that flora, fauna, and even human beings may enjoy a **high-quality living space**. In light of this, the project is intended specifically to identify the existing barriers and, at the same time, put forward **concrete measures** capable of overcoming them and building them into a strategy shared by all Alpine towns. This objective was translated into the identification of **Strategic Alpine Connectivity Areas (SACA)**.

In relation to the Work Package Thematic 5 (WPT5), guided by Eurac Research, particular importance was given to the study of social, environmental and economic factors, which may hinder the implementation of actions and projects intended to support ecological connectivity at a local level. The main types of interaction between man and the natural environment that could potentially turn into conflicts were identified. The project areas involved groups of high school students and local stakeholders, in order to explore the level of consciousness and interest, and to open dialogue on the topic.

The work presented here, in the form of an illustrated tale, is intended to capture the attention of the "youngest" (but not only), through a simple and fun form of communication. The objective is to reach a broad public, in order to favour a process of increased awareness and appreciation of the issues concerning wildlife and any possible interactions with man in sharing a limited space.

Through exciting adventures, the leading character deconstructs the idea of a picture-perfect Alpine location, making us aware of the issues linked with possible interactions, as well as of the opportunities provided by living in a biologically intact natural environment. The presence of wildlife emphasises the concept of limiting anthropic activities in the mountains in order to allow free movement to flora and fauna. Accepting the challenge of a limit, correct information and solid motivation are the elements that make coexistence possible.

Based on an idea by Isidoro De Bortoli, Filippo Favilli and Federica Maino, researchers at the Eurac Research Regional Development Institute, coordinators of Work Package 5 of the AlpBioNet2030 Alpine Space project.

Email: Isidoro.debortoli@eurac.edu Email: Filippo.favilli@eurac.edu Email: Federica.maino@eurac.edu

Moreno Chistè

A comic-strip artist and illustrator, he worked for The Walt Disney Company Italia, drawing stories for the "Topolino" (Mickey Mouse) weekly comic book.

He also collaborated with Warner Bros., creating illustrations for the paper processing and merchandising sectors.

He currently works in the licensing sector, designing new brands for international markets.

He lives and works in Trento (Italy).

www.morenochiste.com

https://www.facebook.com/Morenolllustration/

Nino Russo

A screenwriter for The Walt Disney Company Italia, he is one of the most prolific writers of Disney stories, with more than 1000 of them.

Aside from this business, he also works on projects dedicated to publishing of children's books.

He lives and works in Milan (Italy).

Email: ninovartis2@libero.it





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