

INTER-RELATIONAL TERRITORIES

a new interplay between pre- and inner-alpine areas for future water use

The status quo of the Alpine region is characterized by overexploitation of water-intensive economies. Especially hydropower generation and ski tourism are spread out extensively over the region and thereby influence the river ecosystem in up- and downstream areas. Consequently, the cultural landscape is almost completely covered with over- and underground infrastructure. This extreme socio-technical system is leading to an increasingly alienated relation between human and nature, resulting in negative externalities for the river ecosystem and human wellbeing. Additionally, effects of climate change are leading to an overall decreased availability of freshwater, but also a seasonal changing run-off pattern. This conflict of interest between water-intensive economies and the river ecosystem itself asks for an adaptive development paradigm considering the interrelations between pre- and inner alpine areas. Thereby, the European strategy for the alpine region (EUSALP) established the starting point of this graduation project. With a focus on aforementioned water-related issues, this graduation thesis aims to detect the potentials of EUSALP to develop a more socio-ecological resilient relationship between pre-alpine areas and its surrounding agglomeration belt.

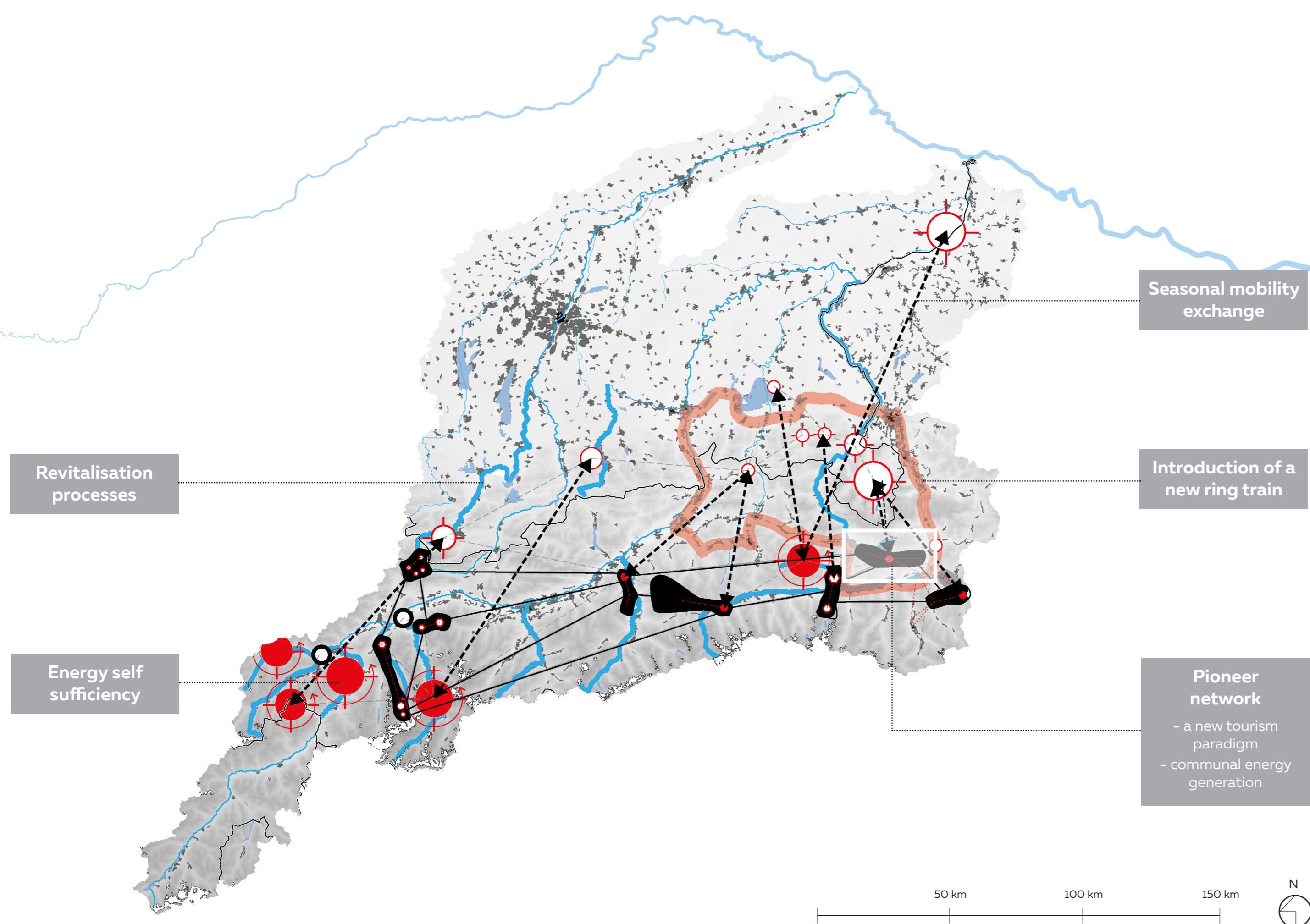
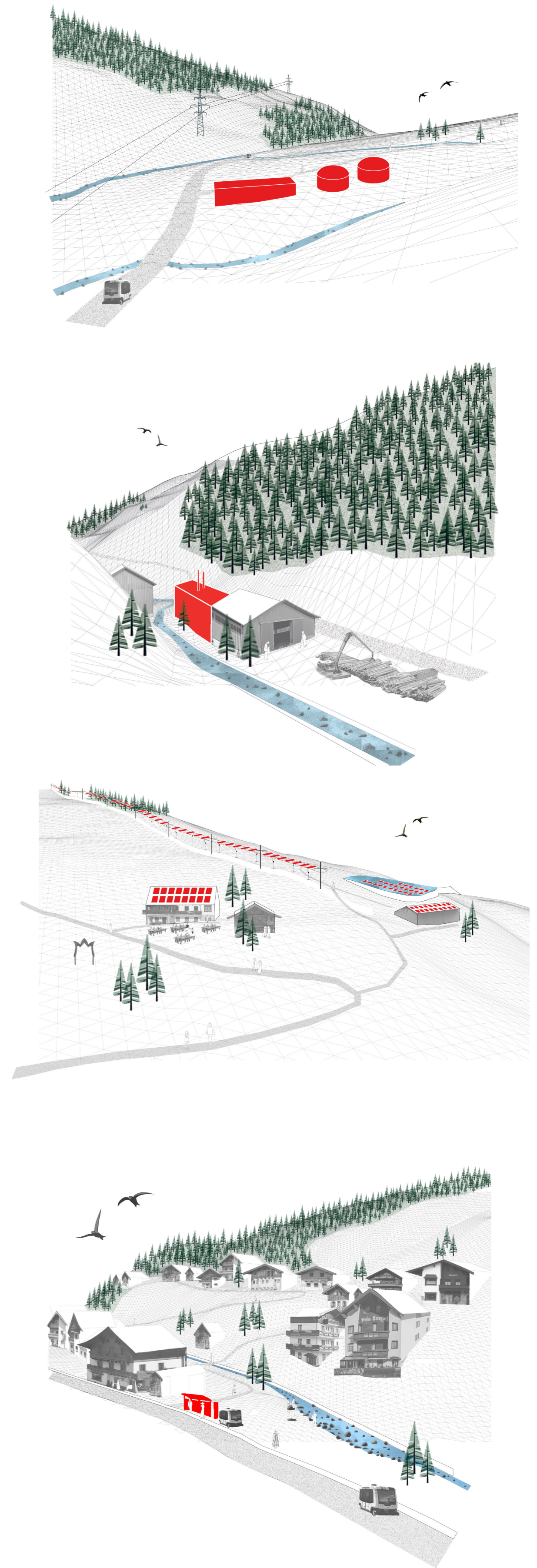
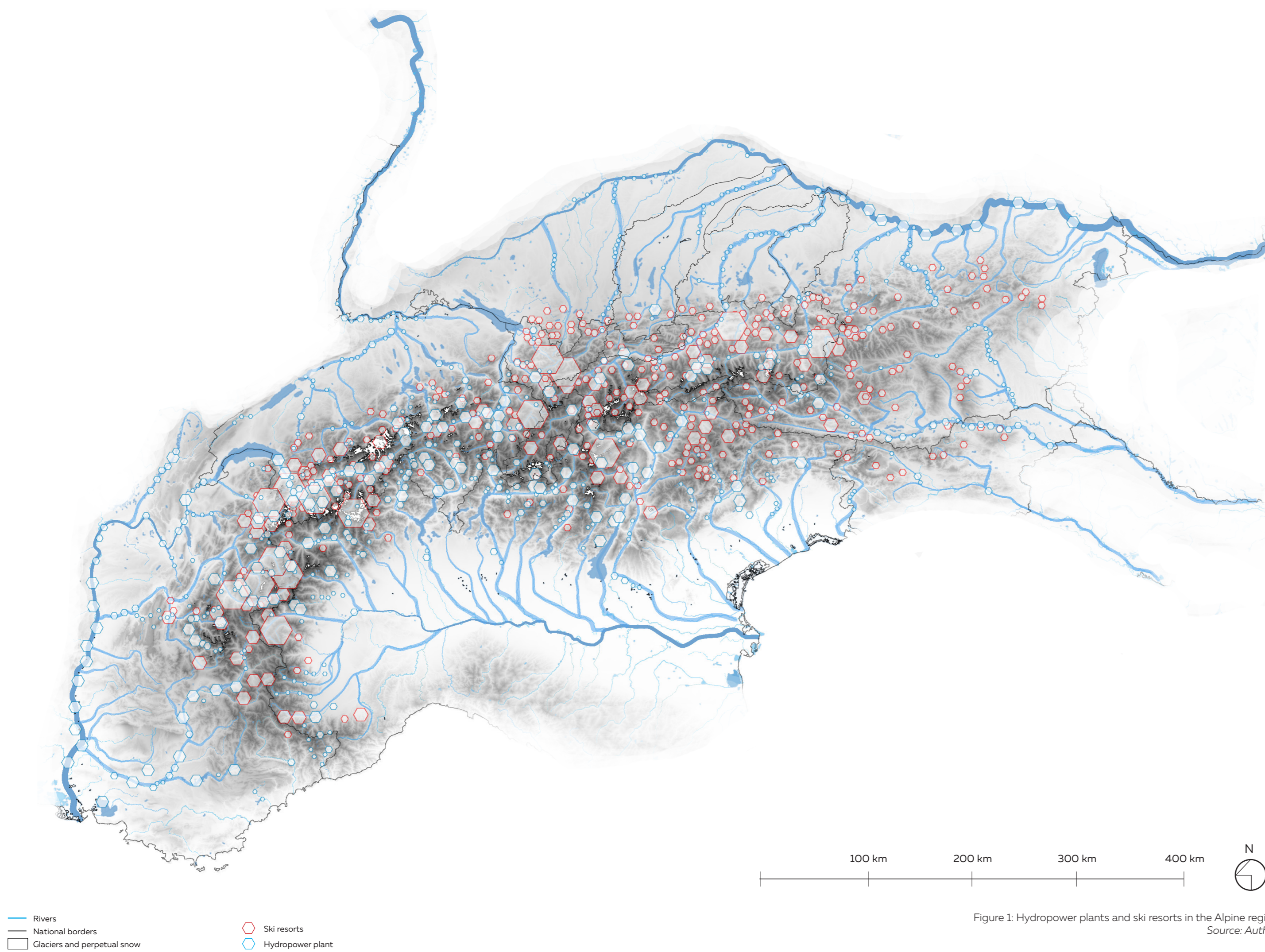


Figure 3: Strategic design interventions in pioneer network location 'Hochkönig'
Source: Author