



An Alpine Macro Regional Strategy at the heart of the future EU funding programmes

Concrete recommendations to managing authorities and EUSALP representatives

The **EU Macro Regional Strategies Week** was held in Brussels from the 17th to the 21st February 2020. Organised by the European Commission's DG REGIO, this Week gave rise to a large number of thematic seminars and conferences dedicated to the priorities of the four European macro regions.

On this occasion, the French Presidency of the Strategy for the Alpine Region organised on the 19th and the 20th February, in cooperation with DG REGIO, a specific event on **embedding European Union Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP) main priorities in the framework of the European funding programmes** (structural funds but also directed managed programmes) for the next programming period 2021-2027.

The event brought together many representatives of the managing authorities of the Alpine countries covered by EUSALP, the European Commission as well as of EUSALP and the other European macro stakeholders. The sessions highlighted concrete and operational recommendations aiming to improve the coordination between the Alpine Strategy and structural funds as well as to clarify and amplify the existing synergies between EUSALP priorities and those of the thematic EU funding programmes.

These recommendations are distributed into broad categories and translated into concrete actions.

- ➔ Invite managing authorities to **integrate the major Alpine issues in the future EU funding programmes** for 2021-2027
- ➔ Develop technical and political **exchanges at the macro regional level**
- ➔ Better **mobilise EU funding**
- ➔ Reinforce **capitalization, visibility and communication** of the Strategy



Invite managing authorities to integrate the major Alpine issues in the future EU funding programmes for 2021-2027, giving priority to some key sectors, such as:

On innovation and economic development

- Support cooperation and development of the **promising sectors** (hydrogen, bio economy), identified in the S3 as well as technological platforms set up to develop innovation in the Alpine region ;
- Set up a **macro regional university system** in order to strengthen collaboration between Alpine universities;
- Work on an **Agro-biodiversity plan** to preserve regional heritage and develop new sustainable food chains;
- Diversify the **tourist offer**, in particular towards health and wellness tourism as well as towards sustainable four-season tourism.

On competences

- **Insist on the adoption of an agreement following the Bologna Process model** in order to achieve mutual recognition of provided trainings while allowing for fair comparison;
- **Promote apprenticeships in companies** from the Alpine region in order to transform apprenticeships into a real access road to the professional world.

On Green transition

- Mobilise EUSALP to contribute to the **implementation of the European Green Deal** and increase interventions in future programmes on climate change and its mitigation, risk prevention, circular economy, preservation of resources and alpine region biodiversity;
- Support **green infrastructures and the establishment of a network of ecological corridors** in future EU funding programmes;
- **Improve peatland management across the Alps** in order to reinforce climate change adaptation and mitigation capacities;
- Ensure multifunctional and environmentally sound management of mountain forests and **strengthen forests' adaptation to changing weather conditions**;
- **Develop tools to improve natural risks management at the local level**, particularly regarding transfers of good practices;
- **Create an Alpine Energy Observatory capable of collecting and exploiting data on energy consumption and production** in the different regions composing EUSALP, but also of providing animation and advice to actors of the Alpine macro region.

On mobility and digital

- **Support the shift from road to rail transport** as the Alpine region is particularly affected by road transit;
- **Connect people living outside TEN-T networks** by taking into account secondary transport networks in the EU funding programmes and by improving access to public transport outside national and/or regional borders;
- Encourage cross-border mobility;
- Support the transition towards alternative fuels in order to combat pollution;
- **Accelerate digital transition** in the Alpine region, especially **in villages and in SMEs**.

Develop technical and political exchanges at the macro regional level

- Provide managing authorities with precise and regular information on the main EUSALP actions;
- **Create a directory** based on the "Who is Who" model **gathering the contact details of the main EUSALP actors** as well as of the Alpine macro region programmes managing authorities;
- **Organise targeted meetings** with the participation of experts and stakeholders, during the year of EUSALP French Presidency and later on, in order to improve the understanding and **technical coordination** on EUSALP priority topics;
- **Create a space** on the EUSALP website **where the Alpine managing authorities can share the first versions of operational programmes**, studies, territorial diagnoses, and more widely, any programming document they consider interesting to share with other managing authorities and EUSALP actors;
- **Set up a network of structural funds managing authorities (or several thematic networks)**, whose meetings would be organised on a rotating basis by the country holding the EUSALP Presidency, in order to exchange on EUSALP activities, on the calendars of the next calls for proposals of interest for EUSALP, on the identification of flagship projects ;
- **Encourage the participation** of EUSALP representatives **in the operational programmes monitoring committees and task force meetings for preparation of next generation of programmes.**

Better mobilise EU funding

- **Set up concrete experimentations** such as for example **the launch of joint or coordinated calls for proposals** on EUSALP key issues;
- **Exploit more the opportunities offered by the EU funding programmes managed directly by the European Commission** (Horizon Europe, Life, Connecting Europe Facility, etc.), by organising transnational information days on strategic calls (e.g. smart mountains, etc.), or by creating "transnational contact points" that can inform and accompany the setting up of European projects across the EUSALP space.

Reinforce capitalization, visibility and communication on the Strategy

- Develop **specific communication** by EUSALP on the **projects supported by operational programmes and with macro regional relevance**;
- Include on the EUSALP website links to Alpine countries and regions' websites of the operational programmes and, if possible, promote on it calls for proposals of interest for EUSALP actors;
- **Promote the EUSALP website and its virtual platform as places for exchanges** between different stakeholders.

