



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
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WEBINAR OUTCOMES: EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

7 July 2025



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Alpine Space

As part of its capacity-building programme, the EUSALP Secretariat organised a series of four webinars focused on EU funding opportunities in May/June/July 2025. The fourth episode was held on 7 July and focused on **labour market**. Entitled “*EU funding opportunities for labour market development*”, this session explored how Alpine stakeholders can strategically mobilise Erasmus+ to address the pressing challenges facing employment ecosystems in the macro-region.

Why Erasmus+ Matters for Alpine Employment Strategies

Erasmus+ is the European Union’s flagship programme to support learning mobility, cooperation and policy development in the fields of education, training, youth, and sport. Far from being limited to student exchange, it offers structured opportunities for a wide range of organisations: schools, VET providers, universities, NGOs, local authorities, public employment services, and businesses.

In the Alpine macro-region, where many territories are confronted with structural skill mismatches, recruitment difficulties, youth unemployment and sectoral transitions (in energy, tourism, agriculture, or care), Erasmus+ provides a powerful framework to invest in people and build territorial resilience through lifelong learning.

Understanding the Erasmus+ Framework: From Mobility to Structural Cooperation

The programme is structured around three Key Actions, each supporting different types of initiatives.

Key Action 1 (KA1) supports the mobility of individuals in education and training. For the labour market, this means short-term or accredited projects that enable adult learners, jobseekers, trainers, and professionals to take part in mobility experiences across Europe. These projects are an excellent entry point for local organisations, such as training centres, rural development bodies, or employment services to develop small-scale, highly targeted interventions that address inclusion, skills acquisition, and professional reintegration. They are managed by the Erasmus+ National Agencies in each Member State and generally follow simplified administrative procedures.

Key Action 2 (KA2) focuses on cooperation among organisations and institutions. This action funds projects that bring together education and enterprise actors to co-create solutions, transfer innovation, and jointly address common challenges. At local or regional level, KA2 can support partnerships between Alpine training providers and businesses; at transnational level, it enables cross-border alliances to develop new curricula, pilot mobility schemes, or launch digital learning tools adapted to mountain

territories. These projects can range from small-scale partnerships to large Alliances for Innovation.

Key Action 3 (KA3) supports system-level reform, public policy experimentation, and the testing of new governance models. It is particularly relevant for institutions aiming to influence national or regional skills strategies and often requires higher administrative capacity.

For a full overview of open calls and past funded projects, participants were encouraged to explore the [Erasmus+ Project Results Platform](#) and the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Project Design Starts with Local Priorities

One of the core messages of the session was the importance of starting with clear, locally rooted needs, and translating them into scalable project formats. Erasmus+ offers flexible tools that can be adapted to various levels of intervention: from short mobility experiences to long-term structural cooperation.

To navigate this complexity, participants were strongly encouraged to contact their national Erasmus+ agency, which plays a central role in project support, training, and funding guidance. Agencies also provide access to preparatory workshops, info days, success stories, and methodological advice. In most cases, early dialogue with the agency is the best way to validate the project’s eligibility, understand deadlines, and identify the right Key Action and budget format.

From Ideas to Action: Building a Skilled and Resilient Alpine Workforce

The webinar concluded with a collective reflection on the challenges facing Alpine territories. Priority themes identified included digitalisation, remote work, twin transition (green and digital), youth integration, and the transformation of jobs in sectors under pressure.

Concept notes, references, and slides are available upon request and can serve as a starting point for any organisation willing to engage with the Erasmus+ programme to strengthen labour market inclusion, develop skills and foster cross-border cooperation in the Alpine space.

Contact

Francesca La Greca, EUSALP Policy Officer, together with the external Policy Advisors, remains available to provide further information or support upon request.