



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
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WEBINAR OUTCOMES: EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENERGY AND MOBILITY TRANSITION IN THE ALPS

27 May 2025



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Alpine Space

As part of its capacity-building programme, the EUSALP Secretariat organised a series of webinars focused on EU funding opportunities in the first half of 2025. The first episode was held on 27 May and focused on the topics of energy and mobility.

EU funding programmes

Keynote speaker Igor Idareta, Team Leader at Zabala Innovation, gave an overview of the central EU programmes for energy and mobility:

- **Horizon Europe** is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation. It funds collaborative projects that must have a minimum of three entities from three different countries. Projects are 100% funded, with the exception of Innovation Actions where for-profit entities are funded at 70%.
- **LIFE** is dedicated exclusively to the Environment and Climate Action. Projects are not focused on R&D activities but mostly on demonstration. The Clean Energy Transition sub-programme funds capacity building actions with grants covering up to 95% of project costs.
- **Connecting Europe Facility** funds targeted infrastructure investment in energy and transport, including alternative fuels infrastructure. Over €30 billion is available in the period 2021-2027.
- **Innovation Fund** is focused on the deployment of innovative technologies in energy intensive industries, renewables, energy storage, carbon capture and net-zero mobility and buildings.
- **Interreg Europe** is an interregional cooperation programme. No new calls will be opened during the current programming period (2021-2027), however, Interreg Europe provides free, tailor-made expert support services on energy related topics in the form of peer reviews and matchmakings.

Topics of interest

Participants were asked to share their priority topics to identify themes of common interest. The following clusters could be identified during the discussion.

Energy communities

Energy communities are collective initiatives that empower citizens to participate in the energy transition, enabling them to produce, consume, and manage renewable energy locally. Participants that expressed an active interest in energy communities were: Etienne Viénot (AURA-EE), Chiara Bertolin (NTNU), Stefan Drexelmeier (Energiewende Oberland), and Alwin Bubendorfer. Relevant open calls include:

- [Support services for energy communities](#) (LIFE-2025-CET-ENERCOM) Deadline: 23 September 2025.
- [Innovative tools and services to manage and empower energy communities](#) (HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-20) Deadline: 17 February 2026

- [Strategic Nature and Integrated Projects \(SNAP/SIP\)](#) (LIFE-2025-STRAT-two-stage) Deadline: 4 September 2025 (first stage)
- [European Energy Communities Facility](#) Deadline: 30 September 2025

Climate adaptation

Adaptation is crucial for energy and mobility systems to ensure infrastructure resilience, minimise disruptions, and support economic stability amid increasing climate-related risks like floods and heatwaves. Participants that expressed an active interest in the topic were: Nicolas Schmid (INFRAS) and Patrick Skonieczki (EGTC Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino). Relevant open calls include:

- [Adaptation to Climate Change: Effectiveness and Limits](#) (HORIZON-CL5-2025-05-Two-Stage-D1-05) Deadline: 4 September 2025 (first stage)
- [Supporting regions and local authorities in assessing climate risks](#) (HORIZON-MISS-2025-01-CLIMA-01) Deadline: 24 September 2025
- [Testing and demonstrating innovative solutions to improve resilience to extreme heat, including addressing health impacts](#) (HORIZON-MISS-2025-01-CLIMA-04) Deadline: 24 September 2025
- [Supporting regional and local authorities in developing their Action Plans towards climate resilience](#) (HORIZON-MISS-2025-01-CLIMA-02) Deadline: 24 September 2025
- [Climate Change Adaptation](#) (LIFE-2025-SAP-CLIMA-CCA) Deadline: 23 September 2025

Additional topics

Participants expressed many other topics of interest during the discussions, which can be summarised here: **energy storage, energy poverty, decarbonisation of mobility and inclusive mobility** (Etienne Viénot, AURA-EE), **energy sufficiency** (Valentina Dalon, Eurac Research), **hydropower** (Nicolas Schmid, INFRAS), **hydrogen territorial aspects** (Sylvain Guetaz, AURA-EE), **sustainable mobility and modal shift** (Elena Landi, Aosta Valley), **energy renovation, district heating and one-stop-shops** (Stefan Drexelmeier, Energiewende Oberland).

Next steps

Francesca La Greca, EUSALP Policy Officer, closed the webinar and outlined the next steps. Now that the first step has been made to identify clusters of common topics, participants were encouraged to contact the EUSALP Technical Secretariat TSS in order to be connected with peers working on the same topic and where possible receive support towards the funding applications.

