

EUSALP 13th Meeting

Action Group 4 Mobility 28th of April 2020, Virtual Meeting

Opening

Patrick Skonieczki as representative from the Action Group Lead (AGL) warmly welcomed everyone expressing appreciation for everyone's high level of punctuality. He gave some technical instructions to allow for a smooth online conference. P. Skonieczki (AGL) shortly introduced the new AGL team for the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, welcoming Michael Bürger and the new intern, Carole Bidaine. Apart from that, AG4 also has a new member, Thierry Müller from the Swiss canton of Grisons/Graubünden, a region characterised by its many national borders.

AG4 State of Play

As there were no changes proposed, the [agenda of the 13th AG4 Meeting](#) was **approved** by all participants. Nevertheless, due to technical challenges, the initial order of agenda topics had to be spontaneously modified several times over the course of the meeting. The agenda point on LinkingAlps unfortunately could not be treated at all on the day of the meeting because of technical issues, which is why it was postponed to the next AG4 Meeting.

The AGL began providing an insight into [the Alpine Platform of Knowledge \(PoK\) for Mobility and Transport](#). It is an interactive tool showing all AG4-relevant data. Once new results are produced, they are added to the platform. As such, the PoK already gathers data from the [Conflict Map](#), the [ARPAF CrossBorder Mobility Project](#), the various other studies already carried out by AG4 as well as data on transalpine traffic indicators generated by the iMONITRAF! Network since 2005. The idea is to provide a communication tool for mobility-related issues in the Alpine Region that is easy to use and as complete as possible. The PoK for Mobility and Transport can be accessed via the EUSALP AG4 website, available for everyone. AG4 members are encouraged to communicate this tool to their colleagues or other potentially interested parties.

As the circumstances made it difficult to carry out the usual tour de table, the AGL proceeded to give a broad update on **AG4 activities since the last meeting** in Genoa in October 2019.

- There has been a range of events attended by the AGL such as [the EUSALP Communication Workshop](#) or the [EUSALP Annual Forum](#).
- The [EUSALP presidency](#) has been handed over from Italy to France, for which the kick-off took place on the 4th and 5th of February in Lyon.
- A scientific article titled "Boosting Cross-Border Regions Through Better Cross-Border Transport Services" is soon to be published.

- A workshop proposal for the [EU Week of Regions and Cities](#) (12-15 October in Brussels) has been submitted in the name of the EGTC European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino, together with other strategic partners including Région Sud-PACA and CIPRA International. The link to EUSALP AG4 is demonstrated in the application form. There appears to be great interest in cross-border commuting, which is why the results of the CrossBorder project will be presented in a 90 minute workshop. If travelling to Brussels is not an option, there will be an online meeting. Matteo Brumati (Piedmont) adds that another session on EUSALP mobility was submitted by the French Presidency on alternative fuels.

Xavier Garcia (AGL Région Sud-PACA) informed about the **upcoming AG4 events**:

- The initially planned 14th AG4 meeting at the end of June in Marseille is postponed due to the COVID-19. Instead, there will be a video conference on alternative fuels on 23 June.
- The 14th AG4 Meeting is re-scheduled for the 7th – 8th September (lunch to lunch) in Nice. If not possible physically, the meeting will be again in an online format. Xavier ensures that the location of the meeting should be easy to reach for everybody, noting that it is only five minutes away from the airport and directly connected to the railway station.
- The annual Mobility Conference has been re-scheduled for the 3rd of November 2020. The focus will lie on decarbonized transport and alternative fuels. Registration for the conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. After lunch, a boat-tour in the port of Marseille is planned.
- The 15th AG4 Meeting is planned for the 4th of November, lasting from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The AGL concludes that despite the crisis caused by COVID-19, AG4 will keep up with its activities as much as possible, if necessary through written procedures and virtual meetings.

Financial Dialogue

The AGL informs that he recently sent out a detailed e-mail on 06/04/2020 on the two position papers on the future ERDF Interreg transnational and [Interreg A cross-border programmes](#).

The motivation behind the papers is to help position the added value of macro-regions, to give an insight into the priorities of EUSALP AG4 and to help promoting and aligning them with the programmes. Comprehensively supported position papers will be very central for getting the relevant funds for EUSALP AG4, which are essential for the practical implementation of the macro-regional Strategy. To be able to conduct this effectively, it is important to have all AG4 members on board. **The AGL invites AG4 members to disseminate the papers to the respective programme managing authorities at national and regional levels.**

The e-mail also includes instructions for officially endorsing the **#Transport4Cohesion initiative** by signing an [online petition](#), which the AGL invites everyone to do. The initiative lobbies for supporting the transport Policy Objective for the European Territorial Cooperation Programming Period 2021-2027.

The AGL encourages AG4 members to take action in the coming weeks by disseminating the position papers and signing the #Transport4Cohesion initiative.

New EUSALP AG4 Work Plan 2020 to 2022

The AGL showed a summary of the results of the survey conducted last autumn. Based on these results, the following **activities** in three **thematic areas** have been defined for the new **Work Plan**:

TA1 – Smart clean logistics and combined transport (CT) to support modal shift

- Strategic framework: Policy measures to support modal shift (with special focus on Combined Transport)
- Masterplan ports and inland terminals

TA2 – Accessibility on local and regional transport links on the secondary network

- Masterplan for secondary infrastructure

TA3 – Smart and low-carbon mobility & innovative public transport solutions

- Innovative forms of public transport, real-time passenger information and ticketing
- Innovative propulsion systems and fuels
- Strategic initiative on cross-border mobility with possible focus on commuters and data collection
- Mobility and lifestyle, dynamic data collection

Additionally, AG4 defined a set of **horizontal activities that support on a continuous basis the implementation of the Work Plan**:

- monitoring activities,
- assuming a more active role in policy development,
- making use of AG4 funding opportunities, and
- external communication of AG4 activities and results.

The AGL went on to give an update on AlpGov 2, the project aiming at enhancing EUSALP governance structures and mechanisms. The project started in January 2020 and will last until June 2022. The total budget is 2.8 million EUR for all Action Groups. Lombardy Region functions as AlpGov 2 lead partner .

The main novelty under AlpGov 2, as compared to the first version of the project, is the strong focus on implementation. The objective is to make EUSALP a key player in policy making at EU, national and regional levels. This can be achieved by more effectively capitalizing the action groups' results, on the one hand, and by better mobilizing strategic target groups, on the other hand. TO achieve this, AlpGov 2 has to define:

- Nine **sectoral implementation activities** (one per AG),
- Five **strategic policy areas** (SPAs), and
- One set of common **targets and indicators** to monitor the implementation of initiatives.

For the AG4 sectoral implementation initiative, the AGL suggests the Work Plan activity “Strategic framework: Policy measures to support modal shift (with special focus on Combined Transport)”. The AGL will come forward with a proposal on how exactly this initiative shall be implemented to undergo a policy cycle under AlpGov 2.

Regarding the five cross-cutting SPAs, these are the ways in which AG4 could contribute:

SPA1 – Climate Ambition: innovative propulsion systems and fuels

SPA2 – Innovation Hub for Green Business Models: innovative propulsion systems and fuels

SPA3 – Smart Villages: strategic initiative on cross-border mobility with possible focus on commuters and data collection; innovative forms of public transport; mobility and lifestyle

SPA4 – Spatial Planning and Ecosystem Services (could possibly be split in two): masterplan on secondary networks

By end of June 2020, AG4 will have to submit its Work Plan, which will serve as a guideline for the coming two years. This will require the contribution of all members, especially concerning the preferences of activities (point 2.2 of the “guidelines” document) and the AG’s contribution to the recovery after the COVID-19 crisis (point 5). **The AGL will contact the members to get their feedback on the two questions.**

One key communication activity of AlpGov 2 will be an awareness-raising campaign in the form of a roadshow. This event will allow the EUSALP to present concrete, tangible outcomes to a wider public to demonstrate the added value of the strategy. There will be nine roadshow stops. **The AGL proposed the two Mobility Conferences in Marseille (2020) and Innsbruck (2021) as stops to focus on EUSALP mobility issues.**

An online meeting with AlpGov 2 partners will take place the following week to discuss the above-mentioned issues.

Political Statement “Towards a coordinated Policy Framework”

Helen Lückge (Climonomics) explained that the completed AG4 studies have provided new insights into the functioning of transport systems and interactions in the Alpine Region, which appear to be shaped by political action to a great extent. This is why AG4 agreed that recommendations based on research activities should be gathered in a **political statement**. The objective is **to gain political mandate for follow-up activities and implementation of EUSALP AG4 priorities.**

H. Lückge integrated the received comments of the two feedback rounds in an updated version of the political statement which the AGL had sent out. There is still some time left to hand in last comments. The AGL urges everyone to communicate the political statement to the political representatives of the EUSALP Executive Board. In mid-May, there is going to be a meeting of the Executive Board, before which the representatives should have received this piece of information. Also, they need to be given enough time to hand in feedback from their side.

Matteo Brumati (Piedmont) raised the concern that the position paper does not mention the COVID-19 crisis and possible impacts at all. The AGL replied that while we can’t pretend that everything is normal, we also shouldn’t let ourselves get distracted away from our main issue concerning transalpine transport. H. Lückge noted that we should make use of the exceptional transport situation caused by the COVID-19 crisis to push further for the implementation of our interests.

As a next step the AGL will share an updated version with reference to the COVID-19 crisis with AG4 members and ask everyone to send the common version to their respective regional and national representatives in the EUSALP Executive Board by May or June, in any case in due time before the next EB meeting on 1-2 July 2020. The Executive Board shall then approve the political statement in

autumn. At the Mobility Conference in November, participating AG4 political representatives can endorse the Paper. In a last step, the EUSALP General Assembly shall endorse the political statement at the end of 2020, and can be included as a reference in the EUSALP Joint Declaration of the French Presidency.

Update on iMONITRAF! & Revision of Eurovignette Directive

Helne Lückge gave a short overview of the main **activities of iMONITRAF!**:

- An iMONITRAF! Meeting that had been foreseen for June 2020 was shifted to early November.
- The group aims at finalizing a short resolution by early November, for which there needs to be a more detailed specification of the obstacles the corridors in the Alpine Area are facing
- Some interesting scenarios for 2030 have been developed. These are of course going to be affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Still, Helen is quite confident that the pre-corona state of the art will have returned soon enough, providing for the scenarios' reliability.

The status quo on the **Eurovignette Directive** can be found in the presentation.

The AGL will keep AG4 members informed about the progress on both the Eurovignette Directive and iMONITRAF!.

Innovative Propulsion Systems and Fuels

Currently, Région Sud-PACA is conducting a **survey on the development of alternative fuels in the Alpine Region**, for which it is supported by [In Extenso Innovation Croissance](#) (InExtenso). Stéphane Faussurier, an external expert, introduced himself and gives a brief overview of InExtenso's work. As a team of about 100 consultants skilled with complementary sectoral and business expertise, S. Faussurier and his colleagues aim at supporting the performance of innovative companies.

Xavier Garcia (Région Sud-PACA) presented the **objectives** for conducting the survey on alternative fuels. First and foremost, the results are supposed to help AG4 define a common position concerning the development of alternative fuels. The issue of alternative fuels being a technical as well as a political one, it is important for AG4 to have a clear standing in order to guide its interest to their implementation. The survey also aims at identifying gaps concerning missing stations in the Alpine Region and to benchmark the different choices made by countries in terms of technologies and policies. Additionally, best practice cases should be identified within each EUSALP region, potentially serving as a basis for future projects.

S. Faussurier continued to say a few words about the methodology. Starting in January 2020, the process has been divided into four stages:

- January-March: **development of a roadmap**, serving as a guide for the process
- April-June: **data collection and analysis**
- July-October: **sharing of the stakes and preparation of the conclusions**
- November-December: development of **recommendations and propositions** in form of an action plan

The **content of the survey**, through which data is currently being collected, is presented. Olivier Margouet (Région Sud-PACA) noted that a **special workshop** is planned, taking place in June and focusing on alternative fuels. This will be an important step for InExtenso in terms of data-collection and displaying a first glimpse at the work conducted by the group.

Concerning the chosen **border crossings to be studied** in the framework of the survey, choices had to be made about which areas to focus on because studying all corridors would transcend the scope of this project. Alberto Cozzi (Friuli Venezia Giulia) noted that all Mediterranean corridors have been left out even though they are part of the EUSALP region. S. Faussurier explained that they decided to focus on primary corridors. Yet, feedback on the selected corridors is of course welcome.

When it comes to **data collection**, region-specific data on the relative share of alternative fuel-vehicles appear to be very hard to obtain, as Coline Perrin (InExtenso) explained. She added that data collection on the small scale was generally quite challenging. That is why it was decided to rely on regional instead of local information and pointed to the ongoing online survey for AG4 members and stakeholders to fill in for the purpose of collecting data on alternative fuels. So far, there has been relatively little contribution, which is why C.Perrin made use of the opportunity to call out for cooperation. Although the survey is quite challenging to complete, any reference to whoever might have access to this kind of information will be helpful. Other ways in which AG4 members can support their team is by checking the accuracy and relevance of already collected data, by giving feedback on the technology assessment, or by drawing attention to remarkable good-practice examples.

The presentation being completed, the AGL asked what target group the workshop planned for June is aimed at. O.Margouet explained that they hope to attract all regions interested in the topic and adds that they are confident that a maximum of AG4 members will participate. X.Garcia added that the implementation of alternative fuels is usually hard to finance, which is why this workshop could be used as an opportunity to work on the strategies for funding four months ahead of the mobility conference. Besides AG4 members, the target group is also expected to be made up of industrial actors. However, they are aware that they must be careful with commercial interests potentially coming to play a major role.

The AGL wrapped up by urging the members to fill out the survey in order to be able to proceed in the working on this important topic. Région Sud-PACA will soon share further information on the online workshop on 23 June.

20-Minute Break

Agenda Topic 5 – Methodology for a Systemic Assessment of Individual Projects

The methodology for systemic assessment was already discussed in the last meeting in Genova. After some technical issues, Helmut Adelsberger (InfraConceptA) began with a brief overview of the **Multicriteria Analysis (MCA)** aimed at assessing various types of projects. The criteria upon which the analysis is based have been derived from the EUSALP objectives, on the one hand, and from the sustainability goals and the AG4 target system, on the other hand.

AG4 members, as project promoters, should submit the completed project datasheets by the **8th of May** latest, meaning that the deadline has been extended. H. Adelsberger added that it is important to fill in the sheets as precisely and accurately as possible, but with only as few words as necessary. So

far, 28 project proposals have been submitted. It would be very welcome to receive additional proposals. Apart from that, the AG4 Lead has invited eight experts in total in a call for tender for the project assessment. Two evaluators will be selected based on a combination of qualitative and financial factors to individually assess all submitted projects, in addition to H. Adelsberger as a third evaluator with inside knowledge of the methodology.

The evaluators are given the possibility of requiring additional information from the project promoters, communicated via the AGL and in full transparency, ensuring that all evaluators have access to the same information.

The timeline of the process looks as follows:

- Until May: **collection of project proposals**
- June + July: **project assessment** (at this stage, project promoters might have to provide additional information)
- August: **online workshops**
- September: **Final discussion** and **determination of the “EUSALP AG4 projects”** at the 14th AG4 meeting

Simone Messner (South Tyrol) asked whether it is possible to hand in an updated version of their proposal, including new additional data, now that the deadline of submission has been extended. H. Adelsberger encouraged everyone to add additional information and resend the form, especially in terms of additional quantifiable data which would facilitate the project evaluation.

Jakob Dietachmair (CIPRA International), representing Kaspar Schuler at the meeting, asked whether the number of three evaluators is fixed and highlighted the importance of having a national balance between the three evaluators. The AGL replied that due to the budget, the number of evaluators is limited at three. He further explained that effort has been put into having diversity within the group of evaluators with the aim of having three evaluators from three different countries. Matthias Rinderknecht (Switzerland) followed up by encouraging the selection of one Swiss evaluator. He adds that it should be made sure that they are independent experts, i.e. not having any kinds of links to the project proposals.

The AGL will inform AG4 members once the two external evaluators have been selected.

Agenda Topic 9 – Youth Alpine Interrail

Marc Stannartz from Cipra Youth Council (CYC) takes the floor to give a presentation of the **Youth Alpine Interrail-Pass (Yoalin)**. [Yoalin](#) is a project of the CYC and CIPRA International, in cooperation with Eurail and promoted by the signatory States of the Alpine Convention. It took off two years ago and has received a considerable amount of media coverage ever since. The pass allows young people (i.e. between 15 and 29 years old) to travel to eight Alpine countries in a climate-friendly way. It can be purchased for 144 Euros and used for a total of seven days within one month. The overarching goal of the project is to enable a sustainable and conscious mode of travelling in the Alpine Region. For this

Unfortunately, this year's Yoalin edition had to be cancelled due to the crisis caused by COVID-19. However, efforts to assure the project's resumption in the coming years are being made. In the meanwhile, CYC is considering a possible extension of the ways of implementing the project's idea, which is to promote sustainable travelling. It should be possible to extend the group of users beyond young people and make it sort of an ongoing ticket to travel in the Alpine countries available to everyone. What could be potential **obstacles for the implementation** of this objective? The following points would have to be considered:

- Should tickets only be purchasable online, or should people be able to buy them at vendor machines at the respective stations?
- How can the different countries and/or arrive at a common price for the ticket?
- Should buses and trams be included as well?

Concerning these points, and other potential hurdles, M. Stannartz asked for input from the other meeting participants. The AGL wonders with what kind of support the EUSALP AG4 can contribute to the project. M. Stannartz explains that they are looking for professional input on the issues mentioned above. The AGL noted that the sharing of data is always an issue. Key actors usually hesitate to make information transparent. Additionally, agreeing on a price is usually a major challenge.

The AGL enquired about the target group of the project. M. Stannartz clarified that up until this stage, Yoalin was exclusively addressed at young people between the ages of 15 and 29 years. However, lately, there have been more requests for day-tickets, which would concern daily commuters travelling for work.

Update on Alpine Convention WG Transport

Nathalie Morelle (Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention) gave a brief **overview of the work** conducted by the [Transport Working Group](#). The following are the four main issues up to the Alpine Conference in December 2020:

- Review / position paper on modal shift of Alpine freight transit
 - Collection and analysis of good practices in reducing transport demand
 - Study of the potential of new technologies for passenger transport
- A workshop on this issue in Munich originally scheduled for 19 June has been postponed to 10 September, as communicated by Harry Seybert (Bavaria)
- Input to the 8th Report on the State of the Alps on air quality

The AGL noted that there are several ways that those activities of the WG Transport complement those of AG4. Reducing transport demand (point 2), for instance, is something AG4 does not put focus on. The third point also constitutes a good match, as AG4 focuses more on alternative fuels. While groups direct their actions towards the implementation of modal shift in transport, they have different foci. **According to the AGL both groups complement each other quite well and will continue to find synergies.**

Matthias Rinderknecht (Switzerland) added that the Report on the state of the Alps is in progress with data collection ongoing.

Picking up the point concerning efforts to lower transport demand, Matteo Brumati (Piedmont) suggested that this is a point AG4 should also be working on in light of the COVID-19 crisis, and could be tackled jointly with AG5 (Connectivity). The AGL mentioned the AlpGov 2 partner meeting taking

place the following week at which the AGL will highlight this opportunity. The AGL added that the third strategic policy area from the AlpGov 2 draft document is on Smart Villages, which would be the appropriate framework to include lowering transport demand.

Update on Arge Alp

Arge Alp is a cooperation of 10 regions, provinces and cantons from Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland and promotes cross-border cooperation in the fields of ecology, culture and economy. It also aims at strengthening awareness of collective responsibility in the Alpine Region. The group is mainly funded through membership fees. Salzburg currently holds the presidency.

The AGL mentions that Arge Alp **regularly calls out for projects**. The AGL has been contacted to suggest potential topics for projects in transport. The next project call will probably be at the beginning of next year. **AG4 members are invited to come forward with project topics.** .

Update on the Interreg Alpine Space programme

On behalf of Anne-Séverine Lay (Alpine Space JS), the AGL informed the participants of an upcoming **online consultation** on the future funding period **The AGL will inform AG4 members once the consultation is online and invites all to participate. It is an occasion to explicitly highlight the added value of EUSALP.**

Any other business & 14th AG4 meeting

On a side note, Ovidio Martini (South Tyrol) informed the group that this was unfortunately his last AG4 meeting. He will start working at another institution and thanked all for the cooperation over the past few years. He wished all the members of AG4 great success for their continuing activities.

Cesare Bernabei (European Commission) congratulated the AGL in Innsbruck for managing the virtual meeting this well. He further suggested to receive regular updates on the development of the group's activities on a monthly basis. This would allow discussions in upcoming meeting to be more in-depth.

As for the upcoming events, the current plan looks as follows.

- **The next opportunity for AG4 to meet will be on 23 June in form of a virtual meeting. The topic will be alternative fuels.**
- **The 14th AG4 Meeting is scheduled to take place in Nice on 7-8 September 2020 (lunch to lunch).**
- **The 4th EUSALP Mobility Conference is scheduled to take place on 3 November 2020.**
- **The 15th AG4 Meeting is scheduled to take place in Marseille on the 4 November 2020 (all day).**

Depending on the circumstances, the 14th and 15th AG4 Meetings might also be held virtually.

The AGL thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Additional documents to the Minutes are available for download on the online AG4 Document Sharing Platform:

(Folder: [AG4 13th Meeting](#))

1. [Meeting Agenda](#)
2. Presentation by AGL: [AG4 State of Play](#)
3. Presentation by the AGL: [Update on the New AG4 Work Plan 2020-2022](#)
4. Presentation by Sud-PACA and InExtenso: [Innovative Propulsion Systems and Fuels](#)
5. Presentation by Helmut Adelsberger (InfraConceptA): [Systemic Assessment of Individual Projects](#)
6. Presentation by Helen Lückge (Climonomics): [Revised Proposal for a Political Statement](#)
7. Presentation by Helen Lückge (iMONITRAF!): [Status-Quo on the Revision of Eurovignette](#)
8. Presentation by Marc Stannartz (CIPRA Youth International): [Youth Alpine Interrail](#)
9. Presentation by LinkingAlps (postponed to the next meeting): [Open Journey Planning and LinkingAlps](#)
10. Presentation by Nathalie Morelle (Alpine Convention): [Alpine Convention WG Transport](#)
11. [Alternative Fuels Development in the Alpine Region – State of Play](#)
12. [EUSALP Position Paper ERDF](#)
13. [EUSALP Position Paper Interreg-A](#)
14. [Participants List](#)
15. [Next AG4 Events Draft Agenda](#)

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