



Minutes EUSALP AG9 Kick-Off Meeting

9 March 2016, Bolzano

Participants

Wolfram Sparber (Italian Ministry for the Environment), Peter Obricht (Lower Austria), Ulrich Santa (South Tyrol, AGL), Flavio Ruffini (South Tyrol), Florian Mast (European Commission), Giovanni Nuvoli (Piemonte), Maria Fabianelli (Liguria), Maren Meyer (South Tyrol, AGL assistant), Sara Verones (Trentino), Philipp Egger (St. Gallen), Stefanie Bischof (Alpine Space Programme Officer), Adriano Bisello (technical expert, assistant of Wolfram Sparber)

Issue 1 Overview presentations EUSALP and regional energy strategies

Ulrich Santa, AGL, opened the Kick-Off meeting, presenting the EUSALP strategy and the tasks of the EUSALP AG9. He underlined that the strategic field of energy efficiency and renewable energies must be consistent with the goals and work programmes of other EUSALP AGs, such as nature conservation and renewable energies, innovation and job creation in the Alpine Area. The introduction was followed by a brief outline of the strategy by Florian Mast, European Commission, who underlined the importance of active participation of EUSALP AG members who represent the Regions and the States in the Alpine Area. Stefanie Bischof, Officer of the Alpine Space Programme, gave an overview over the funding possibilities for the EUSALP strategy within the Alpine Space Programme. In 2017, the Alpine Space Programme plans to launch a call to fund projects that focus on energy efficiency and RES in the Alpine Region. Maren Meyer, AGL9 assistant, presented the project proposal AlpGov, currently under preparation by the EUSALP AGLs. AlpGov has the objective to finance the creation of horizontal and vertical governance structures of the EUSALP strategy (for details see below). Peter Obricht, Sara Verones, Philipp Egger, Maria Fabianelli and Giovanni Nuvoli gave brief introductions to the energy policy and strategies of their Regions/Provinces/Cantons.

All presentations are available on the team site of AG9. (for details how to access the team site, please see below and in the attached document).

Issue 2 Focus topics of AG9

The members present during the kick-off meeting discussed several topics that the AG might concentrate on in the coming three years. The members underlined the necessity to conduct a comparative in-depth study of the regional energy strategies, their main goals and the current state of implementation (cluster 1). Energy efficiency of the building sector (cluster 2), the remaining potential for RES in the Alpine Area (cluster 3) as well as smart grids (cluster 4) were discussed. Also, several members showed interest in sustainable mobility. Any activities in the latter, however, must be concerted with AG4 “mobility”.

Cluster 1: Regional energy strategies

Realization of a comparative study about the regional energy strategies as basic work document of the AG.

- Comparison of goals and focus topics in the Regions
- Analysis of the state of implementation and collection of basic data (e.g. amount of energy from RES)
- Collection of measures, programmes and financing models for the promotion of energy efficiency and RES in private households, public buildings, economic sector (esp. in SMEs), and in municipalities (EEA and others)
- Definition of best practices and examination of their replicability for the Alpine Area
- Definition of actors / stakeholders in the energy sector in the Alpine Area

Cluster 2: Energy efficiency in the building sector

- Studying the existing energy efficiency standards in the Alpine Area and their potential for harmonization
- Energy efficiency standards and product certification as a barrier for the free movement of labour and products?
- defining good practices/models for refurbishment of buildings at a cost, amortization and energy efficiency optimum / deep renovation practices vs. light refurbishment interventions
- subsidies and fiscal incentivisation practices for the promotion of RES in the building sector

Cluster 3: RES in the Alpine Area

- Mapping of implementation and remaining potentials for RES in the Alpine Area in accordance with environmental compatibility as well as nature and landscape conservation
- Alternative models for the financing of RES (esp. local energy cooperatives)
- Definition of practices and conditions that foster the acceptance of RES in society

Cluster 4: Smart Grids

- Transnational energy grids
- Promotion of sustainable mobility/e-mobility
- Cogeneration, district heating and cooling
- Security of supply, storage technologies and RES

Issue 3 Stakeholder involvement

Task for all AG9 members

The involvement of stakeholders and experts is requested in the frame of the EUSALP strategy. Please indicate stakeholders of your region as well as experts that may be consulted for the elaboration of the focus topics at a suitable time.

Issue 4 Managing and governance of the EUSALP AG9

Team site and communication amongst AG9 members

The AGL created a SharePoint team site in order to facilitate the communication amongst the members and to assure that all AG members have access to the same information. On the team site all important documents (presentations, official documents, minutes, work documents, tasks of the AG members, deadlines/appointments, templates etc.) will be shared and updated on a regular basis. Preferably, documents will not be circulated via e-mail and members are requested to use the team site also for discussions. All AG9 members will receive automatic e-mails that inform them about current activities and updates on the team site on a regular basis.

Task for all AG9 members

Please consult the attachment "team site" in order to get access to the team site as soon as possible.

Rules of procedure AG9

Florian Mast, EC, presented a proposal of the rules of procedure that set the rules for decision making of the working groups. The procedures should be coherent amongst the AGs, however specifications are welcomed depending on the needs of each AG. During the kick-off meeting, it was discussed how many member states should vote in order to take a **decision** for the whole AG. The Commission's proposal foresees that a vote of 4 out of 7 votes is eligible. However, as the AG9 consists of 6 member states (Liechtenstein is not part of the group) AGL will raise this issue before the EUSALP executive board. The **quorum** proposed by the Commission foresees that at least 4 member states shall be present during AG meetings. AGL9 proposed that online presence should be eligible too and will raise this issue. The proposal foresees the **delegation of decision making**. AGL will draft a proposal for the delegation of voting rights and present it to the AG9 members and to the executive board for consideration.

Task for all AG9 members

Please comment on the draft document provided by the Commission and commented by the AGL. Questions and proposals will be sent out to the EUSALP executive board on 25 March (12 am) for consideration and discussion.

Focus groups EUSALP AG9

During the meeting it has been discussed whether AG9 should be subdivided into focus groups/subgroups. The topics of the focus groups would depict the main topics of each action group. This would optimize the workload of all AG9 members making it at the same time more flexible. Focus groups are required to inform the AGL on a regular basis about their activities. Florian Mast confirmed that the subdivisions of the workload is common practice in other AGs.

Task for all AG members

Please confirm whether this is in your interest and give an indication of the topics you are interested in by the end of April.

Yearly AG meetings

The AG shall meet at least twice a year. AG members present during the meeting endorsed the proposal the meetings to take place at the beginning of March and at the beginning of October of each year. AG9 meetings will be organized in Bolzano but also in other places, according to the needs of the AG members.

Task for all members

Please indicate whether the second week of October 10-15 would be feasible for you.

Issue 5 AlpGov project

Maren Meyer, AGL assistance, presented the project proposal AlpGov that the EUSALP AGLs will present in the frame of the currently opened Alpine Space Call. The project's goal is to fund activities that foster the governance structures of the EUSALP. In particular, AlpGov shall finance the participation of external experts and stakeholders to AG meetings, give the opportunity to finance meetings, conferences and workshops that will support the roll-out of the EUSALP strategy (vertical and horizontal structures) and foster the knowledge sharing and network creation within EUSALP area. In the frame of the AlpGov project, the AGLs will elaborate on a communication strategy of the EUSALP and a knowledge platform. The costs of the personnel, neither for AGL nor for the AG members, are not eligible. AGL9 is currently defining a proposal for actions according to the discussions during the AG9 Kick-Off Meeting and will present them to the AG9 members on the online platform by the end of this week.