



# Sustainable energy policy in the Alps: The contribution of the Alpine Convention

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2<sup>nd</sup> EUSALP Energy Conference  
Innsbruck (AT), 2.10.2018



# The Alpine Convention

## International Treaty for the protection and the sustainable development of the Alps



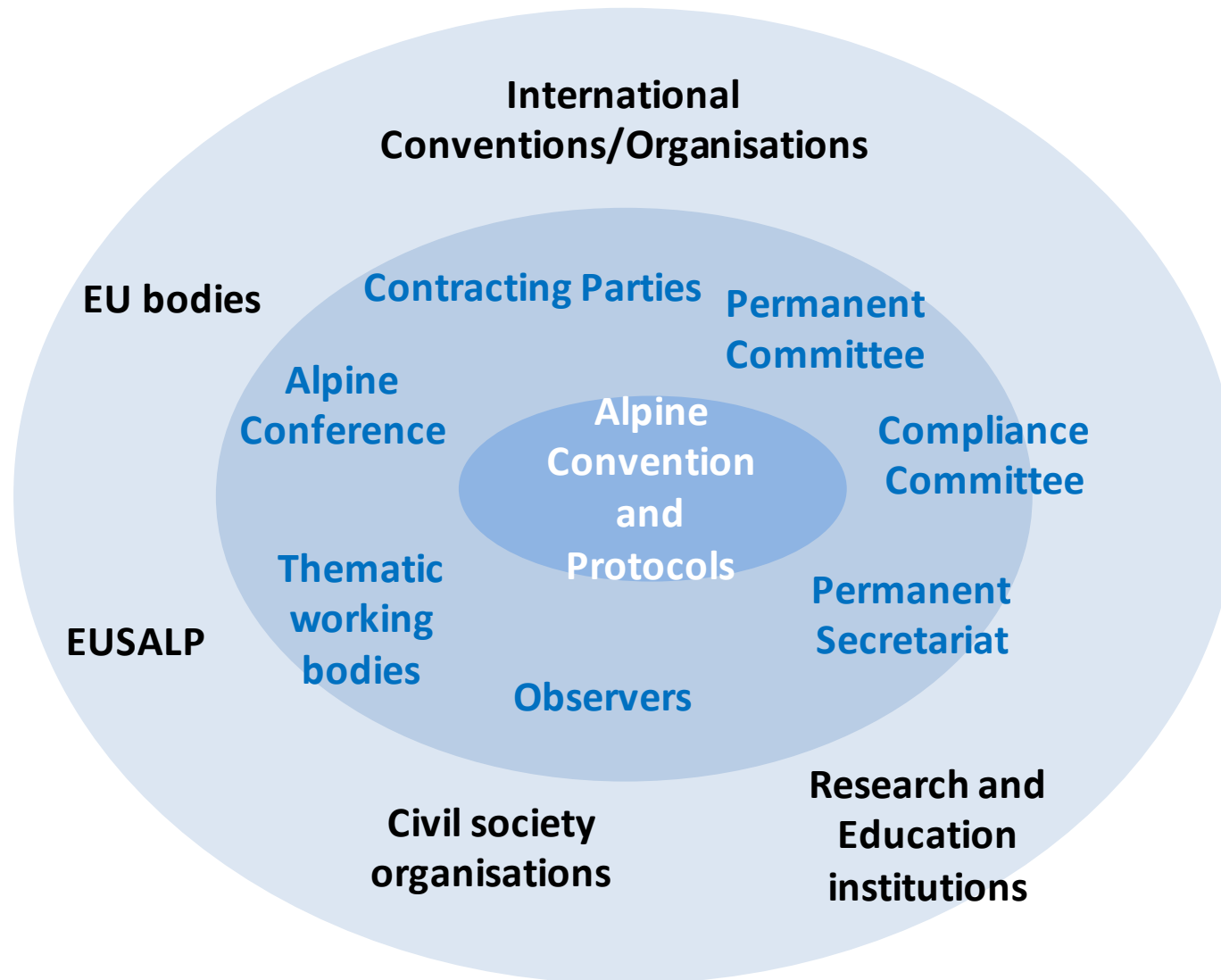
- 1989** 1st Alpine Conference
- 1991** Signature of the Convention on the protection of the Alps
- 1995** Entry into force of the Convention
- 2002** Entry into force of the 8 Protocols
- 2003** Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat

Binding international law

Principles of prevention, polluter-pays and cooperation

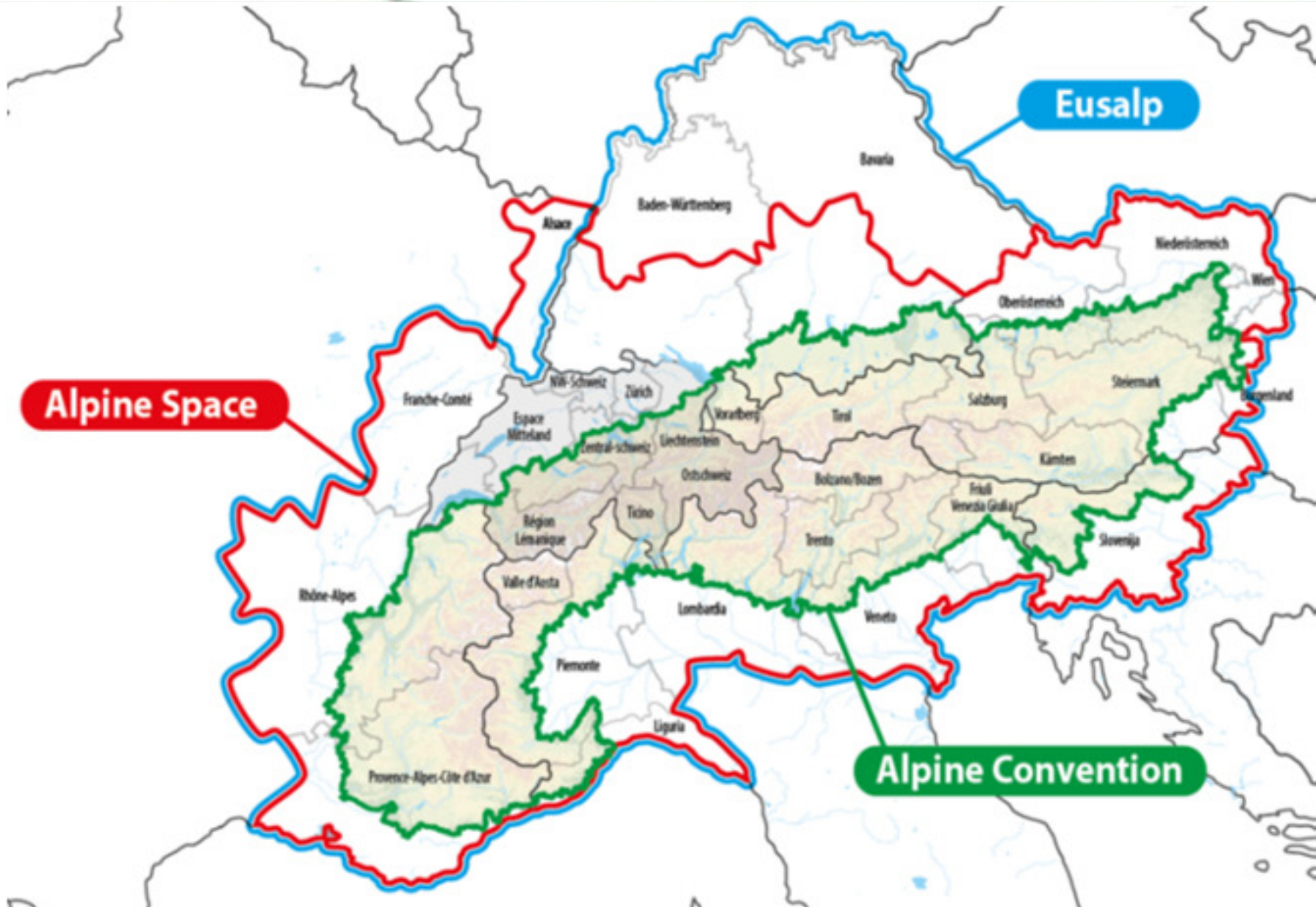


# Governance of the Alpine Convention





# Perimeter of the Alpine Convention







# Legal framework of the Alpine Convention

## Framework convention

### Protocols



Nature protection  
and landscape  
conservation



Mountain  
farming



Spatial planning and  
sustainable  
development



Mountain  
forests



Tourism



Energy

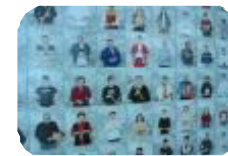


Soil  
conservation



Transport

### Declarations



Population and culture



Climate  
change



Sustainable  
economy



# The Energy Protocol of the Alpine Convention

- Signed 1998, ratified by AT, DE, IT, FR, LI, SI and EU
- Objective (art. 1): „establish sustainable development in the energy sector compatible with the Alpine region’s specific tolerance limits”
- Specific measures (art. 5-13) in:
  - Energy saving and rational use
  - Renewable energy resources
  - Hydroelectric power
  - Energy from fossil fuels
  - Nuclear energy
  - Energy transport and distribution
  - Renaturalisation and environmental engineering
  - Environmental impact analysis
  - Cross-border dialogue



## Further relevant Protocols

### **Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Protocol:**

- nature and landscape conservation
- ecosystem services esp. for natural hazard prevention
- provide space for agriculture & forestry

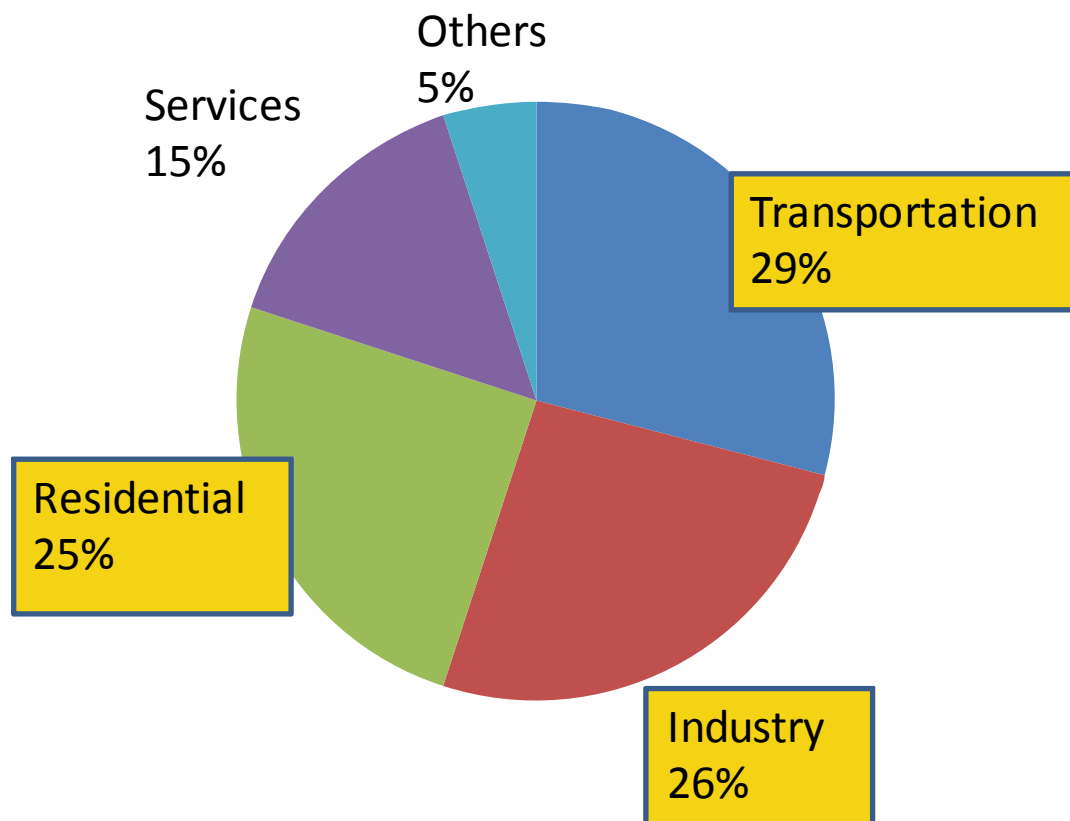
### **Nature Protection and Landscape Conservation Protocol:**

- protected areas





# Alpine Convention implementation



(Data EEA 2010)



Greenhouse gas  
emissions from energy  
end-use (EU-27)





# Alpine Convention implementation

## Multi-Annual Work Programme 2017-2022:

- Focusing on people and culture
- Taking action on climate change
- Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape
- Greening the economy
- Promoting sustainable transport
- Playing a leading role in EUSALP





# Alpine Convention activities: Energy efficiency



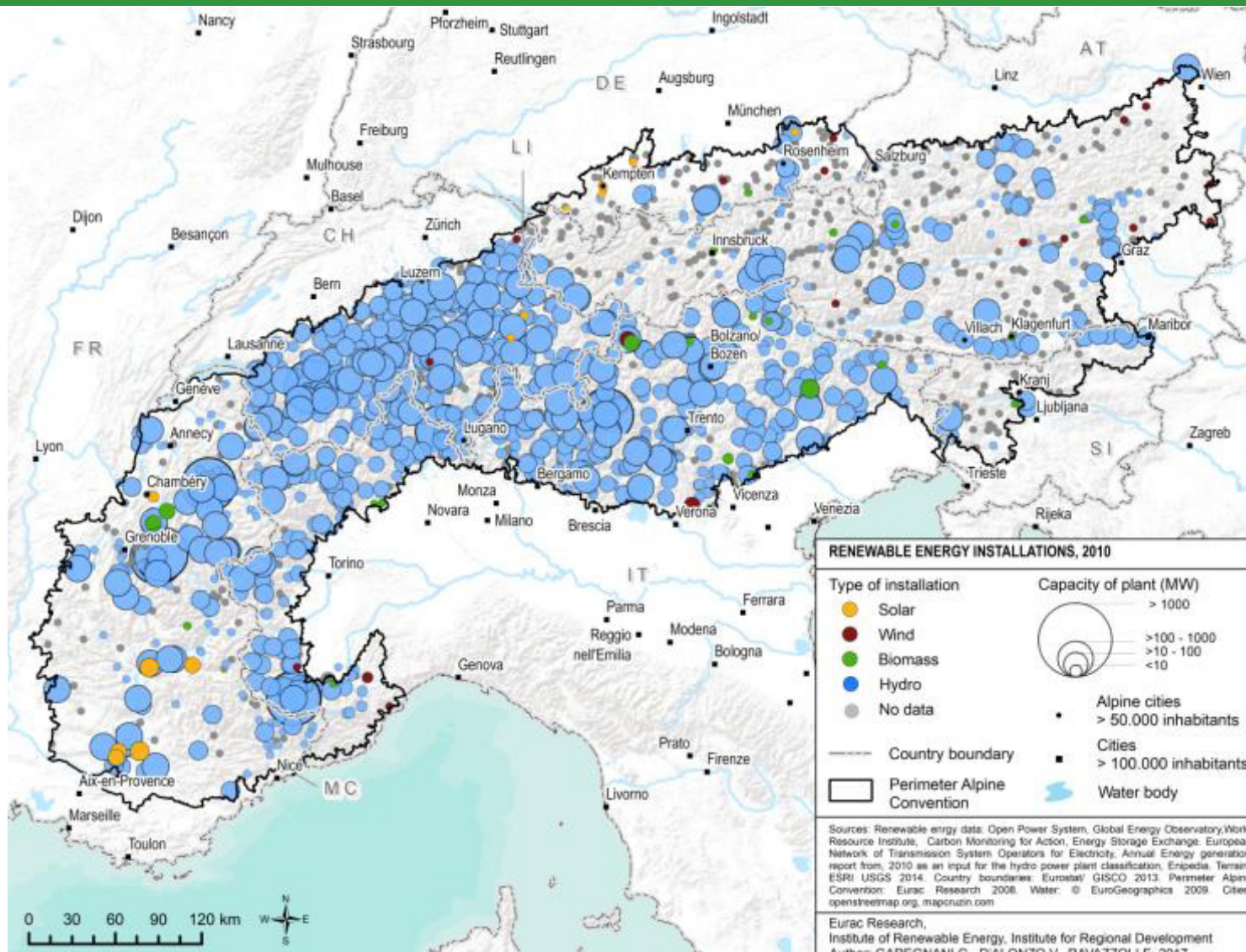
**CONSTRUCTIVE  
ALPS**



- 1. Alpine Building Conference
- „Constructive Alps“ architecture contest (4 issues)
- Energy management in Alpine hotels and restaurants
- „We are Alps“ media tour with sustainable transport



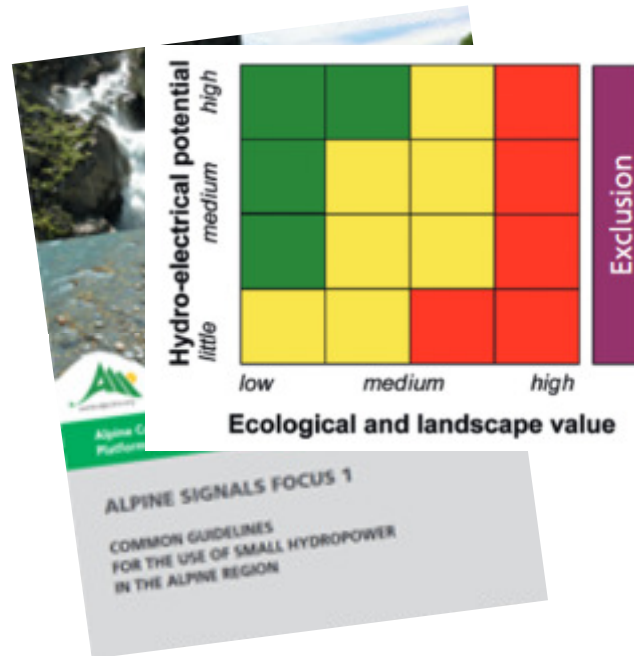
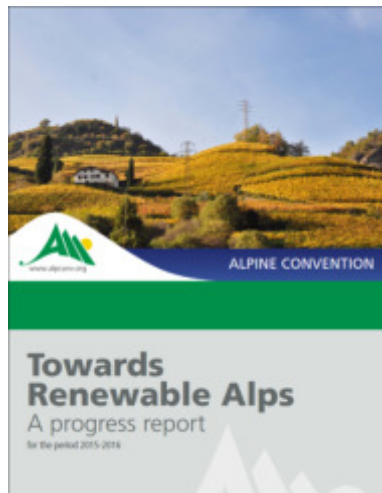
# Alpine Convention activities: Renewable energy





# Alpine Convention activities: Renewable energy

Overview of  
legal framework  
and activities  
(2015-2016)



Small HP:  
Guidelines for  
decision-making  
(2011)



27 best-  
practices  
(2016)

*Main messages:*

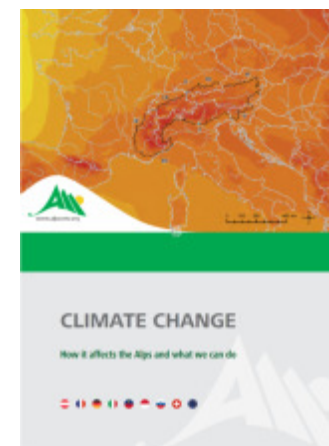
- *Priority for renovation/ brownfield development*
- *Combine energy sources, combine uses*
- *Stakeholder involvement*
- *Assess and monitor impacts*





## Other actions by the Alpine Convention

- 7<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps:  
Greening the Economy in the Alpine  
region (2016) + Action Programme (2019)
- Alpine Climate Board: stock-taking (2017)  
+ Climate Target System 2050 (2019)
- Work of thematic bodies: Water Management &  
EUSALP AG6 (droughts),  
Mtn Forest & Mtn Agriculture (biomass),  
EUSALP AG6 (land-take reduction) etc.







# Lessons learnt and recommendations

- Use the full potential of **energy-efficiency** and **energy savings** (esp. building sector)
- Fully develop **renewable energy production in adequate sites** (balance energy potential with environmental and social impact)
- Establish a sustainable, efficient and resilient system of **decentralized energy solutions** (e.g. storage systems, smart grids)
- Establish **energy democracy** (citizen involvement in planning, financial participation)
- **Climate-proof Alpine hydropower** stations (vs. fluctuating energy system, changing seasonal water availability, environmental constraints and competing uses)



**Thank you for your attention!**

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