

**The European Union Strategy
for the Alpine Region**

FRENCH PRESIDENCY: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE ALPINE REGION



**THE FRENCH
PRESIDENCY:
A YEAR TO MOVE
FROM DIAGNOSIS
TO ACTION**
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“At the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes level, everything is in place to ensure that the exceptional heritage of the Alps is protected, and developed in a sustainable manner. We are investing massively to improve air quality, to develop hydrogen-powered transport, protect biodiversity, strengthen supply networks for our agriculture, guarantee a competitive and sustainable wood sector and, finally, economically develop our villages and our stations thanks, particularly, to planning and ecotourism. I am delighted that the French presidency of EUSALP 2020 shares this ambition. It will enable us, with all of our French and European partners, to meet the many challenges the Alpine massif currently faces, and to set an example at the European and international levels. We owe it to the 80 million inhabitants of the Alps today and, in the future, to all our children.”



Laurent Wauquiez,
President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

“The French presidency of EUSALP, which will take place under a framework of unprecedented governance that brings together the State and the Regions, presents a historic opportunity to provide a boost necessary for the ecological transition of the Alpine region. Together with our Alpine and European partners, by supporting city-valley-mountain cooperation, we can act effectively to fight against climate change and also work towards cohesion of the Alpine region.”



Jacqueline Gourault,
Minister for Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities



Renaud Muselier,
President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, President of Regions of France

“The French presidency of the Alpine macro-region will allow us to strengthen the links between the Mediterranean and the Alps. I wanted it to include, in all of its priorities, the fight against climate change, in order to preserve the quality of life in our Alpine regions. In this year, 2020, of reworking European policies, we will provide a concrete form for the “Green New Deal”: clean and sustainable transport, protection of our exceptional biodiversity, global prevention of natural risks ...”

A SHARED AMBITION

The Alpine region is a geographic area spanning several French and European regions. To better represent the diversity of the Alps, France has chosen to assume its presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), in 2020, in a way that emphasises collegiality and partnership.

Like EUSALP's State-Regions governance, the French presidency will work by bringing together the State (Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities, the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, and the Alps Massif and Jura Districts) and the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regions, as well as other institutional and associative players in this vast territory. All of them share the same ambition: to work together for a greener Alpine region and to ensure more sustainable development.

France will exercise its presidency in close consultation with its partners in the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), the four other Member States of the European Union (Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovenia), Switzerland,

Liechtenstein, the 48 Alpine Regions and the European Commission.

With all of these national and local actors, the French presidency will endeavour to contribute to accelerating the ecological transition of the Alpine region, in order to fight against climate change.



Christiane Barret,
general delegate of
the French
presidency
of EUSALP

"EUSALP is a real chance to bring Europe closer to citizens and communities. Our commitments for the 2020 French presidency: to increase the participation of the various actors, including sub-regional communities, civil society, and young people; to implement concrete action; to promote EUSALP in all regions, and to act in synergy with the Alpine Convention."



Marie-Guite Dufay,
President of
the Bourgogne-
Franche-Comté
Region

"Cooperation in the Alpine area commits us to preparing the future of coming generations at a time when an ecological and societal transition is essential. Conscious of this responsibility, we are together determined to take strong action during our presidency. Driven by the momentum of EUSALP's previous presidencies, we will also listen to the initiative of youth."



THE ALPINE REGION IN NUMBERS

82

major summits more
than 4,000 m high,
1,200 km long

30,000

animal species and
13,000 plant species

+ 2 °C

Is the increase in
climate temperature
during the last century

3000

billion euros GDP,
or about 1/5
of the EU's GDP

83

billion euros
investment in research
and innovation, or
1/4 of the EU's R&D

120

million tourists per year

145.5

million tonnes of
goods crossed
the Alps in 2014
(road and rail)

THE SEARCH FOR A COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES OF THE ALPINE MASSIF

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La EUSALP aims to unite States and Regions to find answers to problems shared by nearly 80 million inhabitants of the Alpine region: on employment, heritage, know-how, the economy, transport, demographic change, preservation of natural resources, climate change, and the energy challenge.

Aware of this need for cooperation, the European Union is launching, with the States and Regions involved, formulation of an Alpine macro-regional strategy. Objective: to have a **framework which enables States and Regions to work together** to face these common problems.

The strategy was launched in 2015 ! It pursues three main objectives:

- Fair access to employment;
- sustainable internal and external accessibility for all;
- a more inclusive environmental framework, and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future.

A SPACE WITH UNUSUAL CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGES

The Alpine region is both a living and working space and an exceptional natural space which makes it an attractive tourist destination for hundreds of thousands of people, every year. The Alps are the "water tower of Europe" and are known worldwide for their varied landscapes, rich biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage.

This unique territory, endowed with significant potential for economic dynamism, faces major challenges:

- climate change and its effects on the environment, biodiversity and the living conditions of inhabitants;
- aging of the population, and migratory phenomena;
- globalisation, which encourages the region to be competitive and innovative;
- high degree of seasonality, especially in certain tourist areas;
- energy challenge on a European and global scale;
- specific geographic position in Europe, as a transit region and a space with unique natural characteristics.

Better cooperation between Regions and States is necessary to meet these challenges.

THE ALPINE REGION, A MULTIPLE TERRITORY

The Alpine region is a multifaceted territory. From its southern Mediterranean tip to Europe's central regions, it features in seven countries. This space is characterised by great geographical variety: mountains - medium or high, plains and valleys. It is made up of villages, medium-sized cities and metropolises, and by mountain resorts of all sizes.



FIVE MEMBER STATES OF THE EU:

- **GERMANY** (Federated states of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria),
- **AUSTRIA** (the federated states of Lower Austria, Burgenland, Carinthia, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vienna and Vorarlberg),
- **FRANCE** (the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté regions),
- **ITALY** (Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont and Venice Regions, as well as the autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and the autonomous provinces of Alto-Adige and Trentino),
- **SLOVENIA** ;

TWO OTHER COUNTRIES: LIECHTENSTEIN AND SWITZERLAND (ALL 26 CANTONS)

EUSALP IN NUMBERS

7

States, 5 members of the European Union and 2 other countries

48

Regions

450,000

km², or 10 % of the surface area of the European Union

80 M

inhabitants, or 16 % of the population of the European Union



A STRATEGY ALWAYS IN ACTION

Within the Alpine region, a question arises: to cooperate, yes, but how? The institutions of the States and Regions of EUSALP, as well as the European Commission and partners, are brought together in nine action groups covering nine priority themes. These groups are the drivers and guarantors of achieving the strategy's objectives.

Local elected officials, economic actors, academics, researchers, non-governmental organisations, companies, representatives of civil society etc.: the strategy brings these different worlds together in order to see different points of view, to articulate their modes of action and their solutions for serving the general interest.

These actors are involved in the work of action groups, which specifically take form through the implementation of projects, carried out on a transnational, cross-border or local level. These projects function as laboratories of ideas and practices: they establish diagnoses for a given problem, at time "T", propose solutions to the various problems encountered in the field, and provide results to meet the needs of the areas.



ECOLOGICAL CONTINUITIES

PILOT: Slovenia and Bavaria.

OBJECTIVE: to strengthen, improve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services.

MISSION: deploy sustainable infrastructure to strengthen ecological continuity between urban, peri-urban, rural and mountainous areas in the Alpine region.

MODE OF ACTION: networking of natural and semi-natural areas.

PROJECT Los Dama!

This project focuses on land use planning and land pressure in the metropolitan Alpine regions known as "unspectacular". The goal: to reveal the potential of peri-urban areas as sustainable infrastructure through appropriate governance. The project aims to promote the development of negotiation and mediation skills.



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

PILOT: Lombardy Region

OBJECTIVE: to develop an efficient research and innovation ecosystem.

MISSION: this action group seeks to identify the key areas where cooperation in research and innovation can have an economic and societal impact.

MODE OF ACTION: based on existing clusters, centres of competence, and networks.

PROJECT

Re-Search Alps

Re-Search Alps is a project to consolidate data and results from laboratories and research centres in the seven countries of the Alpine region. The project's objective is sharing of data between different countries so as to promote research and innovation at the level of a large region.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PILOT: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

OBJECTIVE: to increase the Alpine region's economic potential by identifying the sectors which would benefit from working at a macro-regional level.

MODE OF ACTION: four sectors are identified.

- the bio-economy;
- the woodland-forestry sector;
- health and wellness tourism;
- digital industry.

PROJECT

Triple wood

This project aims to promote the wood sector, at the level of the Alps: both as an economic resource generating jobs, but also as a material useful for saving energy.





EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAINING

PILOT: autonomous province of Trentino

OBJECTIVE: to improve the labour market, with education and training in strategic sectors.

MISSION: ultimately, to create a common area of education at the macro-regional level and to encourage the mutual recognition of qualifications.

MODE OF ACTION: in the face of an aging population and in order to integrate young people into the job market, the group is committed to encouraging work-linked vocational training.

PROJECT Mount Erasmus

A network of actors in education and training in the field of mountain agriculture, at a cross-border level. To do what? To allow exchange of good practices, share job and internship opportunities, participate in workshops. The project's objective is professionalisation and training adapted to mountain farming, and knowledge of the natural resources of the Alps.



TRANSPORT

PILOT: The Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur Region and Tyrol regions.

OBJECTIVE: to promote intermodality and inter operability in the transport of passengers and goods.

MISSION: the action group works to promote sustainable transport, develop information and ticketing services, the transition from road to rail, and to promote the networking of players to avoid redundancy of action.

PROJECT Transport energy conversion

This project provides an overview of the development of supply chains, alternative fuels, and networks, in order to define recommendations for the energy conversion of transport of freight, passengers and individuals. It is a matter of identifying brakes on the development of alternative fuels for the various actors and, with cross-border logic, of accessibility and modal shift. The study will focus on local production capacities, in particular for electric and hydrogen transport. Ultimately, the project will provide the methodological tools for political decision-making in a White Paper on low-carbon transport.



ACCESSIBILITY

PILOT: Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley and the Swiss Grouping for mountain regions.

OBJECTIVE: digitisation and access to public services.

MISSION: defeat geographic isolation, attract young people, meet the growing demand of populations for more services and content by encouraging projects that facilitate digital use.

PROJECT

Smart villages

The aim is to adapt the concept of *smart cities* to rural communities in the Alpine region. It is matter of presenting the opportunities of digitalisation in these municipalities, from a user's point of view. The active participation of the population is a prerequisite.



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Southern Region / Cabanel Jérôme



RISK MANAGEMENT

PILOT: Austria and Bavaria.

OBJECTIVE to improve risk management, better manage climate change, and prevent natural risks.

MISSION: protect populations against natural risks, a prerequisite for their settlement and for the economic development of the Alps.

MODE OF ACTION: networking of actors, improvement of governance and identification of good practices.

PROJECT

Rock the Alps

Reinforce the prevention of rock falls, in particular through a sustainable forest management approach. To achieve this objective, the project intends to develop the first mapping of these risks for the entire Alpine area.



NATURAL RESOURCES

PILOT: Carinthia and permanent secretariat of the Alpine Convention

OBJECTIVE: to preserve the natural heritage of the Alps and balanced management of natural resources.

MISSION: this action group deals with three subjects:

- land use planning and soil preservation;
- promotion and marketing of food and forestry products;
- sustainable water management, in particular to prevent peak demand and droughts.

PROJECT

Circularalps

The project aims to promote the circular economy and the bio-economy in the wood sector of the Alps. It highlights an inventory of current practices and assesses their potential.



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ENERGIES

PILOT: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and the Tyrol.

OBJECTIVE: make the territory a model region in terms of energy efficiency and renewable energies.

MISSION: to promote energy efficiency and local production of renewable energies in housing, transport and in SMEs.

MODE OF ACTION: these actions include the creation of clusters and monitoring systems.

PROJECT

CAESAR - Capacitating energy efficiency in small alpine enterprises

Energy consumption in businesses represents a third of energy consumption in Europe. The CAESAR project therefore chose to focus on this sector, in particular Alpine SMEs. The challenge is to support them in their reduction of energy by sharing experiences and transferable tools.



THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY: A YEAR TO MOVE FROM DIAGNOSIS TO ACTION!

DRIVE THE WORK ACCORDING TO SEVEN COMMITMENTS

Throughout 2020, the French Presidency will endeavour to drive the strategy work, according to seven main principles.

PARTICIPATION

The French Presidency undertakes to involve **all the players in the Alpine region**: local authorities, European project leaders, authorities in charge of European funds, NGOs, civil society, Alpine massif and Jura committees, and the National Mountain Council.

PRE-LAUNCH

The 2021-2027 cohesion policy is being developed. The French Presidency is calling for an **ambitious cohesion policy** and will encourage better mobilisation of European funds for the objectives of the Alpine strategy.

COHESION

Mountains and valleys of the Alps, rural plains, medium-sized cities and metropolises: the Alpine region is characterised by the diversity of its territories. All must be integrated into the



strategy. The French Presidency particularly wishes to encourage cooperation between cities, valleys and mountain sites.

YOUTH

The challenge vis-à-vis young people in the Alpine region is twofold: orienting actions to their benefit and **making young people a vector of strategy ambitions**, by developing their participation in actions.

PRAGMATISM

Build on what already exists: the French Presidency intends to **capitalise on existing cooperation**, whether cross-border, transnational or local.

SPECIFICITY

Foster the emergence of projects revealing the objectives of the strategy and encourage public policies to **rely on the work of action groups**.

PROMOTION

"Let people know, transmit, communicate !"

All the actions carried out by the strategy are intended to be **public and disseminated to the greatest number**, in particular to replicate initiatives and actions beneficial to the sustainable development of the Alps.

Debates such as accomplishments of **public and collective interest**. EUSALP is not a closed insider club; it must be as close as possible to the needs of the territories!

A PROGRAM DEVELOPED ALONG SEVEN AXES

France's goal for this EUSALP presidency, as part of the European Commission's "Green New Deal", is the fight against climate change. How can human damage to this unique natural heritage be corrected? With the support of action groups and all partners, the French presidency will develop its program around seven priority and complementary areas of action.

CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY AND PREVENT NATURAL RISKS

Co-managers: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the State

The natural heritage of the Alps is vulnerable to human activities. Changes to land use, fragmentation of environments, overexploitation of resources, pollution, etc. These practices undermine Alpine biodiversity as well as the quality of environments and landscapes which are themselves "raw materials" for the economy, and for the attractiveness of the area. Prevention of natural risks, and preservation of biodiversity, in particular of mountain >

THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY: A YEAR TO MOVE FROM DIAGNOSIS TO ACTION!

forests, are essential conditions for maintaining the Alps' populations and economic development.

Our commitment is to for the States and Regions to adopt a political declaration on governance mechanisms for coordinating sustainable infrastructure in the Alpine region (in relation to biodiversity/risks) - in the same manner way as that of the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) -, as well as the project to establish and develop a network of committed territories (transnational approach to multilevel and integrated governance in relation to natural risks, with an integrated management approach).

SPEEDING UP THE ENERGY TRANSITION OF THE ALPINE REGION

Co-managers: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and State

In the fight against climate change, increasing the energy efficiency of the public and private sectors is essential. The French presidency intends to develop the region's renewable energy production potential: hydroelectric, solar, wind, geothermal, firewood and biomass, while conserving the land and responding to ecological constraints.

This is a major challenge for a territory where the consequences of climate change are felt more strongly than elsewhere, are already visible, and are having a negative effect on lifestyles and ecosystems: glacier retreat, disappearance of permafrost, drying up of

lakes and wetlands, raising of the rain/snow threshold, appearance of pests and invasive species etc.

DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Co-managers: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and the State

Transport accounts for almost 30% of pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions in the Alps. Faced with this fact, and in order to consolidate the Alpine region's economic dynamism, it is necessary to provide solutions, both for the commercial sector and for inhabitants.

The French presidency wants to:

- promote innovations and new technologies that encourage a modal shift to rail and alternative logistics solutions. And to do that by taking full advantage of development of river and maritime logistics. It also wishes to promote measures for harmonisation, support and incentives with regard to combined transport (a common approach to grants, rail and energy pricing);
- create an inventory of solutions based on open data, its convergence and maturity, in order to progress towards a multimodal, interoperable and transnational information system for travelers;
- list missing and strategic sections for accessibility and cross-border connections (the Nice-Turin and Lyon-Turin lines, the



Veynes railway node, etc.) with a view to improving the accessibility of isolated Alpine areas, in connection with the Trans-European Transport Network's (TEN-T) secondary network;

- promote the development of cable transport connecting stations to valleys ("Valley lifts") or providing urban public transport services;
- support the energy and ecological conversion of passenger and freight transport.

DEVELOP YEAR-ROUND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Co-managers: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and State

The fight against climate change and the conservation of the Alps' biodiversity is a priority for the French presidency. This year, 2020, will be decisive in boosting the transition from Alpine tourism to a more ecological model.

The French Presidency aims to find solutions allowing this essential economic sector for the Alps to develop, while respecting the environment and the area's authenticity:

- treat tourism at the territorial level, not only at the resort level;
- emphasise heritage in all its diversity;
- network actors in order for them to capitalise on successful initiatives.

PROMOTE THE CONSUMPTION OF LOCALLY-SOURCED MOUNTAIN PRODUCTS

Co-managers: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and State

The goal is to restore the Alps' nourishing function. Consume locally to preserve jobs, know-how, biodiversity, landscapes, and to achieve economies of scale. In addition, the lumber industry is a major player in the area's economic development and is a generator of jobs.

The development of links between "local production" and "local consumption" reinforces interdependence between the different territories making up the Alps: cities-valleys-mountains.

The French Presidency is committed to enhancing this Alpine heritage, and to enhancing pastoralism. Indeed, this ancient practice of livestock transhumance contributes to preserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and preventing natural risks. This is why the French presidency wants to support procedures for registration of pastoralism, from Alpine culinary heritage, to the intangible heritage of Unesco.





THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY: A YEAR TO MOVE FROM DIAGNOSIS TO ACTION!

ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALPS

Co-managers: Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region and State

The French presidency wants to initiate actions involving young people more in development of the Alpine territory, to enable them to take control of their Alpine destiny:

- stimulate academic and professional mobility;
- experiment with urban and mountain youth camps;
- promote the learning of Alpine languages;
- relaunch school stays in the mountains;
- organise discoveries of mountain businesses;
- encourage sports and leisure activities in the Alps for young urban people.

It is about discovering and rediscovering what life in the Alps offers, encouraging personal and professional paths within the area.

IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

Leading player: The State

Many actors are involved in developing the Alpine region. Whether they act at a local, regional, national or European level, whether they are local authorities, whether they embody civil society or whether they act within a framework of cooperation mechanisms, all aim to make the Alps massif a protected and dynamic territory.

The French presidency aims to harmonise relations and promote cooperation, to better serve the objectives of the strategy, and to achieve concrete results.

The French presidency will systematise synergies with the Alpine Convention, during the unprecedented double French presidency, in 2020, of the two bodies, in particular by providing for joint meetings of the working groups of the Alpine Convention and the action groups of EUSALP, dealing with the same issues and programming major joint events of the two French presidencies.

In addition, the French presidency will work to develop the bridges between EUSALP and European territorial cooperation programs, both transnational and cross-border, as well as sub-regional cooperation in European rural development.

The French presidency will be attentive to strengthening city-valley-mountain cooperation, which alone is capable of effectively succeeding in the ecological transition of the Alpine region.

Finally, the French presidency will work to widen the circle of actors involved in EUSALP, in particular for the benefit of communities, civil society and young people.

2020 SCHEDULE

EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!

4 FEBRUARY

Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

Launch of the French presidency (conference and meeting of the General Assembly)

19-20 FEBRUARY

Brussels (Belgium)

Cooperation Alps 2020+
Meeting of the authorities responsible for managing European funds for the Alpine region, for better mobilisation of future European programs 2021-2027 in implementation of EUSALP.

2-3 APRIL

Aix-les-Bains (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

Mountain forest and climate change in EUSALP. Meetings and exchanges on the future of Europe's Alpine mountain forests.

22-24 APRIL

Grenoble (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

As part of the Mountain Planet fair:

- a EUSALP stand;
- a conference on the valley lifts;
- a conference on tourism diversification of areas containing a resort.

16-17 JUNE

Marseille (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region)

As part of the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), co-organisation of the event on Alpine and mountain biodiversity with the French presidency of the Alpine Convention.

25 JUNE

Nice (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region)

Transport conference

13-22 JULY

Jura (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region)

Summer camp for young people with preparation of projects as part of "Pitch your project!"

SEPTEMBER

Chamonix (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

climate-energy-risk event including the annual conference on energy transition in the Alpine region



5-6 OCTOBER

Vercors (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

Europe for the smart village. Meeting proposed to emphasise the known results of Smart Village approaches.

OCTOBER

Brussels (Belgium)

Cooperation Alps 2020+
Meeting of the authorities responsible for managing European funds for the Alpine region, for better mobilisation of future European programs 2021-2027 in implementation of EUSALP.

OCTOBER

Grenoble (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

Event on city-valley-mountain cooperation "metro-mountains summit", notably involving cities and metropolises

5 NOVEMBER

Grenoble (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region)

Discovering the smart village. Traveling and visiting remarkable sites, meeting local actors and elected officials.

10-11 DECEMBER

Nice (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region)

Ending of the French presidency (Annual Forum and meeting of the General Assembly of EUSALP)

Complete agenda at www.alpine-region.eu



INFORMATION

Do you have a local action and want to talk about EUSALP?

1. Request the official labeling (contacts p. 2).
2. Download the graphic identity: www.alpine-region.eu



DR

A LABORATORY OF PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

The European Union's Strategy for the Alpine Region is a "European goal", which implies shared and participatory governance.

European Union, Member States, non-EU countries, and Regions make up the pilots and actors of EUSALP. All participate in decisions, define objectives and lead action groups.

Various bodies have been created to encourage collective participation in the strategy's decision-making and implementation. EUSALP's added value lies in:

- its geographical perimeter taking into account the interdependencies between territories (cities-valleys-mountains);
- association of the different levels of public action: European, national, regional;
- unprecedented State-Regions co-management;
- large involvement of sub-regional authorities and civil society.

EUSALP thus builds an Alpine Europe, closer to citizens and regions.

FUNDING

The European Union's macro-regional strategies do not have their own budgetary resources but must make it possible to offer an integrated vision of development and conservation of the Alpine region in order to stream funding towards shared objectives.

For the members of EUSALP, it is a matter of making known, as widely as possible, the macro-region's challenges, integrating them into local, regional and European public policies, and carrying out concrete projects for the benefit of the area's inhabitants.

The funds of the European Union's cohesion policy (ERDF, ESF, part of the EAFRD), in regional programs and European territorial cooperation programs (transnational and cross-border), of course constitute privileged resources for funding implementation of EUSALP.

However, all of the European Union's sectoral programs, managed directly by the European Commission, must also be able to be mobilised for implementation of EUSALP.

Beyond European funds, the challenge is to be able to include state, regional and sub-regional policies in EUSALP's objectives, and thereby mobilise the corresponding funding.

The challenge for 2020, a pivotal year between the 2014-2020 period and the 2021-2027 period of European Union policies, therefore lies in better taking into account the territorial specificities of the Alpine region in all future programs and in their increased and facilitated mobilization for implementing EUSALP.

The commitment of the States and Regions, in EUSALP, to ecological transition makes the Alpine region a pioneering territory for the new European Commission's "Green New Deal". The mobilisation of European Commission policies and funding will be decisive in enabling the Alpine region to succeed in this ecological change.



NICOLAS PLAIN

AN AMBASSADOR TO PROMOTE EUSALP AMONG CITIZENS

Nicolas Plain is a child of the Alps. Originally from Grenoble, this 29-year-old scientist and documentary maker roams the area by paraglider. Equipped with a flying laboratory, he searches for concrete solutions and promotes the practices of actors in the field, to fight against the effects of climate change. The French presidency has entrusted him with the role of EUSALP ambassador, which he will support, throughout 2020, to make its activity better known to citizens **Testimony**.



and replicable solutions to the problems of climate change and pollution which their territory suffers from.

The Alps is, unfortunately, a natural area witnessing the devastating effects of climate change. But it is also a laboratory for identifying solutions that can be "exported" to other regions of Europe.

The French presidency of EUSALP is an incredible opportunity to mobilise, in a crossover manner, public authorities, civil society, and businesses, in favour of ecological transition of the Alpine region. It must contribute to better supporting citizens and Alpine regions in their projects to fight against climate change and their adaptation actions. It must also encourage, more broadly, all of us to subscribe to the European Commission's "Green New Deal".

So let's go! Together, let us take advantage of this magnificent opportunity to create a more sustainable society that responds to the challenges of the 21st century!"

"I decided to get involved with EUSALP out of conviction. Conviction that it is at the local level, and with all of society's actors, where we will succeed in accelerating the ecological transition to face the climate emergency! I traveled more than 1,000 km in the Alps, from Cannes to Salzburg, and got involved in the inter-ministerial team at COP21 in 2015. These experiences allowed me to interact with dozens of people who work every day to find concrete

WE MUST SAVE THE ALPS!

Nicolas Plain is the creator of a series of documentaries called "We must save the Alps", which will be screened at the next Cannes Festival in May 2020. To facilitate their replicability and to create new ones, the scientist-director has decided to launch a web interface, www.ilfautsauver.org, where researchers and finders of solutions will meet, share their ideas and actions, and thus accelerate locally and concretely the ecological transition! See: <https://nicolasplain.fr>



To find out more go to: www.alpine-region.eu



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