





# Work Plan 2023 - 2025

## Action Group 4 - Mobility

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**U**nder the 2nd Strategic Objective of EUSALP, partners focus on the most important challenges and opportunities concerning mobility and connectivity in the Alpine Region. Action Group 4 addresses the need for sustainable mobility solutions by promoting, inter alia, intermodality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport.

Three priority topics have been identified by AG4 members at the beginning of the process:

- Implementation of modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems,
- Infrastructure for sustainable transport,
- Interconnecting public transport systems.

Based on the evaluation of the achievements of the previous Work Plan 2020 – 2022 as well as expanding and adapting its Thematic Areas (TAs) to current developments, for the period 2023-2025, EUSALP AG4 aims to realise these objectives through activities in the following priorities:

- 1. Smart clean logistics and policy measures in freight transport to support modal shift (rail and combined and multimodal transport)**
- 2. Secondary railway infrastructure (local and regional transport links)**
- 3. Resilient road and rail infrastructure**
- 4. Smart and sustainable passenger transport (local, regional and cross-border mobility)**

Moreover, AG4 has launched a new strategic flagship initiative “**energy transition in the transport system**”.

## TARGETS AND COMPOSITION

### 1. Mission statement of the Action Group

Transport is one of the main causes of climate change – almost thirty percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the Alps can be attributed to transport – and both passenger and freight traffic volumes are rising continuously. Road transport, in particular, causes further negative externalities such as air pollution, noise and traffic congestion. The development of public transport, rail services for freight and alternative mobility solutions has been boosted considerably by Alpine countries and regions in the last years, but is still insufficient in many parts. This makes mobility one of the biggest challenges for the social, economic and ecological development of the Alpine regions.

Moreover, transport accounts for one third of the total energy consumption in the Alpine Region. The transport sector therefore demonstrates a high potential for reducing energy demand and for becoming more energy efficient. With regard to current developments and the energy crisis, an increased engagement by EUSALP actors for reducing energy consumption in the transport sector is indispensable. In the Alpine Region, activities and solutions need to be adapted to the specific needs of the region and the environment. This concerns spatial planning, tourism mobility, trans-alpine freight transport flows, the sensitive landscape as well as land use and impacts on ecosystems that come along with large-scale renewable energy production.

With representatives from 48 Alpine regions, covering seven national states and more than 80 million inhabitants, the AG4 Mobility offers a platform to coordinate and harmonise the activities of Alpine regions and countries for a sustainable transport and mobility system. Its mission is to build a common understanding on a future-proof transport policy and mobility, to define common objectives and to launch specific activities and projects within the framework of the fundamental principles of free movement in line with Articles 34, 35 and 36 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

## 2. Composition and sub-groups

Similar to the composition of Work Plan 2020-2022, in the period 2023-2025, the idea is to organize members' involvement around pre-defined activities under now five TAs as described above.

The following list provides an overview of the AG4 members with decision-making capacity and the persons representing them in AG4:

- France (Sylvie Vigneron)
- Germany (Katharina Erdmenger)
- Italy (Grazia Maria Cacopardi, Paolo Angelini, Armando Tagliatela)
- Liechtenstein (Henrik Caduff)
- Slovenia (Franc Zepic, Zlatko Podgorski)
- Switzerland (Matthias Rinderknecht, Markus Liechti; Alexis Kessler, Aurelio Vigani)
- Aosta Valley (Antonio Pollano)
- Bavaria (Harry Seybert)
- Carinthia (Hans Schuschnig, Jörg Putzl, Volker Bidmon, Karsten Schröder)
- Friuli Venezia Giulia (Alberto Cozzi, Massimiliano Angelotti)
- Liguria (Gabriella Rolandelli, Jacopo Riccardi, Raffaele Cattani, Michele Cervetto)
- Lombardy (Alessandra Bellomi)
- Région Sud Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (Xavier Garcia, Didier Biau)
- Piedmont (Matteo Brumati)
- Salzburg (Ralf Kühn)
- South Tyrol (Simone Messner)
- Styria (Alfred Nagelschmied)
- Trentino (Massimo Negriolli)
- Tyrol (Ekkehard Allinger-Csollich, Patrick Skonieczki, Michael Bürger)
- Veneto (Marco d'Elia)
- Vorarlberg (Stefan Duelli)

## 3. Involvement of the stakeholders

Members in Advisory Role are NGOs, umbrella organizations, fora or associations representing a large group of stakeholders or civil society. These members ensure the link between the AG and EUSALP-wide actors and their activities. Four members in advisory role and five observers are currently represented in AG4, with the following fields of interest:

Members in Advisory Role:

- **Central European Initiative:** with the final goal of promoting integration and sustainable development among its 17 member States, paying particular attention to supporting the mobility of goods and people in the CEI area, it participates in many EU funded projects relevant to AG4.

- **CIPRA International:** Ensures link with civil society and environmental protection in AG4 activities. Participates in many Interreg projects relevant to AG4. Partnered with AG4 Lead in ARPAF project CrossBorder.
- **CIPRA Youth Council:** ensures youth participation in AG4 activities and launched Yoalin (Youth Alpine Interrail) relevant to AG4.
- **EUROCHAMBRES:** ensures compatibility with economic interests in AG4 activities.

Observers:

- **European Commission:** ensures embedding AG4 activities in the Strategy, informs about relevant initiatives at EU level, advises in all AG4 activities.
- **Interreg Alpine Space Programme:** ensures synergies and exchange with projects, advises in launch of new projects.
- **Alpine Convention:** ensures synergies with WG Transport. Interested in all activities.
- **EUSALP Youth Council:** ensures the participation of the alpine Youth in AG4 activities and the representation of their interests
- **Canton of Grisons** (The Swiss cantons act as observers in AGs following a decision by the Swiss Confederation.)

#### 4. The role of the Youth Council

The Youth Council has become an important voice in developing the activities of all EUSALP AGs. EUSALP AG4 is committed to engage the Youth Council in all AG4 activities in order to take up specific considerations and “fresh” viewpoints from the young generation and to ensure their involvement in the decision-making process. EUSALP AG4 is dedicated to consulting with the Youth Council on initiating projects as well as the implementation of the strategy. Currently, the Youth Council is working on implementation of the project AlpTick for a cross-border ticket for young people in the Alpine Region. AG4 is committed to support the Youth Council with the implementation. Moreover, EUSALP AG4 is engaged in actively involving the Youth Council in events organized by EUSALP AG4 such as Action Group 4 Meetings, the EUSALP Mobility Conference and further sessions.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022

EUSALP AG4 has tackled most of the Thematic Areas and Activities defined by the previous Workplan 2020-22, which is well reflected in the EUSALP Policy Brief of 2022, the [Declaration on Rail Transport in Alpine Regions](#), the [Labelled EUSALP AG4 Projects](#) and events organised and attended by AG4 representatives.

In light of the European Year of Rail, EUSALP AG4 concluded to summarize the priorities which were shared by politicians at the AG4 Mobility Conference. The resulting Declaration on Rail Transport in the Alpine Region, a contribution by EUSALP to join forces for a sustainable transport and mobility system, was finally presented at the 5th EUSALP Mobility Conference 2022 in Innsbruck. The Declaration calls on the European Union to create a level-playing field between transport modes as basic requirement for an effective modal shift, to optimise the potential of rail to serve as the backbone of an interconnected multi-modal transport system and to improve infrastructure provisions for rail transport. 15 Alpine regions officially declared their support by means of a Letter of Support.

Moreover, the commonly adopted EUSALP AG4 Assessment Methodology for Individual Projects serves to identify and label projects with a relevance for the fostering of sustainable mobility solutions in the Alpine Region from a macro regional perspective. Promoters of such selected projects can communicate their endorsement by the macro-region to decision-making authorities who are in the position to boost their implementation and/or to provide adequate financial support.

In addition, a consumer-friendly interface integrating the already existing iMONITRAF! WebGIS with further layers on AG4 activities has been further developed. This [Alpine Platform of Knowledge for Mobility and Transport](#) has become an interactive communication tool which informs about projects of AG4 and transport-related data in the Alps (traffic flows, environmental data, pricing components).

Under the first AG4 Work Plan, one of the priorities was the interconnection of public transport information across borders. As a result, AG4 actively helped building a project consortium, which led to the Interreg Alpine Space project “[Linking Alps](#)”. The project that concluded in 2022 has built an operational structure for improved access to low-carbon mobility options and provides seamless, cross-border information through end-user services for tourists and for citizens, in particular for daily commuters so that they change mobility behaviour.

## **PRIORITIES 2023-2025**

### **1. Key issues and activities**

The key issues and activities on which AG4 will work in the next three years are based on the four priorities outlined below as well as the strategic flagship initiative on energy transition in the transport sector. The priorities build on previous activities of AG4, but also aims to identify synergies, strengthen cooperation and avoid duplication with the Alpine Convention WG Transport by referring to their last and current mandates.



In addition, , AG4 will continue with a third call for labelling individual projects that foster sustainable mobility solutions in the Alpine Region from a macroregional perspective, based on the AG4 assessment methodology.

### **1. Smart clean logistics and policy measures in freight transport to support modal shift (rail and combined and multimodal transport)**

AG4 will promote, exchange, and inform on activities and projects that optimise rail and combined transport (CT) infrastructures, services and logistic processes for freight transport to support modal shift, and new potentials of innovative technologies and digitalisation for improving capacity, efficiency and quality of rail and combined transport solutions in the Alpine Region. This can include infrastructure projects related to inland terminals and ports, smart CT, smart rail, automatisisation of logistic processes, and freight matching that support modal shift from road to rail. Moreover, the iMONITRAF! network will continue to regularly inform AG4 members on policy measures that support rail and CT, such as the harmonisation of related pricing mechanisms, pertinent external costs, and data collection in the frame of the established monitoring system. All iMONITRAF! data is integrated in the [Alpine Platform of Knowledge for Mobility and Transport](#).

#### Specific activities:

- Sharing of best practices
- AG4 project labelling third call (likely in 2024) to identify concrete projects that contribute to sustainable mobility in the Alpine Region
- Cooperation with EU funded projects
- Political conferences and technical workshops
- Data collection

#### Expected results:

- Sharing of innovative solutions in combined transport
- Coordinated policy measures to support rail and CT
- Harmonization of related pricing mechanisms, pertinent external costs

#### Link to ongoing projects:

- iMONITRAF!
- AG4 labelled projects (FVG.2, FVG.5, KTN.2, STM.1)

### **2. Secondary railway infrastructure (local and regional transport links)**

AG4 will work on key issues such as modernising and maintaining existing infrastructure to guarantee efficient accessibility also in remote Alpine regions suffering from depopulation for

a resilient and socially and economically sustainable Alpine transport system. A third project call as part of the AG4 labelling will be launched which may identify additional missing links in the Alpine rail network and projects on upgrading of local railways that contribute to sustainable mobility in the Alpine Region with a macro-regional added value.

Specific activity:

- AG4 project labelling third call (likely in 2024) to identify concrete projects that contribute to sustainable mobility in the Alpine Region

Expected results:

- Identification of missing links in the Alpine rail network, upgrading of local railways

Link to ongoing projects:

- AG4 labelled projects (GRB.1, PAC.1, PIE.1, TIR.1, VEN.2, VEN.3, BAV.11)

### 3. Resilient road and rail infrastructure

Major road and rail infrastructure works along the transalpine corridors are expected in the years to come, which could lead to redistribution effects between corridors. Alpine States and regions will increasingly focus on managing capacities to absorb the anticipated increases in traffic volumes, both in terms of transport of goods and people. In a first step, AG4 will collect data and information on ongoing infrastructure interventions for more transparent exchange between transalpine corridors and the affected regions. In the context of climate change, resilience of transport infrastructure in the Alpine Region are increasingly taken into account. AG4 can be a platform to exchange knowledge and experiences on potential impacts of climate change on transport infrastructure and measures for adaptation as well as the analysis on further protection measures to future-proof infrastructure.

Specific activities:

- Collection of data and information of ongoing intervention measures on existing road and rail infrastructure in the Alpine Region
- Sharing of best practices
- Possible EU co-funded project on climate resilience of infrastructure
- AG4 project labelling third call (likely in 2024) to identify concrete projects that contribute to sustainable mobility in the Alpine Region

Expected results:

- Overview of relevant road/rail infrastructure works and their effects on traffic flows and capacity management during disruptions to improve coordination and manage traffic flows across the Alpine Region
- Give more visibility to the funding needs of infrastructure measures in the context of climate change adaptation

#### Link to ongoing projects:

- AG4 labelled projects (STM.4, TIC,1)
- iMONITRAF!

#### **4. Smart and sustainable passenger transport (local, regional and cross-border mobility)**

Building on previous projects such as ARPAF CrossBorder and the Interreg Alpine Space project LinkingAlps, AG4 will continue to provide a platform to put smart and sustainable passenger transport with a focus on cross-border mobility on the political agenda. Measures relevant to this priority include:

- Closing gaps of infrastructures and/or services/operation in cross-border regions
- Development of alternative transport solutions
- Mobility as a Service and last mile solutions
- Integrated information and ticketing for public transport
- Coordination of local and regional transport planning at macro-regional level

#### Specific activities:

- AG4 project labelling third call (likely in 2024) to identify concrete projects that contribute to sustainable mobility in the Alpine Region
- Support EUSALP Youth Council in the implementation of the AlpTick project
- Political conferences and technical workshops
- Promotion of CrossBorder policy recommendations in Alpine cross-border regions

#### Expected results:

- Improve public transport and smart mobility services in the Alpine Region with a special focus on innovative (e.g. on demand) solutions and the need to close missing links in cross-border regions, making use of digital innovation and adapting to changing lifestyles
- Make progress on the implementation of policy recommendations of the ARPAF project CrossBorder

### Link to ongoing projects:

- AG4 labelled projects (FVG.4, BAV.2, VBG.1, FVG.1, LIG.1, LIG.2)

## 2. Strategic flagship initiatives

In order to complement the Work Plan 2023-2025, EUSALP AG4 identifies the flagship initiative “**Energy transition in the transport system in the Alpine Region**”.

The current energy crisis has given new dynamics and urgency to the energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources. Transport plays an important role in tackling the energy crisis: the sector needs to catch up both in respect to a more efficient use of energy but also in the transition to renewable energy. Today, the transport sector is responsible for roughly one third of the total energy consumption in the EU and is highly dependent on fossil fuels. Oil-derived fuels account for 95 % of energy consumption in transport. Moreover, the overall demand for transport and mobility has picked up again following two years of low demand related to Covid. Thus, from European to the local level, there are currently significant efforts to accelerate measures towards decarbonisation in the transport sector.

In the Alps, measures and activities need to be customized and tailored to the needs and specific characteristics of the Alpine region, considering the specific settlement patterns, the needs of tourism mobility, and trans-alpine freight transport flows. Measures to decarbonise transport should follow the „avoid-shift-improve“ approach (reduce demand; modal shift from road to rail and soft modes; alternative propulsion systems). Better public transport, shared mobility services and modal shift from road to rail and soft modes can reduce overall energy consumption in the transport sector. EUSALP AG4 is committed to identify, develop as well as promote measures and activities. Moreover, smart, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches are needed to capture the potentials of energy transition. This includes the identification of innovative approaches to accelerate the energy transition in the transport and mobility sector, considering new players in a cross-sectoral perspective and supporting existing policy measures, financial incentives and cooperation structures.

Cooperation with Action Groups 5 and 9 already started in 2022 with a dedicated session at the 21<sup>st</sup> AG4 meeting as well as a joint session at the EUSALP Annual Forum 2023. Moreover, AG4 and AG9 co-organised a stakeholder session together with transport coordinators of the Danube and Baltic Sea Region macro-regional Strategies at the MRS week in April 2023 on energy in transport. The three MRS plan to co-organise a joint high-level policy conference at the latest in 2025.

Moreover, synergies with the Alpine Convention Working Group Transport are ongoing. A joint EUSALP-Alpine Convention event will take place in October 2023 on the implementation on the EU Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation.

Specific activities:

- Data collection in the frame of the Interreg Alpine Space project CERVINO
- EUSALP/Alpine Convention Stakeholder meeting “Accelerating the Electrification of Road Transport in the Alps (AFIR-Cooperation)” in Innsbruck on 12/10/2023
- High-level political conference in cooperation with other MRS in 2025 in Brussels
- AG4 project labelling third call (likely in 2024) to identify concrete projects that contribute to sustainable mobility in the Alpine Region

Expected results:

- Identification of innovative approaches to accelerate the energy transition
- Consideration of new players in a cross-sectoral perspective
- Support of existing policy measures, financial incentives and cooperation structures
- Contribution to decarbonisation and more efficient use of energy in transport sector with coordinated measures

### 3. Cross-cutting priorities

At the EUSALP Annual Forum 2022 in Trento, AG4 in cooperation with AG9 and AG5 organised a technical workshop on “Success factors for energy transition – smart solutions and strategies for tackling the energy crisis in the Alpine Region”. This workshop paved the way for a further collaboration between the Action Groups on the topic of energy transition in the Alpine Region.

Under the new Interreg Alpine Space project SupportEUSALP, the AGL defined “Fast-tracking Energy Transition for a Carbon Neutral Alpine Region” as one of the four cross-cutting priorities of EUSALP for the period 2023-25.

AG4 will focus on addressing the following objectives:

- Better public transport, shared mobility services
- Modal shift from road to rail and soft modes to reduce overall energy consumption in the transport sector
- Smart, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches to capture the potentials of energy transition.

These objectives will be addressed the following activities:

- Data collection on energy consumption of the transport sector

- Identify innovative approaches to accelerate decarbonisation of transport, considering new players in a cross-sectoral perspective and supporting existing policy measures, financial incentives and cooperation structures.
- Possible high-level conference with other Macro-Regional Strategies

AG4 may also support AG9 on the following projects related to the development of hydrogen:

- SUPPORTEUSALP: organization of H2 focus group, coordination of the cross cutting priority, participation to public events
- AMETHyST and H2MA Alpine Space projects will produce knowledge through an online platform and pilot cases
- Horizon Europe Hydrogen Valleys calls: to build regional eco-systems on H2
- Alternative fuel facility: to invest in H2 infrastructures along Alpine corridors

## COMMUNICATION

### 4. Dissemination and communication activities

The AG4 main consumer-friendly interface is called the “Alpine Platform of Knowledge for Mobility and Transport”. As in the previous period, it serves as an interactive communication tool to be continually updated with information about the activities and projects of the AG4. It contains information on indicators like "road traffic flows", "composition vehicle fleet", "rail traffic fluxes", "air pollutant emissions", and "toll prices". Moreover, the Alpine Platform of Knowledge informs about relevant AG4 outputs such as the labelled projects, the ARPAF CrossBorder project, the AG4 Conflict Map and other studies. On the one hand, the aim is to reach a wider public and to draw attention to AG4 activities, on the other hand, to convey certain technical contents for political decision-making and implementation of the Strategy. Strong communication ties also exist with the relevant Interreg projects (Alpine Space, Central Europe) as well as with the transport coordinators of the other EU macro-regional strategies.

Concerning the participation to other initiatives, the AG4 Lead acts as an observer in the Alpine Convention WG Transport by communicating regular updates and paving the way for more effective cooperation. Moreover, several AG4 members are involved in the iMONITRAF! Network. Direct exchange occurs on a regular basis on technical contents.

### 5. Events

As was the case within the framework of the last two Work Plans, the AG4 will be hosting annual Mobility Conferences under Work Plan 2023-2025, too. Mobility Conferences are planned:

- 01/09/2023 in Lugano, Switzerland,
- May/June 2024 in Bolzano, Italy,
- 2025 in Innsbruck, Austria.

Additional events co-organised by EUSALP AG4 will include:

- EUSALP/Alpine Convention Stakeholder meeting “Accelerating the Electrification of Road Transport in the Alps (AFIR-Cooperation)” in Innsbruck on 12/10/2023
- High-level political conference in cooperation with other MRS in Brussels in 2025

These conferences offer a platform for dissemination and interaction with the wider public, stakeholders, the press and political authorities.

Internally, AG4 organizes three Action Group meetings per year, one online and two physical. Such meetings allow the group members to ensure effective cooperation, to update each other on their ongoing activities, and to deliberate about relevant issues. Non-members are usually welcome to join these meetings, in accordance with the agenda of the meeting.

The AG4 regularly organises workshops, exchange meetings or conferences on certain issues in need of technical know-how and/or input in the form of best practice examples from specific stakeholders (e.g. on energy transition in the transport system). Furthermore, the AG4 is committed to organise and attend cross-cutting meetings as well as to foster cross-MRS cooperation.

## WORK PLAN OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

Indicators	Target
n. joint political declarations	1
please describe if possible: focus on energy transition in the transport system	
n. cross-border/transnational events	3
please describe if possible: annual EUSALP Mobility Conferences	
n. joint policy recommendations	5
please describe if possible: in particular on energy transition in the transport system	
n. project to be submitted on the Alpine Space Programme (incubated in the Action Group)	2
please describe if possible: there is specific objective on transport in the ASP, therefore a maximum of two projects seems realistic	
n. project to be submitted on others European Programmes (incubated in the Action Group)	0
please describe if possible	

n. of papers / research works to be published	1
please describe if possible: focus on energy transition in the transport system	
budget to be raised with European funding	2 Million
please describe if possible: one large scale and one small scale ASP project seems realistic	
other:	0
please describe if possible	



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