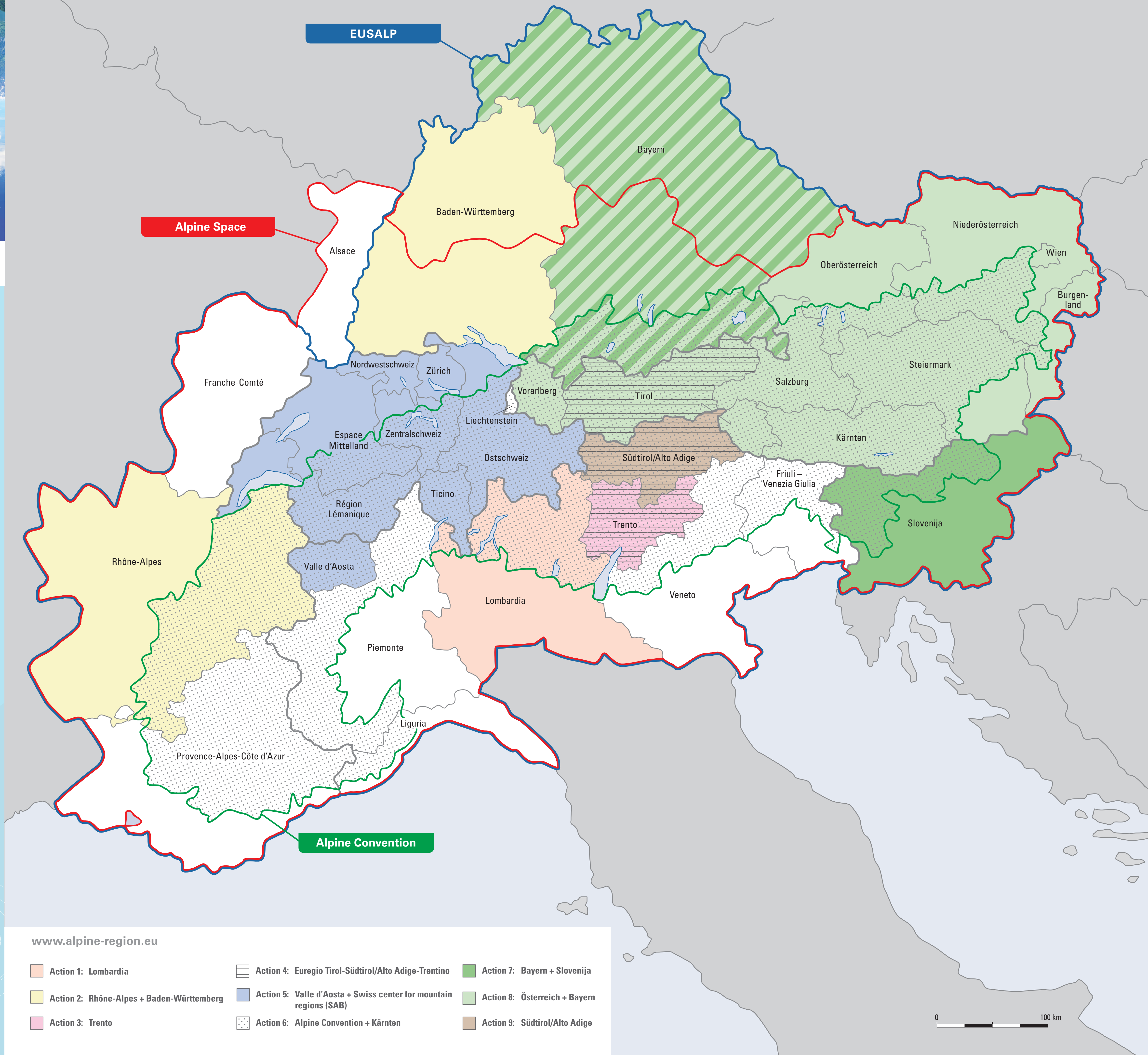


EUSALP Action Groups



www.alpine-region.eu

Action 1: Lombardia

Action 2: Rhône-Alpes + Baden-Württemberg

Action 3: Trento

Action 4: Euregio Tirol-Südtirol/Alto Adige-Trentino

Action 5: Valle d'Aosta + Swiss center for mountain regions (SAB)

Action 6: Alpine Convention + Kärnten

Action 7: Bayern + Slovenija

Action 8: Österreich + Bayern

Action 9: Südtirol/Alto Adige

0 100 km

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AG 3: Autonome Provinz Trient
AG 4: Land Tirol/ AG4 Lead Team
AG 5: 1 – 3 Action Group 5, www.pexels.com
AG 6: 1 u. 2 Alpine Convention, Stefan Krösbacher
AG 7: StMUV, Tina Trampus, StMUV, Klaus Leidolf
AG 8: BMLFUW/die.wildbach, Christian Wanger, BMLFUW/William Tados, Stefan Pratsch
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The term of Bavaria as the chair of the EU strategy for the alpine region (EUSALP) in 2017 is coming to its ceremonial end with the annual forum on 23 and 24 November 2017 in Munich, Germany.

We established the key activities and the framework for co-operation between the stakeholders and with important cooperation partners for the strategy at two general assemblies on 13 February and 23 November 2017. Today we are already reaping the first rewards of this work.

We would like to thank our Action Groups for setting clear priorities, for the great willingness to cooperate, and for initial successes in the course of implementation, impressively documented by the enclosed folding map. Numerous events with excellent participation and the addition of new implementation partners in the course of the year bear witness to the high mobilisation of the stakeholders involved. We wish to thank the European Parliament and the European Commission for their cooperation and for providing EUR 4 million for concrete implementation measures. This serves as recognition for the work that has been done.

We have identified EU funding opportunities for implementation measures of the EU alpine strategy in close consultation with institutional partners within and outside the alpine region, especially under the INTERREG alpine space programme, as well as synergies through cooperation with the platforms and workgroups of the Alpine Convention.

At the conference on green infrastructures of the environment ministers from the alpine states and regions on 2 October 2017, a strong political signal was sent for better cross-border networking of high quality living spaces for the benefit of people, nature and the economy.

For us, macro-regional strategies such as the EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region constitute modern design tools for the future of European regions. Our request for better integration of the strategies into the future EU multi-year financial framework was met with widespread agreement by the European Parliament and European Council. Now this needs to be anchored in law.

We wish the state of Tirol great success and all the best as the future chair of the EU-Strategy for the Alpine Region, and the same enjoyment and enthusiasm that we experienced.



Dr. Beate Merk, Mdl.,
Bavarian Minister of State for
European Affairs and Regional
Relations



Ulrike Scharf, Mdl.,
Bavarian Minister of State for
the Environment and Consumer
Protection

REPORT ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 13 FEBRUARY 2017



EUSALP General Assembly 13 February 2017

The highest political decision-makers for the implementation of the strategy met on 13 February 2017 in Rottach-Egern, Bavaria for the general assembly of the EU strategy for the alpine region. Members of the general assembly are the ministers for European matters from the states and regions included in the strategy, and the member of the European Commission responsible for regional policy, Corina Crețu.

After reviewing the activities and results of the Slovenian chair in 2016, the assembly on 13 February 2017 established political focal points for the work of the action groups in the coming years and made fundamental decisions about cooperation and collaboration between various stakeholders (governance). The productive cooperation with the European Parliament and European Commission was recognised as well.

Finally, the representatives in attendance affirmed that the macro-regional strategies must be adequately considered in the EU cohesion policy and other relevant EU policies after the year 2020.



KNOW, VIEW, PLAN – DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM TO PROMOTE NETWORKING, COMPETITIVENESS, ATTRACTIVENESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE ALPINE REGION

AG 1



Anna Giorgi

EUSALP Platform of Knowledge (PoK)

The PoK aims to support EUSALP Bodies and Groups, policy makers, stakeholders, researchers, citizens to find in a single place all relevant data concerning the Alpine Region. The PoK provides a 3D map to visualize geo-referenced data; an urban sensing tool to know about people's emotions; an eLearning platform to offer a trans-regional education; a virtual room to allow time saving and site-independent meetings; a complete collection of information about EU, national and regional funding and policies concerning R&I; a media area to provide journalists and press offices with smart contents.



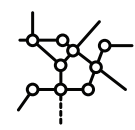
EUSALP Platform of Knowledge – dashboard, beta version

Map top level Research, Innovation Centers and clusters in the Alpine area concerning Research and Innovation

AG 1 is working to collect a comprehensive knowledge about public/private Research and Innovation Centers and Labs in the Alpine Region (what they do, where they are located, where excellence emerges, etc.). This action will provide benefit to Higher Education Institution managers, intermediaries (e.g. technology transfer and mobility offices), researchers from various fields, business professionals and policy makers at the same time, as it can facilitate university-industry interaction and networking for collaborative innovation. Re-Search Alps project and AG 1 Subgroup 2 are supporting this activity.



Map of Research Centers and Labs



MOBILITY IN THE ALPINE REGION – ENSURE SUSTAINABLE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL

AG 4

The promotion of inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport as well as the support of modal shift from road to rail to guarantee a sustainable, greener transport system and improved connectivity across the Alpine Region.



Ewald Moser,
Johanna Thöni,
Patrick Skoniakzi

Improving connectivity in passenger transport by developing a cross-border travel information system

The improvement of cross-border connectivity in passenger transport requires the optimization and harmonization of travel information systems across regions and states. The AG 4 aims to offer innovative solutions for connecting the entire Alpine Regions in order to provide seamless, multimodal travel information, while providing detailed policy recommendations for coordinated transport policy. Partners across the Alpine Region work together to draw up a comprehensive project proposal to harmonize the different existing but in many cases not interoperable information and tariff systems.



1st EUSALP AG 4
Mobility Conference
on 9 November
2016 in Innsbruck.
Roundtable discussion
with stakeholders
and external
experts on the
future collaboration
with the EUSALP
AG 4.



Members of the
EUSALP AG 4 at the
5th meeting on 20
June 2017 in Trento.
The AG 4 is currently
composed of 26
members; amongst
them 5 states, 15
regions, 3 observers
and 3 members in
advisory role.

Implementation of modal shift policies – Study on regional transport in the frame of a Toll Plus System

The implementation of coordinated modal shift policies aims at reducing environmental and social impacts of transalpine freight transport. Policy measures related to pricing and taxation can impact the competitiveness of road and rail transport and need to be carefully considered when designing an ambitious framework for modal shift. By working towards a harmonised pricing system in sensitive mountain areas the AG 4, together with the network iMONITRAFI, is further developing the already existing road pricing proposal 'Toll Plus' by addressing options for special regulations for regional transport.



ALPINE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE – FOR THE BENEFITS OF NATURE, PEOPLE AND THE ECONOMY

AG 7

A strategically planned and coherently managed network of Green Infrastructures aims at continuously providing ecosystem services in rural as well as urban settings also for future generations and for the benefits of nature, people and the economy.



Political representatives
of Alpine States
and Regions
together with
European Commission
and European
Parliament commit
for building up a
Green Infrastructure
network in the
Alpine region.

Joining forces for the Alpine Region

In a Conference held on 2 October 2017, in Munich upon invitation of Bavarian State Minister of the Environment Ulrike Scharf, representatives from Alpine States and Regions adopted a political declaration setting the landmarks for the implementation of an Alpine Green Infrastructure. At the margins of the conference, Mayors of Alpine cities initiated a network on deploying Green Infrastructure as a first implementation step on the ground. The full text of the documents can be downloaded from www.alpine-region.eu.



Michaela Künzl



Tina Trampus

Links for Life – Green Infrastructure cities network

As a result of a cooperation between the Interreg Alpine Space Project LOS_DAMAI and EUSALP AG 7 five Alpine cities/metropolitan regions signed a Memorandum of Understanding initiating a network on deploying Green Infrastructure. Against the background of climate change and growing pressure on open spaces, Green Infrastructures are of crucial importance in Alpine urban areas to secure the high living quality for the future. This EUSALP activity is a perfect example for linking relevant actors in a multi-level approach across borders and bridging urban areas with rural Alpine landscapes towards a more integrated development of the Alpine region.



Isar river – Lifeline
in the metropole of
Munich with origin
in the Austrian Alps



TO INCREASE THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF STRATEGIC SECTORS

AG 2

A better utilisation of Alpine specific resources and development of new value chains with a special focus on development opportunities for SMEs. The AG is currently working on three thematic fields each organised in individual Subgroups: Bioeconomy, Wood and Health/Tourism.



Susanne Ast



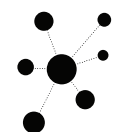
François Trusson

Bioeconomy



Networking timber industry clusters and other competence centres on Alpine scale

Companies' needs for research outputs are of crucial importance for small and medium enterprises, but access to it is often out of their reach. The role of organisations acting at the interface between R&D and firms thus is essential for the latter to overcome this constraint. Therefore pooling knowledge resources of competence centres and sharing outputs will expand their efficiency.



TO CONNECT PEOPLE ELECTRONICALLY AND PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC SERVICES

AG 5

The focus is to draw up a comprehensive strategy for guiding the process of digitisation in the Alpine Region and the accessibility to services, making the best use of new available technologies as well as developing take-up of e-services.



Giorgio Conso



Thomas Egger

Smart Villages

The AG 5 works are focusing on strategic project aiming at turning around current rural areas depopulation trends through the promotion of Smart Villages. The project has already been submitted as an Expression of Interest to the 3rd call for project ideas of the Alpine Space Transnational cooperation Program by a partnership composed by applicants coming from the whole alpine arch. The project will be led by AG 5-Co-Leader SAB. The specific objectives are to improve framework conditions for innovation in the Alpine Space, in order to respond to mountain people's concrete needs of development.

Feasibility study for an alpine fibre-optics backbone

The actual network of fibre-optical backbones still has some gaps in the alpine area. These gaps need to be overcome. The Alpine fibre-optics backbone project will bring the Alpine ICT infrastructure capabilities into line with the alpine population needs in terms of digital exchanges and communication. This project idea has been the main theme of discussion during the last AG 5 Subgroup 1 – Connectivity meeting, held in Lanslebourg-Mont-Cenis on the 29 June 2017. Within AG 5, a feasibility study for such a backbone will be carried out.



The accessibility
and digital connectivity
across borders is one of
the major aims of
EUSALP.



RISK GOVERNANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF PROTECTIVE FORESTS

AG 8

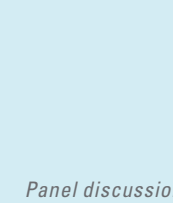
EUSALP AG 8 aims at improving risk management and better managing adaptation to climate change. In 2017 the group focused on risk governance in the context of protective forests and the related opportunities and challenges.

Forest summit Protection.Forest.Climate

This summit focused on changes in the exposure to natural hazards, adaptation strategies and protection forest. It enabled a dialogue among policy makers, decision-makers and players from various sectors like regional development, risk management of natural hazards and forest policy. A broad stakeholder dialogue and keynote presentations set the scene for a political panel discussion with Federal Minister Ruppelreiter (Austria), Minister Gantenbein (Liechtenstein), Deputy Governor Geisler (Tyrol), Deputy Governor Theiner (South Tyrol) and State Minister Scharf (Bavaria).



Florian Rudolf-Miklau



Christian Wanger



Panel discussion
Protection-Forest-
Climate



State Minister
Scharf and State
Minister Brunner
highlighted the
significance of
protection forests
for flood protection
(left to right:
Landrat G. Grabner,
StMin U. Scharf,
StMin H. Brunner,
Mdl M. Kaniber).

Symposium Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine region, 23 & 24 October 2017

This event brought together international experts to discuss protection forests in the Alpine region in the context of flood protection and heavy rain as well as exchanging experiences on risk governance in this field. Following the opening by Helmut Brunner, Bavarian State Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and Ulrike Scharf, Bavarian State Minister of Environment and Consumer Protection, the topics were detailed from different perspectives and stakeholder groups respectively. In the subsequent panel discussion a vision for the future was debated on. Excursions in the field illustrated the discussed topics.



DUAL EDUCATION – FOR A BETTER SCHOOL TO WORK TRANSITION AND FOR AN EVEN STRONGER ALPINE REGION

AG 3

AG 3 focuses on the field of dual education and aims at the mutual recognition of competencies and vocational certificates. The main sector of interest is agriculture and forestry.



Boglarka Fenyvesi Kiss,
Ilaria Simonini

A common macroregional educational space

AG 3 acts in order to improve cross boarder cooperation and allow the exchange of best practices, with the long term aim to establish a common macroregional educational space in which vocational professions and the related certificates are reciprocally acknowledged. The first step was a Forum on Dual Education in the Alpine Region where needs and challenges has been discussed, a strong network has been initiated and the next steps has been outlined.

The first Forum on
Dual Education in
the Alpine Region
took place in San
Michele all'Adige
on 9 and 10 October
2017. It focused on
themes related to
dual education systems,
recognition and
certification of
competences and
certificates.



MountErasmus

The project promoted by the Bavarian Presidency of EUSALP in collaboration with AG 3 aims at setting up and developing a network between agricultural schools in the Alpine region with the goal to increase the quality and richness of the educational offer for students, professional improvement of teachers through collaboration and exchanges between schools within the Alpine Macrorregion.



The first Mount-
Erasmus Workshop
took place on
10 October 2017 and
saw the participation
of schools coming from
all Alpine countries.
The drafting of a
collaboration
protocol between
the schools on
mountain farming
was started.



PRESERVE AND VALORIZE ALPINE RESOURCES – WITH THE ALPS TODAY FOR TOMORROW

AG 6

AG 6 contributes to the establishment of balanced models of resource management and production through preserving and sustainably valorizing the natural and cultural heritage to ensure future generations the unique living space of the Alps.



Wolfer Mayrhofer,
Lisa Ellemunter,
Helmut Serr

Awareness raising series on reduced land take and on soil protection

Putting into practice reduced land take and soil protection is crucial for sustainable development in the Alpine region. As spatial planning and soil protection are cross-cutting issues, stakeholders have to be brought together by offering them a structured dialogue. The EUSALP AG 6 awareness raising series will highlight the challenges of sustainable land use, pinpoint best practices and offer policy solutions.



Alpine agriculture
has a huge potential
for development
within Bioeconomy
and sustainable
food production
generating a large
number of certified
high quality products
and environmental
services.

Next Generation – Mountain Farming 2030

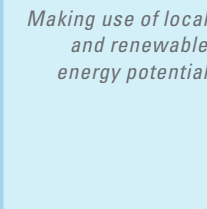
The initiative comprises a dialogue process with the young generation of mountain farmers in the Alpine region. Through up-to-date participation opportunities, young farmers and young people from sectors close to agriculture formulate their requirements and approaches for the future of a viable mountain economy providing job opportunities. Thus the risk of rural migration to urban centers can be reduced.



EUSALP MAKES ALPINE REGION A MODEL FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGIES

AG 9

The geographic and structural characteristics of the Alps provide good potentials for renewables and energy efficiency. EUSALP AG 9 supports the region to tackle the challenge of climate change and to meet energy demand sustainably, securely and affordably.



Ulrich Santa



Flavio Ruffini



Alpine energy policies in a nutshell

In 2017, the study "EUSALP energy survey" was commissioned. The study collected regional energy data from the regions and states in the Alps, compared energy strategies and their state of implementation. The outcomes of the study will serve as a source of knowledge about the "state of the art" of energy issues in the EUSALP and depicts a central piece for strategic planning of future activities of the Action Group.



Use of local and
alpine materials in
the construction
sector



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