



# ARPAF PROJECTS

Cooperation for the Alps of the Future!



## Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund - ARPAF



This activity is co-financed by the European Union.



80 million people,  
7 countries,  
48 regions

Mountains, plains  
and metropolises

Urban, peri-urban  
and rural areas

9 Action Groups

Since 2015



EUSALP is an EU macro-regional strategy based on the joint initiative of 7 Alpine states and 48 regions. It sets the strategic framework for collective actions in the Alps, addressing common challenges and opportunities and supporting the alignment of relevant policy instruments. The general objective is to promote the sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Alpine region through growth and job creation, by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity. At the same time, EUSALP strives to preserve the environ-

ment and ensure a healthy and balanced ecosystem for the next generations.

An action plan translates the identified common challenges and potentials into concrete actions. The Executive Board is the coordination body in charge of overseeing the implementation of the action plan while the General Assembly gathers the political representatives of the involved states and regions.

The EUSALP action plan is implemented by nine dedicated Action Groups (AG) along the three thematic policy areas:

- \* Economic growth and innovation
- \* Mobility and connectivity
- \* Environment and energy

The Action Groups lead the day-to-day implementation of the strategy. AG members are experts from the regional and national level. Their

competence, resources and engagement are key elements for the success of EUSALP.

Within a simple and flexible administrative framework, ARPAF funding allows AGs to realize concrete activities and proved to be a very beneficial instrument towards the implementation of the Action Groups' work plans. More information: [www.alpine-region.eu](http://www.alpine-region.eu)

## ACTION GROUPS



3

To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in strategic sectors



4

To promote intermodality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport



5

To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services



6

To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water, and cultural resources



7

To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory



8

To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention



9

To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy



1

To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem



2

To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors



The commitment of regional and local players is what shapes the Strategy. Taking ownership, aligning policies and funds, and ensuring Alpine-wide cooperative decision-making is crucial for the successful implementation of the EUSALP.

Brigitta Pallauf,

President of the Regional Parliament,

Land Salzburg,

Member of the EUSALP General Assembly



## TOPICS



Sustainable mobility



Natural resources



Circular economy



Digitalisation



Soil protection

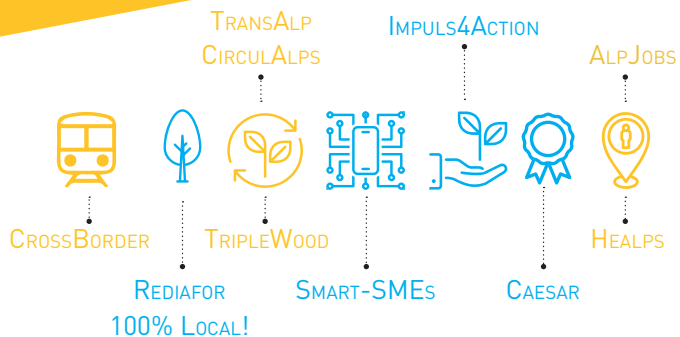


Qualification



Demographic change

## ARPAF I



## ARPAF II

The Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF) is a preparatory action created on the initiative of the European Parliament to promote the success of the EUSALP. ARPAF supports EUSALP Action Groups in implementing their work plans and establishing economic and social cooperation in the Alpine macro-region.

Out of the 2017 budget of the European Parliament, 2 Million Euros were allocated to ARPAF, which allowed the EUSALP Action Groups to implement 6 projects (ARPAF I) over a period of 2 years. In 2018, an additional 1 Million Euros were provided to fund 5 short-term ARPAF projects (ARPAF II), which will be implemented until early 2021.

The projects contribute to the objectives of the Alpine strategy, covering different thematic fields such as environment, sustainable mobility, circular economy and the issue of depopulation.





Sustainable mobility

PROJECT  
CROSSBORDER

AGs  
AG5 - AG4

LEAD PARTNER (CH)  
Schweizerische  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für  
die Berggebiete (SAB)

MAIN GOAL  
Increasing the accessibility of  
the border regions in the Alps

start \* end date  
01/01/2018 \* 31/12/2019

## CROSS-BORDER MOBILITY IN THE ALPINE REGION

Increasing cross-border mobility is a growing challenge across the Alpine region. The project tackles this issue by revealing gaps in the infrastructure and facilitating sustainable cross-border commuting solutions. In line with the EUSALP action plan, the project strives to develop a common understanding of the topic and a strategic approach to improve the state of cross-border mobility and intra-alpine accessibility.

A EUSALP-wide study analysed existing cross-border commuter flows in twelve hotspots, focusing on in- and outgoing commuter flows as well as on road and rail infrastructure quality. High-potential cooperation models were collected and their strengths and weaknesses assessed with the help of key stakeholders on each side of the border, so that they may become transferable to other regions. A compilation of international good practices about innovative mobility solutions as well as a number of recommendations to relevant actors are outcomes of this project, too.

“ The topic of accessibility does not stop at the borders. Commuter flows are a cross-border challenge in the Alpine area. EUSALP, with its multilevel governance approach, is the right place to search for common solutions. ”  
Thomas Egger, SAB,  
Co-Leader AG5



Demographic change **ARPAF I**

## PROJECT HEALPS

AGs  
AG2 - AG3

**LEAD PARTNER (AT)**  
Innovations- und  
Technologietransfer Salzburg  
GmbH (ITG)

**MAIN GOAL**  
Positioning the Alpine region  
as a globally attractive health-  
promoting place

start \* end date  
01/01/2018 \* 30/06/2019

# ALPINE HEALTH TOURISM - POSITIONING THE ALPINE REGION AS GLOBALLY ATTRACTIVE HEALTH-PROMOTING PLACE

“HEALPS combines EUSALP’s goal to increase the economic potential of the Alpine region and improve the adequacy of the labour market, education and training to the strategic sector of health tourism. **Bernhard Lehofer, ITG Salzburg, Leader AG2 sub-group “Health tourism”**”

With its outstanding nature, cultural heritage, healthy climate and long tourism tradition, the Alpine region possesses exceptional prerequisites to serve as a health-promoting place. HEALPS identified and characterized the unique assets of the Alps as a foundation for evidence-based health tourism development. Then, the project explored the needs and expectations of tourists looking for nature-based health recreation and those of service providers in the tourism sector. Educational systems and selected vocational training programmes about health tourism were compared in different Alpine countries. Last, HEALPS studied whether and how existing technologies are nowadays used by tourists and to what extent they are applied in health tourism.

The project outputs form the basis for future actions and projects to reach AG2’s target of increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of health tourism and ultimately to boost job creation and growth in the Alps.





PROJECT  
CIRCULALPS

AGs  
AG2 - AG6

LEAD PARTNER (AT)  
Fachhochschule  
Salzburg GmbH

MAIN GOAL  
Promoting circular and  
bio economy in the Alpine  
timber sector

start \* end date  
01/01/2018 \* 31/12/2019

# INNOVATION TO FOSTER SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ALPINE FORESTRY VALUE CHAIN



The forest industry doubtlessly makes a significant economic and ecological contribution to the Alpine society. The use of wood as a raw material is manifold. It can be employed directly in the construction and handicraft industry, or indirectly, using wood processing residues.

Through an Alpine-wide analysis of the timber value chains, including forest owners, harvesting companies, sawmills and district heating plants, CirculAlps lays the groundwork for better understanding the potential of innovation for this sector. First case study results show the differences in the regional timber value chains of remote Alpine areas in the involved countries. Good practices and innovative products for new forest-based value chains have been identified. Factsheets will suggest ways to improve the application of circular economy to each new value chain.

“ The introduction of circular economy and bioeconomy can support the development of new timber value chains in the Alpine area, providing added value for the positive evolution of the region. ”  
Thomas Schnabl,  
FH Salzburg (LP)





Circular economy

ARPAF I

## PROJECT TRANSALP

AGs  
AG2 - AG3 - AG7

LEAD PARTNER (DE)  
ClusterAgentur  
Baden-Württemberg

MAIN GOAL  
Bringing phytopharma and  
Medicinal Aromatic Plants on the  
European agenda and building  
trans-regional ties

start \* end date  
01/03/2018 \* 30/09/2019

## BRINGING CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO THE FARMERS IN RURAL ALPINE REGION FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The Alps are home to a large variety of Medicinal Aromatic Plants (MAP) that are used for therapeutic, aromatic or culinary purposes as components of cosmetics, medicines or food products. TRANSALP did research on MAP value chains and developed a value chain mapping tool. Key achievements of the project are a better understanding of the current phytopharma industrial development in the Alpine region, a skill formation agenda for MAP farmers in the Trento region, an improved value chain through business cooperation within the MAP sector as well as the identification of synergies for Green Infrastructure networks.

That way, TRANSALP brings the circular economy approach to MAP farmers in rural Alpine areas for more sustainable growth. Furthermore, the project activities encouraged MAP and phytopharma stakeholders to pursue closer collaboration and initiated a structured cooperation network along related value chains.

“ Transnational cooperation between farmers, phytopharmaceutical manufacturers and skills providers is crucial to sustainably tap the full potential of the growing MAP sector in the Alpine region. ”

Gerd Meier zu Köcker,  
ClusterAgentur BW (LP)





ARPAF /



Demographic change

**PROJECT**  
ALPJOBS

**AGs**  
AG6 - AG3

**LEAD PARTNER (IT)**  
Fondazione Edmund Mach

**MAIN GOAL**  
Exploring new approaches to teaching how to find and catch job opportunities and promoting "futures literacy" as a way to counterbalance depopulation in remote Alpine areas

start \* end date  
01/03/2018 \* 29/02/2020

## ANTICIPATE FUTURE JOBS ON ALPINE REMOTE AREAS

The Alpine region is particularly vulnerable to negative demographic trends, which can undermine its chances of future local development. ALPJOBS facilitates the implementation of the EUSALP action plan concerning the challenges of depopulation and "brain drain" in rural Alpine areas, with a special focus on young people (15-34 years old). In particular, the project explores local trends in five remote Alpine pilot regions, including areas in Trentino (IT), South Tyrol (IT), Styria (AT), Kungota area (SI) and Valposchiavo (CH).

The first outcomes of the project show that the target group generally lacks skills to anticipate the future of their region and, at the same time, teachers of vocational, educational and training institutions are not yet skilled enough in futures anticipation methods. Based on these analyses, ALPJOBS develops transferable training and participative methods to anticipate locally relevant changes and promote "futures literacy".





Circular economy

ARPAF I

**PROJECT**  
**TRIPLEWOOD**

**AGs**  
**AG2 - AG9**

**LEAD PARTNER (DE)**  
Ministerium für Wirtschaft,  
Arbeit und Wohnungsbau  
Baden-Württemberg, Abteilung  
Infrastruktur und Wohnungsbau

**MAIN GOAL**  
Establishing a wood building  
culture across the Alpine region  
that brings social, ecological, and  
economic benefits

start \* end date  
01/03/2018 \* 29/02/2020

**SUSTAINABLE WOOD  
BUILDING CULTURE IN THE ALPINE REGION**



“ Wood is a climate-friendly alternative to most other building materials and fosters a sense of regional identity.  
Nicole Hoffmeister-Kraut,  
State Minister of  
Baden-Württemberg for  
Economic Affairs, Labour  
and Housing Construction ”

Building with wood has a long tradition in the Alps, bringing ecological, economic and social benefits to its communities. TRIPLEWOOD aims at promoting the advantages of a sustainable wood building culture in the EUSALP region through an itinerant exhibition and other awareness raising activities. The exhibition concept builds on a collection of 59 best-practice projects on wood construction across the seven Alpine countries.

The roadshow will cover more than 30 locations across the Alps, reaching a broad audience - from the general public to architects and policy makers. Several seminars for architects and public events take place along with the exhibitions. To complete the concept, six video clips provide an additional “online seminar”. The website [triplewood.eu](http://triplewood.eu) and brochures in all Alpine languages further support the information campaign. Additional national funding to the ARPAF resources increased the scale, scope, and reach of the project.



PROJECT  
SMART-SMEs

AGs  
AG5 - AG2 - AG3

LEAD PARTNER (CH)  
Schweizerische  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für  
die Berggebiete (SAB)

MAIN GOAL  
Making the potentials of  
digitalisation known to  
small SME's in peripheral and  
rural areas, particularly in  
natural fibre-based value chains

SMART SME'S

start \* end date  
01/08/2019 \* 31/01/2021

Very small SME's - sometimes even single-person companies - form the majority of all enterprises in the Alpine area. This project aims at increasing the economic capacity of such enterprises through knowledge transfer on the potential of digitalisation.

Project activities include mapping available knowledge, collecting good practices, developing new approaches and linking relevant initiatives and actors in the region. The project will define precise measures for sustainable digital transformation. It will further explore how digitalisation helps to overcome existing barriers and how awareness raising and education can support this approach.

A focus is put on small SME's in natural fibre-based value chains in peripheral and rural areas. The results will be transferable to most of the very small SME's in the Alps and allow formulating general recommendations.

“ Digitalisation offers opportunities to overcome the challenges SME's face in mountainous areas. However, this potential must be identified, known and used.”  
Peter Niederer,  
Schweizerische  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft für  
die Berggebiete, SAB (LP)





Soil protection

ARPAF II

PROJECT  
IMPULS4ACTION

AGs  
AG6 - AG7 - AG1

LEAD PARTNER (SI)  
Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica  
Slovenije - Zavod za kmetijstvo in  
gozdarstvo Maribor

MAIN GOAL  
Raising awareness, providing tools  
and new models for sustainable  
soil protection in the Alps

start \* end date  
01/08/2019 \* 31/01/2021

## FROM INTELLIGENT LAND USE TO SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPALITIES

“ Climate change increases the need for integrative activities and tailor-made instruments concerning soil protection and Green Infrastructure development.

Stanka Klemenčič,  
KGZS-Zavod Maribor (ILP)

”

IMPULS4ACTION aims at triggering actions to support sustainable development and soil protection in the Alps. The project tackles the urgent necessity to contain land take through awareness raising activities in pilot areas and the development of a toolbox. Workshops with relevant actors will deliver information on the needs of the target groups, providing the basis for the “Sustainable soil protection” toolbox.

The project covers three thematic pilot cases - Alpine soil and water management, inner development and peatlands - and focuses on the re-use and regeneration of settlements, the water management specific to Alpine soils and the restoration and maintenance of multi-functional peatlands.

The project's comprehensive approach on sustainable soil protection is based on a dialogue between stakeholders, target groups and policy makers on the local and regional level. In turn, it contributes to improved mutual understanding and harmonisation of interests.



Natural resources

PROJECT  
REDIAFOR

AGs  
AG2 - AG6 - AG9

LEAD PARTNER (FR)  
Regional council  
Auvergne Rhône-Alpes

MAIN GOAL  
Enhancing horizontal  
cooperation in  
multifunctional forest  
management and  
sustainable use of timber

start \* end date  
01/09/2019 \* 31/01/2021

## MULTIFUNCTIONAL FOREST IN THE ALPS: REINFORCING DIALOGUE

Mountain forests are valuable yet fragile assets to the Alpine region. Conflicts over the use of this precious resource are beginning to emerge: timber extraction for construction and energy and the resulting landscape impact versus forests as recreational areas or protected natural heritage full of biodiversity; climate change increasing the need for forests to prevent natural hazards but at the same time bearing risks, such as forest fires.

To resolve these and other conflicts, REDIAFOR, in close coordination with the EUSALP Task Force “Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable use of Timber”, will catalogue the main types of risks, create spaces for transnational dialogue and develop a communication toolkit to raise awareness. The project idea emerged out of the joint workshop “Alpine forests seen from a multi-disciplinary perspective” of Action Groups 2, 6, 7 and 9 during the 2019 EUSALP forum in Innsbruck.

“ Wood is among the strategic sectors of the Alpine economy, while also being central to the Alpine ecosystem. Taking into account the strategic economic sectors will be a key element of the upcoming French presidency of EUSALP. ”  
Sylvain Guetaz,  
Auvergne Rhône-Alpes region,  
Co-Leader AG2



Qualification

ARPAF II

PROJECT  
CAESAR

AGs  
AG9- AG2

LEAD PARTNER (IT)  
Agentur für Energie  
Südtirol - KlimaHaus

MAIN GOAL

Teaming-up small enterprises and energy experts in the Alps, while supporting them to assess and improve their energy efficiency

start \* end date  
01/08/2019 \* 31/01/2021

## CAPACITATING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SMALL ALPINE ENTERPRISES

“ Not only does the implementation of energy efficiency measures improve the competitiveness of our enterprises, it also represents a key element to reach Europe's energy and climate 2030 targets. ”  
Ulrich Santa,  
Co-Leader AG9

For small companies, determining energy saving potentials often requires unproportionally high costs and efforts. CAESAR addresses the opportunities that lie herein. The project will establish a professional energy efficiency network of stakeholders from businesses, energy agencies, public administrations and energy suppliers with the purpose of rolling out energy efficiency policies in small and medium enterprises.

The project will define benchmarks and create an easily accessible energy efficiency auditing tool, designed for the needs of all regions in the Alpine area and the demands of small enterprises in particular. In the course of the project, “energy tutors” will be trained to gain the competences needed to help enterprises use the CAESAR energy management tool and improve their energy efficiency. Thus, CAESAR addresses the gaps identified within EUSALP by providing tools and qualifying stakeholders in the regions to assist enterprises in defining and implementing appropriate energy saving measures.





Natural resources

ARPAF II

PROJECT  
100% LOCAL!

AGS  
AG6 - AG3 - AG1

LEAD PARTNER (IT)  
Eurac research, Istituto  
per lo sviluppo regionale

MAIN GOAL  
Enhancing the  
Alpine short agri-food  
value chain

start \* end date  
19/08/2019 \* 31/01/2021

## BOOSTING THE ALPINE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAINS WITH THE "100% LOCAL" APPROACH

Consumers are increasingly interested in the "values" associated with agri-food products. These values may concern the local production of ingredients, the involvement of only small and medium-sized farms or the use of environmentally friendly production practices. The 100% Local project focuses on the enhancement of the Alpine short agri-food value chain, which includes all actors involved in the production, marketing and sale of products entirely cultivated and processed locally.

A transferable model of 100% Local products based on good practices in the Alps will be developed. Within study areas - such as Parco delle Prealpi Giulie (IT), Alta Val Venosta (IT), Bohinj and Triglav National Park (SLO) - the project will analyse framework conditions and define supporting and hindering aspects for the 100% Local approach. Once gaps have been identified, the project will facilitate the search for solutions and skills beyond the study areas, using an online platform and crowdsourcing.

“ There is a lack of awareness on the potential of the 100% Local approach – a gap this project aims to fill. ”  
Francesca Teston,  
EURAC Research (LP)

**ARPAF PROJECT PARTNERS** **CROSSBORDER** \* Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete (CH, AG5) Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung, Fachgebiet Verkehrsplanung (AT, AG4) CIPRA International (LI, AG4) **HEALPS** \* Innovations- und Technologietransfer Salzburg GmbH (ITG) (AT, AG2) Fondazione Cluster regionale lombardo delle Tecnologie per gli Ambienti di Vita (IT, AG2) Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft HTW Chur, Institut für Tourismus und Freizeit (CH, AG2) Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft HTW Chur, Zentrum für BWL (CH, AG3) **CIRCULALPS** \* Fachhochschule Salzburg GmbH (AT, AG2) Centro Studi Alpino di Pieve Tesino (TN, no AG) - Università degli Studi della Tuscia (IT, AG2) BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH (DE, AG2) Eurac research, Istituto per lo sviluppo regionale (IT, AG6) Gozdarski inštitut Slovenije / Oddelek za gozdno ekologijo (SI, no AG) **TRANSALP** \* ClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg (DE, AG2) Plastic Innovation Competence Center (CH, AG2) Provincia autonoma di Trento, Dipartimento della Conoscenza, Istruzione, Formazione di secondo grado, Università e Ricerca (IT, AG3) Poly4Eml hosts by Anteja ECG d.o.o.Servizio (SI, AG2) Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz (DE, AG7) **ALPJOBS** \* Fondazione Edmund Mach (IT, AG6) Polo Poschiavo (CH, AG3) Umweltbundesamt (AT, no AG) Plattform Land (IT, AG6) Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije - Zavod za kmetijstvo in gozdarstvo Maribor (SI, no AG) **TRIPLEWOOD** \* Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Wohnungsbau Baden-Württemberg, Abteilung Infrastruktur und Wohnungsbau (DE, AG2) Lignum Holzwirtschaft Schweiz (CH, no AG) Agentur für Energie Südtirol - KlimaHaus (IT, AG9) proHolzBW GmbH (DE, AG2) Union régionale des associations de communes forestières Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (FR, AG2) Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano Republike Slovenije (SI, AG2) **SMART-SMEs** \* Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete (CH, AG5) BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg GmbH (DE, AG2) Provincia Autonoma di Trento - Dipartimento Sviluppo Economico, Ricerca e Lavoro (IT, AG3) Univerza v Mariboru, Fakulteta za elektrotehniko, računalništvo in informatiko (SI, AG5) Poly4Eml hosts by Anteja ECG d.o.o.Servizio (SI, AG2) Hub Innovazione Trentino - Fondazione (IT, AG2) ecoplus. Die Wirtschaftsagentur des Landes Niederösterreich GmbH (AT, AG2) **IMPULS4ACTION** \* Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije - Zavod za kmetijstvo in gozdarstvo Maribor (SI, AG6) Fondazione Edmund Mach - Centro ricerca e innovazione (IT, AG7) Umweltbundesamt (AT, no AG) Plattform Land (IT, AG6) Università degli Studi di Milano (IT, AG1) Pro Terra Engiadina (CH, AG7) **REDIAFOR** \* Regional council Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (FR, AG2) Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (FR, AG9) Technical University of Munich, Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy (DE, no AG) Fondazione Edmund Mach - Academy environment, forest and fauna (IT, AG6) Commune Forestières Rhône-Alpes, Association of forest owners municipalities at regional level and french Alps level (FR, AG2) Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts - School of Engineering and Architecture Competence Center Typology & Planning in Architecture (CCTP) (CH, AG2) **CAESAR** \* Agentur für Energie Südtirol - KlimaHaus (IT, AG9) ClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg (DE, AG2) E-zavod, Zavod za celovite razvojne rešitve (SI, no AG) Agenzia Per l'Energia del Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT, no AG) Energie Tirol (AT, AG9) **100% LOCAL!** \* Eurac research, Istituto per lo sviluppo regionale (IT, AG6) Polo Poschiavo (CH, AG3) Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske akademije znanosti in umetnosti, Inštitut za slovensko narodopisje (SI, AG6) Università della Svizzera italiana (CH, AG1)

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