



AlpGov 2 - Newsletter n°01/20 - June 2020

ALPGOV 2 - ENHANCING THE GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS OF THE EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

Duration: January 2020 - June 2022

Budget: € 2.823.076,80 - (ERDF: € 2.399.615,28)

Improving the governance of EUSALP

The AlpGov 2 project aims at improving the governance mechanisms of the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).

The EUSALP implementation started three years ago, with the launch of nine thematic Action Groups. The Action Groups are the operational units of EUSALP. By involving stakeholders, they strengthen ownership of the strategy at all levels of government (from national to regional) as well as within civil society in three thematic policy areas; economic growth and innovation; mobility and connectivity; environment and energy. So far, the work undertaken by the Action Groups has focused on developing and sharing expertise.

The governance of the strategy now needs to be strengthened in order to progress towards a strategic vision. In the continuity of AlpGov 1, this new project will promote cross-sectoral implementation according to the strategic priorities to be defined by the EUSALP Executive Board and the annual presidencies. This reorientation towards a more strategic approach corresponds to the implementation of the next EU funding programmes (2012-2027).

The process of strengthening EUSALP's governance concerns the definition of strategic actions and projects to be adopted by each Action Group (aligned with the political priorities of stakeholders), as well as improving the interaction between these groups, the Executive Board, the annual presidencies and the stakeholders.



The 4 AlpGov 2 action lines

For the 15 project partners, the objectives are the following:

- Create a learning environment that will empower the Action Groups and the Executive Board to implement policy goals;
- Define cross-sectoral priorities that will be included in regional policies and reflected in policy recommendations, in order to adopt a macro-regional approach to regional development;
- Implement strategic initiatives to boost EUSALP through the involvement of local communities and stakeholders;
- Foster the dialogue with other macro-regions (Baltic, Danube, Adriatic) to facilitate knowledge transfer and dissemination of results through extensive communication.

The 15 European partners of AlpGov2:

Lombardy Region – Lead Partner	Italy
Office of the Tyrolean Provincial Government - Transport Planning	Austria
Office of the Provincial Government of Carinthia	Austria
Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism	Austria
Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention	Austria
Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection	Germany
French National Agency for Territorial Cohesion	France
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region	France
Sud-Provence Alpes Côte-d'Azur Region	France
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Regional Energy Environment Agency	France
Autonomous Province of Trento	Italy
Autonomous Region Valle d'Aosta	Italy
South Tyrol Energy Agency - Casaclima	Italy
Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation	Slovenia
Swiss Center for Mountain Regions	Switzerland



French Presidency of EUSALP: what are the main developments following the COVID-19 crisis?

- Following the health crisis, an exceptional Executive Council was held on 18 May 2020. The French Presidency presented its updated annual work plan, with actions responding specifically to the COVID-19 crisis and to prepare the green and resilient recovery of the Alpine region.
- The Presidency team, supported by the European Commission, seeks to promote the cross-border solidarity initiatives that have emerged in the Alpine region in response to the health crisis. Short video interviews with local actors will highlight their crisis management work on the ground, in cooperation with their Alpine counterparts. They will be posted on EUSALP platforms and social networks.
- The Presidency team is thus working closely with the Action Groups to promote projects that meet these objectives. Together, they are guiding these actions with a view to relaunching them. For example, Action Group 4 (mobility) was already working on the development of cleaner modes of transport and alternative fuels. From now on, the theme of social distancing, which has become central to mobility issues, is fully taken into account in the work of the AG4.
- A manifesto to promote the green and resilient revival of the Alpine region, entitled "Together, to shape a sustainable and resilient Alpine region" was adopted. This document affirms the priorities of the States and Regions for the coming years, fully taking into account the crisis situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The next financial programmes of the European Union as well as the next State-Region contracts will have to take these new criteria into account as much as possible.



Interreg
Alpine Space



AlpGov



FOCUS project - Digital technology at the service of the renewed dynamism of villages in the Alpine region



The Alpine region has had to cope for many decades with a trend of depopulation of small mountain villages. However, some rural communities manage to maintain economic activities and jobs, thus mitigating or even counteracting this phenomenon.

In order to maintain economic activity in their communities, local actors are looking into the concept of smart villages. The concept revolves around communities located in rural areas that mobilize digital tools and new technologies to provide solutions to current challenges in many areas: energy transition, mobility, food, education or health.

These communities rely on a participatory approach to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and environmental conditions. The concept of the smart villages implies calling on solidarity between communities but also mobilizes urban actors beyond rural and mountain areas.

Intelligent villages benefit from cooperation and alliances with other communities and actors in rural and urban areas. The launch and implementation of Smart Village strategies is based on a bottom-up dynamic, i.e. starting from the ground up and being passed on to higher levels. These strategies can build on existing initiatives and be funded from a variety of public and private sources.

One of the main challenges of Smart Villages is digital connectivity of infrastructure and new digital applications: education, access to health care, and basic public services. Intelligent villages also seek to highlight innovative solutions to environmental issues, from the application of the circular economy to agricultural waste, to the promotion of local products supported by technology.

Within the framework of EUSALP's work, the action groups are particularly interested in this concept, which is both transversal and focused on the current problems of the municipalities that make up the Alpine region.



EUSALP works specifically to ensure that the emergence of these smart villages goes beyond national regulatory frameworks and that a true spirit of solidarity emanates from this dynamic. The Alpine villages face the same problems of depopulation and lack of infrastructure, and can thus benefit from a horizontal exchange of good practices.

In this perspective, EUSALP has the role of facilitator in the cooperation between actors and in the access to funding. The sharing of good practices will allow villages in the Alpine region to become poles of innovation and attractiveness to lead to a sustainable development.

Today, the context of the health crisis linked to COVID-19 has revealed even more fractures, especially digital ones. But this context has also reinforced the attractiveness of rural and mountain territories, as well as the interest in this multi-sectoral response of Smart Villages. This would ultimately make it possible to highlight the potential of local actors and revitalise rural and mountain territories while increasing their attractiveness.



Territory of Royans Vercors - pilot site in France
Photo credit: Smart Villages website

Past and upcoming events :

30 June 2020: Board of Action Groups Leaders (BAGL), Video meeting.

1 and 2 July 2020 :- Executive Board meeting and joint meeting with the Action Groups Leaders, in Marseille.

30 September and 1 October 2020: - Conference on climate change and integrated natural risk management in the Alpine region, as well as the annual conference on energy transition in the Alpine region, in Chamonix.

5 and 6 October 2020: - Smart Village field visits, roaming to Royans in Vercors - then meeting with Europe for the Smart Village, in Grenoble

October 2020 :- "EUSALP and the European Green Deal" event as part of the European Week of Regions and Cities, in Brussels.

10 November 2020: "Smart villages policy conference", in Bern

10 and 11 December 2020 :- Euro-Alpine Days, in synergy with the Alpine Conference of the Alpine Convention and the NGO Alpine Week, in Nice.

If you are interested in the concept of Smart Villages, the action groups Accessibility (AG 5), Education (AG 3), Mobility (AG 4) and Energy (AG 9) will be present on 5 and 6 October 2020 in Grenoble at the European meetings "Smart Villages: Opportunities for ecological transition and attractiveness of the Alpine region".

More information on the EUSALP website, in the events section: <https://www.alpine-region.eu/events/smart-villages>

"Smart Villages are a bottom up idea. The Alpine Region is opening up to a new centrality, which needs to make use of tools and services which the large cities already have and this is possible thanks to Smart Villages. A bottom-up idea, with a subsidiary perspective, involving the institutions, as well as the social involvement and proactivity, to think differently about the territory and provide new opportunities for growth and development".

Raffaele Cattaneo - Ministry for Climate and Environment of the Region of Lombardy (IT). June 2019.

For more information:

Websites: <http://www.alpine-space.eu> (AlpGov project) and www.alpine-region.eu (EUSALP)

AlpGov2 Lead Partner contact at the Lombardy Region:

Maria Grazia PEDRANA, project manager AlpGov2, Maria_Grazia_Pedrana@regione.lombardia.it
Stefania FERRANTELLI Policy officer, alpgov2@regione.lombardia.it

EUSALP contact in the French Presidency:

Nicolas GOUVERNEL, National Coordinator, National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT) - nicolas.gouvernel@anct.gouv.fr
Noémie BERTOMEU BIANCO-DOLINO, Communication Officer (ANCT) - Noemie.BERTOMEU-BIANCO-DOLINO@anct.gouv.fr

