



AlpGov 2 - Newsletter n°04 - May 2021

POLICY AREA

Policy Brief: an overview on actual policy recommendations

From 2016 to 2020, all nine Action Groups of EUSALP have elaborated policy recommendations which address different political levels from local up to European level. The aim of the [Policy Brief](#) is to give an overview of all these policy recommendations and an outlook on what is to be expected in the next two years. It contributes to make the results and outcomes of EUSALP better known and to start the dialogue with relevant policy makers and the wider public.

An Alpine Peatland Roadmap: online workshops & research projects pave the way for future implementation steps

In the context of three online workshops, EUSALP AG7, Impuls4Action and Peatlands in the Alps projects came together with peatland stakeholders from all around the Alps to find out gaps of knowledge and action within alpine wide peatland-protection. In addition, [new peatland research projects](#) reveal interesting approaches for follow up activities.

The final conference of the EU-funded project “Impuls4Action” took place on Thursday, 20 May 2021. This was an occasion for AG 1, AG 6 and AG 7 to discuss water use, internal development and peatlands. Three topics that are linked and influence our daily life, in the EUSALP area and beyond. The climate crisis we are experiencing, is an eye-opener in the much more vulnerable Alps. This final event aimed to present solutions for a respectful and sustainable use of our Alpine soils while maintaining the economic, social and ecological balance.

[Find out further information on the event and the project here](#)

Results from the CEASAR Project (Capacitating Energy efficiency in small alpine enterprises)

During a workshop held on May 5th supported by the AG 9, the consortium from the CAESAR project - the project is co-financed by the European Union (Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund - ARPAPF) - presented the outputs and products of the project work, such as:

- Communication materials
- Creation of a stakeholder network and defining the needs of SMEs
- Providing tools for the assessment of energy efficiency
- Setting benchmarks & KPIs for strategic sectors
- Training the trainers



The workshop was an opportunity for representatives from enterprises and clusters, experts, policy makers and other stakeholders to discuss the need for future activities and engage in further cooperation.

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Smart Villages: a strategic priority for EUSALP

With its workplan of 2016, AG5 of EUSALP identified the Smart-villages-approach as a strategic priority. Therefore, AG5 initiated an Alpine Space Program project called [SMARTVillages](#), which was carried out from 2018 to 2021. The [final conference](#) took place on 29th April 2021. With the SmartVillages project, the Smart-villages-approach was adapted to the Alpine context. A common understanding and methodology were elaborated. The concept was tested in 11 pilot areas and transferable tools were developed by project partners to facilitate its uptake by Alpine communities. All results are compiled in a [compendium](#) in all Alpine languages.

How can the Alps become smarter?

The Smart Villages concept can help alpine villages to identify the current and future needs of local communities by involving local stakeholders. Digital and social technologies as well as better knowledge transfer are used to improve the economic, social and environmental living conditions and increase the quality of life of the population.

Participatory processes ensure that the strategies and/or tools developed are adapted to the needs of the users, while guaranteeing the acceptance of the population for the use of new "smart" solutions. In this sense, Smart Villages are not limited to the use of new technologies but are intimately linked to social innovation and local development, shaped by members of the same community.

Some of the [examples](#) developed during the SMARTVillages project were presented during the final conference. For instance, in the test area of Löffingen (Germany), a taxi service was developed for people without a private car and who have special appointments. In Pitztal (Tyrol, Austria), the "Ummadam" car-sharing app was developed thanks to the project; it facilitates daily mobility and also gives discounts in local shops to car-poolers. In the region of Luzern West (Switzerland), 9km of fiber-optic cable was deployed thanks to social innovation and capacity building activities.

Spreading Smart Villages across the Alps

During the final conference of the SMARTVillages project, the [Smart Villages Charter](#) was launched. This Charter intends to sustain the achievements of the project in the long term by creating the SMART ALPS network gathering smart regions and villages of the Alps. To disseminate the tools developed during the project, the [Smart Villages Digital exchange platform](#) will also remain active beyond the end of the project. The platform for example also features the [smartness evaluation tool](#), available for local stakeholders and villages to define their assets and room for improvement in their area.

For the period 2020 – 2022, EUSALP has identified the Smart-villages-approach as one of its five Strategic Priority Policy Areas. The ambition is to transform as many as possible mountain villages and regions into Smart villages and Smart regions. To achieve this goal, a [leaflet](#) presenting the Smart villages approach has been



elaborated. Furthermore, a [survey](#) was carried out in existing Smart villages initiatives in the alpine area and existing [financial support schemes](#) for the Smart villages approach have been identified. During the [DigitalAlps online conference](#), on 27/28 May 2021, the Network of Alpine Smart villages and regions SMART ALPS will be launched. The Network intends to foster the exchange of information and experiences amongst Alpine regions and villages that have also engaged their transition towards smartness. For more information, please consult the SMART ALPS [presentation document](#). If you wish to join the network, please contact the AG5-Leaders at Eusalp.ag5@regione.vda.it or Thomas.egger@sab.ch.

PRESIDENCY

The COVID 19 crisis has had a major impact on the tourism sector, which is still linked to the economy of our mountain territories. This health crisis has been an opportunity to engage in a welcome dialogue on the ecological and climate crisis. EUSALP is not left out of these reflections, and the French Presidency has made it an important theme for the year 2021. This is reflected in two key events at the beginning of the year: the meetings in Métabief on 16 and 17 March, and the event in Les Orres on 10 and 11 May. This is the opportunity for the French presidency to launch the dynamics of the General States of Transition for Mountain Tourism which will take place on 24 and 23 September next. This will be the first time that all the public and private players, social professionals and NGOs have come together to reflect on the transition throughout the Alpine Region.

Ski resorts & Climate change (16-17 March, Métabief Jura Mountains)

A meeting gathering French and European mountain actors to discuss the climate transition of mid-altitude mountain resorts.

The meeting highlighted the climate transition project of the Métabief resort, result of five years of reflection and supported politically by the Doubs Department and local elected officials, which lays the foundations for a transition for all mountain territories.

The meeting was fully involved in the project carried out by the French EUSALP presidency, and mobilized the French mountain actors around Joël GIRAUD, Secretary of State in charge of Rurality, and the representatives of the 3 French Regions partners.

Among the highlights of this event:

- The presentations of inspiring projects to lead the transition of the mountain tourism model (European project Healps 2; Franco-Swiss project Quiétude Attitude; European project Smart Altitude; International project Green Passport)
- The field visit to Métabief :
 - to meet the resort's dynamic forces, in particular inspirational athletes, students of the Toussaint Louverture vocational high school and the "Sioux" section of the APACH'Evasion association, which offers disabled people access to outdoor activities
 - to present the dynamics of the emergence of new offers not dependent on snow, with the driving forces of the "OUTD'OR "



- The launching of the [General States for the transition of tourism in the mountains](#), bringing together the national authorities, socio-professionals and associations on these issues.
- Two workshops, which brought together a hundred people in person, about 300 participants on the Zoom conference and about 900 viewers on the live YouTube, aiming to provide methodological tools to conduct a transition project



Field visit in the presence of Alexandre MAULIN (left), President of Domaines Skiabiles de France, Marie-Guite DUFAY President of the Region Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Philippe ALPY Mayor of Frasne, Joël GIRAUD the French Secretary of State in charge of Rurality, Gaël MARANDIN, Mayor of Métabief



Opening of the meetings led by Christiane BARRET, General Delegate of the French Presidency of SUERA, with (from left to right): Joël GIRAUD, Secretary of State for Rural Affairs, Annie GENEVARD, Member of Parliament for the Doubs and President of the National Mountain Council, Christine BOUQUIN, President of the Doubs Department, Marie-Guite DUFAY, President of the Region, Sylvie VERMEILLET, Senator of the Jura and Co-President of the Comité de Massif du Jura, Fabrice PANNEKOUCKE, Councillor in charge of mountain valleys of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and Vice-President of the Permanent Commission of the Alps Massif Committee, (in video: Chantal EYMEOUD, Vice President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and Co-President of the Comité de Massif des Alpes)



The joint Smart Altitude / EUSALP / OCOVA event (10-11 May, Les Orres)

An event to open up the prospects for the mountains of tomorrow, held in Les Orres, pilot resort for the ecological and tourism transition of mountain resorts.

The joint event combined:

- the experience developed for almost 20 years by the OCOVA forum in the dissemination of advanced digital technologies for smart territories;
- the achievements of the Smart Altitude project, aiming at accelerating the deployment of low-carbon policies in regions with high winter tourism intensity;
- the strategic vision of EUSALP for the ecological and tourism transition, federating decision-makers in mountain development policies at the European level.

Among the highlights of this event:

- The review of the achievements of the Smart Altitude project and other Interreg projects on energy transition in the Alpine Space (review of Metabief project / Terres montviso EcO / Alpimed);
- The expression of socio-professionals, major industrial and R&I players, tourist industry actors and communities on their expectations for the future of mountain activity;
- Presentation of Regional, National and European plans and strategies for the ecological and tourism transitions
- Sessions dedicated to smart technologies for infrastructure management, green mobility, green energy production, storage, and electricity networks, tourism attractiveness
- Presentations of two projects by Pitch Your Project French finalists:
 - Skiday: a multimodal platform initiative for sustainable and inclusive accessibility to ski resorts
 - ADN Ski: Innovative French skis company acting for sustainable development by offering a fully recyclable ski



YOUTH

Democracy in action in the Alpine region: EUSALP Youth Council makes the Alps fit for the future

EUSALP opens up to the voice of youth

Tourism, culture, education: the Covid-19 pandemic has severely affected many important sectors for the Alpine space. The Alpine regions are therefore working on joint projects in the EUSALP to make the Alpine space resilient and fit for the future. To do this as sustainably as possible, they are now counting on the support of the next generation.

Young people between 18 and 29 who live in one of the 48 EUSALP regions in Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland or Liechtenstein were called to apply for the **EUSALP Youth Council** until **26 May 2021**. Four young people from each of the seven Alpine countries - and thus a total of 28 young people - will get the chance to participate in the implementation of the EUSALP for one year.

Until now, 133 young people have applied: 20 from Austria, 17 from France, 15 from Germany, 67 from Italy, 4 from Liechtenstein, 4 from Slovenia and 3 from Switzerland.

[More information available here.](#)

Youth Manifesto to shape European Cooperation Policy:

Rediscover the Youth Manifesto to shape and influence European Territorial Cooperation based on the experiences of EU youth. Now, a [communication kit](#) has been released to spread youth' word.

The Manifesto contains twelve recommendations from young people to boost their involvement in European Territorial Cooperation. The ideas presented in this document, were collected by European Commission staff via targeted surveys, polls and online group discussions with young people from all over Europe, including the EU's outermost regions and its neighbouring countries.

EUSALP Past & upcoming events:

5 May: CAESAR project (ARPAF 2), Final public workshop on energy efficiency in SMEs

20 May: Impuls4Action Final event (online)

20 May: Mobility conference (Nice)

25 May: 100% local final event (online)

27-28 May: Digital Alps conference (online)

10-11 June: The 2nd international workshop on territorial brands (online)

28-29 June: GreenRisk4ALPs Mountain Forest Conference with the participation of AG8

1st July: Executive Board and Board of Action Group Leaders meetings (online)

23-24 September: General States of Transition for Mountain Tourism (online/local workshops)

29-30 September: Alpine conference on hiking and outdoor activities 2021 (Gréoux-les-Bains)

6-7 October: Alpine Green week (Grenoble) - conference on ecological connectivity

5 or 8 October: Executive Board and Board of Action Group Leaders meetings (Grenoble)

9-10 December: Annual Forum (Nice)

For more information:

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

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