



EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is the fourth EU macro-regional strategy, adopted by the European Commission in 2015 and endorsed by the European Council in 2016.

The Strategy covers a territory inhabited by 80 million people (16 % of the EU) and includes 48 regions in seven countries, five of which are EU Member States and two non-EU countries:

- **Five EU Member States:** Austria, France (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, PACA, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria), Italy (Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardy, Piedmont, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto) and Slovenia;
- **Two non-EU countries:** Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The Strategy focuses on three objectives, divided into nine concrete actions:

FAIR ACCESS TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES, BUILDING ON THE REGION'S HIGH COMPETITIVENESS:

- Develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem;
- Increase the economic potential of strategic sectors;
- Improve the adequacy of the labour market, education and training in strategic sectors.

SUSTAINABLE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL:

- Promote intermodality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport;
- Connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services.

A MORE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK FOR ALL AND RENEWABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE:

- Preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources;
- Develop ecological connectivity across the whole EUSALP territory;
- Improve risk management and better manage climate change, including prevention of major natural risks;
- Make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

In addition, the Strategy includes a cross-cutting objective aimed at building a sound macro-regional governance model for the region.

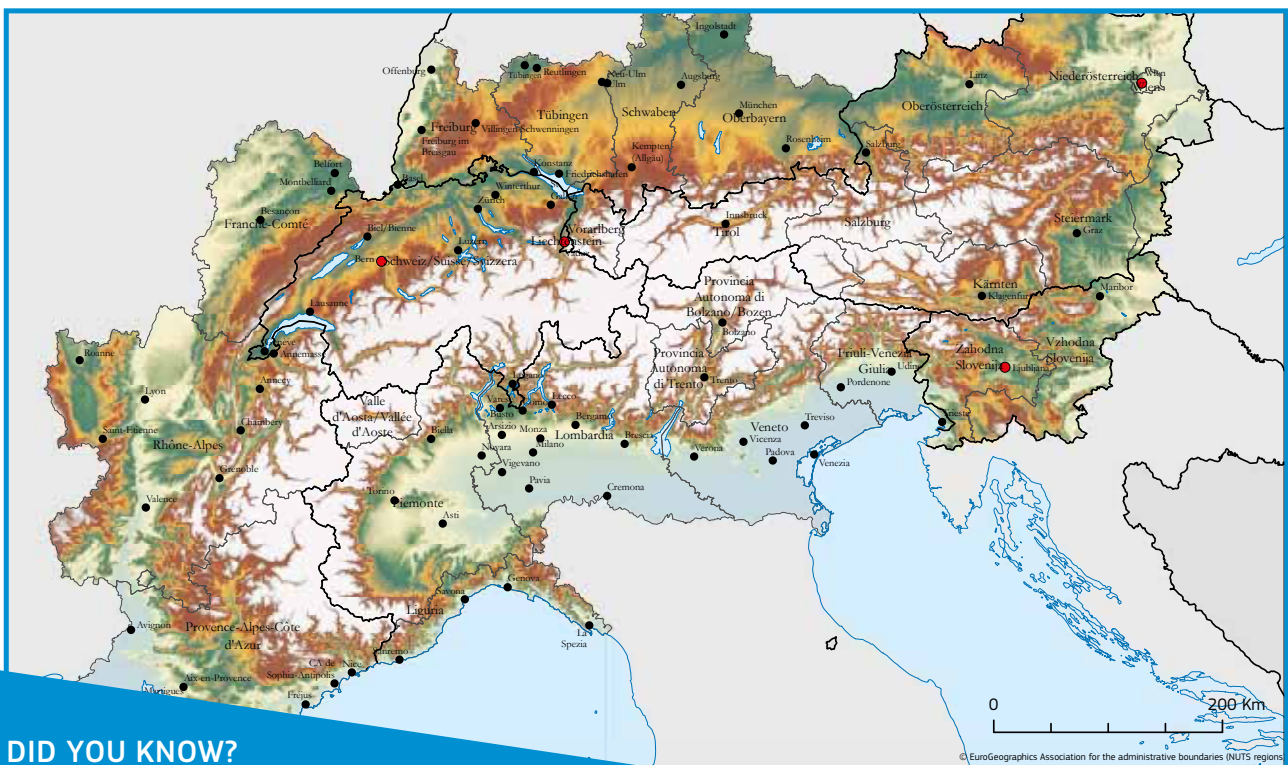


THE RESULTS ACHIEVED SO FAR

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, the most recent EU macro-regional strategy, got off to a very promising start in 2016. As it is still in its initial phase, conclusions have yet to be drawn regarding its implementation. However, some initial achievements are already evident. These include agreement on governance structures and rules, as well as identifying thematic topics (e.g. improving the value chain of alpine wood, and focusing on climate change adaptation) which are needed in order to implement the EUSALP Action Plan.

SOME CONCRETE EXAMPLES INCLUDE:

- Establishing a cross-border educational space for dual vocational training in the Alpine region, which will be addressed through projects like **mountErasmus**;
- Ecological connectivity across the entire EUSALP territory will be improved by focusing, for example, on the establishment and development of a **European Network for Green Infrastructure (TEN-G)** in the region.



DID YOU KNOW?

- The first-ever Olympic Winter Games, originally known as the 'International Winter Sports Week' (1924), were held in the Alpine Region, in Chamonix (France), the town next to Mont Blanc (4810 m), the highest peak in the Alps;
- The Alps are the youngest, highest and most-extensive mountain range in Europe, comprising around 180 mountains, 100 of which are higher than 4000 metres and are known as the 'four-thousanders';
- The Alps is one of the most visited mountain ranges in the world attracting around 120 million tourists every year;
- With over 30 000 animal species and 13 000 plant species, the Alps is one of the richest biodiversity 'hot spots' in Europe, second only to the Mediterranean; the number of vascular plants found in the Alps represents 39% of the total European flora.¹

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.alpine-region.eu/>



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1) Source: WWF: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/alps/area/species2/