

Dear Reader,

*Now that the European Commission has made public their proposal for the architecture of the future cohesion policy we can look into the future of the cooperation area with confidence. Transnational territorial cooperation will be a – reinforced – strand also in 2014 – 2020.*

*The programme's activities preparing for the future have been intense in 2011.*

- *The series of three workshops that should sharpen the strategic focus of the programme was finished. More than 400 participants exchanged on new ideas, developed future projects and worked on sustainable answers to the challenges of climate change, demographic change and competitiveness.*

- *The Mid-Term Event in Grenoble in June this year was a good opportunity to watch the progress of the projects towards the programme's objectives, set out for new partnerships and develop future projects. Grenoble also marked the start of a broad discussion on a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine Space.*

- *The Programme Committee decided in May to launch a project that should develop strategic options for the*

*Alpine Space. Within this project it shall be explored what the value added to the development of the territory by a macro-regional strategy could be. A group of experts that were commissioned by the programme have already started their work.*

- *10 projects were approved by the programme committee in May and the fourth and probably last call for project proposals was lately opened.*

*In this last phase of the programming period we see the Alpine Space Programme well prepared for the upcoming challenges. Not at least because the programme has developed excellent cooperation structures, smooth procedures, a respectful communication and is supported by a highly motivated team!*



Christian Salletmaier  
Managing Authority  
Alpine Space Programme

## Fourth call for Project Proposals – Alpine space to new ideas!

While the call 3 projects just started their activities and call 1 are about to close, the programme opens its 4<sup>th</sup> and probably last call for proposal. Partnerships have until **January 20<sup>th</sup> 2012** to submit the Expression of Interest (Eoi) in one of the three priorities. Eols can be submitted only from November 28<sup>th</sup> only, via the Alpine Space website.

Check the [event calendar](#) for the dates of National Info Days in your country !

Meet your Alpine Contact Point (ACP) for first hand information and feedback on your project idea!

More details are available on the programme website: [www.alpine-space.eu](http://www.alpine-space.eu)



## PROGRAMME NEWS

### The European Commission regulation proposal for Structural Funds 2014-2020



We have asked **Mr. Normunds Popens**, Deputy Director General of the European Commission DG Regional Policy, what are the key aspects in the

regulation proposal for the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective.

'The Commission proposed a number of important changes to the way cohesion policy will be designed and implemented'. This package proposal is an attempt to simplify existing rules and focus more on results, thematic concentration and reinforced strategic programming.

Here are two hallmarks concerning ETC explained by Mr. Popens.

#### 1. Thematic concentration and link to the Europe 2020 Strategy

The EU 2020 Strategy is the overall umbrella which sets general themes and objectives for all the EU policies and programmes. In addition there are other strategic documents such as macro-regional strategies, the EU Territorial Agenda or other documents contributing to particular themes.

The new element in the proposal is a compulsory thematic concentration and investment priorities: new General and ETC Regulations propose a list of themes and related investment priorities, among which transnational programmes will have to select 4 and link them with relevant strategic documents. It is a big challenge for ETC programmes to pursue their operational objectives, to fit into the bigger picture of European policy and to adapt the main themes to the needs of the Regions and Member States.

What is important is to keep a substantial complementarity: negotiation is the only way to go.

#### 2. Simplifying the delivery

For harmonization and simplification the Commission is proposing a more centralized approach, for instance common eligibility rules will be either fixed at EU level or by the

Monitoring Committee of the Programme for the programme as a whole, while National rules would only apply in the absence of such rules; Audit Authority will be able to audit the whole programme area and Managing Authority and Certifying Authority will become a single Authority.

Concrete steps to help the beneficiaries to absorb available funding are also taken with the proposal to extend the decommitment to 3 years to all the programmes. Moreover a uniform co-financing rate at 75% has been proposed independently of the region the project partner is coming from.

The proposal foresees as well a greater harmonisation of expenditures rules: for example, staff costs of an operation may be calculated as a flat rate of up to 15% of direct costs other than the staff costs of that operation. This will reduce administrative burden and contribute to greater focus on results. The same goes for annual reporting which will be simplified.

One of the main requests from stakeholders for the next programming period was to simplify procedures, the new regulations recognised this as an issue.

#### EU 2020 is the growth strategy for the coming decades.

Click on the boxes below to get more info on the objectives and flagship initiatives.

**Smart growth**

**Sustainable growth**

**Inclusive growth**

The Cohesion Policy provides the necessary investment framework and delivery system to deliver the Europe 2020 objectives. More about how the Structural Funds support the EU2020 strategy available on the DG Regio website - [link](#).

Mr. Popens participated to the Joint Transnational Conference in Katowice and was also a speaker at the follow up Open Days workshop "13 programmes one goal, to improve quality of life". The workshop video can be viewed on the webpage of the Open Days - [link](#).

## In short

### Joint ETC transnational Conference

+ On 15 and 16 September 2011 the 13 programmes of Transnational Cooperation had organised for first time a joint event, which was hailed by several welcoming speakers as a 'historic event'.

Under the banner, '13 programmes one goal – to improve quality of life in European Regions', the conference was based on 6 themes – Innovation, Transport, Environmental Risk Management, Energy, Demographic Change, and Enlargement and Cooperation with Neighbours. Exhibition stands showed activities related to each theme, and 6 parallel



workshops examined projects from all over Europe.

With one voice the 13 programmes mainstreamed their contribution to implement regional policies in European regions with concrete project examples. At the follow up workshop at the Open Days representatives from the EC, the EU parliament and Presidency very much welcomed this initiative which gives a clear signal to policy actors & decision makers on the uniqueness and added value of transnational cooperation.

Video summaries and workshops' résumés are available on line:

[www.transnational-cooperation.eu](http://www.transnational-cooperation.eu)

## PROJECT NEWS

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### ALPFFIRS - An Alpine forest fire danger scale

The ALP FFIRS project community developed a common Alpine Forest Fire Danger Scale as part of the warning system implementation process. The scale uses clear colour codes and simple text, hence it is of immediate understanding and use. Fire-fighting and prevention agencies in six partner countries will speak the same language on the risk and type of forest fire, which in concrete examples means better planning for patrols or helicopter availability, and immediate coordinated response to fire threats. The scale will be of use to the general public as well, for example for information to tourist in parks or in campsites. [Learn more...](#) Project website: [www.alpffirs.eu](http://www.alpffirs.eu)

### DEMOCHANGE - Launches a photo contest

The "DEMOCHANGE Photo Contest" will be an important part of the project to illustrate the impacts of demographic change in the Alps. Photographers are invited to submit pictures that illustrate particular cases, places and situations that communicate the challenges of demographic change. Demographic change doesn't only mean 'getting old', it involves various concepts such as migration, cost and quality of settlement and housing, labor market, changes in regional demand for public services (i.e. transportation, healthcare, education) and changes in consumer behaviour related to key economies such as tourism and agriculture. Take the challenge, take a snapshot of the change! [Learn more...](#) Project website: [www.demochange.org](http://www.demochange.org)

### ENERBUILD – SMEs and academics together back at the Innovation school!

TIS Innovation Park and EURAC are running the '*Innovation School: Verso edifici produttivi e a basso consumo energetico*', an occasion for SMEs and academics to develop innovative ideas for energy efficiency in buildings. Four companies from four different fields are participating: wood building, photovoltaic system, façade System, energy flow system. After the identification of technological demands and possible critical urgencies of the enterprises in the building sector in South Tyrol, the school will present possible solutions in December 2011. [Learn more...](#) Project website: [www.enerbuild.eu](http://www.enerbuild.eu)

### Highlights from Call 1 closing projects

Twelve projects approved in Call 1 have been running for the last three years, during which 159 partners worked together to define common strategies for shared solutions. Below is a showcase of a selection of final results and important experiences that these projects realised, for your inspiration and use.

More is available or will soon be, on the single projects' websites.

 <a href="http://www.access-alpinspace.eu">www.access-alpinspace.eu</a>	<p>Accessibility to services of general interest in mountain areas – Strategies &amp; good practice. <a href="#">Link</a></p>	 <a href="http://www.climalptour.eu">www.climalptour.eu</a>	<p>E-tool to explore alternative adaptation strategies in tourism with reference to future climate change scenarios. <a href="#">Link</a></p>
 <a href="http://www.adaptalp.org">www.adaptalp.org</a>	<p>Strategies and good practice examples for natural hazard management in a changing climate. <a href="#">Link</a></p>	 <a href="http://www.clisp.eu">www.clisp.eu</a>	<p>Transnational Strategy for Climate Proof Spatial Planning <a href="#">Link</a></p>
 <a href="http://www.alpenergy.net">www.alpenergy.net</a>	<p>Implementation of new virtual power systems in 4 pilot areas and new smart metering system in 2 other.</p>	 <a href="http://www.co2neutralp.eu">www.co2neutralp.eu</a>	<p>Renewable energies in transport guidelines for decision makers and for transport professionals. <a href="#">Link</a></p>
 <a href="http://www.alpsbiocluster.eu">www.alpsbiocluster.eu</a>	<p>Internet search engine for Life Science related researches. <a href="#">Link</a></p>	 <a href="http://www.econnectproject.eu">www.econnectproject.eu</a>	<p>JECAMI computer-based system for mapping ecological barriers and corridors <a href="#">Link</a></p>
 <a href="http://www.alpwaterscarce.eu">www.alpwaterscarce.eu</a>	<p>Water Resources Management and Water Scarcity in the Alps: Recommendations for Water Resources Managers and Policy-makers. <a href="#">Link</a></p>	 <a href="http://www.innocite.eu">www.innocite.eu</a>	<p>'InnoServices" diagnosis and decision-making aid tool for the development of services to enterprises on a small and medium-sized territory <a href="#">Link</a></p>
 <a href="http://www.capacities.eu">www.capacities.eu</a>	<p>Innovative Policies for Alpine towns. Alpine Space Small Local Urban Centres Innovative Pack. <a href="#">Link</a></p>	 <a href="http://www.permanet-alpinspace.eu">www.permanet-alpinspace.eu</a>	<p>Metadata of the most important permafrost monitoring sites and compiles it into a standardized permafrost monitoring network <a href="#">Link</a></p>

## EVENTS

### Project Events

24 November 2011, Aix-en-Provence (F)  
**Alpcheck2** – Conference on 'Challenges of a sustainable mobility through the Alps: tools, main issues and contributions of Alpcheck 2 project'.  
[www.alpcheck2.eu](http://www.alpcheck2.eu)

01 December 2011, Luzern, (CH)  
**iMonitraf!** - The 2nd Transport Forum of the iMonitraf! project - Monitoring of road traffic related effects in the Alpine Space and common measures  
[www.imonitraf.eu](http://www.imonitraf.eu)

Visit the programme website

[www.alpine-space.eu](http://www.alpine-space.eu)