

Dear Reader,

As the Alpine Space Programme is moving into its second half, rather than taking a half-time break to rest and recover, activities are picking up! 25 running projects to date are starting to make an impact: singled out as 'lighthouse' projects for their strategic relevance by political observers or linking up with sister projects for better cross-fertilisation, but also with other actors to firmly position themselves in the European landscape.

How can we reach out and attract new actors to this project community? Which impact do our projects really make and what could be improved? - These have been some of the questions that led us, representatives of the seven partner states this programme is composed of, to launch a 'strategy revision' in June 2009.

Where do we stand one year later? In a combination of analysis and (self)-reflection we have invited both neutral observers and those deeply involved with Alpine matters to sharpen our perspective for continuing to positively develop this programme – the former through an impact assessment, the latter through a series of expert workshops, climate change being the first theme discussed this May in Interlaken.

As proud hosts to this event we took up the challenge and countered unfavourable weather conditions outside with providing a working atmosphere that was all the warmer and positive.

Cooperation in the Alpine region is well alive! The workshop "trilogy" of the Alpine Space Programme is the accelerator for cooperation in the Alps. Together we can do more - strengthen the position of the Alps within the European context, and develop strategies that are both sustainable and effective.

I hope this newsletter will make you share our optimism and enthusiasm for entering into this second programme half and prepare the grounds for fruitful cooperations beyond 2013.



Silvia Jost, ARE – Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development. Switzerland is chairing the Alpine Space Programme Committee in 2010

Third Call for Project Proposals – Terms of Reference now available!

The 3rd Call for Project Proposals under the Alpine Space Programme has been launched with the publication of the Terms of Reference specifying areas of intervention. Up to 18,3 Mio € from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) are set aside for this round of new projects, keeping another 25% of programme funds available for future calls. The Call is open to all three programme priorities with particular attention to themes not covered so far.

Also this time projects proposals will be selected in a two-step application procedure.

+ Step 1 is the submission of the Expression of Interest: **Submission period 13.09.2010 - 15.10.2010**

+ Step 2 (shortlisted applicants only) is the submission of the application package consisting of the complete Application Form along with the Partnership Agreement. **Submission period 17.12.2010 - 25.02.2011**

See www.alpine-space.eu for details. Candidates interested in applying are invited to get in touch with the [Alpine Space Contact Point](#) in their country for further information and advice.

PROGRAMME NEWS

Alpine Space Programme strategy revisited

One year into the programme revision process, it is time to take stock of activities undertaken so far. The direction of improvement was clear: towards projects with sustainable, high-impact outcomes, for a better visibility of the whole programme, and towards a shared vision for the Alpine Space. A taskforce composed of representatives of each of the participating 7 Alpine countries has rolled up their sleeves and can present first results:

1 - Impact Assessment of the Alpine Space Programme

The 6 months mission of the external evaluators (Jan-June 2010), monitored by a further expert, was twofold: they were to both provide a thorough analysis of long-term impacts of projects co-funded by the programme since 2002 and to explain varying degrees of success in that respect. While the full range of impacts are yet to crystallise, the analysis of ten selected case studies showed that so far tangible effects are to be found in transport related projects. Looking at success factors, besides essentials such as thematic competence and quality of the cooperation, it is the involvement of decision makers and political backing that project partnerships will need to focus on for lasting impact of their activities.

As a very concrete result, the Terms of Reference for the currently open third Call for Project Proposals ask applicants to specify their position in policy development relating to

- (1) strategic policy development
- (2) exploration and piloting
- (3) policy implementation.

This is one of the initiatives exemplifying the need to strengthen links between the programme and its projects' objectives. More clearly and more audibly than before, the Alpine Space Programme is to articulate its role as a policy promoter. It is with this perspective that project clustering and initiatives to pool resources as the ones listed below have been approached.

www.alpine-space.eu/uploads/media/ASP_Impact_Assessment_Report.pdf

2 – Alpine Space Expert Workshop “Coping with Climate Change”



Playing the diversity of Alpine actors to their strength, a series of 3 workshops convenes experts and major players to take a close look at key issues affecting the cooperation area.

Climate change has been addressed at the first Alpine Space Expert Workshop in Interlaken 4-5 May 2010. 100 experts examined how the economy, and tourism as a key sector, transport, energy, water and biodiversity are affected - all essential for the development of this region. Progressively increasing effects of climate change as projected also for the Alps necessitate an active exchange between all ongoing initiatives.

The Alpine Space Programme and participants of the event left inspired with the following policy options and perspectives for future cooperation projects:

- Upcoming initiatives need to put emphasis also on the indirect impacts of climate change
- Existing results and experience are to feed into harmonised action
- Cross-sector initiatives are the way forward to manage conflicts between interest groups
- Policy recommendations from successful projects are to be matched
- Communication is key to find acceptance by the inhabitants of the Alps for planned initiatives.

A concise report provides a menu of ingredients for the implementation of joint activities and the development of concerted policy options for the Alps.

www.alpine-space.eu/fileadmin/media/Thematic_Workshops/Climatechange/CC_Report_web.pdf

3 - Project hearings

The programme is only as good as its projects – following this logic, the Programme Committee has set course for more closely following projects' development: A project overview provided by the JTS every 6 months highlights particular success stories and special achievements of projects e.g. in terms of fostering synergies but also points out difficulties and issues that give cause for concern.

For an even more direct insight, DEMOCHANGE has been the first project which the Alpine Space Programme Committee invited for a presentation and exchange at the occasion of its last meeting in Lucerne this June.

As a regular feature to its sessions, these hearings allow the committee to more closely follow and - if necessary - support or intervene in its projects developments.

The exchange with Lucerne based project partners Stefan Rieder from the Interface Institute of Political Studies and Friederike Stotten from the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts has been the perfect opening for preparations of the next thematic workshop. "Demographic change in the Alps: adaptation strategies to spatial planning and regional development" is not only the objective of this project, but will also be at the heart of the second **Alpine Space Expert Workshop 22-23 February 2011 in Innsbruck.**

www.alpine-space.eu/information-center/event-calendar/

PROJECT NEWS

Financial support for project clusters

Networking between Alpine Space projects is one of its success stories. To foster synergies among projects and with other initiatives has been a clear commitment of the programme already since its last period (2000-2006). Top-down meets bottom-up as project and programme connectivity is also driven by the projects themselves:

Originating from an initiative by the CLISP project in early 2009, 5 climate change projects from Call 1 (AlpWaterScarce, AdaptAlp, CLISP, ClimAlpTour and PermaNET) have established regular exchange – both through joint meetings but also by harmonising and sharing both their data and approach to partly overlapping stakeholders as well as their findings.

The programme has picked up on this initiative and now offers to support the coordination activities for clusters with a max. additional ERDF subsidy of €25.000.

All lead partners of current projects have been informed on this possibility at the Lead Partner Seminar held in May 2010. www.alpine-space.eu/project-life-cycle/implementation-reporting-an-financial-flows

Project highlights

➤ **AlpEnergy - Virtual Power Systems as an Instrument to Promote Transnational Cooperation and Sustainable Energy Supply in the Alpine Space**

The project partners have published the "[White Book on Virtual Power Plants](#)". This output gives a first overview on the supply, on grid operators and on the state of the art of energy efficiency in the involved Alpine Space regions. For the first time actors in this field come to such a shared vision at transnational level. www.alpenenergy.net

➤ **ALPFFIRS - Alpine Forest Fire waRning System**

Upon recommendation by the Programme Committee, ALPFFIRS' representatives held a face to face meeting (10/2009) with the Joint Research Center responsible for the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). Both the EU and Alpine partners presented their system to compare differences, similarities and most importantly complementarities. Collaboration is expected, also with the aim of improving survey data. www.alpffirs.eu

➤ **CLISP - Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space**

The CLISP project has been selected by Germany as a European Territorial Cooperation transnational "Lighthouse"-project. Only projects tackling strategic topics in the field of spatial development are considered [Lighthouse-projects](#). www.clisp.eu

➤ **Innocité - How to Improve Competitiveness of Small-Medium Cities under the Influence of Alpine Great Urban Centers**

Innocité cooperates with ACCESS and CAPAcities. They share common pilot sites and themes. All three Alpine Space projects invite each other to meetings / conferences to develop their collaboration. Innocité's lead partner currently looks into forming a cluster dedicated to "participatory governance methods for economic competitiveness of remote or peripheral cities", which would include the above mentioned projects as well as CityRegion, an URBACT-funded project. www.innocite.eu

➡ **SHARE - Sustainable Hydropower in Alpine Rivers Ecosystems**

Positive exchange between the Alpine Convention Water Platform and the SHARE project could be established despite differing timetables. Since January 2010 the lead partner has attended meetings of the platform and contributions are appreciated by its members. Further synergies as suggested by the Programme Committee will be exploited. www.share-alpinerivers.eu

EVENTS

Info days 2010 for the Third Call for project proposals

Slovenia: 3 September (tbc)
Italy: 13 September in Aosta
Austria: 14 September in Vienna
Italy: 21 September in Milano
France: 21 September in Lyon
Germany: 23 September in Munich

Task Force Meeting on Third Call for projects proposals: pre-selection for second step of application procedure -14 December 2010

Meeting of the Programme Committee for the selection of the projects to be co-funded under the 3rd Call - 2 May 2011

15 - 17 September

VIIth European Mountain Convention by EUROMONTANA, Lillehammer (N)

+ Alpine Space Programme to present with a project at the workshop "Developing innovation through multinational cooperation".

22 - 24 September

3rd International Congress of Integrated Management in High Watersheds

+ Alpine Space Programme to present and first results from Alp-Water-Scarce, Silmas and SHARE projects.

6 - 9 October

ForumAlpinum 2010, Metropolises and "their" Alps, Munich (D)

+ Alpine Space Programme to join roundtable "Steps to a common view of a macroregion".

25 - 27 October

Euregia – International Trade Fair/Congress on Local and Regional Development in Europe, Leipzig (D)

+ Two Alpine Space projects presenting at Central Europe Programme workshop "Transnational concepts for combating the climate change" (on energy efficiency & renewable energies and water management & risk prevention).

SECRETARIAT NEWS

New faces at the Alpine Space Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat

Michela Gaifami, Anne-Séverine Lay and Patricia Llopis have joined the JTS as new Project Officers in March. Kirsten Wolfrath has been coordinating communication since end of last year. The team is further assisted by Julia Chenut. All new colleagues have been introduced to the projects at the occasion of the last Lead Partner Seminar in May this year. www.alpine-space.eu/information-center/contacts

Temporary absences: Antonia Widmer-Leitz is on maternity leave until spring 2011. Magdalena Friedwagner-Maislinger from the Managing Authority is on maternity leave until autumn 2011.

Visit the programme website

www.alpine-space.eu