



Alpine Space Programme European Territorial Cooperation 2007 - 2013

With the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Union aims to strengthen its economic and social cohesion by correcting imbalances between its regions. The ERDF can intervene in the three objectives of regional policy. With objective 3 the European Union supports territorial cooperation among Member States, their regions and cities by three types of cooperation programmes funding joint projects.

The Alpine Space Programme 2007–2013 is part of this objective. Together with 13 other programmes it enhances transnational cooperation in and between the European regions. The programme's overall aim is to increase the competitiveness and the attractiveness of the cooperation area by developing joint actions in fields where transnational cooperation is required for sustainable solutions.

The Alpine Space Programme runs from 2007 to 2013.

It follows on from the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space Programme running from 2000-2006 with 58 transnational projects (see also www.alpine-space.org).

What is a project?

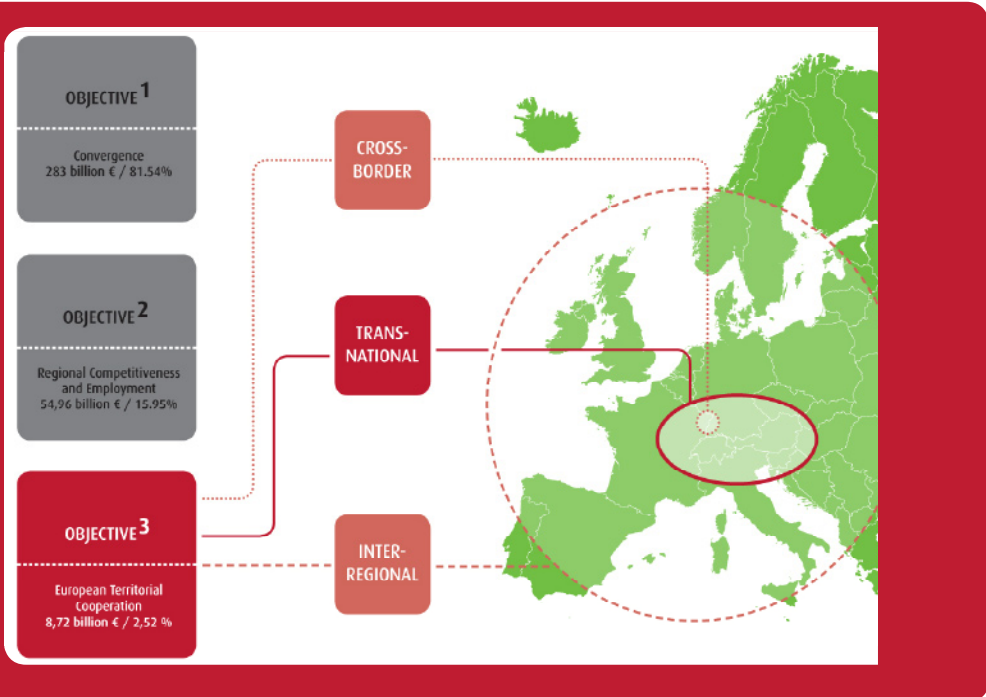
The programme supports transnational projects in the Alpine area involving key actors and developing joint actions on specific Alpine issues. Transnational Alpine Space projects provide the possibility to develop, test and transfer strategies, approaches and tools for the European territorial development and to generate effective transnational solutions. The projects usually last 2-3 years and are steered and supported by the programme through the whole project life cycle – from the idea up to the application, all along the implementation and until the closure.

What is the programme budget?

The programme is jointly financed by the European Union, through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Partner States (Member and Non-Members) taking part in the activities.

The overall programme budget amounts to almost 130 million for the period 2007-2013, thereof 98 million ERDF. The contribution of the project partners coming from the EU Member States are co-funded by ERDF up to a rate of 76%. The remaining costs have to be covered by other public funds, depending on rules at national level. Project partners coming from Liechtenstein and Switzerland can not apply for ERDF, but will be supported by the countries' own national funding schemes.

investing in your future



Who participates?

The cooperation area covers the entire Alps including the foothills, the lowlands and the coastal areas. Seven countries participate to the programme: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland. The programme may also co-fund expenditures incurred by partners coming from EU Member States but located outside the programme area as well as expenditure incurred due to implementing activities on the territory of Non EU-Member States – provided a considerable benefit for the Alpine Space area is ensured.

Depending on the field of activity, several types of actors located in the Alpine Space can ask for co-funding:

- Public authorities, administrations and development agencies at local, regional and national level
- Education and training centers, as well as scientific and technological research units
- Organisations representing enterprises (especially SMEs)
- Chambers of commerce and industry
- Public services and transport providers
- Agencies and NGOs in the field of natural and cultural resources and renewable energy management

What are the topics?

The Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013 identifies 3 thematic fields of cooperation, called priorities.



Priority 1 Competitiveness and Attractiveness

Although the Alpine area is characterised by a rich and diversified economic structure with strong links to the territory and a well-developed polycentric urban system, low internal innovation capacities of SMEs, urban sprawl and depopulation reduce its competitiveness and attractiveness. The actions under this priority should aim at stimulating and strengthening innovation as well as reducing territorial disparities. Thus, the programme supports projects dealing with issues such as technology transfer between research centres and SMEs, or enhancement of small and medium sized towns. This shall position the Alpine Space as an attractive place to work, live and invest.



Priority 2 Accessibility and Connectivity

The Alpine Space is both a centre of a dynamic economy and a transit area in a sensitive environment. At the same time, it faces natural constraints as regards accessibility and connectivity. The initiatives under this priority shall improve the quality of transport of passengers and goods while mitigating the negative effects of traffic. Moreover, sustainable solutions shall be found to help the local population to be better connected to wider networks. Therefore, the programme promotes joint actions which take into consideration integrated planning of transport and mobility, or ICT-based innovative public services for citizens and economy. This shall improve accessibility and connectivity in a sustainable way in the cooperation area.



Priority 3 Environment and Risk Prevention

The richness of natural and cultural assets through the Alpine Space constitutes an important resource for living conditions and economy and shall thus be protected, managed and enhanced. Climate change is affecting the Alps earlier and rather more severely than the rest of Europe. Coping with effects of climate change and its related impacts on settlement, infrastructure, cultural heritage and human life will be a major challenge for the cooperation area. The operations under this priority shall be focussed on the management and the safeguard of environmental resources and cultural heritage as well as on natural and technological hazards. Thereby the cooperation area shall take advantage of its natural and cultural environment while preventing and mitigating risks.

State of programme implementation

Since its start in 2007, the programme has launched two calls for project proposals and approved 25 projects. Within the first call, 12 projects were approved and started their implementation in late 2008. The second call closed in June 2009 provided the possibility for another 13 projects to receive co-funding. The newly approved projects of the second call will soon start their project implementation.

Up to now, the total commitment of the programme budget amounts to 56% of the total programme budget.

in short...

The programme	European Territorial Cooperation Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013
Type of programme and background	EU Structural Funds programme for transnational cooperation under the European Territorial Cooperation objective
The programme duration	2007-2013 (implementation until 2015)
The programme budget	130 million EURO thereof ERDF: 98 million EURO
Participating countries	Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland
Co-funding rates	- 76% for partners from EU Member States; - Partners from Liechtenstein and Switzerland receive national funding.
3 programme priorities	1) Competitiveness and Attractiveness 2) Accessibility and Connectivity 3) Environment and Risk Prevention
Calls for project proposals	2 (in 2008 and 2009)
Running projects	25
Involved project partners	321
Commitment of total programme budget (in June 2009)	56%