

Programme Committee 2021-2027

Meeting decisions

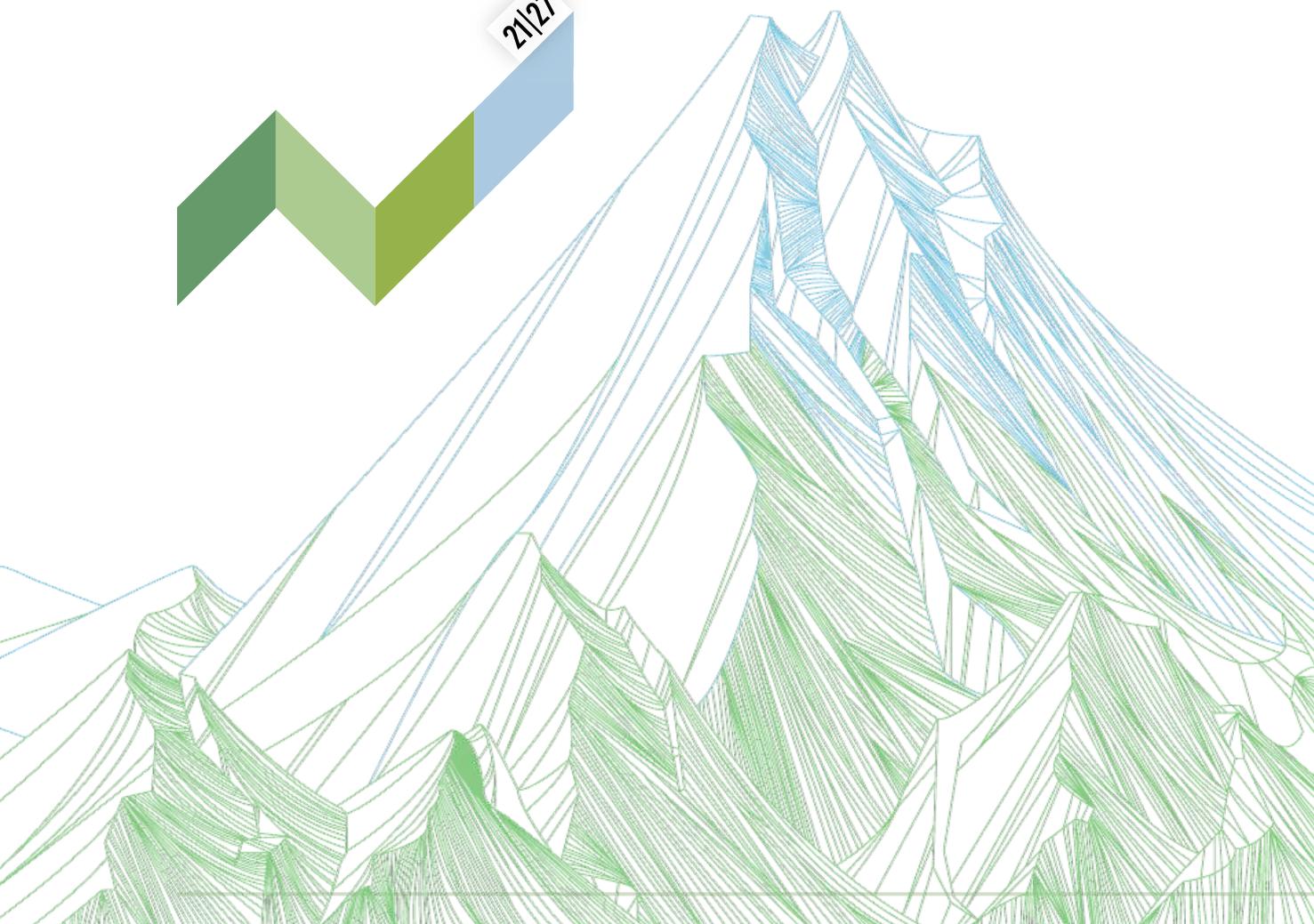




Table of contents

PC01 (informal) Meeting.....	3
PC02 (informal) Meeting.....	5
PC03 (informal) Meeting.....	7
PC04 (informal) Meeting.....	9
PC05 (informal) Meeting.....	11
PC06 (informal) Meeting.....	13
PC07 Constituent Meeting	15
PC08 Meeting	17
PC09 Meeting	19
PC10 Meeting	20
PC11 Meeting	22
PC12 Meeting	23
PC13 Meeting	25
PC14 Meeting	27
PC15 Meeting	29
PC16 Meeting	31
PC17 Meeting	34

PC01 (informal) Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

05-06 October 2021 | Online

Item 1: Rules of procedure

PC decision

The PC welcomes the AC as representative in the PC.

The MA will take on board the comments made by all delegations in a revised version of the rules of procedure, which will be sent out with the minutes (see annex 2). The representation of EUSALP shall be re-discussed as soon as the TSS is set.

Item 2: State of play on the IP submitted for assessment by the EC

As agreed at the last Task Force meeting (TF19), the MA took steps to submit the Interreg programme (IP) to the EC.

Item 3: First calls for project proposals

PC decision

A specific meeting (PC02) dedicated to small-scale projects is scheduled for 14 and 18 October, where the following documents will be tabled for discussion:

- A revised version of the terms of reference.
- A new chapter in the programme manual dedicated to the typology of projects.
- The application form and the selection criteria for classic and small-scale projects, highlighting in particular the foreseen simplifications for the latter type of projects.
- A revised version of the timeline.



The cluster on greening will be excluded from the selection criteria and the foreseen 5 points will be shifted to the cluster cooperation character, whose new weight will be 10 points. This change will lead to a rebalancing of the weighting in favour of the “strategic” criteria (60/100) compared to the “operational” criteria (40/100). Specific guidance on greening will be offered to project applicants and managers.

An updated version of the programme manual will be provided to the PC together with the minutes of the PC02 meeting.

Item 4: Communication

The JS introduced the communication strategy, which details the approach to communication and visibility set out in the IP.

Item 5: ASP-EUSALP and governance support

The MA presented the latest information about the selection procedure of the EUSALP technical support structure (TSS), following the call for proposals launched by the EC in July this year.

Item 6: AOB

No issues have been raised for discussion.



PC02 (informal) Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

14 October 2021 | Online

Item 1: Small-scale projects

PC decision

The MA/JS took note of the comments and remarks made by all delegations which will be considered as follows:

- Terms of reference
 - Further explanation on the ongoing application principle and the related assessment and selection procedure
 - Inclusion of a paragraph about the programme ambition to offer a new entry point to the programme for new target groups with small-scale projects
 - Adaption of the timeline as later on agreed under Item 4
- Programme manual
 - Integrating an introductory chapter

The support of EUSALP AG by small-scale projects implemented under priority 4 shall be discussed and further specified in due time.

Item 2: Application form & Item 3: Assessment criteria

PC decision

The PC decided to fix an ad-hoc working group meeting on 18 October from 10h to 13h so to find an agreement on the application form and its guidance both for small scale and classic projects, as well as the scoring system. The outcome of the meeting is provided in annex 3.



Item 4: Timeline

PC decision

The PC agreed with the revised version of the timeline. The terms of reference will be published on the programme website on 15 November with the view to launch the call for project proposals on 19 November once the application package will be complete and the JEMS system ready. The deadline for the submission of classic projects proposals (in step 1) is fixed to 10 January 2022.

Item 5: AoB

The chair invited all delegations to fill out the online poll with the view to identify the best date to hold the PC03 meeting.



PC03 (informal) Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

29 - 30 November | Online

Item 1: Interreg programme

The EC announced that the observation letter will most likely be sent by the end of the week. Generally, all DGs who took part in the consultation are pleased with the IP.

Item 2: Call for classic and small-scale project proposals

The latest information on Jems developments as well as an overview of next steps foreseen in terms of support to applicants were provided.

Item 3: Eligibility check and the role of ACPs

The rationale of the eligibility checks foreseen for the period 2021-2027 was presented (i.e. intention of applying a less time-consuming and more efficient approach in comparison with the current programme).

Item 4: Programme manual

PC decision

The chapter on the intervention logic (A.2) will be provided to the PC together with the draft minutes of PC03 meeting for approval. The same applies to the chapter on public procurement (D.2) and State aid (D.3) following the remarks voiced by the PC (annex 4). Once approved, both chapters will be added to the PM.



Item 5: ASP-EUSALP and governance support

The JS informed all delegations that the AlpGov2 project is more than half-way to completion, but after three reporting periods the ERDF budget exhaustion remains low at 25.1% compared to the initial estimation provided in the AF.

Item 6: Financial control systems in Partner States

The MA gave a brief introduction to the main features of the management and control system, as described in the common provisions regulation. The same applies to the time schedule for implementation.

Item 7: AoB

The chair announced that it will exchange together with the MA with the French delegation around mid-December to ensure a smooth and timely hand over of the PC presidency in view of the milestones to be achieved in 2022.



PC04 (informal) Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

19 January 2022 | Online

Item 1: Interreg programme (IP)

PC decision

The PC approved the changes made to the IP and its methodological paper (annex 3 and 4). The MA/JS are mandated to re-submit the IP to the EC via the SFC portal, including all pre-agreements, which is a pre-condition for adoption.

Item 2: Programme manual

PC decision

The PC approved the changes made to the three new chapters of the PM (annex 5). These new chapters will be added to the PM and uploaded on the programme website after approval of the PC04 minutes.

Item 3: Classic and small-scale project proposals

PC conclusion

The PC approved the presented scenarios. As soon as the number of project proposals is known (on 28 February 2022), the relevant scenario will be applied and communicated internally and externally.



Item 4: ASP-EUSALP and governance support

PC conclusion

At the EB meeting on 25 January 2022, the MA will recall the frame offered in the priority 4 of the Interreg Alpine Space programme to support EUSALP governance and explain the different available options.

Item 5: Work plan 2022

PC conclusion

The PC acknowledged the 2022 work plan and mandated the MA/JS to implement it.

Item 6: AoB

The chair announced that the PC05 (informal) meeting will take place on Monday 21 March 2022, as this is the preferred date by all delegations.



PC05 (informal) Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

21 March 2022 | Online

Item 1: IP approval and implementation

PC decision

The PC decided that the relevant scenario for the assessment and selection of small-scale projects will be applied as soon as the number of received AF is known. It will be communicated internally and to applicants by MA/JS.

Item 2: Programme manual

PC decision

The PC generally welcomed the proposal of additions to chapter A.4 Promoting the project's environmental achievements and asked the JS to review the current proposal, considering AT and CH comments. The revised text will be circulated for approval together with the minutes of the meeting (Annex 3).

The PC mandated the MA/JS to further develop the drafting of the chapter on reporting, which will be tabled for discussion at the PC06 meeting.

The PC welcomed the proposed text for the chapter on joint cross-border procurement and controls, and asked MA/JS to include a reference to the partnership agreement. The PC agrees on the updated chapter on green public procurement.

Item 3: ASP-EUSALP and governance support

PC conclusion

Having in mind the ambition to find a solution for financing this year's EUSALP annual forum that is legally justifiable, un-bureaucratic and allows ERDF payments as quickly as possible neither the



option of embedding such funding in the upcoming TSS project nor the option of having a dedicated small-scale project seems appropriate.

As a result, the PC mandates the MA/JS to verify, in collaboration with the AlpGov2 LP as well as the other project partners, the conditions for a six-month prolongation from 1 July to 31 December 2022 and, in case of agreement, to support the LP in setting it up swiftly.

The PC of the 2014-2020 programme is kindly asked to endorse this request and take a favourable decision, which in light of the urgency would need to be tabled for discussion via written procedure.

Item 4: Technical assistance manual

PC conclusion

The programme committee approves the technical assistance manual and mandates the managing authority to implement the centralised TA activities in line with the defined framework.

Item 5: AoB

The JS took the opportunity to inform about the steps required to put in place the evaluation plan, which will have to be submitted to the PC no later than one year after the approval of the IP.



PC06 (informal) Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

03-04 May 2022 | Online

Item 1: IP approval and implementation

PC conclusion

The PC asked the JS to include the constitution of the PC in the PC07 meeting agenda, which will take place in Lyon on 12-13 July 2022, and to take action to activate newcomers and experienced organisations to hand project proposals at the next occasions.

Item 2: Selection of project proposals in step 1 of call 1

PC decision

The PC decided to invite 29 applications to the second step of the application procedure. The JS was asked to inform all lead applicants about the decision and the next steps by 6 May, including the invitation to the lead applicant seminar on 23-24 May.

The PC asked the JS to create a meeting poll to select the date or dates of PC08 meeting in October.

Item 3: Update on new chapters of the PM

PC decision

The PC welcomed the proposal made by the MA/JS to chapters D.1, D.4 and D.7 of the programme manual.

The chapter on eligibility rules (B.3) will be marginally revised so that applicants and beneficiaries better understand the calculation method for assignments under staff costs, and provided for



approval together with the meeting minutes. The same applies to the guidance to applicants (Annex 3).

The PC mandated the MA to consult the FLCC on the draft chapter on audit and control (D1) prior to its publication.

The new chapters will be included in an updated version of the PM to be published online once the minutes are approved, and respectively after the FLCC consultation.

Item 4: ASP & EUSALP support

The MA shared the outcome of the last EUSALP EB meeting with regard to the application for an ASP project that is meant to finance TSS, AG and annual fora.

Item 5: AoB

The Chair confirmed that the PC07 meeting will take place in Lyon on 12 and 13 July 2022. The first day will run in the morning and afternoon while the second only in the morning.

PC07 Constituent Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

12-13 July 2022 | Lyon, France

Item 1: Constitution of the programme committee

PC conclusion

The PC confirmed all decisions taken by the informal PC. The PC furthermore approved the proposed changes to the rules of procedure (rule 3 (2)). The PC took note of the fact that all PC decisions marked as such in the minutes will be published on the programme's website according to the requirements of the EU regulations.

Item 2: Selection of small-scale project proposals

PC decision

The PC approved 5 (out of 62) eligible small-scale projects, namely Alps4GreenC, CERVINO, Cool*Alps, AlpSatellites and I-SWAMP. The JS was asked to inform lead applicants about the decision and the next steps, attaching a letter with requests for technical corrections in the application form, the subsidy contract and the invitation to the "Get started!" seminar on 26 July.

The PC mandated MA/JS/ACP to develop a proposal for improvement of the framework for small-scale projects and to table it for discussion/decision at PC08 meeting on 18-19 October 2022. A first round of discussions with ACPs will be organised around mid-September.

Item 3: ASP-EUSALP governance support

PC decision

The PC approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EUSALP governance project with the changes as agreed in the meeting and asks MA/JS to publish them on the website and to inform the Technical Support Structure (TSS) hosting regions correspondingly. The PC welcomes the proposal of the



programme organising a workshop at the EUSALP annual forum that will focus on climate change and CO2 reduction and foster synergies between the approved projects and EUSALP AGs. The PC mandates MA/JS to organise the workshop along these lines in coordination with the EUSALP presidency.

Item 4: Timelines for next calls

PC decision

The PC approved the timeline for both small-scale and classic projects and mandated the MA/JS to proceed with the preparation and implementation of the calls.

PC08 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

18-19 October 2022 | Strasbourg, France

Item 1: Latest developments in programme implementation

PC conclusion

The PC endorses the communication strategy 2021-2027 with the recommendation to transfer as much information of the project websites 2014-2020 to the new pages as possible.

Item 2: Framework improvement for small-scale projects

PC decision

The PC approved the amended ToR and mandated the MA/JS to publish them on the programme website, together with the improved AF guidance and selection criteria for SSP and the revised section A.3 of the programme manual. The PC mandated the JS/MA to promote the revised frame for the second cut-off date with no delay.

Item 3: Update of chapters in the programme manual

PC decision

The PC approved the amendments made to sections A.2, C.1 and Annexes III and IV to section C.1 of the programme manual, and mandated the MA/JS to update it and upload it on the programme



website (NB: For the sake of consistency of partnership agreement and subsidy contract, and based on this decision of the PC, the MA reworded the first sentence of article 7 (12) from “All products (material and intellectual) that derive from the project will be the joint property of all project participants to “All jointly produced products (material and intellectual) that derive from the project will be the joint property of the project participants“.

Item 4: selection of classic project proposals

PC decision

The PC approved 14 (out of 29) projects proposals submitted in step 2 of the first call for classic projects. The JS was asked to inform lead applicants about the decision and the next steps, providing the assessment report, a letter with requests for technical corrections in the application form, the subsidy contract and the invitation to the “Get started!” seminar in Salzburg on 16 November 2022.

PC09 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

05 December 2022 | Online

Item 1: EUSALP support project proposal

PC decision

The PC approves the “Support EUSALP” project proposal. The PC recommendation on the revised EUSALP action plan will be skipped. The PC approves the proposed monitoring measures.

Item 2: Workplan 2023

PC decision

The PC endorses the MA/JS workplan 2023 and agrees with the proposed call timelines for SSP & classic projects for 2023. The timeline which will apply for the second cut-off date will be communicated by the JS, as soon as the call will be closed on 16. December.

Item 3: Chairpersonship 2023

DE presented the focus of the PC chair for 2023, which will address the framework and expectations for small-scale projects as well as the programme’s contribution to EUSALP. The PC meetings will take place in spring and autumn in Munich and Berlin, respectively.

Item 4: AoB

The PC gives mandate to MA/JS to perform minor textual precisions in the PM, as required. The MA/JS will document all changes and inform the PC as soon as a new version of the PM is published on the programme website.

PC10 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

14-15 March 2023 | Munich, Germany

Item 1: Latest developments in programme implementation

PC decision

The PC asked the MA/JS to upload the first draft of the evaluation plan on the programme intranet by 31 March in view of the PC meeting scheduled to take place online on 17 April from 9 to 11h. The sole item on the agenda for decision is the evaluation plan.

Item 2: Selection of small-scale project proposals

PC decision

The PC confirmed the results of the eligibility check (ineligibility) for the SUMOBIL-Alps project proposal as the ERDF lead partner is a private organisation.

The PC approved two (out of 26 eligible) SSPs; whereby the total approved ERDF amount corresponds to EUR 724.886,99.

ID	Acronym	Specific Objective	Lead Partner	ERDF
ASP0400273	FRACTAL	1.2	IT	334.339,50
ASP0400287	INNOBIOVC	2.2	DE	390.547,49

It was furthermore agreed that the PC delegations can comment on the proposed reasons for rejection for the other 24 projects by 21 March 2023.



The JS was asked to inform lead applicants about the decision and explain the next steps, including the invitation to the “Get started!” online seminar on 18 April 2023 and the letter with requests for technical corrections in the application form. The same communication should provide a copy of the assessment report and the subsidy contract template. When publishing the result of the call, the JS shall underline that the PC decided to go for high quality projects responding to the ToR only and, that after two decision rounds on SSP, a strategic reflection on this type of projects will be engaged this spring.

Item 3: Update timeline of calls and programme activities in 2023

PC decision

The PC approved the fourth timeline option for the second call for classic project proposals whose terms of reference will be published in the programme website in July following approval of the document by the PC on 27 June 2023. The decision on upcoming small-scale decision rounds will be taken in spring, considering the outcomes of the workshop in May.

Item 4: AoB

The following dates were agreed:

- 17 April 2023, from 9 to 11h, PC meeting (online) on the evaluation plan
- 23-24 May 2023, stakeholder workshop in Stuttgart
- 27 June 2023, from 9 to 12h, PC meeting (online) on the terms of reference call 2 classic projects.



PC11 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

17 April 2023 | Online

Item 1: Evaluation plan

PC decision

The PC asked the MA/JS to take into consideration the comments and remarks made by delegations in a revised version of the evaluation plan, which will be tabled for decision in a written procedure to launch in CW18 (2-5 May 2023). Once approved, the MA/JS will inform the EC via the SFC2021 portal and publish it on the programme website.

Item 2: AoB

The MA provided a short update on the reflection workshop, which will take place onsite on 23-24 May in Stuttgart. The MA noted that the preparatory work with the experts is progressing well in accordance with the timetable. The interviews with programme stakeholders are underway, and soon both successful and unsuccessful applicants to calls for SSP proposals will be surveyed by the experts. The MA also confirmed that 70+ stakeholders are expected to join the second day of the workshop. The EUSALP TSS has been contacted in agreement with the EUSALP presidency and was asked to elaborate a good mix of representations of the action groups together with the AG leaders. CH welcomed the update and requested the final list of participants for coordination purposes.



PC12 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

17 June 2023 | Online

Item 1: Call 2 for classic projects - terms of reference

PC decision

The PC approved the terms of reference, and asked the MA/JS to launch the second call for classic project proposals on July 3 2023. The PC asked the MA/JS to advertise the call on the various communication channels and ensure, in close cooperation with ACPs, timely support to potential applicants interested in submitting project proposals.

The PC also acknowledged that quality assessment requires enough time and resources, but asked for some flexibility in relation to the proposed scenarios so as to ensure the selection of project proposals in December 2023. In case the programme receives more than 75 eligible project proposals, the MA/JS will consult the PC chair and propose appropriate measures enabling the delivery of a quality assessment in due time.

Item 2: Programme reflection workshop

PC decision

The PC took note of the summary report, and mandated the MA/JS to implement the measures as described in the report and discussed at the meeting.

Item 3: AoB

PC decision



The PC is asked to approve the submitted template which will be tabled with the draft minutes in the course of approving the meeting results.

PC13 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

05 October 2023 | Online

Item 1: Future scenarios for small-scale projects

PC decision

The PC decided to open a call for SSP in priority 4. The timeline will be announced after PC14 meeting whereas the ToR will be published in spring 2024. The PC also confirmed that the third call for classic project proposals is intended to open in the first semester of 2025. Depending on the results of the evaluations performed on the small-scale project concept and considering experiences and results in other transnational programmes and the availability of funds and the commitment on programme level, further calls are intended to be organised in 2026 and/or 2027.

The PC decided to set up a task force according to rule 2 of the rules of procedure. The TF shall be composed of representatives of the PC and it shall elaborate the ToR of the next call for SSP to be opened in 2024. All delegations interested in joining the TF may nominate one representative, or two in well justified cases. The MA/JS will be also part of the TF to prepare, coordinate and ensure a follow-up to the meetings. The TF will apply the rules of procedure of the PC in analogy, as indicated in rule 9 (3), unless otherwise agreed by the TF at its first meeting. The TF will be dissolved once the ToR are approved by the PC.

The draft version of the ToR shall be presented to the PC for approval either at PC14 meeting or via written procedure or online meeting in early 2024 in case the PC does not reach a consensus at PC14 meeting, which will take place in December 2023.

Item 2: Alpweek 2024

PC decision



Considering that the involvement in the organisation of this event allows the programme to strengthen ties with relevant Alpine stakeholders, to promote the funding opportunities of the programme and to spread the results of funded projects, the PC decided to mandate the JS to join the Alpweek organisation team and to contribute with limited resources in terms of finances (up to € 10.000) and staff involvement.

Item 3: AoB

The JS informed that it has opened a position for a project officer following the departure of Jana Habjan who worked for the JS team for more than two years. The JS and delegations thanked Jana for her commitment and wished her every success in her new duties.

CH reminded that EUSALP issued a paper on cross-cutting priorities to strengthen the strategy and invited all delegations to read it.



PC14 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

23-24 January 2024 | Online

Item 1: Latest programme news, roadmap 2024 and outlook

PC decision

The PC acknowledged the MA/JS workplan 2024, took note of the information on the closure of the 2014-2020 programme and decided that the activities related to 2028+ period shall be addressed at the next PC meeting.

Item 2: Selection of classic project proposals in step 1 of call 2

PC decision

The PC confirmed the result of the eligibility check performed to all project proposals submitted to the second call.

The PC decided to invite all project proposals above 65 points to the second step of the application procedure. In addition, the PC decided to extend the invitation to the LiveAlpsNature project, due to its potential.

The PC also asked the JS to inform all lead applicants about the decision and the next steps, including the invitation to the lead applicant seminar in Salzburg on 6-7 February 2024.

Item 3: Call for small-scale projects under Priority 4 “Governance”

PC decision

The PC approved the terms of reference as well as the changes introduced to chapter A.3 and annexes Ib and IIb of the programme manual, which will be published on the programme website after approval of the minutes.

The PC mandated the MA/JS to develop a background paper for a common understanding of the expected cooperation and integration between the small-scale governance projects and EUSALP. This paper shall be tabled at the workshop planned on 15 April 2024 (see Item 2).

Item 4: Cooperation with EUSALP

The MA reminded the cornerstones of the Support EUSALP project whose purpose is to ease the implementation of EUSALP objectives and priorities. The MA informed that the procedure for close monitoring did not find support in the EUSALP Executive Board (EB) who expressed skepticism about the feedback letter to be signed by the EUSALP presidency.

The MA underlined that the EUSALP EB once agreed to carry out an evaluation on the Support EUSALP project by June 2025.

The MA stressed that the information provided in the first report does not allow to draw any specific conclusions, except the fact that the exhaustion of the ERDF budget is very low. The second report, which is due on 31 March 2024, will offer a good picture of the state of progress of the project.

Item 5: AoB

The MA announced that Wolfgang Schrattenecker will take on another role within Land Salzburg from 1 April 2024. The PC thanked Wolfgang for his commitment and service over the last 17 years, and welcomed his availability to ensure a smooth and timely hand-over of his tasks.



PC15 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

5-6 June 2024 | Bled, Slovenia

Item 1: Latest programme news and outlook, including steps towards the closure of the 2014-2020 programme

PC decision

The PC takes note of the information provided by MA/JS and endorses the technical assistance (TA) statement for the year 2023, which was sent out ahead of the meeting.

Item 2: Updated version of the programme manual

PC decision

The PC approves the revised version of the programme manual and mandates the MA/JS to publish it on the programme website without having to wait for the approval of the PC meeting minutes.

Item 3: Preparation 2027+

The MA summarised the steps taken in relation to the programming of the current programme period, which kicked-off in April 2019 with the drafting of the IP and lasted until its approval by the EC in May 2022 and the launch of the first call for proposals in November of the same year.

As for the next programming process, the MA recommended to start the preparation already in 2025, and to allocate adequate resources at both the programme and partner country level.

The JS informed that the joint survey on the post-2027 programming period, which represents a common effort of six transnational programmes, is currently running.

The chair asked delegations to share information on actions lunched or planned at national level in view of the programming period.

Item 4: Selection of classic project proposals

PC decision

The PC confirmed the result of the eligibility check of all project proposals submitted in step 2 of the second call for classic projects.

The PC approved 18 (out of 32) project proposals, as well as the respective reasons for approval and PC recommendations. Any specification is to be communicated to MA/JS by 07 June 2024. The same applies to the reasons for rejection.

Item 5: EUSALP Support

PC decision

The PC approves the request for change. All changes are valid retroactively from the date of the request submitted by the LP to the JS. The approval is conditional upon the signature of the partnership agreement by ANCI Liguria who should hand over a copy to the LP to upload it on Jems.

Item 6: AoB

All delegations agreed to hold the PC16 meeting in Liechtenstein on 5-6 November 2024. The meeting will run from lunch to lunch.

PC16 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

5-6 November 2024 | Malbun, Liechtenstein

Item 1: Latest programme news

The JS provided an overview of the activities undertaken in the last months, both at project and programme level. At project level, the JS noted that the first batch of small-scale projects ended their activities in June 2024. At programme level, the JS introduced the new communication manager Francesca Barco who joined the team in early August 2024.

The JS also informed about the financial resources committed up until now per specific objective, including an indication of projects that could be funded in the next call for proposals. The JS stressed that 62% of the project partners prefer the simplified flat-rate cost option, which significantly reduces the administrative burden. As for the audits, the JS informed that the auditors will share their findings next week.

Item 2: Preparation 2027+

PC decision

The PC asked the MA/JS to launch a written procedure to endorse the final report of the harvesting exercise. The written procedure shall be launched still in November this year so that the report can be sent to the EC by the end of the year.

Item 3: Selection of small-scale governance project proposals

PC decision

The PC confirmed the results of the eligibility check for all projects submitted in the call for small-scale governance projects.

The PC approved 6 (out of 39) project proposals, as well as the respective reasons for approval and recommendations. Any specification about the reasons for rejection shall be communicated by the delegations to the MA/JS by 8 November 2024 (*none of the delegations opposed to the reasons for rejection proposed by the JS*).

Item 4: Decision-making

The chair recalled the current decision-making procedure, the rules of procedure and the proceedings of the PC workshop in Vienna in April 2024. The chair underlined the need to adhere to the established rules and encouraged an exchange to agree on adjustments, but refrained from any major redesign on the decision-making process, also considering that the third call for project proposals will in principle be the last one of the current programme.

All delegations agreed that Italy's chairmanship of the PC shall prepare a decision-making paper with the support from the MA/JS. The paper shall be discussed in a workshop in February 2025 ahead of PC17 meeting. At the same workshop, PC members will be asked to reflect on the third call for project proposals.

Item 5: EUSALP support

PC decision

The PC mandated the MA to address a letter to the LP and suggested to invite in this letter for a joint meeting the LP, other project partners, the trio presidency, the PC chair and the MA/JS that would take place early next year. The MA/JS shall also announce in the letter that from now on all project reports will be full reports so that the PC can keep up-to-date with project developments and deviations, if any.

Item 6: Request for change and programme manual chapter on project management

PC decision

The PC approved the request for change in the partnership of the RESPOnD project. The same applies to the revised version of chapter D.8 of the programme manual.

Item 7: Outlook and Italian Chair 2025

PC decision

The PC asked the MA/JS to launch a written procedure in November 2024 to endorse the work plan 2025.

The PC mandated the MA/JS to put on paper a proposal on priority tasks for the performance evaluation and invite interested delegations to join the ad-hoc working group to steer progress in the implementation of this evaluation activity. The proposal will be included in the written procedure mentioned above.

The PC also mandated the MA/JS to prepare the upcoming call in the way as described by the JS so that a profound basis for discussing and deciding on the terms of reference is available in March that can be tabled to the PC due time before the meeting.

Item 8: AoB

No issues were raised by PC members under this agenda point.

PC17 Meeting

Programme Committee Meeting

08-09 April 2025 | Aosta, Italy

Item 1: Latest programme news

The MA provided details about the closure of the 2014-2020 programme. All background documents have been submitted to the EC, including the final implementation report.

The MA also outlined that the system audit for the current period started in June last year. The system audit is to continue during May and June 2025 with verifications on the joint electronic monitoring system (Jems) and the national management and control systems in France, Italy and Slovenia. The audit of operations of the year 2024 were concluded with no to minor findings and the assurance package was submitted on time to the EC.

The JS provided information about the implementation of the evaluation plan, which kicked-off in January this year with a written procedure to define the order of the evaluation activities and the invitation to set up an ad-hoc working group to steer the evaluation of the communication strategy. The JS concluded by saying that the results of this evaluation activity will be shared at the PC18 meeting in November 2025.

The JS also updated PC members on the programme of the 25th anniversary event, namely the keynote speakers, the breakout sessions and the 32 projects that confirmed their presence at project expo. The JS underlined that over 200 participants have already registered to the event.

Item 2: Third call for project proposals

PC decision

- The PC approves the terms of reference of the third call for classic project proposals with the amendments as were agreed at the meeting;

- The PC approves the specifications of the guiding questions for the assessment criterion on project relevance for the programme (cluster 1), which is part of Annex IIa of the programme manual on selection criteria for “classic projects”;
- The input paper presented to the PC prior to the meeting will also reflect on class B projects (i.e. project proposals whose score varies between 60 and 69 points) and their contribution to the performance of the programme’s outputs and result indicators and financial frameworks;
- Project selection decisions shall be taken by specific objective/priority based on assessment criteria, performance of the project proposals to the programme’s output and result indicators and financial frameworks;
- Deviations from the JS recommendations shall in principle be infrequent and well justified. The reasons and opinions expressed by the delegations shall be documented and traceable in the minutes.

Item 3: Support EUSALP and upcoming calls under priority 4

PC decision

Support EUSALP follow-up project

- The PC approves the terms of reference on the condition that a detailed concept regarding the organisation of the EUSALP secretariat is approved by the EB and sent by the EUSALP co-presidency to the MA/JS after the EB meeting in May 2025;
- The MA/JS will ask the LP of the follow-up project to submit a stocktaking analysis of lessons learnt from the Support EUSALP project. This analysis, which will be taken into account in the set-up of the follow-up project, shall be prepared by the project partnership and presented to the EUSALP EB and also to the PC.

Call for capitalisation projects

- The PC confirms the agreement made at the workshop in Milan to open a call for capitalisation project(s) and mandates the MA/JS to further develop its approach and focus in a input paper and further discussions and agreements made at the meeting;



- The JS is asked to organise bilateral exchanges with national delegations and PC observers and to feed the results in a more detailed concept, including the added-value of each possible project format in relation to available outputs, potential target groups and results that shall be tabled to the PC;
- An online PC meeting will take place on **8 July 2025 from 14 to 17h** to discuss the revised and more detailed proposal and agree on the cornerstones and the expected results of the call and its timeline, which the JS shall then feed into draft terms of reference which will be tabled at the next PC meeting in November.

Item 4: Programming period 2027+

The MA shared the main messages that came out of the Interreg GO! event, which took place on 27 and 28 March 2025. The event represented a key milestone in the preparation of the future post-2027 Interreg programmes as it brought to an end the consultation process launched in October 2023.

The EC noted that discussions on the multiannual financial framework 2028-2024 are ongoing. In the coming months, the EC will unveil its proposal for the long-term EU budget, which may well address new priorities such as defence. This will be followed by the draft regulations on provisions relating to Interreg. For the EC, several priorities remain valid and could be reinforced in the next Alpine Space programme.

In addition, the JS presented the brochure on the potential of transnational cooperation, which is the result of collaboration between all transnational programmes. Although the Council has recently expressed that all Interreg strands are important and shall remain this brochure shall help to underline the specific role which transnational programmes can take. The JS underlined that the brochure provides insights and recommendations on the added-value of transnational cooperation in three key messages: building solidarity beyond borders, achieving synergies for the benefit of all territories and delivering change to support the green and digital transition of Europe.

Item 5: Annual TA statement

The MA presented the technical assistance (TA) annual statement for 2024 (Annex 2). At the centralised level, the MA noted that the overall exhaustion is relatively low as the expenditure from 2023 was covered by the TA budget of the 2014-2020 period. For 2025, the expenditure will see an increase across all budget lines, with a great prominence on staff and communication (the latter due to the 25th anniversary event).



Item 6: AoB

All delegations agreed to hold the PC18 meeting on 13 and 14 November 2025 in Milan or Bergamo. The exact place will be announced in due time. The one-and-a-half day meeting is preceded by an informal dinner on 12 November 2025