

### MOUNTAINS SHAPE OUR REGION, IDEAS SHAPE OUR FUTURE.

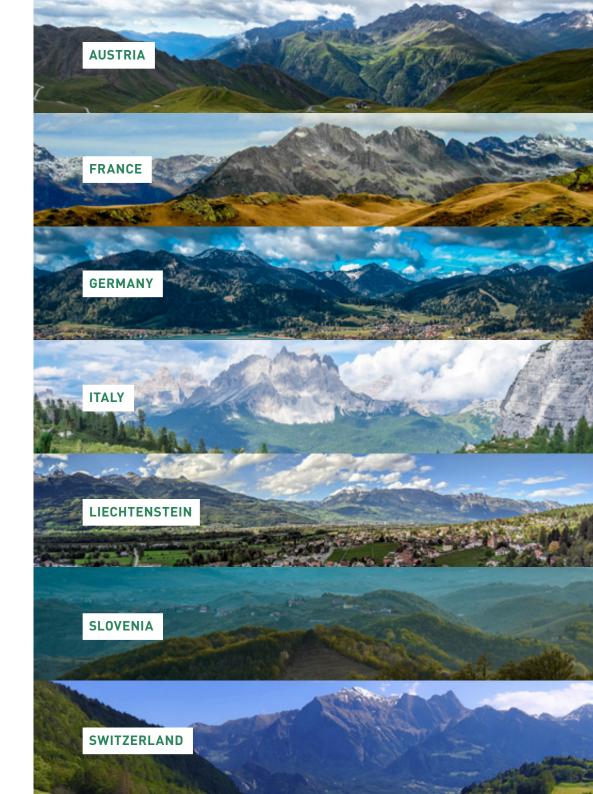
#### The Interreg Alpine Space programme

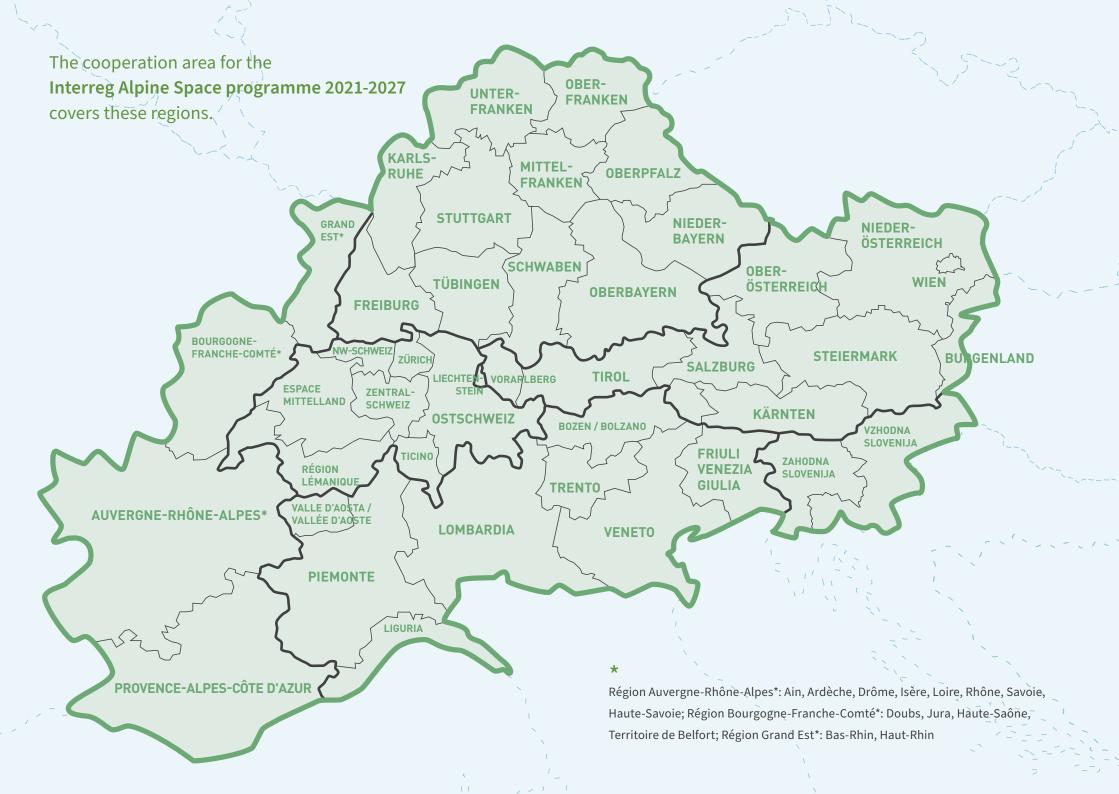
finances cooperation projects across the borders of seven Alpine countries via the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). It brings together public authorities, academia, business and civil society organisations to tackle common challenges and improve the quality of life for over 80 million people in the Alpine region.

In more than 20 years, the Interreg Alpine Space programme has supported more than 2,000 organisations in developing new solutions to Alpine challenges. In the period 2021-27 the programme will finance cooperation projects for a total of € 107 million from the ERDF. Resilience to climate change, carbon neutrality, resource efficiency, innovation and digitalisation are among the main challenges (and opportunities!) for the Alpine region in the years to come.

In this brochure, you will find an overview of the Interreg Alpine Space programme 2021-2027: its cooperation area, the objectives and indicative types of actions that will be cofinanced, the target groups, the two types of projects and their characteristics, as well as the programme staff who support and advise applicants and beneficiaries in the implementation of their projects.

We invite you to take advantage of this opportunity to shape our Alpine Space 2027!

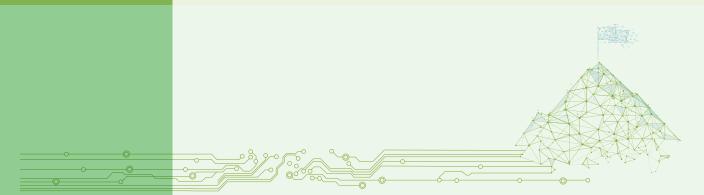




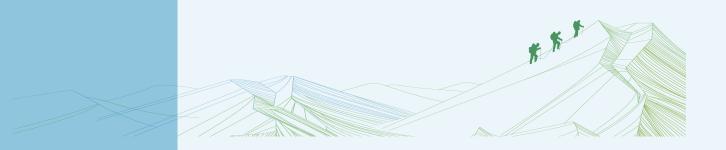
# Priority 1 Climate resilient and green Alpine region

**Priority 2** Carbon neutral and resource sensitive Alpine region

**Priority 3** Innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region



**Priority 4** Cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region



## Priority 1 / Objective 1.1

# Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches.

The capacity of the Alpine region to adapt to the unexpected effects of climate change will be strengthened. Innovative projects will foster risk prevention and disaster resilience in a comprehensive and sustainable way. Solutions inspired and supported by nature in particular offer great potentials. All key players, together with citizens, are called upon for a necessary shift to integrated and participatory approaches at a transnational, regional, and local level.

#### Main target groups

- » National, regional and local public authorities,
- » Higher education and research institutions,
- » National, regional or local development agencies,
- » Interest groups including NGOs and citizen's associations,
- » Schools/education and training centres,
- » Sectoral agencies,
- » Enterprises (esp. SMEs),
- » Business support organisations, including chambers of commerce, networks and clusters,
- » Infrastructure and (publiservice provider,
- » General public/citizens,
- » Other public organisations.

- » Developing solutions and pilots to strengthen the preparedness and adaptive capacity of the alpine society, economy and nature to cope with the impacts of climate change and establish climate services to foster the resilience of the Alpine region (e.g. societal/ economic adaptation, health aspects, changes and needs of ecosystem services, water and soil protection, financial aspects);
- » Organising solutions and pilot actions to bridge the gap between climate research and practical implementation and to integrate new research results into the adaptation practice at different levels and for different types of territories;
- » Supporting information exchange and knowledge transfer at a transnational/regional/ local level to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to raise awareness among experts, policy makers and citizens;
- » Developing methodologies and tools within pilot activities aiming at measuring and monitoring the specific impacts of climate change to the lithosphere-biospherehydrosphere-cryosphere.
- » Setting-up of preventive, integrative and strategic planning measures in the fields of spatial planning and risk management through the joint development of solutions, tools, interoperable databases; disaster monitoring-, warning- and response- systems at different territorial levels concerning all kind of natural hazards and fostering Nature Based Solutions;
- » Developing solutions and pilot activities for different types of territories in highly affected and exposed regions (e.g. high altitude environment with glacial mass reduction, permafrost degradation, or regions specifically hit by draught) as well as exposed main communications axes (e.g. roads, railways) and human settlements.
- » Improving skills and competences for policy makers and stakeholders at different policy levels to make better use of digitalization in the field of risk prevention, risk management and climate change adaptation, e.g. by harmonizing and sharing data (incl. open datand implementing innovative digital tools;
- » Developing integrated and participatory concepts and implementing pilot projects in risk management as well as communication measures aiming at raising awareness and preparedness among policy makers at different policy levels as well as among citizens;
- » Developing solutions and pilot activities to set up coordination structures for the sustainable management of multifunctional protective forests and the establishment of Nature Based Solutions, taking into account Green and Blue infrastructure, sustainable water management and ecosystem services.

## Priority 1 / Objective 1.2

#### Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity, and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.

To protect the Alpine biodiversity and traditional Alpine landscape, the Interreg Alpine Space programme will focus on the development of Green and Blue multifunctional infrastructure (GBas well as tackle the concrete effects of climate change on biodiversity. GBI offer integrated solutions to protect biodiversity and support the sustainable valorisation of ecosystem services such as air quality. The extraordinary diversity of habitats of the Alpine region can only be safeguarded thanks to inclusive approaches and requires joint actions on an Alpine scale.

#### Main target groups

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- » National, regional or local development agencies,
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- » Sectoral agencies,
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- (publiservice provider,
- » General public/citizens,
- » Other public organisations.

- » Implementing pilot projects that support multifunctional Green and Blue infrastructure-networks ("TEN-G"), Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and innovative planning methodologies in order to strengthen Alpine biodiversity and ecosystem services, targeting to develop tailor-made solutions for different territorial needs (urban, rural, peri-urban and their interlinkages) and taking into account their impacts on social, cultural and economic systems (e.g. health related issues like the "Onehealth-approach" integrated and sustainable approaches of system integration and valuation, reduction of pollution);
- » Developing transnational solutions and implementing pilot projects on sustainable land use management, climate-friendly settlement development, soil protection and the sustainable valorisation of natural and cultural heritage, including cultural landscapes to reduce biotope fragmentation and to support the connectivity of ecosystems;
- » Supporting transnational cooperation, knowledge-exchange and reinforced research on the concrete impacts of climate change on Alpine biodiversity as well as the impacts of mitigation and adaptation measures for different types of territories and ecosystems, as well as in and for urban regions (e.g. to fight urban heat islands);
- » Developing integrated solutions and pilot activities to cope with the impacts of energy management, hydro power, and energy grids on ecosystems and biodiversity;
- » Supporting measures of communication and awareness raising among different political levels and citizens concerning the valorisation of ecosystem services as well as Green and Blue infrastructure strategies across borders and their integration into regional and local planning.

## Priority 2 / Objective 2.1

## Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The European Union aims at becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Innovative steps will therefore go beyond efficiency and foster energy sufficiency: using less energy to perform the same tasks or services. Renewable energy sources must be more used within the Alpine region. The Interreg Alpine Space programme will contribute to a shift to postcarbon and sufficiency-oriented solutions in the building & housing sector, soft mobility & transport as well as for integrative landuse policies & spatial planning.

#### Main target groups

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- » Schools/education and training centres,
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- » National, regional or local development agencies,
- » Interest groups including NGOs and citizen's associations,
- » Sectoral agencies,
- » Enterprises (esp. SMEs),

- » Supporting innovative solutions as well as concrete pilot actions that foster sufficiencyoriented-post-carbon lifestyles as well as cross- sectoral approaches for different types of territories, e.g. in the planning/ building/ housing/ residential/ tourism /mobility & transport/ energy sector(s) that take into account the sustainable implementation of new energy-resources (e.g. GNV, hydrogen, bio GNV, electric mobility);
- » Improving skills and competences for policy makers and stakeholders at different policy levels as well as energy communities to support the transition from efficiency to sufficiency and post-carbon oriented approaches, e.g. in the planning/ building/ housing/ residential/ tourism/ mobility & transport/ energy sector(s) also taking into account renewable energy sources;
- » Supporting solutions, the exchange of knowledge, good practices and R&D activities focussing on the transition from energy efficiency to sufficiency-oriented approaches and to support the transition towards a post carbon economy and society in the Alpine region considering Multi-Energy-System-Integration and the sustainable use of renewables;
- » Developing cooperative and sustainable solutions to improve energy poverty policies concerning adequate and healthy heating, cooling, lighting and energy-to-powerappliances to enhance social inclusion, social innovation and encourage common policies for the Alpine region;
- » Supporting knowledge transfer, pilot activities, as well as communication measures in order to raise awareness among different policy levels and the citizens/consumers using approaches like behaviour economics, transformation management, and political framing in order to foster the paradigm shift towards sufficiency- and post-carbon approaches.

## Priority 2 / Objective 2.2

## Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy.

Connecting circular economy approaches with bio-economy and other green economy concepts holds great potential to foster the reduction of the overall material use, both in urban and rural areas. The Interreg Alpine Space programme will support the development of concepts regarding regional material cycles in sectors such as construction and housing, energy, Alpine tourism or mobility. The awareness of consumers, stakeholders, and citizens will be strengthened to support the transformation to more eco-sufficiency.

#### Main target groups

- » National, regional and local public authorities,
- » Higher education and research institutions,
- » Schools/education and training centres,
- » Business support organisations, including chambers of commerce, networks and clusters,
- » National, regional or local development agency,
- » Interest groups including NGOs and citizen's associations,
- » Enterprises (esp. SMEs),
- » Sectoral agencies,
- » Infrastructure and
- (publiservice provider,
- » Social organisations,
- » General public/citizens,
- » Other public organisations.

- » Setting-up circular/green/bio-economy-solutions to facilitate the development and implementation of circular and green economy-approaches among different actors with a focus on the Alpine key resources and key sectors above mentioned and implement innovative (pilot)projects and processes;
- » Exchanging good practices and implementing pilot activities supporting inter-regional circular economy approaches that promote bio-economy, the use of indigenous biological and regional products and that support waste reduction specifically in the above mentioned key sectors (including e.g. refurbishment activities, enhancing supply chains, regional and local value chains);
- » Developing and implementing "transnational value chain"- solutions based on regional assets and resources, competences and needs referring to the EU-key-concept of "strategic value chains", supporting industrial and innovation stakeholders in the Alpine region;
- » Improving skills and competences of stakeholders at all policy levels and in the relevant business sectors to pave the way towards the implementation of circular, green economy as well as bio-economy approaches including the set-up of indicators and monitoring systems;
- » Supporting solutions and pilot activities dealing with communication, capacity building, political framing approaches and awareness raising for stakeholders at different policy and implementation levels (e.g. including SMEs, start-ups etc.) as well as citizens/consumers using approaches like behaviour economics and political framing concerning the concept of "circular economy", "green economy" as well as "bioeconomy" to support a better understanding for the needed transformation processes.
- » Developing solutions and pilot activities supporting the development of clusters specialized in circular and green economy as well as circular bio-economy that foster research, innovation, implementation and cooperation particularly in the in the above mentioned key sectors.

## Priority 3 / Objective 3.1

## Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.

The innovation potential of Alpine players will be fostered in relevant fields such as services of general interest, sustainable tourism, social innovation, mobility or the reduction of innovation disparities between regions. A better transnational cooperation of organisations from research, innovation, academia, private and public sectors as well as the civil society is essential for regions to overcome barriers to innovation and the uptake of advanced technologies. Innovative solutions will also include a "green" character of activities, impacts of projects as well as methods and practices of project management.

#### Main target groups

- » National, regional, local national authorities,
- » Sectoral agencies,
- » Business support organisations, including chambers of commerce, networks and clusters,
- » Higher education and research institutions,
- » Enterprises (esp. SMEs),
- » Infrastructure and (publiservice providers,
- » General public/citizens,
- » Interest groups including NGOs and citizen's associations.

#### Indicative types of action

» Developing or testing joint solutions and actions to support innovation and uptake of advanced technologies. These activities should involve policy-level actors and have an open and inclusive character, for example in the following areas:

• Shaping an innovation ecosystem that builds on the natural and the cultural heritage of the area, supporting the development of sustainable and innovative value chains. The value chains should involve the relevant actors, including individuals and social stakeholders, to promote and explore solutions for social innovation, eco-innovation and green economy as a trigger for regional development;

 Fostering the innovation capacities, addressing innovation gaps on a transnational level in non-urban areas, reinforcing urban-rural as well as rural-rural linkages in the field of innovation, fostering access of rural businesses to the urban innovation support services and diffusion of innovation support services;

• Supporting clusters and innovation hubs-cooperation in different territories, as well as transnational value chains relevant for regional smart specialisation strategies ("S3"), focusing particularly on urban-rural links;

• Supporting experimental models and "green" start-ups to better address innovation topics in the Alpine region, involving greening practices building upon the natural and cultural heritage and knowledge of the actors in the Alpine region;

• Testing ideas for transnational innovation activities and entrepreneurship with a view to reducing territorial imbalances in all sectors, processes and ecosystems in the Alpine region, as well as solutions for identifying and mitigating adverse social and environmental impacts;

• Promoting and exploring application of social innovation to services of general interest, mobility, health and medical innovations, sustainable tourism;

• Develop and test transnational training programmes to improve skills for green and digital transition and contributing to broaden innovation capacities.

• Support the development and adaption of business models, products, services, and processes that strengthen the resilience and adaptation of businesses to climate change in urban and rural areas and promote a low carbon economy.

» Testing and implementing transnational networking activities, networking tools, advisory services and exchange platforms for example to:

• Foster social and process innovation based on the natural and cultural heritage of the Alpine region.

• Connect regional innovation ecosystems (e.g. to develop joint solutions for innovation diffusion)

» Supporting the coordination between innovation activities and policies and other policy domains of highest relevance in the Alpine region.

## Priority 3 / Objective 3.2

# Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities.

New digital tools hold great potential to increase the resilience of Alpine regions to demographic and geographical remoteness challenges. They will also help to reach the ambition of a climate resilient, carbon neutral and inclusive Alpine region. In a secure and privacyfriendly framework, digital solutions can pave the way for a more open, inclusive, and participative society based on cooperation between different stakeholders such as authorities, citizens, and businesses.

#### Main target groups

- » National, regional and local authorities,
- » Sectoral agencies,
- » Higher education and research institutions,
- » National, regional or local development agencies,
- » Other public organisations,
- » General public/citizens,
- » Social organisations,
- Business support organisations, including chambers of commerce, networks and clusters,
- » Enterprises (esp. SMEs),
- » Interest groups including NGOs and citizen's associations.

- » Pilot projects, activities and joint solutions to harness the benefits of digitalisation in different fields to bring about socially and environmentally sustainable change. For example:
- Better addressing the response to sustainable development efforts, contributing to solutions for climate resilience, resource sensitivity, green and carbon neutrality as well as ensuring inclusiveness and social accessibility to these solutions for a just transition;
- Supporting flexible SGI provision in all types of areas and for all types of users with regards to e-health/smart health, e-government as well as telemedicine;
- Supporting e-learning and new working structures in order to provide more attractive living possibilities in remote areas to different social groups;
- Supporting business development opportunities, product and service development, strengthening of regional value chains and regional marketing, with a view to reducing territorial imbalances;
- Contributing to the elaboration and implementation of Smart Villages and Smart Cities concepts;
- Accompanying SMEs and associations in their digital transformation, to increase environmental sustainability.
- » Integration of digitalisation as a transversal policy issue: supporting coordination between digitalisation activities and policies and other policy domains of highest relevance in the Alpine regions and in response to sustainable development efforts, demographic trends and increase in well-being, particularly focusing on the following policy issues:
- Digitalisation-related security risks such as cyber security, privacy, data-protection;
- Digital divide between regions as well as between more and less fluent users.
- » Activities to facilitate networking activities, networking tools, advisory services and exchange platforms in order to increase territorial cohesion and/or social inclusion in the Alpine region, for example by:
- Setting up or supporting transnational network structures and platforms for sharing exchange of good practices and knowledge with regards to policy solutions supporting digitalisation;
- Setting up or supporting Digital Innovation Hubs;
- » Developing common data collection, indicators and monitoring systems harmonized across borders, ensure the update and sustainability of data collection and monitoring systems.

## **Priority 4 / Interreg specific objective**

Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies, as well as other territorial strategies.

Current challenges such as climate change, the COVID 19-pandemic or the digital transformation call for public administrations to further adapt and develop their services. The Interreg-specific objective will further enhance cooperation and governance structures in the Alpine region. Starting with the support to the governance system of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), it will also improve governance among relevant Alpine-wide initiatives, including cooperation frameworks such as the Alpine Convention.

#### Main target groups

- » National, regional, local national authorities,
- » Higher education and research institutions,
- » Schools/education and training centres,
- » National, regional or local development agencies,
- » Other public organisations,
- Interest groups including NGOs and citizen's associations,
- » Business support organisation, including chambers of commerce,
- networks and clusters,
- » Sectoral agencies,
- » General public/citizens.

- » Setting up transnational frameworks, platforms, networks and mechanisms in the field of governance to enhance cooperation between Alpine stakeholders including the mapping of resources, potentials and processes as well as defining innovative implementation pathways and structures;
- » Developing and implementing solutions to enhance cooperation and organisation processes within the EUSALP governance structure;
- » Developing solutions and pilot projects for communication measures and tools to support multi-level governance, reaping the benefits of digitalization;
- » Supporting capacity building and trainings for public authorities and stakeholders at different policy and governance-levels in order to adapt to new challenges (e.g. mitigation and adaptation to climate change, digitalization, professionalization, process-innovation);
- » Developing tailor-made strategies and solutions for the integration of and communication with stakeholders at different policy and governance-levels, as well as with the civil society – also including "the next generation" (yout– and non-institutional actors;
- » Fostering and implementing knowledge transfer, exchange and capitalisation activities addressing the major governance aspects and key stakeholders of the Alpine region;
- Fostering the use of available funding instruments for governance support and EUSALP implementation;
- » Developing and implementing joint solutions for monitoring, reporting and evaluating multilevel and transnational policy instruments;
- Implementing joint pilot projects for the design, testing, up-scaling, comparison and evaluation of innovations in the field of public administration;
- » Developing mechanisms for the uptake and implementation of multilevel and transnational governance.

# How to apply

Applications for funding by the Interreg Alpine Space programme can be submitted during calls for project proposals. Calls are opened regularly, with the publication of terms of reference describing the programme's expectations in terms of content. The programme will co-finance both small-scale and classic projects.

- » Applications for small-scale projects can be submitted on an ongoing basis, and decisions on project selection are taken twice a year.
- » Calls for classic projects are opened every 12 to 18 months.

## Budget 2021-2027

Priority	EU contribution (EUR)	National contribution (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Co-financing rate
Priority 1	42,191,015.00	14,063,671.00	56,254,686.00	75%
Priority 2	30,175,589.00	10,058,529.00	40,234,118.00	75%
Priority 3	23,123,056.00	7,707,685.00	30,830,741.00	75%
Priority 4	11,561,528.00	3,853,843.00	15,415,371.00	75%
Total	107.051.187,71	35,683,728.00	142,734,916.00	

### CLASSIC PROJECTS

- » Classic projects are the type of projects already in place for several years. They offer a result-oriented aproach, helping to identify the expected contribution of projects in a defined policy field.
- » Their selection follows a two-step application procedure.

## Classic projects have the following characteristics:

Total budget:€1m to €3mDuration:24 to 36 monthsPartnership:7 to 12 partnersTransnationality:at least 4 countries

#### SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS

- » Small-scale projects are shorter and involve less partners compared to classic projects. They allow the beneficiaries to address innovative subjects from a thematic and/or territorial perspective. They can also focus on knowledge roll-out and uptake.
- » Their selection follows a one-step application procedure.

## Small-scale projects have the following characteristics:

Total budget:€250k to €750kDuration:2 to 18 monthsPartnership:3 to 6 partnersTransnationality:at least 3 countries

# How to get started

Are you interested in a co-financing for your project idea? **We invite you to:** 

- 1. Visit the programme website at www.alpine-space.eu for all information about the application;
- 2. Read our Interreg programme (IP) carefully, to identify the priority and specific objective to which you can contribute;
- 3. Read our programme manual for all information needed to develop and implement an Alpine Space project;
- 4. Discover the results delivered by previous projects in the output library at https://www.alpine-space.eu/output-library
- Get in touch with the contact point in your country (ACP) for feedback on your project idea, advice on the project type or support in your partner search;
- Please contact the Joint Secretariat or the Managing Authority for further general or technical questions about the application procedure.
  Find all the contact details in the next pages!

# A strategic framework for the Alps

**The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)** is a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine area. Created in 2015, it is based on a joint initiative of seven Alpine states and 48 regions. It aims at strengthening cooperation to address common challenges of the Alpine region in a more effective way. The projects co-financed by the Interreg Alpine Space programme should actively contribute to the goals of EUSALP.

The **EUSALP** and **Interreg Alpine Space programme** cover the same cooperation area.

For further information, please check the EUSALP website: https://www.alpine-region.eu



## 



**Thomas Fleury** Head of the Joint Secretariat

+43 (0)662 8042 3702 thomas.fleury@alpine-space.eu

Management of the JS team and its activities. Coordination with the other programme bodies and stakeholders in the area.



#### Nicolas Chesnel Project and programme officer

+43 (0)662 8042 3708 nicolas.chesnel@alpine-space.eu

Assessment and monitoring of projects with a focus on climate change and natural heritage protection topics. In charge of programme monitoring issues.

#### Jana Habjan Project officer

+43 (0)662 8042 3721 jana.habjan@alpine-space.eu

Assessment and monitoring of projects with a focus on innovation and low carbon policies.



Elisa Kerschbaumer Project officer

+43 (0)662 8042 3727 elisa.kerschbaumer@alpine-space.eu

Assessment and monitoring of projects with a focus on climate change and natural heritage protection topics.







+43 (0)662 8042 3704 nuno.madeira@alpine-space.eu

Assessment and monitoring of projects with a focus on low carbon policies and governance topics. In charge of programme evaluations.



+43 (0)662 8042 3711 clotilde.mahe@alpine-space.eu

Strategic development and coordination of the programme's communication.



Lea Schmidlechner Communication officer

+43 (0)662 8042 3756 lea.schmidlechner@alpine-space.eu

Support to the programme's communication.



Rainer Steindler Project officer

+43 (0) 662 8042 3723 rainer.steindler@alpine-space.eu

Assessment and monitoring of projects with a focus on innovation, digitalisation and circular economy.



### Contacts. Contact points \_\_\_\_\_\_



Martina Bach

Austria +43 (0)1 535 34 44 22 bach@oerok.gv.at

ÖROK – Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz



Henrik Caduff Liechtenstein +423 236 64 94 henrik.caduff@llv.li

Amt für Bau und Infrastruktur



Lisa Regina Horn Germany +49 (89) 9214 2314 Lisa.Horn@stmuv.bayern.de

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz



Roberto de Marco Italy +39 (0)2 67650038 spazio\_alpino@regione.lombardia.it

Regione Lombardia



Anton Pavlin Slovenia +386 (0)1 400 34 21 anton.pavlin@gov.si

Služba Vlade Republike Slovenije za razvoj in evropsko kohezijsko politiko



**Chloé Ribaudeau** France +33 4 26 73 43 98 interreg.espacealpin@auvergnerhonealpes.f

Préfecture de la Région Auvergne-Rhône Alpes, Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



Sébastien Rieben Switzerland +41 58 462 40 78 sebastien.rieben@are.admin.ch

ARE – Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung

## Contacts. Managing Authority \_\_\_\_\_



**Christina Bauer** Head of the Managing Authority

+43 (0)662 8042 3865 christina.bauer@salzburg.gv.at

General management of the programme.



Magdalena Friedwagner-Maislinger Finance manager

+43 (0)662 8042 3861 magdalena.maislinger@salzburg.gv.at Financial management, audits and controls.



Sabine Kumaus Technical assistance officer

+43 (0)662 8042 3789 sabine.kumaus@salzburg.gv.at

Management of technical assistance, organisation and administration tasks, MA contact point for projects and programme partners.



Wolfgang Schrattenecker Finance manager

+43 (0)662 8042 3758 wolfgang.schrattenecker@salzburg.gv.at

Accounting function. ERDF payments to projects and drawing up of payment applications and annual accounts.

## **FACTS** & **FIGURES** NUTS 2 42 regions covered million inhabitants <sup>up to</sup> **75%** co-financing million budget from ERDF partner states priorities specific objectives years of cooperation projects co-financed since 2000

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### **Interreg Alpine Space**

Find more information and explore the programme and its projects at

#### www.alpine-space.eu

#### Land Salzburg

Department for Economy, Tourism and Municipalities Regional Development and EU Regional Policy Unit Südtiroler Platz 11 | 5020 Salzburg | Austria

Joint Secretariat js@alpine-space.eu Managing Authority alpine.space@salzburg.gv.at

Join us!

