

The Alpine Space programme in 2014-2020

The Interreg Alpine Space programme is a transnational funding programme co-funded by the European Union. The programme area is home to 70 million inhabitants who live and work in 34 regions from 7 countries. In the 2014-2020 period, the programme co-financed 64 projects across 4 thematic priorities for the development and practical implementation of solutions to common challenges. The programme organised 12 transnational events and workshops, which attracted a great deal of attention from applicants, beneficiaries and key stakeholders from EUSALP, Alpine Convention and other initiatives.



Projects achievements

64 projects successfully delivered 550+ outputs, from action plans to toolkits. Their contribution is sure to have helped make the Alps a more green, low-carbon, innovative and well-governed region.



Boosting innovation and digital transformation

As part of the innovation priority, 22 projects were selected to enhance various sectors in the Alpine region through digitalization, sustainability, and economic growth.

CIRCULAR 4.0 and **AlpLinkBioEco** focused on supporting SMEs in transitioning to a circular economy, while the 11 new integration actions tested by **PlurAlps** provide useful benchmarks on how to make local resources accessible to newcomers and ease integration. Projects like **ASIS** addressed challenges in social innovation by establishing a new approach that responds to specific economic and societal challenges faced by each Alpine area. **DualPlus** focused instead on education and skills development, especially in increasing the appeal of dual education for crafts and trade among youth. **T.A.A.F.E** worked towards creating an age-friendly environment across the Alpine region, ensuring inclusive growth, while **SmartVillages** developed digitally facilitated services in mountain villages. Finally, **HEALPS 2** leveraged open data and natural health resources to develop new products and boost tourism.



Together, these and all the Priority 1 projects contributed to innovation, sustainability, and social well-being, paving the way for future development in the Alpine Space.



Low carbon society for a greener future

As part of the drive for a low-carbon future in the Alpine region, 17 projects were run, each contributing to sustainability, energy efficiency, and environmentally friendly practices.



Projects like **e-MOTICON** promoted e-mobility and e-charging systems, while **E-SMART** integrated e-mobility services and charging stations to enhance local public transport and logistics. **LinkingAlps** promoted a shift from private to low-carbon passenger transport by connecting Alpine mobility information services, whereas in ski resorts, **SMART ALTITUDE** developed a toolkit to reduce energy consumption and emissions. **MELINDA** and **SaMBA** used social innovation to encourage behavioural changes towards sustainable transport. Several projects focused on sustainable energy use, such as **GRETA**, which explored the potential of shallow geothermal energy; **BB-CLEAN**, which developed policies for biomass heating; and **ALPGRIDS**, which created a transnational framework for developing low-carbon electric microgrids.

Together, these projects are paving the way for a greener, more sustainable future in the Alpine Space.



Building resilience in the Alps

In the pursuit of sustainable development and environmental preservation, 18 projects were launched in the priority “Liveable” to address key challenges in the Alpine region, focusing on biodiversity, green infrastructure, and risk management.

OpenSpaceAlps and **LUIGI** worked to protect green infrastructure, with the former fostering transnational spatial-planning governance and the latter promoting its economic, environmental, and social benefits through new business models. **ALPBIONET2030** developed a comprehensive strategy for ecosystem protection, wildlife management, and resolving human-nature conflicts, **GreenRisk4Alps** facilitated risk-based protective forest management and **ADO** developed an innovative drought monitoring system to improve risk preparedness and drought management. **AlpFoodWay** fostered a transnational Alpine identity through the preservation of food heritage, **YOUrALPS** developed and tested the “Alpine School Model,” an educational initiative promoting sustainable development principles across 14 pilot sites.



Together, these projects laid the foundation for a more resilient, sustainable, and ecologically balanced Alpine region.



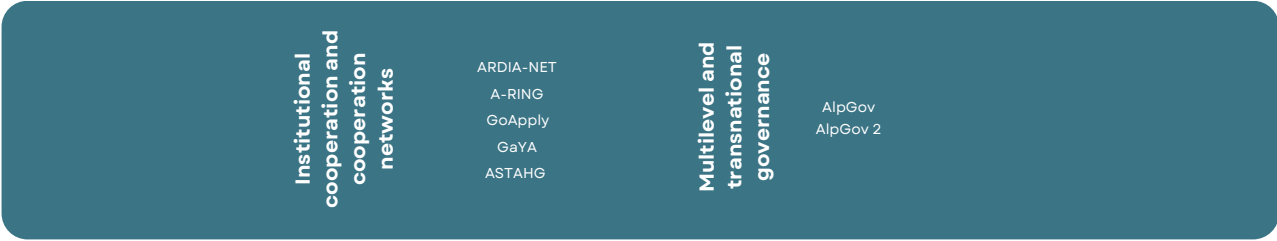
Enhancing regional collaboration and youth participation in the Alps

Under the “Well-governed” priority, 7 projects were launched to enhance governance structures, foster regional cooperation, and promote effective decision-making in the Alpine region.



GaYA explored methods to increase youth participation in local decision-making, including a participatory budgeting web platform, while **GoApply** tested a set of effective participation formats and provided the knowledge necessary to include climate change adaptation into relevant sectoral policies.

AlpGov played an important role in creating the EUSALP framework by developing governance solutions, mapping out institutional structures, and identifying key actions to tackle shared challenges in the region. **AlpGov 2** built on this groundwork by putting in place strategic decision-making processes to ensure the successful implementation of the EUSALP Action Plan. With these two projects the Interreg Alpine Space programme supported Alpine states and regions in their collaborative efforts within EUSALP to improve governance throughout the region.



A new strategy for better governance in the Alpine region

EUSALP, the macro-regional strategy for the Alpine region, was launched in 2015. This integrated framework brings together Alpine states and regions to tackle shared challenges and aims to translate EU sectoral policies into regional actions. The Interreg Alpine Space programme works closely with the strategy. Its projects drive sustainable development across the region and help reach EUSALP goals.



The Youth Council, set up by EUSALP in 2018, is a good example of building a bridge between the youth and politics as well as bringing young people of the different Alpine regions together. With the **Youth Ambassador Initiative** the Interreg Alpine Space programme takes steps to involve EUSALP Youth Council representatives in activities of its projects.

The Interreg Alpine Space programme is also closely collaborating with the **Alpine Convention**, the international treaty aiming at sustainable development and protection of the Alps.



The Interreg Alpine Space programme has established itself as a major player in the Alpine governance system, alongside the Alpine Convention and EUSALP.