

The Alpine Space programme in 2014-2020

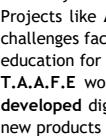
The Interreg Alpine Space programme is a transnational funding programme co-funded by the European Union. The programme area is home to 70 million inhabitants who live and work in 34 regions from 7 countries. In the 2014-2020 period, the programme co-financed 64 projects across 4 thematic priorities 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.

Key figures	
7 Countries	34 Regions
70 million Inhabitants in the Alpine region	117 €million Budget from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
4 priorities Innovative, Low carbon, Liveable and Well-governed	64 projects Across 4 calls for projects

Key dates	
2014	2015
Start of the 2014-2020 programming period	Launch of the EU macro-regional strategy for the Alpine Region
2018	2022
Strengthening ties with the EUSALP Youth Council	The last projects of the period 2014-2020 came to an end in 2022

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.

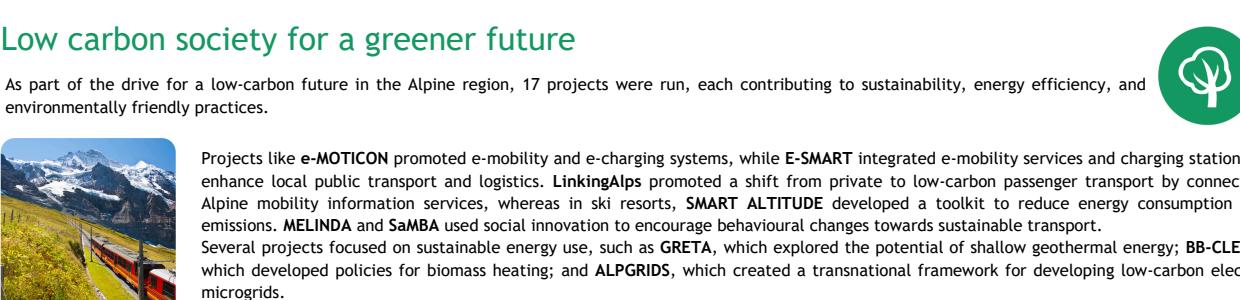
CIRCULAR 4.0 and AlpLinkBioEco focused on supporting SMEs in transitioning to a circular economy, while the 11 new integration actions tested by PlurAlps provide useful benchmarks on how to make local resources accessible to newcomers and ease integration.

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.



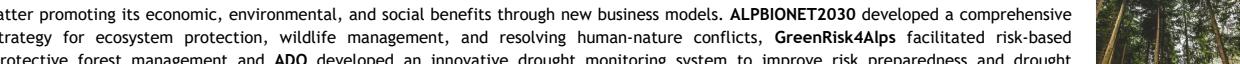
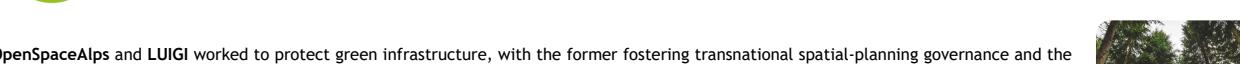
Low carbon society for a greener future

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

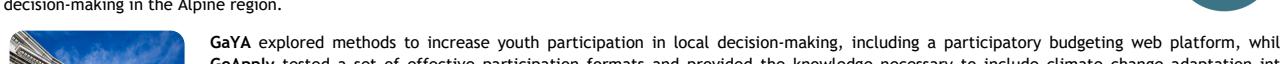
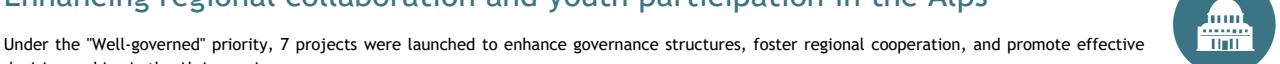
In the pursuit of sustainable development and environmental preservation, 18 projects were launched in the priority "Liveable" to address key challenges in the Alpine region, focusing on biodiversity, green infrastructure, and risk management.



Enhancing regional collaboration and youth participation in the Alps

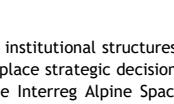


Under the "Well-governed" priority, 7 projects were launched to enhance governance structures, foster regional cooperation, and promote effective decision-making in the Alpine region.



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.