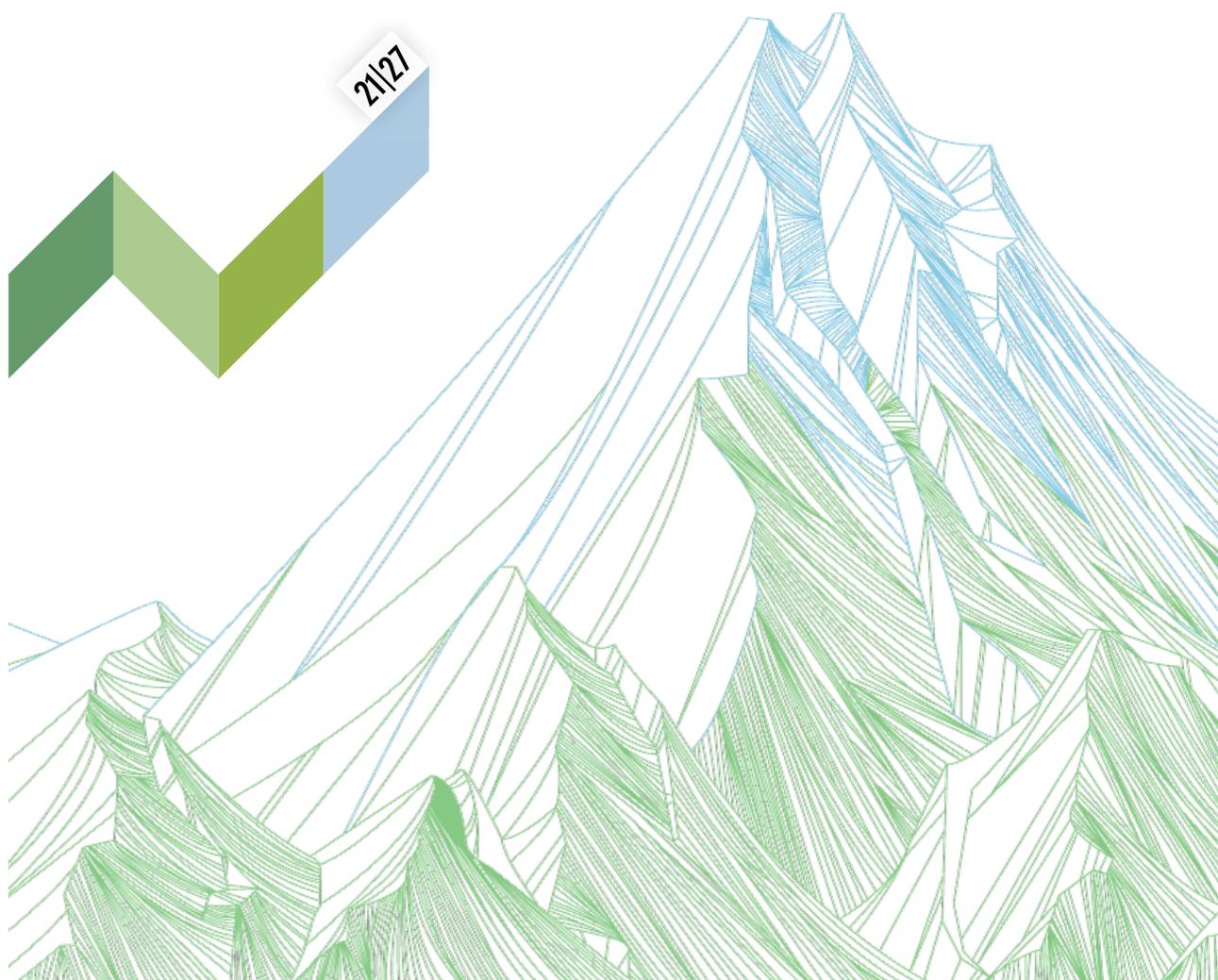


Terms of Reference

Call for capitalisation projects

Approved by the Programme Committee on 20 January 2026

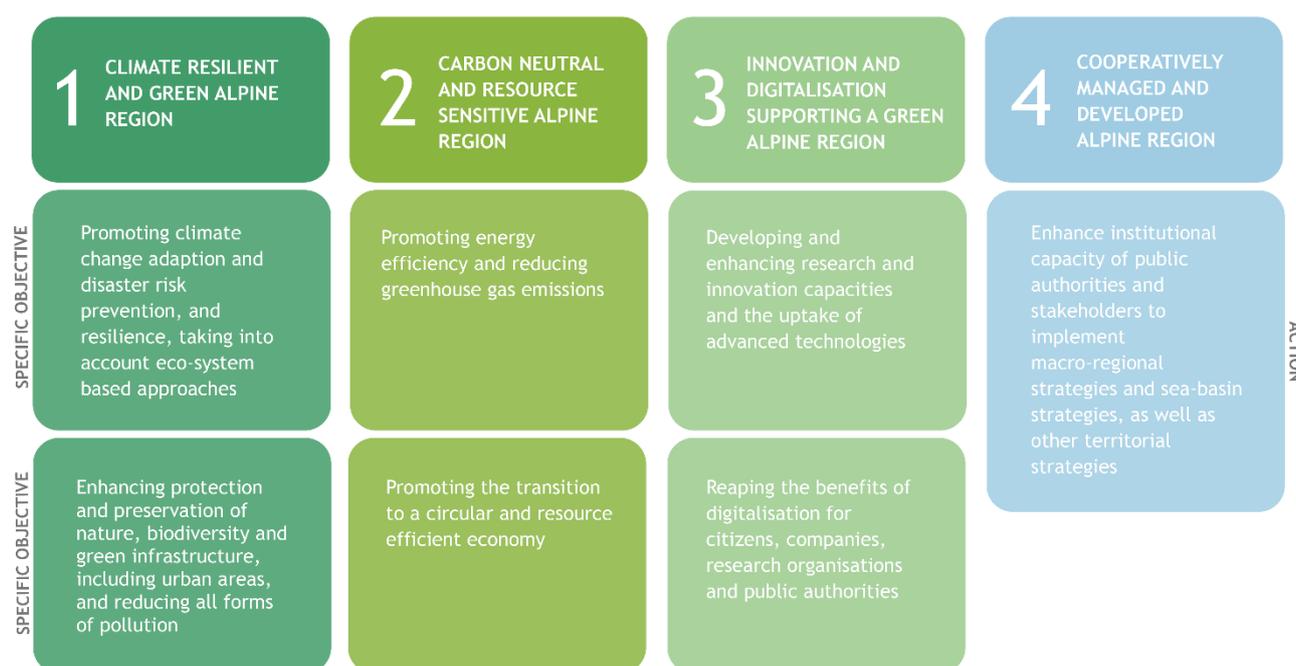




Interreg Alpine Space programme 2021-2027

Our mission

The Interreg Alpine Space programme 2021-2027 is an EU transnational cooperation programme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the European Territorial Cooperation objective of the EU Cohesion Policy. It is composed of four funding priorities: climate resilient and green Alpine region, carbon neutral and resource sensitive Alpine region, innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region, and cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region.



For a detailed description of contents of each priority and specific objectives, including information on the main challenges, type of actions and the expected contribution to the EU strategy for the Alpine Region ([EUSALP](#)), please refer to the [Interreg programme](#) document.

We are at the forefront of the transition to a unique, carbon neutral and climate-resilient Alpine region. With the programme, we want to **foster the integration of sustainable economic development, societal well-being and the preservation of biodiversity**. To do so, we bring together stakeholders from different sectors and regions to work on innovative projects and pioneering ideas for the benefit of those who live



and work in the Alpine region.

The programme partner states invest **EUR 107 million ERDF** to co-finance transnational cooperation projects promoted by public and private organisations from seven Alpine countries.

Our cooperation area corresponds to that of EUSALP. This is a deliberate effort to **strengthen the coherence and complementarity between both initiatives** and, at the same time, support the path towards a climate-neutral territory. Our programme is also anchored on several EU policy initiatives, including the European Green Deal, and the Territorial Agenda 2030, as well as aligned with the Alpine Convention.

The present Terms of Reference describe the types of projects expected from the Interreg Alpine Space programme in the current call for capitalisation projects.

As the current programme period is coming to an end, with classic and small-scale projects delivering outstanding results, discussions on funding priorities for the future programme will soon commence; this call aims to serve as a bridge, capitalising on the achievements of the ongoing projects while paving the way for the next programme cycle.

Objectives of this call

The programme has reached an advanced stage of implementation in the current programming period. In addition to supporting the EUSALP governance, the programme has already supported [45 small-scale and classic projects](#) through five calls for proposals. These funded projects are developing solutions and delivered results to address the current challenges of the Alpine region, bringing the programme closer to its specific objectives.

Several of these projects have completed their implementation phase, providing their target groups and the territories with concrete solutions, such as new tools for the development of territorial policies, strategic plans, decision-making aids and field-tested methodologies in a large range of sectors. To support the wider dissemination of these solutions and their operational integration within interested organisations, the programme intends to fund **two capitalisation projects** under **Priority 4: Cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region**, covering the following topics:

- Climate resilience of snow-dependent mountain tourism or
- Circular economy and industrial transformation.

The available **ERDF budget** for this capitalisation call amounts to approx. **EURO 2,00 million**.



Capitalisation projects under this call shall serve as a catalyst for the uptake of existing tools and solutions. By clustering already available Alpine Space solutions¹ and resources relevant to the below listed indicative activities, applicants are expected to engage actively the intended target groups and to effectively transfer and tailor these solutions, facilitating the uptake by new organizations, end users or territories.

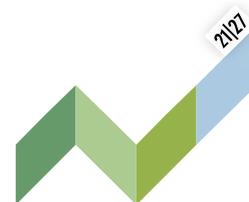
The projects should strive to reach target groups which haven't benefited from the outputs during the implementation of the project that developed them. These unreached target groups can be other Alpine territories, administrative levels, or sectors.

Capitalisation projects should concentrate on practical implementation and the widespread adoption of project outputs, ensuring that the benefits of the programme are taken up across the Alpine region by a broader audience. Where appropriate, awareness-raising campaigns can be conducted to complement the capacity-building services.

The capitalisation projects shall address one of the topics listed above. The indicative list of activities expected from the projects is as follows:

- Collecting relevant outputs from the different capitalised project(s) and clustering,
- Modifying the aspects that possibly make the solution implementation dependant on a certain territorial context and set up the solution for transfer, where need be,
- Providing capacity-building services and trainings to target groups (practitioners, public servants involved in the exercise of territorial administrative competences, actors of the social and economic development, businesses or associations), to foster uptake and long-term adoption in the engaged territories across the Alpine region,
- Helping customising the solution(s) to the specific needs of the recipient; Mentoring in the implementation,
- Identifying unreached target audiences, sectors or geographic areas also through awareness raising campaigns,
- Supporting the operational planning and implementation of outputs that take the form of plans or recommendations in a volunteering/interested territory/organization,
- Raising awareness and fostering knowledge transfer, exchange and capitalisation activities by engaging regional and local governance actors and other key stakeholders of the Alpine region,
- Fostering communication and exchange with other projects and EU experiences, also outside of the Alpine region, if relevant to refine or strengthen the impact of the rolled-out solutions.

¹ by the start of the capitalisation projects (1 January 2027)



Programme expectations

Projects under this call should build upon jointly developed solutions from at least two Alpine Space projects approved in the current period. The Terms of Reference annex a short list of jointly developed solutions that will be delivered by the start of the capitalisation projects and are relevant to the topics of the call. Information on all Alpine Space projects and their outputs can be found in the [Output Library](#). The programme also welcomes synergies and exploration of unexploited potential for the Alpine region of other funding programme or initiative (e.g. funded by cross-border or transnational Interreg programmes covering parts of the Alpine region).

The main target groups of projects shall be represented by the organisation for whom the solution is aimed at (e.g. local public authorities, SMEs etc.), which can be defined as “solution takers” - organisations with interest and capacity to implement. Some “solution takers” should be involved in the projects as project partners and others, engaged as target group of the project activities. In addition to benefiting from services for adopting the solution, “solution takers” organisations may act in turn as a relay for dissemination by engaging other governance level in their territory. The partnership should identify unreached groups of end-users or new geographical areas to enhance the benefits for the whole Alpine region.

The partnership shall include at least one partner representing the consortium that developed the solution(s) that shall now be further disseminated. Its composition shall be balanced between “solution givers” and “solution takers” organisations. In terms of competences, the partnership shall include organisations with capacities to accompany the “solution takers” in piloting and applying the solution in their specific context, as well as competences in communication, engaging organizations and capacity building. To ensure practical implementation and to boost its territorial impact, the partnership should consider involving stakeholders with multiplier capacity (e.g. association of municipalities, business clusters).

The projects shall lead to the long-term use of the solutions and the reinforcement of the capacities of the target groups, and the territorial change shall be documented for example by the development of an engagement strategy, regional / local action plans or direct operations.

The partners of the Interreg Alpine Space programme expect the applicants to obey the following cornerstones:

- The **lead partner shall be a public or public equivalent institution.**
- The projects shall **start** in January 2027 for a duration of 24 months.
- The **ERDF budget** for each project shall be limited to 1.000.000 EUR.



- The **ERDF co-financing rate is limited to 75%²**. Consequently, national contributions equal to 25% of the total project budget shall be made available.
- To ensure transnationality, the partnership must **involve at least four different countries** of the programme area (including the lead partner).

Furthermore, project applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the reference values as outlined below:

- The partnership shall involve 7 to 12 partners (including the lead partner).
- The work plan shall be composed of 2 work packages, such as first work package dedicated to the consolidation of the outputs, the strategic mapping of unreached target groups and the development of transfer services, and a second work package focused on providing these support services.

Deviations from the reference values may be accepted in duly justified cases, at the latest two weeks in advance of the submission of the project proposal. In such cases, please contact js@alpine-space.eu.

The programme partners expect that the project intervention logic shows a clear contribution to reach the objectives set for the programme. The applicants shall **develop a project proposal that is consistent** with the aims that they agree to reach with this specific project, thus, to clearly describe in the application form which project objectives are strived for, which concrete activities shall be set, and which deliverables, outputs and results shall be achieved in the end. In this call for proposals, applicants should focus on the third phase of the policy cycle, namely: “dissemination and capitalisation activities to encourage policy implementation across sectors and regions”.

The applicants shall pay attention to the **consistency** of the project partnership, budget and duration with the envisaged activities and outputs.

Steering measures in the application phase

As part of the project development support, the Managing Authority (MA) and Joint Secretariat (JS) will provide online support to all potential applicants in developing high standard applications.

A “Lead Applicant consultation” is strongly recommended prior to the submission of the project application to check the alignment of the proposal with the capitalisation project cornerstones and possibly improve their project proposal. To ensure the strategic alignment with the objectives of the transnational Alpine governance bodies - EUSALP and the Alpine Convention - and seamless implementation, the relevant Action

² All project partners from Switzerland and Liechtenstein are asked to contact their national alpine contact points (ACP) for more information on the co-funding.



and/or Working Group representatives will be invited to the consultation.

Interested applicants shall contact their [Alpine Space Contact Point](#) (ACP) as well as the JS well in advance of the deadline. More information on the steering measures is available in the [Application Kit](#) for capitalisation.

How are projects selected and supported?

The JS will assess all the project proposals submitted on time with the support of the ACP according to pre-defined selection criteria (see [programme manual annexes](#), Annex IIa, page 60-62). The Programme Committee of the Interreg Alpine Space programme will make the final selection by consensus. Details on the quality requirements for projects, assessment criteria, eligibility rules and contractual arrangements are provided in the [programme manual](#). Applicants should also visit our [“How to apply” webpage](#), where the application kit for capitalisation projects and all the relevant documents and information are gathered.

The project application follows a one-step-procedure. This means that the **application form together with the signed partnership agreement shall be submitted to the programme via the [Joint Electronic Monitoring System \(JEMS\)](#) by 30.06.2026, 13:00 CET**. The programme partners strive at taking a funding decision in the programme committee in October to ensure a smooth start of project implementation in January 2027.

Annex 1: List of shortlisted outputs for capitalisation