

Connect Alpine Space 2021+



Resilience to climate change

5 May 2021 | 10:00 – 12:15 | Online event



PROGRAMME

- 10:00 –10:10 **Welcoming words and introduction**
- 10:10 –10:20 **Keynote by Ariadna Anisimov**
- 10:20 –10:50 **Panel discussion with Veronika Widmann, Florian Ballnus, Helmut Hojesky, and Ariadna Anisimov**
- 10:50 –11:15 **Questions & Answers**
- 11:15 –11:25 **Break**
- 11:25 –11:35 **Wrap up and introduction to the networking sessions**
- 11:35 –12:15 **Virtual networking in Zoom breakout rooms**
- 12:15 **End**
- 12:15 – open end **Virtual networking on wonder.me: informal meet & match**

Draft priorities for 2021-2027

Priority 1: Climate resilient and green Alpine region (PO 2)

SO iv: promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience

SO vii: enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution

Priority 2: Carbon neutral & resource sensitive Alpine region (PO 2)

SO i: promoting energy efficiency

SO vi: promoting the transition to a circular economy

Priority 3: Innovation and digitalisation oriented green Alpine region (PO 1)

SO i: enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

SO ii: reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments

Priority 4: Cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region

Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies ("Interreg specific SO")

Policy objectives (PO) and specific objectives (SO) come from the EU (draft) regulations. **Priorities are defined by the programme and are subject to modification until approved by the programme task force.**

PO 1: A smarter Europe - innovative and smart economic transformation
PO 2: A greener, low-carbon Europe



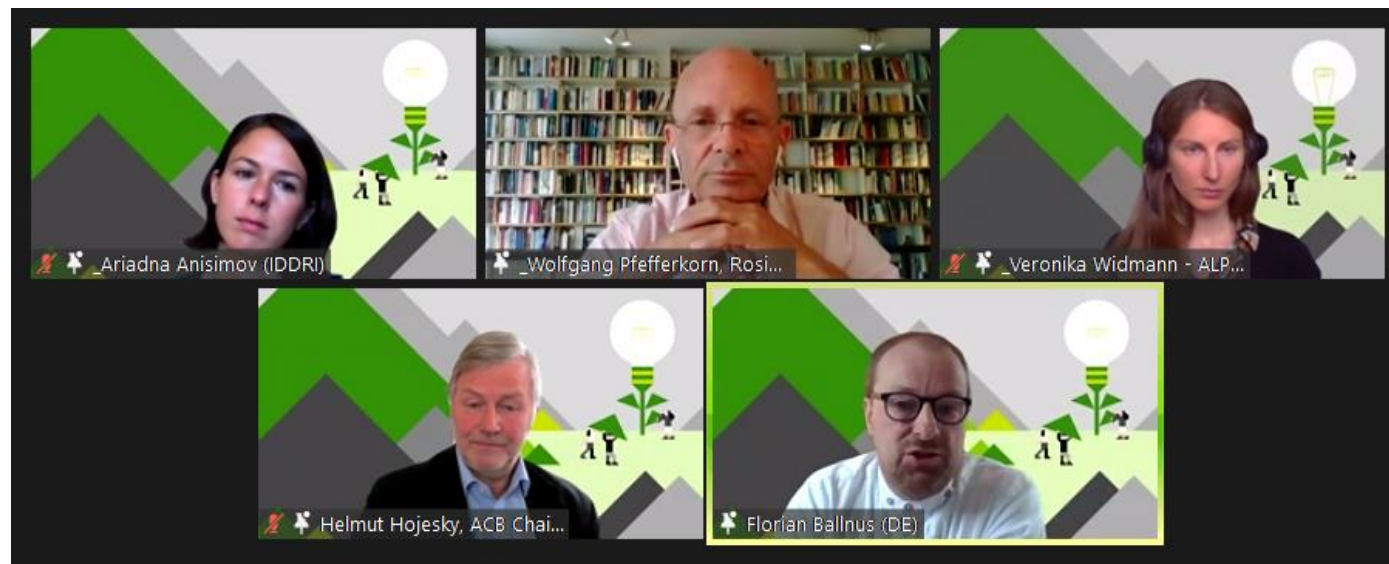
The speakers

- **Ariadna Anisimov**, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)
- **Florian Ballnus**, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, National Coordinator of the Interreg Alpine Space programme (DE)
- **Helmut Hojesky**, Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Chair of the Alpine Climate Board
- **Veronika Widmann**, ALPARC – The Alpine Network of Protected Areas, Interreg Alpine Space project partner

Panel discussion

What does resilience to climate change mean for the Alps? Four experts from different fields shared their valuable views on how to act for the adaptation and resilience of the Alpine region against the consequences of climate change.

Watch the event recording here: <https://youtu.be/5Nmyi6A3Alw>





Zoom breakout rooms

The topics listed below were discussed during our breakout sessions. Please note that the following slides summarising some statements made during these discussion do not reflect the position of the Interreg Alpine Space programme, but are only comments made by participants.

- Green and blue infrastructures
- Risk prevention and management
- Biodiversity preservation and ecological connectivity
- Urban/rural areas connections
- Education and citizen participation
- Transition of the tourism sector
- One health approach: health for people, animals and the environment
- Reducing pollution and mitigating its consequences
- Governance of climate change adaptation
- Facing climate change in Alpine urban areas



Messages from the breakout rooms I

Green and blue infrastructures

The main challenge lies in the valleys not in mountainous areas, i.e. cities and their urbanised belts.

Seeing it opposed to grey infrastructures is not accurate and awareness must be raised also for green and blue infrastructures.

We have to reach people and get their acceptance; otherwise, there is no chance for a change.

Risk prevention and management

Confront ourselves with what we don't know

There is the need for more transformative adaptation approaches and measures. We should go beyond small, isolated or temporary measures and make the link to the climate change adaptation as a whole.

Continue to cooperate with existing groups and networks



Messages from the breakout rooms II

Biodiversity preparation and ecological connectivity

Let's test and apply solutions on the ground (pilots).

We should help local actors to take measures improving biodiversity.

We have to tackle the loss of biodiversity and fragmentation due to climate change pressure.

Let's recreate urban forest areas and network with other urban areas in Alpine Space

Urban/rural areas connections

Finding new strategies linked to climate change to connect urban/rural areas and landscape protection

Mountains feed metropolitan areas, so what can we do for the mountain area? Ecosystem services could be a reversible element.

Reduce the temperature through vegetation in cities



Messages from the breakout rooms III

Education and citizen participation

Politics are now quite convinced of the importance of environmental topics. The main challenge is to involve citizens, and above all citizens which are not convinced and informed already.

"Citizen sciences" is the best way to involve citizens in environmental education projects.

There are two levels of participation: the first one is to have the target group in the partnership and the second one is to reach it through projects activities.

Transition of the tourism sector

We have to create respectful tourism: The questions are, how to welcome tourists and how to find a balance for tourism territories. How can tourists come to domestic areas in a respectful way? How to communicate with tourists on the constraints and respect the place visited and the way to explain people in place the way to accept the change?

Should tourism be the only "industry" of a municipality? The question is important also in the view of resilience of municipalities.

We have to find new ways for tourism: tourism is a key sector of the alpine area, so we need to balance different aspects and find new ways of dealing with tourism as an important leverage for changing demands in mountains.



Messages from the breakout rooms IV

One health approach: health for people, animals and the environment

Tele-therapy can be a solution to support people in urban and rural areas. The objective is to improve the therapy and the rehabilitation.

We should promote being outdoor and enjoying nature, promote a sustainable approach and a wider approach.

We are considering to bring the issue to an Alpine space project to compare or develop a joint service model.

Reducing pollution and mitigating its consequences

When it comes to energy consumption, we need a multilevel perspective that also includes the dimension of mitigation.

In water management, the focus is often mainly on physical risks, but should be also on microbiology.

As regards transportation, there are 3 major fields to consider, i.e. sustainable mobility, carbon reduction, and behaviour change.



Messages from the breakout rooms V

Governance of climate change adaptation

Some projects invented a wheel but others need to know it and to benefit from it! It is not enough that ideas are tried out at the ASP project pilots, but should be brought to the ground, beyond the pilots.

A lot of data is available, but how to use it? Make a step further towards the use of the data. Be sure that final users are able to use different modern tools.

Many data and lots of information has been collected within the AS area over the last years, now it is time to use the data and strive for harmonisation of knowledge.

The challenge is to bring the scientific results to the ground, to the people, the locals, the tourists, the students and inform them, the population. Raise awareness through communication campaigns, informing about what is happening, the risks and approaches to tackle it.

Facing climate change in Alpine urban areas

Solve challenges of climate change with different new practices, e.g. circular economy or new tourism models

The involvement of a wide scope of partners is needed to address such challenges, i.e. the inclusion of social science as well to consider the importance of the human factor behind climate change. We need a good balance of stakeholders.

Digitalisation is important as well as establishing new business strategies - just using new technologies won't be enough.



Next steps for the programme

- June/September 2021: finalising the programme 2021-2027
- September/October 2021: info days in Alpine Space countries
- November 2021: planned launch of the first call for project proposals
- 22-23 November 2021: closing/kick-off conference in Salzburg and online

Stay tuned at <https://www.alpine-space.eu/2021!>



Information shared during the event

- The Climate Action Plan of the Alpine Climate Board:
<https://alpineclimate2050.org>
- The Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change:
www.bmk.gv.at/en/topics/climate-environment/climate-protection/austrian-strategy-adaptaion.html
- Synthesis report 2019 of the Alpine Convention:
https://www.alpconv.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Organization/TWB/ACB/ACB_Stock-taking_report_2019.pdf
- European Climate Change Adaptation Conference - ECCA 2021 in May and June 2021:
<http://www.jpi-climate.eu/ecca2021>