



Making the Alps a better place

An overview of the solutions developed by Alpine Space projects in 2014-2020

The Interreg Alpine Space programme is engaged in promoting projects that will improve live in the Alps in four thematic areas. The first priority is to develop **an innovative Alpine Space**. The second priority aims at creating **a low carbon Alpine Space**. The third one aims at **a liveable Alpine Space**. Finally, the fourth goal is to make the Alpine Space **a well governed area**.

The Alps, an innovation lab

We dream of an Alpine Space where people living in remote mountain areas have easier access to services and where innovative SMEs and start-ups can fully unleash their potential. Between 2014 and 2020, we have turned this dream into 22 co-funded projects.



11 projects have devised novel approaches to social innovation. Such are [CO.N.S.E.N.SO](#) and [PlurAlps](#), which have successfully tackled elderly healthcare and migrants' integration respectively. CO.N.S.E.N.SO's



model, which has helped 5.000 seniors to keep their independence, was also very useful to face consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in some involved municipalities, while the 11 new integration actions tested by PlurAlps have provided useful benchmarks on how to make local resources accessible to newcomers and ease integration.

Another 11 projects have helped create the conditions for an increased competitiveness of Alpine businesses in different ways. [S3-4AlpClusters](#) has created an S3 innovation model to overcome the barriers to effective smart specialisation strategies. [BE-READI ALPS](#) has created a one-stop-shop model for business support services catering to SMEs. [SmartVillages](#) has explored digital and participatory innovation, creating a toolbox for digitally facilitated co-creation in mountain villages. Last, projects like [HEALPS 2](#) and [AlpBioEco](#) have developed new products and services in traditional sectors (i.e. tourism) and new ones (i.e. bioeconomy).

Towards climate friendly Alps

We dream of a climate neutral, unpolluted Alpine space, where resources are used sensibly and circular economy is the way of life. 17 co-funded projects on energy-saving, renewable sources and low carbon transport have helped us come closer to this goal.



Some projects have helped municipalities overcome the lack of competences and of economic resources, which often hinder energy saving and circular strategies: the toolbox for circular economy deployment created by [GREENCYCLE](#) and the inter-municipal approach to energy management tested by [PEACE Alps](#) are two such examples. Other projects unveiled new clean energy options: [GRETA](#)'s map, for instance, shows where, in the Alps, geothermal energy is a viable option for heating villages and remote buildings.



Greener human and freight transport are also key aspects to tackle. To make cross-border intermodality easier, [LinkingAlps](#) has created an information exchange service that lets people find all information about public transport through their usual journey planner; to increase the use of e-vehicles in the Alps, [e-MOTICON](#) has worked to harmonise e-mobility and e-charging systems. [SaMBA](#), instead, has focused on behaviour change, explaining how to design effective pricing- and reward-based campaigns. On the freight transport side, [AlpInnoCT](#) has opened the way to substantially improve the efficiency of intermodality by applying production industry methods and ICT solutions.

A home to know, protect and enjoy

We dream of an Alpine Space where people know, protect and valorise their natural and cultural heritage. 18 co-funded projects have gone this direction.



As climate change threatens the Alps in many ways, several projects have focused on adaptation and risk reduction, also highlighting the protection functions of ecosystems. For instance, [ADO](#)'s drought observatory helps Alpine authorities better face drought-related risks; by studying more than 10 000 rock falls and the protective role of forests, [RockTheAlps](#) has created a protection forests map, enabling the integration of forests in rock fall protection policies; [AlpES](#) has mapped ecosystem services throughout the Alps and has proposed harmonised assessment methods.

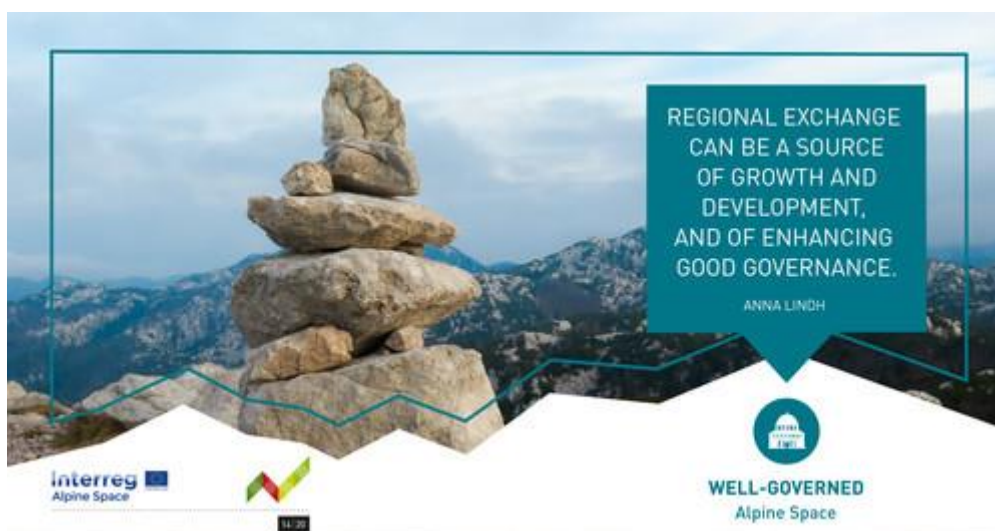
Natural and cultural landscapes are linked to people's identity and represent much needed recreational spaces. [LOS DAMA!](#) has searched for ways to protect green peri-urban areas from urban sprawl and find balance between conflicting uses, like recreation, preservation of ecosystems and agriculture. [trALLs](#) takes up the challenge of reviving abandoned industrial areas while saving the memory of the past, through co-creation



processes and tailored transformation strategies. [YOUrALPS](#) has strived to get youth to care for the Alpine heritage, protect and valorise it. Its Alpine school model, based on hands-on activities, ICT and outdoor learning, lets kids know and take ownership for the Alpine landscape, biodiversity and culture.

Working together to improve Alpine governance

We dream of an Alpine Space where issues are tackled in an effective, efficient and coordinated way and where citizens can have their say in the decisions that most affect them. To make this dream come true, we co-funded 6 projects, which worked to ease transnational cooperation, develop multilevel governance approaches, and involve citizens in policymaking.



One of the hottest issues regarding citizen engagement is youth participation. To help municipalities that are struggling with youth involvement, [GaYA](#) proposes alternative approaches by which the most common issues can be overcome. Devising effective models of stakeholder interaction is also key in climate adaptation governance. [GoApply](#) has defined and tested a set of effective participation formats and provided the knowledge necessary to include climate change adaptation into relevant sectoral policies.

The goal of creating an Alpine research and development area is, instead, the focus of [ARDIA-Net](#), whose partners strive to design a cross-regional funding framework in order to stimulate cross-border cooperation and trans-regional smart specialisation strategies.



The Alps, an innovation lab



We dream of an Alpine Space where people living in remote, mountain areas have easier access to services and where innovative SMEs and start-ups can fully unleash their potential. Between 2014 and 2020, we have turned this dream into 22 co-funded projects. Discover the solutions developed by these projects for the Alpine communities, and how you, too, can be part of this change! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeyYgvEP4_k

Interreg Alpine Space supports innovative projects everywhere in the Alpine region. From inventive business models, to food production and tourism, our projects have boosted the economy and quality of life in urban and rural areas all around the Alps. Click on the images to discover how projects made each dream become a reality!



Discover how **CO.N.S.E.N.SO** helps make the dream of **ageing at home** a reality

Home is the best place to grow old, but ageing in isolated areas can be challenging. The knowledge and networks developed during the project were especially useful to some of the participating municipalities during the COVID-19 emergency.



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GROWING OLD AT HOME, IN THE MOUNTAINS





Discover how **S3-4AlpClusters** helps make the **smart specialisation** dream come true

The competitiveness of a region depends on far-sighted industrial development policies. The S3-4AlpClusters project developed its S3 innovation model in order to overcome major obstacles to effective smart specialisation.



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CREATING AN INDUSTRY
ABLE TO MEET EMERGING NEEDS





Discover how **PlurAlps** helps make the dream of a **welcoming society** come true

In Italy, a young migrant has been trained to build a mountain farm, revitalising agriculture in the valley. These and the other 11 actions tested by PlurAlps in pilot areas have made it easier for newcomers to access local resources, start their life in the Alps and meet local people.



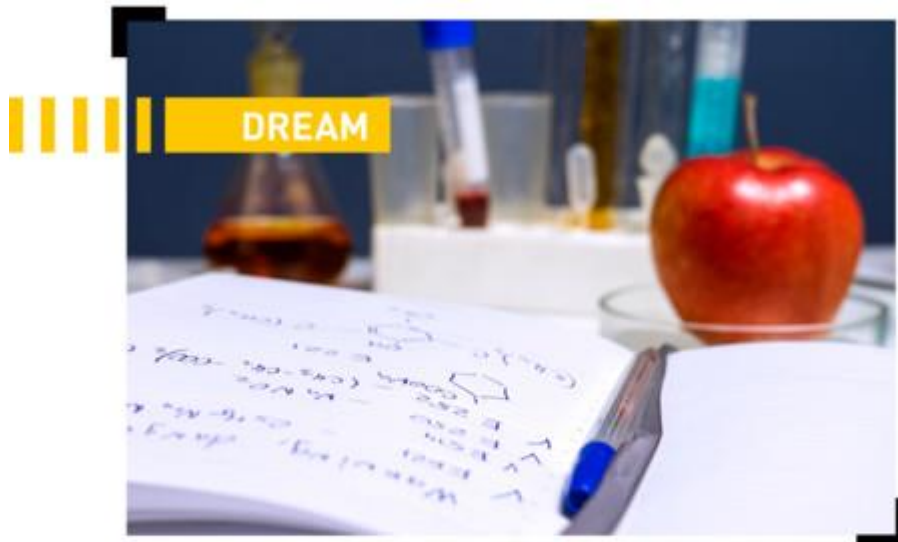
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STARTING A NEW LIFE IN VAL DI SOLE





Discover how **AlpBioEco** helps make the **bioeconomy** dream come true

Agriculture is an important sector in the Alps, but too often by-products don't find adequate valorisation. AlpBioEco works to increase the sustainability of the apple, walnut and herbs value chains while identifying opportunities and paths for innovation.



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ADDRESS GLUTEN INTOLERANCE
WITH A NEW APPLE-BASED FLOUR





Discover how **BE-READI ALPS** helps make the **SMEs innovation dream** come true

Mature small companies often find it hard to open new development paths. Alpine business support organisations can guide them to seize relaunch opportunities if they are able to provide efficient, complete services and to network effectively across the Alpine region.



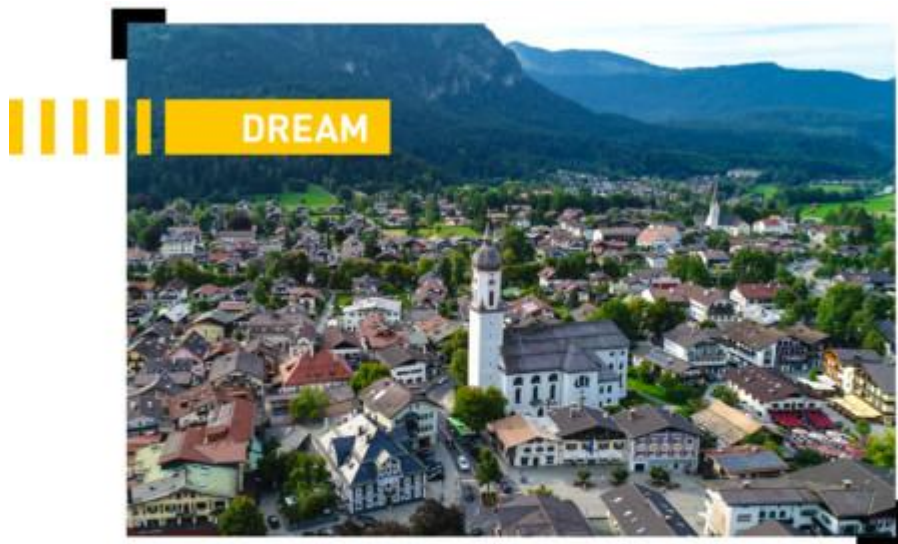
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RELAUNCHING MY COMPANY
BY DEVELOPING A NEW HIGH TECH PRODUCT





Discover how **SmartVillages** helps make the **smart village** dream come true

Living and working in rural Alpine areas can be hard, when few services are available and social innovation and entrepreneurship find many obstacles. While digitalisation can be a promising approach to improve services for remote areas, it doesn't generate development in and of itself.



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BUILDING MY OWN BUSINESS
IN MY VILLAGE





Discover **HEALPS 2** helps make the **Alpine health tourism** dream come true

The many health benefits of the Alpine natural environment are well known. In the last few years, and even more so after the COVID-19 outbreak, the trend for health, nature and regionality has gained momentum in the tourism sector.

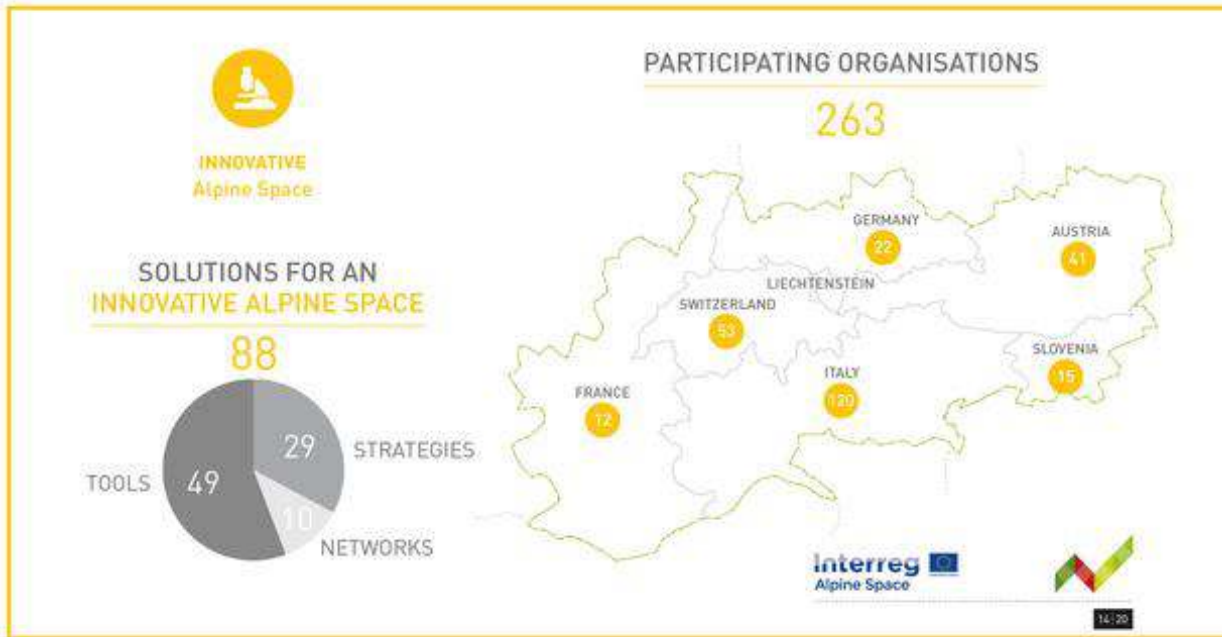


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BOOSTING TOURISM IN MY VALLEY
BY SEIZING NEW MARKET OPPORTUNITIES





Innovative Alpine Space in figures





The Alps, a low carbon frontrunner!



We dream of a climate neutral, unpolluted Alpine Space where resources are used sensibly and circular economy is the way of life. 17 co-funded projects on energy-saving, renewable sources and low carbon transport have helped us come closer to this goal. Interreg Alpine Space supports low carbon projects everywhere in the Alpine region. From alternative mobility, to recycling and circular economy, our projects have boosted sustainable practices all around the Alps. Click on the images below to discover how projects made each dream become a reality!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AU9DLbgfu8k>



Discover how **AlpInnoCT** helps make the dream of **rail freight in the Alps** a reality

Combined transport (CT) is a form of intermodal transport where goods in one single loading unit, use succesively two or more modes of transport without handling the goods themselves in changing between the modes. The Alps are a crossroad of goods transport and are essential for the economic development of the EU, but the high amount of road good transportation threatens the sensitive Alpine ecosystem. Therefore AlpInnoCT aims at developing Combined Transport's hudge potential to shift freight transport from road to rail and preserve the unique Alpine Space natural area.



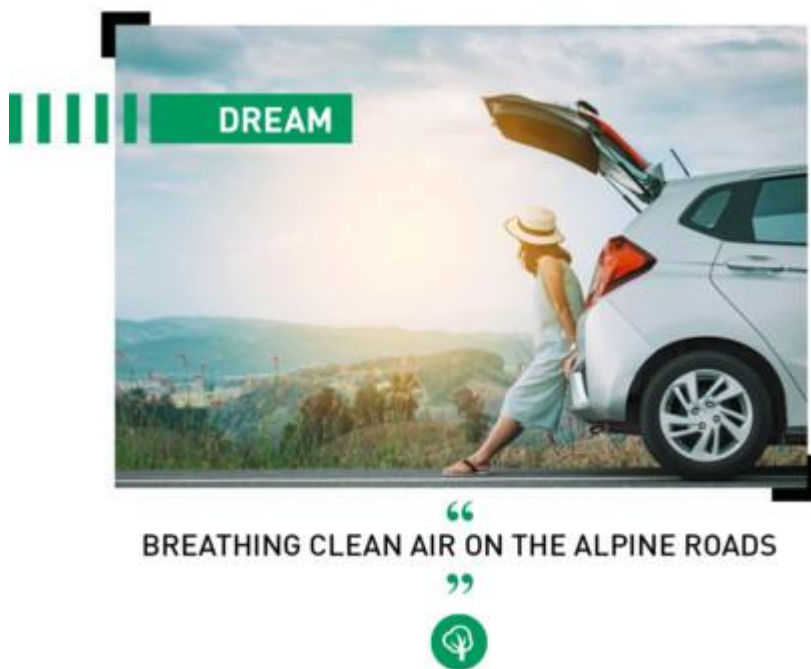
“ GETTING GOODS TO TRAVEL ACROSS THE ALPS BY RAIL





Discover how **e-MOTICON** helps make the **electric car** dream come true

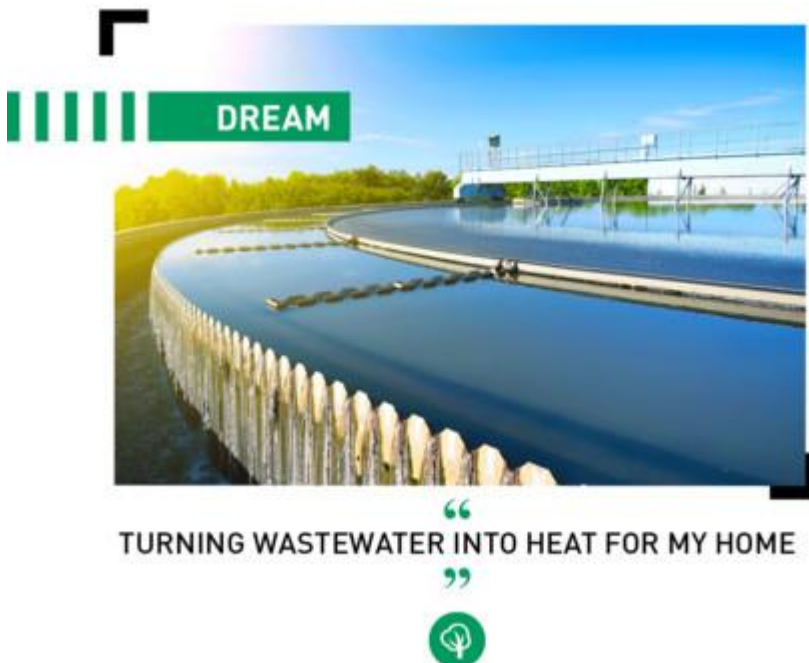
Although e-cars are gaining momentum, using them to travel across the Alps isn't easy yet. Charging stations are scarce, locating them isn't easy and the payment options they provide sometimes strongly limit their accessibility. e-MOTICON enables more effective e-mobility planning in the Alps and develops a transnational vision as well as local action plans to adapt the overall strategy to the local needs and objectives.





Discover how **GREENCYCLE** helps make the dream of **recycling** come true

Waste is a resource that shouldn't be lost. The GREENCYCLE project tested a variety of actions aimed at developing circular economy. The idea is to create loops across industries to reuse waste as much as possible or started producing biogas from the sludge.





Discover how **GRETA** helps make the **geothermal energy** dream come true

The GRETA project tackles the problem of CO2 emissions related to touristic and residential heating in the Alps. The GRETA project has studied the opportunities, technical issues and economic viability of applying near surface geothermal energy to villages, public buildings with specific constraints and isolated Alpine huts. People can now learn about the shallow geothermal energy potential of their area; administrators can take advantage of policy guidelines and all can best understand how long it may take for the initial investment to pay back.



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HEATING MY VILLAGE WITH
A CLEAN, RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGY





Discover how **LinkingAlps** helps make the dream of a **simpler booking of international journeys** come true

While booking a journey from a small Bavarian town to a ski resort in Italy, a traveller will need to use the services of different bus and train companies. Changing trains is not the problem, but using and possibly downloading different apps in different languages to book the ticket and checking-in is a serious inconvenience. Our traveller will possibly renounce to take the journey or use a more polluting mode of transport: the car or the plane. LinkingAlps tackles this issue by enabling each traveller to book his or her journey on his local travelling app.



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FINDING INFORMATION TO PLAN MY TRIP
ACROSS THE ALPS ALL IN ONE PLACE





Discover **SaMBA** helps make the dream of **sustainable mobility** come true

In the Alps, people often move by private car while ignoring more sustainable means of transport. SaMBA explores innovative campaigns to increase the use of low-carbon options like car-sharing, car-pooling, biking, hitchhiking and public transport. The lessons learned through these experiences are then made available to all Alpine policymakers committed to developing effective behaviour change policies.

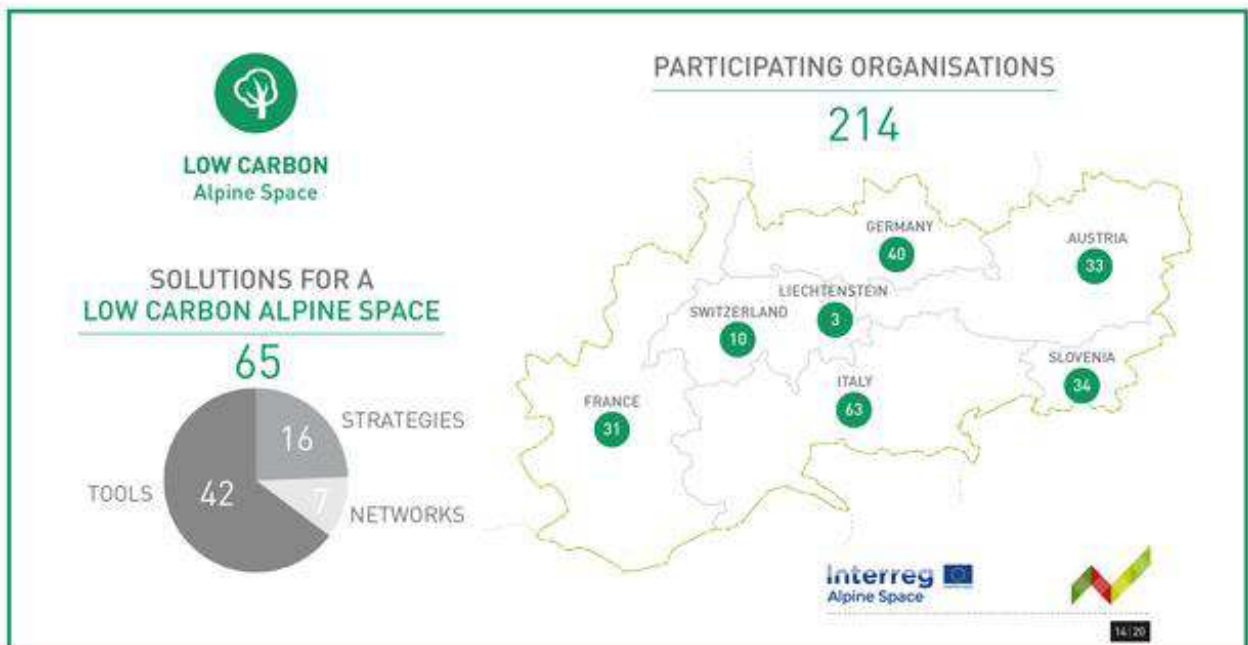
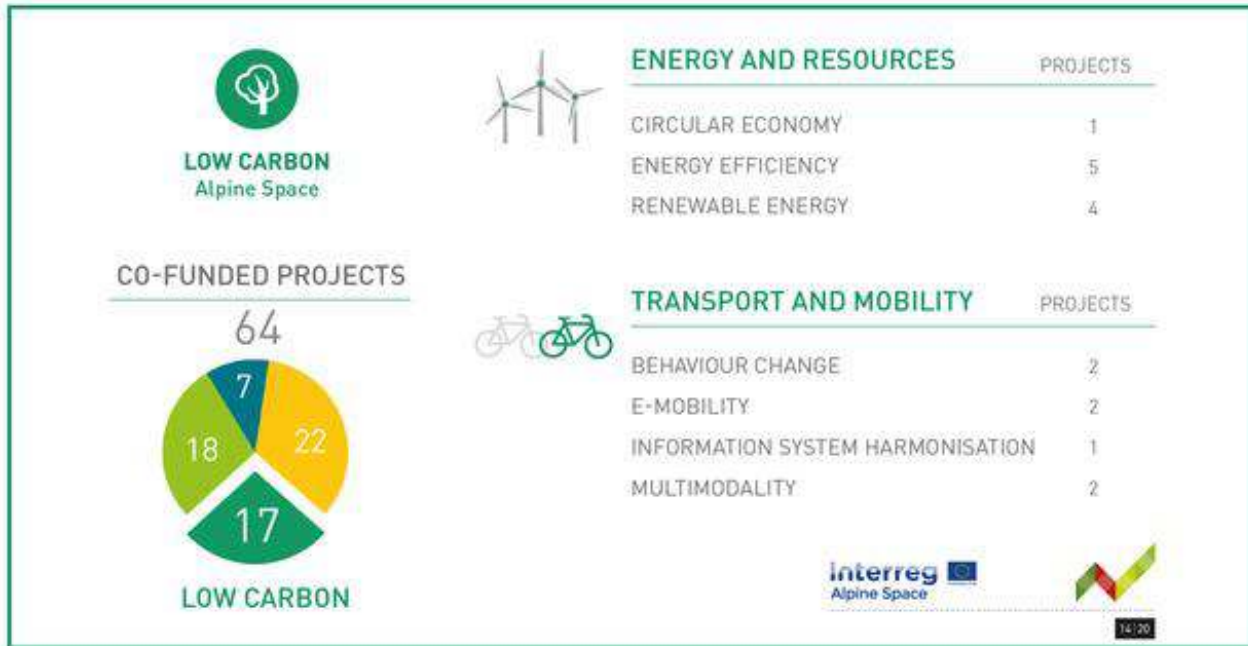


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SEEING ALPINE CITIZENS
BIKE MORE AND DRIVE LESS





Low Carbon Alpine Space in figures





Promoting a liveable Alpine Space



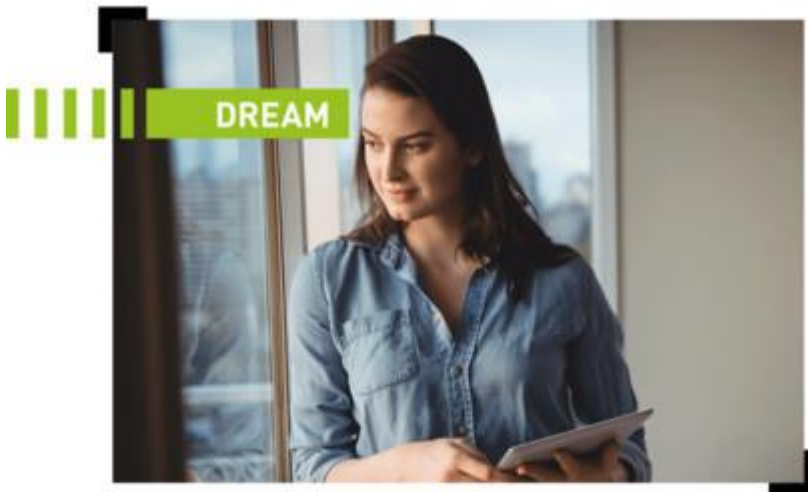
We dream of a liveable Alpine Space able to face the consequences of climate change. 18 co-funded projects on water management, natural disaster prevention and accessibility to nature have helped us come closer to this goal. Interreg Alpine Space supports climate adaptation projects everywhere in the Alpine region. Click on the images to discover how projects made each dream become a reality!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJaDjNlwt7w>



Discover how **LOS_DAMA!** helps make the dream of **accessible natural landscape** come true

Conflicts and development pressures may threaten the landscape and the possibility for people to enjoy it. In 7 cities the LOS_DAMA! partnership tested new ways to identify, manage and promote peri-urban landscapes worth of protection. Other Alpine cities can now learn from the LOS_DAMA! toolbox and guidelines how to best develop their own fringe landscape strategy.



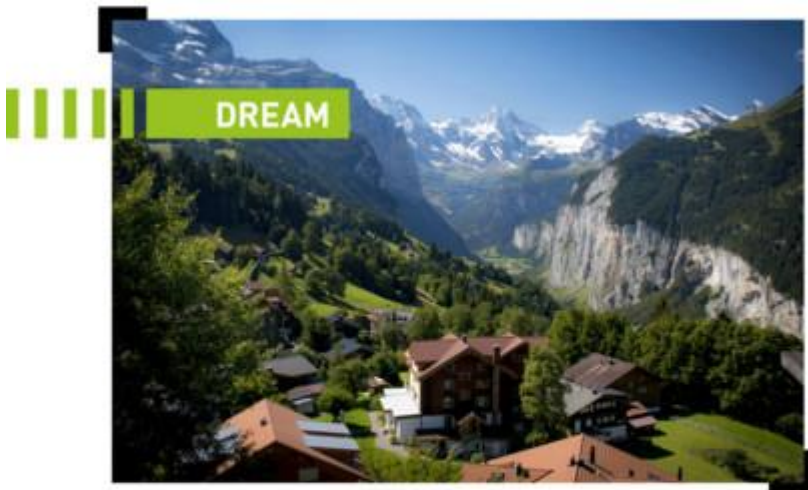
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ENJOYING NATURE ON MY DOORSTEP





Discover how **RockTheAlps** makes the dream of **safe Alpine villages** come true.

Forests cover 40% of the Alpine area. Besides their many other functions, they are an effective and low cost natural protection from rock falls. RockTheAlps project has made the first step towards integrating forests in local protection policies. The project developed analysis and research which is now available to anyone involved in rock fall protection from experts to politicians and citizens.



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BEING SURE THAT ROCK FALL ISN'T
A THREAT WHERE I LIVE





Discover how **YOUrALPS** helps make the dream of **youth involvement in protecting the Alps** come true

Together, the 200 educators and the associations, protected areas and NGOs involved in YOUrALPS have developed a new school model to highlight the interdependent environmental and social processes taking place in the Alps. Throughout the project, over 2000 pupils have studied the Alps from various perspectives through outdoor activities, new technologies and hands-on projects.



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LEARNING HOW
TO HELP PRESERVE MY MOUNTAINS





Discover how **Links4Soils** helps make the dream of **better soil management** come true

Soils purify water, retain it in the case of floods, store large amounts of carbon, allow plants to grow and influence our well-being in many ways. However, we often lack knowledge on all of its function when administrating it. [Links4Soils](#) provides this much-needed soil expertise and information as well as a transnational soil management consulting service.



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PROTECTING MY VILLAGE FROM FLOODS





Discover how **ADO** helps make the dream of an Alpine region **protected from droughts** a reality

As water scarcity becomes worrying, Alpine countries need to define common strategies to act. The ADO project sets up a drought observatory based on a combination of meteorological information and hydrological indices and data, including, for instance, figures on snow cover and soil moisture. This is a game changing tool for drought management in the Alps.



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BEING PREPARED WHEN DROUGHT STRIKES
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Discover **trAILS** helps make the dream of **revitalised areas** come true

In the Alps, like elsewhere, the decline of the traditional heavy and manufacturing industry has left behind impressive once-productive landscapes. trAILS works with the local communities of 4 pilot sites to give a new life to former industrial areas and devises tools for salvaging this heritage across the Alps.



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REVITALIZING THE COTTON
SPINNING AND WEAVING MILL OF TRŽIČ





Discover how **AlpES** helps make the dream of **ecosystems' recovery** come true

In October 2018, Vaia storm knocked down 42.000 hectares of woodlands in the Italian Alps. AlpES has worked to raise awareness and involve stakeholders, but also to answer the need for information of many policymakers. To achieve this, the project partners have gathered the policy tools available in the Alpine nations and harmonised the mapping and assessment of ecosystem services.



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HAVING A CHANCE TO DRINK
MOUNTAIN WATER FOR YEARS TO COME



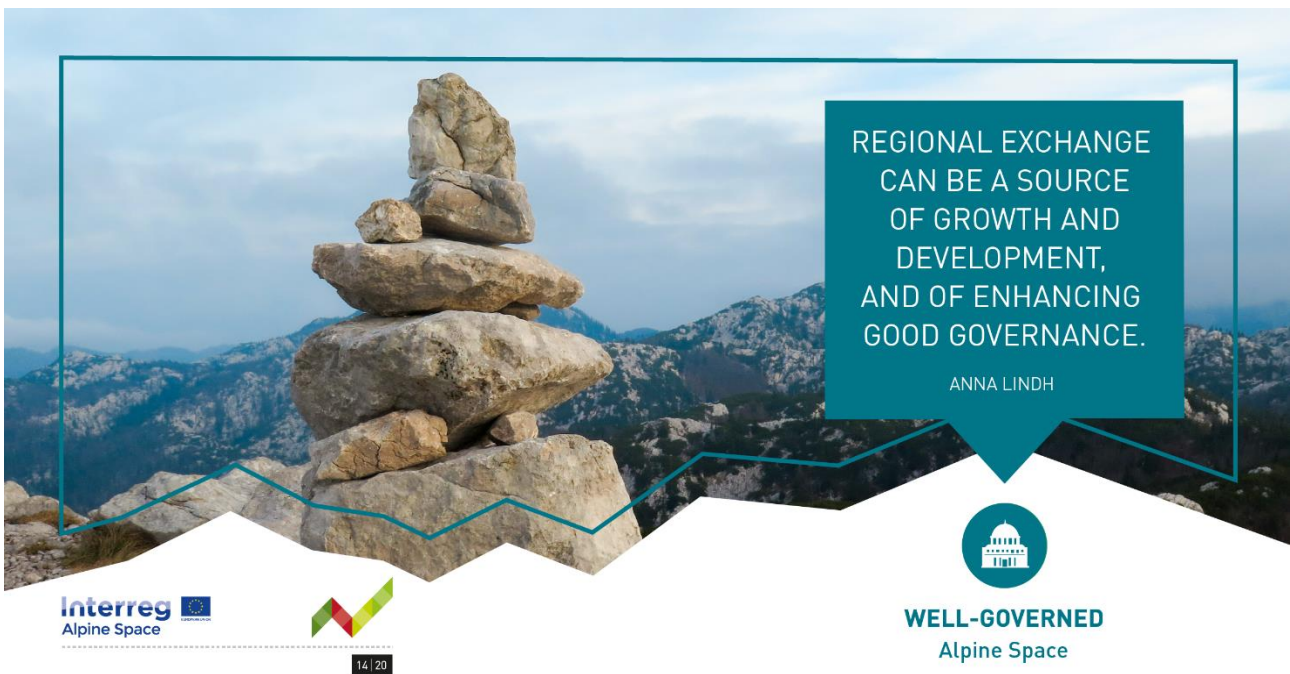


A liveable Alpine Space in figures






Defending a well-governed Alpine Space





REGIONAL EXCHANGE
CAN BE A SOURCE
OF GROWTH AND
DEVELOPMENT,
AND OF ENHANCING
GOOD GOVERNANCE.

ANNA LINDH


WELL-GOVERNED
Alpine Space

Interreg
Alpine Space



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We dream of a well governed Alpine Space. 6 co-funded projects on youth involvement, policies adapted to climate change and alpine cooperation have helped us come closer to this goal. Interreg Alpine Space supports good governance projects everywhere in the Alpine region. Click on the images to discover how projects made each dream become a reality!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXD7-VoVBVg>



Discover how **GaYA** helps make the dream of **youth political involvement** come true

GaYA project partners believe that teenagers and young adults often just lack opportunities to have a say in politics. GaYA tested many ways to involve youth in local decision-making. As municipalities often meet similar obstacles on the path to youth participation, GaYA has included in its toolbox a set of “try different” cards, each highlighting how an alternative approach can help overcome these issues.





Discover how **GoApply** makes the dream of **adapted politics to climate change** come true

Climate change affects the Alpine space in many ways: the delicate mountain ecosystem is altered, new weather-related risks arise, local economic opportunities change. GoApply tackles the key challenges of adaptation governance by mapping and comparing existing governance approaches, good practices and innovations to include climate adaptation into sectoral policies and to set-up effective formats of stakeholder interaction.





Discover how **ARDIA-Net** helps make the dream of ever **deeper Alpine cooperation** come true

The Alps are home to several innovation hot spots, but cross-sector and cross-region cooperation is still limited. As this becomes a key to creating new value chains and tapping into economic trends like circular-bioeconomy and health economy, ARDIA-Net partners have committed created an Alpine research and development area, whose cross-regional funding framework will stimulate cooperation.



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DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
WITH PARTNERS FROM ACROSS THE ALPS





A well-governed Alpine Space in figures

