

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION



# Status of Programme Implementation

Autumn 2013



The programme is co-funded  
by the European Regional  
Development Fund

# Alpine Space Programme

## → Contents

Programme in Numbers .....	2
Project Results .....	3
Six Thematic Fields for Capitalisation of Results .....	10
Strategy Development .....	12
Programming 2014+ .....	13

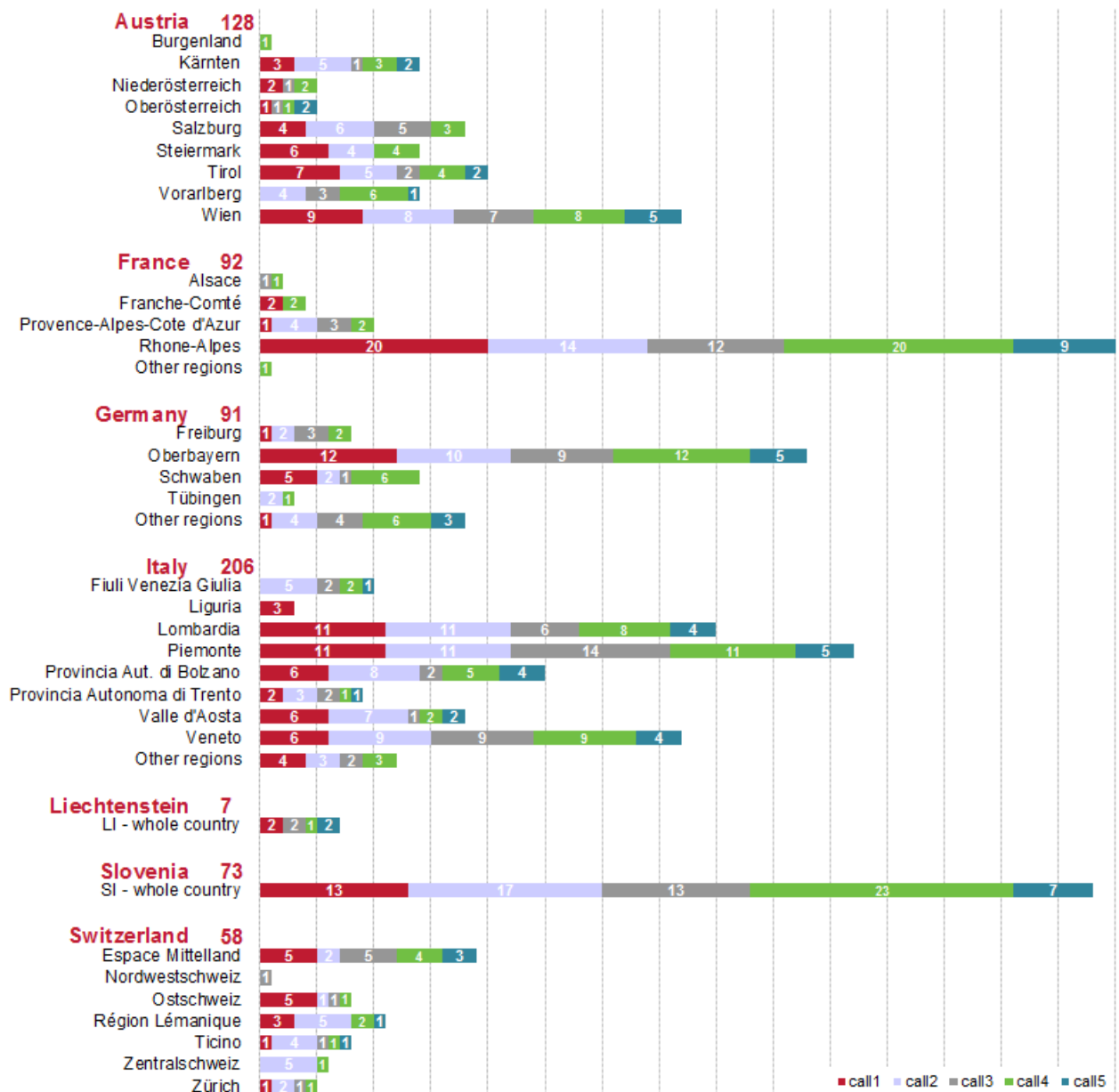
## → Participating countries

- Austria +
- France +
- Germany +
- Italy +
- Liechtenstein +
- Slovenia +
- Switzerland +

# PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS

In the last year of the period 2007-2013 the programme launched the 5<sup>th</sup> call to encourage capitalisation of project results and to set the scene for 2014+. In July 10 new projects amounting to a total of € 3.8 million ERDF were approved. This brings the programme close to committing **100% of € 92 million ERDF** available in the current period. In **57 Alpine Space projects 655 project partners** are involved.

## Location of Project Partners



Graph 1: Location of all project partners per call at NUTS II level

The 10 new projects further contribute to the **programme priorities**, as set in the Operational Programme. Out of the programme's 57 projects, 22 projects are addressing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Alpine Space, 17 projects are dealing with accessibility and connectivity in the region and another 18 projects work in the field of environment and risk prevention.



Call	Priority 1: Competitiveness and Attractiveness	Priority 2: Accessibility and Connectivity	Priority 3: Environment and Risk Prevention
Call 1	AlpEnergy ALPS Bio Cluster CAPACities ClimAlpTour INNOCITÉ	ACCESS CO2-NeuTrAlp	AdaptAlp Alp-Water- Scarce CLISP ECONNECT PermaNET
Call 2	AlpHouse COMUNIS DEMOCHANGE ENERBUILD	ALIAS AlpCheck 2 iMONiTRAF! PARAmount TRANSITECTS	ALP FFIRS MANFRED SHARE SILMAS
Call 3	ALPlastics Alps 4 EU CCAAlps OPEN-ALPS	MORECO NEWFOR POLY5 TranSAFE-Alp	ALPSTAR C3-Alps
Call 4	CABEE NATHCARE AlpBC FIDIAS RURBANCE	AlpStore AlpInfoNet PUMAS	GeoMol SedAlp recharge.green SEAP_Alps
Call 5	AlpCluster2020 AlpEnMat VISIBLE WIKIAlps	PLAT.F.O.R.M SPHERA SusFreight	AIM GreenAlps START_IT_UP

## PROJECT RESULTS

The 10 newly approved projects of the 5<sup>th</sup> call are focusing on capitalisation of results of running and closed Alpine Space projects. At the point of reaching their first year of implementation Call 4 projects are finishing the state of the art analysis and common methodologies development. Call 3 projects are in their high phase of implementation focusing now on testing in pilot activities and delivering their final outputs. Call 1 projects ended in 2011 or early in 2012, while all Call 2 projects ended in 2012.

## **PRIORITY 1 COMPETITIVENESS AND ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE ALPINE SPACE**

To 22 projects focusing on Priority 1 the total of ERDF budget 33.094.026 Euro has been committed.



### **RESULTS OF PROJECTS IN FIGURES:**

- + 586 actions regarding **technology transfer** and improvement of cooperation networks between SME, other businesses, public authorities, research centres or education establishments were achieved by the projects. The actions include cooperation arrangements, tools, conferences, missions and training courses to share knowledge and create cooperation links.
- + 111 actions assisting SMEs in promoting **environmentally friendly products** and production processes were implemented up to now, mainly in the fields of energy-efficient building and commercial location development. The implemented actions included company consultations, building exhibitions, and training modules for craftsmen and regional marketing.
- + 109 actions supporting models of **urban-rural development** have been implemented till the end of 2012. Projects working with urban-rural development contribute to improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of small and medium cities under the influence of great urban centres.
- + As a result of project activities, 49 **transnational economic clusters** were set up or strengthened by Priority 1 projects in 2012 – being 81 in total. This is mainly due to the achievements of the project *Alps4EU*, which involved 46 clusters in their activities.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF CLOSED AND RUNNING PROJECTS:**

#### **ALPlastics**

**Short title:** A plastics open innovation platform

**Lead partner:** Proplast (IT)

**Flashlight on achievements:** ALPlastics built a network to strengthen strategic innovation in the Alpine plastics clusters. The partners created an open innovation platform: they benchmarked SMEs and clusters, designed a competence atlas of technology providers launched the ALPlastics Academy.

The initiative offers technology transfer, vocational training and knowledge management in the field of plastics to support the competitiveness of SMEs.



## **OPEN-ALPS**

**Title:** Open Innovation in Alpine SMEs

**Lead partner:** IHK Schwarzwald-Baar-Heuberg (DE)



**Flashlight on achievements:** The project supports the innovation capacities of Alpine SMEs in technology branches. Applying the open innovation paradigm, the OPEN-ALPS offers support services to SMEs such as an open innovation management platform, transnational fora and open innovation labs.

In 2012, the project started labs focusing on three topics: Wood Energy, e-Health and Creative Industries. The gathered experiences shall improve regional innovation policies and contribute to the EU 2020 Flagship initiative Innovation Union.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU 2020 STRATEGY:**



Priority 1 projects finalised in 2012 contributed to all three, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth according to the priorities of the EU 2020 strategy.

**Smart growth - Innovation Union** *AlpHouse* offered trainings to SMEs and decision makers, teaching the combination of energy efficiency and preservation of Alpine building culture, opening up new entrepreneurial opportunities in local communities. With its focus on green economy and training, the project developed solutions to enhance buildings without compromising the peculiarities of the architectural heritage in the Alps. It promoted know-how on both ancient and modern building techniques, the use of natural and innovative materials and spontaneous architectural solutions using new technologies.

**Sustainable growth - An industrial policy for the globalisation era** *ENERBUILD* promoted energy-efficient building and trading in the Alpine region and provided the construction industry with training opportunities. The project also showed practical examples of ecological construction in various countries and used the results to raise awareness on energy-efficient building, but also behaviour. One of the main outcomes of the project, the *ENERBUILD* Tool, evaluates buildings on a number of quality factors to assess their environmental friendliness. It is a transnational effort towards a common standard for the assessment of environmentally friendly and sustainable building.

**Inclusive growth - An agenda for new skills and jobs** *DEMOCHANGE* set a good example for the promotion of social inclusion. The project designed and implemented adaptation strategies addressing the needs arising from a changing population structure. It dealt with central aspects of life in Alpine regions, such as society and integration, job market and qualification as well as access to health and nursing care. For example, *DEMOCHANGE* developed a new one-year apprenticeship “Care for the Elderly”, which will be continued after the project’s end. A concept regarding “Voluntary Help for Dementia Patients” in Allgäu region has been so successful that other regions are interested in adopting it.

## PRIORITY 2 ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY



A total of 28.484.054 Euro ERDF has been committed to 17 projects focusing on Priority 2 Accessibility and Connectivity.

### RESULTS OF PROJECTS IN FIGURES:

- + 81 actions for integrated traffic and **mobility planning** and multimodal transport have been implemented by Priority 2 projects by the end of 2012. Here, tools for traffic monitoring and management in order to reduce traffic and increase the efficiency of transport have been developed in the frame of the projects *AlpCheck2* and *iMONITRAF!*. Also, further intermodal connections were tested and rolled out in *Transitacts* (more details in highlights below), resulting in improved accessibility to key Alpine logistic nodes.
- + 44 actions focused on **improving traffic flows** on existing infrastructures. The development of intermodal terminals and of “rolling roads” continued in *Transitacts*, a common strategy for transalpine traffic has been signed in *iMONITRAF!* (more details in highlights below) and further risk-maps have been drawn by *PARAMOUNT* in order to better monitor natural hazards.
- + 27 actions aiming at offering **ICT based public services** in relation to e-health, e-government, e-learning and e-inclusion, resulted in e.g. decision support system on transport, a real-time monitoring tool for goods vehicles and hazards early warning systems have been launched.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF CLOSED PROJECTS:

#### **iMONITRAF!**

**Title:** Implementation of MONITRAF  
(Monitoring of road traffic related effects in the Alpine Space and common measures)



**Lead Partner:** Central Switzerland Government Conference of the cantons Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Zug.

**Flashlight on achievements:** iMONITRAF! common resolution and strategy: In iMONITRAF! the Alpine regions developed a common transport strategy, adopted in the form of a political resolution at the project final conference in Lyon on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. This strategy follows three main aims: harmonising the regulatory framework conditions; implementing a common modal shift policy; implementing a common cap-and-trade instrument to reach the modal shift targets.



**Transitects**



**Title:** Transalpine Transport Architects

**Lead Partner:** German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development

**Flashlight on achievements:** In the last phase of its implementation, the project focused on designing innovative concepts with the aim to improve the functionality of intermodal nodes. In this respect, a cooperation agreement regarding the development of the logistic node Villach-Fürnitz (Austria) as a common dry port for the North Adriatic Port Association (NAPA) was signed. In the Veneto Region (Italy), a set of policy initiatives, integrated within the wider regional planning and governance strategy for the freight and logistics sectors was developed, aiming at optimizing the overall regional logistics platform.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU 2020 STRATEGY



The finalized project under priority 2 contributed to both sustainable and smart growth according to the EU 2020 strategy's priorities.

**Sustainable growth - Resource efficient Europe** The projects *AlpCheck2* and *iMONITRAF!* fostered the development of monitoring tools and decision support systems in order to ensure a more sustainable Alpine transport policy and to reduce the environmental impact of transalpine traffic. Following the same aim, *Transitects* developed solutions to shift freight from the roads to the rail, hence contributing to a more sustainable freight transport. For all these projects, the reduction of CO2 emissions is the mean to contribute to a resource efficient Europe.

**Smart growth – Digital agenda for Europe** By combining legal, organisational and technical issues, the *ALIAS* project has addressed the priorities of the Digital Agenda for Europe 2020 for a sustainable healthcare ICT-based supporting borderless solutions aimed at improving accessibility of high-qualified services. The project ensured the deployment of eHealth technologies in order to improve the quality of care, reduce medical costs and foster independent living in remote places.

**Smart growth – Innovation Union** The project *PARAmount* provided a good contribution to technical innovation with the installation of early warning systems. The use of new sensors such as thermal camera, and the processing software, as well as the communication system finalised to the alert messages with two different protocols. These applications, which ensure data collection and transmission especially during bad weather conditions, when other systems are not able to work, are examples of innovative measures that can be taken to ensure road safety.



## PRIORITY 3 ENVIRONMENT AND RISK PREVENTION



18 projects focus on Priority 3 regarding environment and risk prevention. After 5 calls, a total ERDF budget of 33.258.959 Euro for Priority 3 has been committed.

### RESULTS OF PROJECTS IN FIGURES:

- + The number of actions aiming at **sustainable use and efficient management of resources** (wind, solar, biomass, hydroelectric, geothermal...) climbed to 97, while actions aiming at **conservation and integrated management** of natural heritage and cultural landscape reached 81. Two projects contributing most are *MANFRED* and *SHARE*, the former dealing with forest management especially as regards the climate change and the latter with development of decision support tools to reduce the negative environmental impacts of hydropower plants.
- + With 127 actions in total, projects have been extremely active in matters of natural and technological hazard and **risk prevention**. *ALPFFIRS* developed shared warning system based on weather condition affecting fire potential to improve forest fire prevention in the Alpine Space.
- + 43 **management initiatives for protected areas** and 55 **actions in water management** have been carried out so far. In the developed decision support tools, management and conflict solving guidelines and recommendations, the projects dedicated special attention to protected areas. Decision support tools developed in the *SHARE* project were tested in 11 pilot cases evaluating different scenarios and alternative solutions for reducing the conflict between hydropower production and ecosystem sustainability. Shorezone index as governance support tool was developed for sustainable management of 6 Alpine lakes in *SILMAS*.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF RUNNING PROJECTS:

#### **C3-Alps**

**Title:** Capitalising climate change knowledge for adaptation in the Alpine Space

**Lead partner:** Environment Agency Austria

**Flashlight on achievements:** Building on available results of previous projects and initiatives, C3-Alps aims at synthesizing, transferring and implementing in policy and practice the best available adaptation knowledge in the Alps. By applying a knowledge transfer concept that is driven by the information and communication needs of target groups, the project optimizes the usability of available knowledge and seeks to bridge the gap between the generation of adaptation knowledge and its use in real-world decision-making.

C3-Alps supports bottom-up actions on adaptation in Alpine regions and municipalities, contributes to implementation of national adaptation strategies, and spreads out Alpine adaptation capital in the Alpine community and beyond.



## **ALPSTAR**

**Title:** Towards carbon neutral Alps –  
Make best practice minimum standard



**Lead partner:** Ministry for agriculture and the environment (SI)

**Flashlight on achievements:** with relevant and extensive network of partners, observers and stakeholders, the ALPSTAR project initiates a multilevel governance approach to manage climate change. It implements climate change strategies on the territory through pilot actions and is clustering existing good practices for further transferability.

So far the project established transnational ALPSTAR Policy Board to assure exchange and coherence between different policy levels. The ALPSTAR best practice platform was established with over 60 good practices in implementation of climate change mitigation as well as adaptation measures.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU 2020 STRATEGY**



Finalised projects under priority 3 contribute to both smart and sustainable growth according to the EU 2020 strategy's priorities.

**Smart growth - Innovation Union** Projects like *MANFRED* and *SHARE* are combining the knowledge of top research institutions in the region and experiences of practitioners to develop and implement concrete management measures. Through *MANFRED* the impacts of climate change on the Alpine forests were investigated in such extent for the first time and webgis maps were developed. The important role of forests for adaptation to climate change was demonstrated and forest management measures were proposed. In the *SHARE* project several innovative decision support tools were developed for evaluation of different alternatives in operation and placement of hydropower plants and their impacts on riverine ecosystems. These tools can now be used by practitioners in planning the most profitable solutions with minimum environmental impact.

**Sustainable growth - Resource efficient Europe** In Alpine regions there are many renewable energy potentials, however due to sensitive and rich natural environment as well as distinctive cultural landscape the placement of the infrastructure necessary for their efficient use has to be carefully planned and different interests have to be taken in consideration. Natural assets and cultural landscapes are perceived as development potentials, still to preserve them, fragile balance has to be sought among different interests. In this regard projects like *SILMAS*, *MANFRED*, *ALPFFIRS* and *SHARE* offer important exchange platform and decision support tools for key stakeholders.

## SIX THEMATIC FIELDS FOR CAPITALISATION OF RESULTS

With the programme approaching its closing phase the wealth of Alpine Space projects' outputs and results is growing extensively. Valuable results of 27 projects closed so far and of 20 projects in high implementation phase have been gathered in **6 thematic fields** and presented on the programme website. The 10 newly approved projects are set to take these results and bring them forward to the target groups and especially to the policy level.

### COMPETITIVENESS & INNOVATION OF SMEs

Not less than 12 projects of this programme have helped to improve competitiveness of SMEs so far, in the fields of technology transfer, innovation capacity, the promotion of entrepreneurship, SME internationalisation as well as the development of new products and services. Two of the newly approved projects mainly support the competitiveness of the area and address SMEs directly: *AlpEnMat* focusing on energy and mobility and *AlpClusters2020* on supporting the internationalisation of Alpine clusters.

### INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Three new projects take up the challenge of effective and new territorial governance. *SPHERA* and *PLAT.F.O.R.M.* will develop a twofold capitalisation approach, linking inclusive growth and spatial planning. *WIKIAlps* will develop a wiki to support policy-making in spatial planning.

### LOW-CARBON ECONOMY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY

So far, 13 Alpine Space projects have contributed to pave the way towards a low carbon economy. *AlpEnMat* and *ViSiBLE* will capitalise on achievements respectively focusing on energy and mobility and on the building sector, while *GreenAlps* will focus on biodiversity conservation and impacts of the renewable energies on nature.

### RESOURCE EFFICIENCY & ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

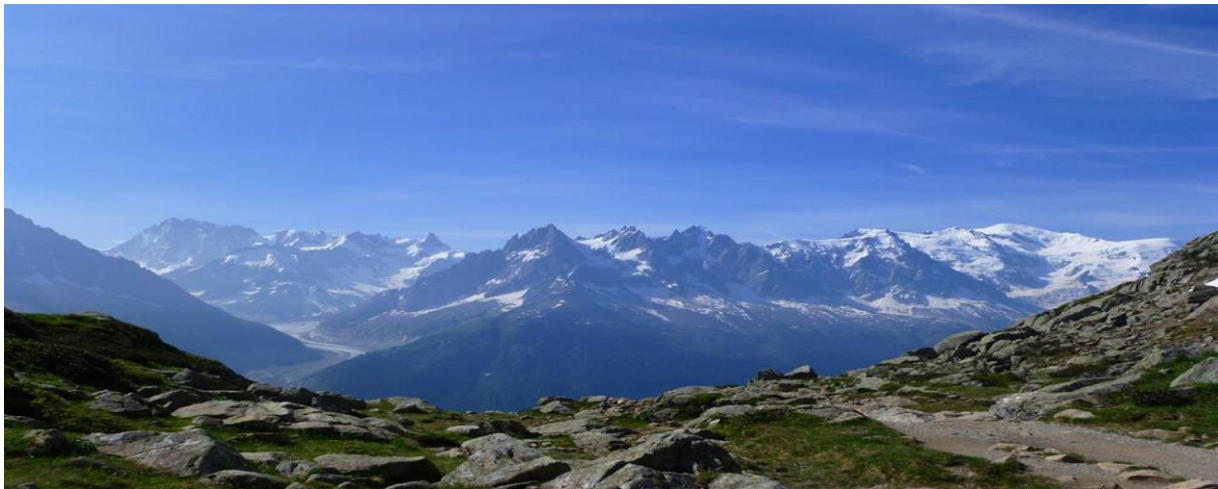
Up until now, 11 projects have developed solutions and recommendations for the sustainable use of natural resources and the management of Alpine ecosystems. By the new projects a wiki to support policy-making in spatial planning will be developed by *WIKIAlps*, further on *GreenAlps* and *AIM* will propose solutions to balance nature protection and energy production respectively with a holistic approach and concentrating on water. *START-it-up* will capitalise the Alpine Space achievements concerning natural hazards and risk management.

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & MOBILITY

The Alpine Space is a natural bottleneck for transport and is at the same time surrounded by economically dynamic regions with numerous transport relations. 11 projects have hitherto developed solutions in the Alpine Space Programme for sustainable transport and mobility. *AlpEnMat* will focus on transport and energy while *SusFreight* will put freight transport at the centre.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change is not specifically addressed by the new projects, but is rather a horizontal theme of most of them. Moreover the capitalisation of results is already advanced in this field in the frame of running projects *C3-Alps* and *ALPSTAR* (for more details check the highlights of these two projects on pages 8 and 9).



This is also the period of transition from the 'old' to the 'new' programme, which is why the newly approved projects are carrying out an important task of identifying gaps, yet to be addressed by the emerging programme and future projects.

## STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

In May 2011 the so-called **Strategy Development Project** was launched by the programme partners with the aim to serve a twofold objective: to have a good basis for the programming process for the future Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020 on the one hand, and to contribute to the then emerging discussion about a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine Space with an evidence based and strategy oriented study.

An international team of experts has been commissioned with a study laying out possible strategic objectives, thematic objectives, actions as well as cooperation examples for the new programme. Policy-stakeholders in the Alpine Space across sectors, levels of governance and EU-programme

### Three functions were identified as crucial for a future Alpine Space Programme:

- + to be **selective** in triggering and funding actions with a clear focus,
- + **holistic** in feeding comprehensive debates on long-term alpine development,
- + **inclusive** in catalysing improved cooperation and coordination among alpine-relevant actors.

have brought their proposals into this process. Through stakeholder workshops, online consultation and university co-operation dialogues a shared awareness of the Alpine dimension was promoted and increase of local and regional ownership of European regional policy was sought. Joint efforts resulted in a final report published in summer 2013 and were summarised in a brochure.



### Strategy development in figures:

- + more than **400 stakeholders** participated to **6 workshops** organised in 5 Alpine countries,
- + over **700 submissions** to the web-based survey were received from all 7 countries and
- + more than **300 stakeholders** got together to sum up the dialogues at a transnational conference on 21 February 2013 in Milan.

The Strategy Development Project has reached its goals: its results are currently used to feed both the development of the next Alpine Space Programme (read more about this on the following page) and the process towards an EU Strategy for the Alpine region.

The Alpine states & regions, the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Space Programme joined their efforts to bring forward the process of an EU Strategy. On the initiative of the French Minister for European Affairs, an important step was achieved with the signing of a **common resolution towards**

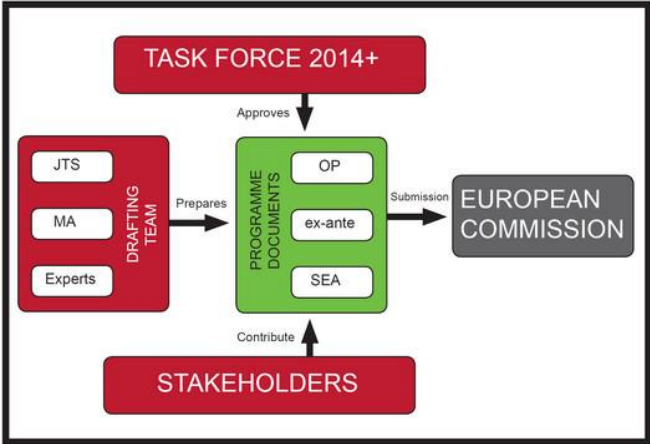
a **European Union Strategy for the Alpine region (EUSAR)** by seven Alpine states and 15 Alpine regions at a political conference in Grenoble in October 2013. The French government has been mandated to submit this resolution to the European institutions.

In order to keep the momentum going after Grenoble, the Alpine states & regions, the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Space Programme will jointly organise a conference to gain EU-wide political support for the launch of an EU Strategy for the Alpine region. Taking place in Brussels on 17 December 2013, the event will address members of the European Council, Commission and Parliament, members of the Committee of the Regions and other Brussels officials. The Alpine organisers hope to convince their European fellows to support the initiative at the European Council at the end of the year.

### PROGRAMMING 2014+

With the closure of the current programming period, in 2013 the programme bodies are intensively working on the preparation of the Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020. This includes the development of programme documents (Operational Programme, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Ex-Ante Evaluation) as well as establishment of programme management and control system together with guidance, templates and monitoring system.

The **Operational Programme** as the strategic and functional backbone of the future programme is being developed by a drafting team and will be approved by the Task Force 2014+ comprising representatives of all involved partner states.



Stakeholders are invited to have their say through commenting the draft Operational Programme during the **public consultation**, which is organised on-line, starts on 1st November and closes on 29th November 2013. With the aim to increase efficiency and simplify procedures and forms for the beneficiaries, the emerging territorial cooperation programmes are also developing **harmonised tools** to be used in programme implementation and monitoring.

Programme documents will be submitted to the European Commission in spring 2014. The first call of the new programme could be expected early in 2015.