

# CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

## Four cross-cutting priorities to strengthen EUSALP

In August 2023, the Executive Board approved four cross-cutting priorities developed by the nine EUSALP action groups. These priorities enable Action Groups and other stakeholders to intensify their cooperation and be more innovative by adopting a cross-disciplinary approach to solve common challenges concertedly. The four priorities have been developed to strengthen the EUSALP concerning its political relevance and success. The General Assembly is invited to express its support before the implementation of these priorities begins.



### Promoting Digitalisation for the Alps

AG 1, AG 2, AG 3, **AG 5** and AG 9

This cross-cutting priority aims at supporting local communities and economic players in their digitalisation efforts. The participating Action Groups will collect and disseminate best practices, explore how to unleash the potential of data and data economy, and promote the adoption of remote working, training, and learning practices.



### Accelerating the Energy Transition for a Carbon-Neutral Alpine Region

AG 2, AG 4, AG 5 and **AG 9**

The current energy crisis has shown how urgent the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources is. The participating Action Groups focus their cooperation on promoting integrated value chains for green and local hydrogen in the EUSALP. This will i.a. involve fostering investments in hydrogen infrastructure and storage technologies, developing hydrogen projects, the collaboration and exchange of expertise between regions, and connecting the EUSALP hydrogen initiative with other European initiatives to accelerate the energy transition in the Alps.



### Promoting a Joint Water Management Transition

AG 1, AG 2, AG 5, **AG 6**, AG 7 and AG 8

Given the challenges associated with water management, particularly water scarcity and flooding, in most Alpine regions, the participating Action Groups have decided to set up a EUSALP Task Force on water management transition to secure and preserve resources. This Task Force will help enhance the transition to a EUSALP water-smart society with advice, exchanges, and capitalisation activities.



### Boosting Circular Economy

AG 1, **AG 2**, AG 3, AG 5, AG 6, AG 7, AG 8 and AG 9

The circular economy is one of the key concepts for achieving a sustainable Alpine economy. The participating Action Groups want to contribute to the reduction and valorisation of waste, the reduction of materials consumption, the promotion of "product-as-a-service" businesses, and the creation of professional profiles in key Alpine sectors.

## Background: about Action Groups

The nine EUSALP Action Groups (AG) bring together regional and national representatives and stakeholders from all over the Alpine region. They are each responsible for a specific thematic area. The AGs have just adopted their work plans up to 2025, which define sectoral activities and cross-cutting priorities. The AGs cover the following themes: (1) research and innovation, (2) economic development, (3) labour market, education and training, (4) mobility, (5) connectivity and accessibility, (6) resources, (7) green infrastructure, (8) risk governance and (9) energy.