



# Work plan 2023-2025

## *Action Group 2 - Economic development*

**Interreg**  
Alpine Space



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A**ction Group 2 ("To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors") aims at identifying key Alpine economic sectors which would benefit from action at macro-regional level, and to implement concrete measures to improve their economic and social environment. The added value comprises a better use of Alpine specific resources and potentials in the identified strategic sectors with focus on the improvement of framework conditions and opportunities for SMEs.

The main objectives of Action Group 2 are:

- to develop new or better value chains inside sectors regarded as strategic in the Alpine Region which show potential with distinctive conditions in the region.
- to bridge the gap of disconnected value chains or parts of it.
- to move higher up value chains or adjusting products and services to the green economy.
- to bridge different policies and efforts in order to stimulate the transformation of the industrial structure and drive job creation and growth.
- to support innovation by making better use of cluster initiatives.

To create a more developed economic model, taking into account the peculiarities of Alpine territories, Action Group 2 has identified 4 thematic priorities to which correspond 4 subgroups. Despite the number of cross-cutting priorities affecting EUSALP entirely, Action Group 2 has decided to focus its efforts on:

- Sub-Group **Bioeconomy** (coordinated by VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH Stuttgart)
- Sub-Group **Wood** (coordinated by Sylvain Guetaz Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes with support of Gian Antonio Battistel, Edmund Mach Foundation, Trento)
- Sub-Group **Tourism** (coordinated by Bernhard Lehofer Cluster Innovation Salzburg)
- Sub-Group **Digital Industry** (coordinated by the Luca Mion, Trentino Innovation Hub)

In addition, Slovenia proposed the formation of a new Sub-Group called "Circular Economy". For thematic coherence the Executive Board proposed to AG2 to address this theme and as it is not yet formalized, AG2 proposes two possible ways to deal with it:

1. merge the already existing sub-group Bioeconomy with the new sub-group Circular economy.
2. maintain Circular economy as a cross-cutting priority led by AG2.

Should the first of these options be formalised, the likely coordinator would be both Gerd Meier Zu Köcker and Ales Pevc, Tehnoloski Parc Ljubljana.

Should the second of these options be formalised, the likely coordinator of the cross-cutting priority, on behalf of AG2, would be Ales Pevc, Tehnoloski Parc Ljubljana.

To bridge the gaps and improve cohesion, Sub-groups presence appears fundamental to support innovative economic development and achieve compelling results.

## TARGETS AND COMPOSITION

### 1. Mission statement of the Action Group and the Subgroups

Action Group 2 aims to increase the economic potential of strategic sectors and to implement concrete measures to improve the economic and social environment of all macro-regional's subjects. The added value comprises a better use of Alpine specific resources and potentials in the identified strategic sectors with focus on the improvement of framework conditions and opportunities for SMEs.

Although AG2 actively participates in all the general action-oriented thematic policy area on which the macro-regional strategy is based, its focus is on the First Thematic Policy Area: Economic Growth and Innovation. Specifically, the priorities are developing innovation and research capacity and transfer into practice; improving and developing support for enterprises; promoting high levels of employment, with the aim of ensuring full employment in the Region. Ag2 is at the forefront of obtaining a more balanced model of development, through innovative approaches to strengthen the sustainability of the region.

The AG2 is divided into 4 Subgroups “circular economy and bioeconomy”, “tourism”, “smart industry” and “wood”. It daily works with the Task Force on Multifunctional Forest and Sustainable Use of Timber and will cooperate also daily with the new Task Force on Circular Economy. AG2 is also strongly involved in the field of Energy, with the establishment of the EUSALP Hydrogen Focus Group (with AG9 – see below). All these cross-cutting issues have a direct impact on human resources: at least one person is dedicated to each cross-cutting priority.

For the complete coordination, and in order to better synchronize all the topics covered by the subgroups and to avoid any duplication, it has been decided to hold plenary sessions at least twice a year and not to organize separate sessions. Targets and indicators are indicated below.

Common challenges are currently concerning all the topics:

- Greening economic activities: for a sustainable economic development,
- Adapt the economic activities to the climate change: which has major impacts on ski resort tourism, wood and timber industry, but also which is a challenge for circular economy and smart industry,
- Take the opportunity of digitalization for fostering new economic activities.

The political coherence of the coleadership of the AG2 is a key issue for the two leading Regions, Piedmont, and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes. A political validation is requested on an

annual basis during the annual forum where political authorities are keen in updating the thematic priorities.

### **Mission statement of the SubGroup «Circular Economy and bioeconomy»**

The current mission statement of the SG is to test new circular Bioeconomy value chains development approaches within the Alpine Macro Region. The main objective is to better embed new companies in bioeconomy by increased circular economic thinking.

The sub-group aims:

- to improve the framework conditions for transregional collaboration and to turn the fragmented regional approach into one macro regional approach with the aim of dismantling regional borders.
- to make better use of the S3 approach and the fact that most regions focus on the Bioeconomy in their regional strategies.
- to synchronize and align regional approaches to support bio-based industry in the Alpine Region.

### **Mission statement of the SubGroup « Wood »**

It facilitates cross-sectoral interactions of short forest-timber supply chains aiming to:

- promote the sustainable timber mobilization, processing, transformation and use of wood according to «cascade» principles as well as its potential as Nature Based Solution to mitigate climate change on storing carbon in the construction sector,
- trigger smart/precision wood processing approaches and update of key competencies to scale up digital transformation opportunities and practices,
- forge strategic transversal alliances with non-timber sectors bringing about smart products and social growth within the circular bioeconomy targeting job creation and business development.

### **Mission statement of the SubGroup «Tourism»:**

We will strive to tap the full potential that lies in a truly sustainable approach towards the fields of energy, mobility, spatial planning, water management, mountain and valleys organic agriculture and multifunctional forestry, bio-economy, circular economy, regional value chains, eco and health sustainable tourism, biodiversity, digital transformation of manufacturing and industry 4.0.

The sub-group aims to:

- Accelerate the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and of the Paris Agreement.
- Preserve Alpine biodiversity and preventing exposure to natural risks related to climate change.

- Accelerate the energy transition in the Alpine region. Developing sustainable transport and mobility solutions. Stimulating transition to sustainable year-round tourism.
- Stimulate the production, processing and consumption of local mountain goods from the Alpine region in short supply chains. Educating young people in mountain culture and enable them to participate in the sustainable development of the Alpine region. Making the Alpine region a model laboratory for multi-level governance

### **Mission statement of the SubGroup « Smart Industry»**

The scope of subgroup on smart industry is to boost the potentials of the Industry4.0 transformation for twin transition in the Alpine Macro Region leveraging knowledge and technology transfer.

The sub-group aims to:

- Boost the potentials of the digital transformation in the Alpine Region with a special focus on the development opportunities for SMEs,
- intensified macro regional cooperation to boost the integration of regional companies into global manufacturing supply chains, gaining competitiveness by leveraging capabilities and regional investments,
- make industry smarter means to make them safer, more efficient, more resilient and more environmentally friendly.
- Make Industry4.0 fully operative in the regions integrating technology with human engagement, towards the Industry 5.0 revolution.

## **2. Composition and sub-groups**

### **Composition and sub-groups**

AG2 is a heterogeneous group composed of representatives from the world of research, experts, public officials, regional authorities, companies and innovation intermediaries. As in all other groups, there are full members, observer members and, thanks to the historical co-leader approach, the group is permeable and always on the lookout for new resources to be included in order to have a dynamic and interactive Action Group. AG2 features a shared leadership between Sylvain Guetaz from Auvergne Rhone alpes and Massimo Lapolla from Piedmont Region.

**The sub-group Bioeconomy** is coordinated by coordinated by Gerd Meier Zu Köcker VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH Stuttgart and it is composed by various private and public stakeholders with a broad coverage of key sub-sectors of Bioeconomy. As given in the name of the SG, key stakeholder are also cluster initiatives, representing a critical mass of private and public sector actors.

**The subgroup Wood** is coordinated by Sylvain Guetaz, representative of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and with the support of Gian Antonio Battistel from Edmund Mach Foundation, Trento. As to short local forest-timber supply chains:

- enhance green labelling of wooden materials coupled with the certification of the “CO<sub>2</sub> footprint”, and more effective communication,
- draw up „Collaborative Value Chains“ and GPP business models to co-design new products and services through open innovation approaches, for sustainable and climate neutral construction and buildings,
- bridge the business sector with the education and research sectors and decision makers.

**The subgroup Tourism** is coordinated by Bernhard from Lehofer Cluster Innovation Salzburg and it is composed by 15 members from Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, France and Slovenia. It should be noted that there are only about a handful of members who are actually active in the group. From Switzerland, this is the University of the Grisons under Prof. Jan Mosdale, in Austria it is the Paracelsus Medical Private University in Salzburg under Prof. Arnulf Hartl and his colleague Christina Pichler.

**The sub-group smart industry** is coordinated by the Luca Mion, representative of Trentino Innovation Hub. The sub-group is mostly composed by innovation intermediaries such as technology transfer bodies, industry clusters, innovation and development agencies. The members have strict connections with the regional authorities and involved in the implementation of regional S3.

A new activity will be linked to Circular economy: If it will be merged to the **sub-group Bioeconomy**, the likely coordinator will be Ales Pevc, Tehnoloski Parc Ljubljana and Gerd Meier Zu Köcker. If Circular Economy will be just a cross-cutting priority led by AG2, the coordinator would be Ales Pevc, Tehnoloski Parc Ljubljana.

### 3. Involvement of the stakeholders

#### Involvement of the stakeholders (S)

The main stakeholders are research, academia, regional authorities, companies and innovation intermediaries.

All stakeholders involved actively participate in the numerous internal and external activities that the group pursues. Specifically, they take part in the plenary meetings that take place every year, and actively participate in setting AG2 objectives and priorities in order to involve them and make the work dynamic and interactive. In general, they provide the right conditions to bring stimulus to AG2's work.

Stakeholder	Role
Researchers	Researchers are both beneficiaries and actors in the innovation processes and digital transformation
Regional authorities	For the implementation of the regional S3. They are crucial to provide the right conditions for the innovation to happen through policy, incentives, infrastructures
Intermediaries	Clusters, associations, innovation/development agencies are the main target of the actions of the subgroup since they can implement actions supporting the collaboration and the innovation
Companies	Beneficiaries of sub-groups actions

AS INTERREG programmes are not the only source of fundings: it is important to widen embedding approaches towards other Programmes (EU shared and directly administered programmes), or better refer to planned activities with financial dialogue networks. In this regard, some initiatives will be launched in the upcoming months by AG2 coleaders (possible next meeting organised in Brussels).

### Subgroup “Wood”

- Forest owners & their associations/organizations (FNCOFOR),
- Forest administration (Forest Service of Piemonte, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, ONF, ERSAF),
- Timber processing actors & and their associations/organizations/hub/clusters (Bois de Chartreuse, Promolegno, proHolz Salzburg, Pôle Excellence Bois, proHolzBW-Baden-Württemberg; Xylofutur, VTT, Medef-Aura),
- Associated service (IT, planners, architectures, retailers, engineers, etc.) providers (FORTEA),
- Natural Parks (Parc Chartre Parc Naturel Régional de Chartreuseuse),
- research centers (INRAE, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts/HSLU, Slovenian Forestry Institute/GOZDIS, CNR, University of Tuscia),
- Training and education institutions (CNFPT),
- NGOs/Non-Profit Organizations (Euromontana).
- Farmers youth organizations
- Members of other EUSALP AGs (EUSALP Youth, EUSALP TF-MFSUT)
- Alpine Convention delegates
- Forest & timber standard setting organizations and certification bodies (Bois des Alpes, Holz-von-hier)
- Municipalities (Grenoble Alpes Metropole) and its organizations (UNCHEM)
- Regional Administrations (Lombardia, Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes, Baden-Württemberg)
- National Agencies (ANCT)
- EU officers



- Chamber of Commerce (Landwirtschaftskammer Salzburg)

Members will be directly involved in the 6 meetings planned for the three-year period and organised in a hybrid form to allow maximum participation and involvement in the development of activities. Commitment will be maintained with invitations to participate in events organised by AG2 in anticipation of the annual Fora EUSALP and other events related to EU macro-regional strategies (i.e. EUmrsweek). The collection of information on projects and calls to members will be carried out by TF-MFSUT, which will be involved in conferences, workshops and seminars organised by TF-MFSUT.

### **Subgroup “tourism”: Alpine Space Programme:**

It provides a framework to facilitate the cooperation between economic, social and environmental key players in seven Alpine countries, as well as between various institutional levels such as: academia, administration, business and innovation sector, and policy making. The members of the AG wish to maintain an ever-closer cooperation with the Alpine Space programme in order to realise the strategic plans on behalf of the EUSALP and Alpine Space programme, including by submitting projects that focus on core strategic challenges of the EUSALP.

- Alpine Convention

The Alpine Convention contains the guiding principles for sustainable life in the Alps, today and in the future, for identity, heritage and traditions in the Alps. At the same time, it is a living instrument that enables signatory states to address urgent and cross-cutting issues together. The Convention is the legal basis for the protection of sensitive alpine ecosystems, regional culture and the environment.

A close cooperation shall be provided especially when it comes to the consequences of climate change in the Alps and the protection of ecosystems.

- Presidency

The ideas of the respective Presidencies should be closely coordinated with the EUSALP, respectively with the working groups, in order to ensure continuity in the work.

European cross-border cooperation:

European Cross-Border cooperation, supports cooperation between NUTS III regions from at least two different Member States lying directly on the borders or adjacent to them. It aims to tackle common challenges identified jointly in the border regions and to exploit the untapped growth potential in border areas, while enhancing the cooperation process for the purposes of the overall harmonious development of the Union.

#### 4. The role of the Youth Council

AG2 strongly believes in involving the Youth Council to ensure that their ideas and viewpoints are considered to act together and discuss the goals of the overall EUSALP strategy. The importance of young people is evident in AG2's decision to organise the first public event with the Youth Council in November 2022 called "Ready to Stay?" to discuss the depopulation of mountain areas and find common solutions at macro-regional level. In addition, youth council representatives for economic development are permanently invited to participate in the AG2 plenary session to provide input.

AG2 will continue to strengthen the relationship with Youth Council through initiatives and events to achieve greater involvement. Joint action is necessary to achieve the AG2's main objectives.

#### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2020-2022

The Covid-19 pandemic dramatically affected societies in the Alpine region. The emergency measures that were implemented considerably restricted professional and personal mobility. It is now clear that our lifestyles and economies will be impacted in the long term by this health crisis.

The measures put in place imposed the postponement or cancellation of all EUSALP physical meetings scheduled from March 2020 to June 2021. In September and October 2020 and 2021, the improvement of the sanitary situation made it possible to maintain several physical events, which brought together representatives, experts and civil society members, as well as foreign delegations, mostly through videoconference:

The French EUSALP Presidency took this context into account and complemented its annual working plan, undertaking EUSALP actions to both deal with Covid-19 pandemic and initiate a green resilient recovery. Taking into account the sanitary situation, three actions were decided:

Despite this situation, many events were organized by the AG2 and held physically during the FR and IT Presidencies:

1. Mountain forests and climate change (Aix-les-Bains, 2020, September, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>)
2. National Pastoralism Meetings (Barcelonnette, 2020, September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>)
3. Climate, risks, energy conference and workshops (Chamonix, 2020, from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>)
4. Smart Villages (Vercors and Grenoble, 2020, October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>)
5. Energy in ski resorts (Les Orres, 2021, March, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)
6. Euro-Alpine Pastoralist Conference (Grenoble, 2021, October 8<sup>th</sup>)
7. Agriculture and Local products (Paris, March, 1<sup>st</sup>)
8. Wood in the Alps (Chartreuse, 2022, April, 7<sup>th</sup>)
9. Tourism in the Alps (Grenoble, 2022, April, 22<sup>nd</sup>)
10. Smart Industries (Lyon-SIDO, 2022, October, 13<sup>th</sup>)

11. Ready to Stay? (Milan, 2022, November, 10<sup>th</sup>)For the subgroup Smart Industry

Topic	Actions	Timeframe
Smart Industry	Alpine Forum on Smart Industry	2019
Twin transition	EUSALP Workshop on digitalization of circular economy. World Manufacturing Forum 2021	2021
Digitalization of value chains	ARPAF project SMART SMEs on digitalization of wood and textile value chains	Ended in 2021
Resilience of SMEs	ALPGOV supported report on how to strengthen the resilience of SMEs in the Alpine Space	2022
Digital IP, data management and valorization	EU project Go-DIP	2021-2022
Digital IP, open data open software and open hardware	EU project ZOOM	2022
AI and data-driven innovation	Proposal AlpDrive – not funded	2022

Subgroup “Wood”

Subgroup “Wood” Leader co-coordinated the Strategic Cross-sectoral Initiative “*Innovation Hub for green business*” implementing the actions of “*Wood and timber value chains*” topic. It organized 2 meetings a year which involved around 50 representatives of different organizations linked to forest-based sector. It boosted TF-MFSUT activities by providing inputs to the organization of the EUSALP Fora workshops in Nice (2020 and 2021) and Trento 2022. It contributed to the issue of the technical contribution of EUSALP French Presidency “*Multifunctional Forests: Nature Based Solution as Tools for a Holistic Resilience of Alpine Territories*”. That was presented on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at IUCN World Conference in Marseille. Further impulse was given to the AlpGov2 surveys “*How to strengthen the resilience of SMEs in the Alpine Space? The role of digitalisation and clusters*” and “*Recommendations for strengthening local wood supply chains.*”

During 2020-2022 its members were:

- involved in two ARPAF II projects (REDIAFOR and TRIPLE WOOD),
- successful with the ARPAF III project CAESAR2.

## PRIORITIES 2023-2025

### 1. Key issues and activities

The tourism sector is one of the most important economic sectors in the Alpine region, marked by a dense fabric of small and medium-sized enterprises, offering numerous development opportunities and providing employment. However, the level of tourist activity and services varies according to the season and its strong dependence on snow resources means that the sector must be able to meet current and future challenges, especially that of adapting to climate change and the ecological transition.

The sector is already moving towards an ecological, diversified and all-season tourism, developing alternative offers to winter sports activities (skiing, etc.) such as health/wellness tourism, agrotourism or new sports and cultural practices.

These issues require going beyond the scale of the resort to the scale of a larger territory, playing on the transitions and complementarities.

Mountain agriculture, pastoralism and forestry offer, when practiced in a sustainable manner, ecosystem services that can preserve biodiversity, mitigate climate change and prevent natural hazards.

On the other hand, the development of territorial food approaches aiming at local consumption of mountain food products in short circuits and the promotion of pastoralism in the Alpine region have been selected as actions. Living, producing and transforming in mountain pastures have been at the heart of the events organized since 2020.

The promotion of regional labels, quality signs and territorial brands to enhance the value of agricultural products in the Alpine region has been favored in the context of the issue of the multifunctionality of wood and forest in the Alpine region.

Industry 4.0 must be a central objective for the next months of AG2 activities.

The decarbonized economy offers new perspectives for industry 4.0: the challenges on the supply chain, on the digitalization of production processes, on the circular economy. These avenues must be explored in greater depth in the coming months.

Energy (hydrogen) is the subject of inter-group work (AG2, AG4, AG9).

The Alpine region has a significant potential for the production of renewable energies. Among these renewable energies, a specific place has been given to hydrogen. The Alpine region can be a major territory for hydrogen with 80% of the industrial actors of the sector.

One of the objectives is to establish and implement a global strategy for the development of green hydrogen in the Alpine region: the process launched at the Chamonix conference in September 2020 has resulted in a consortium of 10 regions willing to engage in an Alpine cooperation around hydrogen. A political letter of intent was signed by these 10 Regions in spring 2021. A H2 Focus group has been set up composed of the ten parties and coordinated by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region in connection with the "Green Hydrogen for the Alps" initiative. Subgroup "Wood" Improves the dialogue among forest-based sector actors, suppliers, civil society and consumers to better explore the potential needs for products or provided services in order to anticipate conflicts related to the use of forests, wood and non-wood forest products, and to highlight new or enhanced business models.

Opportunities in construction / building sector for sustainable buildings:

**Innovative Circular economy** business models (including the re-use or re-design of waste wood, also as biomass fuel (district heating and cooling, domestic heating)**New bio-economy business models** (bio-chemicals, pharmaceutical industry, etc.) also in relation with new

needs coming out the Covid19 emergency (see also 3. Production and supply chain sustainability & resilience)

## 2. Strategic flagship initiatives

### Tourism in transition:

The winter tourism industry in the Alps is highly dependent on climate conditions and the consequences of climate change in the mountains. As climate change leads to a rapid decrease in snow cover, mountain stakeholders face the challenge of managing impacts on the socio-economic system. Stakeholders in mountain destinations today are confronted with a common challenge: they have to cope with the impacts of climate change without being able to rely on experience-based recommendations for action.

The TranStat project aims to help implement jointly developed approaches for the transition to sustainable mountain destinations - ski resorts and their settlement area - in practice. Based on a participatory and inclusive approach, TranStat aims to elaborate scenarios and jointly developed approaches to respond to the identified challenges in mountain destinations. The challenge is to promote new models of economic, social and environmental development to ensure a livable and sustainable future in the Alpine region. TranStat addresses this cross-cutting issue by creating a physical and digital network of mountain destinations undergoing change to share knowledge and experiences for the future.

Many winter sports areas in the Alps are facing the same preconditions and there are pioneers in some areas who have been dealing with the issue of climate change for a long time. It is important that the knowledge about models of the future that are being developed builds on the findings that are already being tested in other Alpine regions. Here, cross-border cooperation and the exchange of knowledge across borders play an immensely important role. Challenges of this magnitude can best be met through close cooperation across national borders.

**The Transtat project will be the main project on the issue of tourism in transition, developing its own living labs but it will be also coordinated with other Alpine Space projects such as Beyond Snow (as presented in the AG2 meeting in 2023, June, 6<sup>th</sup>).**

**The final goal is the creation of an alpine network of mountain ski resort in transition. The cross border cooperation will be essential for the benchmarking approach, even if each living lab should be considered with its own specifications.**

## 3. Cross-cutting priorities

AG2 agrees with the facilitation of 4 macro-areas that encompass all the initial proposals.

1- Facilitating circular economy in short supply chains: the theme of circular economy finds full consistency with the action and objectives of AG2. Specifically, the consistency of this initiative finds a strong correlation with the thematic policy area "economic growth and innovation" to which AG2 belongs. In addition, the earlier proposal to create a subgroup called 'circular economy' is an extra incentive to pursue this topic with the help of the capabilities AG2 has acquired over time.

2-Fast-tracking Energy transition for a Carbon Neutral Alpine Region: AG2 is fully involved in these activities through its support of the Hydrogen TF. (Hydrogen initiative (ongoing from AlpGov 2).

3-Promoting sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources, especially water: AG2 supports the proposals for the EUSALP Task Force: WATER TRANSITION to secure and preserve resources in scarcity times.

4-Promoting digitalization in the Alpine Region: the subgroup on Smart industries of AG2 is fully in line with the fourth cross-cutting priorities. In addition, the subgroup's competencies and collaboration with other AGs can bring important expertise to the initiative.

Although not included in the 4 cross-cutting initiatives, the TF "EUSALP Task Force "Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber" (TF-MFSUT) represents a key role that AG2 wants to support through its participation not as a leader but as an active participant. Furthermore, AG2 agrees to include the TF in the cross-cutting issue of Circular Economy and participate in the identification of specific actions and objectives related to the broader cross-cutting priority.

## COMMUNICATION

### 1. Dissemination and communication activities

AG2 aims to strengthen its communication strategy towards both EUSALP actors and external stakeholders.

The AG 2 webpage on the EUSALP website will be regularly updated with news on the Group's activities and events. The studies developed in the current and previous periods will be also uploaded, together with the minutes of the AG2 meetings.

Specific communication campaigns will be targeted to companies, professionals and practitioners – and their networks – operating or interested in the EUSALP area and dealing with the topics of the Group. To this end, each AG 2 member should create a database of relevant national, regional and local contacts to forward them the information and achievements of the Group, in line with the GDPR requirements.

To better target local stakeholders, AG 2 events will be organised with a transnational dimension, but in linguistically homogenous areas. This element will allow for an effective involvement of the local public and anyway enable the creation of transnational knowledge communities/networks to facilitate the exchange of experiences across regions and countries.

English translation will always be available to ensure the participation of all interested EUSALP actors.

Subgroup “Wood” (source, conclusion by *“Thematic Focus Group Table 3: Cross-sectoral and transdisciplinary communication to enhance mutual understanding for sustainable transition pathways in using timber”*)

In addition to the current main players (academia, public administrations, stakeholders of forest-wood chain), new key actors for collaboration between forestry, timber value chain and society have been identified: Business organisations and municipalities (mayors). The following take-home messages can summarise the contribution of participants in person:

- Implementing simple and attractive communication is urgent and important to reduce the gap between researchers/experts and other stakeholders.
- Business organisations and municipalities are key players to improve communication with the aim to motivate stakeholders and consumers for a transition to sustainable pathways.
- Multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary technical and professional training must be considered as an important educational and communicative tool to reduce the knowledge gap.

## 2. Events

- **Plenary sessions** ☐ 4 meetings in the 3 years  
Proposal: 2 plenaries per year (2023-2025), for the AG2, one in Spring and one in the Fall, paid by AURA and RP.
- **Public events** ☐ 3 events in the 3 years, 1 per year.

### RP's proposals of themes for the events:

2023: H2  
2024: Data (in collaboration with AG5)  
2025: Youth

### AURA's proposals of themes for the events:

2023: Tourism  
2024: H2/energy  
2025: TBD

- **Thematic research** - 2 studies in the 3 years. (to do in the given timeframe 2023-25, according to the choices of each research group)

Joint proposals of themes for the thematic researches:

- Smart industries
- Circular bio/economy

## WORK PLAN OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

<b>SG Bioeconomy</b>	<b>Project 1.</b> Propose new tools including bioeconomy in the value chain among SMEs
<b>SG Circular Economy</b>	
<b>SG Digital Industry</b>	<b>Project 2.</b> Promote digitalization as a source of innovation in SMEs
<b>SG Tourism</b>	<b>Project 3.</b> Create a survey on mountain resorts network <b>Project 4.</b> Develop health tourism in Alpine Region resorts
<b>SG Wood</b>	<b>Project 5.</b> Promote local exploitation, transformation and consumption of wood
<b>AG2, AG6</b>	<b>Project 6.</b> Promote regional and quality labels and brands to add value to the agricultural products of the Alpine Region
<b>AG2, AG9</b>	<b>Project 7.</b> Promote hydrogen for alpine corridors
<b>AG2, AG5 etc.</b>	<b>Project 8.</b> Explore new drivers for the Alpine economy

All these projects are currently driven by specific partners with a clear timeframe. The detailed objectives will be discussed during the plenary meetings which will be held at least twice a year. The updating of these projects should also be validated by the plenary meetings.

The driving of the AG is particularly but not exclusively focused on projects with important milestones during all the periods including also numerous and diverse activities that are fundamental to the achievement of AG overall goals. A strategic coherence needs also to be assured by the coleadership of the AG, with the support of all involved stakeholders.

Indicators	Target
n. joint political declarations	
please describe if possible	
n. cross-border/transnational events	2 per year
For 2023: H2/Tourism For 2024: Data/ Energy For 2025: Youth	
n. joint policy recommendation	1 final



please describe if possible	
n. project to be submitted on the Alpine Space Programme (incubated in the Action Group)	3 per year
See AG2 plenary meetings agenda	
n. project to be submitted on others European Programmes (incubated in the Action Group)	2 per year
See AG2 plenary meetings agenda	
n. of papers / research works to be published	1 per year
proposal for the thematic research: one about <u>smart industries</u> one about <u>circular bio/economy</u>	
budget to be raised with European funding	
please describe if possible	
other:	
please describe if possible	