

# 9th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

“Circular and Smart Alpine Region”



14 – 15  
November  
2024

## Agenda

### 14 November 2024

**10:00 – 11:00**

*(Splendens Hall)*

#### **Youth Vision for Alpine Region**

The Alpine region is facing different challenges due to climate and social change. Hence, the active involvement of young people is pivotal for safeguarding a sustainable future of the Alpine region.

The inhabitants of the Alpine region are most directly affected by the climate change. The extreme events are driving the need to increase knowledge and skills on how to deal with those challenges as effectively as possible. It is of great importance that the young generation is consulted and skilled in order to safeguard the quality of life in the Alpine area. Moreover, due to its specific geographical feature, the Alpine area is also facing social challenges, especially in terms of the emigration of young people from mountain valleys and cities.

The panel will be an opportunity for exchange among the speakers about the mechanisms needed to empower the young people of the Alpine region to respond properly to future challenges, especially related to the climate change and social change.

*Language: English*

**11:15 – 12:30**

*(Splendens Hall)*

#### **Pitch your Project competition and awarding ceremony – side event**

Pitch Your Project is a competition for young people between 16 and 29 years old. As experts of their living space, the Alpine Region, they are invited to submit projects ideas for a sustainable development of the Alpine Region.

*Language: English*

**12:30 – 14:00**

*(the Lobby)*

#### **Lunch**

**13:00 – 14:00**

#### **Welcome gathering for high level representatives**

**14:00 – 14:30**

*(Grandis Hall)*

#### **Official Opening of the 9th EUSALP Annual Forum**

*Language: SI, FR, DE, IT, EN*

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**14:30 – 15:15**

(Grandis Hall)

### **High-level plenary panel: Alpine region – competitive, circular and smart in global world?**

The Alpine macro-region is one of the most prosperous and competitive regions in Europe. With its unique geographic and natural features, it is often quoted as water tower of Europe and a biodiversity sanctuary. Almost a decade after the establishment of EUSALP, the region's main challenge remains – balancing its wealth and development with nature conservation and adopting innovative approaches to strengthen the area in a sustainable way, while also reducing disparities between various regions and within them. Macro-regional strategies have proved to be a successful tool for cooperation and learning from one another on challenges that go beyond national borders. As Europe undergoes green and digital transition and also faces increasing global competition and geopolitical tensions, the Alpine Region can serve as a development model, in particular in its ability to carefully balance the economic progress with the environmental objectives.

The panel will be an opportunity for the exchange between ministers and other high-level speakers about the mechanisms and the role of EUSALP in helping the Alpine Region to stay ahead of the world's most advanced economies by being competitive, circular and smart.

*Language: SI, FR, DE, IT, EN*

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**15:15 – 15:30**

(Grandis Hall)

### **Handover Ceremony of the EUSALP Presidency to Austria and Liechtenstein**

Language: SI, FR, DE, IT, EN

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**15:30 – 16:00**

(the Lobby)

### **Break**

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**15:30 – 16:00**

(Glass Hall)

### **Press Conference**

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**16:00 – 18:00**

### **General Assembly of High Representatives responsible for the EUSALP**

*(by invitation only)*

*(Brdo Castle)*

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**16:00 – 17:30**

(Grandis Hall)

### **Climate resilient water management in the Alpine Region**

Alpine Region is experiencing a profound negative impact of climate change. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather related events (floods, erosion, landslides, drought ...) has now not only affected livelihoods in the region, but has brought about the necessity to rethink our management of one of the most precious resources: water. This has certainly been the case in Slovenia in 2023, when devastating torrential sediment processes and flash floods have prompted a public debate on how to approach water management in the new era of increasingly rapid climate change.

*Language: English*

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**16:00 – 18:00**  
(Splendens Hall)

**EUSALP Energy Conference “Energy Transition in the Economy”  
& EUSALP Energy Awarding Ceremony – side event**

Decision-makers, entrepreneurs, scientists and implementers discuss how to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in Europe’s economy and outline the role the EUSALP in promoting a green economy. The event will conclude with the EUSALP Energy Awarding session, which was organized under the motto “Energy Transition in SME’s” and with a guided exhibition tour dedicated the topic of energy saving and climate protection.

*Language: English*

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**18:00 – 20:30**  
(The Lobby)

**Networking dinner with concert**

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**15 November 2024**

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**09:30 – 11:00**  
(Grandis Hall)

**Could Alpine region become a circular economy model region?**

The European Union has been a global leader in promoting the transition to a circular economy and sustainable production and consumption. Despite the progress made over the past years, the overall transition to a circular economy remains slow due to different challenges (i.e. economic and regulatory barriers, consumer behaviour, limited infrastructure etc.).

The panel will be an opportunity for the exchange between the speakers about the mechanisms and the role of EUSALP in helping the Alpine Region to become a model region for transition from linear to circular economy.

*Language: English*

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**11:00 – 11:15**  
(The Lobby)

**Break**

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**11:15 – 12:15**  
(Grandis Hall)

**Award ceremony for Green Infrastructure goes Business Award, Energy award and Pitch your project**

*Language: English*

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**12:15 – 12:30**  
(Grandis Hall)

**Closing of the 9th EUSALP Annual Forum**

*Language: English*

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## OTHER EVENTS

### 14 November 2024

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**9:30 – 11:30**  
**and**  
**16:00 – 18:00**  
*(Heros Hall)*

#### **Green Infrastructure goes Business Award: Coaching Workshop**

*(by invitation only)*

The Green Infrastructure Goes Business Award supports innovative ideas, products and services for a green economy and promotes sustainable development in the area of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. The third edition of the international competition is focusing particularly on solutions with benefits for “wise water management”.

*Language: English*

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