

# Pilot Actions for RDMDT Implementation and resilience enhancement of the PWAs

Output 2.3 – April 2025

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## Who should read this report?

The intended audience of this document are:

**Local, Regional and National Public Authorities**, to gain an understanding of potential adaptation measures to include in their transition processes. This could guide the elaboration of policies that support the resilience to climate change and the sustainable development of their territories.

**Local and Regional DMOs**, to increase their understanding regarding the potential role of tourism actors in leading and facilitating a transition process, how adaptation measures can be structured, and in implementing effective CC transition strategies for their destination.

**Higher education and research organisations**, to benefit from real-world examples of how transition strategies can be co-designed and implemented and what adaptation measures they can comprise, in order to be studied, adapted and applied in diverse contexts.

**Tourism infrastructure and (public) service providers**, to increase their awareness of how their operations can be adapted and aligned with local CC transition strategies and their measures, contributing to the resilience of the tourism sector in their destination.

**Tourism SMEs**, to increase their knowledge base regarding their role in the development of CC transition strategies & projects, and to enable them to adapt their business practices to be more resilient to CC.

**Local communities of STDs**, to engage them in the development of CC transition strategies through participatory approaches, ensuring that their voices and needs are considered and included in the transition process and adaptation practices.

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## Mission Statements

This report serves as a collection of the pilot actions identified within the PWAs as a result of the transition process for decreasing the snow dependency of STDs and strengthening their resilience regarding CC-induced ecologic & socioeconomic effects. By involving local communities & stakeholders, the PAs aim at field-testing and fine-tuning the RDMDT, as well as developing transition strategies and implementing concrete actions on experimental basis in 10 PWAs. PAs will be developed and implemented jointly with the aid of all PPs and the supervision of Observers.

## Disclaimer

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## Acronyms used in this report

BeyondSnow-specific acronyms are **bold**.

Acronym	Meaning
AS	Alpine Space
CC	Climate Change
<b>CDL</b>	<b>Co-design laboratories</b>
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
DMO	Destination Management Organisation
EC	European Commission
ES	Ecosystem Services
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information System
GHG	Greenhouse gas
NAS	National Adaptation Strategy
<b>PA</b>	<b>Pilot Action</b>
<b>PWA</b>	<b>Pilot Working Areas</b>
<b>RAM</b>	<b>Resilience Adaptation Model</b>
<b>RDMDT</b>	<b>Resilience Decision-Making Digital Tool</b>
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
<b>STD</b>	<b>Snow Tourism Destination</b>
SWT	Snow & Winter Tourism
TG	Target Group
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Framework Convention on CC

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## Introduction

### 1.1 Background and project overview

Due to climate change, snow coverage in the Alps is very likely to continue decreasing in the future. In addition to the ecological impacts, especially small medium-altitude snow tourism destinations and their communities must also consider the socio-economic consequences of the diminishment of snow coverage. The Alpine Space project BeyondSnow aims to increase the socio-ecological climate resilience of snow tourism destinations at medium-low altitudes to enable them to retain or even increase their attractiveness for residents and tourists. During the project, new sustainable development paths, transition processes, and implementable solutions are conjointly devised within 10 specific pilot working areas (PWAs), spatially distributed across six Alpine countries, differing in size, development level and criticalities. Citizens, destination managers and decision-makers at the different technical and political levels are the core group of people involved in this process.

The current document (O2.3), providing a brief overview of the pilot actions identified by the 10 PWAs, is the output connected to Activity 2.3 (A2.3 - Pilot implementation of CC resilience-enhancing activities in PWAs). It captures the results of the co-design laboratories and transition strategies (A2.2), serving also as a key step for the implementation of the RDMDT, which was developed within A2.1. This activity is the basis for the post-project practical implementation of the strategies by the involved stakeholders, thus serving to verify the feasibility and operability of the co-designed processes and strategies.

### 1.2 About the process

The transition strategies developed by the PPs within the BeyondSnow project were aimed at documenting the PWA situation, its strategic vision and fields of action developed in cooperation with local stakeholders. These strategies were designed to guide decision-makers not only during the project, but also after its completion in October 2025.

The 'Sensitive Diagnosis' method, developed by La Fabrique des Transitions, was employed in the PWAs to involve local stakeholders in the project, improve qualitative analysis and initiate co-design workshops. Adapted to the BeyondSnow context, 'Sensitive diagnosis' aimed to identify and exploit the key elements needed to initiate a systemic transition towards sustainability and resilience.

The co-design workshops organised in the PWAs facilitated a participatory approach geared towards the definition and implementation of viable transition strategies for climate change adaptation, with a focus on winter tourism. The actions proposed by the PPs, therefore, were identified in relation to the observations and proposals that came out of the locally held workshops. Considering the potentials emerged and the physical, natural, and social characteristics of each PWA, the actions target the achievement of specific objectives of the strategies.

The process of selecting the best options to meet the project's objectives and PWA's needs involved:

- A SWOT analysis of the PWA
- The definition of general and local objectives
- The elaboration of ideas and projects, categorised by fields of action

Considering the objectives stated in the respective transition strategies, each PWA was traced back to a prevailing strategic line:

Transition strategies	PWA
Securing and optimizing the ski operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Großer Arber</li> <li>- Sattel Hochstuckli</li> </ul>
Expansion of winter offers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bohinj</li> <li>- Balderschwang</li> </ul>
Expansion of summer offers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Piani d'Erna</li> <li>- Monesi di Triora</li> <li>- Métabief</li> </ul>
Development of current/future tourism offer more towards sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Werfenweng</li> <li>- Ala di Stura &amp; Balme</li> </ul>
Diversification and strengthening of the local/regional economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pradibosco</li> </ul>

Although a prevailing strategic line is associated with each PWA, the pilot actions chosen by partners and stakeholders refer to multiple types of actions and effects. These actions address tourism and the economy of the areas, the quality of the environment and the quality of life of residents.

## 2 RDMDT implementation

The RDMDT was developed within the project and is currently being tested by project partners (PPs) and pilot action (PA) participants. The testing process has involved the collection of data used to create the Resilience Adaptation Model (RAM), which in turn contributed to the development of the RDMDT. After this step, the PWAs started using the tool to provide feedback on its functionality and utility. Since PWAs receive direct support from PPs, they have a deeper understanding of the tool's capabilities. While the RDMDT is designed for initial analysis, it is crucial to follow up with strategic steps, such as consulting with experts within or outside the destination, to ensure the best outcomes.

Through their collaboration with experts, who are part of the project's partner network, PWAs can compare the insights derived from personal, in-depth analysis with the findings the tool provides. The goal is to refine the RDMDT, ensuring that it can be effectively utilised by destinations beyond the project. Additionally, the tool's structured approach offers valuable perspectives and guides users through their data, helping them gain new insights into their tourism strategies. It also includes an overview of data sources, which will aid in future data acquisition.

The RDMDT also plays a crucial role in helping destinations identify their strengths and weaknesses by providing a clear, data-driven overview. This allows them to better understand their current position and pinpoint areas that need attention. By highlighting these key insights, the tool not only supports informed decision-making but also guides destinations in their ongoing development and long-term resilience. It empowers stakeholders to prioritise actions, adapt strategies, and ultimately strengthen their ability to cope with challenges such as climate change, ensuring sustainable tourism practices for the future.

All pilot actions are interconnected with the RDMDT, as they aim to provide feedback that enhances the tool and benefits the destinations. This feedback loop creates a mutually beneficial relationship: the tool helps destinations refine their strategies, while the pilot actions contribute to improving the tool itself. Two specific pilot actions that could be highlighted include Action 3.6.1 from Bohinj (Study Visit on the Development of Year-Round Tourism) and Action 3.8.1 from Métabief (Increasing Climate Resilience Skills).

In summary, the RDMDT plays a key role in assisting destinations with the implementation of pilot actions by providing a structured approach to understanding their tourism data and strategies. Simultaneously, these actions help improve the tool by offering feedback on its utility and effectiveness.



### 3 Pilot Actions

PP02 - Piani d'Erna (IT)	
Main transition strategy	Expansion of summer offers
Pilot Actions	Renovation/adaptation of Nature Trail (Sentiero Natura) notice boards Restoration of the connecting "Piani d'Erna – Morterone" trail Pasture and Forestry Management Plan
PP03 - Monesi di Triora (IT)	
Main transition strategy	Expansion of summer offers
Pilot Actions	Implementation of the White Cuisine Road Creation of a Collective Events Calendar in the Arroscia Valley
PP04 - Ala di Stura & Balme (IT)	
Main transition strategy	Development of current/future tourism offer more towards sustainability
Pilot Actions	Promoting sustainable mobility Support for the reactivation and requalification of tourist hospitality Participatory approach for tourism development
PP05 - Pradibosco (IT)	
Main transition strategy	Diversification and strengthening of the local/regional economy
Pilot Actions	Bike rest and charging station
PP06 - Werfenweng (AT)	
Main transition strategy	Development of current/future tourism offer more towards sustainability
Pilot Actions	Development of a new tourism product
PP07 - Bohinj (SI)	
Main transition strategy	Expansion of winter offers
Pilot Actions	Study Visit on the Development of Year-Round Tourism Tourism Development Concept for a Year-Round Outdoor Center
PP09 - Großer Arber (DE)	
Main transition strategy	Securing and optimizing the ski operation
Pilot Actions	Content Production: Photo and Video Shooting
PP10 – Métabief (F)	
Main transition strategy	Expansion of summer offers
Pilot Actions	Reducing ski slope perimeter Outside Escape Games – Explore Games™ Developing a snack at the top of the Morond summit
P11 – Sattel-Hochstuckli (CH)	
Main transition strategy	Securing and optimizing the ski operation
Pilot Action	Tourism strategy for the Destination Diversification of the destination's tourism offer
PP12 – Balderschwang (DE)	
Main transition strategy	Expansion of winter offers
Pilot Actions	Alternative images of winter in Balderschwang, with or without snow Generation project: New summit cross at Siplinger Kopf Guided nature tour by nature park Nagelfluhkette about landscape without snow Acquiring funds for project funding

### 3.1 PP02 – Piani d'Erna (IT)

#### 3.1.1 Renovation/adaptation of Nature Trail (Sentiero Natura) notice boards

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**Objectives** Attractive year-round tourism and economic sustainability of local hospitality.

**Description** The nature trail, along with the shelters, is currently the only attraction that allows visitors to reach the locality. In recent years there has been an increase in foreign tourism reaching the Piani, especially on weekdays. The existing information panels, rich in information, are written in Italian. Providing the information also in English would be a first step towards a current rethinking of the tourist offer/ attraction. Additionally, there is a need to update these panels in terms of communication and graphics. This project aims to provide for the translation of the texts into English, the retrieval of the images contained in the panels, and the search for other suitable ones. Tourists should be able to download this information to their cell phones upon arrival at the mountain station, which is the only area along the route with an internet signal. Among the topics covered, the following are planned to be translated:

- Nature Trail Map
- Piani d'Erna Nature Trail
- The geology of the Piani d'Erna
- The flowers of the Piani d'Erna
- The soil: characteristics and structure
- The forest
- The undergrowth
- Man and the forest
- The springs
- The mammals of the Piani d'Erna
- The birds of the Piani d'Erna
- Iron mines

**Timeframe** June 2024 to July 2025

**Costs** 2.000 €

### 3.1.2 Restoration of the connecting “Piani d’Erna – Morterone” trail

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**Objectives** Sustainable mobility /accessibility for the region.

Conservation/restoration of the rural landscape.

**Description** Accessibility represents a crucial issue for the management and development of the Piani d'Erna. The cable car, which is the symbol of the urban/tourist development of the 1960s, is now the only way to reach the plans, aside from helicopter transport and hiking. For pedestrian accessibility, path 901 is the most frequently used, allowing hikers to reach Bocca di Erna from the cable car departure platform in just over an hour. The path via Camel Pass is less commonly used. Trail maintenance and signage are vital aspects of enhancing the area, extending beyond Erna itself. In collaboration with the local CAI, which maintains the trails, the trail from the municipality of Morterone to Piani d'Erna was identified as a candidate for improvement.

The community participating in the working tables also reported the need for improved welcome signage. Therefore, the project developed a new map of the area with the most characteristic points. If conditions allow, this material will be implemented in the form of physical signage as well.

**Timeframe** January 2025 to October 2025

**Costs** 3.000 €



Figure 1: Already existing information panel (Photo: Legambiente Lombardia)

### 3.1.3 Pasture and Forestry Management Plan

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**Objectives** Conservation/restoration of the rural landscape.

**Description** To date, grazing activities are tied to the herds of a single family that grazes a portion of the municipally owned lots under regular contract. The passage of animals occurs in early summer and early fall, not only on the lots officially assigned for management but also on other municipal and private lots, leading to a dispersion of the positive effects of grazing. A reciprocal and convenient relationship exists between the municipality and the family, where the herd grazes for free while the municipality benefits from maintained property, slowed forest advancement, and preserved landscape, enhancing the area's tourist appeal. However, there is currently a lack of real assessment of the potential of grazing. However, there is currently a lack of comprehensive assessment of the grazing potential. Further analysis could determine whether the remaining communal pastures could support a group of cattle, with dairy production being an ideal target. It is essential to develop an agro-silvo-pastoral management plan for the area, highlighting livestock and agronomic potential based on available municipal and private areas. This plan should assess the feasibility of combining fragmented plots, possibly through the establishment of a land association to protect owners and facilitate management. It should also identify the most suitable grazing methods, including rotational grazing techniques, use of fencing, water and salt points, optimal loading of livestock units, and grazing periods. Additionally, the plan should evaluate the potential for establishing livestock enterprises for on-site milk processing and small farms dedicated to cultivating small fruits, medicinal plants, and vegetables. The project aims to create an initial grazing and forest management plan, with identified professionals ready to contribute. However, administrative disagreements currently render this proposal hypothetical.

**Timeframe** March 2025 to October 2025

**Costs** 7.000/9.000 €

## 3.2 PP03 - Monesi di Triora (IT)

### 3.2.1 Implementation of the White Cuisine Road

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**Objectives** Generate a positive impact on local tourism by enhancing the gastronomic heritage, diversifying the offer and formalizing a territorial network and an easily identifiable thematic route. Furthermore, a tourism focused on gastronomy could promote sustainable practices, encouraging local products and the protection of the territory and know-how.

**Description** "Strada della Cucina Bianca - Civiltà delle Malghe" association, formed between Ligurian municipalities in the Arroscia Valley, involves operators from the agricultural, tourism, and restaurant sectors, has been recognized as a product route by the Liguria Region. The White Cuisine Road has been found as a potential way to integrate various local resources sustainably. The white cuisine of the Ligurian Alps represents not only a collection of recipes, but also a deep identity value for the Arroscia Valley. This gastronomic heritage is rooted in pastoral traditions, where local ingredients are mixed with the culinary practices of mountain communities, telling stories of a deep connection with the territory.

The project aims to incorporate this gastronomic heritage within a territorial network with itineraries that lead visitors through local *trattorie* and restaurants serving traditional dishes. Each stop along the route would offer the opportunity to savor also the local culture and history, with cooking workshops, local product markets, and food and wine events, encouraging collaboration between local entrepreneurs and hospitality businesses.

Considering the strong agricultural and enogastronomic vocation of the Arroscia Valley, also the GAL Riviera dei Fiori has included in its Local Development Strategy the White Cuisine, recognising the cuisine as a historical-cultural immaterial.

**Timeframe** June 2025: Territorial project

July 2025: Integration into local and supra-local networks

September 2025: Implementation of the action with a territorial test on the Road aimed at a specific target group invited to try the experience

**Costs** 3.000 €



### 3.2.2 Creation of a Collective Events Calendar in the Arroscia Valley

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<b>Objectives</b>	Strengthening cohesion between the various municipalities in the Valley, encouraging collaboration between local institutions, associations and tourism operators.
<b>Description</b>	As a result of the work carried out with the stakeholders of the territory, it was very difficult to find a schedule of events in the Arroscia Valley. Therefore, it was essential to create a calendar for the promotion and management of cultural and tourist events taking place on the territory. The idea behind this pilot action is to obtain a graphic calendar, easily accessible and modifiable by local actors, which will enable visitors, residents and local operators to view in real time all events, festivals and activities that characterize the Valley during the year. The calendar would not only highlight traditional and historical events, but could also include activities related to experiential tourism, such as food and wine events, concerts and cultural activities. In addition, the calendar will be supplemented with practical information (times, location, participation modalities), allowing tourists to plan their visit in a dynamic and personalised way. This tool will be designed in such a way that it will be easy to update information on planned events.
<b>Timeframe</b>	Presentation and promotion of the calendar on May 2025
<b>Costs</b>	500 €



Figure 2: The Arroschia Valley slopes & trails (Photo: Politecnico di Torino)



### 3.3 PP04 – Ala di Stura & Balme (IT)

#### 3.3.1 Promoting sustainable mobility

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<b>Objectives</b>	Supporting transition in the valley towards better management of tourist inflow, particularly at the valley entrance and during events, and responding to the needs of tourists and hikers travelling to and from Turin.
<b>Description</b>	Inhabitants, second-home owners and local stakeholders have pointed out the need to increase local public transportation and organize mobility to the upper valley, where many day-trippers flock in the summer. Currently, public transportation services are lacking and fragmented. With a combination of local and wide-area planning, a review of the local public transport system is being initiated, which includes coordinating rail and road transport, revising the timetables and the way services are managed, and experimenting with alternative transport systems. The action will be operative at the end of 2025 and beginning of 2026.
<b>Timeframe</b>	Autumn 2025 – autumn 2026
<b>Costs</b>	No funds from the BeyondSnow project



*Figure 3: Parking in the upper valley (Photo: Legambiente Piemonte)*

### 3.3.2 Support for the reactivation and requalification of tourism hospitality

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<b>Objectives</b>	Promoting the introduction of short-term rentals of second homes on the market, converting unused homes into “tourism capital”, diversifying the accommodation options, and extending the tourism season.
<b>Description</b>	<p>The PWA is characterized by the presence of numerous second homes, also in relation to the small number of permanent inhabitants. In general, these are homes used for short or very short periods. This condition can negatively affect the economy and the liveability of the destination. Municipal administrations believe it is important to capitalize on underused real estate capital.</p> <p>The pilot action includes carrying out quantitative and qualitative analysis of the second home offer, raising awareness among property owners and guiding them in properties development, promotion and market placement.</p>
<b>Timeframe</b>	September 2025
<b>Costs</b>	13.500 €

### 3.3.3 Participatory approach for tourism development

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**Objectives** Creating a cooperation network, shared methods for the dissemination of the offer and tools designed to suit tourists.

**Description** The analysis of territorial resources and consultations with local stakeholders have highlighted the fragmentation and lack of tourist communication, both internally (exchanges between institutions and operators) and externally. This action aims to build an extensive and organized network of stakeholders that facilitates the collection and dissemination of tourist information and territorial initiatives, ensuring their integration with the local community and coordinated promotion of the area. A series of meetings will be planned and carried out with stakeholders (administrators, tourist operators, representatives of organizations and associations, managers of already active social channels) and a demonstration outing.

**Timeframe** September 2025

**Costs** 12,800 €

### 3.4 PP05 – Pradibosco (IT)

#### 3.4.1 Bike rest and charging station

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**Objectives** Based on the need to destagionalize the tourism flows in the area and include Val Pesarina into the larger circuit of the bike pathway of the whole region, the objective is to create a new service point that could reinforce the regional bike pathways and connect the whole territory. Besides, it enhances green and sustainable tourism without the use of snow during low tourism seasons.

**Description** The biking stations would be positioned at the two both ends of the valley. In particular, one will be positioned in the area of Pradibosco where the ski implant belonging to the Community of Carnia is located. This would be an extent of the bike path network already present in the other municipalities of Carnia, enlarging the availability of bike trails. In addition, the stations would be a resting point furnished with tables and chairs, available water, and charging stations for electric bikes. The charging stations would be fuelled by solar panels making them completely independent and sufficient. This intervention would be completely sustainable and could be an example of investment in green sustainable tourism also for other locations in Carnia that are connected to bike trails.

The project would be created in a public space belonging to the local administration and managed by the municipality; the funding of the Beyond Snow project would fund the wooden/recycled plastic structures, the solar panels, and the charging stations. Also, the local administration is going to be an active part of the pilot action implementation, providing a space where the two stations can be installed and eventually sharing costs. This will be a pilot intervention for the Carnia region that could be replicated also in other municipalities.

**Timeframe** September 2025

**Costs** 25,000 €

### 3.5 PP06 – Werfenweng (AT)

#### 3.5.1 Development of a new tourism product

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**Objectives** (1) Expansion of the tourism offer in the pilot region, (2) Making the low season more attractive and focusing on year-round tourism, (3) Raising awareness of resilience and climate change in a tourism region, and (4) Promoting cooperation between regions and partners.

**Description** In Werfenweng, an innovative programme is being developed under the title "BeyondSnow Water Adventure World" (working title). Guided hikes are planned, during which sights and natural wonders in Werfenweng and Bischofshofen can be discovered on the theme of water and various combinations and programmes are possible. The offer is intended for the target group of nature-loving tourists, families and locals in order to raise awareness of climate change and the sustainable use of natural resources. The flexible concept and the cross-cutting theme of water make it possible to offer various combinations. The offer is intended to provide a new, unique opportunity to experience the region in a sustainable way. During the tour, information on the BeyondSnow topics is provided in an interesting way, and methods of education for sustainable development are used. Attention will be paid on reducing emissions and promoting sustainable mobility. The long-distance train station and the use of the shuttle are ideal prerequisites for avoiding motorised private transport.

Stations and themes: Gainfeld waterfall, Pongowe castle ruins, Paul-Außerleitner-Schanze (famous ski jumps), Werfenweng ski resort, Kneipp or (ice) bathing in the Wengsee bathing lake.

**Timeframe** May-June 2025

**Costs** 10,000 €





Figure 4: Wengsee bathing lake in Werfenweng (Photo: Werfenweng tourist board)



Figure 5: Wengsee bathing lake in Werfenweng (Photo: Werfenweng tourist board)

## 3.6 PP07 – Bohinj (SI)

### 3.6.1 Study Visit on the Development of Year-Round Tourism

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**Objectives** Providing first-hand insights to key tourism stakeholders regarding successful solutions and innovative approaches in tourism. Key Benefits: Hands-on Learning, Direct Contact with Experts, Networking and Collaboration, New Ideas for Local Development.

**Description** The Development Agency for Upper Gorenjska (RAGOR) has organized a two-day professional study visit to the Saalbach-Hinterglemm-Leogang region in Austria. A group of key tourism stakeholders from the private and public sectors explored sustainable approaches to ski resort and tourism infrastructure management.

Participants visited the Leogang ski resort, where they learned about its ski slopes, lift systems, and slope maintenance strategies. Discussions focused on adapting to climate change and challenges related to snow shortages. Accommodation was provided at a sustainably operated hotel known for its eco-certifications. The hotel owner provided insights into eco-tourism and sustainable business management.

Afterwards, participants attended a meeting with representatives of the local tourism organization, who presented sustainability measures and climate adaptation strategies in tourism. The digital tool (RDMDT), developed within the project, was also presented to stakeholders, who were also able to generate a customized report with key insights to safeguard the future of the destination.

This study visit is a first step toward revitalizing the Kobla area in Slovenia, with the goal of developing an outdoor centre for adventure sports enthusiasts, particularly mountain bikers.

**Timeframe** March 2025

**Costs** 4,500 €



### 3.6.2 Tourism Development Concept for a Year-Round Outdoor Center

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**Objectives** Establishing the foundation for the comprehensive development of the outdoor center, serving as a model for sustainable tourism, supporting the local economy, and offering a diverse range of sports and educational activities throughout the year. The development concept addresses the following disciplines: mountaineering and ski touring, mountain biking and other suitable forms of activity.

**Description** The key guidelines for developing the concept of the outdoor center encompass several aspects, including infrastructure, sustainability, collaboration with the local community, economic development, and the advancement of sports and educational activities.

Guidelines for the framework:

- Needs and Opportunities Analysis.
- Infrastructure Development for a diverse network of sports trails (hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing, mountaineering).
- Sustainable Tourism.
- Local Community Involvement.
- Economic Development and a Sustainable Business Model.
- Technical and Environmental Feasibility.

**Timeframe** June 2025

**Costs** 12,000 €

## 3.7 PP09 – Großer Arber (DE)

### 3.7.1 Content Production: Photo and Video Shooting

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**Objectives** (1) Showcasing the diverse winter sports opportunities on the snow, such as Alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and winter hiking, sledding, ski touring. (2) Presenting the region as an attractive winter sports destination, even in less favourable snow conditions (little or no snow, rain, fog): winter sports activities despite a lack of snow, additional leisure activities without snow. (3) Conveying the winter atmosphere beyond sports activities, both in good and poor snow conditions, such as: mountain hut experiences, wellness, events, cultural highlights, outdoor health-promoting activities.

**Description** Content production: 100 photos and 10 video sequences.

Visual Language: The joy of being outdoors – winter sports are diverse and appealing, even on cloudy days or without a snow-covered landscape!

Location: Winter sports region around the Großer Arber.

Project Workflow: development of concept, storyline, list of key motifs and photo spots; organisation of the photo and video shoots, content delivery.

The stakeholders involved in the BeyondSnow project in the PWA Großer Arber will be provided with the rights to use the content produced (print, websites, social media, etc.).

**Timeframe** January 2024 to March 2025

**Costs** 9,000 €



Figure 6: Winter sports activities in Großer Arber - Marco Felgenhauer – Woidlife Photography

## 3.8 PP10 – Métabief (F)

### 3.8.1 Reducing ski slope perimeter

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**Objectives** Reducing expenses and improving performance.

**Description** Considering the necessary reduction in costs linked to snow activity, in light of the impacts of climate change, and the need for agility in the organization of the Métabief resort, it was decided, from the summer of 2024, to initiate a project to reduce the perimeter of the alpine ski area.

In order to achieve the cost reduction target of 500 000 €/year, the entire Métabief resort team was involved in the process to:

- Identify the criteria to compare the three areas of the ski area based on the following items (regarding the last 5 years):
  - Human resources, energy, snow production costs, equipment maintenance, loans, etc.
  - Commercial revenue on average
  - Attendance: skier days on average per season
  - Opening days a year
  - Cumulative snowfall over the last 10 years
- Create 5 operating scenarios based on the data collected:
  - From the lowest scenario, which doesn't touch the perimeter, to the highest scenario, which closes 30% of the ski slopes perimeter

Following discussions and preparations by teams and elected officials, the Métabief resort assembly decided on 12 September 2024 to adopt the high scenario by suspending activity in the *Piquemiette* sector. This sector includes three chairlifts, two ski lifts, and 14 km of ski slopes.

**Timeframe** September 2024

**Costs** No funds from the BeyondSnow project



### 3.8.2 Design of a new organization of spaces at the Morond Summit, including a snack bar

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**Objectives** Developing new activities to ultimately become a mountain resort. The initial goal is to develop activities and new economic models at the resort's summit, the Morond summit, in order to offer a new service to guests wishing to relax at the summit while admiring the alpine panorama.

**Description** In accordance with regulations and municipal wishes, the project aims to develop the upper part of the resort with various uses: contemplation, leisure, and dining, connecting the summit of Morond to the summit of Mont d'Or via a structured trail.

The project will prioritize the establishment of a snack bar offering simple and accessible dining options year-round.

**Timeframe** Spring 2025

**Costs** 12,000 €



Figure 7: Hikers in Métabief (Photo: Ben Becker)

### 3.8.3 Outside escape game – Explore Game™

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**Objectives** Increasing customer engagement and extending the duration of their visits.

**Description** The Outside Escape Game will be developed as a new 4 seasons product, and introduced at the bottom of the mountain station, complementing the rail sled. It is a digital product where every customer, adult or child, can wander around the resort and discover in a fun way the history and legends of the Métabief resort.

Every customer has to pay for participation and received a gift at the end.

Process:

- Creation of children and adult scenarios with a partner company (Explore Games).
- Prepare the furniture on the pathway with technical service of Métabief mountain resort.
- Structure the course and ensure its promotion.

**Timeframe** July 2025

**Costs** 65,000 €



Figure 8: Abby et le trésor perdu du Mont d'Or

### 3.9 PP11 – Sattel-Hochstuckli (CH)

#### 3.9.1 A new tourism strategy for the Destination

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**Objectives** Strengthening the climate resilience and long-term viability of the Sattel-Hochstuckli tourism destination

**Description** After the Board of Directors of Sattel-Hochstuckli AG (SHAG) decided to close two of the three T-bar lifts for economic reasons, the municipality of Sattel mandated SAB, in the framework of BeyondSnow, to update the tourism strategy and to develop an action plan with 22 measures to increase the resilience towards climate change.

The new strategy has been approved by the municipal council can be downloaded under [https://www.sattel.ch/\\_docn/5402593/Sattel\\_Tourismusleitbild-2023\\_mit\\_Anhang.pdf](https://www.sattel.ch/_docn/5402593/Sattel_Tourismusleitbild-2023_mit_Anhang.pdf).

Measures are being implemented according to priorities by different actors. The most important actor is the Sattel-Hochstuckli, the company responsible for the gondola and ski lift as well as the municipality of Sattel.

The new tourism strategy has been approved by the municipal council in November 2024. It is now valid for the next 10 years and the measures included are now being implemented according to priorities.

**Timeframe** November 2024

**Costs** 9,500 €





Figure 9: Sattel-Hochstuckli (Photo Thomas Egger)

### 3.9.2 Trail running as a diversification of the destination's tourism offer

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**Objectives** Diversifying the destination's current tourism offering.

**Description** The destination got inspired by the partner PWA Métabief in the field of ultra trail running and wants to promote a new activity. Currently, 3 professional trail runners are tracking and describing potential trails in the Sattel-Hochstuckli area. This data will be evaluated and integrated into the <https://trail-stations.com/> website.

As a first initiative, together with trail station a “peak challenge” will be launched beginning of June 2025. This involves the installation of a particular stone with a QR code on the top of the Hochstuckli peak. For 2 weeks, trail runners will be invited to reach the peak, scan the code, and register their participation in the challenge. The destination will provide different awards to participants.

The “peak challenge” will help to mobilise people interested in ultra trail running and make the destination more attractive in a field of activity that becomes increasingly popular in Switzerland. Furthermore, it is also a test for further potential ultra trail running events.

**Timeframe** April to June 2025

**Costs** 5,500 €

### 3.10 PP12 – Balderschwang (DE)

#### 3.10.1 An alternative image of winter in Balderschwang, with or without snow

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**Objectives** Showing that winter is attractive with or without snow.

**Description** Classic images in Alpine winter tourism show crisp white ski slopes, blue skies and people doing snow-based winter activities. These images evoke an expectation which are often no longer fulfilled with a decreasing snow coverage and leave guests frustrated at their holiday destination. Balderschwang used the same kind of images for their communication material and social media activities. To meet the objective “Balderschwang’s winter is attractive with or without snow” it became clear, that a realistic image of winter in Balderschwang needs to be communicated. They can of course still show the snow-based activities in times when those are possible. But they should be able to show professional images of a realistic winter with little or no snow coverage.

A shooting was implemented during the winter season 2024/2025 together with the DMO Hörnerdörfer. Three locations in Balderschwang have been pre-selected with 4-5 motifs each. For the PWA it was important, that the photos would contain a family, as nature-based family holiday is a central message in their transition strategy.

**Timeframe** February to April 2025

**Costs** 2,000 €

### 3.10.2 Generation project: New summit cross at Siplinger Kopf

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**Objectives** Building a united vision and strong cooperation.

**Description** Balderschwang's co-design laboratory consisted of two groups, one group of classic tourism stakeholders and one group of young people under 30. Goal was to strengthen the youth participation and involvement of the future generation in decision-making. Keeping up the exchange between the municipality and young people as well as providing support and a small budget for youth projects is part of Balderschwang's transition strategy.

One idea, initiated and supported by Radio Horeb staff, was a new summit cross for the Siplinger Kopf as a generation project. Funds have been collected; the wood was provided by a local SME, and the cross was built by children and young people. On 20.10.2024 a group of young people carried the cross up to the Siplinger Kopf summit.

**Timeframe** Summer 2024

**Costs** 2,000 € (No funds from BeyondSnow project)





*Figure 10: Winter panorama of Balderschwang*

### 3.10.3 Guided nature tours by nature park Nagelfluhkette about landscape without snow

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**Objectives** Showing that winter is attractive with or without snow.

**Description** Balderschwang is part of the nature park Nagelfluhkette. A cross-border association of 15 municipalities in Bavaria and Vorarlberg. The park is specialized in visitor management and guided nature tours. To improve offers for the winter season, independent from snow coverage or other climatic conditions, a better cooperation with the nature park is part of Balderschwang's transition strategy.

As part of the BeyondSnow project, a guided tour has been developed in cooperation with a ranger. The tour is called "Schnee von Morgen" (Snow of tomorrow) and introduces guests in the changing winter conditions in the valley. It explains how nature adapts to changing snow conditions and how some species are more adaptive and resilient than others. The goal of the tour is to allow a unique nature experience and at the same time awareness raising among guests and locals.

**Timeframe** First tour: March 2025

The nature park will regularly offer it as part of their touring program starting in the winter season 2025/2026.

**Costs** Funds for development of tour program tbd with nature park



Figure 11: Invitation to a guided tour in the park

### 3.10.4 Acquiring funds for project funding

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**Objectives** Placing Balderschwang as a year-round destination

**Description** Two mayor investments in Balderschwang's transition strategy are (1) The maintenance of hiking trails without snow which would require the purchase of new vehicles; (2) A new biking trail connecting Balderschwang and Hittisau. Both projects need external sources for funding. AidA supports Balderschwang with acquiring funding.

For the purchase of vehicles, the Bavarian RÖFE funding has been identified as suitable source as it includes investments in tourism infrastructure. For the biking trail, Hittisau and Balderschwang would apply for a small project at Euregio via salina in June 2025 to start collaboration with planning of the route and prepare an implementation project under Interreg A Bavaria-Austria.

**Timeframe** First half of 2025 for project applications.

**Costs** Staff costs by AidA and Balderschwang.



## 4 Final remarks

Even though all project partners are located in the Alpine region, they work in very different institutional, environmental, and social settings. Each PWA's legal role and responsibilities influence how they operate, based on their specific duties, powers, and goals. Because of this, the pilot actions carried out in each area reflect a wide variety of natural landscapes, economic situations, community needs, professional skills, cultural backgrounds, and infrastructure.

Despite these differences, all partners shared a common goal: to make the best use of available or potential resources to improve existing services or create new ones. The pilot actions acted as a testing ground for new ideas, aiming to strengthen resilience, support sustainable development, and help communities adapt to changing environmental and social conditions.

Several strategic themes emerged from the pilot phase:

- Many actions focused on reorganizing or creating services for residents and tourists, developed through co-design workshops that encouraged collaboration among local stakeholders.
- Strengthening local networks was also key: partners worked to build shared strategies, involve young people, exchange good practices, and better coordinate local events.
- Territorial care was another priority, with efforts to maintain trails and cycling routes, install signage, and manage pastures.
- The pilots promoted tourism diversification through activities like cycle tourism, guided nature and cultural tours, and food experiences rooted in local traditions.
- New recreational and sports offerings (such as escape games, outdoor centers, and trail running events) helped expand the year-round appeal of the destinations.
- Sustainability was also addressed through initiatives supporting eco-friendly mobility and the reuse of underutilized buildings for tourism.
- Finally, communication campaigns using photos and videos helped shift the image of mountain destinations, showing their value beyond snow-based tourism and promoting them as attractive in all seasons.

However, the implementation process was not without challenges. One major objective was to reposition the destinations as attractive even during snow-scarce winters and to encourage off-season tourism in spring and autumn. Yet, aligning these goals with local expectations proved difficult. Many stakeholders have not fully acknowledged the implications of climate change on winter tourism, making communication and awareness-raising as critical as operational planning.

Stakeholder engagement was another complex aspect. The need to coordinate between local communities and project partners often required multi-level consultation processes, which were not always easy to manage. Additionally, some pilot actions faced delays due to administrative constraints, such as public procurement procedures and seasonal planning conflicts. These factors limited the timely implementation of certain initiatives.

Looking ahead, the pilot actions have laid a strong foundation for future development. The insights gained will feed into the upcoming “Capitalisation Report for the post-project sustainability of the pilot implementations” (D.2.3.1), which will guide the post-project sustainability of the implemented measures. There is growing recognition among partners that the themes addressed will become increasingly relevant. Initial discussions are already underway to explore follow-up initiatives that build on the project’s achievements.

The ultimate goal is to make the newly developed services and strategies permanent, ensuring that the momentum generated by the pilot actions continues beyond the project’s formal conclusion. Achieving this will require ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, further investment, and a shared commitment to long-term adaptation and innovation.

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TRANSITIONS

BeyondSnow is an Interreg - Alpine Space project co-funded by the European Union. It aims at decreasing the snow-dependency of Alpine Space snow tourism destinations, strengthen their resilience to climate change and retain/increase the viability for residents and their attractiveness for tourists.