



**Project Acronym: Cradle-Alp**

**Project number: ASP0100003**

## **D.3.4.2**

# **Uptake of proposal of financial instruments "synchronization"**

WP n°:	<b>3</b>
Task n°:	<b>A3.4</b>
Author(s):	<b>PP05 Biz-up, Business Upper Austria – OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH</b>
Contributors:	<b>All project partners</b>
Dissemination level:	<b>PU</b>
Revision:	<b>FINAL</b>
Due Date:	<b>31.10.2025</b>
Date of submission:	<b>31.10.2025</b>

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

## Executive Summary

This deliverable documents the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Board meeting and results referring to dialogues with policy makers, funding authorities and relevant stakeholders on financial funds' synchronization, experiences and lessons learned and future opportunities.

The meeting held in frame of Cradle-ALP aimed at validation of pilot actions implemented (D.3.1.1) and proposals of funds synchronization, whereby the latter is referred to in this document (D.3.4.2).

Building upon prior initiatives such as ARDIA-NET and INNOBIOVC, participants explored the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of harmonizing existing funding programs rather than creating new financial instruments.

Project partners organized local policy dialogues (reported in D.3.2.2) focusing amongst others on possibilities, benefits and obstacles of funds synchronization. First findings and recommendations from the local policy dialogues were discussed as well in the AB meeting and taken into account in the validation of synchronized funding schemes and its future viability.

Cradle-ALP Advisory Board meetings – a transregional exchange format – provided several benefits. AB members gained insights to Cradle-ALP implementation and outcome, shared and learned on regional point of views and strengthened network for cooperation and opportunities for synchronization of regional funding programs.

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

---

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction to the Cradle-Alp project.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Objective and scope .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Cradle-ALP Advisory Board Meeting.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Summary - Synchronization of funds and funding opportunities.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Summary – 2nd AB-Member discussion.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Summary - Key points and insights on Local political dialogues.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusions .....</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>Annex: Presentation prepared for AB-Meeting .....</b>	<b>12</b>

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

## 1 Introduction to the Cradle-Alp project

Cradle-ALP aims for mainstreaming cradle to cradle (C2C) approaches, circular design and circular substitutions (from the alpine region) for linear products in industrial processes, in different industrial sectors. The Alpine Space has many natural resources and the technologies to substitute fossil raw materials and toxic substances from production with circular and environmentally friendly alternatives. This should lead to the fact that materials and products can be led back into a healthy cycle after use. The focus of this project shall be on the substitution of chemical and fossil based/unsustainable materials with more circular, sustainable and bio-degradable ones.

First, the partners build a broad awareness and understanding in the public, the relevant industries as well as among stakeholders from policy and innovation intermediaries, for the opportunities, barriers and mechanisms of the transformation of industrial products towards higher circularity by means of C2C approaches, circular design and circular substitutions. Business support providers shall be trained to accompany the transformation of businesses along more circular value chains.

In a second step, the partners explore in details and test opportunities for implementing C2C approaches, circular design and circular substitutions along specific value chains in the Chemistry & Material, Composites, Packaging, Textiles, Wood & Furniture sectors supported by digital technologies. Building on a thorough multidimensional (technology, policy, economy, etc.) roadmapping exercise, transnational groupings of stakeholders – including businesses – will be installed, with the aim to transfer the C2C roadmaps into industrial practice along exemplary value chains.

Finally, the partners work towards ensuring a transnational policy convergence towards transnational strategies in the priority sectors of the project and initiate common cross border funding instruments for the industrial C2C transformation.

## 2 Objective and scope

The objective and scope of this deliverable is to document the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Board meeting (Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025) and to conclude insights as well as point of views gained on the future applicability of synchronization of regional funding programs.

Furthermore, seven local policy dialogues performed in frame of Cradle-ALP gave insights into the present opportunities as well as barriers and obstacles for synchronizing funds respectively establishing synchronized funding schemes in the partner regions. Key points and insights relating to synchronizing funding schemes in the future are included and considered in the conclusions as well.

When talking about funds synchronization for development of a common cross-border funding instrument aiming at fostering cradle to cradle and circular transformative activities in the Alpine Space the following needs to be mentioned **for a common understanding**:

- a) **Funds synchronization based on Innovation Express Scheme as developed in Ardia-Net and INNOBIOVC projects means:**
  - Funding of transregional cooperation by using existing national/regional/local funding programs

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

- **Regions participate to Innovation Express with their own, existing national/regional/local funding programs**
- b) **This scheme offers the following advantages:**
  - **No** new funding programs have to be established!
  - **No** new legal frameworks have to be developed!
  - **No** cross-regional transfer of funds!
- c) **Participating regions remain**
  - in full control of their administrative procedures
  - financial management of the call as well as
  - and the decision-making process
- d) **Applicants are supported**
  - according to the funding and eligibility rules of the funding program of the applicant’s regions

## 3 2<sup>nd</sup> Cradle-ALP Advisory Board Meeting

- **Date:** Sept. 29th, 2025, online, jointly organized by CCIAAPD-Padova Chamber of Commerce Industry Crafts and Agriculture and Business Upper Austria – Upper Austrian Business Agency Ltd.
- **Participants:**

Eight AB-members sourcing from regional governmental agency, federal ministry, state ministry, economic development office, funding authority, R&D institution, cluster advisory board, EIT Climate-KIC participated in the meeting as well as Cradle-ALP project partners.
- **Aim & agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AB meeting:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Advisory Board meeting aimed at validation of pilot actions implemented (D.3.1.1) and proposals of funds synchronization, whereby the latter is referred to in this document (D.3.4.2).

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”



Alpine Space

Cradle-ALP

## Cradle-ALP Project

Cradle to cradle, circular design and circular substitutions for linear products in industrial manufacturing processes in the Alpine Space

## Advisory Board meeting

**September, 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, 09:00 – 10:30**

Online: Zoom Platform <https://conference-web-it.zoom.us/j/94730180184?pwd=5evsHAKMZPoxOseZ0LZDazcakw9ibF.1>

ID meeting: 947 3018 0184

Access code: 191167

08:45 – 09:00	Connecting to the platform	
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome to the participants and introduction to the agenda	CCIAAPD - Padova Chamber of Commerce Industry Crafts and Agriculture, IT
09:10 – 09:25	Presentation of the overall local and transregional activities/matching events	CCB – Chemistry-Cluster Bavaria
09:25 – 09:40	Implementation of the toolkit – use cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Concerning the Quick-Scan</li><li>- Concerning the LCA guidelines</li></ul>	CCIAAPD Biz-up
09:40– 10:10	Synchronization of funds and funding opportunities to promote SMEs' circularity processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Synchronization of funds – the experience of Switzerland</li><li>- Lesson learnt from the synchronization of Calls: lesson learnt</li></ul>	HEIA-FR – School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg, CH  Biz-up
10:10 – 10:25	Political Dialogues – first feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Baden Württemberg</li><li>- Bavaria</li><li>- Switzerland</li></ul>	TZ-HORB - Technology Center Horb a.N., DE CCB HEIA-FR
10:25 – 10:30	conclusions and end of the meeting	CCIAAPD

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

## 4 Summary - Synchronization of funds and funding opportunities

The main topic was the **synchronization of funds** to strengthen SME circularity and promote **trans-regional cooperation** using existing funding programs rather than establishing new ones (no new legal or financial frameworks required).

- **Three levels of synchronization were outlined**, developed and experienced in previous projects (ARDIA-NET, INNOBIOVC):
  1. **Cooperation between single projects:** Independent regional projects cooperating informally across borders.
  2. **Cross-regional cooperation project:** one joint project evaluated in a synchronized process but funded separately by each region.
  3. **Joint synchronized call for cross-regional cooperation projects:** a coordinated, topic-based call with a shared coordination office (e.g., the *Innovation Express* calls in 2021 and 2024) in addition to level 2: One joint project evaluated in a synchronized process but funded separately by each region.

Lessons learned from previous Innovation Express Calls were provided as further input for the subsequent discussion.

### PROS

- ✓ Less efforts for mutual preparation process needed because of no changes in existing programs
- ✓ Only requires agreement on a common duration and topic of the call (e.g.: Innovation Express 2024 with Bioeconomy as an overarching topic and several relevant subtopics for specific projects)
- ✓ Slight adaptation of the regional call text
- ✓ Virtual coordination office helping participating regions to reduce the coordination efforts
- ✓ Enabling new RDI partnership between partners that have not previously collaborated before

### CONS

- External factors pose difficult challenges (e.g. budget cuts, etc.)
- Duration of call always too short for finding partners and preparing applications
- Increased support of potential applicants needed and adjustment between funding bodies
- Large effort for a call with less regional participant
- Long and varying approval periods
- Different funding amounts results in very different levels of involvement of project partners

- **Cradle-ALP approach**

The proposal is to approach transregional cooperation support and transregional/national fund synchronization the other way around:

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

First elaboration services assisting business in the field of circularity; second facilitating matchmaking and establishing a Cradle-ALP – Circular Alpine Space Community for bottom-up created project ideas; then trigger transborder cooperation with the support of public funds considering the experiences of project partners during Cradle-ALP implementation.

Local policy dialogues have been implemented by the Cradle-ALP partners for identifying current and future funding opportunities and strategies.

- **Swiss approach – Synchronized call HES-SO//FR – “Sustainability” - 2025**

Project partner HEIA-FR (Canton Fribourg) established a **joint call** under the CRADLE-ALP framework, funded through synchronized internal R&D budgets (total up to CHF 650,000). It is a modified third level of synchronization within Switzerland across four disciplines: engineering, management, social work, and nursing sciences.

The University of Applied Sciences of Fribourg synchronized within the western region but also across different thematic areas. They match funds from different universities. The projects should be a joint effort of 4 universities and enable establishment of sustainable R&D facilitating partners with relevant entities at regional, national or international level.

Even if the call is applied only at national level (Switzerland) the projects are open to forming **international cooperation** (Level 1–2 synchronization) in related fields (e.g., biotechnology, bio-based materials).

This model demonstrated the feasibility of synchronization within institutional networks in Switzerland and opened pathways for future international cooperation, particularly in biotechnology and circular economy fields.

- **Italian approach (Padua Chamber of Commerce)**

Project partner Padua Chamber of Commerce integrated CRADLE-ALP results into a funding call supporting the twin transition, allowing local companies to collaborate with European suppliers and operationalizing matchmaking outcomes of Cradle-ALP.

## 5 Summary – 2nd AB-Member discussion

By the time of the AB-member meeting the regional policy dialogues in **Baden-Württemberg**, **Bavaria**, and **Switzerland** had taken place and revealed differing levels of readiness and skepticism regarding synchronization. The key findings from these policy dialogues are.

- **Baden-Württemberg:** Mentioned that cross-regional funding has been unsuccessful and emphasized early engagement of regional stakeholders in program design, more flexibility in program planning and implementation, prioritization of larger, long-term projects to ensure sustainability and promotion of competition for best ideas.
- **Bavaria:** Highlighted administrative and legal complexities in cross-border synchronization. Suggested potential in technology-neutral, company-level funding schemes and bottom-up cooperation. Individual applications usually can involve a

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

cooperation partner via a subcontract, e.g., as a service provider or for contract research. This is considered easier and more direct than synchronizing funding programs.

- **Switzerland:** Policy discussions supported the creation of a **Competence Center** for bio-based feedstock valorization and the launch of a synchronized R&D call for sustainability across universities.

## The subsequent AB-Member discussion showed that

- there is skepticism about synchronization due to administrative differences which makes coordination complex and resource-intensive
- it is expected to be easier between regions with similar governance (e.g., Austria–Bavaria).
- Ministries and agencies lack autonomy to synchronize without political alignment.
- suggested synchronization might work better in **technology-neutral programs** or **company-level projects** rather than large consortia.
- Successful bottom-up cooperation with individual funding support is appreciated (e.g. Bavaria) and examples, such as an Austrian company established operations in Bavaria, were highlighted.

## 6 Summary - Key points and insights on Local political dialogues

Through the local policy dialogues, it can be said that across the regions, seven main insights could be identified and summarized as follows.

- **Designing financial instruments for circular economy:**
  - Regions like Slovenia and Bavaria are preparing funding instruments to support SMEs in circular transition.
  - Slovenian Regional Development Fund (SRDF) is using Cradle-ALP materials and sectoral roadmaps to inform instrument design.
- **Improving synchronization of funding programs:**
  - Synchronization is complex due to administrative differences.
  - Attempts at synchronized funding calls, including those that were implemented, did not yield the desired results (DE & AT).
  - Technology-neutral programs and project-level coordination (e.g., subcontracting) are more feasible.
  - Early stakeholder involvement and long lead times are essential.
- **Enhancing program flexibility:**
  - Programs should address cross-cutting themes like AI, digitalization and sustainability.
  - Flexibility is needed during both design and implementation phases of projects.
- **Strategic use of existing networks:**
  - Austria recommends using M-ERA.NET for managing synchronized calls.
  - Informal coordination between regional and national levels helps avoid redundancy.
- **Supporting transregional collaboration:**

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

- Matchmaking tools, call calendars, and open thematic programs facilitate SME participation.
- International partnerships must demonstrate added value due to funding constraints.
- **Sector-specific roadmaps and competence centers:**
  - Detailed roadmaps for five sectors provide actionable steps.
  - Roadmaps and piloting experiences could contribute to future of S3 (Veneto Region 2026).
  - Fribourg is establishing a Competence Center for bio-based feedstock valorisation and a joint synchronized R&D call.
- **Project design recommendations:**
  - Projects should be fewer but larger in scope for sustainable outcomes.
  - Regional competition should be encouraged to promote innovation and efficiency.

The discussions reflect a **shared commitment to advancing the circular economy through strategic funding and collaboration**. Despite challenges in synchronizing funding programs due to administrative and political complexities, regions see several aspects through which they can move forward aside from the initially suggested synchronized funding schemes and or take up a modified version respectively approach. Examples for other approaches are leveraging existing EU frameworks, designing flexible, inclusive funding instruments tailored to regional strengths, **promoting transregional cooperation through subcontracting and matchmaking**, enabling transborder partnerships on innovation for the benefit of SMEs located in the funding region, as well as aligning national and regional priorities with EU strategies and emerging legislative trends.

The insights on piloting with SMEs and shared materials, especially roadmaps and financial instrument overviews, are expected to inform upcoming funding schemes (ERDF) and S3 strategies, marking a pivotal moment for coordinated circular transformation efforts.

## 7 Conclusions

Previous Innovation Express Calls (2021, 2024) demonstrated that while synchronization strengthens cooperation, the process is time consuming and challenges persist, e.g. differing approval timelines, sudden regional budget changes and unequal funding levels.

### Lessons Learned from Innovation Express Calls

- **Advantages:** Minimal changes to existing programs, virtual coordination offices reduce efforts, enable new RDI partnerships.
- **Challenges:** Short call durations hinder partner search and application preparation, external factors (e.g., budget cuts) impact success, uneven funding leads to unequal partner involvement.

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

Cradle-ALP approach suggests a bottom-up alternative which starts with business support and matchmaking, builds a community for circular project ideas and uses existing funding programs to trigger cooperation based on real needs and experiences.

**While full synchronization of funding programs remains administratively and politically challenging, alternative approaches - such as bottom-up cooperation, subcontracting, and flexible, inclusive funding instruments - offer promising paths forward. The shared commitment across regions to support circular economy transformation is evident, and the insights from Cradle-ALP and related initiatives are expected to shape future funding schemes.**

Key conclusions drawn from the discussions and experiences related to synchronizing funding instruments to support SME circularity and transregional cooperation:

1. **Synchronization of funds is achievable but administratively complex**
  - Administrative, legal, and timing mismatches remain major barriers.
  - Bottom-up and demand-driven approaches by SMEs and research institutions are more effective than top-down harmonization.
  - **Bottom-up approaches** are prioritized.
2. **Existing funding structures can support trans-regional cooperation if:**
  - Mechanisms are flexible for cross-border cooperation within existing programs
  - Coordination is limited to topic alignment and timing.
  - Evaluation processes are streamlined or mutually recognized.
3. **Three-level model provides adaptable frameworks:**
  - Level 1 (informal cooperation) is easiest and most realistic.
  - Level 3 (joint synchronized calls) offers higher impact but requires strong institutional commitment.
4. **Key success factors:**
  - Early involvement of regional and policy stakeholders.
  - Call durations long enough for mobilizing project ideas and consortia to take shape
  - Strong matchmaking mechanisms and advisory support for SMEs to create demand for synchronized funding opportunities
  - Virtual coordination structures to ease administrative burden and foster new partnerships

Building on CRADLE-ALP experiences, regions should continue policy dialogues to align funding strategies, particularly in circular economy, bioeconomy, and digital transformation. The findings also contribute valuable insights to EU-level initiatives.

## Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---

The local policy dialogues as well as the AB-Member discussions reveal **mixed readiness levels and national models showing viable synchronization paths.**

**Austria recommends leveraging existing EU frameworks as well as more on flexible, long-term, and bottom-up approaches rather than tightly coordinated calls. Bavaria favours promoting transregional cooperation through subcontracting. Baden-Württemberg asks for flexible, inclusive funding instruments tailored to regional strengths. Slovenia appreciates Cradle-ALP roadmaps and financial instrument overviews for redesigning funding instruments and Rhône-Alpes is interested in final reports.**

**National models of viable synchronization paths:**

**Swiss Model (HEIA-FR):**

- Synchronized R&D budgets of 4 Universities of Applied Sciences. The call promotes interdisciplinary collaboration in sustainability and circular economy themes.
- Open to international cooperation despite being nationally focused.

**Italian Model (Padua Chamber of Commerce):**

- Integrated Cradle-ALP results into local funding call supporting twin transitions.
- Funded local companies are allowed to collaborate with European suppliers
- Matchmaking outcomes of Cradle-ALP and European collaboration can be operationalized.
- This approach is rather similar to the Bavarian way, that means indirect eligibility of international subcontractors if innovative added value remains in Bavaria.

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

## Annex: Presentation prepared for AB-Meeting

Interreg  Co-funded by  
the European Union

Alpine Space

Cradle-ALP

# Synchronization of funds and funding opportunities to promote SMEs' circularity processes

Cradle-ALP Advisory Board meeting  
online | September, 29th 2025



"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

Interreg  Co-funded by  
the European Union

Alpine Space

Cradle-ALP

## Strengthen SMEs' circularity processes

- By enabling transregional cooperation of entrepreneurs and R&D institutions
  - **With existing regional/national funding programmes**
- &**
- Building on synchronized funding schemes elaborated and experienced in frame of **ARDIA-Net** and **INNOBIOVC** (e.g. Innovation Express Scheme)

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---



## Transregional funds synchronization in frame of Ardia-Net, INNOBIOVC and Cradle-ALP

- No new funding programmes have to be established!
- No new legal frameworks have to be developed!
- No cross-regional transfer of funds!

### **BUT**

- **Improving exploitation of the potential of existing regional/national funding programmes and strategies (S3)**
- **Through transregional cooperation of the Alpine space regions**

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



## Transregional funds synchronization in frame of Ardia-Net, INNOBIOVC and Cradle-ALP

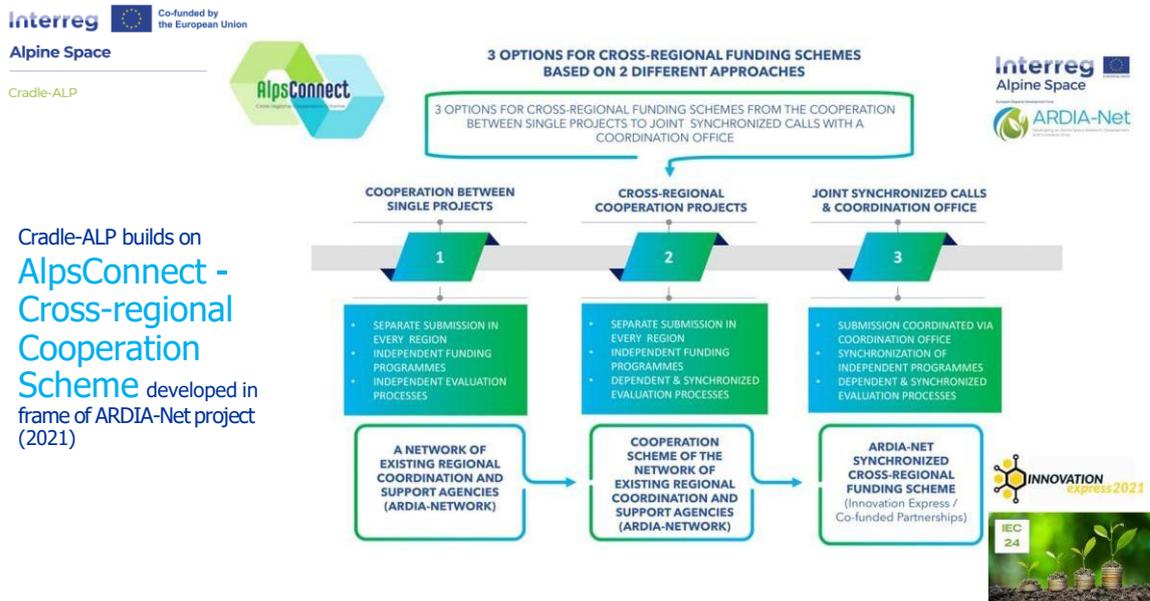
- No new funding programmes have to be established!
- No new legal frameworks have to be developed!
- No cross-regional transfer of funds!

### **BUT**

- **Improving exploitation of the potential of existing regional/national funding programmes and strategies (S3)**
- **Through transregional cooperation of the Alpine space regions**

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”



Cradle-ALP builds on **AlpsConnect - Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme** developed in frame of ARDIA-Net project (2021)

**Interreg Alpine Space**  
Cradle-ALP

## Experiences: Innovation Express Call (IEC) 2021 and 2024



- Because of no changes nor modification of existing programmes: less efforts for mutual preparation process needed
- Only agreement on a common duration of the call and on a specific more focused topic
- Slight adaptations of the regional call texts, e.g. at least one partner from the other participating regions
- Virtual coordination office helped the participating regions to reduce their coordination efforts
- Allowed new RDI partnerships between partners that had not previously collaborated before

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”



## Experiences: Innovation Express Call (IEC) 2021 + 2024



- External factors challenges (e.g. budget cuts, change of priorities...)
- Duration of call is always too short for finding partners & preparing applications
- Increased support of potential applicants needed and adjustment between funding bodies
- Much efforts for a CALL, with less regional participation and therefore few applications
- Long and very different approval periods
- Either longer call period needed or better without call window
- +/- different funding amounts result in very different levels of involvement of project partners

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



## Cradle-ALP approach: supporting the transregional cooperation & transnational fund synchronization

### **Approaching transregional cooperation support & transregional/national fund synchronization the other way round than before:**

1. First elaborating/piloting services assisting entrepreneurs on their way to circularity
2. Facilitating matchmaking (online/onsite) & establishing [Cradle-ALP – Circular Alpine Space community](#)
3. Trigger SMEs transborder cooperation with the support of public funds under consideration of the experiences made by project partners during Cradle-ALP implementation & along the history of synchronizing funding schemes (Ardia-Net, INNOBIOVC) and

### **Local policy dialogues of Cradle-ALP partners are currently in progress - discussing recent/future funds/strategies**

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---



## Synchronized call HES-SO//FR - “Sustainability” - 2025

### Context:

- Four Universities of Applied Sciences: School of management, School of social work, School of nursing sciences, School of Engineering and Architecture
- The proposed projects must have an impact in one or more of the following areas:
  - Human mobility
  - Natural and built environment
  - Environmental performance of industrial activities
  - Human health (including aging population)
- Projects should enable the establishment of a joint and sustainable R&D and/or service offering by the universities of applied sciences of the HES-SO//FR and facilitate partnerships with relevant entities at regional, national or international levels.

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



## Synchronized call HES-SO//FR - “Sustainability” - 2025

### Conditions:

Projects must meet the conditions of the HES-SO//FR R&D fund regulations and will be carried out in accordance with these regulations. Specifically for projects under this call, the following conditions apply:

- This call for projects is a synchronized effort among the 4 schools of HES-SO//FR. Therefore, submitted projects must involve HEG-FR, HEdS-FR, HETS-FR, and HEIA-FR (minimum 10% of the budget for each institution).
- The participation of third parties (regional, national, or international) in scientific, technical, commercial, and/or financial forms is strongly encouraged.
- Projects must include at least one of the following commercialization prospects:
  - Submission of a project or offer for a subsequent mandate
  - Provision of a tool/dataset/site/other deliverable that can be used by a defined community ( OpenData or similar modality)
  - Protectable intellectual property

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”



## Synchronized call HES-SO//FR - “Sustainability” - 2025

### Conditions:

- Project deliverables must include at least one proof of concept: a demo or lab system, a case study, or any other relevant element demonstrating the potential for practical field implementation at the end of the R&D project. This proof of concept may relate to a service, product, or tool in the broad sense, implemented in coordination with a company, association, or independent public entity.
- Deadline: projects considered in this call must be submitted before November 21, 2025 to the Directorate of HES-SO//FR.

### Formal aspects:

- Project start date before May 1, 2026 (decision communicated in January 2026)
- Maximum duration: 24 months
- Maximum contribution from the HES-SO//FR R&D fund: CHF 650,000 (this limit does not necessarily have to be reached)
- One project at most will be financed

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



## Political Dialogues - first feedbacks

**Cradle-ALP Advisory Board meeting**  
online | **September, 29th 2025**



"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---



## Local Policy Dialogue Baden Württemberg | Germany

- Host: TZ-Horb - Technology Center Horb a.N.
- Date: 29.08.2025
- Participating entities:
  - VDI/ VDE/ IT
  - Regional Economic Development Agency Northern Black Forest
  - Regional Economic Development Agency Freudenstadt
  - Regional Cluster Agency for Innovation and Transformation, Baden - Württemberg

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



## Local Policy Dialogue Baden Württemberg | Germany

- Key points from the discussion:
  - Cross-regional funding in Baden-Württemberg has been unsuccessful
  - Engage regional stakeholders early in program design
  - Focus on cross-cutting topics: digitalisation, AI, transformation, sustainability
  - Increase program flexibility in planning and implementation
  - Reduce duplicate structures; promote competition for best ideas
  - Prioritize fewer, larger projects with long-term impact

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”

---



## Local Policy Dialogue Bavaria | Germany

- **Host: CCB - Chemistry Cluster Bavaria | Date: 25.09.2025**

- **Participating entities:**

Alpine Space Contact Point, Projektträger Bayern (PtB), Bayern Innovativ, Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Chamber of Industry and Commerce Nuremberg, bifa Umweltinstitut

- **Key points from the discussion:**

Synchronization of funding programs is generally considered difficult because it involves a great deal of effort and the various regions/states have very different administrative structures.

Funding agencies such as the Project Management Agency Bavaria (PtB) cannot decide independently on synchronization, as it is only the contractor for the implementation of a funding program. The decision lies with the ministry.

Synchronization of funding programs could be conceivable for technology-neutral programs and funding of individual projects.

With regard to individual applications, it is usually possible to involve a cooperation partner via a subcontract, e.g., as a service provider or for contract research. This is considered easier and more direct than synchronizing funding programs.

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



## Local Policy Dialogue Bavaria | Germany

- **Current funding program in Bavaria addressing Circular Economy:**

Bavarian Transformation Fund: R&D funding (BayTP+), process and organizational innovation, investment funding for chemical or biochemical recycling plants for plastic waste

<https://www.stmwi.bayern.de/foerderungen/bayerischer-transformationsfonds/>

- **Suggestion of Ministry of Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection**

Public consultation on the Circular Economy Act, until November 6, 2025

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14812-Circular-Economy-Act\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14812-Circular-Economy-Act_en)

→ Statement from the perspective of CradleALP consortium

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."

# Cradle-ALP – Uptake of proposals of financial instruments “synchronization”



## Local Policy Dialogue Canton Fribourg | Switzerland

- Host: HEIA-FR - School of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg
- Date: Ongoing, since March 2025
- Participating entities: Fribourg Development Agency, Federal Office for Spatial Development, University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland, University of Fribourg, Fribourg School of Management, School of social work, School of nursing sciences
- Key points from the discussion:
  - Development of a brand new Competence Center at HEIA-FR, supporting an R&D approach focused on the bio-based feedstock valorisation pathways identified during the Cradle-ALP pilot phase.
  - Synchronized call for R&D projects in the field of sustainable transformation and circular transition with three other Universities of Applied Sciences (School of management, School of social work and School of nursing sciences) - Submission Deadline: November 21, 2025.

"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."



"This project is co-funded by the European Union through the Interreg Alpine Space programme."