

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION



# Status of Programme Implementation

Summer 2012



The programme is co-funded  
by the European Regional  
Development Fund

# Alpine Space Programme

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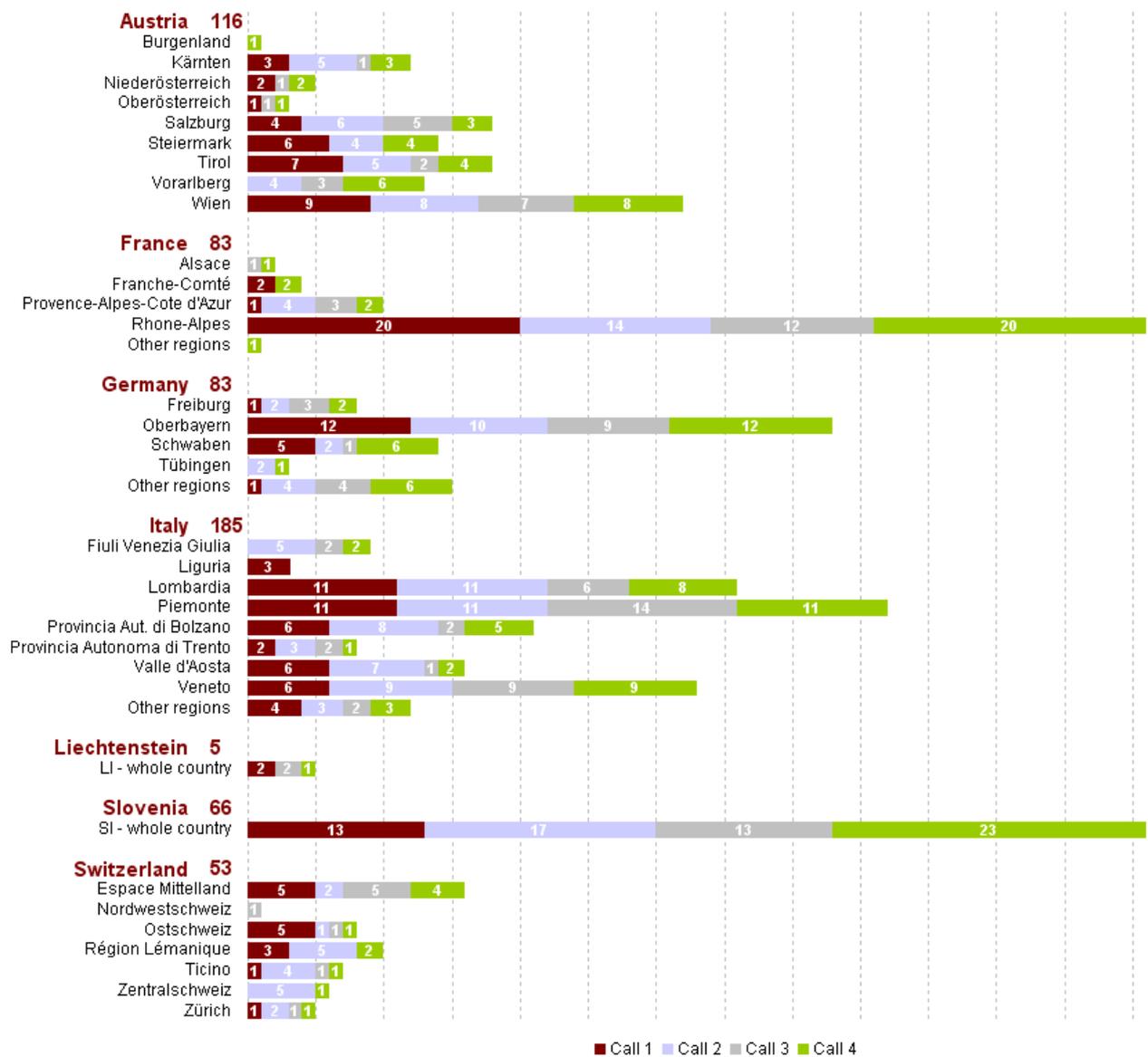
## → Participating countries

- Austria +
- France +
- Germany +
- Italy +
- Liechtenstein +
- Slovenia +
- Switzerland +

# PROGRAMME STATUS

The Alpine Space Programme (ASP) has gained considerable momentum in allocating available funds to high quality projects: **99% of the ASP ERDF funds were committed** after 4 calls for project proposals. Twelve additional projects were approved in 2012 leading to a total number of **47 funded projects**. The average ERDF grant to each project lies at 1.9 million Euro and an average of 12-13 partners are cooperating under each project. Overall, more than 590 project partners are involved in the approved projects.

## Location of Project Partners



Graph 1: Location of all project partners per call at NUTS II level

**The thematic programme objectives** are mostly reached for all defined themes after four calls. Out of the programme's 47 projects, 18 projects are addressing the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Alpine Space, 14 projects are dealing with accessibility and connectivity in the region and another 15 projects work in the field of environment and risk prevention.

	 <b>Priority 1 Competitiveness and Attractiveness</b>	 <b>Priority 2 Accessibility and Connectivity</b>	 <b>Priority 3 Environment and Risk Prevention</b>
<b>Call 1</b>	AlpEnergy ALPS Bio Cluster CAPACities ClimAlpTour INNOCITÉ	ACCESS CO2-NeuTrAlp	AdaptAlp Alp-Water- Scarce CLISP ECONNECT PermaNET
<b>Call 2</b>	AlpHouse COMUNIS DEMOCHANGE ENERBUILD	ALIAS AlpCheck 2 iMONiTRAF! PARAMount TRANSITECTS	ALP FFIRS MANFRED SHARE SILMAS
<b>Call 3</b>	ALPlastics Alps 4 EU CCAAlps OPEN-ALPS	MORECO NEWFOR POLY5 TranSAFE-Alp	ALPSTAR C3-Alps
<b>Call 4</b>	CABEE NATHCARE AlpBC FIDIAS RURBANCE	AlpStore AlpInfoNet PUMAS	GeoMol SedAlp recharge.green SEAP_Alps

The 12 call 4 projects have only been recently approved in June 2012 and will over the next years take a special role in guiding the **transition phase** between the 'old' and a 'new' programme. Based on these future-looking topics, the vast majority of the newly approved projects show a clear link to the EU 2020 strategy:

**Innovative Measures** – Smart growth is being promoted in fields such as financial instruments to support the private and public sectors, new forms of Public Private Partnerships to stimulate urban rural partnerships as well as healthcare/IT taking into account the changing demographic needs;

**Low emission building** – Based on the strong existing expertise in the Alpine Space in the fields of low emission building heritage, two new projects will continue exploring new levels of action and services – addressing both the smart and sustainable aspects of the EU 2020 strategy;

**Sustainable Mobility** – Two new transport projects look at sustainable mobility approaches from different angles: what cities and regions can do to set up coordinated mobility planning as well as how information to travellers can enable an increased use of sustainable transport modes;

**Energy Storage** – The question on how to store energy from renewable sources constitutes one of the central issues of future energy provision. Two of the newly approved projects will look at this

problem from an investigative viewpoint as well as based on a broad piloting approach - therewith contributing to a resource-efficient region;

**Energy Production/Planning** – Energy being a highly topical issue on the European level it is reflected in two further projects. On the one side, local approaches to energy planning will be investigated, while on the other hand the increasing pressure on the Alpine environment due to the growing importance of renewable energies will be tackled through an integrated strategy.

**Functioning Ecosystems** – Sediment continuity in river basins is crucial to meet the "good status" of waters required by the European Water Framework Directive. It also directly impacts economic and social viability, due to its consequences for hydropower production and risk management.



Although the **capitalisation** of experiences and results has been part of the programme strategy since the programme start, this matter was particularly highlighted for all projects applying for funding under call 4. While most of the 12 projects are based on new ideas and involve new partners, a number of the call 4 projects are taking results of previous initiatives one step further. Follow-up projects have the chance to capitalise on existing experiences and results to work towards mainstreaming and self-sustainability of results.

## STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT – ASP 2014+

European discussion on territorial cohesion, the concept of macro-regional strategies as well as the legislative proposals of the European Commission for the next structural funds period 2014-2020 give reason to elaborate a long-term strategic orientation for post 2014. Therefore, in May 2011 the Programme Committee decided to launch a strategic development project. During summer 2011 a transnational team of experts was commissioned.

**In short:** Future looking activities were intensified in 2011 through a 'strategy development project' commissioned by the programme. The project aims to identify key future topics relevant to transnational cooperation in the Alpine Space and at elaborating a long-term strategic orientation in view of a future ASP 2014-2020. Being based on a broad perspective, this project may also deliver contributions to a potential macro-regional strategy, which is currently being discussed by the Alpine Regions.

The project will run from July 2011 until June 2013. The overall aim of the project is to elaborate a long-term strategic orientation and help to identify priorities for the Alpine Space. This will be done in a broad perspective, meaning in view of a future ASP as well as a potential macro-regional strategy.

**The results of the strategy development project shall:**

- (1) pave the way towards a future ASP in the period 2014-2020 by identifying key priorities and strategic orientations,
- (2) contribute to the debate on a possible macro-regional strategy for the Alps, exploring if there are topics and stakeholder support which call for a broader European perspective within a macro-regional strategy.

The project is organised along three major activity fields: strategy and policy review, stakeholder dialogues and communication.

**Strategy and policy review:** The expert team analyses existing strategies, regulations, governance aspects and relevant project results in the Alpine Space (European, transnational, national, transregional level), to point out driving forces, common features and objectives, gaps and constraints. The experts also identify topics that have potential, urgency and political weight and that could be developed further either as priority of a future transnational programme or as action fields in a potential macro-regional strategy.



**Stakeholder dialogues:**

with the stakeholder dialogues an appropriate platform shall be established for a broad discussion on strategic development options.

Policy-stakeholders in the Alpine region across sectors, levels of governance and EU-programmes are invited to take part in these dialogues. Also the political level on local, regional and national level shall be addressed. The discussions should help to intensify the local and regional ownership of European policies. The stakeholder dialogues will take place in autumn 2012.

**Communication:** the project is accompanied by effective and efficient communication measures. These shall ensure that the objectives, progress and results of the project are transparently set out and that any interested actor has the opportunity to learn about the project results, to be involved in the process and bring in his/her views and proposals.

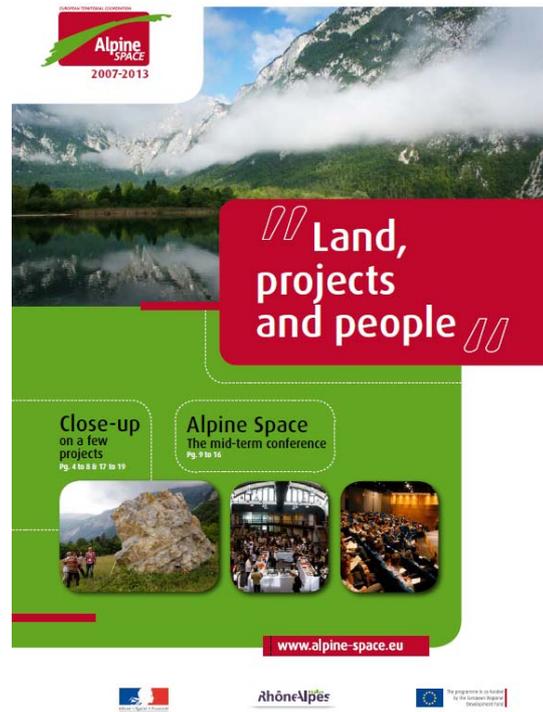
**Synergies among actors:** beside the ASP also the Alpine Convention and the Alpine regions have launched initiatives in 2011 contributing and fostering the debate regarding future strategic developments. All three actors are committed to work together, to use the synergies arising from the different starting points, competences and views and to avoid any duplication of work. Thus, the MA has been involved in the discussions of the other two actors and vice versa in 2011.

## EVENTS

In 2011, the fifth year of implementation the ASP **Mid-Term Event** was held in June 2011 in Grenoble involving 278 stakeholders under the theme “Driving cooperation for the Alps – From transnational cooperation to a macro regional view”.

The event was the occasion to discuss on the impacts of the ASP and the perspectives and the opportunities for 2014+ in the Alpine area. During the conference, a project fair was held to present the achievements of the projects, and to enable discussions. A session was dedicated to project highlights, with dynamic way to approach the project activities and their outcomes. The next programming period & macro regional strategy for the Alps were also discussed during the event.

The Region Rhône-Alpes produced a brochure after the event which can be found like other Programme’s brochures and report on the website, in the section “publication”.



**Joint Transnational Conference** On 15 and 16 September 2011, the 13 transnational programmes currently operating in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation objective organized for the first time a joint conference demonstrating how transnational cooperation helps to improve quality of life in European regions.

The event was a great success for European Transnational Cooperation and reached almost 1000 people (including an online audience participating via live stream).

The ASP was intensely involved in the preparation and organisation of the event and the gained experiences were manifold. Solid contacts with many of the other programmes were established that will continue in future.

## Thematic Events on Demographic Change and Competitiveness

After the “Alpine Space Expert Workshop: Coping with Climate Change” in Interlaken in May 2010, the series of the three thematic workshops continued. Two further thematic events on Demographic Change and Competitiveness were attended by 120 experts each: Challenges related to population development in the Alpine Space as well as in connection to translating the overall objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy for “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” into pragmatic regional strategies were discussed.



The second thematic event “Coping with Demographic Change – Shaping policies” took place in Innsbruck in February 2011. 110 key players and multipliers, funders and policy makers met with scientific experts and project partners from the programme to present a synoptic view on demographic development in the Alps. Key messages of the presentations and workshops can be found in the brochure reporting the event. They are organised along three main dimensions which were tackled: migration/integration, centres/ peripheries and public services/civil engagement.

The third Thematic Event “Pooling potentials for Competitiveness” was a forum held in Ljubljana in September 2011. The participants contributed towards translating the overall objective of the EU 2020 Strategy for “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” into pragmatic regional strategies and thus pave the way to improved governance. Practitioners, project partners, experts and policy makers reflected on how Alpine endogenous potentials can stimulate innovation and cluster development. Discussions on how to increase the competitiveness of the Alpine Space were organised according to four key fields: tourism, (renewable) energy, local resources and, finally, the interaction between core mountain areas and surrounding urban centres.



The reports of the workshop series are all available on the programme’s website.

## PROJECT RESULTS

First projects have started to close delivering a range of promising final results. Nearly all projects approved in the first call have ended their implementation. This means that final results were achieved and a special focus was put on dissemination through e.g. final conferences and publications. The main achievements of the finalised projects including their contributions to the EU 2020 strategy are presented per priority in the chapters below.

Call 2 projects are in their high implementation phases focusing on various piloting and testing activities. Intermediate results, highlights and good practices are also provided below. Call 3 projects started out their activities in summer 2011 and have been running for one year now; first tangible results are expected for the next year. Call 4 projects have just been approved and will be presenting final results in 2015.

### PRIORITY 1 COMPETITIVENESS AND ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE ALPINE SPACE

18 projects out of a total of 47 focus on Priority 1 and are thus promoting the competitiveness and attractiveness of the cooperation area. After 4 calls, 98% of the Priority 1 ERDF budget (32.173.670 Euro in total) has been committed.



#### RESULTS IN FIGURES:

- + In total 240 actions regarding to **technology transfers** and improvement of cooperation networks between SME, between these and other businesses and public authorities, research centres or education establishments of all kinds could be achieved.
- + 83 actions assisting SMEs in promoting **environmentally friendly products** and production processes were implemented up to now, mainly related to renewable energies and traditional building retrofitting. Organisations such as chambers of commerce and industry with their direct links to private partners, enterprises and SMEs play an essential role in this context.
- + As a result of project activities, 18 **transnational economic clusters** were set up or strengthened by Priority 1 projects in 2011 – being 32 in total.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RUNNING PROJECTS:



**AlpHouse**

**AlpHouse.eu**  
tradition | competence | innovation

**Title:** Alpine building culture and ecology

**Lead partner:** Chamber of Trade and Crafts for Munich and Upper Bavaria

**Flashlight on achievements:** To understand the principles of traditional alpine architecture, integrate them in present-day construction, and develop them further, training activities were again a strong focus of the past reporting period.

The project organized events such as the “AlpHouse-Tag” in Traunstein, “Le forum de l’eco-construction” in Livron-sur-Drome and the “Energy World Café” in Lyon. A total of 1036 people have participated to AlpHouse events so far.



**COMUNIS**



**Title:** Inter-municipal cooperation for Strategic Steering of SME-oriented Location Development in the Alpine Space

**Lead partner:** HES-SO Valais

**Flashlight on achievements:** In the Pilot Area Great Walser Valley in Austria, the COMUNIS project succeeded to implement a long-term management strategy for inter-communal cooperation, based on a formalized Public-Private-Partnership. As a result, neighbouring communities are now cooperating in the development of commercial sites, making more effective use of regional and local potentials in the Great Walser Valley.

This serves as an innovative example on how to overcome individual municipal attempts of problem solving in the field of Commercial Location Development.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU 2020 STRATEGY:



All five call 1 projects under Priority 1 have finalized their work: Alps Bio Cluster; AlpEnergy; CAPACities; ClimAlpTour; INNOCITÉ. Finalized projects under priority 1 contribute to all three, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth according to the EU 2020 strategy's priorities.

**Smart growth - Innovation Union Alps Bio Cluster** was centred on promoting an Alpine Space competitiveness increase in the Biotech and Medtech sectors through a specific support to young innovative SMEs, by means of technology transfer. By creating strong links around specific topics between R&D centres, technology transfer entities, SMEs and industries, the project strengthened the innovation chains in the Biotech and Medtech sectors: the established cooperation accelerated the market access for innovative solutions.

**Sustainable growth - An industrial policy for the globalisation era** By developing adaptation strategies for the tourism sector in cooperation with the key stakeholders, **ClimAlpTour** supported businesses in responding to climate change impacts. Specific emphasis has been put on developing sustainable tourism options for the Alps. Therewith, the supported sector will be better able to respond to globalisation, the economic crisis and the shift to a low-carbon economy. Climate change and its impacts should be taken seriously, but nevertheless should be seen as a chance to actively steer towards a prospering future, with tourism as one economic factor.

**Inclusive growth - An agenda for new skills and jobs** The **CAPACities** project supported the valorisation of Small Alpine Towns with cultural, handicraft, natural potentials not sufficiently exploited through newly developed plans and actions. One pilot action in Lombardy Region, for example, focused on training and education initiatives as an engine for economic development, thus helping local people acquire new skills, and make successful career shifts.

## **PRIORITY 2 ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY**



A total of 14 out of 47 approved projects focus on Priority 2 Accessibility and Connectivity. After 4 calls, 99% of the total ERDF budget of 27.577.443 Euro for priority 2 has been committed.

### **RESULTS IN FIGURES:**

- + 39 actions for integrated traffic and **mobility planning** and multimodal transport have been implemented by Priority 2 projects so far.
- + A total of **214 transport authorities** and mobility operators (not being project members) were involved in activities resulting from the projects.
- + 25 actions focused on **improving traffic flows** on existing infrastructures. New transport models were developed and the concept of dry-ports, connecting a seaport to an inland intermodal terminal, was pursued.
- + 15 actions aiming at offering **ICT based public services** in relation to e-health, e-government, e-learning and e-inclusion, resulted in e.g. strategies for increasing the accessibility to services of general interest in mountain areas

## HIGHLIGHTS OF RUNNING PROJECTS:

### **ALIAS**

**Title:** Alpine Hospitals Networking for Improved Access to Telemedicine Services

**Lead Partner:** Lombardy Region - General Directorate for Health



**Flashlight on achievements:** a total of seven nodes of the Virtual Hospital (VHN) joined the Network, ready to start operations. Hospitals from Varese, Tolmezzo, Garmisch, Grenoble, Izola, Golnik and Geneva are linked to the Alias Central System and are able to provide information to healthcare professionals (e.g. data from patients coming from another hospital of the network) and provide specialists advices (e.g. second opinion). The project is currently testing the VHN with the participation of 200 patients in all partners' countries.

### **PARAMOUNT**

**Title:** imProved Accessibility: Reliability and security of Alpine transport infrastructure related to mountainous hazards in a changing climate.

**Lead Partner:** Federal Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management – Forestry Section



**Flashlight on achievements:** the partnership has carried out extensive field data collection and analysis of measurements from the monitoring stations, which provided input for the development of the first hazard maps. They used GIS modelling, satellite imagery and photographic means, to monitor and model rock-fall, snow avalanches and debris flows. A detailed evaluation of critical road and rail sections was carried out in all participating regions, and as a result, forecasting systems and early warning systems have been developed.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU 2020 STRATEGY

The first finalized project ACCESS under priority 2 contributed to sustainable growth according to the EU 2020 strategy's priorities.



**Sustainable growth - Resource efficient Europe** The **ACCESS** project dealt with improving the accessibility of services of general interest based on organisational innovations in rural mountain areas. One of their main objectives was to foster innovative, flexible, demand oriented and integrated mobility systems. The ACCESS mobility pilot projects developed innovative approaches to improve mobility as well as to increase the use of public transport. For example, a newly established "Discobus" now enables young people from peripheral villages to get safely to near towns during night time and decreases disadvantages in comparison to urban life.

Another pilot project developed a “Blue Card” that is delivered to people over 65 years free of charge. This way socially vulnerable population groups have access to public transport and other services helping to reduce the risk of social exclusion. Therewith, the project contributed to promoting sustainable public transport and to maintaining rural areas attractive.

## **PRIORITY 3 ENVIRONMENT AND RISK PREVENTION**



15 projects out of a total of 47 focus on Priority 3 regarding environment and risk prevention. After 4 calls, nearly 100% of a total ERDF budget of 32.173.670 Euro for Priority 3 has been committed.

### **RESULTS IN FIGURES:**

- + Projects have been extremely active in matter of natural and technological hazard and **risk prevention**. 39 additional actions were completed in 2011 adding up to 78 in total.
- + 34 actions aiming at **sustainable use and efficient management of resources** have been carried out so far, mainly focus around two resources: water and forest.
- + The high number of **438 environmental authorities and NGO** so far involved in priority 3 activities ensures the further application of results into concrete actions and/or policies.

### **HIGHLIGHTS OF RUNNING PROJECTS:**

#### **ALP FFIRS**

**Title:** Alpine Forest Fire waRning System

**Lead partner:** Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Piedmont - Forecasting Dept.



**Flashlight on achievements:** The project ALP FFIRS aims to improve forest fire prevention in the Alpine Space with the creation of a shared warning system based on weather condition affecting fire potential.

Some important outputs have been achieved to implement the common operational warning system: the standard common methodology for meteorological assessment of forest fire danger and thresholds applied at the Alpine scale; all forest fire indexes calculated and compared on the whole Alpine area, several statistical analyses; study on the most heavily affected forest types and ignition experiments; fuel types inventory. As the climate change is concerned, different indexes have been calculated on model scenario and statistical methods to adapt them to Alps to assess future fire danger.

## **Alp-Water-Scarce**

**Title:** Water Management Strategies against Water Scarcity in the Alps



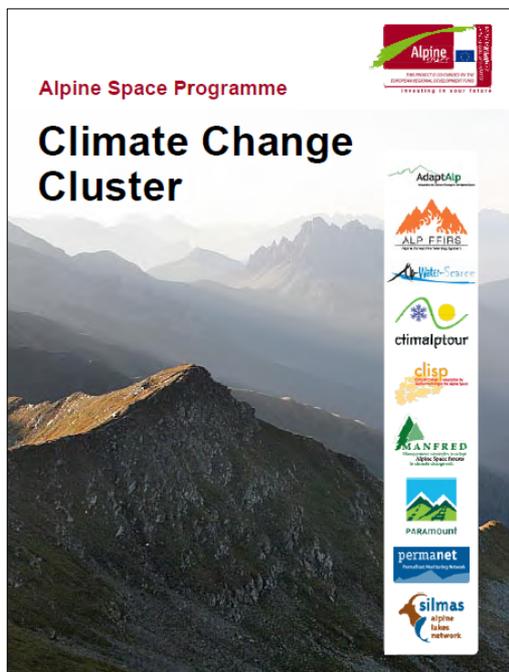
**Lead partner:** The Mountain Institute, University of Savoy

**Flashlight on achievements:** The main challenges of this project are to create local Early Warning Systems against Water Scarcity in the Alps based on sound and perennial monitoring and modelling and anchored strongly and actively within a Stakeholder Forum linked across comparative and contrasting regions across the Alps.

Alp-Water-Scarce demonstrated that the key factors for decision-support tools such as early warning systems are: identification of the drivers of water scarcity risks, active involvement of the sectors involved with or affected by water shortage, consideration of the legal framework (at the European, national, and local levels), and respect for ecological aspects.

## **The Alpine Space Programme “Climate Change Cluster”**

To foster synergies among approved projects and to complement the soft support measures (e.g. facilitate meetings, provide meeting rooms, offer links to platforms and networks), the ASP offers the possibility to apply for limited additional financial support to project participants willing to formalise synergies creating a thematic “cluster”.



Climate Change as a cross cutting issue affects many human activities, life habits and several economic sectors in the Alps. Following the opportunity to form a cluster, several projects from different priorities coping with the effects of climate change created the first Alpine Space “Cluster” enhancing cooperation in mitigation and climate change effect issues.

The most important result achieved so far by this Cluster, is the submission of a successful application within call 3 of this programme: the approved the C3-Alps project builds on the synergies established within the “Climate Change Cluster” therefore capitalises on the achievements of the projects that participated in this exchange platform.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EU 2020 STRATEGY



Finalized projects under priority 3 contribute to both smart and sustainable growth according to the EU 2020 strategy's priorities.

**Smart growth - Innovation Union PermaNET** focused on several steps of the innovation chain regarding climate change as one of the major challenges for our society. Building on the extended knowledge base on the effects of climate change to the Alps generated by the project, the assessment of the sustainability of investments in high mountain areas (e.g. roads, infrastructures, cable cars) could be assessed in a more reliable way. The developed methods enable the identification of instable areas that are sensitive to climatic changes. As one project result, the participating industries can now build on PermaNET experiences to elaborate specialized services.

**Sustainable growth - Resource efficient Europe** The **CLISP** project contributes to sustainable growth by increasing the resilience to climate risks, and enhancing the capacity for disaster prevention and response. For this purpose, vulnerability maps were elaborated for each of the participating Model Regions combining anthropogenic and natural climate related risk factors. Besides, options fostering the climate change fitness of the national planning instruments were identified and an evaluation tool for planning practitioners was designed. The transnational planning strategy combines all gained knowledge and is now the framework paper for climate change fit spatial planning in the Alpine Space enhancing the capacity for disaster prevention.

The Alps as the "water towers of Europe" provide indispensable water resources for all sectors of daily life (e.g. drinking water supply, agriculture, hydropower generation). Promoting the sustainable and efficient use and the protection of this resource that is strongly affected by the impacts of climate change was the main objective of the **Alp-Water-Scarce** project. Trans-boundary watershed management and long-term water resources planning, together with the estimation of water demand and the implementation of climate and anthropogenic scenarios led to the establishment of early warning systems to address water scarcity and promote resource efficiency.