



## Project Short Title

ALPSTAR



Priority 1  
Competitiveness and  
Attractiveness



Priority 2  
Accessibility and  
Connectivity



Priority 3  
Environment and  
Risk Prevention

## Project Long Title

TOWARD CARBON NEUTRAL ALPS - MAKE  
BEST PRACTICE MINIMUM STANDARD

## Lead Partner

Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor

## Project Partners

Posoški razvojni center, SI  
Amt der Vorarlberg Landesregierung, Fachbereich Energie und Klimaschutz, A  
UNEP Vienna - Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, A  
Accademia Europea Bolzano, I  
Verein Alpenstadt des Jahres e.V., D  
Ökomodell Achenal e.V., D  
CIPRA France - Comité français de la Commission Internationale pour la Protection des Alpes, F  
Rhônalpénergie-Environnement, F  
Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente, I  
Regione del Veneto - Sezione Industria e Artigianato, I  
Amt für Raumentwicklung und Geoinformation des Kantons St.Gallen, CH  
Amt für Umwelt, FL

## Project Website

www.alpstar-project.eu

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€ 2.790.230

## ERDF in EUR

€ 1.905.538

## Abstract

The project addressed the need for a transnational, well-directed and cross-cutting action to address climate change in the Alps. It was the main catalyst for preparation of cross-sectoral climate strategies and action plans and encouraged implementation of good practice measures on a regional and local level through preparation of guidelines, analyses and other tools. Through establishment of the good practice transfer platform it provided a framework for knowledge transfer between regions, and for capitalisation of results and implementation of measures toward carbon neutrality in the regions. The key success factor was in its cross-sectoral, integrative and participatory approach, engaging stakeholders from all sectors, policy levels and different regions in a number of very successful events such as interactive workshops, capacity building seminars and conferences. Success of its actions lies as well in selection of the international partnership with leverage, capable of engaging important players from the business sector, and in addressing cross sectoral issues, such as commuter mobility. With all this, the project contributed to the implementation of Alpine Convention's Climate Action Plan and assured that its results have been taken onboard transnationally and at all policy levels. Many of its results have close ties with other processes, thus ensuring the continuation and replication of its results also after the project end.

## Relevance

Climate change is the biggest threat facing humanity in the 21st century. Many international organisations have recognised the importance of action, among them the Alpine Convention with its 2010 Climate Action Plan. While temperatures in the Alps are rising faster than in other regions, the Alps themselves produce high levels of GHG emissions, notably from transport. While there are many examples of good practices across the region, innovative solutions, inclusive approaches, and the identified need for their transfer and implementation proved to be the missing links. Added value was the inclusion of lessons from implementation of pilot actions in the preparation of cross sectoral strategies/action plans on carbon neutrality, involving important numbers and a wide array of stakeholders.

Transport remains a challenge, thus the lessons learnt in the project can serve widely. In the Alpine area, due to its geographical constraints, it is difficult for small countries such as LI, AT and SI to tackle the sector of transport emissions by themselves, that's why transnational aspect has been key to success - proved by VCÖ Mobility Prize in Austria (more than 300 submissions) for cross border pilot action involving LI, St.Gallen in CH and AT region of Vorarlberg, also engaging internationally renowned company HILTI. For other partners transnational relevance lied in exchange of information, good practices and lessons learnt.



## Key Achievements

- 10 cross-sectoral strategies or action plans contributing to the goal of climate neutrality have been prepared or updated in 10 pilot regions, making great use of participatory approach.
- Five strategies have already been adopted by relevant bodies.
- Good practice transfer platform has been established with more than 60 good practices available. It has been widely promoted and used and will continue to serve due to its adoption by the Secretariat of the Alpine convention.
- Participatory and integrative approach: overachieved targets for inclusion of stakeholders (1200). A lot of work devoted to raising awareness and improving capacity to address climate change through face to face exchange, campaigns, study visits, seminars, workshops, press and public conferences.
- Practical guidelines and innovative tools such as the situation analysis tool developed for help in preparation and implementation of cross-sectoral strategies and action plans.
- 16 pilot activities, identified as good practice measures, carried out in pilot regions with concrete results for local authorities, people and businesses.
- ALPSTAR Policy Board held two meetings at which recommendations from and to the members presented and in this way cooperation with key policy actors on the level of Alps as well as transfer of results were assured.
- Two received awards for: pilot action in Vorarlberg (VCÖ Mobility Prize); and Low Carbon strategy of the Posočje Region (Promoting green jobs award).

## Lessons Learnt

The main lesson learnt is that it is both possible and still needed to exchange good practices, implement concrete measures and prepare strategic documents, all while connecting regions in making the Alps more climate friendly. The initially identified for a well-directed and cross-cutting action to address climate change has proven to be even more pressing due to changing political and economic realities of the years in which the project had been carried out. A network of regions exchanging know-how, pooling, transferring and learning from each other was essential to support the processes at national level. It has proven to be most effective to find key figures or motivated people to join the actions, form cooperation with experienced partners and use existing networks. Key factor of success has thus been in stakeholder engagement - workshops, seminars and conferences had capitalising effect and participatory approach proved to be crucial to development of strategic documents. Other success enabling factors have been identified as gaining public, including political and private sector, interest and support, proving benefits for stakeholders and capitalising upon existing know-how. Ensuring political commitment and institutional support is primordial, but also a close cooperation of a wide array of actors as well as a core team of committed individuals. Systematic and permanent evaluation play a part, as well as transparent information flow, and keeping up the motivation.



## Replication / Roll out

Results of the project are especially relevant to other Alpine regions, such as the Carpathian region, and to the Alpine Convention as a contribution to the implementation of its Climate Action Plan. The project has proved that concrete measures can be adapted to different local realities. Many project results can be thus used by regions beyond partner regions such as good practice platform, guidelines, analyses, tools and methods used for stakeholders' engagement. Project results have been widely promoted at many occasions and through many channels (printed press, radio, TV, internet) and especially during Policy Board Meetings to many levels of policy makers which will guarantee their replication and transfer. Directly, the project results have fed into policies and strategies through the preparation of low carbon strategies and action plans. The strategies have already been adopted or integrated into strategic documents in the regions of Bressano, Bolzano, Veneto, Valence Romans Déplacements and Pays SUD, while others achieved strong commitments and are still in the process of adoption. Some of these prepared strategies and action plans have close ties with other EU policy processes, such as the Covenant of Mayors' initiative or the new Programming Period 2014-2020. Moreover, 40 follow-up projects have been triggered to implement the measures developed in ALPSTAR, with both public and private funding.

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