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Overcoming

the fragmentation of clusters

in the Alpine Space

Duration: 2011-2014

Alps4EU is a project cofinanced by

Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013

Priority 1 – Competitiveness and
Attractiveness of the Alpine Space

www.alpine-space.eu

European Territorial Cooperation



Keywords

- Economic clusters
- Networks for innovation
- SME support and networks
- Governance

About the project

Alps 4 EU aims to overcome the cluster initiatives' fragmentation and favour the emergence of meta-clusters, applying a macro-regional vision and driving Alpine area clusters to be more competitive in the European scenario for the benefit of all the Alpine Space's economy.

The project will address both policy-making and cluster-management activities, with a trans-regional approach, and it will impact in order to:

- 1) build the framework for trans-regional clusters' policies;
- 2) develop inter-cluster cooperation, moving towards meta-clusters;
- 3) represent Alpine Space clusters within EU initiatives.

Specifically, Alps 4 EU will map the Alpine Area clusters' strategic priorities, develop guidelines and proposals for joint programming activities, elaborate a Joint Action Plan, including common funding opportunities for clusters, foster transnational technology transfer activities, promote inter-cluster activities for innovation and promote Alpine Space clusters at the EU level.

Underlying problem

Cluster policies were launched to respond to regional and national challenges and needs. They were developed on the national rather than the European level, resulting in today's

diversity of cluster policies and programmes. However, cluster initiatives nowadays face international challenges and need to respond to global competition. An appropriate response to these new developments can be achieved on the basis of international links and trans-regional strategies. In particular, cluster initiatives in the Alps need to address their weakness in this area.

Aim

The objective of this project is to **connect clusters in the Alpine region** more closely and to **overcome their fragmentation** by specifically strengthening cluster initiatives, favouring the emergence of trans-regional **meta-clusters**. Moreover, the **Alpine clusters' competitiveness needs to be enhanced** and clearly positioned as a **European cluster**, enjoying worldwide recognition in order to benefit of the region's economy.

The project concentrates on clusters in **four key sectors**: Energy and Green Tech; Mechatronics and Engineering; Chemistry and New Materials; and ICT.

Strategy

The aim of the project will be achieved by developing a **trans-regional cluster strategy** addressing policy makers, cluster managers and industry partners.

Concrete measures

- Support clusters in their **internationalisation** (e.g., by joint transnational projects and the exchange of knowledge, resources, people and best practices)
- Initiate **inter-cluster cooperation** (e.g., by company missions)
- **Ensure visibility** through professional coordination and the positioning of Alpine cluster initiatives at a European level (e.g., in European cluster initiatives and networks)



Project partners

Italy

- Piedmont Region - Directorate of Industry and Productive Activities (Lead partner)
- Unioncamere Piemonte
- CESTEC S.p.A
- Veneto Innovazione S.p.A

Germany

- MFG Baden-Württemberg, Public Innovation Agency for IT and Media
- Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum

Austria

- Tyrolean future foundation

Slovenia

- Jožef Stefan Institute; Center for Technology Transfer and Innovation
- Soca Valley development centre

France

- Chambre du Commerce et d'Industrie Nice Cote d'Azur
- Rhône-Alpes Region

Switzerland

- Science and technology centre of the canton of Fribourg
- Association Euresearch

Project contact

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