

ARDIA – Net  
Developing an Alpine Space Research,  
Development and Innovation Area  
by lowering barriers for cross-regional cooperation



## BLUEPRINT FOR A SYNCHRONIZED RDI FUNDING SCHEME

*August 2021*

**Work Package T1**

O.T1.1. Blueprint for a synchronized RDI funding scheme

This output has been produced within the frame of the ARDIA-Net project, funded by the Alpine Space INTERREG Programme of the European Commission. It was prepared by Michael Keller (HES-SO//FR HEIA-FR) and Philip Pfaller (BayFOR).

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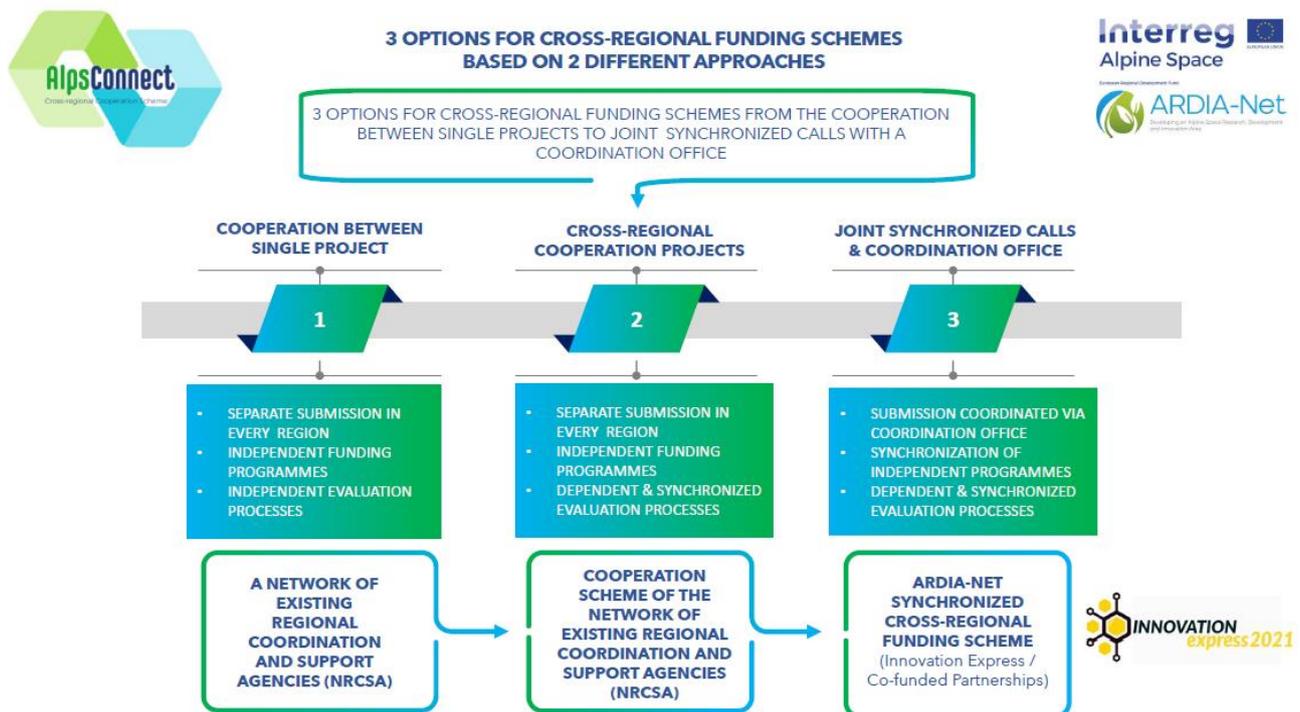
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## Output of WP T1: Blueprint for a synchronized RDI funding scheme

The first work package of ARDIA-Net aimed at designing a blueprint for a cross-regional Alpine Space RDI funding scheme to make use of the potential of regional strategies to foster innovation, economic growth and job creation related to the bioeconomy. It introduces the **AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme** as a framework for future cross-regional and interdisciplinary RDI projects across the regions of the Alps.

**Figure 1:** AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme



The following **project deliverables** provide in-depth information on the three options of the AlpsConnect Cross-Regional Cooperation Scheme, as well as on the thematic synergy potential within the bioeconomy, identified across the participating regions as opportunities for future RDI cooperation.

### Deliverable D.T1.1.1

#### **Report on key elements of an S3 based funding scheme including target group needs analysis**

The report presents the theoretical basis of ARDIA-Net, the AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme with its 3 options for cross-regional cooperation. The report introduces the premises behind our ARDIA-Net Cooperation Scheme, from practical experience to need-based theoretical schemes and models. The ARDIA-Net Modular Framework introduces a need-based approach for the implementation of cross-regional cooperation as part of regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) and other innovation strategies as well as

a need-based adjustment of complexity in cross-regional cooperation and synchronization of funding programmes. These key elements of an S3-based funding scheme are the background for activities in WPT2 and WPT3 and result in the 3 Options of our AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme: “Cooperation between Single Projects”, “Cross-regional Cooperation Projects” and “Joint Synchronized Calls & Coordination Office”.

#### ***Report on Potential public funding sources (regional, national and EU levels)***

The report discusses the funding gap for cross-regional RDI-cooperation in the Alpine Space, the reason for ARDIA-Net developing the solutions presented in our AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme. Furthermore, it explores the potential for synchronization of funding schemes on regional, national and European level. Finally, there is an analysis of potential public funding sources on regional level in the 7 ARDIA-Net regions: Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria, Canton Espace-Mittelland (Fribourg), Lombardy, Salzburg, Slovenia and Upper Austria.

#### ***Cooperation under the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation***

In addition to the two reports mentioned above, the activities A.T1.1 (Preparation of Key Elements for a S3 synchronized funding scheme) also included a thorough analysis of funded projects with participation from multiple ARDIA-Net regions under the European Framework Programme. The results of this analysis have been published as part of Deliverable D.T1.2.2 (Case Study: RDI cooperation in the Alpine macro-region; see below).

#### **Deliverable D.T1.2.1**

##### ***Bioeconomy cooperation potential in the Alpine Space***

The report analyses thematic orientations within the bioeconomy ecosystems of the ARDIA-Net regions both from a quantitative and a qualitative perspective, *inter alia* through employment statistics, patent application data, and analysis of regional policies and institutional entities in the ARDIA-Net regions. Significant bioeconomy cooperation potential is identified in biomass, food and feed, smart building, plastics and pharmaceuticals. The revealed cooperation opportunities have been used as a thematic input for concrete first implementation activities under the AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme.

##### ***Deliverable D.T1.2.2 Case Study: RDI cooperation in the Alpine macro-region***

The case study takes a look at the state of the art in terms of cross-regional RDI cooperation in the Alpine macro-region. The case study reveals surprisingly little funded cooperation efforts exceeding the bilateral

context over the last 15 years. In order to address the identified funding gap, the study documents good practice of funding schemes that could be adapted to the Alpine macro-region. The good practice reported in this case study has been an important input for the development of the AlpsConnect Cross-regional Cooperation Scheme.