

Dear Reader,

for the year 2011 the Alpine Space Programme has a very ambitious agenda as some of the following key activities may highlight:

Project approvals:

At its meeting in May 2011 in Salzburg the Programme Committee has approved another 10 projects under the 3rd call. This call has shown an interesting diversity of project applications, be it on support for open innovation hubs for SME's, on the creation of a network of hubs for the cultural and creative industries, on sustainable mountain forest resource management or on Climate Change. The latter, inspired by the 2010 workshop on "Climate Change" in Interlaken, will already capitalise on results of projects carried out under and beyond the programme.

Thematic Workshops:

Obviously the effort of the programme to strengthen its strategic orientation by means of a series of thematic workshops has shown first results on project level. The Interlaken event has been followed in February 2011 by a second transnational workshop on "Demographic Change" in Innsbruck, which Austria had the honour to host. With about 120 participants this forum deepened the understanding of the specific challenges and opportunities for the Alps involved in this megatrend and pushed the policy debate beyond taboos. On September 27th and 28th 2011 the workshop trilogy will then be winded up with an event in Ljubljana on "Competitiveness". On this basis the 4th and presumably last call of the current programme period will be launched in October 2011.

Preparations for a Macro-regional Strategy.

As a key part of its strategy revision process the Programme Committee with support of the European Commission has launched at its meeting in Salzburg a project on "Strategy Development for the Alpine Space". The intention is to prepare the ground for and drive forward the discussion on a Macro-regional Strategy of the European Union for the Alpine Space, involving the various groups of Alpine policy-stakeholders. In doing so, it will also provide a basis for the next generation of the Alpine Space Programme 2014+.



MidTerm event Grenoble.

The MidTerm Conference of the Alpine Space Programme on June 16th and 17th 2011 in Grenoble will provide an excellent opportunity, not only for taking stock of the programmes' achievements so far, but also for driving the agenda from transnational cooperation towards a macro-regional perspective. Everyone interested in the future of the programme, the shape of the 4th call for project proposals and the wider Alpine agenda will therefore be highly welcomed at this Conference in Grenoble.

Georg Schadt,
is chairing the Alpine Space Programme Committee
in 2011

Third call for Project Proposals – 10 new projects approved

10 projects were approved under the 3rd Call for Project Proposals. The 18 proposals invited to the 2nd step were evaluated and a final decision on approval was taken by the Programme Committee composed of representatives of all 7 partner states. The programme congratulates the approved project partnerships and welcomes them in the programme family.

The 4th call for Proposals will open in October 2011.



PROGRAMME NEWS

What do the new projects focus on?

The approved projects of the 3rd call are addressing various and challenging topics.

Four projects were approved under Priority 1-Competitiveness and Attractiveness, particularly focusing on innovation and cluster. **OPEN ALPS** will put in place an innovation transfer platform for the SMEs of the Alpine Space in the technology field, based on the paradigm of Open Innovation. Within analogous concept will move its steps the **ALPLASTICS** project, supporting the management of strategic clusters in the Alps to foster innovation and increase competitiveness with a specific thematic focus on the existing plastic cluster. The **Alps4EU** project complements the efforts in innovation and competitiveness bringing into the programme a meta-cluster perspective. But what is innovation if not productive creativity? The partnership of **CC Alps** bets on creative ideas of Alpine SMEs as engine of the future competitiveness of the area.

As for Priority 1, four new projects were approved under Priority 2-Transport and Accessibility addressing some of the biggest challenges of the Alps. **TransSAFE-Alp** will deal with transport and natural hazard, integrating security and emergency management platforms with transport network ones to improve promptness of rescue interventions. Major transport infrastructure can represent an opportunity as a burden for some areas, **POLY5** will analyse the sustainability of such interventions along corridor 5. The connectivity is not only ensured by the big networks, smaller transport networks are decisive for settlements growth, this is the topic of **MORECO** integrating mobility and residential costs in spatial planning decision making.

The **NEWFOR** project addresses the

environmental, social and economic sustainability of the wood industry in the Alpine Space dealing with the challenge of accessibility to forest resources for the timber industry.




Priority 3-Environment and Risk Prevention introduces a new dimension to the programme having approved two projects stocktaking the work and results accumulated in these years of Alpine cooperation. **ALPSTAR** develops a cross-sectoral platform for the adoption of good practices for CO2 emission reduction towards carbon neutrality in the Alps. While **C3-Alps** follows the recommendation "to take action against climate change" coming from the Climate Change Forum, the first expert workshop organised by the Alpine Space in Interlaken in May 2010.

In the second half of this newsletter you will find some detailed information about the new projects. If you would like to follow their implementation, simply visit the running project section on our website (<http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/running-projects/>) which will be updated with status report, project outcomes and interim results.

Next steps

The Lead Partners of the newly approved projects will participate to the Lead Partner seminar on 9th June in Munich. They will be informed about reporting procedures as well as about financial and legal issues and communication obligations. The Lead Partners will circulate this fresh inputs to their project partners.

National Infodays will take place as well, dedicated to the new partners of the Alpine Space projects. All presentations will be made available on the programme website.

Priority		Project name	Total project budget (€)	ERDF project budget (€)
Priority 1		ALPLASTICS	1.021.385	670.050
Priority 1		ALPS4EU	1.816.205	1.302.301
Priority 1		OPEN-ALPS	2.873.198	1.991.361
Priority 1		CCALPS	2.921.660	2.136.861
Priority 2		NEWFOR	2.419.400	1.809.484
Priority 2		TRANSFAEALPS	2.316.555	1.760.581
Priority 2		MORECO	2.489.743	1.892.204
Priority 2		POLY5	1.996.161	1.517.078
Priority 3		C3-ALPS	3.117.291	2.199.659
Priority 3		ALPSTAR	2.790.230	1.905.538
Total			21.342.428	17.185.117

All approved projects will organise their kick off conferences soon. In case these conferences are open to the public they will be announced in the programme event calendar on the programme website.

In short

Demographic Change Forum Report on line

+ This report outlines the key messages of the presentations and workshops held in Innsbruck, organised into three main concepts: migration - integration, centres - peripheries and public services - civil engagement. It unveils the manifold development patterns, as well as the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead and also presents promising approaches by "first movers".
[Download](#) the Report from the Alpine Space website.

Programme figures state of the art

- + Number of calls launched: 3
- + Number of approved projects: 35
- + Number of project partners: 430
- + Total available programme budget (2007-2013): 130 Mio Euro
- + Current commitment of ERDF: 74%

Communication assessment

+ According to art. 4 of the Commission Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006, the programme's communication measures shall be assessed in terms of visibility and awareness of the programme and of the role played by the Community.

Thanks to the contribution of all programme actors and beneficiaries the programme has collected a significant feedback and is proud to say that it is perceived as doing good. There is still space for some improvements, especially in what concerns the communication on procedures and project results

dissemination. New instruments to ease these exercises and guide partners with concrete examples are going to be put online. Along the same lines, the programme will increase its efforts to support the projects in their phase of result dissemination and promotion.

PROJECT NEWS

ALIAS Virtual Hospital on the go!

The Virtual Hospital Network is taking shape as the ALIAS central platform is already working for 4 hospitals out of the 8 in total participating to the project. The system is already fully operational in for Rhone-Alpes region partners. These Hospitals can test the functionalities of the system, namely exchange health data and medical opinion in a secure environment, having access to information in different languages. For more technical info see the interview "[Coopération des systèmes Esanté](#)" (FR only), or visit the project website www.aliasproject.eu

AlpEnergy receives the "Stadtwerke Award 2011"

The Lead Partner Allgäuer Überlandwerk won this year's special prize of the Municipal Utility Companies' Awards 2011 in a selection that included 20 public utility companies from Germany. The award is given to public utilities which demonstrate a particularly innovative and sustainable approach and increased energy efficiency. The prize was awarded for an exceptional project work- for the results of the Alpine Space project AlpEnergy. www.alpenergy.net

CO2-NeuTrAlp: Sustainable Development Effects of CO2 Neutral Transport

Aim of the CO2-NeuTrAlp project is to demonstrate the feasibility of environmentally friendly mobility by implementing 13 pilot projects. A recent analysis of the sustainable development effects of these pilot projects shows significant achievements in terms of electric mobility and biofuels: more than 15 electric vehicles were already deployed thanks to the pilot projects. Summing up the shift of traffic from conventional to electric vehicles and the mileage saved by making services provided by electric cars more efficient, CO2-NeuTrAlp led to the saving of about 245.000 km covered by diesel and petrol fuelled cars. Additionally, 10.2 million km are covered by biogas and biodiesel vehicles.
www.co2neutralalp.eu

Adaptalp launches the on_alp_exchange platform

On_alp_exchange is the online platform to enable practitioners, experts and technicians dealing with natural hazard to gain an insight into other organisations working in the same area, and to gather information as well as to add to their own knowledge. Members can post transnational vacancies covering the whole of the Alpine region as well as access to a list of experts on different topics like: flood protection, torrent and avalanche control, geology, risk prevention and disaster management exchange ideas. Field reports complete the website, which has been deliberately kept simple to allow ease of navigation. The platform is hosted by [interprevent](http://interprevent.org). www.adaptalp.org

EVENTS

Project Final Conferences

Alpine Space projects approved in the first call are closing their activities after 3 years of transnational cooperation. Projects will present their results, achievements and recommendations to an audience of experts, policy makers and interested public at their final conferences. Below the upcoming events, more will be announced on the programme website:

14-15 June 2011, Lyon (F)

Innocite' How to improve competitiveness of small-medium cities under the influence of Alpine great urban centres
www.innocite.eu

28-29 June 2011, Varese, (I)

ACCESS - Improving accessibility of services of general interest – organisational innovations in rural mountain areas.
www.access-alpinespace.eu

28 June 2011, Chamonix (F)

PermaNET - Permafrost Long-Term Monitoring Network. www.permanet-alpinespace.eu

30 June 2011, Milano (I)

CO2-NeuTrAlp - Co2 neutral transport for the Alpine Space. www.co2neutralalp.eu

4-5 July 2011, Innsbruck (A)

ALPS Bio Cluster - Biotech and Medtech in the Alpine Space. <http://www.alpsbiocluster.eu>

6 July 2011, Munich (D)

Adaptalp – Adaptation to climate change in the Alps. <http://www.adaptalp.org>

8 September 2011, Vienna (A)

CLISP - Climate change adaptation by spatial planning in the Alpine Space. www.clisp.eu

Project Events

6 June 2011, Lyon (F)

Energy World-Café

Dissemination meeting in Lyon on ecological, energy-efficient construction. www.enerbuild.eu

Programme Events

16 - 17 June 2011, Grenoble (F)

Alpine Space MidTerm Conference “From transnational cooperation to macro regional view”

The Alpine Space Programme with all Alpine actors takes stock of the achievements of the last years before entering the second half of its implementation. Topics at stake will be the coming last call for proposal, the possibilities for an Alpine Macro Regional Strategy and the future of Cohesion Policy. Registration is still open on the programme homepage. www.alpine-space.eu

27 - 28 September 2011, Ljubljana (SI)

Alpine Space Expert Forum “Pooling Potentials for Competitiveness”

Objective of the last Thematic Forum of the programme is to discuss opportunities of new project ideas in the field of competitiveness, focusing on the challenges in the field of tourism, energy, local resources and mega trends. The Forum will look into the direction of the EU2020 strategy to exploit endogenous potentials and explore policies for competitiveness of territories and transnational action. Details will soon be announced on the programme website.

15-16 September 2011, Katowice (PL)

Joint Transnational Conference

13 Programmes - 1 Goal: to Improve Quality of Life in European Regions!

For the first time, the 13 transnational programmes currently operating in the framework of the European Territorial Cooperation objective organize a joint conference demonstrating how transnational cooperation helps to improve quality of life in European regions.

This conference will focus on two main questions: What has been achieved by transnational cooperation so far and what is the future potential?

The conference will take place 15th and 16th September 2011 in Katowice, Poland and feature high level speakers and panels including EU Commission representatives and Polish Ministries. It is arranged in cooperation with and hosted by the Silesian Region and the city of Katowice and will be an accompanying event of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council.

Participation on invitation only, it will be possible to follow the event on streaming from the conference website. www.transnational-cooperation.eu



TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION

15-16 SEPTEMBER 2011
KATOWICE, POLAND

*On a mission
to improve
quality of life
in regional
Europe.*



FOCUS ON APPROVED PROJECTS



Priority 1 Competitiveness and Attractiveness

ALPlastics *a network of private/public actors actively involved in local development policies in 5 Alpine regions, to create proper conditions for STRATEGIC INNOVATION in the ALPINE PLASTICS CLUSTERS and strengthen the related economic sector.*

Competitiveness is today, more than ever, linked to strategic innovation; and innovation in this globalization age cannot be pursued like in the past, at the level of single enterprise or in a confined regional cluster. Cluster management bodies (CL.MB) can play a fundamental role toward innovation and competitiveness:

- CL.MB are at the centre of the "cluster 's triple helix system" and their activities can harness the resources and talents of industry, government and academia, to develop practical solutions toward strategic innovation.
- CL.MB can provide governments with a strategic opportunity to address social and economic challenges through innovation support programmes.

But only excellent cluster management can bring significant results, contributing to better competitiveness for enterprises, increased employment and prosperity in regions. ALPlastics will create proper conditions for

public-private cooperation and an efficient management of plastic clusters in the Alpine Space.

Alps4EU

Alps4EU aims to overcome clusters 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 Alpine Space's economy.

The project will address both policy making and cluster management activities, with a trans-regional approach and it will impact on phase 2 and 3 of the policy cycle in order to:

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

Specifically, Alps4EU will map 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 EU level.

CCAAlps - *Creative companies in the Alpine Space*

Creativity is a modern lever to sustainable growth, considered a fundamental asset to enable a behavioural change. To promote a competitive growth in the Alpine area, it is important to bet on creative industries, because of their capability to trigger transformation in a territory. The main objective of CCAAlps is therefore to create a real and virtual network of hubs in the Alps, that puts creativity and innovation at the centre and that is able to focus on specific issues and opportunities for local and transnational development. The project will establish collaboration between CCIs (cultural and creative industries), carriers of ideas, producers, policy makers and universities, to promote and develop innovative pilot projects (Creative Camp) and new policies for their growth. CCAAlps aims to push policy makers in thinking out specific regulations that can support CCIs in the Alpine Space. A policy recommendations dossier will define the guidelines to finance services and the start-up phase of new CCIs.

OPEN-ALPS *Open Innovation in Alpine SMEs*

Aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the Alpine Space by introducing and developing innovations in SMEs based on the Open Innovation (OI) paradigm. The main objective is to support Alpine SMEs in the technology sector in their transition from internal "closed innovation" to "open innovation". This shall encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and strengthen research and innovation capacities for SMEs in the participating Alpine regions. OPEN-ALPS plans a new transnational OI support service of OI Hubs, a web-based OI management platform with 500 innovation seekers from 300 SMEs and 5.000 innovation solvers from 500 R&TD institutions, special transnational OI innovation forums and OI labs. The experiences will be used to improve regional innovation policies and will be disseminated in the EU27 in order to make a valuable contribution to the innovation policy in Europe, especially the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union.



MORECO - *Mobility and Residential Costs*

Insufficient accessibility to public transport services is one of the results of urban sprawl

arising from the dynamic settlement development in the hinterland of Alpine cities. This forces people to use motorised private transport which causes environmental pollution, traffic congestion, high follow-up costs for infrastructure, high individual mobility costs and long time for commuting and daily supply.

MORECO actively supports a sustainable, resource-friendly settlement development which follows supply facilities and public transport axes. For this purpose it combines planning measures and spatial policies with activities of transport providers and mobility actors. In addition a bottom up approach involves house hunting households and residential construction actors who have direct influence on the property market. Innovative tools, ensuring reliable information and high transparency of long-term MObility + REsidential COsts, support the actors in their decision-making processes.

TranSAFE-Alp: *connecting Transport regional networks to Security and emergency Advanced Strategy Frameworks of European and Alpine regions decisional platforms.*

Transnational cooperation on transport crisis management due to incidents in tunnels and rare strong natural events is an outstanding challenge for Alpine Space security and emergency authorities. TranSAFE-Alp aims at capitalizing innovative decision making tools already developed in previous ASP projects for the creation of an integrated ICT-share area for jointly support and coordinated intervention plans of Civil Protection and Transport Operators. A replicable decision-making shared area called JITES (Joint Integrated ICT-Technologies for Emergency and Security - management) will be able to collect real-time data on critical transport segments of the Alpine Space Transport network and generate critical intervention scenarios. JITES is an innovative simulation environment that will test efficiency and timeliness of security ITS/TMC actions in coordination with the implemented emergency plans of infrastructure operators and civil protection operative centres.

POLY5 - *Polycentric Planning Models for Local Development in Territories crossed by Corridor 5 and its TEN-T ramifications*

The main problem addressed is the marginalization that a major transport infrastructure (MTI) can cause to Alpine areas. The project aims at making mountain areas catch the opportunities of MTIs, rather than just suffer their environmental and social impact. The project foresees the elaboration of an unbiased method to measure the value of an Alpine area and to maximize it, given the

presence of a MTI. A polycentric development toolkit will synthesize the method providing indication to public actors for each phase of MTIs "life-cycle". Pilot actions will test some solutions and final validation of the toolkit will lead to guidelines integrating project results in transnational policies, adopted by policy makers at different administrative level. A transversal activity will be the involvement of local communities to build consensus, raising awareness on the importance of participating and controlling public choices/processes.

NEWFOR - *NEW technologies for a better mountain FOrEst timber mobilization*

The role played by mountain forests is extremely varied. Their contribution to the stability and overall development of life and economic factors in mountainous regions is highly relevant. Due mainly to topographic conditions, managing mountain forests is significantly more cost intensive than in plain areas. A good knowledge of forest biomass location, characteristics, mobilization conditions and connectivity to wood industry is a prerequisite for the development of a sustainable timber supply chain in mountain territories. The available knowledge is currently not sufficient to ensure a cost-effective and sustainable wood supply. Based on the use of new technologies for forest and topography characterization, NEWFOR is dedicated to enhance and develop tools and adapted policies for decision making in the field of a sustainable and adaptive mountain forest resources management facing the sustainability of mountain forest ecosystems services.



Priority 3
Environment and Risk Prevention

C3-Alps - *Capitalising Climate Change Knowledge for Adaptation in the Alpine Space*

C3-Alps is a new type of capitalisation project that will synthesize, transfer and implement into policy and practice the results of previous and

running Alpine Space climate change and adaptation projects.

The capitalisation approach aims at
a) generating new forms of state-of-the art synthesis adaptation knowledge in the Alps, harmonised across sectors and usable and useful for decision-makers,
b) its effective and tailor-made communication and transfer to target groups,
c) enhancing effectiveness of adaptation policy and governance frameworks
d) initiating, supporting and pioneering tailored and cross-cutting adaptation processes, strategies, action plans as well as granting decision support in pilot regions and municipalities.

From the beginning all activities are focused on the information and user needs of target groups.

By supporting bottom-up actions, C3-Alps will contribute to the implementation of national adaptation policies on regional and municipal levels and to the advancement of national adaptation strategies.

ALPSTAR - *Toward carbon neutral alps, make best practice minimum standard*

The project addresses the need expressed by the international community for transnational, well-directed and cross-cutting action to effectively manage climate change in the Alps. It aims to encourage preparation and implementation of cross-sectoral strategies, action plans and proven good practice measures toward carbon neutrality on regional and local level. It contributes to the implementation of the Alpine Convention Climate Action Plan and assures interaction with and transfer of results to the policy level. The added value is in the cross-sectoral, integrative and participatory approach of the project. Through the establishment of a good practice transfer platform, the project provides the framework for: transfer of knowledge between regions, capitalisation of results of other projects and for implementation of measures toward carbon neutrality in the regions. Strategies and action plans toward carbon neutrality will be prepared in 12 pilot regions and their realisation will start through implementation of measures.

Visit the programme website

www.alpine-space.eu