Interreg Alpine Space
EUROPEAN UNION

14 | 20

10 REASONS
FOR TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ALPS

COOPERATION

BETTER SERVICES

COHESION

LEVERAGE

KNOWLEDGE

VISIBLE RESULTS

COMPETITIVENESS

IMPACT

BEYOND BORDERS

MACRO REGION

ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME

The Alpine Space programme is a European transnational cooperation programme, which provides a framework to connect stakeholders from various sectors and different policy levels from seven Alpine countries. Key players from the academia and from the administrative, business and innovation sectors, as well as policy-makers cooperate to tackle common challenges and develop joint solutions for the Alpine area.

Sharing their experiences and expertise, they work towards improving the quality of life for the Alpine citizens. Actions supported by the programme help to make the Alpine Space more innovative, CO2-friendly, better connected and they contribute to an improved governance.

The programme is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as well as through national public and private co-funding of Partner States.
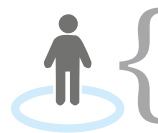
7
countries

34
NUTS 2 regions

70
millions inhabitants
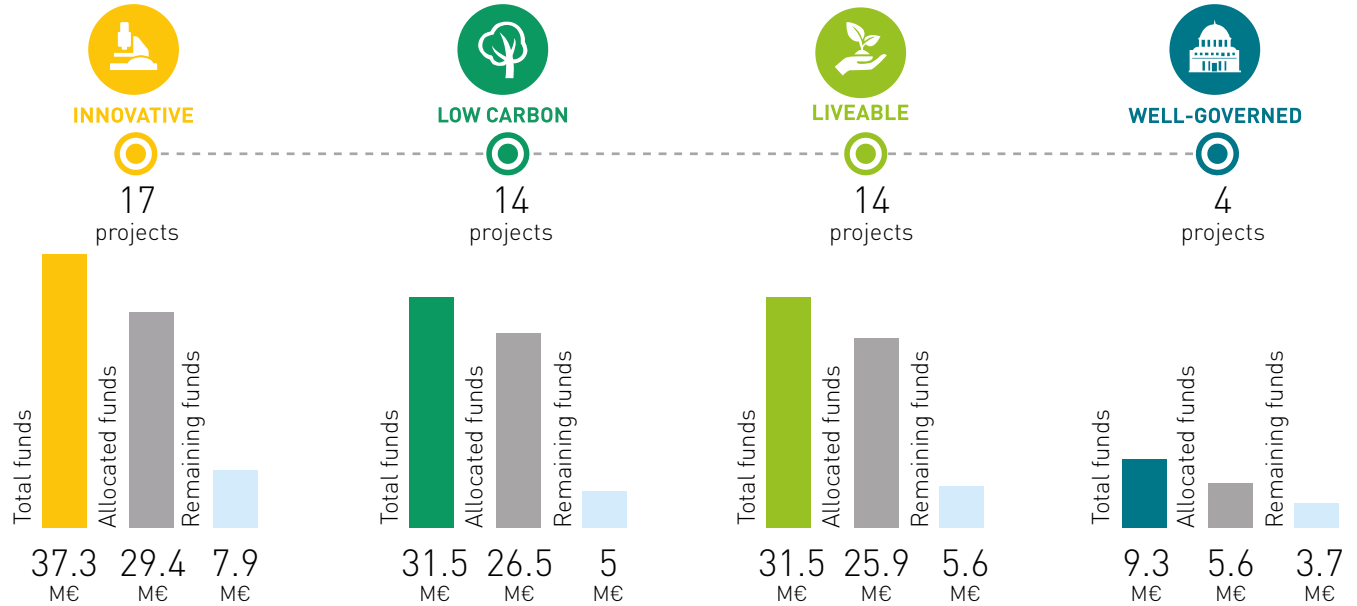
139
M€ budget

49
projects

563
partners

*NUTS 2: Second territorial level (often regional) of the European Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS).

FUNDS ALLOCATED BY THE END OF 2018 PER PROGRAMME PRIORITY

INNOVATIVE
17 projects

Total funds · Allocated funds · Remaining funds

37.3 M€ · 29.4 M€ · 7.9 M€

LOW CARBON
14 projects

Total funds · Allocated funds · Remaining funds

31.5 M€ · 26.5 M€ · 5 M€

LIVEABLE
14 projects

Total funds · Allocated funds · Remaining funds

31.5 M€ · 25.9 M€ · 5.6 M€

WELL-GOVERNED
4 projects

Total funds · Allocated funds · Remaining funds

9.3 M€ · 5.6 M€ · 3.7 M€

10 REASONS FOR TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ALPS

1

COHESION

Transnational cooperation helps to reduce regional disparities and increases cohesion in specific territories

2

COMPETITIVENESS

Transnational cooperation builds trust across borders and fosters European integration for a more competitive Europe

3

MACRO REGION

Transnational cooperation funding is decisive in making macro-regional strategies work
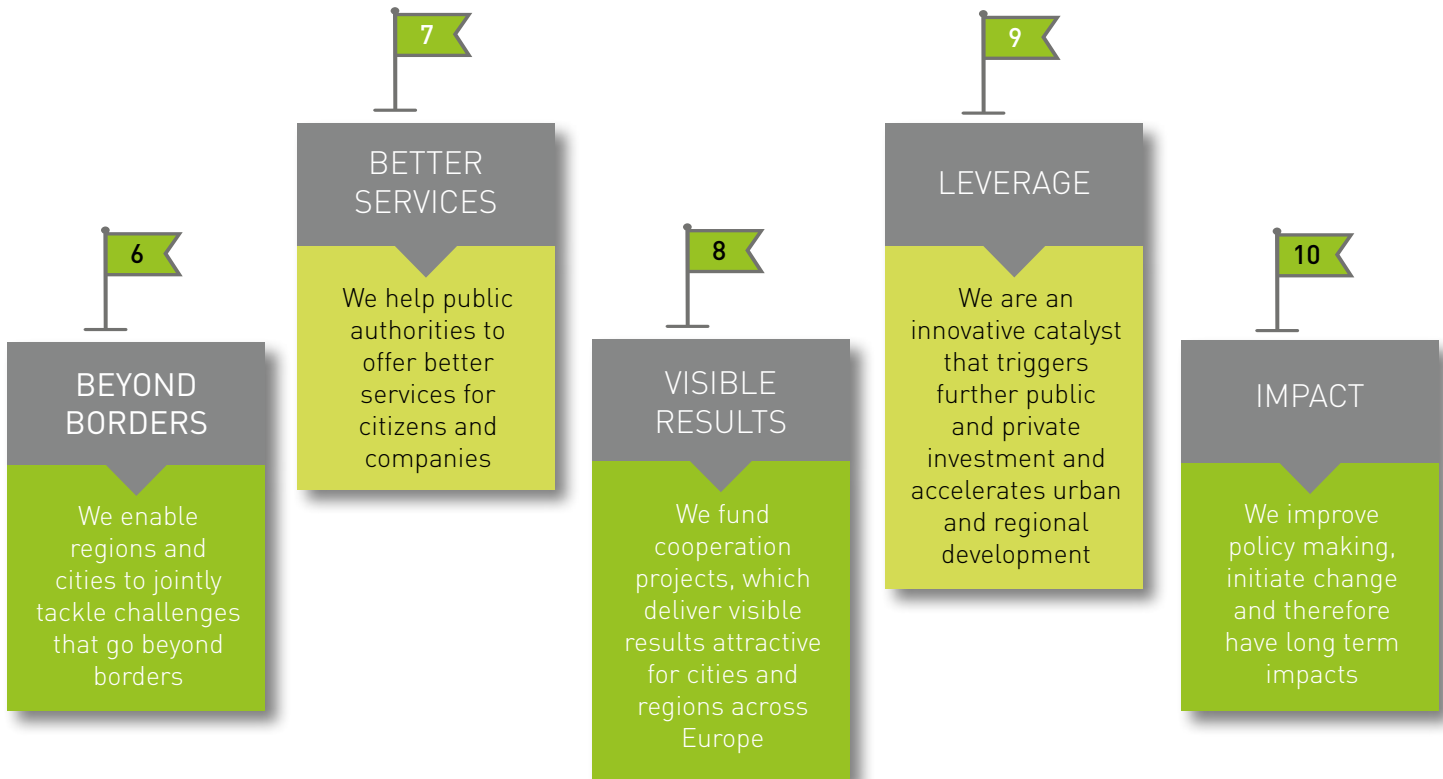
4

KNOWLEDGE

We deliver territorial cohesion: our most important results are new knowledge, shared experiences and enhanced capacities

5

EFFICIENCY

We enable regions and cities to make better use of limited resources

6 BEYOND BORDERS

We enable regions and cities to jointly tackle challenges that go beyond borders

7 BETTER SERVICES

We help public authorities to offer better services for citizens and companies

8 VISIBLE RESULTS

We fund cooperation projects, which deliver visible results attractive for cities and regions across Europe

9 LEVERAGE

We are an innovative catalyst that triggers further public and private investment and accelerates urban and regional development

10 IMPACT

We improve policy making, initiate change and therefore have long term impacts

#MadewithAlpineSpace

COHESION

Transnational
cooperation
helps to reduce
regional disparities
and increases
cohesion in specific
territories

1

Transnational cooperation sparks development

Idrija and Cerkno are two sparsely populated municipalities in the Slovenian Alps. Here, 17% of the population cannot reach a doctor within 20 minutes by car. The figure rises to 44% if we consider public transport. Shops and post offices are not available everywhere and often have short working hours. Commuting in these areas is not easy, as buses are not frequent and it takes more than an hour to get to the closest train station. 3G mobile internet connections are not available in more remote areas and even town centres lack broadband services. This situation hinders the attractiveness of Idrija and Cerkno as areas to live and work in. In turn, as the population decreases, providing services becomes more of a challenge.

Idrija and Cerkno are one of the 8 pilot areas where the **INTESI** project works to break this vicious circle. The INTESI strategy taps into potential synergies and increases efficiency thanks to the integration of different administrative levels, sectors and financial sources. By doing so, Alpine communities will get a chance to drop a sectoral model that is no longer sustainable and look for more viable ways to meet their service needs.

One of the main points that emerged from the INTESI analysis is the requirement to integrate telecommunication services with the other sectors. **SmartVillages** focuses on information technologies as the very means to empower local communities by bringing together local governments, businesses, NGOs and citizens to work together for a better future.

1 "Older people want to spend the rest of their lives at home. To achieve this goal, in rural areas we must empower the elderly and provide services in their vicinity – as the INTESI project has done in Reutte-Außerfern."
Sonja Ledl-Rossmann,
President of the Tyrolean Parliament

www.alpine-space.eu/alpbioeco

www.alpine-space.eu/dualplus

www.alpine-space.eu/INTESI

www.alpine-space.eu/sesam

www.alpine-space.eu/smartvillages

COMPETITIVENESS

Transnational cooperation builds trust across borders and fosters European integration for a more competitive Europe

2

Enhanced competitiveness across borders through transnational cooperation

www.alpine-space.eu/alplinkbioeco

www.alpine-space.eu/bifocalps

www.alpine-space.eu/care4tech

www.alpine-space.eu/s3-4alpclusters

www.alpine-space.eu/smart-space

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is the most industrial region in France and among the most innovative, with 2,812 patents filed in 2016. Here, 96% of companies have less than 50 employees, so staying ahead of the curve is a challenge as well as a must. 46% of manufacturers in the region have already set up a Factory of the Future (FoF) strategy to improve company adaptability and reach the market in new ways, but they all need appropriate IT infrastructure and better value chain integration.

To support these changes, **BIFOCAlps** works to enhance knowledge transfer between research centers, development agencies and businesses and to create a method based on the good practices observed at each level of the value chain. It also establishes standardised impact indicators in line with the smart specialisation strategies (S3) that have been set up in participating regions.

When designing S3, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes policy-makers must figure out how these strategies can help clusters stay competitive and how these, in turn, can become a channel for effective S3 implementation. To tackle this issue, **S3-4AlpClusters** has devised its S3-Innovation Model.The idea behind S3-4AlpClusters is that clusters can help narrow regional strategies from sectoral level to more specific topics. "For instance," S3-4AlpClusters Advisory Board explains, "the whole automotive sector may be too wide a focus. Our diamond model will help find niches for smart specialisation like connecting cars to cloud services."

MACRO REGION

3

Transnational cooperation funding is decisive in making macro regional strategies work

# Macro regional strategies need transnational cooperation

One of the major challenges for the Alpine Space is climate change. This area is particularly vulnerable to variations in weather and climatic conditions. Here, events like receding glaciers, heavy rainfalls and the reduction of permafrost soils tend to appear sooner than on the global level, be particularly intense and affect the very delicate environment. Since these processes cannot be reversed, adaptation becomes a priority for the Alpine region. The Alpine countries have already developed climate adaptation strategies, yet capacities for implementing them and integrating them into sectoral policies are scarce everywhere. The situation is even worse on the local level, where this theme is hardly present in policy-makers' agendas.

To tackle these challenges, **GoApply** sets up a new adaptation model coordinating governance levels, integrating policies across sectors and providing best practices maps. This work will help reach the goals of the Action Group 8 of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP AG8), whose aim is "to improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risk prevention".

"The inputs of GoApply will contribute to achieving three AG8 objectives;" EUSALP AG8 co-leader Florian Rudolf-Miklau explains, "paving the ground for shared and improved adaptation policies and governance approaches; supporting synergies between risk management and climate change adaptation; and extending the contents of the online portal "CAPA – Climate Adaptation Platforms for the Alps".

3

Did you know?
The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is an integrated framework between Alpine states and regions to address common challenges in the Alpine region.
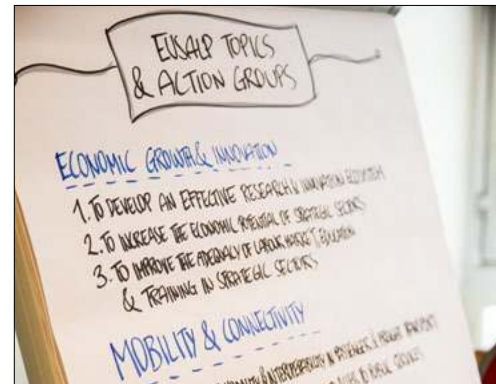
www.alpine-space.eu/alpgov

www.alpine-space.eu/goapply

KNOWLEDGE

We deliver
territorial
cohesion: our
most important
results are new
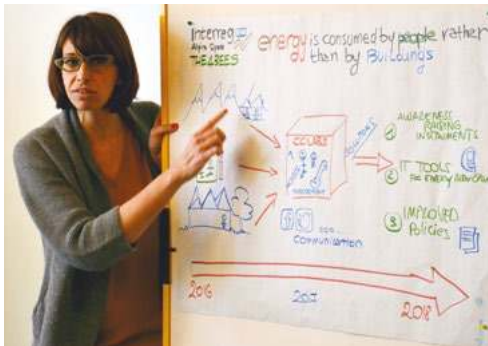knowledge, shared
experiences
and enhanced
capacities

4

Transnational cooperation builds knowledge and capacities

4

"Circular economy challenges
current business models,
brings new opportunities and
benefits everyone."
Greencycle Circular Economy
Factsheet

"

www.alpine-space.eu/desalps

www.alpine-space.eu/rockthealps

www.alpine-space.eu/ecoalpswater

www.alpine-space.eu/trails

www.alpine-space.eu/greencycle

www.alpine-space.eu/THE4BEES

www.alpine-space.eu/greenrisk4alps

www.alpine-space.eu/imeas

www.alpine-space.eu/samba

In Maribor, Slovenia, children learn how to give a new life to waste objects, while developing a positive attitude toward recycling. In Trento, Italy, pupils walk to school under the guidance of volunteers. In Austria, the Energy.Aware.Götzis campaign has encouraged users of municipal buildings to save energy through active involvement. In Vienne, France, methane gas is extracted from wastewater and up to 97% of waste textiles is being reused.

All these initiatives move toward circular economy, whose goal is to reduce waste to a minimum thanks to smart design, repair, re-use and recycle. **Greencycle** promotes this model as a cross-sectoral approach to support low-carbon strategies and reduce greenhouse emissions by 2-4% in the 14 partner cities. This way, partner cities will become circular economy benchmarks and will actively involve other cities and regions. The Greencycle circular economy toolbox, transnational marketplace and circular economy cooperation platform will then become resources for all Alpine Space municipalities.

No waste reduction can be obtained without a change in people's behaviour and the same is true for energy savings. "Energy is consumed by people rather than by buildings" is the starting point of **THE4BEES**, a project aimed at increasing energy savings by raising awareness, engaging users and measuring consumption through open-source ICT applications. The project also provides guidelines for energy efficiency and territorial development.

EFFICIENCY

5

We enable regions
and cities to make
better use of
limited resources

Transnational cooperation increases efficiency

Val Maira and Val Grana are two valleys in the Western Alps of Piemonte (Italy) where more than 21% of the population is over 65. Three quarters of these people have at least one chronic disease and take medications every day. **CO.N.S.E.N.SO** gives these elderly a chance to age at home, among the mountains they love. The project has devised an innovative third age health and social care model and has tested it in 5 areas across the Alpine Space, reaching about 4,000 elderly.

The cornerstone of this model is the family and community nurse, who helps the elderly stay active and healthy by providing information, ensuring a safe environment and promptly addressing vulnerability. Assisting up to 500 people, each nurse works in connection with social and medical services, organising a home help or ready prepared meals and contacting a doctor as need arises. This way, they ensure better quality of life for the elderly, lower the number of hospitalisations and reduce overall costs, rising to the challenge of providing quality and yet viable services in far off Alpine valleys.

For such a multitasking position, health-related know-how is not the only necessary skill. "Here – says nurse Francesca Sansone – it is all about building trust with each senior and taking care of people beyond purely health-related issues." For this reason, special attention has been paid to the selection of nurses and to their training through an innovative transnational course and e-learning tools.

5

"The CoNSENSo training fills a big gap in our traditional training and looks at the present challenges of the health systems."
Paola Obbia,
Regione Piemonte; Lecturer in the Nursing Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences,University of Turin, Italy

www.alpine-space.eu/consenso

BEYOND BORDERS

6

We enable regions and cities to jointly tackle challenges that go beyond borders

Borderless issues require a transnational approach

www.alpine-space.eu/alpbionet2030

www.alpine-space.eu/AlpES

www.alpine-space.eu/alpinnoct

www.alpine-space.eu/hymocares

www.alpine-space.eu/SPARE

www.alpine-space.eu/pluralps

How often, in the Alps, have you crossed national borders without even noticing? Mountainous landscapes are similar, cows keep roaming around and streams flow seamlessly from a country into another. Borders are conventions, but natural elements follow their own logic and call for a different, transnational approach.

This is the case of river management, which is the focus of two Alpine Space projects, **SPARE** and **HyMoCARES**. SPARE makes a pan-Alpine overview of priority rivers needing protection and promotes the use of participatory methods and of a catchment-wide, transnational approach. HyMoCARES treats rivers as ecosystem services, which are useful only when healthy. The project provides tools to assess and improve the hydromorphologic quality of rivers integrating local and basin levels.

Besides rivers, grasslands, woods and even swamps can also provide services to people living in the Alps. **AlpES** develops a set of tools that can help public bodies, interest groups, researchers and economic players identify, assess and manage ecosystems services at a transnational scale.

Ecosystems provide services not only for humans, but also for animals. **ALPBIONET2030** deals with habitat loss and fragmentation, which constitute the single greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide. The project builds an Alpine wildlife strategy and tests it in areas where it is possible to set up corridors between remaining habitat patches to support genetic diversity, migrations and species adaptation to climate change.

BETTER SERVICES

We help public
authorities to offer
better services
for citizens and
companies

7

Transnational cooperation improves services

In 2014 and 2015 two highly technological Venetian companies specialised in metal drawing, Trafilerie Spa Cittadella and Trafilerie Industriali Spa, were bought by Voestalpine, an Austrian-German industrial group operating more than 500 steel processing companies in 50 countries. This takeover was highly beneficial to the two Italian companies: their production doubled in less than three years despite the crisis, and the local ownership remained fully operational in one of the companies, keeping a minority share of the capital.

While the two Venetian companies found this positive solution to enhance their production, other businesses often struggle with finding suitable buyers or sellers. The 2011 "Business dynamics: start-ups, business transfer and bankruptcy" study by the European Commission estimates that each year 150,000 firms fail to be transferred, putting about 600,000 jobs at risk. International business transfers can offer Alpine SMEs a chance for business renewal but many of them lack access to intermediary services and those currently available are not as complete as desired. **C-TEMAlp** identifies clients' needs and sets up joint, standardised services for sellers and buyers in the Alpine Space. To ease the match between buyers and sellers, C-TEMAlp created an online business transfer platform including a marketplace area, contacts of participating support organisations and information about the regions, their core sectors and investment opportunities.

7

Did you know?
The Alps count more than 160 transport companies for public services.
Youth Alpine Interrail
www.yoalin.org

www.alpine-space.eu/asis
www.alpine-space.eu/atlas
www.alpine-space.eu/cheers
www.alpine-space.eu/C-TEMAlp
www.alpine-space.eu/scale(up)alps

VISIBLE RESULTS

We fund cooperation projects, which deliver visible results attractive for cities and regions across Europe

8

We develop solutions for regions and cities

©Flore Giraud

www.alpine-space.eu/alpfoodway

www.alpine-space.eu/astus

www.alpine-space.eu/casco

www.alpine-space.eu/los_dama

www.alpine-space.eu/youralps

Up to the 20th century, rye was the most widespread cereal in the Alps. In the Aosta Valley, it was made into bread once or twice a year in village ovens. Breadmaking involved the whole community and followed very precise rules. Later on, corn and wheat largely replaced rye but village ovens are still in place.

Today, depopulation, ageing population and globalisation threaten food traditions and other aspects of Alpine culture and challenge Alpine identity. YOUrALPS and AlpFoodway work to invert this trend in different ways. **YOUrALPS** sets up a range of educational activities to empower and engage youth with the Alpine natural and cultural heritage and develop an Alpine school model. **Alp-Foodway** involves communities in order to safeguard Alpine food heritage, valorise it and turn it into an asset for local development through a transnational and multi-disciplinary approach. The shared Alpine identity emerging from these initiatives constitutes a strong basis for the nomination of Alpine food heritage to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list. Breadmaking is one element of this identity, strongly felt in many regions across the Alps. After Lo Pan Ner (black bread) festival was created in the Aosta Valley, other Italian communities joined in and, thanks to Alp-Foodway, in 2018 Lo Pan Ner will also take place in France and Slovenia.

For the outstanding activities these projects have developed in their respective fields, the European Commission selected Your-Alps and AlpFoodway as highlights of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.

INVESTMENTS

We are an innovative catalyst that triggers further public and private investment and accelerates urban and regional development

9

Transnational cooperation boosts investments

In Austria, women affected by domestic violence are supported in recovering their independence. In Germany, disadvantaged adolescents get a chance to obtain an apprenticeship or gainful job. In France, microcredit supports unemployed residents of rural areas in transitioning to a new activity. What these social projects have in common is that they are the first in their country to have been funded through social impact bonds (SIBs), new public-private contracts whereby the private investor gets repaid and remunerated only when a pre-defined social goal is achieved.

As social services increasingly face strains on their budgets, SIBs are becoming an interesting option to increase cost effectiveness. The **AlpSib** project aims at accelerating the adoption of such agreements to better tackle the needs of seniors and NEETS (young people not in education, employment or training). To do so, it develops a result measuring system, learning resources, policy guidelines and an investor-project matching tool, which all Alpine communities can access through the AlpSib online platform. AlpSib also organises forums and labs to meet face to face, learn about SIBs and discuss target group needs.

AlpSib has raised such interest at EU level that both the European Commission and the European Investment Bank sent representatives to the first AlpSib transnational forum in September 2017 in Nice. AlpSib results and resources can then foster the use of SIBs in the rest of Europe, well beyond the Alpine Space.

9

Did you know?
Efficiency in electric mobility: drivers often feel they cannot use their e-vehicles for cross-border trips. The **e-MOTICON** project improves the e-charging stations network in the Alpine Space.

www.alpine-space.eu/alpsib

www.alpine-space.eu/e-moticon

IMPACT

10

We improve policy making, initiate change and therefore have long term impacts

Transnational cooperation brings about lasting impacts

10

Did you know?
The renewable heat provided by the 1.400,000 heat pumps installed in Europe equals the heat produced by 2.6 million tonnes of oil. 41% of all installed capacity for shallow geothermal energy are located in the Alpine Space.
GeoTrainet Shallow Geothermal Market Analysis, Issue n.3, Jan-Apr 2016

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www.alpine-space.eu/astahg
www.alpine-space.eu/bbclean
www.alpine-space.eu/cesba-alps
www.alpine-space.eu/gaya
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www.alpine-space.eu/links4soils
www.alpine-space.eu/melinda
www.alpine-space.eu/PEACE_Alps
www.alpine-space.eu/smartaltitude

Current Alpine challenges call for the joint efforts of local, region-al and national players to build a new governance model. More than ever before, this cannot be achieved unless new solutions become widespread in the whole Alpine Space. Alpine Space projects adopt such multilevel approach and produce results that can spark long lasting and far reaching change.

In the energy field, for instance, the CESBA Alps, GRETA and PEACE_Alps projects tackle sustainability from different but complementary perspectives. **CESBA Alps** brings sustainability assessment systems to the territorial scale, devising a set of harmonised indicators and methods to help policy-makers make data driven decisions. Not only will CESBA Alps impacts be widespread, but, as its assessment system becomes the standard in the Alpine territory, they will even become permanent. **GRETA** studies and tests technology from a specific, clean energy source: shallow geothermal heat. The project also develops a knowledge base and tools that will pave the way to a larger diffusion of this technology. **PEACE_Alps** helps municipalities set up low carbon and climate adaptation actions by bundling local needs and offering centralised technical assistance. "Over 20 regional public authorities and sectoral agencies are set to learn from Peace_Alps. This knowledge transfer will triple the project impact" Peace_Alps coordinators say. That is one of the reasons why, in 2018, PEACE_Alps won the European Sustainable Energy Award.

GRAND EST*

NIEDER-ÖSTERREICH

WIEN

FREIBURG

TÜBINGEN

SCHWABEN

OBERBAYERN

OBER-ÖSTERREICH

BOURGOGNE-FRANCHE-COMTÉ*

NW-SCHWEIZ

ZÜRICH

VORARLBERG

TIROL

SALZBURG

STEIERMARK

BURGENLAND

ESPACE MITTELLAND

ZENTRAL-SCHWEIZ

LIECHTENSTEIN

OSTSCHWEIZ

KÄRNTEN

RÉGION LÉMANIQUE

TICINO

TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

SLOVENIJA

AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES*

VALLE D'AOSTA

LOMBARDIA

VENETO

PIEMONTE

LIGURIA

PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D' AZUR

NOTE
Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes*: Ain, Ardèche, Drôme, Isère, Loire, Rhône, Savoie, Haute-Savoie.
Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté*: Doubs, Jura, Haute-Saône, Territoire de Belfort; Région Grand Est*: Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin.

#MadewithAlpineSpace

While highlighting 10 reasons for transnational cooperation in the Alpine region, the #MadewithAlpineSpace campaign showcases achievements and results of Alpine Space projects. The campaign aims at illustrating the added value that transnational projects bring to the Alpine region and its citizens through concrete examples of cooperation.

#MadewithAlpineSpace builds on the #MadewithInterreg initiative and the publication "10 Things to know about transnational cooperation", developed by all Interreg transnational programmes and Interreg Europe. Interreg transnational cooperation programmes bring together stakeholders from geographically and culturally similar areas, to jointly address the challenges and opportunities that they have in common.

FOLLOW US!!!

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