

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE ALPINE REGION AFTER THE JOINT DECLARATION
DELIVERED DURING THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF EUSALP

Improved embedding of macro-regional strategies in the relevant EU policies post-2020 is possible with better governance and awareness. Youths are willing to engage and contribute to the strategy's development.

EUSALP is the fourth macro regional strategy officially endorsed by the EU Council. This macro-regional strategy concerns seven countries; five EU Member States - Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia - and two non-EU countries - Liechtenstein and Switzerland. It covers 48 regions and will enable more than 80 million citizens to reap the benefits of closer cooperation between regions and countries.

During the EUSALP Annual Forum held at BMW Welt in Munich on 23 and 24 November 2017, in the presence of the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Mrs. Corina Crețu, the General Assembly (23 November) agreed to ask the European institutions to ensure that the macro-regional strategies will be adequately considered in the EU Cohesion Policy, and other relevant EU policies beyond 2020.

In the "Joint Declaration on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)", adopted by the General Assembly, countries and regions commit themselves to continue raising awareness of Strategy activities among political leaders, actors and citizens at European, national and regional level.

Commitment was also reiterated by Mrs. Crețu, who stated that "the success of all regional strategies cannot be regarded without the active participation of all actors involved at local, regional, national and European level."

The General Assembly expressed its commitment to activating "good governance and citizens' engagement with a particular focus on youth in order to establish and foster cooperation and synergies between the strategy and existing initiatives in the Alpine region, such as the structured exchange launched between the Alpine Convention's working bodies and the EUSALP Action Groups".

All delegates also expressed their gratitude to the European Parliament for its ongoing and strong commitment to the implementation of the strategy, as demonstrated by the allocation of two million Euros in the years 2017 and 2018 for preparatory actions and the implementation of the development strategy. Land Salzburg has taken responsibility for managing this Alpine Region Preparatory Action FUND (ARPAF) for the years 2017 and 2018.

At the Munich meeting, Italy and France declared their intention to assume the presidency of the Strategy in the years 2019 and 2020. The General Assembly will take a final decision on this issue at its next meeting, under the Tyrolian presidency.

The declaration also contains a list of implementation priorities from the Action Groups' Work Plans for the coming years.

The EUSALP Annual Forum itself was attended by more than 600 participants, from all the Alpine Countries. Several workshops were organised during those two days, showing all the activities and work in progress by the nine Action Groups. A specific stakeholder and citizen workshop brought together many important players, from entrepreneurs to unions and many NGOs active in the mountains and plains of the Alpine Region. All the results and conclusions of the nine Action Groups and more detailed information about workshops and the plenary session are included in the [EUSALP newsletter](#).

80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions,
mountains and plains addressing together
common challenges and opportunities

