

European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region

EUSALP



Action Group 4 Mobility Work Plan Summary

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Executive Summary

Under the 2nd Strategic Objective of EUSALP, partners focus on the most important challenges and opportunities concerning mobility and connectivity in the Alpine Region. Action Group 4 addresses the need for sustainable mobility solutions by promoting intermodality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport.

The AG4 gathers 23 representatives of regions, national states and the civil society, meeting three times per year. The European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino has been entrusted with the lead of AG 4 and has mandated the region of Tyrol to take the strategic lead function in this Action Group running for three years from 2016 to 2019. The three lead regions – Tyrol, South Tyrol and Trentino – will also host annual mobility conferences within the three years.

Three priority topics have been identified by AG4 members at the start of the process.

- Implementation of modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems
- Infrastructure for sustainable transport
- Interconnecting public transport systems

Strong links are ensured with the Alpine Convention, the International treaty between the Alpine countries as well as the EU, being represented as observer in AG4.

A coordinated and harmonised approach with the work of the Suivi de Zurich Process, the formal cooperation platform of the Ministers of Transport of the Alpine countries, is reflected in AG4.

Tyrol's function as Coordination Point for 2017 and 2018 of iMONITRAF!, a network of seven regions promoting harmonisation of toll systems on Alpine transit corridors, enables streamlining with the activities of AG4 priority topic 1 on modal shift policies.

Mission Statement Action Group

The Alps are an extremely sensitive environment located in the heart of the European continent. Special geographical features cause particular constraints regarding accessibility and transport infrastructure. Transport is one of the main causes of climate change – almost thirty percent of all greenhouse gases in the Alps can be attributed to transport – and both passenger and freight traffic volumes are rising continuously. Road transport in particular causes negative externalities such as air pollution, noise and traffic congestion. This makes mobility one of the biggest challenges for the social, economic and ecological development of the Alpine regions. A coordinated approach giving way to a coherent strategy is required to tackle these challenges in order to ensure a sustainable development for the Alps.

The EUSALP Action Group 4 Mobility offers a platform to coordinate and harmonise the activities of Alpine regions and countries for a sustainable transport and mobility system. Its mission is to build a common understanding of transport policy and mobility, to define common objectives and to launch specific activities and projects.

In January 2016 the AG4 lead was awarded to the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino which mandated the task to its member Tyrol for the following three years.

Specific Objectives

In order to address the most important challenges and opportunities concerning mobility in the Alpine Region, the AG4 works towards the following objectives:

- To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport in particular by removing infrastructure bottlenecks, bridging missing links, coordinating planning and timetables of public transport, modernizing infrastructure and enhancing cooperation. The AG4 is addressing this objective by focusing on infrastructure for sustainable transport in passenger- and combined transport as well as interconnecting public transport systems, focusing on operations and information and ticketing services.
- To support the modal shift from road to rail. The Alpine regions are particularly sensitive to negative environmental and social impacts caused by the excessive traffic flow of freight and passenger transport through the Alps. In order to tackle this challenge the AG4 promotes the harmonization and implementation of modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems.
- To develop cooperation and greater integration between the existing bodies and structures in the field of transport. The close collaboration of the AG4 with different actors involved in the transport and mobility sectors of the Alpine Regions guarantees an improved coordination and ensures consistency between existing initiatives in order to avoid duplications and encourage the alignment of funding. Strong links have already been established with the Alpine Convention, the Suivi de Zurich Process, as well as the iMONITRAF! network.

Summarized Characterization

The AG4 gathers 23 representatives of regions, national states and the civil society.

Five national ministries (France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland) as well as 13 EUSALP regions (Bavaria, Burgenland, Carinthia, Central Switzerland and Ticino, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Salzburg, South Tyrol, Styria, Trento, Tyrol, Veneto, Vorarlberg) are nominated as members with DMC and contribute to the working process of the AG4 since the very beginning. Austria as well as the German Land Baden-Württemberg expressed their interest in the work of the AG4 and are, even though not being an active member, regularly updated on the work progress. The same applies to the regions Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, which are in the process of nominating a representative for their region. All members of the AG4 in possession of DCM are States and Regions represented by national ministries and regional administrations.

The AG4 emphasizes on the involvement of stakeholders at regional, national and international level in the elaboration and implementation of the AG4 work plan. Nevertheless, to guarantee the functioning and to ensure a balanced composition and stability of the Action Group, it is crucial that the number of participants working within the AG and participating at the AG4 Meetings remains manageable. Therefore, the AG4 members agreed since the very beginning to involve stakeholder organizations at national and regional level by providing information and collecting feedback and inputs. Stakeholders and experts can be invited to participate in Action Group meetings to provide necessary input for the implementation of the AG4 work program / Action Plan.

To ensure a greater integration between the existing bodies and structures, to avoid duplications of work and to exploit already existing synergies, stakeholders and experts can be invited to participate as member without DMC, based on a written agreement, in the work of the AG4 until the end of the AG4 work plan period. So far the organizations CIPRA international and CEI (Central European Initiative) have been invited, based on an agreement, to participate as member in advisory role in the work of the AG4.

Furthermore, the AG4 established close collaborations with networks like iMONITRAF! and Suivi de Zurich. Further interested stakeholders like various regional Chambers of Commerce and national transport associations of the EUSALP regions are regularly updated on the work progress of the AG4.

Specific Working Methods

General Approach

After the launch conference of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Regions in January in Brdo (Slovenia), the AG4 started their work process and have since then organised three Action Group Meetings throughout the year 2016.

- Kick off meeting on 9 March 2016 in Innsbruck
- 2nd Action Group Meeting on 28 June 2016 in Bolzano
- 3rd Action Group Meeting on 8 November 2016 in Innsbruck
- 4rd Action Group Meeting on 14 February 2017 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

The Action Group meetings are important milestones in the definition and implementation of the Work Plan. Regular meetings permit to enhance the collaboration between the AG members and facilitate the communication and decision making process within the Action Group. Meetings are used to present the results of previous activities, to decide on further steps, to exchange best practice examples as well as to communicate general information about the Macroregional strategy. Depending on the topic discussed, external experts or experts from the administrations itself are invited to share their knowledge with the group.

The first encounter with the members of the AG4 took place at the Kick off Meeting on 9 March 2016. The members of the AG agreed on general rules of procedures like the coordinated reporting and participation in case more than one representative per region or nation is appointed, as well as the reporting of AG4 activities at the TEN-T Corridor Fora by respective AG members. This approach guarantees the efficient use of already existing synergies, moreover the presence of the Action Group Leader at each Corridor Fora, six TEN-T corridors cross the EUSALP area, is not specifically required anymore.

Furthermore, during this first meeting, the draft work program for the AG4 was presented with the idea to identify three out of twelve key topics in the field of mobility. In a priority setting procedure four topics were identified as most important ones. Due to the close interconnection of two topics, the AG members decided on regrouping the thematic areas and to present three priority topics to further work on in the frame of EUSALP. Based on these topics, the objectives in line with the Action plan were designed:

- Priority topic 1: Implementation of modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems
- Priority topic 2: Infrastructure for sustainable transport
- Priority topic 3: Interconnecting public transport systems

At the second Action Group Meeting on 28 June 2016 in Bolzano the work of the AG was further defined by presenting the three priority topics in detail. Following discussions demonstrate the concrete challenges faced within the alpine regions which could be tackled at EUSALP level.

A report on environmental impacts and toll systems, prepared by the Action Group Leader, demonstrate the state of the art, including already existing policies and strategies as well as best practices within the Alpine region. Based on that working document, potential activities have been identified and presented to the entire Action Group. With the support of prepared questionnaires, the AG members were asked to submit best practice examples as well as priorities on proposed activities under the priority topic 1. The proposal to lead a specific subgroup in the frame of priority topic 1 did attract no or little interest by the members; hence the AGL will further coordinate the activities in order to achieve the three main objectives of the AG4.

At the third Action Group Meeting on 8 November 2016 in Innsbruck the results of the questionnaires were present. The Action Group decided on concrete activities for the next years and defined the work plan. The members were actively involved by presenting pre-selected best practice examples of outstanding projects under priority topic 2 and 3. The three priority topics were now addressed as subgroups lead by the AGL with the support of two consultants. For the first time, external experts and stakeholders were also invited to contribute with their expertise to the work of the Action Group 4, of which CIPRA and the Central European Initiative participated at the meeting. Furthermore, the presence of a representative of the JS of the Alpine

Space Program initiated a deeper exchange between the AG4 and already approved INTERREG Alpine Space projects in the field of mobility.

Mobility Conferences:

Over the next three years, annual Mobility Conferences will be hosted alternately in the capitals of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino. The first Mobility Conference took place on 9 November 2016 in Innsbruck, the following ones will take place in Bolzano 2017, in Trento 2018 and the final Conference in 2019 again in Innsbruck. They will be grouped together with meetings of the AG4 in order to facilitate participation of members. The Conferences offer a platform for dissemination and interaction with the wider public, stakeholders, the press as well as the political level. The first Mobility Conference was hosted by the Tyrolian Governor and offered the possibility to present the work program of the AG4 and for invited stakeholders to present themselves and their work linked to the AG4. In a following roundtable discussion, regional ministers of transport and mobility confirmed the importance of the AG4 to tackle transport challenges at a macroregional level.

Combining synergies / governance:

Since the very beginning various stakeholders expressed their interest in the work of the AG4. The stakeholders have been regularly updated by sharing the meeting reports and presentations. Since the third AG meeting, stakeholders and external experts were invited to be actively involved in the work of the AG4.

In order to guarantee the use of already existing structures and mechanisms throughout the Alpine regions, close collaboration with CIPRA as well as CEI (Central European Initiative) have already been established. Both organizations participated as external experts to the III Action Group meeting and contributed to the roundtable discussion at the 1st Mobility Conference. The participation of the Alpine Convention as Observer in the AG is a further asset, in order to avoid overlaps and create synergies in the respective work programs.

The continuous exchange with the Joint Secretariat of the Alpine Space Program guarantees the link between the AG4 and the approved Interreg ASP projects in the field of mobility. Contacts with the project Leaders of ASTUS and e-MOTICON are already established. ASTUS was presented at the 1st Mobility Conference on 9 November 2016 and the AG4 leader is invited to participate at the project launch event on 22 February 2017 in Lyon; the AG4 Leader participated at the e-MOTICON Kick-off Meeting on 20-21 December 2016 in Milan and presented the work of AG4. First exchanges with partners of AlpinnoCT have also been established.

Furthermore, close ties with the iMONITRAF! network are ensured through Tyrol's function as lead partner in 2017 and 2018. Like iMONITRAF! the EUSALP AG4 focuses on the implementation of modal shift policies, with a focus on toll systems and under consideration of environmental and social consequences. This close collaboration guarantees the exploitation of project results and knowledge as well as the possibility to apply the proposed TOLL+ system to additional Alpine corridors beyond the iMONITRAF! network in the frame of EUSALP AG4. Coordination with the Suivi de Zurich Process, the formal platform of cooperation of the Ministers of Transport of the Alpine countries, is being ensured in order to strengthen synergies and avoid duplication of work.

The close collaboration of the AG4 with different actors involved in the transport and mobility sector of the Alpine Regions guarantees an improved coordination and ensures consistency between existing initiatives, moreover duplications are avoided and alignment of funding encouraged.

Internal Coordination:

The AG4 lead was awarded to the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino which mandated the task to its member Tyrol for the following three years. Even though Tyrol has taken over the AG4 lead, a close coordination between the three members of the European Region is crucial in order to successfully lead the Action Group

Description of implementation initiatives

Three priority topics have been identified by AG4 members at the start of the process.

Subgroup topic	Objective	In given case: Cross-cutting connections of the subgroup to other AGs or subgroups.
Implementation of modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems	Build a common understanding for coordinated modal shift policies and develop a harmonised pricing system (extension of Toll Plus proposal to Alpine corridors) to reduce environmental and social impacts of transalpine freight transport.	
Infrastructure for sustainable transport	Remove infrastructure bottlenecks in passenger and freight transport for improved connectivity and accessibility in the Alpine region, strengthening regional transport systems and the use of public transport.	
Interconnecting public transport systems	Bridge missing links in passenger transport by integrating transport systems across national and regional borders, focusing on operations and information and ticketing services for improved interoperability and intermodality.	

In total, ten implementation initiatives have been defined in close cooperation with the AG4 members. They correspond to the above mentioned priority topics and are listed below.

A – Cross-topic initiatives

- A1 – Development of recent estimates for external costs in mountain areas
- A2 – Development of a common target system for AG 4
- A3 – Public acceptance of modal shift (infrastructure and policy instruments)

B – Implementation of modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems

- B1 – Extension of Toll Plus proposal to other EUSALP AG 4 members
- B2 – From Toll Plus to an integrated incentive system for modal shift
- B3 – Link between pricing systems and the use of innovative technologies

C – Infrastructure for sustainable transport

- C1 - Infrastructure for passenger transport (supplementary rail connections)
- C2 - Infrastructure for combined transport (terminals)

D – Interconnecting public transport systems

- D1 – Interconnecting public transport operation
- D2 – Interconnecting public transport information and ticketing

Contact:

EUSALP AG4 lead team

European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino

Land Tirol - SG Verkehrsplanung
Herrengasse 3 – 6020 Innsbruck

Ewald Moser: ewald.moser@tirol.gv.at
Patrick Skonieczki: patrick.skonieczki@tirol.gv.at
Johanna Thöni: johanna.thoeni@tirol.gv.at