

The European Union
strategy for the Alpine Region

FRENCH PRESIDENCY 20/21: TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE ALPINE REGION



**REVIEW OF
TWO YEARS OF
PRESIDENCY
MARKED BY
THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC AND
THE ECOLOGICAL
EMERGENCY**

CONTENT

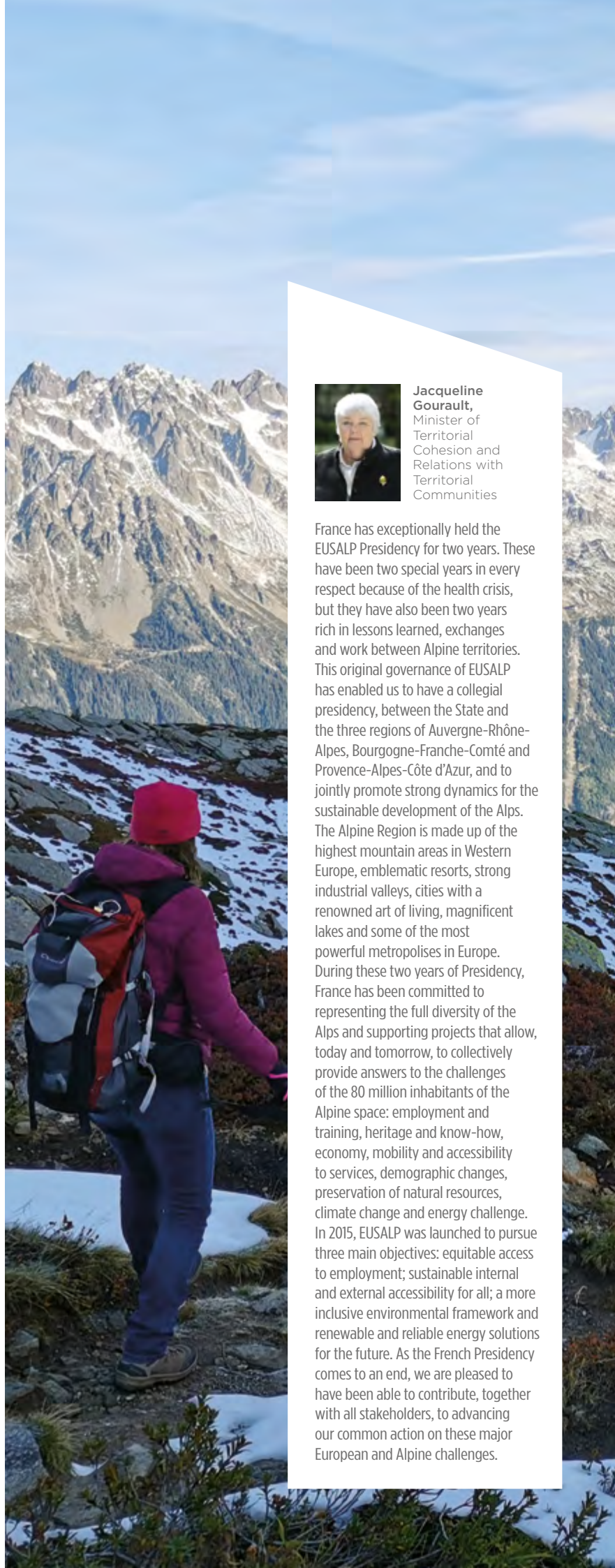
Edito	2
Introduction	4
Developing year-round sustainable tourism	6
Promoting the production, transformation and consumption of local Alpine products in short-circuits, especially forestry and agricultural products	8
Developing sustainable mobility and transport solutions	10
Involving youth in the ecological transition and the fight against climate change	12
Speeding up the energy transition of the Alpine Region	14
Preserving Alpine biodiversity and preventing risks related to climate change	16
Making the Alpine Region an example of multi-level governance	18

This brochure is published by the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Territorial Communities and the National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, in partnership with the regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne Franche-Comté and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Printed by AVP Arts Graphiques - December 2021. Photo credits: M. Valente, Ministère de la Transition des Territoires/Ministère de la Transition des Territoires/Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur/Ivo Corra, Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Paolo Pedrotti, Archivio Ufficio Stampa Pat. Cover credits: Lore Mattei, Shutterstock and Frank Ramspott, iStock. Graphic design: Clara Chambon.



Jacqueline Gourault,
Minister of
Territorial
Cohesion and
Relations with
Territorial
Communities

France has exceptionally held the EUSALP Presidency for two years. These have been two special years in every respect because of the health crisis, but they have also been two years rich in lessons learned, exchanges and work between Alpine territories. This original governance of EUSALP has enabled us to have a collegial presidency, between the State and the three regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, and to jointly promote strong dynamics for the sustainable development of the Alps. The Alpine Region is made up of the highest mountain areas in Western Europe, emblematic resorts, strong industrial valleys, cities with a renowned art of living, magnificent lakes and some of the most powerful metropolises in Europe. During these two years of Presidency, France has been committed to representing the full diversity of the Alps and supporting projects that allow, today and tomorrow, to collectively provide answers to the challenges of the 80 million inhabitants of the Alpine space: employment and training, heritage and know-how, economy, mobility and accessibility to services, demographic changes, preservation of natural resources, climate change and energy challenge. In 2015, EUSALP was launched to pursue three main objectives: equitable access to employment; sustainable internal and external accessibility for all; a more inclusive environmental framework and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future. As the French Presidency comes to an end, we are pleased to have been able to contribute, together with all stakeholders, to advancing our common action on these major European and Alpine challenges.





Marie-Guite Dufay,
President of the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region

I am pleased that the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region has contributed to the creation of a Youth Council under this French EUSALP Presidency. From now on, 28 young people (4 per State) will participate in the work of the Alpine macro-region. This is a useful step forward, as the involvement of young people is decisive for the vitality of the Alps and its future. A future that also involves the inevitable transition of mountain tourism. In this respect, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté will also have fully contributed to the work of this French Presidency. I am thinking in particular of the organization of specific events in Métabief and Prémaman in March and September 2021, which reflect the strong commitment of our region in this area.



Laurent Wauquiez,
President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region

The message that the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region carries and that we have relayed within the French EUSALP Presidency is clear: it is important to ensure a sustainable future for the Alpine Region. This requires a broad gathering of all energies, generations and territories around the challenges faced by the Alpine Region: demographic, economic, environmental and societal. The French EUSALP Presidency has responded to all these challenges, at a time when the COVID-19 epidemic has made it even more necessary to coordinate efforts to make the Alpine Region more resilient. We have chosen to focus on the main economic and environmental challenges: tourism; the wood industry; transport, by encouraging low-carbon mobility and the hydrogen sector; support for the agricultural sector of pastoralism; and industry 4.0, because it is a source of wealth for the men and women who live in our valleys and mountains. The events organised in 2020 and 2021 in the Alpine Region of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes have met the expectations of the actors in the Alps. We will continue to work on these issues which concern all territories and all generations. The mobilisation of regional action in the coming weeks will remain total, and inseparable from the European programmes for which the Region now has operational management. At the end of this Presidency and at the moment when we pass the torch to our Italian friends, we are proud of the progress made. In the coming months you can continue to count on the determination of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region.



Renaud Muselier,
President of the Provence-Alpes Côte d'Azur Region

In the early days of the French EUSALP Presidency, nothing foreshadowed the emergencies that the members of the French partnership and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region would have to face. The coronavirus crisis has created new health, human and tourism priorities. These were added to the specific problems of the Alpine Region in terms of economy, employment and environment. Our response was immediate. As early as March 2020, the French Presidency's roadmap was adapted to integrate the consequences of the epidemic and propose a sustainable revival of the Alpine Region. The closing event of the French Presidency in Nice on December 14 and 15 will allow us to recall the strength of this commitment since the first days of the crisis and the many future solutions initiated. Sustainable mountain tourism, development of soft mobility, preservation of Alpine biodiversity, involvement of young people... These are all subjects on which we are leaving a solid record to our Italian successors. We wish they will be able to count on new permanent technical support structure to be created in Nice. As a testimony to France's commitment to the Alps, it will support EUSALP in the implementation of its cooperation projects. The events of recent months have made the French EUSALP Presidency a pivotal moment for the governance of the Alpine macro-region. The members of the French partnership and the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region have initiated a rapid relaunch and have laid the foundations for a balanced development at the service of the Alps, its inhabitants and its environment!



Joël Giraud,
Secretary
of State in
charge of
Rural Affairs

Having been one of those who have supported EUSALP since its creation, I am proud to look back on the years that have passed and the work that has been done. By making the fight against climate change a priority of its Presidency, France has been able to take the measure of the transitions underway in the massif. Yes, the Alpine Region is at the forefront of the effects of climate disruption: loss of biodiversity, landslides, melting glaciers; the pressure is increasing and the effects, already visible, are affecting the lives of the inhabitants and the ecosystems. Together with the three Alpine regions, we wanted to make the Alps a central area for European cooperation on environmental protection and improving the lives of its inhabitants. Since 2020, more than 40 events have been organized by the French Presidency in order to act in this direction. This is materialized on a daily basis by reflections on very concrete actions: relieving road and mountain pass congestion by promoting commercial rail freight; favoring intermodality to facilitate the life of cross-border workers; or strengthening, on a European scale, the protection of biodiversity and the richness of the Alps' flora and fauna by promoting the circular economy and renewable energy. The linked destinies of the Alps require useful and concerted public policies. Before being a strategy, EUSALP is an ambition that leads us collectively to meet the challenges of mountain areas, starting with the ecological transition.



Arno Kompatscher,
President
of the
Autonomous
Province of
Bolzano-
Bozen



Maurizio Fugatti,
President
of the
Autonomous
Province of
Trento

We share a benevolent destiny: that of being born and being able to live in a marvellous land, among the most beautiful mountains in the world, ending in some of the most fertile plains in Europe, where there is security, business, work, innovation and social protection. A natural and cultural environment and above all a living space of inestimable beauty and great vitality. We share a great responsibility: that of preserving this part of creation, handing it over to future generations as a place of life, where they can grow their affections and know the flow of time on our and their lives. We love those who invest in our territories, those who give them the energy to progress, the thoughts and ideas for a positive future. Our goal is to face, in close cooperation with the Regions, Cantons, Länder and Departments of the EUSALP area, the greatest challenges of the present and the future. Climate change is one of them. We have two fundamental approaches to face this global challenge to which we would like to contribute in solidarity: focusing on energy efficiency and energy produced from renewable

sources. We are convinced that for this challenge the EUSALP regions can really promote European Leadership. The second approach is connection. This is an epoch-making challenge that will significantly change the way we are. In these processes, all centers, whether small, large or metropolitan, will act as driving forces. Special attention must also be given to this objective, with the aim of supporting the peripheries. These are the challenges we have to face in a special way during our Presidency. We have inherited a great responsibility. A responsibility of which we feel the significance, being aware of the great commitment of the French Presidency that precedes us. The most important sign of the commitment of France, and of the French EUSALP Regions, is that of having held the Presidency in a world context marked and conditioned by the greatest crisis our generations have seen. We have shared fear, pain and hope. In spite of this, we have been able to keep a clear head and continue to wish for the Alps and its inhabitants, for its towns and villages, a destiny of prosperity and sustainable development. The strength and determination of the French Presidency made this possible: a great example of resilience, fortitude and courage. We seize this baton with great deference and gratitude. Long live the Alps, long live EUSALP!

ACCELERATING THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN A CONTEXT OF HEALTH CRISIS

The French EUSALP presidency was held jointly by the State and the regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic, the French Presidency decided, in agreement with EUSALP partners, to extend its exercise by one year in order to fulfil its objective of accelerating the ecological transition of the Alpine Region in order to fight against climate change.

The activities carried out by the French Presidency have improved the coordination and cooperation between the actors of the macro-region: the mobilization and sensitization of EUSALP stakeholders, managing authorities and intermediary bodies, national/regional/local actors involved in policymaking, experts and civil society actors has been a major focus of the Presidency and has been successful despite the particular health context.

Among the major impacts of these two years of Presidency are the strengthening of the involvement of young people, the development of dialogue between the organisations managing funding opportunities and EUSALP actors, improvement of EUSALP processes, resources, and visibility.

FRENCH EUSALP PRESIDENCY IN NUMBERS

42

events supported or
conducted by the French
Presidency

Up to

2000

online and physical
participants

10

youth interventions

1

manifesto "Together to
shape a sustainable and
resilient Alpine region"

64

ongoing projects driven
by the Action Groups



PRIORITY 1: DEVELOPING YEAR-ROUND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



CO-LEADERS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and State (Atout France).



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Accelerate the transition of Alpine tourism to an ecological and all-season model, by supporting its actors and encouraging them to cooperate on a local and European scale.



DELIVERABLES

- **Meeting of the French participants of the HEALPS project** (6 March 2020 - Lyon) financed by ARPAF (Alpine Region Preparatory Alpine Fund) for the networking of Alpine spas
- **Ski resorts and climate change** (16-17 March 2021 - Métabief)
- **Final conference of the Smart Altitude project** (10 May 2021 - Les Orres)
 - **Launch of a network of mountain resorts in transition**
- **General State of Mountain Tourism in Transition** (23-24 September 2021 - Thyez & Alpine Region)
 - **Adoption of a joint declaration from public, private and civil society actors**
- **Alpine conference on hiking and outdoor activities** (29 September to 1st October 2021 - Gréoux-les-Bains) to reflect on practices, offers, governance models and communication tools to strengthen resilience, followed by the inauguration of the hiking trail GR®69 la Routo, a Franco-Italian agritourism itinerary on the ancient transhumance paths
- **Symposium for Alpine health tourism** (8-9 October 2021 - Bad Hofgastein) focusing on nature-based and health-promoting tourism
- **Workshop on sustainable tourism** (12 October 2021 - Brussels) in the frame of the European week of regions and cities
 - Presentation of the TRANSTAT study (launched in February 2021): a survey on touristic transition in the Alpine mountains to establish a network of mountain ski resort engaged in the climatic transition
- **World manufacturing week** (18-22 October 2021) to raise awareness among firms of the opportunities related to the digitalization and circular economy.



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

The activities carried out have highlighted the solutions provided by EUSALP regarding sustainable tourism, in the context of climate and economic changes, and have made the Alpine Region a model for all-season tourism resorts. The TRANSTAT project has given visibility to EUSALP and the supporting regions to the EU, managing authorities and EUSALP partners.

The environment of outdoor activities has been disrupted by the ecological and health crisis. In this context, the offers, the clientele and the practices must evolve to adapt. This adaptation requires collaboration and co-construction between all the actors involved in nature sports. The labeling of the Alpine conference on hiking and outdoor activities and the inauguration of the long-distance hiking trail GR®69 la Routo as part of the French EUSALP Presidency have made it possible to bring together actors from all over the macro-region and to improve the visibility and communication on the reflections on the future of outdoor activities and on the initiatives implemented to promote tourism in all seasons.

*Anne Rinjonneau,
Head of the Tourism
Department, Alpes
de Haute-Provence
Department*

© Hugues-Marie Duclos

PROGRESSING TOWARDS THE TRANSITION OF MOUNTAIN TOURISM

Three milestone events took place in Métabief, Les Orres and Thyez to progress towards the transition of mountain tourism. More than 450 online and face-to-face participants (experts, political decision-makers, civil society actors, local private and public partners, etc.) gathered to learn about the concrete initiatives implemented, to exchange on funding opportunities and to accelerate the reflection on the transition of mountain tourism.



Thyez, 2021

© Hugues-Marie Duclos

© Morgan Dresse

PRIORITY 2: PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION, TRANSFORMATION AND CONSUMPTION OF LOCAL ALPINE PRODUCTS IN SHORT-CIRCUITS, ESPECIALLY FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS



CO-LEADERS

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and State.



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- Promote sustainable agriculture, pastoralism and mountain forestry
- Develop territorial food approaches aimed at local consumption of mountain food products and the promotion of pastoralism in the Alpine Region
- Promote regional labels, quality signs and territorial brands to enhance the value of agricultural products in the Alpine Region.



DELIVERABLES

- **Mountain forests and climate change** (4-5 September 2020 – Aix-les-Bains) to promote the different uses of mountain forests and sustainable forestry
 - **Recommendations for forestry projects in the next European programming period**
 - **Launch of a project on the valorization of labels**
- **Promotion of pastoralism:**
 - **National meeting of pastoralists** (23-25 September 2020 – Barcelonnette)
 - **Euro-Alpine meetings of pastoralism** (8 October 2020 – Grenoble)
 - **Festival of movies “Pastoralism and Great Outdoors”** (8 October 2020 / 7 October 2021 – Grenoble)



© Garufi Jean-Pierre



MOUNTAIN FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Aix-les-Bains, 2020

© CoFor AURA

Around a hundred experts, forestry professionals and political representatives met to discuss the strategic role of the industry in Alpine areas and to present European projects to strengthen the resilience of the forestry-wood industry in the mountains.

- **100% Local final conference** (25 May 2021) ARPAF project to analyse territorial development models based on the commercial valorisation of agri-food products fully produced and processed locally, and identify criteria of replicability
- **Second international territorial brand workshop** (10-11 June 2021) to exchange on how small-scale territorial brands can contribute to create short supply chains in the agri-food sectors that are more resilient and able to adapt to climate change
 - **Ongoing mapping of Alpine territorial brands**
- **International Conference City-Mountain cooperation: together towards carbon neutrality!** (October 7, 2021 - Grenoble) to promote cooperation between cities, valleys and mountains
- **REDIAFOR:** ARPAF project to identify and analyze the conflicts of interest and risks related to the multifunctional use of forests. Results presented during the **IUCN session** “Connecting protected areas and beyond to safeguard mountainous ecosystem services and adapt to climate change - An intergenerational dialogue” (7 September - Marseille)
- **TripleWood:** ARPAF project launched before the French Presidency, piloted by the Land of Baden-Württemberg, to promote forty wooden constructions in the EUSALP area. This project was the subject of an exhibition at the launch event of the French Presidency on 4 February 2020 in Lyon.



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

The activities carried out have highlighted the solutions provided by EUSALP in terms of circular economy and local production, in the context of climate and economic changes, and have made the Alpine Region a model and an advanced laboratory for both the wood industry and the multifunctionality of forests. The REDIAFOR project has given visibility to EUSALP and the supporting regions to the EU, the managing authorities and EUSALP partners. This is the first time that such a cross-sectoral approach has been developed within EUSALP.

MEETINGS OF PASTORALISM ACTORS

The meetings brought together between 100 and 200 participants to discuss the economic stakes of pastoralism and its role in the preservation of the Alpine landscape.



Grenoble, 2021

© Hugues-Marie Ducloux



© Hugues-Marie Duclos

PRIORITY 3: DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS



CO-LEADERS

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and State (Direction Générale des Infrastructures des Transports et de la Mer - DGITM).



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- Promote modal shift to rail and alternative logistics solutions
- Progress towards a multimodal, interoperable and transnational passenger information system
- To improve the accessibility of isolated Alpine areas
- Promote the development of cable transport
- Support the energy and ecological conversion of passenger and freight transport.



DELIVERABLES

- **Action Group 4 meetings** (in 2020: 28-29 April; 7-8 September; 4 November / in 2021: 20-21 May ; 13-14 September)
- **Webinar Alternative fuels and decarbonized mobility in the Alpine Region** (23 June 2020)

- Elaboration of an **evaluation and labeling methodology** of projects relevant for the promotion of sustainable mobility solutions in the Alpine Region from a macro-regional point of view. Labeling of 14 projects in 2020; a new set of about 30 projects is being evaluated, for a labeling before the end of 2021
- **Webinar Cross-border cooperation in mobility** (13 October 2020) to capitalize on the results of the joint AG4-AG5 **CrossBorder ARPAP project** to improve cross-border mobility in the Alpine Region
- **Webinar Decarbonized mobility in the Alpine Region**, replacing the 4th GA Mobility Conference (3 November 2020)
- **Workshops** "The sustainable and resilient Alpine Region is being prepared in the EUSALP Action Groups" & "Macro-regional strategies, Interreg and the EU sustainable energy policy agenda" (10 December 2020 - Annual Forum)
- **EUSALP Embedding workshop on sustainable mobility with EU programmes managing authorities** (2 March 2021 during the Macro-Regional Strategy Week - MRS Week) to have an outlook for possible matches with the funding landscape 2021-2027
- **4th Mobility Conference** (20 May 2021 - Nice) as

part of the European Year of Rail, to identify concrete solutions at macroregional level to promote inter-modality and interoperability

- **Contribution to the “Green Hydrogen for the Alps”** strategic implementation initiative via:

- The study “Innovative propulsion systems and fuels” (carried out by external expert In Extenso), financed by Alpgov 2 project, which collected data and highlights the need for coordinated development of decarbonized mobility in the Alpine Region
- The webinar “Decarbonized Mobility in the Alpine Region” (3 November 2020)
- **LinkingAlps project:** innovative tools and strategies to link mobility services for a decarbonized Alpine space (2019-22)
- Elaboration of the **EUSALP Contribution to the European Year of Rail.**

4TH MOBILITY CONFERENCE



Nice, 2021

© Hugues-Marie Duclos

In light of the European Year of Rail, the fourth edition of the mobility conference focused on railway as a sustainable transport mode and the development of cross-border railway transport in the Alps, illustrated by the trip the participants took to Breil-sur-Roya on the transalpine railway line Nice-Cuneo.



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

The activities carried out in the field of decarbonization of transport have enabled these new issues to be taken into account in the strategy, in connection with the energy and hydrogen priorities. The dissemination of the results to the EU and partners gives EUSALP the legitimacy to make its voice heard with a view to identifying the Alpine Region as a model and an advanced laboratory for decarbonized mobility systems and green energy production for mobility. The actions carried out in the field of EUSALP labeling of transport and mobility projects have given visibility to EUSALP and the supporting regions with the EU, managing authorities and partners. This is the first time that such a label has been created in EUSALP and the initiative has inspired other Action Groups to do the same, with a view to integrating this approach into the evaluation of co-financing of the various EU support programs.

CIPRA France observes the renewed commitment and involvement of French public institutions in the European challenges of the Alpine arc. This dynamic should continue beyond the French presidencies of the Alpine Convention and EUSALP. The state and the regions will be able to count on the mobilization of the associations to concretize these commitments.

*Marc-Jérôme Hassid,
Director, CIPRA
France (International
Commission for the
Protection of the Alps)*



PRIORITY 4: INVOLVING YOUTH IN THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



CO-LEADERS

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Academic Delegation for Youth, Commitment and Sports and Regional Council Bourgogne-Franche-Comté in partnership with the Land of Tyrol.



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- Integrating youth issues into the overall work of EUSALP
- Enable youth to engage and have their voices heard for greater consideration of their views.



DELIVERABLES

- **Involvement and interventions of young people** in different events of the French Presidency, including the launch of the French Presidency (4 February 2020 - Lyon), the Annual Forum 2020, events on sustainable tourism, international conference City-mountain cooperation, among others
- **Involvement of young people** from the Educ'alpes network in the Biodiv'alpes project at the IUCN congress, to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Alps

• **youth.shaping.EUSALP project**

- 2020 and 2021 editions of the “Pitch your project” competition
- Online resources, mainly the EUSALP.Youth website
- Summer activities in the 7 states in 2021 (interventions on the EUSALP dynamic at youth meetings organized in each country)
- Monthly online meetings “Youth Alpine meeting” from November 2020

• **Creation of the EUSALP Youth Council** with 27 members from the 7 countries

• **Creation of a network of youth structures** of the Alpine space to develop common projects

• **Erasmus+ HIKE project** to exchange practices between mountain sports professionals on an Alpine scale

• **Erasmus+ YAFA project** (Youth Act for Alps) meeting between young decision-makers

• **AJITER Project** to facilitate the reception of young adults and their initiatives in rural territories: white paper of the AJITER project and realisation of an Eductour (AJITour) and European meeting

• **AlpTick project** to make travels in the Alps easier, more sustainable and more attractive for young people

• **Operation “1001 Alpine Nights”** to allow young people to spend nights in the mountains



© Adlane Lezzar

CREATION OF THE EUSALP YOUTH COUNCIL

Composed of about 28 members (4 members from each Alpine country) the EUSALP Youth Council allows young people to directly contribute to the strategy by sharing their viewpoints and propose concrete actions within the EUSALP bodies.



Innsbruck, 2021

© Land Tirol

- **Regional seminar of collective stays of minors** (8 to 11 November 2021) for an education in the mountain
- **Production of the Alpine comic book The Great Challenge of the Alps** to encourage young people to explore the mountains and the protected areas.



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

The projects presented within the framework of the Presidency were numerous and varied and show a process that will continue over time. These actions have allowed noticing a good dynamic on youth issues on the EUSALP territory between the French Alpine actors and those of the Alpine space: a great number of structures are now aware of the existence and the actions of EUSALP and young people are particularly motivated to get involved in the different dynamics.

We really appreciated that youth and mountain education were included in the priorities of the French Presidency. This was reflected in numerous multi-partner actions in the field over two years. This strategic orientation in favour of young people in the Alps is exemplary and innovative. The current challenge is to structure the many initiatives at local and international scales, and EUSALP provides a framework for this. Besides, the French Presidency's ad hoc group of Youth experts, which has followed up on this priority, has proved to be a rich space of dialogue, exchanges and synergies. This group is studying the possibility of continuing to work together after the French Presidency, which is again a good news for youth! This priority has also enabled the labelling of actions linked to mountain education and thus to make EUSALP better known to educational community in Alps.

*Isabelle Roux,
Coordinator, Educ'Alpes,
Alpine Mountain
Education Network*

© PARN



© Hugues-Marie Duclos

PRIORITY 5: SPEEDING UP THE ENERGY TRANSITION OF THE ALPINE REGION

 **CO-LEADERS**

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and State.

 **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

- Promote energy efficiency and the production and use of renewable energies in the Alpine Region, in accordance with the commitments made for energy efficiency in the EU and the “Energy” package
- Strengthen and optimize the sustainable production of renewable energies via hydroelectric power plants, but also via solar, wind, geothermal, wood-heating and biomass, with a specific focus on hydrogen.

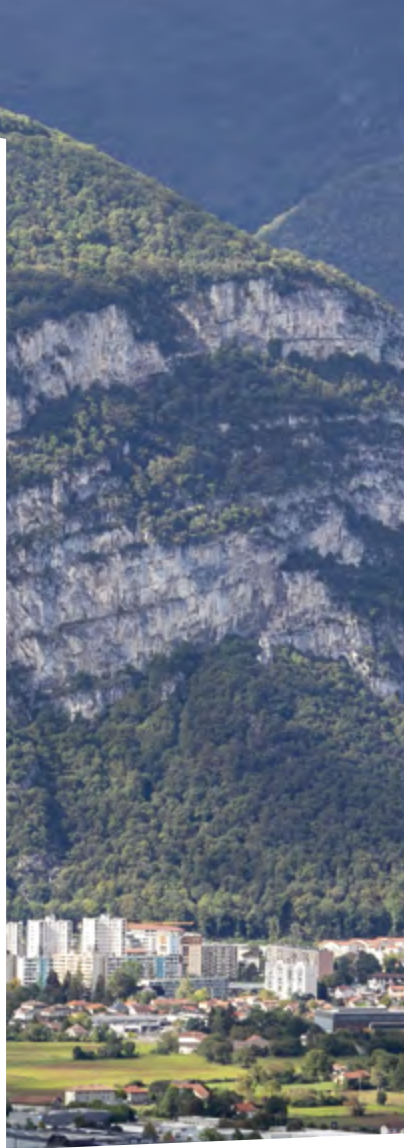
 **DELIVERABLES**

- Preparation and organization of the round table “Moving to the green transition” during the **launch of the French Presidency**
- **Climate, risks and energy conference** (September 30 to October 1 - Chamonix)
 - **Launch of a global strategy for the development of green hydrogen in the Alpine Region**

- with a consortium of 9 Regions willing to engage in an Alpine cooperation around hydrogen
- **Signature of a political letter of intent** by the 9 regions (Spring 2021)
- **Set up of a working group** to facilitate exchanges on common needs, strategies and solutions for sustainable hydrogen mobility and to develop cooperation and investment projects
- **Workshop “Macro-Regional Strategies, Interreg, and the EU sustainable energy policy agenda”** (EUSALP Annual Forum 2020)
- **5th EUSALP Energy conference** (October and November 2021 and January 2022): three separate seminars (hydrogen as an energy vector in transport / Local Energy Communities / Perspectives of the New European Bauhaus for a carbon-neutral future)
- **Enerbalpes final conference** (June 2020)
- **Smart villages project**
 - **Smart Villages meeting** (5-6 October 2020 - Vercors) to consider the development of Smart Villages initiatives as a key opportunity for the development of a sustainable and attractive Alpine Region
 - **Final conference** (29 April 2021)
- **Active participation to the embedding process**, to discuss the possibilities for European Funds to support a large hydrogen program
- **Zero Emission Valley (ZEV) project** to deploy ve-

As co-leader of AG9, AURA-EE participated in the activities and some of the events of the French Presidency. The work has been very stimulating during these two years, notably the dialogue with the Commission on embedding which still needs to be continued. The Chamonix event was very exciting to organize, with the visit to the Plan de l'Aiguille, with a 3 hour hike in the company of the Centre de recherche sur les écosystèmes d'altitude (CREA) in the presence of the Secretary of State for Biodiversity, Bérangère Abba at an altitude of more than 2300 meters, to discover the impacts of climate change on the fauna and flora. The opportunity to discover us all in hiking clothes!

Etienne Viénot, Project Manager European and International Affairs, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment



SMART VILLAGES MEETING

The SmartVillages project has been dealing with the questions of digital transformation in rural areas since April 2018. Two events took place during the French EUSALP Presidency to bring together politicians, project managers, researchers, associations involved to consider the development of Smart Villages initiatives as a key opportunity for the development of a sustainable and attractive Alpine Region.



La Chapelle en Vercors, 2020

© Association Adrets

hicles and renewable hydrogen distribution stations in the Alpine Region

- Participation to the elaboration of the **operational contribution Multifunctional Forests: nature based solutions as tools for a holistic resilience of Alpine territories**
- **Highlighting of European projects:**
 - **CApacitating Energy efficiency in Small Alpine (CAESAR)** project to strengthen energy efficiency around emerging projects in the Alpine space
 - **Greater Geneva projects** around the ecological transition (PACT'AIR on air quality, G2 Solaire ca-daster)
 - **Smart Altitude project** (see priority 2 - tourism)
 - **Alpgrids:** implementation of seven microgrid pilot in the Alps
 - **SHREC** to improve regional and national policies increasing the share of energy from renewable sources in the overall energy mix
 - **CASCO** to promote the use of regional wood in construction and public procurement
 - **REDIAFOR** to identify and analyze the issues of conflicting interests and risks emerging from the multifunctional use of our forests (ARPAF2).



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

A very good dynamic for the development of hydrogen in the Alps has developed during the Presidency. Cooperation is planned on this theme, through different European funds; a strong signal was given by the letter of intent signed by 9 regions.

There is also a strong involvement on the multifunctionality of forests, through the REDIAFOR project and the operational contribution on multifunctional forests.

The actions carried out have allowed strengthening the dialogue with the Commission, especially through the embedding process.



PRIORITY 6: PRESERVING ALPINE BIODIVERSITY AND PREVENTING RISKS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE



CO-LEADERS

Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region and State.



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- Promote actions to mitigate the impact of changes (land use change, fragmentation of environments, overexploitation of resources, pollution, exotic and invasive species, climate change) on the natural environment but also to anticipate future changes
- Prevention of natural risks to maintain populations and economic and social development in the Alps
- Building new governance instruments to balance the demands for different uses.



DELIVERABLES

- **Climate-Risks-Energy Conference** (30 September to 1 October 2020 - Chamonix) to highlight the experience of Alpine territories in the management of natural risks, their necessary adaptation to climate change and their energy strategies

Workshop on the integrated approach of risks in territorial planning

- **Workshop on the Multifunctionality of Forests** (Annual Forum 2020)
 - **Relaunch of the Task Force Multifunctional Forests and Use of Timber** and elaboration of its 2021-2022 roadmap
 - Follow-up of the REDIAFOR project (ARPAF2) on forest use conflicts and forest management
- **Mountain Biodiversity Day** (13 January 2021) to exchange on the protection of global mountain biodiversity
- **Impuls4Action final conference** (20 May 2021) to reflect on what could be done at regional level to respect and use our Alpine soils for future generations in a sustainable way
- **International Conference City-Mountain cooperation: together towards carbon neutrality!** (October 7, 2021 - Grenoble) to promote cooperation between cities, valleys and mountains
 - **LUIGI project mid-term conference**: Linking urban and rural green infrastructure to support the provision of multifunctional ecosystem services in the Alps
- **Monitoring and sustainable management of mountain aquatic environments** (8-9 November 2021 - Evian-les-Bains) to demonstrate the dynamics of local actors in favour of the preservation and en-

The association mobilised one of its members in two action groups; participated in several events and workshops on water resource efficiency and plant engineering and followed the work of EUSALP, in particular the discussions on future programming and calls for European projects. The presence of partners such as the Water Cluster allows institutions to benefit from the feedback of information and needs of the actors of the territory. We are very pleased to organise a EUSALP-labelled event on water issues with the aim of our members participating in future programmes and identifying future partnerships.

*Bertrand Cousin,
Director, Evian Lake
Water Cluster*

hancement of the water resource and its uses

- **Workshop Territorial resilience** (November 2021 – Station Auron-Saint Martin de Vésubie)
- **Operational contribution Multifunctional Forests: nature based solutions as tools for a holistic resilience of Alpine territories** / Presentation during the IUCN congress (**Alparc workshop and the Action Group 7 session** – 7 September 2021)
- **Development of the PITEM Biodiv’alp** to stem the erosion of ecosystems and protected species and to strengthen the attractiveness of the cross-border territory.



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

The actions carried out have improved the visibility of the themes at the level of the Alpine Region, in particular thanks to participation in events of international scope (IUCN Congress; World Mountain Biodiversity Day), contributing to the awareness of the general public, NGOs and political decision-makers. There is also an impact in the prevention of natural risks, particularly in relation to the creation of new risk governance instruments: the work carried out has enabled progress to be made in the promotion of Integrated Natural Risks Management (INRM) and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) at local and regional scale.

CLIMATE-RISKS-ENERGY CONFERENCE

In the presence of around 150 experts, civil society organizations and political representatives, including Bérangère Abba, Secretary of State for Biodiversity, the climate-risks-energy conference focused on reexamining our relationship with the environment, our modes of governance and our capacity to adapt, particularly in mountain territories, in the context of the ecological and health crisis.



Chamonix, 2020

© PARN



© Hugues-Marie Duclos

PRIORITY 7: MAKING THE ALPINE REGION AN EXAMPLE OF MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE



CO-LEADERS

State (National Agency for the Cohesion of Territories - Alpine Massif Commission)



GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- To improve the mobilization, coordination and articulation between: the different levels of public action, the existing Alpine cooperation mechanisms, the different sources of financing
- To give substance to city-valley-mountain cooperation
- Facilitate the involvement of local authorities and civil society organizations in the implementation of EUSALP
- To increase the publicity of EUSALP towards the general public.



DELIVERABLES

- **Adoption of the Manifesto “Together to shape a sustainable and resilient Alpine Region”** (12 June 2020) by the delegations of EUSALP to affirm the priorities of EUSALP for the coming years

- **Integration of the orientations of EUSALP in the future European and French funding programs** to mobilize more credits for the implementation of EUSALP and better articulate the interventions of the various programs
 - **Meetings of Managing Authorities of regional and European territorial cooperation programs** to accentuate the synergies between the priorities of EUSALP and the programs; to promote dialogue between the organizations responsible for the management of funds and the actors of EUSALP. Two meetings organized in Brussels (19-20 February 2020 and 2 March 2021) in the framework of the Macroregional Strategies week. At the French level, several meetings were held by videoconference (9 and 19 June 2020 / 19 March 2021)
 - **Recommendations to European managing authorities**
 - **Table of correspondence between program priorities (on French territory) and EUSALP priorities**
 - **Creation of financial dialogue networks** to facilitate the link between AG activities and available funding (energy transition and hydrogen, sustainable mobility, digital technology, natural risk governance)

- **Adaptation to Covid-19**
 - **Covid-19 Action Plan** to detail EUSALP activities dealing with Covid-19 pandemic and EUSALP contribution to a Green Resilient Recovery of the Alpine Region
 - **Communication campaign on solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic**
- **Promotion of city-valley-mountain cooperation** during each event of the Presidency, notably with the **International Conference City-mountain cooperation: together towards carbon neutrality** (7 October 2021 – Grenoble)
- **Macro-regional recovery and resilience initiatives** (27 May 2021) to discuss how macro-regional strategies contribute to the recovery and resilience of their regions
- **Involvement of local authorities and civil society organizations** in each event of the Presidency
- **Capacity building activities** to improve coordination and communication within EUSALP:
 - **Elaboration of infographics** to improve internal and external communication on the functioning of EUSALP (EUSALP snapshot and cross-sectoral initiatives infographics)
 - **Adoption of EUSALP Vademecum** to detail EUSALP functioning

- **Elaboration of EUSALP Matrix** to monitor EUSALP activities and their impact
- **Creation of EUSALP Technical Support Structure (TSS)**
- **Adoption of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly**
- **Save the Alps** stakeholder platform.



IMPACT OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE TARGET AUDIENCES AND EUSALP TERRITORY

The major impact of the actions carried out has been to improve coordination and cooperation between actors of the macro-region. The activities carried out have also allowed standardizing the working procedures and the use of digital tools, strengthening the internal and external communication on the functioning of EUSALP, the events and the actions carried out. There is also a better coordination between the organizations in charge of funding opportunities and EUSALP actors.

The French Presidency was very committed with concrete and visible actions; it made a real effort and succeeded in involving a large number of partners representing various socio-professional and civil society circles.

*Guido Plassman,
Director of Alparc,
the Alpine Network
of Protected Areas*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CITY-MOUNTAIN COOPERATION

For two years, the Presidency has focused on the necessary cooperation between valley cities and mountains, culminating with the international Conference City-Mountain cooperation: together towards carbon neutrality! In prefiguration of Grenoble European Green Capital 2022.



Grenoble, 2021

© Hugues-Marie Duclos



© Hugues-Marie Duclos

EVENTS LED OR SUPPORTED BY THE FRENCH EUSALP PRESIDENCY 20-21 ON THE NATIONAL TERRITORY

MORE INFORMATION

