



EUSALP AG2 PLENARY MEETING

Grenoble, 15-16th April 2024

Cross-cutting themes

AG2 is showing a strong commitment to the development of a better articulation between the technical level (AGs) and the political level of EUSALP. Having that goal in mind, the group is fostering its alignment with the Slovenian **presidency's priorities** (circular economy, water, quality of life in the Alps) and is also actively contributing to the advancement of the **cross-cutting priorities** through:

- The launch of a joint AG2-AG5 study on data economy that will contribute to the CCP#1 on digitalization.
- The incubation of projects in the field of hydrogen and the elaboration of a roadmap to interconnect the hydrogen valley in the Alps, the main deliverable of CCP#2 on energy transition.
- The participation to the task force on water management in the alps, that is the core of CCP#3.
- The leading of the CCP#4 on circular economy, with the goal of developing a CE road map.

AG2 focus on presidency's and cross-cutting priorities can also be seen as symptom of a shift from a vertical (AG) approach to a more horizontal approach that the strategy is embracing.

Thematic discussion on tourism

Tourism is not to be seen exclusively as an economic branch, but rather as a **system** which puts together different stakeholders and includes the more varied activities, such as agriculture, pastoralism, forestry and food production/consumption. The impact of climate change, moreover, is forcing mountain societies to transition from winter tourism to an **ecological diversified** and **year-round tourism**. TRANSTAT (ASP) is AG2 flagship initiative that is dealing with a transition to sustainable mountain destination, that was able to present the first project results to the meeting.

The topic of the transition to a sustainable tourism can

also be analyzed from the professional/vocational training perspective: the **adaptation of skills** of mountain professional is crucial in that sense.

A mention was also made to the topic of **health tourism**, a theme that is strictly related to **biodiversity**. During the meeting, two ASP projects were presented on this topic: Healps 2 and LiveAlpsNature.

AG members agree that the major challenge will be to incentivize the **political appropriation** of the expertise and the tools developed through these projects. Along these lines, also **communication** is crucial.

Thematic discussion on industry 4.0

The main challenges that industry is now facing are **digitalization, green transition, pollution issues and resources management**. Topics of primary importance that will be at the core of AG2 future activities are also **data management** and **AI**.

On the topic of industry, several projects were presented during the meeting: IDEALIST (a Horizon Europe project that aims at strengthening the capacity of SMEs in 3 main sectors: energy-intensive industries; aerospace and defence; mobility, transport and automotive), ALP'INTEGRATOR (an ASP project proposal that aims at promoting data-driven innovation in the agriculture- and forest- based sectors in the Alpine regions), AlpSatellites (an ASP project started in September 2022 on the subject of workspaces in the alpine area) and ASTER (an ASP project proposal on prevention and management of polymer waste).

Next steps

- ➔ A **steering group** opened to all members, observers and friends of AG2, that will informally meet online once per month will be launched on May 28. The goal is to bring the AG2 community closer and further boost the group activities.
- ➔ The **next AG2 meeting** will be held in **Piedmont** (the save the date will be announced soon).



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