



# EUSALP AG2 PLENARY MEETING

Brussels, 30/11/2023

## *In a nutshell*

- 1 The challenges the alpine space faces require cooperation among countries and regions. EUSALP regions continue to have that inclination, and that can be seen in the willingness to rethink the alpine macro-regional strategy. In this context, it is important to mention the Bad Ragaz declaration and the launch of the **revision process** of the action plan, with a kickoff meeting of the task force on 29/11/23.
- 2 At the same time, the adoption of the **cross-cutting** priorities under the Swiss presidency and the Slovenian presidency's willingness to continue along the same path is a symptom of the rethinking of EUSALP strategy in a sense that goes beyond the vertical division among AGs, toward an approach that is more horizontal and inclusive. AG2 agrees with this approach and is particularly committed to coordinating cross cutting #2 on circular economy, embracing the participation of 7 other AGs.
- 3 Similarly, AG2 also partially questions its internal structure and its focus on traditional economic sectors (such as wood or tourism), emphasizing the need to include **new sectors** such as KET technologies and data spaces, an evolution that will imply a greater collaboration with other AGs. This is another clear show that AG2 is willing to go beyond the “silo mentality” and to open up the doors for other AGs and new stakeholders.
- 4 The meeting was built under the concept of “**new embedding**”: “different partners from different countries using different funds”. In order to finance transregional projects and initiatives developed in the framework of EUSALP - that can in some way address the challenges facing the alpine areas - it is important to understand how to create synergies among regions, to fine-tune the objectives and to reach funding coming from different programs, also in cumulative and coordinated ways. One must indeed look beyond ERDF funds and consider direct management funding opportunities. In particular, the options illustrated during the meeting are I3 (Interregional Innovation Investments), RIVs (Regional Innovation Valleys), Euroclusters and the Clean Hydrogen Partnership.
- 5 At the same time, the plenary did not lack **concreteness**: the meeting also served as a platform to present successful projects and lessons learned, to share experiences and facilitate the search for partners, and more generally to keep the AG2 community active.