



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
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ACTION GROUP 2

Economic Development

WORK PLAN

2026-2028

Executive Summary

The Alpine Region is economically diverse but fragmented, with SMEs facing pressures from climate change, global market disruptions and uneven innovation capacity. Key sectors—agriculture and forestry, tourism, energy and industry—require stronger cooperation, more sustainable and circular value chains, and wider adoption of digital solutions.

Action Group 2 (“To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors”) identifies those sectors that can benefit most from macro-regional action and implements concrete measures to improve their economic and social environment. Its added value lies in enhancing the use of Alpine-specific resources and strengthening framework conditions and opportunities for SMEs. AG2 also fosters synergies across sectors and supports the green and digital transitions, in line with EU priorities such as the Clean Industrial Deal and the circular economy.

The overall goal for the next period is to foster the Alpine economy by promoting Alpine territories as innovative, green and connected. In this framework, AG2 will:

- Strengthen value chains and local supply systems in key Alpine sectors.
- Support sustainable and climate-resilient tourism.
- Promote circular, innovative and energy-efficient industrial development.
- Accelerate the green and digital twin transition for SMEs and industries.
- Enhance cooperation with AG1, AG3, AG5 and AG9 to reinforce innovation, skills, digitalisation and energy-related synergies.
- Improve SME competitiveness, innovation uptake and resilience.

These objectives translate also into five main specific priorities for the 2026-2028 Work Plan:

- Lobbying for mountainous areas.
- Promoting an eusalp dimension for hydrogen valleys.
- Supporting the relevance of data and ai for digital industries.
- Promoting sustainable tourism and resource management linked to major sports events.
- Supporting circular-economy practices across sectors.

1. Focus and Scope of the Action Group

In line with the 2025 adopted Action Plan, Action Group 2 focuses on increasing the economic potential of sectors of particular importance for the Alpine Region—agriculture and forestry, tourism, energy and industry—and on supporting their adaptation to a rapidly changing economic, social and environmental context. The Action Group places particular emphasis on strengthening industries and SMEs, ensuring better use of Alpine-specific resources and improving framework conditions and opportunities for regional economic actors.

The scope of AG2 fully reflects the main topics defined in the Action Plan:

- **Agricultural and sustainable forestry products and services throughout the full value chain**
AG2 supports the development of organic, climate- and water-resilient and regenerative farming practices, as well as the use of geographical indications to promote high-quality, region-specific Alpine products. The Action Group also works to strengthen logistics, local supply chains and value creation, contributing to resilient regional food systems. In the forestry sector, AG2 promotes sustainable timber harvesting for low-carbon construction and supports ecosystem services and new revenue opportunities for forest owners.
- **Innovative sustainable tourism**
Tourism is a key economic driver in much of the Alpine Region, characterised by high seasonality and a strong SME base. AG2 aims to strengthen Alpine tourism so that it is better equipped to address challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, flood risk and air quality. The Action Group supports a shift towards environmentally sustainable tourism models that leverage Alpine natural and cultural heritage.
- **Improving the industrial sector, including renewable energy**
Recognising the need for more resilient and circular industrial systems, AG2 supports re-industrialisation efforts focused on efficient energy use, material reuse and renewable energy production and storage. The Alpine topography offers unique potential for specialised products and technologies, and AG2 works to create favourable conditions that extend and enhance regional industrial value chains.
- **Fostering the green and digital twin transition, with a focus on smart industries**
AG2 promotes a more sustainable and digital industrial model by supporting the adoption of advanced technologies—such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, blockchain and additive manufacturing—to boost innovation, competitiveness and long-term resilience. The goal is to help Alpine industries transition towards resource-efficient, circular and smart production systems.

Overall, the focus and scope of Action Group 2 centre on facilitating cross-sectoral synergies, strengthening strategic Alpine value chains, and enabling the green and digital transformation of Alpine economies, in full coherence with the priorities defined in the EUSALP Action Plan.

This comprehensive mandate is also why AG2 is strongly committed to collaboration both within Pillar 1—Economic growth and innovation, and across the other two pillars of the strategy. Close cooperation with Pillar 2 (Mobility and connectivity) and Pillar 3 (Environment and energy), as well as with Action Groups operating under those pillars, is essential to ensure integrated solutions, maximise complementarities and contribute effectively to the shared strategic objectives of a competitive, interconnected and environmentally sustainable Alpine region.

2. Key Tangible Achievements 2023-2025

1. Policy-Level Achievements

The 2023-2025 period marked solid progress in strengthening the policy foundations of AG2's strategic priorities, particularly regarding green hydrogen and digital transformation.

Main outcomes:

- Re-launch of the H2 Task Force, with a coordinated strategy for green hydrogen development across the Alpine Region.
- Position paper and policy recommendations on hydrogen delivered in 2025.

Durability and replicability:

- Policy recommendations are designed to be scalable and applicable in future hydrogen-related initiatives.
- Ensures continuity with the 2026–2028 priority on promoting hydrogen valleys and low-carbon industrial transition.

2. Technical-Level Achievements

Technical progress focused on data-driven innovation, digital transformation, and industrial modernization, in strong collaboration with AG5.

Main outcomes:

- AG2-AG5 Joint Study on Data and AI (Izola, 2024), providing best practices and case studies on:
 - Data-driven decision-making in water management;
 - Manufacturing-as-a-service models.
- Policy recommendations stemming from the study submitted to the Executive Board in 2025.

Durability and replicability:

The achievements of the 2023-2025 period provide a strong methodological base for the 2026–2028 priority on enhancing the strategic role of data and AI for digital industries.

3. Youth, Stakeholder & Network Engagement

Regular AG2 meetings created a structured knowledge-sharing environment and contributed to the visibility and continuity of AG2 activities.

Key activities:

- Meetings held in Lyon (2023, 2025), Grenoble (2023, 2024), Brussels (2024), Turin (2024, 2025), Domodossola (2025). Thematic focuses included:
 - Sustainable tourism (Grenoble)
 - Circular economy and digitalisation (Turin)
- Publication of event one-pagers and news items on the EUSALP website.

Durability and replicability:

- Meeting themes reflect both 2023-2025 priorities and the five priorities of the 2026-2028 Work Plan, establishing a direct thematic continuity.
- The ongoing exchange with previously approved projects ensures knowledge capitalisation across Work Plan cycles.

3. Priorities 2026-2028

For the 2026-2028 period, it has been decided to identify **five priorities** that reflect and operationalize the main topics listed in the 2025 adopted Action Plan. These priorities aim, indeed, at improving framework conditions for SMEs, supporting strategic sectors through cross border coordination, strengthening digital and green transitions, and fostering sustainable resource use. Apart from that, they are also the result of three other converging elements:

- The continuation of work launched under the previous Work Plan.
- Thematic directions introduced by past EUSALP Presidencies.
- Strong interest toward certain themes and engagement expressed by AG2 members.

The priority “**Lobbying for Mountain Areas**” focuses on strengthening the position of Alpine regions within EU cohesion policy, with particular attention to funding for territorial and cross-border cooperation, simplification of implementation rules, and improved visibility of mountain areas within macro-regional strategies. Work under this

priority includes the continuation of joint positions developed in recent Executive Board discussions, support to Presidency-driven events in Brussels, and contributions to political processes where the role of mountainous areas has gained relevance.

The priority **“Promoting an EUSALP dimension for hydrogen valleys”** reinforces AG2’s efforts on hydrogen by supporting interregional cooperation and coordinated policy messaging at European level. Building on exchanges held within the H2 focus group and on joint recommendations prepared with other Action Groups, this priority supports the development of an Alpine hydrogen network and the finalisation of strategic documents, while maintaining collaboration with AG4 and AG9.

The priority **“Supporting the relevance of data and AI for digital industries”** advances the digitalisation dimension of the Action Plan by leveraging the results of the AG2–AG5 joint work on data and AI. It promotes interoperable data frameworks for SMEs, cyber-resilience and skills development, and supports the preparation of new project ideas for EU funding programmes. Activities also include the dissemination of analytical work presented at the 2025 Annual Forum.

The priority **“Fostering sustainable tourism and resource management linked to major sports events”** addresses sustainable tourism and resource management, with a particular focus on the opportunities created by major sporting events. Work foresees follow-up on existing networks in year-round tourism, exchanges with regions hosting or preparing for the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, and coordination with cross-cutting themes such as water management. Actions will also draw on discussions held during thematic AG2 meetings.

The priority **“Supporting circular-economy practices across sectors”** supports the development of circular value chains across the Alpine Region, with initial emphasis on textiles and buildings. Activities include the preparation of a circular economy roadmap, follow-up to the thematic workshop organised at the 2025 Annual Forum, and identification of new project initiatives aligned with available funding opportunities.

3.1. Key Activities 2026-2028

Main topics	Key activities
Cross-cutting: • Agricultural and sustainable forestry products and services throughout the full value chain • Innovative sustainable tourism • Improving the industrial sector, including renewable energy • Fostering the green and digital ‘twin transition’, with a focus on smart industries	THE FUTURE OF THE EU COHESION POLICY: LOBBYING FOR MOUNTAINS AREAS A.1 Collaboration with other MRS and EUSALP Action Groups/Financial embedding of EUSALP activities Organisation and participation to events in Brussels and at EUSALP level (Macro-regional & Sea Basin Strategies Days, EUSALP Annual Fora, etc.) with the aim of seeking political mobilization at EU level.
Fostering the green and digital ‘twin transition’, with a focus on smart industries	GIVING A EUSALP DIMENSION TO HYDROGEN VALLEYS B.1 Finalisation and dissemination of the H2 Position Paper Finalization of the paper and dissemination activities will be carried out by AG2 with the aim of seeking political commitment at regional level. B.2. Set-up of a regional network on H2 alpine valleys Establishment of a regional cooperation network connecting Hydrogen Valley initiatives across the Alpine Space, building on ongoing exchanges within the H2 focus group and strengthening the EUSALP dimension of hydrogen development.

	B.3. Organization of an event in 2027 on energy transition/decarbonized mobility in collaboration with AG4 and AG9 Organisation of a joint event in 2027 dedicated to energy transition and decarbonised mobility in the Alpine region, implemented in cooperation with EUSALP AG4 and AG9, to foster cross-sector dialogue and policy exchange. B.4 Capitalization of H2 projects (SkHyline platform) (ALCOTRA) Capitalisation of results from hydrogen-related projects, notably the ALCOTRA SkHyline platform. INCREASING RELEVANCE OF DATA AND AI FOR AG2, WITH A FOCUS ON DIGITAL INDUSTRIES C.1 Project proposals on smart industry, AI and data valorisation Project proposal addressing specific challenges for SMEs in AI adoption and scale data governance and cognitive manufacturing. C.2 Policy recommendation in the field of smart industry, AI and data valorisation Policy recommendations providing regions and stakeholders (policy makers, authorities, companies and research bodies) with guidelines or tools in the field of smart industry, AI and data valorization. C.3 Capacity building session with innovation intermediaries (e.g. clusters, agencies) and stakeholders Initiative with the aim of fostering knowledge transfer and capacity building both among innovation intermediaries (e.g. clusters, agencies) and stakeholders.
Innovative sustainable tourism	FOSTER SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WITH A FOCUS ON 2026/2030 OLYMPIC GAMES AND MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS D.1 Task Force and network of experts/professionals in the fields of sport and tourism Animation of a dedicated Task Force and creation of a network of experts/professionals involved in the organisation of sports events and tourism. D2. Joint applications to the ASP capitalization call (topic: sustainable tourism and transition of ski resorts) The project proposal will bring together the projects TranStat, Beyond Snow, and Human Factor, integrating their respective approaches on destination transition, climate adaptation, and community engagement. The proposal also explores synergies with water-resource management, in coordination with the EUSALP Task Force on Water Management, given the increasing relevance of water availability for winter tourism and mountain economies. D3. Overview of tourism issues in the Alpine Space

	Overview of the main tourism challenges affecting the Alpine Space, with a focus on EUSALP regions. The analysis will examine how tourism destinations are addressing ongoing environmental, economic, and social transitions, including climate change, sustainability pressures, seasonality, mobility, and digital transformation. The deliverable will establish a common knowledge base to support future project actions.
Agricultural and sustainable products and services throughout the full value chain	PROMOTION OF CIRCULAR ECONOMY (TEXTILE, BUILDINGS, FOOD AND FOREST) E.1 Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region In coordination with the AGs involved in the former CCP4 (in particular AG6, AG5, AG9 and AG1), finalization of the EUSALP Circular Economy Roadmap drafted already in 2025 will consolidate stakeholder feedback, align sectoral priorities (construction, textile and food) and ensure coherence with EUSALP objectives and relevant EU policies. The activity will include updates, validation with Action Group leaders and formal endorsement within the EUSALP governance structure. The result will be an agreed strategic document ready to guide coordinated implementation from 2026 onwards. E.2 Dissemination of the Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region Thematic dissemination activities (workshops, events) and projects. E.3 Exchange sessions with Interreg Alpine Space Project in the field of circular economy Exchange sessions will be organized with relevant Interreg Alpine Space projects in the field of circular economy (e.g. BAUHALPS), to promote knowledge sharing and capitalisation of results related to circular economy approaches in the Alpine region. Exchanges will take place within AG2 meetings or during key Alpine cooperation events (e.g. the EUSALP Annual Forum), potentially in the form of workshops, fostering dialogue among projects, policymakers, and stakeholders and strengthening synergies across initiatives. E.4 Event on environmental transition of the AS mountain areas and SMEs sensitization on CE model Organization a regional event dedicated to the environmental transition of Alpine mountain areas, with a specific focus on raising awareness among SMEs about circular economy approaches. E5. Joint applications to EU funding Programmes (circular economy) Joint application to the ASP calls. Projects applying: SIMPLIFY (3rd classic call 2021-2027) and WOOLALA (capitalization call 2026).

3.2. Missions

AG2's contribution to the EUSALP Missions will be defined based on the Missions approved by the General Assembly, starting from 2026.

4. Communication

AG2 aims to strengthen its communication strategy towards both EUSALP actors and external stakeholders. To better target local stakeholders, AG2 events will be organised with a transnational dimension, but in linguistically homogenous areas. This element will allow for an effective involvement of the local public and anyway enable the creation of transnational knowledge communities/networks to facilitate the exchange of experiences across regions and countries. English translation will always be available to ensure the participation of all interested EUSALP actors.

4.1. Dissemination and Communication Activities

EUSALP website and social media channels
The AG2 webpage on the EUSALP website is regularly updated with news on the Group's activities, approved projects and events – with one pagers containing the key takeaways being published after each event. The studies developed in the current and previous periods will be also uploaded. Policy recommendations will be published, if they will receive the validation of the Executive Board.
External dissemination (Interreg ASP and/or external communication channels)
Specific communication campaigns could be targeted to companies, professionals and practitioners –and their networks– operating or interested in the EUSALP area and dealing with the topics of the Group. To this end, each AG2 member aims to create a database of relevant national, regional and local contacts, to forward them the information and achievements of the Group, in line with the GDPR requirements. Furthermore, meetings or specific sessions will be organised with Alpine Space project applicants and approved projects, contributing to external dissemination by strengthening synergies, supporting networking, and facilitating the match-making of partners for future project proposals.
Dissemination of results to policymakers
Dissemination of results to policymakers will be made available under the EUSALP Annual Progress Report, sent to the Executive Board. Other outputs of the Group's activities will be sent to the EB, such as Policy Recommendations. AG2 will also contribute to targeted dissemination through participation in Presidency led events, or the MRS and SB Strategies week in Brussels, thereby ensuring that key results and policy messages reach institutional audiences.
Success Stories
TranStat has been the success story of AG2 in the past three years. The TranStat project aims to help implement jointly developed approaches for the transition to sustainable mountain destinations - ski resorts and their settlement area - in practice. Based on a participatory and inclusive approach, TranStat aims to elaborate scenarios and jointly developed approaches to respond to the identified challenges in mountain destinations. The challenge is to promote new models of economic, social and environmental development to ensure a livable and sustainable future in the Alpine region. TranStat addresses this cross-cutting issue by creating a physical and digital network of mountain destinations undergoing change to share knowledge and experiences for the future. The final event of the Transtat Project has been held at the end of October 2025. AG2 will continue disseminating the outputs of the project in the period 2026-2028.

4.2. Events and Research

Research:

Concerning smart industries, the macroregional strategy EUSALP aims to work in synergy with the objectives of collecting, processing, sharing, and monetization of data across diverse sectors and industries, with the goal of creating value, driving digital transformation, and cultivating a data-driven society.

Promoting and supporting these principles in its initiatives, the Joint study led by AG2/AG5 therefore examined the conditions for the development of a data sharing ecosystem in the Alpine region, orienting the valorisation of information assets towards the public good, territorial cooperation, economic growth and sustainability.

The Joint Study has been delivered in 2025 from the side of the Regione Piemonte by the Foundation Piemonte Innova. It concludes that the Alpine arc is thus configured as a privileged context for developing practices of digital sovereignty capable of combining economic development, innovation and territorial cohesion. The budget of SUPPORT EUSALP for the AURA Region also funded a study in the field of “Use of AI in the industrial alpine SME” (20.000 euros).

An additional work has been launched in AURA in order to build a transnational network on this key issue. In 2026-2028 the results will be delivered to complete the output of this research effort.

Moreover, research will continue in the field of circular economy in the period 2026-2028, with the Ljubljana Technology Park producing a circular economy roadmap.

Events:

Plenary AG2 sessions

- 2 plenaries per year, one in Brussels, and one in the AURA Region.
- Public events
- 3 events in the 3 years, 1 per year. At least 1 event jointly organized with the Youth Council (possible joint organization with AG1)
- Contribution to the organization of the events that will be held during the French Presidency of EUSALP (2027).

5. Work Plan Outputs and Results

5.1. Monitoring Indicators

Project/Activities

Name	Pillar	Action	Topic	Goal	Activities	Start Date	End Date	Funding source
A.1 Collaboration with other MRS and EUSALP Action Groups/Financial embedding of EUSALP activities	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	Mobilisation of political stakeholders at EU level.	Organisation of and participation to events in Brussels and at EUSALP level.	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
B.1 Dissemination of the H2 Position Paper	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	Seeking political commitment of regional stakeholders	Dissemination of the finalised Position Paper in Hydrogen	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
B.2 Set-up of a regional network on H2 alpine valleys	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	Pilot activities deriving from political commitment.	Implementation of the Policy Recommendations "The EUSALP region: a European frontrunner area for green hydrogen"	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
B.3. Organization of an event on energy transition/decarbonized mobility	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	Organization of a joint event in 2027 dedicated to energy transition and decarbonised mobility in the Alpine region	Event to be held during Eusalp French presidency; Cooperation with AG4 and AG9.	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	4Support Eusalp
B.4 Capitalization of H2 projects (SkHyline platform) (ALCOTRA)	Pillar 1: Economic	AG2: To increase the economic	Fostering green and digital "twin transition"	Capitalisation of results from hydrogen-related	Good practices, project dissemination;	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	ALCOTRA

	Growth and Innovation	potential of strategic sectors	focusing on smart industries	projects, notably the ALCOTRA SkHyline platform	cooperation with AG9			
C.1 Project proposals on smart industry, AI and data valorisation	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	New proposals for joint applications in the field of digital industries	Incubating new project ideas within AG2	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	EU fundings programmes
C.2 Policy recommendation in the field of smart industry, AI and data valorisation	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	Wrap-up and dissemination of good practices focusing on smart industries (AI, data...)	Workshops and PRs document	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
C.3 Capacity building session with innovation intermediaries (e.g. clusters, agencies) and stakeholders	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Fostering green and digital "twin transition" focusing on smart industries	Fostering knowledge transfer and capacity	Dedicated capacity building sessions	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	4Support Eusalp
D.1 Task Force and network of experts/professionals in the fields of sport and tourism	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Innovative sustainable year-round tourism	Foster sustainable tourism and resource management in the perspective of major sport events	Animation of a dedicated Task Force and set-up of a network of experts/professionals involved in the organisation of the sports events and tourism.	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
D2. Joint applications to the ASP capitalization call	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Innovative sustainable year-round tourism	To capitalize on projects dealing with climate resilience of snow dependent mountain tourism	Application to apply to the call	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	Alpine Space Programme

D3. Overview of tourism issues in the Alpine Space	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Innovative sustainable year-round tourism	Analytical report describing key tourism issues	To produce the document	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	EU funding programmes
E.1 Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Agriculture and sustainable forestry sector-based products and services throughout the full value chain	Raise awareness among thematic experts and stakeholders	Drafting of a Circular Economy roadmap paper in 2026	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
E.2 Dissemination of the Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Agriculture and sustainable forestry sector-based products and services throughout the full value chain	Raise awareness among thematic experts and stakeholders	Dissemination activities (workshops, events) and projects	01/02/2026	15/12/2028	4Support EUSALP
E.3 Exchange sessions with Interreg Alpine Space Project in the field of circular economy	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Agriculture and sustainable forestry sector-based products and services throughout the full value chain	Promotion of knowledge sharing and capitalisation of results related to circular economy approaches in the Alpine region	Organization of dedicated meetings	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	EU funding programmes
E.4 Event on environmental transition of the AS mountain areas and SMEs sensitization on CE model	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Agriculture and sustainable forestry sector-based products and services throughout the full value chain	To sensitize SMEs about circular economy approaches	Organization of a regional event dedicated to environmental transition of Alpine mountain areas	01/01/2027	31/12/2027	4Support EUSALP
E5. Joint applications to EU funding Programmes (circular economy)	Pillar 1: Economic Growth and Innovation	AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	Agriculture and sustainable forestry sector-based products and services throughout the full value chain	ASP calls (topic: circular economy)	Joint application	01/01/2026	31/12/2028	Alpine Space Programme

Indicators

Action	Object	Name	Indicators Category	Type of Unit	Unit	Target	Value
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	A.1 Collaboration with other MRS and EUSALP Action Groups/Financial embedding of EUSALP activities	Events related to the embedding of EUSALP	a) Joint programming activities with Managing Authorities/intermediary bodies conducted b) Dialogue with the Commission Funding programmes	N° of shared priorities identified Ongoing dialogue and exchanges conducted Inputs to EU and Regional Funding (ROPs)	N° of events	6,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	B.1 Dissemination of the H2 Position Paper	Political commitment on the H2 Position Paper	a) Political agreements b) Political declarations c) Political letters of intent d) Political representation during events	Adoption/adherence by relevant political authorities	Between 6 and 8 regions adopting the Paper	1,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	B.2 Set-up of a regional network on H2 alpine valleys	Implementation of H2 recommendations	a) Concept tested (i.e. Smart villages, Smart Buildings, Smart Regions) b) Test areas/pilot activities	N° of locations of activities	N° of pilot activities	6,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	B.3. Organization of an event on energy transition/decarbonized mobility	Event on transition for energy fields in the Alps	a) Transnational networks & working groups Joint proposal & project development b) Common methodologies adopted c) Alignment & coordination measures applied d) Thematic Cooperation platforms set up	N° of relevant types of stakeholders participating from different countries	Number of relevant types of stakeholders, institutions, clusters, enterprises, universities	4,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	B.4 Capitalization of H2 projects (SkHyline platform) (ALCOTRA)	Capitalization of H2 projects	a) Information/knowledge platform b) Digital exchange platform c) Structure for information/knowledge sharing	N° and types of users	N° of users	10,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	C.1 Project proposals on smart industry, AI and data valorisation	Cooperation projects in the field of smart industries	a) Cooperation between different Ags Joint proposal & project development b) Common methodologies adopted c) Alignment & coordination measures applied d) Trans-sectoral network or cooperation initiative	N° of Joint Applications to EU Funding Programmes across thematic areas	N° of applications	2,00	0,00

AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	C.2 Policy recommendation in the field of smart industry, AI and data valorisation	AG2 PRs Document	a) Policy recommendations b) Policy guidelines	N° of recommendations and/or guidelines provided to policy makers and political authorities	N° of Policy Recommendations documents	1,00	0,00
		Workshops on AG2 PRs	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/Case studies c) Knowledge networks/ Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/conferences"	N° of workshops/conferences	N° of workshops	2,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	C.3 Capacity building session with innovation intermediaries (e.g. clusters, agencies) and stakehold	Capacity building sessions	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/Case studies c) Knowledge networks/ Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/conferences"	N° of workshops/conferences	N° of workshops	1,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	D.1 Task Force and network of experts/professionals in the fields of sport and tourism	Experts' involved in the network and Task Force	a) Transnational networks & working groups Joint proposal & project development b) Common methodologies adopted c) Alignment & coordination measures applied d) Thematic Cooperation platforms set up	N° of relevant types of stakeholders participating from different countries	N° of types of experts (clusters, political institutions, economic agencies, researchers)	4,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	D2. Joint applications to the ASP capitalization call (topic: sustainable tourism and transition of	Joint applications to the ASP capitalization call	a) Concept tested (i.e. Smart villages, Smart Buildings, Smart Regions) b) Test areas/pilot activities	N° of locations of activities	N° of locations	6,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	D3. Overview of tourism issues in the Alpine Space	Alpine challenges in tourism transition	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/Case studies c) Knowledge networks/ Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/conferences"	N° of studies/surveys/mapping	N° of reports	1,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic	E.1 Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	Circular Economy roadmap	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/Case studies c) Knowledge networks/	N° of studies/surveys/mapping	N° of roadmaps	2,00	0,00

potential of strategic sectors			Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/conferences"				
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	E.2 Dissemination of the Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	Dissemination of the Circular economy roadmap	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of thematic events and activities	3,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	E.3 Exchange sessions with Interreg Alpine Space Project in the field of circular economy	Exchange sessions with ASP projects on Circular Economy	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of exchange sessions	6,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	E.4 Event on environmental transition of the AS mountain areas and SMEs sensitization on CE model	Event on environmental transition of the AS mountain areas and SMEs sensitization of circular economic models	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of event	1,00	0,00
AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors	E5. Joint applications to EU funding Programmes (circular economy)	Joint applications to the ASP calls	a) Transnational networks & working groups Joint proposal & project development b) Common methodologies adopted c) Alignment & coordination measures applied d) Thematic Cooperation platforms set up	N° of Joint Applications to EU Funding Programmes within thematic area	N° of Joint applications	2,00	0,00

5.2. Work Plan Outputs

Project/Activity	Expected Output
A.1 Collaboration with other MRS and EUSALP Action Groups/Financial embedding of EUSALP activities	The output consists of AG2's coordinated contributions to joint inter-MRS exchanges and Presidency-driven events, including inputs to shared positions on funding needs of mountain regions and support to activities linked to the EU Pact for Mountainous Areas. The activity will also generate improved coordination mechanisms for identifying funding gaps and for aligning AG2 priorities with EU and national funding programmes.
B.1 Finalisation and dissemination of the H2 Position Paper	A position paper presenting the Alpine-specific opportunities, barriers, and funding needs for hydrogen development; tailored recommendations for EU and regional policymakers; and advocacy messages designed to secure dedicated financial and policy support for H ₂ projects in the Alpine area and to interconnect the existing H ₂ valleys in the EUSALP area.

B.2. Set-up of a regional network on H2 alpine valleys	Set up of a regional network of Alpine Hydrogen Valleys involving regional authorities, projects, and relevant stakeholders, that can exchange regularly.
B.3. Organization of an event in 2027 on energy transition/decarbonized mobility in collaboration with AG4 and AG9	Multi-stakeholder event gathering policymakers, regional authorities, industry representatives, and project initiatives active in sustainable mobility and clean energy solutions. The event will provide a platform to present ongoing initiatives, share experiences on hydrogen and low-carbon mobility deployment, and discuss policy priorities emerging from EUSALP Action Groups' cooperation.
B.4 Capitalization of H2 projects (SkHyline platform) (ALCOTRA)	Continuous capitalization of results from hydrogen-related projects, notably the ALCOTRA SkHyline platform, that will be used as a reference tool to share project results, good practices, and technical knowledge.
C.1 Project proposals on smart industry, AI and data valorisation	Two project proposals, involving partners from at least three different Alpine Space regions, developed to address the specific challenges faced by SMEs in adopting artificial intelligence, scaling data governance and implementing cognitive manufacturing. Each proposal aims to support SMEs in deploying AI safely, efficiently and at industrial scale, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements while maintaining competitiveness.
C.2 Policy recommendations in the field of smart industry, AI and data valorisation	Policy recommendations document providing regional authorities, policymakers, companies and research organisations with guidelines and practical tools related to smart industry, AI adoption and data valorisation. The document will synthesise the main challenges faced by stakeholders, outline key enabling conditions, and identify areas where coordinated action can enhance industrial competitiveness and innovation.
C.3 Capacity-building session with innovation intermediaries and stakeholders	Dedicated capacity-building session designed to strengthen knowledge transfer among innovation intermediaries such as clusters, development agencies and business support organisations, as well as relevant stakeholders. The session will enhance practical understanding of AI adoption, data management and cognitive manufacturing, facilitating the diffusion of skills and methods across the Alpine ecosystem.
D.1 Task Force and network of experts/professionals in the fields of sport and tourism	A structured network of tourism experts across the Alpine region; a set of guidelines and best-practice case studies related to event management, sustainability, and accessibility; workshops, webinars, and knowledge-sharing sessions to support coordinated tourism strategies for the Olympic and Paralympic events.
D2. Joint applications to the ASP capitalization call (topic: sustainable tourism and transition of ski resorts)	TranStat has worked to develop locally rooted yet scalable transition scenarios, addressing the social, environmental, and economic challenges facing Mountain resorts. To facilitate knowledge exchange and amplify collective learning, the project has established a dynamic network—both physical and digital—connecting mountain resorts across Europe undergoing transition. These final policy recommendations will reflect the insights, strategies, and innovations gathered through this collaborative network, offering guidance to decision-makers at all levels—local, regional, and European—for fostering resilient and sustainable futures in mountain territories.
D3. Overview of tourism issues in the Alpine Space	The activity will produce an analytical report describing key tourism issues and trends across the Alpine Space. The document will summarise regional challenges, highlight shared and territory-specific needs, and present existing approaches and practices supporting tourism transition. The output will serve as a reference framework for project partners and stakeholders throughout the project implementation
E.1 Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	A roadmap document consolidating successful circular economy experiences in agri-food, textile, and building sectors; sector-specific guidelines and recommendations for businesses and policymakers; workshops, case studies, and knowledge-sharing sessions to facilitate replication and scaling of circular practices across the Alpine region.

E.2 Dissemination of the Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	Dissemination of the EUSALP Circular Economy Roadmap through dedicated communication actions, presentations in EUSALP meetings and events, and outreach towards regional authorities, stakeholders, and European institutions. Dissemination materials and targeted exchanges will support the visibility and understanding of the Roadmap across Alpine territories.
E3. Exchange sessions with Interreg Alpine Space Project in the field of circular economy	At least 6 AG2 meetings and exchanges sessions (2 per year, at least one of which must be in presence) with documented minutes.
E4. Event on environmental transition of the AS mountain areas and SMEs sensitization on CE model	A regional event composed of 1 plenary session, 1 session of good practices sharing and projects results/outputs dissemination, 1 collective intelligence session, and 1 video media content from the event shared with AG2 members and published on European collaborative digital platforms dedicated to circular economy.
E.5 Joint applications to EU funding Programmes (circular economy)	SIMPLIFY: • SIMPLIFY's comparative overview of regulatory and administrative barriers across the Alpine Space • SIMPLIFY's transferable "copy-paste" solutions for resource-efficient construction approaches • Exchange with regional stakeholders on lessons learned from practical approaches to reducing construction complexity and costs, including circular methods • Structured feedback from regional stakeholders on the feasibility and transferability of these approaches. WOOLALA: • WOOLALA capacity-building toolkits including Alpine breed typologies, industrial stakeholder mapping, and an opportunity catalogue, accompanied by training and knowledge-transfer materials to support the valorization, testing, and scaling of the Alpine wool solutions. • Innovative transnational solutions and prototypes will be developed within WOOLALA project using Alpine wool in diverse applications, supported by technical, environmental, and economic feasibility data demonstrating their potential for higher value uses beyond traditional textiles. • Innovative solutions developed within WOOLALA supporting higher-value wool applications and improved value-chain organization, together with policy recommendations outlining effective governance and funding frameworks for the long-term development of Alpine wool value chains.

5.3. Action Group Results

Project/Activity	Expected Result
A.1 Collaboration with other MRS and EUSALP Action Groups/Financial embedding of EUSALP activities	Support to the initiatives led by the French delegation in advancing the initiative linked to the emerging EU Pact for Mountainous Areas (or other policy/lobbying papers linked to the financial embedding of EUSALP activities), participation in Presidency-led actions (including the 2026 Brussels event organised by the Bavarian Presidency), contributions to aligning funding tools with the needs of Alpine territories, also in coordination with Euromontana.

B.1 Dissemination of the H2 Position Paper	The activity aims to accelerate the Alpine region's hydrogen transition by promoting the interconnection of existing and planned H ₂ valleys. It seeks to influence EU and regional policymakers to prioritize strategic investments and coordinated development, ensuring a coherent and fully integrated Alpine hydrogen network.
B.2. Set-up of a regional network on H2 alpine valleys	The network will strengthen cooperation among Alpine regions to accelerate hydrogen deployment and support the achievement of EU 2030 climate and energy objectives. Enhanced coordination will improve the visibility of Alpine regions as innovation leaders in hydrogen development and reinforce their capacity to influence European policy discussions through coordinated lobbying and strategic positioning.
B.3. Organization of an event in 2027 on energy transition/decarbonized mobility in collaboration with AG4 and AG9	The event will reinforce collaboration between EUSALP Action Groups and promote integrated approaches linking energy transition, hydrogen development, and sustainable mobility. It will increase stakeholder engagement, facilitate knowledge exchange across Alpine regions, and contribute to stronger policy coordination supporting decarbonisation pathways.
B.4 Capitalization of H2 projects (SkHyline platform) (ALCOTRA)	Capitalisation actions will improve the uptake and transferability of hydrogen solutions across the Alpine Space, avoiding fragmentation and duplication of initiatives. The activity will strengthen continuity between cooperation programmes and support evidence-based policymaking, reinforcing the role of EUSALP as a coordination framework for hydrogen development in the Alpine region.
C.1 Project proposals on smart industry, AI and data valorisation	The activity is expected to generate high-quality, programme-aligned project submissions that increase the likelihood of funding and support long-term innovation dynamics across the Alpine Region. The expected result is an improved capacity among SMEs to integrate advanced AI and data-driven solutions in their production processes, along with strengthened cross-regional collaboration on smart industry transformation
C.2 Policy recommendations in the field of smart industry, AI and data valorisation	The expected result is a more coherent and aligned policy environment across the Alpine Region, characterised by increased awareness of the strategic and regulatory requirements associated with industrial digitalisation. These recommendations will support regions in integrating EUSALP priorities into their innovation and economic development strategies, thereby improving the capacity of institutions and stakeholders to steer and facilitate AI-driven transformation.
C;3 Capacity-building session with innovation intermediaries and stakeholders	The expected result is an improved ability of intermediaries and stakeholders to accompany SMEs in their transition toward AI-enabled and data-driven processes. This will contribute to the creation of a more coherent and interconnected innovation environment in the Alpine Region, capable of accelerating digital transformation and supporting sustainable competitiveness of SMEs.
D.1 Task Force and network of experts/professionals in the fields of sport and tourism	The activity aims to create a professional Alpine tourism network that facilitates the exchange of best practices, enhances preparedness, and promotes sustainable and inclusive strategies for the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games by 2027.
D2. Joint applications to the ASP capitalization call (topic: sustainable tourism and transition of ski resorts)	TranStat has worked to develop locally rooted yet scalable transition scenarios, addressing the social, environmental, and economic challenges facing Mountains resorts. To facilitate knowledge exchange and amplify collective learning, the project has established a dynamic network—both physical and digital—connecting mountain resorts across Europe undergoing transition.

	These final policy recommendations will reflect the insights, strategies, and innovations gathered through this collaborative network, offering guidance to decision-makers at all levels—local, regional, and European—for fostering resilient and sustainable futures in mountain territories.
D3. Overview of tourism issues in the Alpine Space	The deliverable will strengthen the shared understanding of tourism challenges among partners and regional actors, supporting better coordination and strategic alignment within the EUSALP area. It will help identify priority intervention areas and contribute to the development of more sustainable, resilient, and future-oriented tourism strategies in Alpine regions.
E.1 Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	The activity aims to develop a comprehensive Circular Economy Roadmap for the Alpine region by collecting, analysing, and promoting best practices in agri-food, textile, and building sectors. It seeks to accelerate the adoption of circular practices, foster cross-sectoral learning, and guide sustainable regional development.
E.2 Dissemination of the Circular Economy roadmap for the Alpine Region	The dissemination actions will increase awareness and uptake of the Circular Economy Roadmap, encouraging its integration into regional policies and initiatives. The activity will support coordinated implementation of circular economy priorities across the Alpine region and strengthen EUSALP's role as a platform promoting circular transition at transnational level.
E3. Exchange sessions with Interreg Alpine Space Project in the field of circular economy	Regular meetings and exchange sessions will improve sharing and capitalization on projects lessons learnt, enhance the transferability of projects outputs and results within the AS, and ensure coordinated implementation of key EUSALP activities and events, with documented minutes supporting transparency and continuity.
E4. Event on environmental transition of the AS mountain areas and SMEs sensitization on CE model	The event will permit to address the issues of renewable energy, sustainable tourism and sustainable building in the Alpine Arc, three strategic priority areas of the EUSALP Action Group AG2, and this, in the particular context of the future 2030 Alpine Olympic and Paralympic Games. The event will engage Alpine territories and economic stakeholders in the appropriation and the implementation of collective processes for the environmental transition of mountain territories, based on cooperation circular economic models.
E.5 Joint applications to the ASP call on capitalization (circular economy)	SIMPLIFY fosters innovative, resource-efficient circular construction across the Alpine Space (AS) by removing regulatory barriers and creating a cross-border knowledge hub. The project develops concrete legal and technical solutions to maximize resource efficiency throughout the construction cycle - from new buildings and renovations to reuse and recycling. The project WOOLALA aims on enhancing the economic and technical potential of the wool of the Alps for circular, interregional, and resource-sensitive value chains

6. Action Group's Organisation and Targets

6.1. Composition and Organisation

Action Group Leader/Co-Leaders	
The leadership of AG2 is ensured by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, represented by Sylvain Guetaz. AG2 is willing to identify a new co-leadership for the 2026-2028 period.	
Number of Appointed Members	
77 appointed members	
Represented Countries	Represented Institutions
☒ Austria ☒ France ☒ Germany ☒ Italy ☐ Liechtenstein ☒ Slovenia ☒ Switzerland	European Commission, Parc Naturel Régional du Massif des Bauges, Université Grenoble Alpes, Fondazione Edmund Mach, Land Salzburg, CIPRA, CIRIDD, Veneto Innovazione, Région Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, ANCT, UNCEM, Ministrstvo za Gospodarstvo, Turizem in Sport, Regione Veneto, Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Environment Park Torino, Regione Lombardia, e-mobil BW, Ministrstvo za Gospodarstvo, Turizem in Sport, Confindustria Lombardia, Regione Piemonte, Hochschule Luzern (HSLU), Landwirtschaftskammern Salzburg, ERSALP Lombardia, Ecoplus, Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg, ProHolz Agentur, Eurac Research Bolzano, HEIA-FR, Wirtschaftsagentur Burgenland GmbH, Innovation Salzburg GmbH, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Entreprises, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, CIMES, ARAG, FHV – Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Regio Cluster Agentur Baden-Württemberg, Fondazione Hub Innovazione Trentino, Ministrstvo za Gospodarstvo, Turizem in Sport, Baden-Württemberg Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Tourismus, Fondazione Hub Innovazione Trentino, Fachhochschule Graubünden, Techtera, Fortea, Università degli Studi di Padova, Tehnološki Park Ljubljana, DSF, IDM Südtirol, Ministero dell'Agricoltura, della Sovranità alimentare e delle Foreste, CREA, Cluster Montagne, Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft, Baden-Württemberg Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Arbeit und Tourismus, Polymeris, Mouvement des Entreprises de France.
Observers	
Four observers from European Commission, CIPRA Austria, Interreg Alpine Space, Baden-Württemberg: Connected e.V. Participation of the observers varies depending on the topics dealt by the plenary AG2 meeting.	

Organisation of Work

AG2 has identified 5 thematic priorities for the Work Plan, that will be led by 5 priorities coordinators:

- Lobbying for mountainous areas, guided by **Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes**.
- Promoting an EUSALP dimension for hydrogen valleys, guided by **AURA-EE**.
- Supporting the relevance of data and AI for digital industries, guided by **Fondazione Hub Innovazione Trentino**.
- Fostering sustainable tourism and resource management linked to major sports events, guided **University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons** and **Innovation Salzburg gmbh**.
- Supporting circular-economy practices across sectors guided by **Tehnološki Park Ljubljana** and **CIRIDD**.

The internal organization and advancement of work will be carried out through:

- **Two AG2 Plenary meetings per year** (one in Brussels, and one in the AURA Region).
- **3 AG2 Steering Committee meetings per year** (with thematic priority coordinators and the involved stakeholders).
- **Continuous bilateral exchanges** with the thematic priority coordinators and the AG2 Leader, and among the members actively participating to the same priority area.

6.2. Involvement of the Stakeholders

The main stakeholders of AG2 are regional authorities, clusters, companies and innovation intermediaries, research and academia. It also includes YC members.

All stakeholders involved actively participate in the numerous internal and external activities that the group pursues. Specifically, they take part in the plenary meetings that take place at least twice every year and actively participate in setting AG2 objectives and priorities in order to involve them and make the work dynamic and interactive.

6.3. The Role of the Youth Council

As it has been done for the period 2023-2025, AG2 will continue to involve the Youth Council in the group's activities through the:

- Systematic invitation of Youth Council members to AG2 meetings and events.
- Possible Organization of an AG2-Youth Council event, as was done for 2025. The topic will be discussed at a later stage.

In 2025, AG2 has organised a special event with the Youth Council about sustainable tourism in ski resorts. This forward-looking event brought together intergenerational voices to discuss a crucial issue for Alpine communities: how to make ski resorts sustainable – economically, environmentally and socially. The event opened with a field trip to the San Domenico ski resort, giving participants a hands-on look at the site. An open dialogue session followed with local stakeholders from the ski resort, as well as representatives from the Interreg Alpine Space projects BeyondSnow and Transtat. They shared their best practices and perspectives on transitions in ski resorts and presented the results of their respective projects.

The event illustrated the growing awareness of the need for Alpine regions to rethink their traditional tourism models in the face of climate change. The event also highlighted the importance of involving young people in a meaningful way in the transition process. The active presence of the members of the EUSALP Youth Council was not just symbolic: it was a real driving force for change. The idea is to have at least one other event in the period 2026-2028.

- Inclusion of the Youth Council Thematic Group representatives in the internal meeting of the priority areas depending on their interest.