



ACTION GROUP 5

Connectivity and Accessibility
"Connecting people electronically and promoting accessibility to public services"

WORK PLAN

2026-2028

Executive Summary

AG5 is the main implementer of Action 5 under Policy Pillar 2: Mobility and Connectivity of the revised EUSALP Action Plan. Its mandate is to “connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services” across the Alpine Region.

Over the next three years, AG5 will focus on strengthening resilience and shaping a future view for the Alpine Region by driving digital transformation in mountainous areas, supporting the development of smart and sustainable communities, and promoting inclusive, human-centred approaches. AG5 will advance future-proof digital infrastructures, ensuring reliable and secure connectivity, both fixed and mobile, and robust data and HPC (high performance computing) facilities that can withstand Alpine hazards and support cross-border cooperation. AG5 will also foster the use of data and artificial intelligence to improve public services, such as water management, mobility, and e-health, making these services more accessible and effective for citizens and administrations. Through flagship events, capacity building, and youth engagement, AG5 aims to build durable networks, encourage innovation, and ensure that digitalisation delivers real value for Alpine communities.

#DIGITALTRANSFORMATION #DIGITALINFRASTRUCTURES #AI #DATASPACES #YOUTH #RESILIENCE #FUTUREVIEW

1. Focus and Scope of the Action Group

AG5 is the main implementer of Action 5 under Policy Pillar 2: Mobility and Connectivity of the revised EUSALP Action Plan. Its mandate is to “connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services” across the Alpine Region. In practical terms, AG5 translates the political orientation of the Strategy into projects, policy tools and coordination that make digitalisation work for mountainous and rural areas – while ensuring that what we build is resilient, interoperable across borders and genuinely useful for citizens, administrations and local economies.

AG5’s scope is structured around three mutually reinforcing lines of work from Action 5:

- Digital transformation of (mountainous) areas – scaling community-driven “smart” approaches and ensuring an inclusive, human-centred transition that addresses remoteness, limited services and vulnerability typical of Alpine areas.
- Future-proof digital infrastructure – supporting the planning and deployment of resilient connectivity and data infrastructures (from backbone to last-mile and local data facilities) that can withstand Alpine hazards and topography, and that is interoperable across valleys and borders.
- Relevance of data and artificial intelligence in the Alpine Region – enabling take-up of e-services (e-health, e-government, e-learning), advancing shared approaches to data governance, open platforms/data spaces and trustworthy AI, so that data-driven services on EUSALP priorities (e.g., water management, mobility, tourism, energy) can be developed and operated safely and effectively across the macro-region.

2. Key Tangible Achievements 2023-2025

Between 2023 and 2025, AG5 consolidated its role as the Alpine hub for digital transformation. At the policy level, it coordinated Cross-cutting Priority 1 “Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps”, contributed to the Action Plan revision, and launched a joint study with AG2 on data spaces and AI. High-level political messages at DAC editions and the 5G-Sitacor event reinforced the need for resilient connectivity and digital inclusion in mountain areas.

On the technical side, AG5 delivered the Digital Alps Conferences in 2023, 2024 and 2025 with relevant keynote speeches, thematic workshops and published outputs, organised SmartCommUnity study visits, and expanded the Smart Alps network with good practices and webinars on relevant topics for local communities. These assets are now available online for reuse.

At the youth level, the EUSALP Youth Council actively participated in DAC workshops and SmartCommUnity events, engaging over 100 students during workshops on Megatrends affecting the Alps.

These achievements are durable and replicable: DAC will remain the flagship event, the Smart Alps network supports future pilots, and youth involvement will continue through co-design of future activities. Together, they provide a strong foundation for the 2026-2028 Work Plan, ensuring continuity while enabling new actions such as policy charters, connectivity guidance, and a joint political declaration on digital transformation in Alpine territories.

3. Priorities 2026-2028

AG5’s priorities follow the three topic clusters defined in the revised Action Plan and build directly on the 2023-2025 focus areas, ensuring continuity across the new cycle.

1. Digital transformation of (mountainous) areas

Promote a human-centred Smart Communities approach that strengthens community participation and inclusion, and sustains municipal capacity through peer learning and the Smart Alps network.

2. Future-proof digital infrastructure

Focus on resilient, interoperable connectivity across valleys and borders (from backbone to last-mile), and on data infrastructures, including distributed/edge facilities. Emphasise reliability under Alpine hazards, energy efficiency and sustainability, municipal IoT portfolios for SGI, and baseline cybersecurity/continuity for public services. Recognise remote work and learning, as well as youth engagement as levers to retain population and skills.

3. Data and artificial intelligence for Alpine public value

Advance open data and shared specifications; explore data spaces and common platforms for cross-territorial problems (water, mobility, tourism, energy, risk). Foster trustworthy AI for public services – useful, explainable, and compliant – supported by interoperable datasets and governance, making essential services (e-health, e-government, e-learning) accessible in remote areas.

Cross-cutting enablers

These 3 Action plan priorities act also as cross-cutting enablers across all topics of EUSALP in cooperation with the other AGs and can be integrated through the following lenses: DIGITAL4PEOPLE (digital skills, SGI access, citizen participation), DIGITAL4GREEN (energy transition, multimodal mobility, climate adaptation), and DIGITAL4ECONOMY (circular economy, smart SMEs, economic development). These thematic priorities will anchor AG5's contributions to forthcoming EUSALP Missions.

3.1. Key Activities 2026-2028

Main topics	Key activities
<p>Scaling digital transformation across the Alps</p> <p><i>#DIGITALTRANSFORMATION #HUMANCENTRED #INCLUSIVE #BOTTOMUP #CO-CREATION #SMARTCOMMUNITIES #FUTUREVIEWS</i></p>	<p>A1. Smart and Sustainable communities development Sustain and expand a practical, cross-border Smart Community approach through the Smart Alps network that shares methods, toolkits and peer learning so that more Alpine communities can adopt human-centred, inclusive digital transformation. Develop a long-term view through exchanges with others MRS or at European level.</p> <p>A2. Political co-creation & Joint Political Declaration Participate/ organize political exchanges within overall political EUSALP process, culminating in a proposal for a Joint Political Declaration on the digital transformation of Alpine territories endorsed by EUSALP governance.</p>
<p>Supporting future-proof digital infrastructures and boosting talent retention/attraction</p> <p><i>#DIGITALINFRASTRUCTURES #NETWORKRESILIENCE #QUANTUMCOMPUTING #HPCACCESS #FEDERATEDDATACENTER #EDGECOMPUTING #REMOTEWORK #CYBERSECURITY</i></p>	<p>B1. Roadmap for Digital infrastructures evolution Update and advocate AG5's policy roadmap for rural and mountain network resilience and distributed facilities, promoting an ecosystem approach for data infrastructures in mountain areas, fostering synergies with EDIHs/DIHs to explore cutting-edge technologies, such as High Performance, Edge and Quantum Computing, satellite connections and federated data centres, through showcase sessions within the Digital Alps Conference (DAC) and targeted studies.</p> <p>B2. Remote/hybrid work infrastructures and remote learning opportunities</p>

	<p>Support remote/hybrid working as a retention/attraction lever for inner areas by capitalising Alpine-tested practices (local corporate welfare, municipal remote-work pilots, public administration digital literacy, remote learning experiences) and packaging them into a replicable toolkit for Alpine municipalities. Connection with new trends for work and learn in Alpine areas with others AGs, in particular AG3 (Cross cutting enabler DIGITAL4PEOPLE)</p> <p>B3. Cybersecurity awareness and capability Promote cybersecurity awareness and peer-to-peer exchanges at Alpine level through specific events/initiatives</p>
<p>Advocating for data and artificial intelligence for inclusive digital public services in the Alps</p> <p><i>#AI #CHALLENGE #YOUTH #SGI #DIGITALSKILLS #DIGITALTWINS #DATASPACE</i></p>	<p>C1. Alpine AI challenges with Youth Council Run an annual, challenge-based programme in collaboration with Youth Council and others AGs, in particular with AG1, that mobilises youth to co-create AI solutions for EUSALP priorities (water, climate, e-health, sustainable tourism, accessibility etc.) and produce a short report to showcase winners and challenge results. (Cross cutting enabler DIGITAL4PEOPLE)</p> <p>C2. Collection of quick wins on inclusive digital public services Support uptake and transfer of inclusive, data-driven e-service improvements (e.g., e-health, accessibility, digital skills for local actors) into Alpine communities and share success stories and guidance for replication at DAC, other events or Alpine stakeholder networks. Quick wins developed with other AGs, in particular with AG4 (Cross cutting enabler DIGITAL4PEOPLE)</p> <p>C3. Advanced digital technologies for Alpine economic development and sustainability - Building on Dataspaces and AI Studies Promote use case development and pilot applications based on Data spaces, Digital twins and AI technologies to support predictive maintenance, hazard forecasting, and resource optimization across multiple EUSALP domains (e.g., climate adaptation, water management, sustainable tourism or natural hazard management). Building on Dataspaces and AI Studies and by a possible joint project proposal with other AGs, in particular with AG2 and/or AG6, these digital technologies will leverage dataspace and AI for data sharing and advanced analytics, enabling cross-border collaboration and improving resilience and sustainability in the Alpine region. (Cross cutting enabler DIGITAL4ECONOMY, DIGITAL4GREEN)</p>

<p>Common activities supporting and promoting the overall action of the Action Group 5</p> <p><i>#DAC #WORKSHOPS #POLICY #MEETINGS #CAPACITYBUILDING #HARVESTING #EMBEDDING</i></p>	<p>D1. Digital Alps Conference Organize an annual event on AG5 priorities for Alpine Territories (2026-2028). Use DAC as the flagship platform for policy dialogue and replication, with curated workshops and concise policy briefs each year.</p> <p>D2. Policy recommendations collection and consolidation on the 3 AG5 priorities of the Action plan Produce and consolidate a collection of policy recommendations developed within the main AG5 initiatives in the three priority areas of the Action Plan.</p> <p>D3. AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions Organize ongoing dialogue with AG5 members to implement the key activities set out in the work plan and “harvesting” from projects to capitalize results at strategic level. Two meetings are planned per year, at least one of which will be in presence.</p> <p>D4. Capacity building labs for AG5 Participate/organize at least 3 capacity building events for AG5 members (1 per year) with the support of EUSALP TSS.</p>
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3.2. Missions

Digital technology can contribute in a cross-cutting manner. DIGITAL4PEOPLE (digital skills, SGI access, citizen participation), DIGITAL4GREEN (energy transition, multimodal mobility, climate adaptation), and DIGITAL4ECONOMY (circular economy, smart SMEs) will be integrated lenses across all topics. These thematic priorities will anchor AG5’s contributions to forthcoming EUSALP Missions. AG5 will discuss its contribution to the missions in the next AG5 meetings, where it will plan a specific contribution to the identified missions.

4. Communication

Through the 4Support EUSALP project and the Technical Support Structure (TSS), communication activities will be developed consistently and each AG will benefit from a dedicated team. AG5 will therefore contribute to common communication activities under the TSS umbrella.

Moreover, the AG5 will develop its communication activities through three main channels: the new EUSALP website, updating the Action Group 5 page and related content; the LinkedIn channel, disseminating relevant content and getting in touch with interested stakeholders; the content dissemination activities, participating in project events and stakeholder networks (i.e. BCO networks).

As a main communication activity, AG5 will continue to organise the Digital Alps Conference (DAC). Thanks to the Smart Alps network, the AG5 will also get in touch with remote areas that need capacity building to foster the digital transformation of territories and the spread of the Smart Villages approach.

4.1. Dissemination and Communication Activities

EUSALP website and social media channels

AG5 will publish at least 8–10 updates per year on the EUSALP website and its dedicated LinkedIn profile EUSALP AG5, covering:

- Event announcements (e.g., Digital Alps Conference, Annual Forum)
- Results of AG5 initiatives or diffusion of other relevant projects
- Policy recommendations and success stories.

External dissemination (Interreg ASP and/or external communication channels)

- Interreg Alpine Space (ASP): AG5 will contribute to ASP dissemination events, specific project events, by the Digital Alps Conference (DAC) and share results through ASP communication channels.
- Events at EU level or MRS events: contribution to diffuse results and AG5 activities in other EU-related events
- Other external channels: participation in thematic conferences (e.g., Smart ERA Conferences, Smart Alps webinars) and collaboration with networks like Smart Alps and BCO for outreach to remote areas.

Dissemination of results to policymakers

DAC remains the primary event for transferring results to the political level.

AG5 will present policy recommendations during:

- EUSALP Annual Forum
- Presidency kick-off events
- EB-BAGL meetings

These sessions will ensure alignment with EUSALP governance and strategic priorities.

Success Stories

Success Stories will highlight the impactful results achieved by the Alpine communities that fostered the digital transition in their territories through the Smart Village/ Smart Community approach thanks to relevant projects promoted by AG5 (SmartCommUnity, Smart Era and other related projects for digital transformation in rural Alpine areas).

4.2. Events and Research

Provisional Calendar of Public Events

AG5 will organize/ co-organize the following key events during the work plan period:

Digital Alps Conference (DAC)

- Frequency: Three annual editions (2026, 2027, 2028)
- Format: Hybrid (physical + online) or physical
- Partners: EUSALP Presidencies, Action Groups and ASP projects
- Focus: Dissemination of AG5 priorities and flagship initiatives, policy dialogue and stakeholder engagement.

Alpine AI challenges with Youth Council

- Frequency: Three annual editions (2026, 2027, 2028)
- Format: Physical
- Partners: Youth Council, other AGs (in particular AG1) and Presidencies
- Focus: Mobilise youth to co-create AI solutions for EUSALP priorities (water, climate, e-health, sustainable tourism, accessibility etc.)

Policy Learning and Study Visits

Three events planned for capacity building and exchange of best practices among AG5 members and stakeholders
AG5 will contribute actively to the following events:

EUSALP Annual Forum

AG5 will contribute through thematic workshops and presentations on digitalization priorities.

Other AG events/conferences

AG5 will contribute through thematic presentations on digitalization priorities.

Events organized by other networks or projects

AG5 will contribute through thematic presentations on digitalization priorities.

Planned Research publications

During the work plan period, AG5 will carry out a Perspective Study on Advanced Digital Technologies for Alpine Connectivity and Resilience. The study will explore cutting-edge technologies such as:

- High-Performance Computing (HPC) for large-scale data processing and simulation
- Edge Computing to enable real-time services in remote areas
- Quantum Computing for future-proof computational capabilities
- Satellite-based connectivity to overcome geographical constraints
- Federated Data Centres for secure, distributed data management
- Cybersecurity technologies and trends for secure communications and services
- Blockchain applications for products traceability and authenticity and an increasingly digitalized economy
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5. Work Plan Outputs and Results

5.1. Monitoring Indicators

Project/Activities

Pillar	Action	Action Plan Topic	Mission (if applicable)	Project/Activity	Responsible	Partners	Start Date	End Date	Funding Source
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally	Digital transformation of (mountain)		A1. Smart and Sustainable communities	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 Digital	AG5 members; Smart Alps communities; SmartCommUnity/SMART ERA partners;	06/26	12/28	Horizon Europe SMART ERA; Interreg Alpine

	and promote accessibility to public services	nous) areas		development	Transformation of Territories focal point	DEDICA partners (if approved)			Space DEDICA (if approved) and/or other projects
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Digital transformation of (mountainous) areas		A2. Political co-creation & Joint Political Declaration	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 Digital Transformation of Territories focal point	TSS; EUSALP Presidency; EB; BAGL; AGs; Youth Council	02/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP; EUSALP Presidencies/TSS; specific EUSALP funds (if available)
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Future-proof digital infrastructures		B1. Roadmap for Digital infrastructures evolution	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 Infrastructure focal point	AGs; EDIHs/DIHs; DEDICA partners (if approved); SMARTHAP partners (if approved)	09/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP; DEDICA (if approved) and/or other projects; SMARTHAP (if approved) and/or other projects;
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Future-proof digital infrastructures		B2. Remote/hybrid work infrastructures and remote learning opportunities	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 Infrastructure focal point, AG3	APOLLO partners; SMART ERA partners; municipalities	04/26	12/27	ASP APOLLO; Horizon Europe SMART ERA;
Pillar 2 –	Action 5 – To	Future-proof		B3. Cybersecur	AG5 Leader	AG5 members; EDIHs/DIHs	06/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP;

Mobility & Connectivity	connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	digital infrastructures		ity awareness and capability	(RAVA), with the AG5 Infrastructure focal point				DEDICA (if approved) and/or other projects
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Data and artificial intelligence for Alpine public value		C1. Alpine AI Challenge with Youth Council	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 data&AI focal point, AG1	AGs; EUSALP Youth Council; TSS; DEDICA partners (if approved)	02/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP; EUSALP Presidencies/TSS; ASP DEDICA (if approved) and/or other projects
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Data and artificial intelligence for Alpine public value		C2. Collection of quick wins on inclusive digital public services	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 data&AI focal point, AG4	HACK-IT-NET partners; SOCORE partners; DEDICA partners (if approved); RECCAM partners (if approved); projects pilots;	01/27	12/28	ASP HACK-IT-NET; INTERREG EUROPE SOCORE; ASP DEDICA (if approved); ASP RECCAM (if approved);
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public	Data and artificial intelligence for Alpine public value		C3. Advanced digital technologies for Alpine economic development and Sustainability – Building on Dataspace	AG2- AG5 co-Leaders, with the AG5 data&AI focal point, AG2 subgroup on Digital	EDIHs/DIHs; WaterCIAlm partners (if approved); other interested partners on a new project	06/26	12/28	ASP WaterCIAlm (if approved) and/or other projects, in particular with AG2 or AG6

	services			s and AI Studies	Industry, AG6				
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Common activities supporting and promoting the overall action of the Action group 5		D1. Digital Alps Conference	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 focal points, EUSALP Presidencies;	TSS; EUSALP AGs; Youth Council	02/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP; EUSALP Presidencies/TSS; host co-funding; specific EUSALP funds (if available)
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Common activities supporting and promoting the overall action of the Action group 5		D2. Policy recommendations collection and consolidation on the 3 AG5 priorities of the Action plan	AG5 Leader (RAVA), with the AG5 focal points, EUSALP Presidencies;	TSS; EUSALP AGs; Youth Council	01/27	12/28	4Support EUSALP; EUSALP Presidencies/TSS
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote accessibility to public services	Common activities supporting and promoting the overall action of the Action group 5		D3. AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions	AG5 Leader (RAVA)	TSS; AGs; Youth Council; ASP projects	02/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP; EUSALP Presidencies/TSS
Pillar 2 – Mobility & Connectivity	Action 5 – To connect people digitally and promote	Common activities supporting and promoting the overall action of		D4. Capacity building labs for AG5	AG5 Leader (RAVA)	TSS; AGs; Youth Council	02/26	12/28	4Support EUSALP; EUSALP Presidencies/TSS

	e accessi bility to public service s	the Action group 5							
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Indicators

AG	Project/ Activity	Type of Indicat or	Indicators (category)	Indicator	Type of Unit	Unit	Target Value	Value
AG 5	A1. Smart and Sustainable communities development	Result	Stakeholder network supported	Smart Alps communitie s actively engaged	N° of relev ant type s of stak ehol ders parti cipat ing from differ ent coun tries	Communitie s	40	20 (baseli ne 2025)
AG 5	A2. Political co-creation & Joint Political Declaration	Output	Political declarations	Declaration proposal for the EUSALP General Assembly	Adop tion/ adhe renc e by relev ant politi cal auth oritie s	Document	1	0 (baseli ne 2025)
AG 5	B1. Roadmap for Digital infrastructu res evolution	Output	Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection	Study on Digital infrastructu re evolution	N° of studi es/s urvey s/ma ppin g	Document	1	0 (baseli ne 2025)
AG 5	B2. Remote/hybrid work infrastructu res and remote	Result	Toolkits/tools	Toolkit for Municipaliti es	N° of tools shar ed	Toolkit	1	0 (baseli ne 2025)

	learning opportunities							
AG 5	B3. Cybersecurity awareness and capability	Output	Training programmes & activities	Peer-to-peer exchanges at Alpine level	N° of activities, workshops, exchanges, labs	Events	3	0 (baseline 2025)
AG 5	C1. Alpine AI Challenge with Youth Council	Output	Events, Forums	Number of AI Challenges organized	N° of events and activities	Events	3	0 (baseline 2025)
AG 5	C2. Collection of quick wins on inclusive digital public services	Result	Test areas/pilot activities	Community e-service improvements adopted	N° of locations of activities	Solutions	3	0 (baseline 2025)
AG 5	C3. Advanced digital technologies for Alpine economic development and Sustainability – Building on Dataspaces and AI Studies	Output	Cooperation between different AGs Joint proposal & project development	Proposal for new project (ASP and others)	N° of Joint Applications to EU Funding Programmes across thematic areas	Project proposal	1	0 (baseline 2025)
AG 5	D1. Digital Alps Conference	Output	Events, Forums	Number of DAC editions organised (2026–2028)	N° of events and activities	Events	3	0 (baseline 2025)
AG 5	D2. Policy recommendations collection and	Output	Policy recommendations	Collection of policies	N° of recommendations	Policies collection	1	0 (baseline 2025)

	consolidation on the 3 AG5 priorities of the Action plan				ons and/or guidelines provided to policy makers and political authorities			
AG 5	D3. AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions	Output	Mentoring/peer exchanges	N° of AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions	N° of activities, workshops, exchanges, labs	Meetings	6	0 (baseline 2025)
AG 5	D4. Capacity building labs for AG5	Output	Skills workshops/Labs	N° of capacity building events	N° of activities, workshops, exchanges, labs	Events	3	0 (baseline 2025)

5.2. Work Plan Outputs

Project/Activity	Expected Output
A1. Smart and Sustainable communities development	A sustained network model for Alpine communities, with updated governance and a practical membership kit that packages the Smart Communities toolbox and maturity assessment. Outputs: Network governance note; Membership kit (guidance + templates); at least one peer-learning cycle or webinar per year.
A2. Political co-creation & Joint Political Declaration	A political co-creation of a Joint Political Declaration, with three exchanges with the EUSALP Presidency countries and short post-event policy brief; one Joint Political Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly.

	Outputs: 3 political exchanges; 3 briefs/summaries; 1 text of the Joint Political Declaration.
B1. Roadmap for Digital infrastructures evolution	An updated roadmap for connectivity and distributed infrastructures in Alpine areas, plus a study on digital infrastructure evolution in the Alps. Outputs: 1 roadmap update; 1 perspective study; Repository of good practices and cases.
B2. Remote/hybrid work infrastructures and remote learning opportunities	A practical adoption toolkit (templates, guidelines, training path) distilled from Alpine pilots and tested with municipalities to support remote/hybrid work and remote learning opportunities. Outputs: Toolkit (guidelines + templates); Training sessions (at least 4); Report of municipal experiences.
B3. Cybersecurity awareness and capability	A series of peer-to-peer exchanges at Alpine level on the topic of cybersecurity, identifying good practices and best cases. Outputs: Exchange briefs; Good practices and best cases.
C1. Alpine AI Challenge with Youth Council	Three annual AI challenges (2026-2028) co-designed with the Youth Council and AGs (in particular AG1), each producing prototype solutions for Alpine priorities. Outputs: Event reports; Solution demos; A “Best AI for the Alps” award.
C2. Collection of quick wins on inclusive digital public services	Capitalisation pilots that adapt inclusive digital service models (e-health, accessibility, skills) into Alpine contexts and share success stories for replication at DAC. Outputs: 2–4 local adaptations; at least 2 success stories; 1 capitalisation note.
C3. Advanced digital technologies for Alpine economic development and Sustainability – Building on Dataspaces and AI Studies	A series of meetings with the most promising organisations in the Alpine region on the topic of Dataspaces, AI and Digital Twins, identifying good practices and best cases. A possible joint project proposal with other AGs, in particular with AG2 or AG6, on advanced digital technologies. Outputs: Exchange briefs; Good practices and best cases; Joint project proposal with AG2 or AG6.
D1. Digital Alps Conference	Three Digital Alps Conference editions (2026, 2027, 2028) in the EUSALP Presidency countries, each with curated thematic workshops and a short post-event policy brief. Outputs: 3 plenaries sessions with thematic workshops; 3 published briefs/summaries; 1 website with recordings and material from DAC editions.
D2. Policy recommendations collection and consolidation on the 3 AG5 priorities of the Action plan	A consolidated set of policy recommendations across the three AG5 priorities, synthesised from DAC workshops, capacity-building labs, pilots and project harvesting and packaged for political uptake and replication. Outputs: 1 consolidated policy recommendation collection on the 3 AG5 priorities of the Action plan
D3. AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions	Regular meetings with AG5 members to coordinate the implementation of Key Activities, harvest project results and organise main events. Outputs: At least 6 AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions (2 per year, at least one of which must be in presence);
D4. Capacity building labs for AG5	3 capacity building events where AG5 members will be involved. Output: 3 capacity building events;

5.3. Action Group Results

Project/Activity	Expected Result
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A1. Smart and Sustainable communities development	Greater reach & durability of Smart Communities. More Alpine communities actively practicing Smart & Sustainable Communities, supported by the Smart Alps network activities and shared toolbox/maturity methods (continuity from 2023–2025).
A2. Political co-creation & Joint Political Declaration	AG5 will lead a political co-creation process, structured to deliver a proposal for a Joint Political Declaration that affirms a shared Alpine vision and commitments for the digital transformation of territories.
B1. Roadmap for Digital infrastructures evolution	Policy traction for mountain and rural digital infrastructures. Refreshed roadmap and a study on ecosystem approaches to infrastructures evolution in mountain areas (e.g., rural DIH/EDIH linkages, distributed facilities, most promising frontier technologies).
B2. Remote/hybrid work infrastructures and remote learning opportunities	By 2028, pilots apply a lightweight enablement toolkit for remote/hybrid work and remote learning opportunities, resulting in better talent retention, improved internal digital practices, and easier access to services of general interest for residents, especially in inner and mountainous areas. Early adopters document their experience to support replication (toolkit). AG5 and AG3 capitalize and share experiences at their dissemination events.
B3. Cybersecurity awareness and capability	Peer-to-peer exchanges at Alpine level will identify and disseminate good practices and best cases in cybersecurity, strengthening the resilience and awareness of local administrations and communities.
C1. Alpine AI Challenge with Youth Council	Youth-driven AI innovation. By 2028, AG5, in cooperation with AG1 and/or others AGs, will have mobilized Alpine youth to co-create AI solutions for territorial challenges, strengthening digital skills and fostering a culture of innovation across the region.
C2. Collection of quick wins on inclusive digital public services	By 2028, inclusive, data-enabled service improvements (e.g., e-health, accessibility, user digital skills) are adapted and adopted in Alpine communities. This results in tangible gains in access and resilience, with success stories and a capitalisation note published to guide other territories in replication.
C3. Advanced digital technologies for Alpine economic development and Sustainability – Building on Dataspaces and AI Studies	By 2028, stakeholder exchanges will identify and promote best practices in Advanced digital technologies applications for EUSALP priorities, supporting predictive maintenance, hazard forecasting, and resource optimization in Alpine regions. This will foster cross-border collaboration and resilience within a joint project proposal.
D1. Digital Alps Conference	Three editions of the Digital Alps Conference (2026–2028) will be organized, each with curated thematic workshops and policy briefs, strengthening cross-border dialogue and dissemination of best practices in digital transformation.
D2. Policy recommendations collection and consolidation on the 3 AG5 priorities of the Action plan	A consolidated policy corpus submitted to EB/BAGL and the General Assembly, referenced by Alpine administrations to harmonise digital transformation and accelerate replication across valleys and borders.
D3. AG5 meetings and project harvesting sessions	Regular meetings and project harvesting sessions with AG5 members will ensure coordinated implementation of key activities and events, with documented minutes supporting transparency and continuity.
D4. Capacity building labs for AG5	Three capacity building labs and/or study visit events will improve the capacity of AG5 members, supporting knowledge transfer and upskilling across the Action Group.

6. Action Group's Organisation and Targets

6.1. Composition and Organisation

Action Group Leader/Co-Leaders	
Carlo Vigna, Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region (AG5 leader)	
Number of Appointed Members	
18	
Represented Countries	Represented Institutions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Austria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> France <input type="checkbox"/> Germany <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Italy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liechtenstein <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slovenia <input type="checkbox"/> Switzerland	ANCI Liguria, Lombardy Region, Ministrstvo za Kmetijstvo, Gozdarstvo in Prehrano, ANCT, Lombardy Regional Agriculture and Forestry Agency (ERSAF), ITC Cluster, Principality of Liechtenstein, Adrès, Trentino Digitale, Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Autonomous Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italian Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security, Software Competence Center Hagenberg (SCCH), CREA
Observers	
European Commission (DG REGIO, DG ENV, DG CNECT), Alpine Space Programme	

Organisation of Work

The focal points, that are the main point of reference for networking and activities coordination on an AG5 specific priority, are:

- Digital transformation of (mountainous) areas, led by Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region. Building on the Smart Community experience, this focal point will go beyond this successful approach by providing communities with methodologies and tools for digital transformation, also through the results that the Smart Alps Network will produce.
- Future-proof digital infrastructures, led by Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region. It is dealing with all aspects concerning strategies about digital infrastructures and general opportunities/issues of digitalisation (i.e. Cross-border connectivity, Data infrastructures and Distributed facilities).
- Data and artificial intelligence for Alpine public value, led by SCCH. This focal point will explore the potential of data, AI and further new technologies for the Alpine economy and environment.

6.2. Involvement of the Stakeholders

Role of Resource Contacts

AG5 resource contacts act as focal points for specific priorities within the Action Group. They:

- Coordinate networking and implementation of activities in their thematic area.
- Ensure knowledge transfer and alignment between regional initiatives and EUSALP objectives.
- Participate actively in regular AG5 meetings, policy learning sessions, and study visits to strengthen capacity and share best practices.

Engagement with EUSALP Stakeholders and External Beneficiaries

AG5 maintains a multi-level engagement strategy:

- Institutional stakeholders: Continuous interaction with EUSALP governance bodies (Executive Board, General Assembly) through presentations, workshops and policy recommendation sessions.
- External actors: Collaboration with Alpine regions, municipalities, and thematic networks (e.g., Smart Alps, BCO) to promote digital transformation and inclusive connectivity.

- Events as engagement platforms: The Digital Alps Conference (DAC) serves as the main dissemination and networking event, fostering dialogue between policymakers, businesses and civil society.

Targeting Young People

AG5 prioritizes youth involvement through:

- AI Hackathon: A flagship event designed to engage young talents in developing innovative solutions for Alpine digital challenges.
- Youth Council and project initiatives: Workshops and study visits (e.g., collaborations and initiatives with other projects) to involve young people in co-creation and policy discussions.
- Promotion of digital skills and innovation culture via partnerships with educational institutions and EDIHs/DIHs

6.3. The Role of the Youth Council

The Youth Council's Thematic Groups will play an active role in AG5 activities, ensuring that the voice of young people contributes to shaping digital transformation strategies in the Alpine region. Their involvement will include:

- Participation in AG5 Meetings and Labs: Youth representatives will join regular AG5 meetings and thematic labs to provide input on innovation, inclusivity and sustainability. They will contribute to discussions on connectivity, digital services and policy recommendations, ensuring that youth perspectives are integrated into decision-making.
- Alpine AI Challenge (AI Hackathon): The AI Hackathon will serve as the flagship engagement event for young talents. Youth Council members will:
 - Co-design challenge themes aligned with EUSALP priorities (e.g., water, climate, e-health, sustainable tourism, accessibility etc.).
 - Act as mentors or participants, fostering collaboration between students, start-ups and policymakers.
 - Showcase innovative solutions during the Digital Alps Conference, reinforcing the link between youth creativity and strategic policy goals.
- Collaboration in Strategic Projects and Success Stories: Youth Council members will be involved in:
 - Smart Alps and BCO Networks initiatives by promoting digital skills and community-driven innovation.
 - Dissemination activities through storytelling and social media campaigns targeting younger audiences.
 - Research projects by providing their opinion on emerging technologies and their societal impact.
- Capacity Building and Policy Dialogue: Through workshops and study visits, Youth Council members will engage in policy learning, helping to shape recommendations for resilient digital infrastructures and inclusive governance models.