



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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ACTION GROUP 6

Resources – “Preserving and capturing the value of natural and cultural resources”

WORK PLAN

2026-2028

Executive Summary

Under EUSALP's Pillar 3 "Environment and Energy", Action Group 6 (AG6) aims to serve as a reference point for the exchange of knowledge and experience, promoting the advancement of joint approaches that strike a balance between the preservation of the Alpine natural and cultural resources as assets of a high-quality living environment and their sustainable economic use.

The current Work Plan therefore considers the needs of the Alpine region with particular emphasis on water and soil resources and considers completed and ongoing projects in the region to build on the results already achieved. Over the next three years, and in line with the provisions of the revised EUSALP Action Plan, AG6 intends to achieve its objectives through several activities, including new events, Resource Talks, and new cooperation efforts – always including the youth.

Continued work on the theme of landscape will help to guide discussions on the diverse and varied resources that AG6 deals with and for which an integrated management is of utmost importance. Promoting exchange and further developing work on territorial brands will help with efforts on utilizing and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way throughout the value chain, especially on Alpine food and textile heritage.

1. Focus and Scope of the Action Group

The Alpine region boasts an outstanding **natural and cultural heritage** encompassing a wide array of vulnerable habitats with extremely high biodiversity. Despite its abundance of water resources, including rivers, lakes and glaciers, the impact of climate change is leading to glaciers and permafrost melt, as well as water scarcity. Its effects, when coupled with conflicting interests in land use, threaten the biodiversity of ecosystems, soil fertility, food and water security and make it unstable and insecure communities' efforts to maintain permanent settlements in mountain areas, preserve the characteristic landscapes and traditional human activities (i.e. winter tourism, agriculture, forestry) as well as conserve further cultural aspects (i.e. Alpine textile and craft production and food/non-food systems).

Against this background, AG6 is aiming to provide sustainable and balanced models of resource management and production to enable future generations to enjoy the unique living space of the Alps. The experience gained through participation in the Cross-cutting Priorities "Promoting the Transition to Joint Water Management" and "Strengthening the Circular Economy" becomes an additional element for continuing to develop current and future projects and updating related policies.

AG6 will facilitate other AGs' engagement in raising the above models throughout the Alpine arc and commitment of the stakeholder's motivation in using them to contribute to a resilient Alpine living space.

2. Key Tangible Achievements 2023-2025

In the period 2023-2025, Action Group 6 continued to address a more sustainable environmental framework, as well as the need for sustainable development and the preservation of the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Alpine Region.

The priority topics (**water, forestry and agriculture, soil and biodiversity, cultural heritage**) were already based on the evaluation of the achievements of the previous AG6 Work Plans, ensuring continuity of its work. The topics and objectives of Action Group 6 are as pressing as before, giving continuity to the AGs wide range of activities.

At the policy level, **AG6 Policy Recommendations "Current issues of Alpine water management"** which point out the need for enhancing the sustainable management of Alpine water resources following the newly adopted EU Water Resilience Strategy (2025) are one of the main outputs that fed the elaboration of the succeeding Work Plan 2026-2028. Furthermore, the **Crossroads Biodiversity Message** was developed from the international "Crossroads Biodiversity Workshop" in 2023 in Milan, involving collaboration of EUSALP's Action Groups 6 and 7 and the Alpine Biodiversity Board (ABB) of the Alpine Convention. It summarises the strategic priorities identified during the discussions for future biodiversity protection policies at both Alpine and European levels.

AG6 also renewed the mandate of the **EUSALP Task Force "Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber" (TF MFSUT) 2023-2025**, coordinated by two AG6 members. The TF connected members from five AGs on a cross-cutting topic, exchanging and cooperating with many networks and initiatives to present and enhance EUSALPs work in this field.

With the third edition of the **Territorial Brands Conference**, AG6 established a link between territorial brands and the circular economy, building on innovative and successful initiatives. Circularity, together with nature-based approaches to production, promotion and marketing of local products, is also given greater emphasis in the revised EUSALP Action Plan and became increasingly important. The **2nd EUSALP Landscape Conference** is another continued conference series of AG6. After the first edition focused on the topic of "Energy", the second edition provided an opportunity to examine "Alpine landscapes and water in times of climate crisis". It offered a forum for dialogue on how water-related changes are affecting Alpine landscapes and how new or existing challenges and conflicts can be addressed through integrated governance and sustainable landscape management.

By coordinating and contributing to EUSALP's **Cross-cutting Priority 3 (CCP3)**, AG6 worked on the Input Paper "Mind the Gap in Water Management: A qualitative evaluation of gaps and needs in the implementation of the Water

Framework and Floods Directives at project scale in the Alpine Macro-Region". The report gives several EUSALP AGs input for continued work on water management issues.

Moreover, AG6 continued to exchange on the envisaged **UNESCO Inscription of Alpine Food Heritage in the Register of Good Practices for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage**, now foreseen to be submitted in 2026.

The new public webinar series of AG6 **"Resource talks: Voices from AG6"** is a well-proven format to present and discuss AG6 topics and to connect EUSALP topics with external stakeholders. Several webinars are planned to be held in 2026-2028.

Regarding **youth**, AG6 actively involved and involves the EUSALP Youth Council (YC) in events such as AG meetings and public conferences. Throughout the mandate period the AG had continuous exchanges with the different Youth Councillors, not only within AG meetings but also bilateral meetings between AG6 Leader and Youth Councillors, which proved to be efficient to find out about capacities, needs and interests to effectively cooperate. The results were active engagement of Youth Councillors in the AG meetings and events, such as with a speech at the 2nd EUSALP Landscape Conference.

3. Priorities 2026-2028

AG6 will continue its work in line with the previous Work Plan 2023-2025 by capitalising on the results achieved and expanding on previous priorities including water, forestry and agriculture, soil and biodiversity and cultural heritage.

The 2026-2028 Work Plan is aligned with the strategic guidance delineated in the EUSALP Action Plan.

- Under the main topic **"Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources"**, AG6 intends to showcase best practices and identify the stakeholders and co-created solutions that support an integrated, sustainable water and soil (land-use) management transition. This includes capturing practical knowledge and the management and resilience skills needed to address climate change and conserve biodiversity, as well as contributing to relevant EU targets and legislation. AG6 also seeks to highlight projects that involve local communities, public bodies, non-governmental organizations, and other actors in developing shared strategies and actions aimed at more sustainable and equitable cross-border waterbody management. Finally, it aims to bridge the gap between intentions and local action to reduce land take, offering a conceptual guide that focuses on catalyzing changes in local multifunctional and regenerative land-use planning.
- For the topic **"Utilizing and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way throughout the value chain"**, AG6 intends to continue and build on results from key textile-related projects and to strengthen transalpine coherence between safeguarding cultural heritage and sustainable landscape-based agricultural systems, thereby supporting the multinational UNESCO inscription of Alpine Food Heritage.

To achieve these goals, AG6 will organize initiatives such as "Resource Talks", capacity-building sessions, ad hoc conferences, and youth engagement to foster durable networks within AG6 and with other AGs. The findings from these activities will inform transnational Policy Recommendations that AG6 will develop and curate during the 2026-2028 period.

AG6 is also aiming to strengthen its collaboration with other stakeholders and to improve the coordination of activities related to external projects. Collaboration with other AGs (initiated by previous joint events and by participating in the Cross-cutting Priorities "Promoting the transition to joint water management" and "Strengthening the circular economy" as well as in the "EUSALP Task Force "Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber" (TF MFSUT)" will provide further opportunities to strive for synergies and develop activities. The Action aligns with the objectives of the Alpine Convention and therefore exchanges with its Thematic Working Bodies will be envisaged on areas of common interest with a view to developing synergies among them where possible and mutually beneficiary. Moreover, AG6 will monitor the other Macro-Regional Strategies (MRSs) for knowledge/practice exchange according to its activities.

3.1. Key Activities 2026-2028

Main topics	Key activities
Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources	WATER A1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region Mapping of projects dealing with innovative nature-based solutions/practices to foster the integrated management of water cycles, water bodies and biodiversity. A2. Public participation in multi-level governance of water resources in the Macro-Region Mapping projects and initiatives dealing with actions developed by voluntary participatory governance tools aiming at improving public participation and active stakeholders' involvement in developing actions for cross-country and/or cross-regional waterbodies. SOIL B1. Implementing a co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region Mapping projects promoting innovative nature-based solutions practices fostering the integrated soil management aiming at: a) achieving healthy, water-retentive and resilient soils, b) enhancing soil organic matter to increase carbon sequestration and c) reducing land-take. B2. Envisioning co-created local actions for multifunctional and regenerative land use planning. Providing an Alpine-wide operational concept to roadmap actions for reducing and mitigating the land-take at local level, and to embed participative governance approaches for the immediate and future implementation of multifunctional and sustainable recovery of land use.
Utilising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way throughout the value chain	C1. Valorising and branding Alpine natural fibres Organising a conference on the concept of "territorial branding", initiated in previous periods, with the involvement of other EUSALP AGs, the EUSALP Youth Council and relevant networks connected to the textile sector, thereby promoting the topic of the EUSALP Mission on "Circular Textiles". C2. Safeguarding the Alpine Food Heritage Supporting the multinational inscription of Alpine Food Heritage in the UNESCO "Register of Good Safeguarding Practices" by facilitating a transalpine governance dialogue aligning UNESCO community-based safeguarding with FAO GIAHS agro-ecological systems. The activity positions AG6 as the macro-regional interface between cultural heritage, landscape, soil and water stewardship, pastoralism, sustainable tourism and Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI), building synergies with Interreg and Horizon Europe Projects, and involving the Culture Ministries and the Alpine network of communities supporting the candidature.

Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources and Utilising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way throughout the value chain	D1. Policy Dialogue “AG6 Resource Talks” Organizing, with the support of ETS and other interested parties, one-hour online webinars, open to other AGs and their stakeholders’ networks, on topics promoted by AG6 members. At least one webinar per AG6 main topic will be organised each year. D2. Capacity-building labs for AG6 Participating in capacity-building sessions organised by ETS. Organising capacity-building sessions for AG6 members. D3. Landscape Conference Organising the third AG6 “Landscape Conference” (to be foreseen in 2027), in close coordination with the Presidency in Office. D4. Policy recommendations: consolidation on the two AG6 priorities of the EUSALP Action Plan Gathering and consolidating into policy recommendations/policy briefs inputs originated by AG6 initiatives and main events organised by AG6 and/or by participation in events promoted by other AGs or entities.
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3.2. Missions

AG6’s contribution to the EUSALP Missions will be defined based on the Missions approved by the General Assembly, starting from 2026. AG6 aims to contribute to the EUSALP Mission on “Circular Textiles”.

4. Communication

The Edmund Mach Foundation will serve as the main contact point for the EUSALP Secretariat’s Communication Officer to promote AG6 activities, outputs, results, and events. AG6 key documents, reports, and analyses are uploaded on the dedicated AG6 page on the EUSALP website. AG6 will also use its LinkedIn channel to further disseminate relevant content related to its activities and to reach interested stakeholders. To engage additional stakeholders, AG6 is committed – in accordance with their institutional communication infrastructures and networks – to distribute information on Action Group activities.

4.1. Dissemination and Communication Activities

EUSALP website and social media channels The AG6 webpage page on the EUSALP website will be used to disseminate the outputs and results produced by the Action Group, the events organised within the Work Plan period, as well as projects where AG6 is involved. AG6’s LinkedIn account will be used to further disseminate AG6’s work to relevant stakeholders, in coordination with the EUSALP LinkedIn account.
External dissemination (Interreg ASP and/or external communication channels) AG6 is committed to informing interested institutional and targeted actors, as well as the public, on the results of its activities – to increase its cross-border outreach. Moreover, AG6 will organise events on cross-cutting topics, to enable the participation of members and stakeholders from other AGs. In this sense, the AG6 Landscape Conference planned for 2027 will be aimed at fostering cross-cutting and cross-sectoral collaboration with other EUSALP AGs. Additionally, AG6 members will participate in other relevant events organised in the framework of EUSALP (i.e. EUSALP Annual Forum), other organizations (i.e. EUROMONTANA) and at European

level (Macro-regional & Sea Basin Strategies Days and Mediterranean Coast and Macro-regional Strategies Week).

AG6 aims to maintain close exchanges with the relevant Thematic Working bodies of the Alpine Convention, as well as with several projects funded by the Alpine Space Programme, which will be kept informed about events and activities conducted by EUSALP AG6.

Dissemination of results to policymakers

AG6 will invite experts and policy makers to participate as speakers at its 2028 Conference. AG6 seeks to further reach policymakers through concise policy brief/recommendations and through the presentation of politically relevant findings to regional, national and European decision makers in close coordination with the EUSALP Executive Board, the Annual Presidencies, the EUSALP National Coordinators and the EUSALP Secretariat. AG6 members will contribute, in line with their institutional obligations, to further disseminate such activities, with the aim of ensuring more effective action at their regional and national level.

Success Stories

To be decided based on the development of AG6 activities.

4.2. Events and Research

2026	
January – Online	AG6 meeting
February – In person	AG6 meeting, Munich (DE)
1 st and 2 nd semester – Online	AG6 Resource Talks
May-June – Online	AG6 meeting
21-22 October – In person	AG6 meeting at the Annual Forum, Lindau (DE)
21-22 October – Lindau	EUSALP Annual Forum: organisation of a debate with other AGs
2027	
March-April – In person	AG6 meeting
3 rd and 4 th semester – Online	AG6 Resource Talks
September – Online	AG6 meeting
Autumn – Location TBD	AG6 3 rd Landscape Conference
October-November – Nice	EUSALP Annual Forum: organisation of a debate with other AGs
2028	
February-March – In person, Italy	AG6 meeting
Spring – Location TBD	AG6 organisation of the 4 th Territorial Brands Conference
5 th and 6 th semester – Online	AG6 Resource Talks
Autumn – Online	AG6 meeting
October-November – Italy	EUSALP Annual Forum: organisation of a debate with other AGs

5. Work Plan Outputs and Results

5.1. Monitoring Indicators

Project/Activities

Name	Pillar	Action	Topic	Goal	Activities	Start Date	End Date	Funding source
A1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources	Showcasing the best practices identifying a) the stakeholders involved in co-created solutions/strategies towards an integrated and sustainable water management transition and b) the engagement methodologies used to capture their practical knowledge and their skills/competences.	Mapping projects on integrated management of water cycle, waterbodies and biodiversity.	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUSALP; AG members provide support "in kind"
A2. Public participation in multi-level governance of water resources in the Macro-Region	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources	According to AG6 Policy Recommendation on "Strengthen macro-regional governance for water management", showcasing projects involving local communities, public bodies, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in identifying shared strategies, solutions and actions to ensure a more sustainable, equitable and shared management of cross-country and/or cross-regional waterbodies.	Mapping projects and initiatives on developing public participative actions for waterbodies.	01/05/2026	31/12/2027	Interreg Italia-Svizzera "VISTA Ticino"

B1. Implementing a co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach level in the Macro-Region	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources	Showcasing the best practices identifying a) the stakeholders involved in co-created solutions/strategies towards an integrated water management transition and b) the engagement methodologies used to capture their practical knowledge and their skills/competences.	Mapping projects fostering integrated soil management dealing with healthy and resilient soils, organic soil and carbon sequestration, and reducing land-take.	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUS ALP; AG members provide support "in kind"
B2. Envisioning co-created local actions for multifunctional and regenerative land use planning.	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources	Bridging the gap between intentions/plans and action in EUSALP communities. Focusing on actions to catalyse change in managing local actions for multifunctional and regenerative land use planning.	Providing an operational concept reducing and mitigating land take at the local level.	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	Interreg Alpine Space "Brokering Spaces"; Interreg Alpine Space "SOIL: Our Invisible Ally"; 4SupportEUS ALP
C1. Valorising and branding Alpine natural fibres	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Valorising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way through the entire value chain	Supporting the utilization of and giving continuity to results developed during the last work period by key textile associated projects (Interreg Alpine Space AlpTextyles, Woolshed, ...) in collaboration with AG2 and AG3. Strengthening cooperation between rural and urban areas linking natural resources, skills, innovation and territorial cohesion through circular	Conference on "territorial branding".	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUS ALP

				economy models creating green jobs.				
C2. Safeguarding the Alpine Food Heritage	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Valorising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way through the entire value chain	Strengthening transalpine coherence between cultural heritage safeguarding and sustainable landscape-based agricultural systems, supporting the multinational UNESCO inscription of Alpine Food Heritage and laying the governance foundations for an integrated Alpine agricultural framework.	Supporting the Inscription of Alpine Food Heritage in the UNESCO "Register of Good Safeguarding Practices".	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUS ALP
D1. Policy Dialogue "AG6 Resource Talks"	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources / Valorising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way through the entire value chain	Getting insights from: a) past (see Alpine Space 1 st Call), ongoing (see Alpine Space 2 nd Call) and 3 rd Alpine calls (if funded) projects that expressly involve AG6 and the priorities identified for AG6 by the EUSALP Action Plan, and b) projects' best practices that have been identified with the mappings foreseen by AG6 key activities, and c) upcoming initiatives of high relevance.	One-hour online webinars on topics promoted by AG6 members.	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUS ALP; AG members provide support "in kind"
D2. Capacity building labs for AG6	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources / Valorising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way	Enabling AG6 members to implement effectively the two EUSALP Action Plan main topics for Action 6.	Capacity-building sessions.	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUS ALP; AG members provide support "in kind"

			through the entire value chain					
D3. Landscape Conference	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources / Valorising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way through the entire value chain	Gathering experts, decision makers and stakeholders to discuss the challenges of land use. Connecting relevant stakeholders vital to implement further measures.	Third AG6 "Landscape Conference".	01/05/2026	31/12/2028	4SupportEUSALP; AG members provide support "in kind"
D4. Policy recommendations: collection and consolidation on the two AG6 priorities of the EUSALP Act	Pillar 3: Environment and Energy	AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	Strengthening the integrated management of water and soil resources / / Valorising and restoring natural and cultural resources in a sustainable way through the entire value chain	Using selected findings and/or re-elaboration of transnational policy recommendations collected and selected by AG6 during the 2026-2028 activity period.	Gathering and consolidating policy recommendations /policy briefs.	01/05/2026	31/03/2029	4SupportEUSALP; AG members provide support "in kind"

Indicators

Action	Object	Name	Indicators Category	Type of Unit	Unit	Target	Value
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	A1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region	Mapping projects dealing with integrated water management, waterbodies and biodiversity	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	Database	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	A2. Public participation in multi-level governance of water resources in the Macro-Region	Mapping projects co-creating local and cross-country multi-actor approach	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/Case studies c) Knowledge networks/	N° of studies/surveys/mapping	Database	1,00	0,00

			Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/conferences"				
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	B1. Implementing a co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach level in the Macro-Region	Mapping projects dealing with integrated soil management	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	Database	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	B2. Envisioning co-created local actions for multifunctional and regenerative land use planning.	Playbook to manage local transformative change in regenerating land use	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of conferences in the period 2026-2028	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	B2. Envisioning co-created local actions for multifunctional and regenerative land use planning.	Playbook to manage local transformative change in regenerating land use	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	Guide concept	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	C1. Valorising and branding Alpine natural fibres	4 th Territorial Brands Conference	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of conferences in the period 2026-2028	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	C2. Safeguarding the Alpine Food Heritage	Event on Alpine Food Heritage	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of events in the period 2026-2028	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	D1. Policy Dialogue "AG6 Resource Talks"	AG6 Resource Talks	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 Resource Talks	6,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	D2. Capacity building labs for AG6	Capacity-building sessions for AG6 members organised by AG6	a) Training programmes & activities b) Mentoring/peer exchanges c) Skills workshops/Labs d) Mobility, exchanges, Study tours e) Application of new business models and	N° of activities, workshops, exchanges, labs	N° of capacity-building sessions	1,00	0,00

			methodologies f) Innovation transfers g) Toolkits/tools				
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	D2. Capacity building labs for AG6	Capacity building sessions organised by ETS for EUSALP AGs	a) Training programmes & activities b) Mentoring/peer exchanges c) Skills workshops/Labs d) Mobility, exchanges, Study tours e) Application of new business models and methodologies f) Innovation transfers g) Toolkits/tools	N° of participants	N° of AG6 members participating to EUSALP capacity-building sessions	2,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	D3. Landscape Conference	3 rd AG6 Landscape Conference	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of events and activities	N° of conferences in the period 2026-2028	1,00	0,00
AG6: To preserve and valorise natural and cultural resources	D4. Policy recommendations: collection and consolidation on the two AG6 priorities of the EUSALP Act	Policy recommendations	a) Policy recommendations b) Policy guidelines	N° of recommendations and/or guidelines provided to policy makers and political authorities	N° of documents	1,00	0,00

5.2. Work Plan Outputs

Project/Activity	Expected Output
A1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region	Database of projects' best practices. Selected projects will be invited to participate to "AG6 Resource Talks" to share their experiences and provide inputs to AG6 activities.
A2. Public participation in multi-level governance of water resources in the Macro-Region	Database of projects' best practices. Selected projects will be invited to participate to "AG6 Resource Talks" to share their experiences and provide inputs to AG6 activities.
B1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region	Database of projects' best practices. Selected projects will be invited to participate to "AG6 Resource Talks" to share their experiences and provide inputs to AG6 activities.
B2. Envisioning co-created actions for soil management	Organising a public debate on "Spatial strategic vision for the Alpine region: innovative approaches for local decision-making" in collaboration with EUSALP AGs and involving networks of the Interreg Alpine Space Projects ("Brokeringspaces" and SOIL:OurInvisibleAll, ...). Publishing meeting report.

	Conceptualising a guide catalyzing transformative change in managing local actions and striving to emphasise concrete strategies and solutions based on collectively shared goals to shape local and restorative agendas in regenerating land use and reconnecting fragmented landscapes.
C1. Valorisation of Alpine natural fibres	4 th Territorial Brand Conference. Publishing meeting report.
C2. Safeguarding the Alpine Food Heritage	Documented conclusions and shared reference points from the transalpine dialogue, clarifying how community-based safeguarding of Alpine Food Heritage connects to landscape management, pastoral systems, sustainable tourism and Cultural and Creative Industries across the Alpine value chain, in support of the multinational inscription of Alpine Food Heritage in the UNESCO Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.
D1. Policy Dialogue “AG6 Resource Talks”	At least 6 AG6 “Resource Talks”: 2 per year (1 for each AG6 main topic).
D2. Capacity building labs for AG6	1 capacity-building event organised (potentially in collaboration with other AGs) by AG6.
D3. Landscape Conference	Organising the third edition of the Landscape Conference, in potential collaboration with other AGs and the Youth Council. Publishing meeting report.
D4. Policy Recommendations collection and consolidation on the two AG6 priorities of the EUSALP Action Plan	1 consolidated Policy Recommendations document aggregating the results obtained for the two AG6 main topics of the EUSALP Action Plan.

5.3. Action Group Results

Project/Activity	Expected Result
A1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region	AG6 will serve as a hub for EUSALP AGs and external stakeholders, providing publicly available data and fostering mutual dialogue among related projects and activities. AG6 will also be able to identify and delve into best practices and items fostering joint activities/project proposals with AGs previously involved in the Cross-Cutting Priority 3 (2023-2025), as well as with local and international activities promoting a collaborative water management transition and supporting the implementation of the EU “Water Resilience Strategy” in the Macro-region.
A2. Public participation in multi-level governance of water resources in the Macro-Region	AG6 will serve as a hub for EUSALP AGs and external stakeholders, providing publicly available data and fostering mutual dialogue among related projects and activities. Best practices and scientific and technical items fostering joint activities/project proposals with relevant stakeholders and AGs previously involved in the Cross-Cutting Priority 3 (2023-2025) will then be identified. A policy brief supporting the active involvement (“Public participation”) of stakeholders in activating actions for established waterbodies management programs/plans is foreseen.

B1. Implementing co-creative local and cross-country multi-actor approach in the Macro-Region	AG6 will serve as a hub for EUSALP AGs and external stakeholders, providing publicly available data and fostering mutual dialogue among related projects and activities. AG6 will also be able to identify and delve into best practices and items fostering joint activities/project proposals with AGs dealing with land use as well as with local and international activities promoting a collaborative soil management transition.
B2. Envisioning co-created actions for soil management	Supporting the activation of the EUSALP Declaration on “Sustainable Land Use and Soil Protection” and the EU “Soil Strategy for 2030” in the Macro Region. AG6 will identify and delve into best practices and items fostering joint activities/project proposals with AGs dealing with land use and its alignment to “EU Soil Monitoring Law”.
C1. Valorisation of Alpine natural fibres	The Territorial Brand Conference will pool activities on a circular textile economy based on natural fibres across the Alpine region, linked to the “EUSALP Textile Mission”. AG6 will then foster joint cross-sectoral activities/project proposals with AGs previously involved in the Cross-Cutting Priority 4 (2023-2025) and supporting the implementation of EU “Circular Economy Action Plan” on textiles limited to the use of natural fibers.
C2. Safeguarding the Alpine Food Heritage	Improved cross-sector coordination at transalpine level between cultural, agricultural and environmental authorities and the Alpine Food Heritage community network, resulting in clearer alignment of roles and enhanced integration of community-based heritage safeguarding into sustainable natural resource and value-chain governance under the EUSALP framework.
D1. Policy Dialogue “AG6 Resource Talks”	Establishing networks and promoting knowledge exchange and transfer on relevant topics between AG6 and international projects, civil society, as well as Alpine Convention Working Bodies (see ACB, ABB, Soil, MAMF, Spatial Planning) to foster the “hub” role of AG6 (see A1, A2 and B1).
D2. Capacity building labs for AG6	Supporting the knowledge transfer to and boost the upskilling of AG6 members to respond and implement effectively the two priorities of EUSALP Action Plan in the AG's new role as policy coordinators.
D3. Landscape Conference	Promoting dialogue among relevant stakeholders and involved AGs. Fostering cooperation with other AGs and promoting AG6 activities. Enhancing collaboration between various projects carried out in the Macro-region.
D4. Policy recommendations collection and consolidation on the two AG6 priorities of the EUSALP Action Plan	Providing coherent recommendations aligned with available best practices to support decision-makers in the Macro-region's administrations in developing informed strategies related to the two priorities established in the EUSALP Action Plan for AG6.

6. Action Group's Organisation and Targets

6.1. Composition and Organisation

Action Group Leader/Co-Leaders	
Edmund Mach Foundation-Research and Innovation Centre.	
Number of Appointed Members	
42 members.	
Represented Countries	Represented Institutions
☒ Austria ☒ France ☒ Germany ☒ Italy ☒ Liechtenstein ☒ Slovenia ☒ Switzerland	National public authorities and agencies; Regional public authorities and agencies; Local public authorities; National and regional higher education and research; Regional training centers; Farmer unions; Sectoral agency; National and regional NGOs.
Observers	
5 observers, in representation of: • Alpine Convention • European Commission • Interreg Alpine Space • Mountain Wilderness International • NGOs	

Organisation of Work

AG6 Leaders are responsible for:

- overall coordination of the activities;
- monitoring their implementation;
- financial management.

To encourage steady and positive dialogue, ensuring that members' needs and expectations are met, and enforce consensus-building, multiple channels and communication formats are used. A minimum of two AG meetings per year – at least one in person/hybrid – will be organised. These meetings will allow for enhanced cooperation, effective implementation of the Work Plan, to update each other on ongoing activities, and to deliberate about relevant issues. External experts and stakeholders will be invited to attend these meetings where appropriate, and in accordance with the respective agenda of the meetings.

AG6 will apply a flexible mode of operation without defining fixed sub-groups responsible for implementing specific parts of the Work Plan 2026-2028. For the key activities AG6 members commit themselves to working together as coordinating members (**caretakers**) or supporting members (**contributors**). Overall coordination and responsibility for monitoring the implementation of key activities/projects lies with the AG6 Leader.

AG6 aims to elaborate an effective and efficient system to cope with external projects that are of strategic relevance for AG6. This system will help managing and evaluating collaboration requests and better collect and use project results via a contact point/observer within the AG.

6.2. Involvement of the Stakeholders

Relevant stakeholders and experts are involved in the activities of AG6 as appropriate. A continuous flow of information between the AG6 members and the exchange with other relevant EUSALP Action Groups – especially

from Pillar 3 –, as well as with other governance levels, follows the aim of a cross-sectoral approach and transparency.

Synergies are sought with the Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention relevant for the AG6 topics (namely the Soil Protection Working Group, the Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry Working Group, the Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Working Group, the Alpine Biodiversity Board or the Alpine Climate Board).

AG6 members in advisory roles also include NGOs, umbrella organisations and associations representing a certain group of stakeholders or the civil society. Representatives of the civil society may provide substantial contributions to the work of EUSALP AG6 in all its thematic fields. External stakeholders are welcome to participate in AG6 activities and meetings, and their participation is facilitated as far as possible.

AG6 will possibly involve the following stakeholders and target groups:

- Civil society for further exchange, as audience for events and communication, and as possible project partners;
- EUSALP Youth Council, as AG6 observers;
- Higher education and research institutions, as AG6 members, participants in projects, and possible project partners;
- SMEs, as audience for events and communication;
- Interest groups including NGOs, as AG6 members;
- Business support organisations, as AG6 members;
- Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies, for further knowledge exchange and communication;
- National, regional and local public authorities, as AG6 members and as partners in projects;
- Associations, as AG6 members and as partners in projects.

6.3. The Role of the Youth Council

The Youth Council is an important voice in developing the activities of all AGs. A continuous flow of information between the AG6 members and the YC has been already established. AG6 collaborates with the YC and regularly invites their representatives to AG6 meetings and other events. This exchange also includes bilateral communication with its members.

AG6 is committed to further engage the YC in all AG6 activities to take up specific considerations and “young” viewpoints from the younger generation and to ensure their involvement in the decision-making process. In the 2026-2028 period, AG6 will grant this collaboration through:

- consulting the YC on initiating projects implementing the Strategy;
- involving the YC in the organisation of and participation in AG6 events (i.e. 3rd Landscape Conference, 4th Territorial Brands Conference, ...).