



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2025



ACTION GROUP #1

1. KEY OUTPUTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2025

Name of the output	Objective tackled	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
“From transition to antifragility: a spatial approach to innovation and territorial regeneration in the Alpine region” “Which role of spatial-led research, planning and design in driving Alpine transitions?”	During the International Mountain Conference of September 2025 held in Innsbruck, an abstract of a broader research project was presented. The project, conducted within the framework of the collaboration between Dastu and the AG1 Leader, highlighted several noteworthy aspects related to the theme of innovation in the Alpine context, emphasizing in particular the importance of a “spatial-led” approach.	Below you may find the outcomes that originated from the previous underlying research work: <i>“EUSALP should adopt a more explicit spatial approach, ensuring that digital and ecological transitions serve as drivers of territorial cohesion and innovation. This research contributes to the broader debate on how spatial planning can enhance macro-regional strategies, stressing the importance of integrating territorial perspectives into policy frameworks.”</i>	This output represents one of AG1 deliverables presented in a table added in AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan. This specific deliverable is called “Cross-border/transnational event n.2”. Below you may find a statement from AG1 current Work Plan that best represents this output: “Action Group 1 will actively collaborate with other partners on Priorities and Cross-sectoral activities with workshops, seminars, conferences and public meetings”.
Policy Recommendations	A set of policy recommendations was developed on the basis of the research material and shared with the entire AG1, and was subsequently published among the materials produced by AG1.	This document also served as one of the foundations for the reflections and discussions that took place during the final conference of the Austrian and Liechtenstein Presidency.	This output represents one of AG1 deliverables presented in AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan. This specific deliverable is called “Policy Recommendations to promote CCA Actions in Mountain Regions”.

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Alpinno – Project Proposal	Alpinno-UniversitAlp is an Erasmus+ project proposal developed by AG1. Since the Group's activities mainly involve the macro area that concerns "Research and Innovation", the idea behind the aforementioned project involves the development of a virtual university network that would gather all Universities and Research Centers that already exist inside the Alpine macro-region, and provide them with a virtual campus so that they can: • foster connections among researchers; • organize seasonal virtual classes and meetings organized by members; • provide the tools to meet the needs of the future Alpine work environment with the support of AI, aiming to increase the quality of the job market. Alpinno would support the implementation of a synergetic Alpine research environment through the development of a virtual university and research campus that would be easily accessible to all students, researchers and professors that are interested in the development of the area. Through this enhanced cooperation,	In the subsequent months, an attempt was also made to submit the project to an ERASMUS+ call, which was particularly relevant as it addressed cross-cutting aspects between the world of work, education and training, and entrepreneurship, with a specific focus on youth entrepreneurship.	This output represents one of AG1 deliverables presented in AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan. This specific deliverable is called "Project to be submitted to other European Programmes (ERASMUS+ Projects incubated within the AR Universities Coalition Network)".
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	selected researchers would develop an AI tool that would be used to support the competitiveness of the Alpine job market.		
Abstract – “Territorio” Scientific Journal – Service –	The theme of innovation and research, with particular emphasis on a “territorial-based” approach, was also the subject of several articles developed within the framework of AG1 activities and promoted in the journal Territorio .		This output represents one of AG1 deliverables presented in AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan. This specific deliverable is called “Paper / research work to be published n.1”.
<i>“The Valtellina Mountain region in the Eusalp Strategy: The spatial approach for the transition of the Alps in a prospect of territorial anti-fragility”</i>	This output concerns the outline of future scientific publication. Here follows a list of keywords that have been selected by the authors: mountain areas; territorial disparities; ecological and digital transition; spatial planning and design; urban and regional regeneration; territorial cohesion		This output represents one of AG1 deliverables presented in AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan. This specific deliverable is called “Paper / research work to be published n.2”.

2. OUTREACH AND DISSEMINATION

Action	Target audience	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
<i>The analyses and studies carried out over the course of the year on the topic of research and innovation in Alpine regions constituted the basis for several articles and</i>	University students, researchers, economic experts, decision-makers		Below you may find a statement from the current AG1 Work Plan that explains how this action is linked with the aforementioned document: “The AG1 aims to disseminate information on the main activities carried out in the action group using the existing

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<i>research papers, some of which are also available on academic and editorial platforms.</i>			collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the AR as well as through the link with the world of research".
AG1 Success Story Valtellina, a new map for mountain transition	EUSALP Action Groups members, Youth Council		This action is linked with AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan because the document states: "The AG1 aims to disseminate information on the main activities carried out in the action group using the existing collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the AR as well as through the link with the world of research".
Valtellina Pilot Project "Valtellina and the EUSALP Strategy – A spatial approach towards transition"	University students, scientific researchers, decision-makers, policymakers		This action is linked with AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan because the document states: "The AG1 aims to disseminate information on the main activities carried out in the action group using the existing collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the AR as well as through the link with the world of research".
International Mountain Conference Abstract for the International Mountain Conference 2025, Innsbruck, September 14 - 18 2025	Researchers, decision-makers, policymakers		This abstract is linked with the deliverable called "Cross-border/transnational event n.2". Below you may find a statement from AG1 current Work Plan that best represents this output: "Action Group 1 will actively collaborate with other partners on Priorities and Cross-sectoral activities with workshops, seminars,

			conferences and public meetings”.
AG1 section in EUSALP website <i>The work on the implementation of the section dedicated to AG1 on the EUSALP website continued. A storyboard was prepared in PowerPoint format and subsequently converted into a video.</i>	Researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, experts, individuals with an interest in the subject matter		These activities are aimed at ensuring the widest possible dissemination of the activities and main outcomes achieved by EUSALP overall and by AG1 in particular, targeting a broad and non-specialist audience.
LinkedIn posts - Messages were posted and further disseminated via the LinkedIn platform, both through the institutional account and through the account of the AG1 leader.	Researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, experts, individuals with an interest in the subject matter		<i>These activities are linked to the objective of disseminating, as widely as possible, the activities and key results achieved by EUSALP in general and by AG1 in particular to a broad and not necessarily specialist audience, while also seeking to reach younger audiences, who predominantly use social media</i>
Annual Forum participation Coordination of AG-1-stand at networking village during Annual Forum.	Researchers, decision-makers, policymakers, experts, individuals with an interest in the subject matter	Visibility of the results achieved and of the activities carried out, in preparation for the launch of the new 2026–2028 programming cycle	<i>These activities are linked to the objective of disseminating, as widely as possible, the activities and key results achieved by EUSALP in general and by AG1 in particular to a broad and not necessarily specialist audience</i>

3. POLITICAL DEBATES /POLITICAL MESSAGES TO CONVEY/POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Issue debated	Key points discussed	Follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the EUSALP Action Plan and the AG 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Territorial ecosystems of research and innovation	• Territorial diagnostics, planning and design • EUSALP Governance • Social Innovation	A set of Policy Recommendations has been developed and shared with AG1 members and EUSALP Technical Support Structure	The development and production of a set of Policy Recommendations concerns the Cross-cutting policy area found in EUSALP Action Plan. The aforementioned policy area focuses on governance and its institutional capacity. As far as AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan is concerned, the production of a set of Policy Recommendations represents one of the deliverables.
Young entrepreneurs across Alpine areas	• Possible solutions to invert depopulation trends in remote areas • How to incentivize young entrepreneurs to start businesses in mountain areas	The 2026 Mission presented to the new presidency	The first thematic policy area of EUSALP Action Plan concerns economic growth and innovation. Youth entrepreneurship contributes to Action 2, which focuses on increasing the economic potential of strategic sectors. Below you may also find a statement in AG1 current Work Plan that best represents the aim of debating this particular issue: “digital and energy transition (e.g. coworking and CoworCare and digitalization in remote and rural areas, digital innovation hubs, facilitation of start-ups and innovative businesses in the Alpine Region)”.

4. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIONS DELIVERED OR NEEDED

Action	Objective tackled	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
"Valtellina and the EUSALP Strategy – A spatial approach towards transition"	The pilot project is part of recently launched research aimed at supporting the Lombardy Region in the definition and implementation of the European EUSALP strategy for the Alpine macro-region and aimed at identifying strategic areas and lines of action for the development of innovation ecosystems".		Below you may find a statement from AG1 current Work Plan that explains how this action is linked with the aforementioned document: "Supporting R&I activities to promote Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the Alpine Mountain Areas".
Bilateral meetings with responsables of Interreg ASP-Projects,.	To discuss ideas how to ensure flow of information with other Programs	Empower the coordination with other programs	This activity is associated with efforts to intensify dialogue with other stakeholders and to increase the macro-regional strategy's capacity for institutional embedding.
Meetings with AGL of other AG Meetings with AGL Spokespersons.	To identify synergies	Empower the coordination with other AGs	Enhancing the effectiveness of actions, strengthening synergies, and identifying common objectives, including through the development of cross-actor Missions
Interact course on "Policy recommendations drafting"	Enhancing the effectiveness of actions, strengthening synergies, and identifying common objectives, including through the development of cross-actor Missions	The actual drafting of the policy recommendations.	To develop documents designed to inform the political level and guide the identification of concrete actions.

5. PROJECT IDEAS INCUBATED MATCHING EU PROGRAMS

Project name	Status of the project (in progress/s submitted/rejected/approved)	Addressed funding programme	Approved funds in € (if submitted)	Action Groups involved	Link with the EUSALP Action Plan and the AG 2023-2025 current Work Plan
AlpInno	In progress	Erasmus+	/	AG1	The first thematic policy area of EUSALP Action Plan concerns economic growth and innovation. More specifically, Action 1 refers to the aim of developing an effective research and innovation ecosystem. This output also represents one of AG1 deliverables presented in AG1 2023-2025 Work Plan. This specific deliverable is called “Project to be submitted on other European Programmes (ERASMUS+ Projects incubated within the AR Universities Coalition Network)”. Below you may find a statement in AG1 current Work Plan that best represents the aim of the Project Proposal: “The AG1 would facilitate & promote the establishment of a framework for universities in the Alpine Region to foster their cooperation in R&I and education focused on AR’s specific priorities and challenges (such as: hydrogen production and management, circular economy, digitalization, environmental sciences; energy transition, biodiversity conservation and valorization; climate change adaptation; water resource management). The network could collaborate with Action Group 1 – to develop an effective Research & Innovation Ecosystem and the other EUSALP AGs”.

6. YOUTH INCLUSION

Action/nature of the involvement	Number of Youth Councilors involved, country and name	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Montagna 4.0 FUTURe ALPS (24th of February) It is a participatory dialogue between young people and local communities in the alpine areas	220 students from 9 different schools (5 from Valtellina, Lombardy, 2 from Aosta Valley and 1 each from Trentino and Friuli Venezia Giulia) Members of YC have been invited	Enhancing the involvement of young people in mountain-related topics, with a specific focus on promoting and supporting youth-led innovation and research projects.