



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2025



ACTION GROUP 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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
Re-launch of the H2 Task Force, event in Turin mid-April 2025 and policy recommendations on hydrogen	To establish and implement a strategy for the development of green hydrogen in the Alpine Region	Follow-up of policy recommendations, hydrogen positioning paper	Hydrogen is listed as a priority for 2023-2025 in the AG2 Work Plan
Results of AG2-AG5 joint study on data and AI (launched in September 2024 – Izola)	Collecting and sharing best practices and successful case studies of data-driven business models and decision-making processes in the sectors of water management and manufacturing as a service	Policy recommendations delivered by AG2 in 2025 on the basis of the study, future follow up in 26-28	The AG2 Work Plan foresees the publication of 2 research work (1 on smart industries). The Work Plan also mentions AG2 contribution to the Cross-Cutting Priority #1 on Digitalization
AG2 meetings: Brussels January 2025 Lyon May 2025 Torino December 2025	AG2 Meeting in - Brussels focused on European fundings (visit to the Committee of Regions) - Lyon focused on Digital industries (visit of the Campus du Numérique) - Turin focused on Circular Economy and Digitalisation (visit of the International fair of Aerospace)	News and one pagers published on the website for the 3 events Project presented and still ongoing: Industry: RECENTRE , MINASMART and DECLYC projects H2: Imaghyne and AMethyst Projects Circular Economy: WOOLALA and BauAlps projects Tourism: TRANSTAT and PROALP project	The AG2 Work Plan foresees 2 Plenaries per year co-financed respectively by AURA and RP News and one pagers published on the website for the 3 events

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AG2 organized Workshop on Circular Economy	Discussions and exchange of the best circular practices in three fields: textile, agrifood, bulding	CE roadmap in 2026	The Work Plan mentions AG2 contribution (lead) to the Cross-Cutting Priority #4 on CE
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2. OUTREACH AND DISSEMINATION

Action	Target audience	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Meeting with Alpine Space Project Applicants	AS Project Applicants	Increased synergies between the programme and the strategy	/
Meeting with Alpine Space approved Projects (kick-off meeting, invitation to AG2 events)	AS Projects Partners	Increased synergies between the programme and the strategy; networking activities to match potential partners for future projects to be submitted	/
Listing of AG2 related projects on the EUSALP website	EUSALP Community and broader public	Result: Increased synergies between the programme and the strategy Follow up: to disseminate the results of the projets	/
Publication of news and one pagers in the EUSALP website outlining the outcomes of the events	EUSALP Community and broader public	Increased visibility of the group activities and events	/

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-
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Alpine Space

			2025 current Work Plan
The future of the EU cohesion policy/ Lobbying for Mountains areas	• need to increase the dedicated amount of money dedicated to territorial and cross-border cooperation • need to simplify implementing rules • need to increase visibility of MRS and of EUSALP Mountains areas in particular • need to increase the political commitment of policymakers	Draft position paper sent already discussed in EB meetings in 2025, further discussion in 2026	/
Willingness to give a EUSALP dimension to hydrogen valleys	• interregional cooperation is needed to reach the EU 2030 objectives • role of the Alpine Regions as drivers of the H2 development in Europe • lobbying actions to be addressed to the European institutions	Policy recommendation on hydrogen deliver in 2025, first draft of the H2 position paper in 2025 and finalization of the paper in 2026	Hydrogen is listed as a priority for 2023-2025 in AG2 Work Plan. The Work Plan also mentions AG2 involvement in the Cross-Cutting Priority #2 on Energy Transition
Increasing relevance of data and AI for AG2 /Focus on digital industries	• acceleration of AI • expansion of edge computing • focus on cyberresilience • hybrid work and new investments on skills • Willingness to unlock the potential of	Policy recommendations on data spaces produced by AG2 on the basis of the study produced in 2025, follow up in 2026	The AG2 Work Plan, 1 Research foresaw the publication of 2 research work (1 on smart industries). The Work Plan also mentions AG2 contribution to the Cross-Cutting Priority #1 on Digitalization

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	datas through standardized framework for SMEs		
2026/2030 Olympic Games	- Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games offer a unique opportunity for cooperation in the Alpine region as they can contribute to achieving the objectives of EUSALP - The Olympic Games as an opportunity to discuss on how to find a balance between the organization of competitions and resource management.	Concept paper presented in 2025 (EB meeting March 2025), further discussions/papers in 2027 under the French presidency	Activity linked to the sub group tourism in the Work Plan 2023-2025, will be developed also in 2026-2028 (the Work Plans foresees a specific focus area on sport tourism)
Promotion of Circular Economy	- Waste reduction and efficient resource use - Circular design and extended product lifetime - Recycling, reuse and industrial symbiosis Sectors of interest: textile, agrifood, building	Workshop on CE organized by AG2 during the EUSALP Annual Forum 2025, first discussions on a roadmap. Roadmap will be delivered in 2026	The Work Plan mentions AG2 contribution (lead) to the Cross-Cutting Priority #4 on CE

4. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIONS DELIVERED OR NEEDED

Action	Objective tackled	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025
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			current Work Plan
Session on Hydrogen/Hydrogen Valleys during the AG2 meeting in Brussels, invitation to speakers from the Clean Hydrogen Partnership during H2 Task Force meetings	To increase AG2 stakeholders' capacities in the frame of the development of hydrogen valleys	Finalization of an H2 position paper and policy recommendations Current exchanges among interested stakeholders in the framework of the H2 focus group Political Meeting in Turin, Mid-April 2025	Hydrogen is listed as a priority for 2023-2025 in AG2 Work Plan. The Work Plan also mentions AG2 involvement in the Cross-Cutting Priority #2 on Energy Transition
Participation of AG2 members to the capacity building webinars 1st Webinar - Policy Recommendations 2nd Webinar – EU Funding Opportunities for Energy and Mobility Transition (May 27th) 3rd Webinar – EU Funding Opportunities for Circular Economy (June 3rd) 4th Webinar – EU Funding Opportunities for Digital Innovation (June 23rd)	To increase AG2 stakeholder's capacities in the drafting of efficient policy recommendations to be addressed to their regional and national level and to the EU; to increase AG2 stakeholder's knowledge and capacities in relations to EU funding programmes.	Participations of AG2 members, one pagers published on the website, recording of the webinars distributed through the newsletter.	/

5. PROJECT IDEAS INCUBATED MATCHING EU PROGRAMS

Project name	Status of the project (in progress/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
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Alpine Space

LiveAlpsNature	Approved – ongoing	Alpine Space	2.729.503 EUR	AG2, AG6, AG7	/
Aster	Approved – ongoing	Alpine Space	2.612.360 EUR	AG2	/
CIRCULAR ALP	Rejected	Alpine Space – call on governance		AG2	Project submitted in the framework of the cross cutting #4 on circular economy, coordinated by AG2.
BAUHALPS	Approved – ongoing	Alpine Space	2.739.188 EUR	AG2	/
DIVERSE	Approved – ongoing	Alpine Space	2.809.782 EUR	AG2, AG6, AG9	/
TRANSTAT	Approved Ongoing	Alpine Space	(to be completed)	AG2	
RECENTRE	Approved – ongoing	Alpine Space	(to be completed)	AG2, AG5	

6. YOUTH INCLUSION

Action/nature of the involvement	Number of Youth Councilors involved, country and name	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Invitation of Youth Council members to AG2 events	Brussels AG2 Plenary meeting – 1 YC from France Lyon AG2 Plenary meeting – 1 YC from Switzerland (Jeanne Caverzasio)	Foreseen in the AG2 Work Plan: “[...] youth council representatives for economic development are permanently invited to participate in the AG2 plenary session to provide input”.
AG2-Youth Council event “Shaping the Future of Alpine Ski Resorts”	15-20 participants participants	Event foreseen in the 2023-2025 Work plan