



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2025



ACTION GROUP 5

Connectivity and Accessibility

“Connecting people electronically and promoting accessibility to public services”

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
Atelier ALCOTRA MONDI in Saint Marcel (IT) on 27 January	Participation to Atelier ALCOTRA MONDI to provide presentation on AG5 strategic initiatives	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
EB-BAGL in Ruggell (FL) on 3-4 February 2025	Participation in Executive Board and Board of Action Group Leaders meeting focused on the revision of the EUSALP Action Plan and discussion on future mission-oriented approaches	Contribution to the discussion on EUSALP Action Plan and on future mission-oriented approaches.	EUSALP governance and Action Plan revision
22nd AG5 Meeting on 12 February 2025 (online)	Organisation of AG5 meeting on: Update on AT/FL Presidency priorities; coordination on SmartCommUnity activities and organisation of Digital Alps Conference 2025; update on CCP1 implementation	Organisational activities for DAC 2025 and SmartCommUnity project; Implementation of CCP1	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
Montagna 4.0 FUTURe ALPS meets EUSALP on 24 February (online)	Participation to workshop with Montagna 4.0 youth and YC on possible project ideas	Discussion on AG5 topics with youth and exchange on possible projects ideas	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
SmartCommUnity Study Visit on 19-20 March 2025 in La Roche-sur-le-Buis & Nyons (FR)	Organisation of the SC Study visit for: Exchange of good practices on community-led digital transformation, smart services and	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Input for Smart Alps network; Involvement of YC in SC activities.	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities

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	governance models for rural areas; consolidation of inputs for Smart Alps Network and policy processes; Share of results with young people from YC		
BAGL meeting on 7 April 2025 (online)	Participation in BAGL on: Information regarding the organization of the EUSALP Annual Forum; Timeline for the Action Plan implementation; Timeline and next steps for the 2026-28 Work Plans	Discussion and joint position on EUSALP governance topics to be discussed during EB-BAGL meeting	EUSALP governance and Action Plan revision
Capacity Building Webinar on Policy Recommendations on 9 April 2025 (online)	Participation in Capacity Building webinar on practical guidance on crafting strategic and thematic policy recommendations to address challenges in the Alpine Region while navigating cross-border governance barriers	Practical exercises and discussion on how to implement effective policy recommendations	EUSALP governance and AG5 work plan implementation
Digital Alps Conference (DAC) 2025 on 29-30 April 2025 in Lienz (AT)	Organisation of the Digital Alps Conference as official AT/FL Presidency event; high-level sessions and parallel workshops on AI & dataspace, digital transformation of rural territories, resilient digital infrastructures and open platforms; Organisation of DAC Expo on 30 March as showcase of best practices of	Organisation of Flagship AG5 event and CCP1 implementation; Networking with new projects and initiatives; Contents available on DAC website at https://digitalalps.eu	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation AG5 Dissemination

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	digitalisation across the Alps		
25° Alpine Space Programme anniversary on 12-13-14 May 2025 in Salzburg	Participation to 25° ASP anniversary event and promotion of the SmartCommUnity project with a dedicated stand	Networking with ASP projects and initiatives related to AG5 topics; Dissemination of AG5 Strategic Flagship initiative	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities AG5 Dissemination
« Potenzialità e sfide dell'intelligenza artificiale » on 23 May 2025 in Saint Vincent (IT)	Participation on 'The potential and challenges of artificial intelligence' event organised by Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region	Presentation of AG5 activities and ongoing AG5 AI Study	AG5 Dissemination
23rd AG5 Meeting on 10 June 2025 (online and in presence in Villach AT)	Organisation of AG5 meeting on: Update on Action Plan revision; presentation of Digital Alps Conference 2025 results; discussion on AG5 Work Plan 2026-2028; presentation of project proposals and coordination of CCP1 Annual Forum workshop	Organisational activities for Work Plan 2026-2028; Implementation of CCP1	AG5 work plan and CCP1 implementation
EB-BAGL meeting on 11-12 June 2025 in Villach (AT)	Participation in EB-BAGL meeting providing updates on AG5 activities and contributing to coordination on Action Plan revision milestones	Contribution to the discussion on EUSALP Action Plan and on implementation of AG5 workplan	EUSALP governance and Action Plan revision
Smart Alps Webinar "LoRaWAN: the smart solution for municipalities" on 23 June 2025 (online)	Organisation of a thematic webinar for municipalities on LoRaWAN-based IoT solutions; exchange of experiences and reinforcement of the Smart Alps Network	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Contents available on Smart Alps website at https://smart-alps.eu	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities

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« EU Funding Opportunities for Digital Innovation in the Alps » Webinar on 23 June 2025 (online)	Participation in Capacity Building webinar on EU Funds for Digital Innovation in the Alps	Practical guidance on accessing EU funding to accelerate digital innovation	EUSALP governance and AG5 work plan implementation
BAGL meeting on 28 July 2025 (online)	Participation in BAGL on: Information regarding the organization of the AGs workshop during EUSALP Annual Forum; Timeline and next steps for the 2026-28 Work Plans and policy recommendations; Monitoring Matrix	Discussion and joint position on EUSALP governance topics to be discussed during EB-BAGL meeting	EUSALP governance and Action Plan revision
ASP DiMark project meeting on 2 September 2025 (online)	Participation to DiMark project partner meeting to provide presentation on AG5 strategic initiatives	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
ALCOTRA DigiVillae project meeting on 18 September 2025 (online)	Participation to DigiVillae project partner meeting to provide presentation on AG5 strategic initiatives	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
ASP Apollo project meeting on 18 September 2025 (online)	Participation to Apollo project partner meeting to provide presentation on AG5 strategic initiatives	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
ASP HACK-IT-NET bilateral meeting on 23 September 2025 (online)	Bilateral meeting with HACK-IT-NET project to provide presentation on AG5 strategic initiatives	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
24th AG5 Meeting on 1 October (online and in presence in Freiburg im Breisgau DE)	Organisation of AG5 meeting on: Presentation and discussion of draft AG5 policy recommendations; interactive elaboration of the AG5 Work Plan 2026–2028; coordination of CCP1	Finalisation of policy outputs and future planning of activities on AG5 Work Plan 26-28; Implementation of CCP1	AG5 work plan and CCP1 implementation

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	Annual Forum workshop; involvement of EUSALP Youth Council		
SmartCommUnity Study Visit on 01 October 2025 in Freiburg im Breisgau (DE)	Organisation of the SC Study visit for: Exchange of good practices on community-led digital transformation, smart services and governance models for rural areas; involvement of Smart Alps Network members and EUSALP Youth Council	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Expansion of Smart Alps network; Involvement of YC in SC activities	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities
SmartCommUnity Final Conference on 2 October 2025 in Freiburg im Breisgau (DE)	Presentation and dissemination of SmartCommUnity project outcomes on smart communities, digital tools and governance models for rural and mountain areas	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Expansion of Smart Alps network; Involvement of YC in SC activities	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities
EB–BAGL Meeting on 23-24 October 2025 in Salzburg (AT)	Participation in EB-BAGL meeting providing presentation of draft AG5 policy recommendations and alignment with the final phase of the Action Plan revision	Contribution to the discussion on EUSALP Action Plan and on implementation of AG5 policy recommendations	EUSALP governance and Action Plan revision
EUSALP Annual Forum on 25-26 November 2025 in Innsbruck (AT)	Participation in the Annual Forum under the AT/FL Presidency; promotion of the AG5 initiatives with a dedicated stand	Networking with ASP projects and initiatives related to AG5 topics; Dissemination of AG5 initiatives	AG5 Dissemination
CCP1 Workshop “Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps” on 26 November 2025 in Innsbruck (AT)	Organisation and moderation of the CCP1 workshop structured around the five CCP1 pillars (smart communities,	CCP1 capitalisation and policy dialogue	CCP1 implementation and policy capitalisation

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	enabling technologies, data economy, remote work, digital skills); presentation of results from SmartCommUnity, AI study and AG5 activities; identification of priority policy directions for future AG5 Work Plan		
Workshop "Future Health, Shared Solutions: From Challenges to Change" on 1-2 December (online)	Participation to the Hack-Itathon workshop by ASP HACK-IT-NET project	Elaboration of innovative ideas on health services; Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
BAGL meeting on 3 December 2025 (online)	Participation in BAGL on: EUSALP Annual Forum: Workshops Follow-Up ; Work Plans 26-28 and policy recommendations; Monitoring Matrix	Discussion and joint position on EUSALP governance topics to be discussed during EB-BAGL meeting	EUSALP governance and Action Plan revision
MountainAble Masterclass on 15 December 2025 (online)	Participation to MountainAble Masterclass to provide presentation on AG5 strategic initiatives	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
BCO Network Webseries on 16 December 2025 (online)	Participation to BCO Network Webseries « Bridging the digital divide: two success stories of broadband deployment in rural areas »	Dissemination of AG5 success stories and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
Contribution to AG5 Success Story	Production of AG5 Storyboard in cooperation with EUSALP Communication staff	Contents provided for realization of an AG5 video	AG5 Dissemination
AG5 Study "The Shaping of the Alpine Region Through Artificial Intelligence"	Production of a Study on current landscape of AI applications in the Alps, focusing on three key themes:	Key findings and recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders to foster a future where AI	CCP1 implementation and policy capitalisation

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	(i) tourism and sport, (ii) water management, and (iii) natural hazards risk management and climate change monitoring	contributes significantly to the resilience and prosperity of the Alpine region	
AG5 Policy Recommendations (3 documents)	Finalisation of three policy recommendation papers: Fostering Digital Transformation in Alpine Rural and Mountain Territories; Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Alpine Development; Promoting Future-Proof Digital Infrastructures; submission for endorsement through EUSALP governance.	Capitalisation on project-based experimentation to scale up policies at the macro-regional level, using EUSALP as a bridge between local pilot projects and EU strategies	AG5 work plan and policy capitalisation

2. OUTREACH AND DISSEMINATION

Action	Target audience	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Atelier ALCOTRA MONDI in Saint Marcel (IT) on 27 January	ALCOTRA MONDI project partners	Dissemination of AG5 activities and possible future collaboration	AG5 Dissemination
Digital Alps Conference (DAC) 2025 on 29-30 April 2025 in Lienz (AT)	EUSALP community, AG members, outside stakeholders, policy makers	Organisation of Flagship AG5 event and CCP1 implementation; Networking with new projects and initiatives; Contents available on DAC website at https://digitalalps.eu	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation AG5 Dissemination

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Workshop « Artificial Intelligence, Dataspaces & future challenges in the Alpine area » (DAC 2025)	EUSALP community, AG members, outside stakeholders	Presentation of several best practices in the use of dataspaces and AI in the Alps and updates on « joint studies » on dataspaces and AI with AG2	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation AG5 Dissemination
Workshop « Different ways of digital transformation of rural territories and cross-macroregional perspectives » (DAC 2025)	EUSALP community, AG members, outside stakeholders, Macro-regional strategies	Discussion between various Macro-Regional Strategies to share experiences in the field of Smart Villages/Smart Communities and possible joint initiatives in the future	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation AG5 Dissemination
Workshop « Building Resilient Digital Infrastructures for a Smarter Alpine Future » (DAC 2025)	EUSALP community, AG members, outside stakeholders	Presentation of various best practices for future-proof and resilient digital infrastructures in the Alps	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation AG5 Dissemination
Workshop « Discovering Hidden Treasures: Enabling Open Platforms on EUSALP Key Priorities » (DAC 2025)	EUSALP community, AG members, outside stakeholders	Presentation of best practices to emphasize that the long-term sustainability and durability of open digital platforms depend on strong institutional and political commitment, participatory open-source models, and user-centered design that addresses the specific needs	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation AG5 Dissemination
25° Alpine Space Programme anniversary on 12-13-14 May 2025 in Salzburg	General public, EUSALP community, outside stakeholders	Networking with ASP projects and initiatives related to AG5 topics; Dissemination of AG5 Strategic Flagship initiative	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities AG5 Dissemination
« Potenzialità e sfide dell'intelligenza artificiale » on 23 May 2025 in Saint Vincent (IT)	General public, outside stakeholders	Presentation of AG5 activities and ongoing AG5 AI Study	AG5 Dissemination
SmartCommUnity Final Conference on 2 October 2025 in	General public, EUSALP community, outside stakeholders	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Expansion of Smart Alps network;	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities

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Freiburg im Breisgau (DE)		Involvement of YC in SC activities	
EUSALP Annual Forum on 25-26 November 2025 in Innsbruck (AT)	General public, EUSALP community, outside stakeholders	AG5 dedicated stand and networking with ASP projects and initiatives related to AG5 topics; Dissemination of AG5 initiatives	AG5 Dissemination
CCP1 Workshop "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" on 26 November 2025 in Innsbruck (AT)	General public, EUSALP community, outside stakeholders	Organisation and moderation of the CCP1 workshop; CCP1 capitalisation and policy dialogue	CCP1 implementation and policy capitalisation
Smart Alps network development	EUSALP community, AG members, outside stakeholders	Promotion of the Smart Alps network at various public events, SmartCommunity study visits and webinars to improve membership	Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities AG5 work plan AG5 Dissemination
Smart Alps Network dissemination	Municipalities, regional and local authorities	Publication of SmartCommUnity outputs, webinars and good practices through the Smart Alps platform https://smart-alps.eu	Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities AG5 Dissemination
Promotion of DAC 2025 on LinkedIn	General public, stakeholders	Production of posts to launch DAC 2025 and to promote its results via the LinkedIn channel EUSALP AG5	AG5 Dissemination
Dissemination of DAC 2025 materials through event website digitalalps.eu	General public, stakeholders	Videos and presentations made available online at https://digitalalps.eu	AG5 Dissemination
Support to communication staff for AG5 Success Story	EUSALP community, general public	Supported realization of the Success Story	AG5 Dissemination

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

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Issue debated	Key points discussed	Follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the EUSALP Action Plan and the AG 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Digital transformation of rural and mountain territories as a political priority	During AG5 meetings and DAC 2025 workshops, digitalisation was framed as a prerequisite for territorial cohesion, counteracting depopulation and ensuring equal access to services in Alpine areas. Emphasis was placed on moving from isolated pilots to structured, community-led smart transformation approaches	Consolidation of experiences through SmartCommUnity and scaling up via the Smart Alps Network; integration of digital transformation as a core pillar of the AG5 Work Plan 2026–2028	Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
Community-led Smart Communities vs. technology-driven Smart Villages	Workshops at DAC 2025 highlighted the need to go beyond technology deployment toward governance models empowering local communities. Smart Communities were discussed as socio-technical systems based on participation, local capacities and public value creation	Translation of SmartCommUnity results into policy recommendations and dissemination through Smart Alps Network; discussion within CCP1 workshop	Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
Role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Alpine public value	AI was debated as an emerging but necessary tool to address Alpine-specific challenges (water management, tourism sustainability, natural hazards). Stress was placed on explainable, human-centric and federated AI approaches suited to	Publication of the joint AI study "The Shaping of the Alpine Region Through Artificial Intelligence; integration of AI priorities in AG5 policy recommendations; discussion within CCP1 workshop	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation

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	cross-border and mountainous contexts		
Dataspaces and data governance for the Alps	DAC 2025 and AG5 meetings stressed that fragmented data ecosystems limit scaling of digital solutions. Trust, interoperability and governance were identified as key political issues to enable dataspace across borders and sectors	Alignment with AG2 joint study on dataspace; promotion of dataspace as enabling infrastructure in policy recommendations; discussion within CCP1 workshop	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
Digital twins for water management and multi-hazard risk	Discussions during DAC 2025 and AG5 meetings highlighted digital twins as a concrete flagship opportunity where data, AI and infrastructure converge, particularly for water management and risk prevention in Alpine territories	Identification of digital twins as a potential flagship / mission-oriented initiative for future EUSALP implementation; follow-up through AG5 Work Plan 2026-2028; discussion within CCP1 workshop	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
Future-proof digital infrastructures in mountain areas	AG5 meetings and DAC 2025 workshops underlined the need for resilient, interoperable and cross-border digital infrastructures (fiber, 5G, edge computing) adapted to Alpine constraints and climate risks	Production of dedicated policy recommendations on future-proof digital infrastructures; discussion within CCP1 workshop	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
New forms of remote work, multi-activity jobs and territorial attractiveness	CCP1 Workshop highlighted remote work and multi-activity mountain jobs as levers to retain population in Alpine areas, requiring supportive digital infrastructures and policies	Further exploration within CCP1 workshop and potential integration in future projects and initiatives with AG3 within Work Plan 2026-2028	AG5 work plan and CCP1 "Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps" implementation
Youth inclusion in digital transformation	Youth Council interventions during meetings and workshops stressed that digitalisation can reduce out-migration by	Continued involvement of the Youth Council in AG5 activities and future AI-related initiatives (Alpine AI Hackathon, DAC)	AG5 transversal youth involvement

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	improving access to education and jobs. Youth perspectives were considered essential in shaping future policies		
From projects to policies: capitalisation and scaling	A recurring political message was the need to move from project-based experimentation to policy scaling at macro-regional level, using EUSALP as a bridge between local pilots and EU strategies	Development of three policy recommendations based on AG5 projects and initiatives, which were presented to the EB-BAGL and at the AG5 stand during the Annual Forum with a view to their adoption at the policy level	AG5 work plan and policy capitalisation

4. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIONS DELIVERED OR NEEDED

Action	Objective tackled	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
SmartCommUnity Study Visit on 19-20 March 2025 in La Roche-sur-le-Buis & Nyons (FR) and on 1st October 2025 in Freiburg im Breisgau (DE)	Organisation of the SC Study visits for: Exchange of good practices on community-led digital transformation, smart services and governance models for rural areas; consolidation of inputs for Smart Alps Network and policy processes; Share of results with young people from YC	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Input for Smart Alps network; Involvement of YC in SC activities.	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities

Smart Alps Webinar “LoRaWAN: the smart solution for municipalities” on 23 June 2025 (online)	Organisation of a thematic webinar for municipalities on LoRaWAN-based IoT solutions; exchange of experiences and reinforcement of the Smart Alps Network	Capitalisation of SmartCommUnity results; Contents available on Smart Alps website at https://smart-alps.eu	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities
Capacity Building Webinar on Policy Recommendations on 9 April 2025 (online)	Participation in Capacity Building webinar on practical guidance on crafting strategic and thematic policy recommendations to address challenges in the Alpine Region while navigating cross-border governance barriers	Practical exercises and discussion on how to implement effective policy recommendations	EUSALP governance and AG5 work plan implementation
« EU Funding Opportunities for Digital Innovation in the Alps » Webinar on 23 June 2025 (online)	Participation in Capacity Building webinar on EU Funds for Digital Innovation in the Alps	Practical guidance on accessing EU funding to accelerate digital innovation	EUSALP governance and AG5 work plan implementation

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
Novaltitude - provide a global framework and methodology to implement	Submitted	Alpine Space Programme	Not applicable	AG5	CCP1 « Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps »

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open-source interoperable digital solutions to achieve carbon footprint and resource use reduction by 20% or more in Alpine tourism destinations					
RECCAM - autonomous public transport in rural areas	Submitted	Alpine Space Programme	Not applicable	AG4-AG5	CCP1 « Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps »
SmartHap - Sustainable Management for Alpine Resilient Tourism in Huts & Paths	Submitted	Alpine Space Programme	Not applicable	AG5	CCP1 « Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps »
WaterCIAIm - Digital Water Security for the Alpine Region	Submitted	Alpine Space Programme	Not applicable	AG5	CCP1 « Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps »
DEDICA - Desired Digital futures: Cross-sectoral solutions for user inclusivity and just transition	Submitted	Alpine Space Programme	Not applicable	AG1-AG5	CCP1 « Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps »
DigiVillae - Strategia Smart Village per la digitalizzazione e lo sviluppo sostenibile dei piccoli comuni	In progress	Alcotra	1.586.411,77	AG5	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities

6. YOUTH INCLUSION

Action/nature of the involvement	Number of Youth Councilors involved, country and name	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Digital Alps Conference 2025 – YC speakers during workshops on « Artificial Intelligence, Dataspace & future challenges in the Alpine area » and « New ways of work to encourage the settlement of youth in mountain areas »	2, Robin Mannhorst (DE) and Claire Morrier (FR)	CCP1 « Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps »
SmartCommUnity study visits – YC participated in the SmartCommUnity study visits in France and Germany, exchanging ideas and presenting the Youth Council	3, Yannick Werner (DE), Hajar Abba (FR), Filippo Benedetti (IT)	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities
SmartCommUnity Final Conference – YC intervened during the SmartCommUnity Final Conference in Germany to present YC initiatives and political priorities	2, Hajar Abba (FR), Filippo Benedetti (IT)	Contribution to the Strategic Flagship Initiative Smart Communities