



EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2025



ACTION GROUP 9

Energy

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
EUSALP Energy Conference 2025	Main objective : Stakeholder Involvement and knowledge transfer The EUSALP Energy Conference is a flagship initiative of EUSALP Action Group. The conference gathers experts, decision makers and stakeholders to discuss the challenges of the energy transition in the Alps, to ease the transfer of good practices and to connect relevant stakeholders that are vital to implement further measures towards carbon sensitive Alps.	In 2025, the EUSALP Energy Conference was organized under the umbrella of the Austrian Presidency and in the framework of the Energy Autonomy Conference of the Land Vorarlberg. The conference took place on May on 8 May 2025 in Bregenz and concentrated on the issue of “Energy Supply in the Alps”. The conference attracted more than 120 energy experts.	The EUSALP Energy conference is organized every year. In 2026, it is part of the German Presidency programme, subchapter « innovation ». The conference 2026 will be organized during the EUSALP Annual Conference in Lindau on 22 October 2026.
EUSALP AG9 Harvesting session	Main objective: Stakeholder Involvement and knowledge transfer The objective of the Harvesting Session is to collect project outputs and policy recommendations from research and cooperation projects to advance the	The EUSALP AG9 Harvesting Session was organized in 2025 for the first time. The following studies, projects and outputs were presented: Conference outputs: “High voltage in the Alps” (27.02.2025, CIPRA International) and “Energy Autonomy and EUSALP”	The EUSALP AG9 Harvesting Session will be organized regularly to harvest project and study outputs that are relevant for the implementation of the triannual workplans.

Alpine Space

	participation of stakeholders in the energy transition in the Alps and to harvest outputs that support the implementation of the EUSALP Action Plan and the EUSALP AG9 work plan	(08.05.2025, Vorarlberg) • INFRAS, Arge Alp Study "Energy supply in the Alpine region Advantages and opportunities for cross-border cooperation" • ASP projects: ECOLE, SmartCommUnity, H2MA, AMETHyST	
H2 Policy recommendations	Main objective : Delivering experts knowledge to decision makers The EUSALP Action Groups were invited by the Executive Board to further capitalise on their expertise with a view to deriving policy recommendations from their activities to support the political steering the EUSALP MRS.	For the development of policy recommendations in this field, a two step procedure was carried out. Step 1: Preparatory analysis of the hydrogen sector in the Alps A preparatory analysis of the H2 policy field was realized within the ASP project AMETHyST that was incubated by the EUSALP AG9 in 2022. The following activities within the framework of the ASP project AMETHyST were carried out: • Mapping and analysis of regional and national hydrogen strategies, policies and initiatives in combination with desk research of existing expert literature on hydrogen governance and stakeholder mapping as well as technical issues related to green hydrogen deployment. • Organization of 4 transnational expert discussion tables (events organised during the years 2023-2025 in Innsbruck (AT), Ljubljana (SI), Bolzano	In work plan period 2023-2025, EUSALP AG9 focused on green hydrogen application roll-out in the Alps. H2 was Included in the cross cutting initiative "Energy transition". AG9 will organise a networking meeting/conference with Alpine H2 projects in, Interreg and Hydrogen Valleys in 2027 to enhance the transregional cooperation in the Alps, as proposed as a follow-up activity in the EUSALP AG9 policy recommendations.

(IT) and Paluzza (IT) involving a variety of key stakeholders from economy and infrastructure, regional and national policy makers, H2 implementation projects, H2 valley platforms, energy agencies as well as science and research; **30 experts involved.**

- Input gathered through the AMETHyST **Online Expert Survey** to test hypotheses of policy recommendations and gather further input: »Enhanced Governance for Green Hydrogen in the Alps«. **37 experts involved.**

Based on these activities, the [AMETHySt recommendations and policy principles for green hydrogen in the Alpine Space](#) were produced.

Step 2: Drafting EUSALP AG9 policy recommendations

The AMETHyST recommendations and policy principles were used as the basis for the EUSALP AG9 policy recommendation "The EUSALP region: a European Frontrunner Area for Green Hydrogen" which were further developed with 2 Support EUSALP policy workshops and **endorsed by the EUSALP AG9 representatives** through 2 rounds of written feedback procedures in 2025. The final document was transferred to the Executive Board for approval in September 2025.

Shaping the Alpine Hydrogen Vision 2030 (April 2025)	Main objective : Delivering experts knowledge to decision makers	During this event, key decision makers from the EUSALP Regions gathered to share ideas and shape visions for the future of clean hydrogen in the Alpine area. Starting from the letter of intent signed in 2021 by 11 Eusalp Regions, the debate was structured around two roundtables focusing on regional cooperation to reach the 2030 objectives and possible lobbying actions to be addressed to the European institutions. The results of the debate fed two documents (a position paper and some policy recommendations) which were be submitted for approval by the governance of the Strategy as outcomes of the Cross Cutting Priority in Accelerating the Energy Transition for a Carbon-Neutral Alpine Region.	In work plan period 2023-2025, EUSALP AG9 focused on green hydrogen application roll-out in the Alps. H2 was Included in the cross cutting initiative "Energy transition".

2. OUTREACH AND DISSEMINATION

Action	Target audience	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Update on activities on EUSALP website	EUSALP community	Not applicable	Promotion of AG9 activities
EUSALP Energy Conference 2025	Outside stakeholders	150 participants in Voralberg	Yearly activity of the AG9 Hello Filip
Story board for AG9 video	Outside stakeholders	Not applicable	Promotion of AG9 activities
Factsheets on H2	Outside stakeholders	Not applicable	Cross cutting initiative Energy transition

Alpine Space

Policy brief on H2	Outside stakeholders	Not applicable	Cross cutting initiative Energy transition
25th Anniversary of Alpine Space programme	EUSALP community Outside stakeholders	Not applicable	Promotion of AG9 activities and cross cutting initiative Energy transition
H2 European policy development workshop (organized by H2MA project) 14-15 May 2025, Strasbourg	Outside stakeholders	Coordination between AMETHyST and H2MA project	Sharing of expertise between projects
Expert workshop “State of the territory” 15 September 2025, Innsbruck	EUSALP community Outside stakeholders	3 experts from EUSALP AG9 participated to share insights into regional/national energy regulations with relevance for landscape planning in the Alps	Strengthening of collaboration between EUSALP and the Alpine Convention, Agenda setting for medium-term collaboration
MRS week Representation of AG9	EUSALP community Outside stakeholders	Not applicable	Promotion of AG9 activities
Annual Forum workshops	EUSALP community Outside stakeholders	About 50 participants in both workshops	Cross cutting initiative Energy transition and cross cutting initiative digitalisation
Annual Forum stand EUSALP AG9	EUSALP community and outside stakeholders	Not applicable	Promotion of AG9 activities
Travelling Exhibition « Climate and Me » at the Annual Forum 2025	EUSALP community Outside stakeholders	About 20 persons attended a walking tour with an energy and climate change adaptation specialist from AG9 partner agency eNU Lower Austria.	Through real-world examples, the travelling exhibition explains climate change, its causes and impacts, and what each of us can do in everyday life to protect the climate and adapt to a changing world.

		The exhibition was especially organized for the Youth Council.	Six key topics are tackled: • Travel & Mobility • Electricity & Energy • Building & Housing • Waste & Recycling • Food & Drink • Consumption & Lifestyle
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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
Renovation wave, Discussed during round table, AG9 meeting, 25.11.2025, Innsbruck	Current framework: Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), Renovation Wave Initiative and European Green Deal aiming to double renovation rates to a yearly 2% and significantly reduce emissions from buildings. EU MS are required to develop long-term renovation strategies to increase the renovation rate of existing buildings and gradually transforming the building stock towards the Zero	Study	Study on cost-efficiency of renovation activities in relation to avoided CO ₂ emissions", which is intended to narrow down the subject allowing for the development of a set of policy recommendations.

	Emission Building (ZEB) standard The long-term objective is to achieve a nearly climate-neutral building stock by 2050. Barriers for renovation activities: • High upfront investment costs • Limited access to financing • Shortage of skilled labour in the construction sector • Organisational and administrative complexity • Uncertainty regarding actual energy savings • Social aspects such as energy poverty Outcome: Renovation backlog, particularly in multi-family residential buildings and at times market overheating (construction materials, cost of labour etc)		
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4. CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIONS DELIVERED OR NEEDED

Action	Objective tackled	Results and follow-up (if applicable)	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Promotion of various training programmes by EU projects and initiatives (MANAGENERGY, PROSPECT+)	Better capacity to finance energy transition on local and regional scale	Several AG9 members participated to these possibilities	Facilitation for the implementation of energy policies

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
AMETHyST	Closed	Alpine Space	1 948 839 €	AG2, AG9	Link with Action Plan : Innovative technologies roll-out (H2) in the energy sector
H2MA	Closed	Alpine Space	2.273.155 €	AG4, AG9	Twinning project of AMETHyST
Smartcommunities	Closed	Alpine Space	2.591.200 €	AG5, AG9	Innovation and digitalization
SUPER	Submitted	Alpine Space	1,8 million €	AG9	Link with work plan 2026-28 : Renovation strategies
H2READY	Approved	Italy-Slovenia	874 999 €	AG9	Follow up of H2 policy recommendations 2025 elaborated within AMETHyST and AG9
AUTOROUTE DE L'H2 FRANCE SUISSE	In progress	France-Swiss	2 millions €	AG2, AG9	Follow up of H2 policy recommendations
ECOLE	Closed	Alpine Space	-	AG2, AG5, AG9	Link with work plan 2023-2025: energy efficiency measures in enterprises
DIVERSE	Approved	Alpine Space	-	AG2, AG9	Innovative products for the energy transition
EigenAlp	Running	ArgeAlp	-	AG9	Link with work plan 2023-2025:

					Energy efficiency measures in buildings
ArgeAlp study on transborder energy cooperation (INFRAS)	Closed	ArgeAlp	-	AG9	Link with work plan 2023-2025: transregional and transnational cooperation in the field of energy / roll-out of renewable energies

6. YOUTH INCLUSION

Action/nature of the involvement	Number of Youth Councilors involved, country and name	Link with the 2023-2025 current Work Plan
Participation to AG9 meeting	Philip Auberger (Germany) Livia Behnisch (Switzerland)	Regular AG9 meetings
Participation to AG9 workshop "Fast-tracking the Energy Transition for a Carbon-neutral Alpine Region" during annual forum 2025	Livia Behnisch (Switzerland)	Cross cutting initiative Energy transition
Annual Forum Travelling Exhibition « Climate and Me »	10-12	Awareness raising of members of YC