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EUSALP Presidency Tyrol 2018





In the interest of the Alps.





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**On 1 January 2018, the Tyrol took the presidency of the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP). 2018 will be a crucial year in Europe's life: key decisions, which will shape the future of Cohesion Policy in the years to come, are to be taken.**

Today, macro-regional strategies constitute a strong link between the European Union and its Regions; at the same time, they are an effective tool to bring together the national and the regional level along with civil society. They also support the implementation of EU policies and programmes whilst strengthening cohesion and competitiveness across these large areas.

Their ambitious design and implementation have added value in contributing to support territorial cohesion in Europe in an innovative way, notably by supporting a three-dimensional approach:

- Horizontal, across policy sectors,
- vertical, between levels of government and governance, and
- geographical, across national and regional borders.

Important steps have been taken during the 2017 Bavarian presidency: kick-starting the work in the Action Groups, like on exchanges on dual vocational training or green infrastructure, and the adoption of a position paper on the “embedding of macro-regional strategies in the regulatory framework”.

I'm confident that the Tyrolean presidency will continue the discussions on how to shape the future of Cohesion Policy and I very much encourage all of you to take part in the debate.

Our common reflections are more than needed for tomorrow's Europe and each of its citizens.

**Corina Crețu**

EU Commissioner for Regional Policy



**In 2018 the Tyrol holds the presidency of EUSALP. It is a pleasure and an honour for me to have Alpine-wide responsibility for our common initiative this year.**

Following the successful Slovene and Bavarian presidencies, it is above all important to continue with the implementation of our supra-regional and supra-national cooperation project and to anchor it at the European level.

The EUSALP was established as a unique bottom-up macro-regional strategy, i. e. at the initiative of the Länder and Regions, which are closest to the people's needs and concerns. What is now needed for the effective implementation of EUSALP is the strong political will on the part of all parties.

The Tyrolean presidency is placing a key focus on mobility and transport. For future generations, the Alpine Region must be preserved as we know it today: as a worthwhile place to live, in harmony with the environment.

The Tyrol will also be concentrating on dual vocational education and training as an antidote to youth unemployment, on the integration of people from other countries, on natural hazard management and on the energy sector.

As a prerequisite for all this, the macro-regional Alpine strategy must have a place in the European financial programmes, and especially in the EU's Regional Policy after 2020, which will be all the more effective as a result and will help to close what is sometimes a painfully tangible gap between the European Union and its citizens.

Consolidation of EUSALP calls for friendly and harmonised cooperation between all the Alpine Regions and States. Of equal importance is close and coordinated collaboration within our respective countries. The Tyrolean presidency will accordingly have a strong focus on the field of governance, meaning not only lean and effective decision-making structures but also the need to make people, and especially young people, aware of the benefits of EUSALP and involve them in the decision-making processes and thus anchor the EUSALP in their heads and in their hearts.

I am proud that the Tyrol is privileged to hold the EUSALP presidency in 2018. This presidency will enable us to travel new roads into a common future with the people of our States and Regions in keeping with our motto:

**shaping.future.together. – In the Interest of the Alps!**

**Günther Platter**

Governor of the Tyrol

# EU Strategy for the Alpine Region – EUSALP







# 1.0

## EU Strategy for the Alpine Region – EUSALP

With over 80 million inhabitants, the Alpine Region is one of the biggest living, natural and economic spaces in Europe and also a very popular tourism area that attracts millions of visitors every year. Whereas commerce, trade and industry in the Alpine Region are largely concentrated in the large urban centres on the margins of the Alps and in the main Alpine valleys that constitute the transport arteries, the rural area is extensively managed and thinly populated, and over 40 percent of the area of the Alps has no or no permanent population at all.

In view of the unique natural and geographic characteristics of the Alpine Region, some of the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are to be observed there with particular intensity:

- Economic globalisation calls for consistently high and sustainable competitiveness and innovative strength in the Region.
- Demographic change is leading to an ageing society in the Alpine Region and to an exodus of highly qualified employees.
- Global climate change is already having specific impacts on the environment, biodiversity and living conditions for residents of the Alpine Region.
- Given its geography and related impacts on human life and the environment, the Alpine Region – as a transit region at the heart of Europe – requires sustainable transport policies implemented on a consensual basis.
- The Alpine Region must be preserved as a unique natural and cultural space.

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region offers an opportunity to respond to these challenges with innovative initiatives in the fields of trade and industry, infrastructure and transport, the protection of the environment and resources, and energy, in close cooperation with the States and Regions, but also with non-state actors, thus strengthening economic, political and social cohesion at the core of Europe. The Communication<sup>1</sup> and the Action Plan<sup>2</sup> on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region were formally adopted by the European Commission on 28 July 2015 and by the European Council on 28 June 2016.<sup>3</sup> The Strategy involves seven States (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland and Liechtenstein) and 48 Regions of those States in the Alpine Region.

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region is in line with EU's Cohesion Policy 2014-2020. It is designed to ensure a coordinated, targeted procedure, to employ synergies and to make effective use of existing EU funding and other finance instruments. Tangible added value is to be generated on the basis of jointly set priorities. A further major benefit of EUSALP is the opportunity to build a new relationship between the urban centres, the mountain periphery and the mountain areas.

.....  
1 COM(2015) 366  
2 SWD(2015) 147 final  
3 Council Minutes EUCO 27/16

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region is focused on the three thematic policy areas competitiveness and innovation, environmentally friendly mobility and connectivity and the sustainable use of energy and natural and cultural resources, with governance as an additional cross-cutting objective. The Action Plan for the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region divides the three thematic policy areas into nine specific actions, so that the various objectives for the Strategy can be listed as follows:

<b>Objective 1</b>	<p><b>Fair access to job opportunities, building on the high competitiveness of the Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Action 1: To develop an effective research and innovation system</li> <li>→ Action 2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</li> <li>→ Action 3: To improve the adequacy of labour market education and training in strategic sectors</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2</b>	<p><b>Sustainable internal and external accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Action 4: To promote intermodality and interoperability in passengers and freight transport</li> <li>→ Action 5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3</b>	<p><b>A more inclusive environmental framework and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Action 6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources</li> <li>→ Action 7: To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory</li> <li>→ Action 8: To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention</li> <li>→ Action 9: To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 4</b>	<p><b>A sound macro-regional governance model in the Region (to improve cooperation and the coordination of action)</b></p>



The Tyrol's EUSALP presidency  
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# 2.0

## The Tyrol's EUSALP presidency shaping. future. together.

From the beginning, the Tyrol has played a pro-active part in the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and is also very active in the implementation phase. The Tyrol is involved in the work of the Executive Board as the representative of the Austrian regions and contributes to five of the nine Action Groups in the fields of Labour Market (AG 3), Natural Resources (AG 6), Natural Hazard Management (AG 8) and Energy (AG 9). In the Action Group 4 on Mobility, the Tyrol has assumed lead responsibility together with the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino.

In 2018, the Tyrol will hold the presidency of EUSALP for a twelve-month period. This means that the Tyrol has lead responsibility during that year for the further development and implementation of EUSALP in close collaboration with the European Commission and with the neighbouring States and Regions.

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region is the first and only EU macro-regional strategy for which the Regions have primary responsibility. It consistently employs a bottom-up approach in order to address the needs of the citizens in the Alpine Region. The objective is to prove that, with the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, all the actors working together can strengthen economic, political and social cohesion at the heart of Europe to the benefit of the people living in the Alps. The motto chosen for the Tyrol's EUSALP presidency is accordingly **shaping. future. together. – In the interest of the Alps!** The aim is to adopt responsible approaches to decision-making and implementation that will permit the best possible future for the people living in the Alpine Region to be shaped on a co-operative basis. Co-operation is in general the key to managing the future. Good and sustainable solutions to the pending challenges in the Alpine Region can only be developed and implemented by working together.

The key fields of activity are derived from the EUSALP objectives as well as from the programmes of the Austrian presidencies of the Council of the EU and of the Alpine Convention. They benefit from broad-based interest on the part of the population of the Alps and communicable knowhow and the results of the work of the Action Groups, with the Action Groups with Tyrolean involvement playing a special role.





The Tyrolean presidency will make a special effort to push forward and support the following key fields of activity:

- Labour market: Dual education in the Alpine Region and training for migrants and their integration in the labour market
- Mobility: Modal shift and EUSALP travel information platform
- Natural resources: Economical land-use and promotion of the production, processing, marketing and consumption of Alpine foodstuffs as a cultural heritage including the related value-added chains
- Natural hazards: Further development of integrated natural hazard management to establish Alpine-wide risk governance
- Energy: Development of a sustainable cross-border energy strategy for the Alpine Region on the basis of EUSALP's energy monitoring data and the establishment of a periodical EUSALP Energy Conference

These main fields of activity fall well short of the total number of topics and projects to be addressed by the various Action Groups in 2018, and the importance of the work done by the Action Groups that are not particularly affected by the main topics selected for the Tyrolean presidency is explicitly stressed.

The Tyrolean EUSALP presidency will also have a focus on the subject of governance in the Alpine Region. The objective here is to activate good governance and citizen' participation, with a special focus to be placed on young people. This is to be achieved by establishing and strengthening cooperation and synergies between the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and existing initiatives in the Alpine Region.

In 2018 Austria also holds the presidency of the Alpine Convention, chairs the EU Interreg Alpine Space Programme and will take over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of the year. Good coordination of all these processes will offer useful synergies in the relevant policy areas and a presentation of the Alpine Region as a model for a sustainable economic future in a sensitive region. Through their cooperation in the EUSALP, the Alpine countries can provide answers and make constructive contributions to European development and stimulate change at the European level.

The following is a description of the main fields of activity planned for the Tyrol's EUSALP presidency in the Action Groups 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 and Objective 4 – Alpine Governance.

# 3.0

## Main topics of the Tyrol's EUSALP presidency at a glance

The EUSALP work programme of the Tyrolean presidency 2018 is based on the EUSALP Action Plan and the work programmes of the individual Action Groups. The Tyrol is contributing to all four EUSALP objectives in five Action Groups, which defines the points of focus for the Tyrol's EUSALP presidency.

<p><b>Objective 1</b></p>	<p><b>Economic Growth and Innovation</b> Fair access to job opportunities, building on the high competitiveness of the Region</p>	<p><b>Action Group 3:</b> Labour market (To improve the adequacy of labour market education and training in strategic sectors) Contact Land Tirol: Dr. Ines Bürgler ines.buergler@tirol.gv.at</p>
<p><b>Objective 2</b></p>	<p><b>Mobility and Connectivity</b> Sustainable internal and external connectivity</p>	<p><b>Action Group 4:</b> Mobility (To promote intermodality and interoperability in passengers and freight transport) Contact Land Tirol: DI Ewald Moser Action Group Leader, ewald.moser@tirol.gv.at</p>
<p><b>Objective 3</b></p>	<p><b>Environment and Energy</b> A more inclusive environmental framework and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future</p>	<p><b>Action Group 6:</b> Natural Resources (To preserve and valorize natural resources, including water and cultural resources) Contact Land Tirol: DI Thomas Peham thomas.peham@tirol.gv.at</p> <p><b>Action Group 8:</b> Natural hazards (To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention) Contact Land Tirol: DI Markus Federspiel markus.federspiel@tirol.gv.at</p> <p><b>Action Group 9:</b> Energy (To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy) Contact Land Tirol: DI Bruno Oberhuber bruno.oberhuber@energie-tirol.at</p>
<p><b>Objective 4</b></p>	<p><b>Alpine Governance</b></p>	<p>Contact Land Tirol: Dr. Fritz Staudigl, fritz.staudigl@tirol.gv.at Dr. Florian Mast, florian.mast@tirol.gv.at</p>







# Main topics in detail







# 4.0

## Main topics in detail

### 4.1. Labour Market – Action Group 3

#### **Focus topic: development of a cross-border educational space for dual vocational training in the Alpine Region**

Under the lead of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Action Group 3 deals in particular with the subject of dual vocational training. The countries of Europe with low levels of youth unemployment are typically those that operate active labour market policies, with dual education training as one of the keys to success. Dual vocational training is an especially fitting choice as it is located at the interface between education and the labour market, which are both main topics of AG 3.

#### **Dual education (study and 10-point plan)**

There are significant differences between the dual vocational training systems operated by the various Alpine States – either with regard to the actors involved, the distribution of roles, the inclusion of stakeholders or the contents and structures of the vocational training programmes.



Under the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency, work will begin on a 10-point plan on the subject of “Dual Education” (working title). The plan is designed to show how dual education can be successful. That will permit possibilities to be identified and developed for other EUSALP States and Regions, so that they can implement the system of dual training on their respective territories in whole or in part.

At the level of content, dual education can be focused on three levels (employers, schools and trainees) with three possible fields of action in each case plus actor networking as an overarching task. In the fields of action, three focal areas will be identified and developed, which should be given more in-depth treatment in order to facilitate or improve dual training. This will permit effective use of prior experience to be made and examples of best practice to be integrated. If necessary, these points can be underscored with study results.

The Tyrol will take advantage of the presidency in 2018 to launch the work on the 10-point plan and to input the Region’s own experiences. In the year of the presidency,



parallel use could also be made of other events to introduce EUSALP Regions to successful dual training programmes in the field.

The first Dual Education Forum in the Alpine Region was held in the Trentino in 2017. To further develop the topics and intensify future cooperation, a second Forum is planned for the year of the Tyrolean presidency. It will be held in Innsbruck in the autumn of 2018.

### **Migration (integration in the labour market, education, EU Interreg Alpine Space project PlurAlps) – collaboration with PlurAlps**

With regard to its demographic structure, the Alpine Region will be confronted in the years ahead with the combined challenge of an ageing population and new models of migration. That presents opportunities for social innovation through a creative and transparent approach to diversity and a commitment to pluralism. In this context, new approaches are needed in rural and mountain areas especially.

In the partner countries, PlurAlps has embarked on a study on the subject of the integration of refugees. The general section of the study will have a focus on social and labour market integration. The second section will identify and spotlight examples of the work done to integrate refugees within the dual education training system. Conclusions of relevance for EUSALP countries can be expected. AG 3 will contribute in particular to Part two of the study, where the Tyrol will be able to input its examples of best practice.

At the end of 2017 PlurAlps launched the competition “Alpine Pluralism Award” for examples of best practice for migrant inclusion. The winners will be chosen by a jury and with the involvement of the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency in the middle of 2018. The prize-money donated by the Tyrol will be presented in the framework of the second Dual Education Forum in the Tyrol.

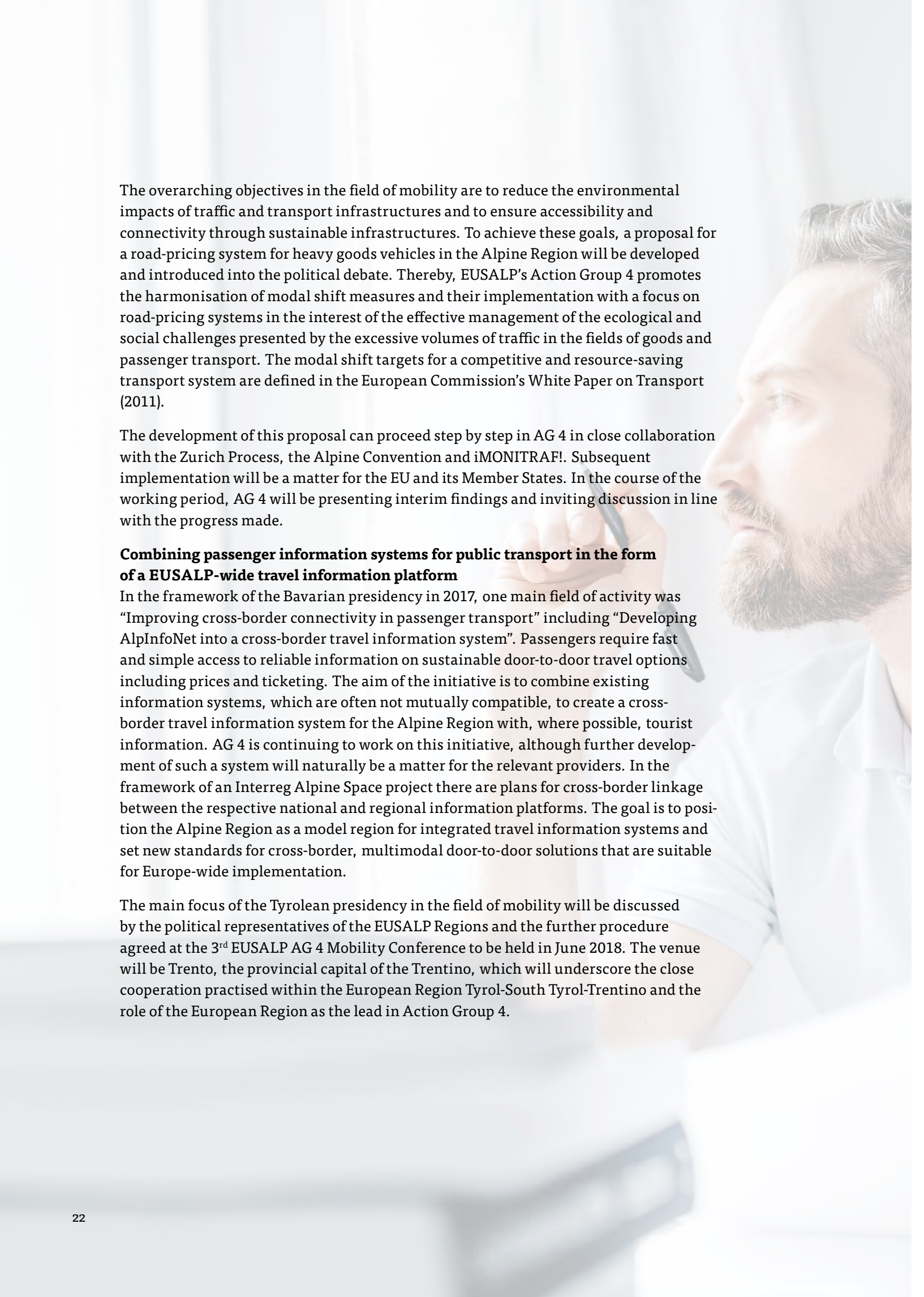
## **4.2. Mobility – Action Group 4**

### **Focus topic: priority for sustainable modes of transport**

The constantly growing volume of traffic and climate change are two of the main obstacles to the further development of the Alpine Regions. In view of its topographical and meteorological characteristics, the Alpine Region is particularly exposed to the impacts of the growing volume of traffic. It will only be possible to counter these effects on the basis of cross-border harmonisation and the standardised, broad-based implementation of transport policies so as to promote a shift from road to rail or other sustainable modes for both goods and passenger transport. In this context, there will be a strong focus on the following two strategies during the Tyrolean presidency:

### **Proposal for a fair road-pricing system for heavy goods vehicles in the Alpine Region in the interest of a shift from road to rail**

AG 4 is working on a system of higher-level objectives, whereby common goals in the fields of modal shift, energy consumption, and transport quality and performance should be defined. It is also necessary to take into account added value and employment, improvements to regional competitiveness and local advantages, improved attractiveness for tourism and the minimisation of financial impacts.



The overarching objectives in the field of mobility are to reduce the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructures and to ensure accessibility and connectivity through sustainable infrastructures. To achieve these goals, a proposal for a road-pricing system for heavy goods vehicles in the Alpine Region will be developed and introduced into the political debate. Thereby, EUSALP's Action Group 4 promotes the harmonisation of modal shift measures and their implementation with a focus on road-pricing systems in the interest of the effective management of the ecological and social challenges presented by the excessive volumes of traffic in the fields of goods and passenger transport. The modal shift targets for a competitive and resource-saving transport system are defined in the European Commission's White Paper on Transport (2011).

The development of this proposal can proceed step by step in AG 4 in close collaboration with the Zurich Process, the Alpine Convention and iMONITRAF!. Subsequent implementation will be a matter for the EU and its Member States. In the course of the working period, AG 4 will be presenting interim findings and inviting discussion in line with the progress made.

**Combining passenger information systems for public transport in the form of a EUSALP-wide travel information platform**

In the framework of the Bavarian presidency in 2017, one main field of activity was "Improving cross-border connectivity in passenger transport" including "Developing AlpInfoNet into a cross-border travel information system". Passengers require fast and simple access to reliable information on sustainable door-to-door travel options including prices and ticketing. The aim of the initiative is to combine existing information systems, which are often not mutually compatible, to create a cross-border travel information system for the Alpine Region with, where possible, tourist information. AG 4 is continuing to work on this initiative, although further development of such a system will naturally be a matter for the relevant providers. In the framework of an Interreg Alpine Space project there are plans for cross-border linkage between the respective national and regional information platforms. The goal is to position the Alpine Region as a model region for integrated travel information systems and set new standards for cross-border, multimodal door-to-door solutions that are suitable for Europe-wide implementation.

The main focus of the Tyrolean presidency in the field of mobility will be discussed by the political representatives of the EUSALP Regions and the further procedure agreed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> EUSALP AG 4 Mobility Conference to be held in June 2018. The venue will be Trento, the provincial capital of the Trentino, which will underscore the close cooperation practised within the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and the role of the European Region as the lead in Action Group 4.

### 4.3. Natural Resources – Action Group 6

Action Group 6 addresses the preservation and valorisation of the natural and cultural resources of the Alpine Region. It focuses on spatial development, soil conservation, agriculture and forestry and water resources. Accordingly, the work is also about the people who have used and managed these resources over the centuries. Against this background, Action Group 6 is contributing to the development of balanced and sustainable models for the management of Alpine resources to ensure that future generations will also be able to live, work and enjoy the natural environment in the Alps.

#### **Focus of Subgroup 1: Economical land use**

In a resolution adopted by the Tyrolean Parliament in 2015, the Tyrol made a clear commitment to the sparing use of land as a finite resource and the introduction of awareness-building measures. The decision was taken in the light of the growing pressure of various forms of land use (housing, retail, trade and industry, transport and tourism) on agricultural land, which not only serves the goal of food security but also functions as a buffer for the absorption, storage and slow release of heavy precipitation. In the Alps, with their extremely limited areas of permanent settlement, competing land use interests became apparent at an early date.

For that reason, activities in support of the sustainable use of land and soils will be part of the programme of the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency in 2018.



#### **Regional awareness-raising events**

A series of events will be held to draw attention to the importance of soil conservation and precautionary spatial planning. The start event will take place on 29 and 30 January 2018 at EURAC in Bolzano. To date at least three follow-up events are planned (Tyrol, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Slovenia), whereby the Tyrol event is scheduled for late spring 2018. The event in the Tyrol will encompass a session with presentations and discussions as well as an excursion to see a best practice example. The main target group is municipal and local authorities, expanded to comprise spatial planners, NGOs and other parties with an interest in land use. The focus of the Tyrol event will be on the agricultural land reserve programme currently being developed for the Region. In addition, presentations of additional land-saving measures and of the European Land and Soil Alliance (a grouping of European municipal, district and local authorities committed to promoting the sustainable management of soils) are planned.

#### **Alpine-wide declaration on intelligent land use and soil protection**

Soil protection, to which land-saving spatial planning makes a significant contribution, has already attracted a series of commitments at various levels (World Soil Charter, European Soil Charter, Austrian Soil Charter, Manifesto for the Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities and Towns), but so far there has been no corresponding declaration at the level of the Alpine Region. AG 6 has already started work on a draft declaration to fill in this missing

link. The declaration might also secure political support from the Alpine Soil Partnership (Links4Soils project) now being established.

During the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency a corresponding declaration could be drafted and agreed with the respective political representatives. The objective is to motivate as many actors as possible to make a commitment to soil protection and adopt suitable measures within their fields of activity.

### **Toolbox “Less land consumption”**

There are plans to establish an Alpine-wide collection of best practice cases on the subject of economical land use and soil management. Collaboration with the Links4Soils project, which pursues similar objectives, could be useful in this context. Possible synergies mainly concern the joint presentation of the results on a web platform. Collaboration has already been established on one subject in the form of a survey of soil protection stakeholders on the implementation of the Soil Protection protocol to the Alpine Convention. The results will be added to the Toolbox.



### **Focus of Subgroup 2: Mountain farming and forestry**

In the case of the project “Next Generation – Mountain farming 2030” developed by AG 6 and funded by the Arge Alp, the focus is on the (employment) perspectives of young farmers. A participatory workshop will be held with a focus on sustainable food production and forestry products. The AlpFoodway project established in the framework of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme is designed to promote the production, processing, marketing and consumption of Alpine foodstuffs as a cultural heritage including the related value-added chains. In the context of this

project, the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency – in cooperation with Action Group 6 – will organise an event on this important topic on 4 October 2018.

### **Focus of Subgroup 3: Water resources**

From 4 to 6 June 2018, a Forum Alpinum will be held in Breitenwang, Austria (with ISCAR as organiser and the University of Innsbruck, the Water Platform of the Alpine Convention and AG 6 Subgroup 3 as partners). The event, which will also be the setting for the 6<sup>th</sup> Water Conference of the Alpine Convention, will be devoted to current questions of water resource management, such as the response to competing claims to the use of water resources in cases of drought and the development of “green” solutions for the “grey” water supply infrastructure.



## 4.4. Natural Hazards – Action Group 8

### **Focus topic: further development of integrated natural hazard management to establish risk governance in the Alpine Region**

The Alpine Region constitutes one of the regions of Europe that are impacted most by global climate change. Special measures are therefore needed to maintain societal resilience against natural disasters in the Alps on a sustainable basis. Great importance must be attached in this context to the population's response to risk. Accordingly, the aim is to develop a common risk culture on the basis of participation and cooperation with the people affected. This is the point of departure for the risk governance strategy as a further development of integrated natural hazard management.

The objective is to reduce the risks and thus the economic costs of natural hazards by closing existing gaps in risk policy. The overriding principle of risk governance is the integration of all actors, including the need to involve affected citizens in the protection efforts. This multi-stakeholder process is designed to trigger a change in attitude from the need for protection to preventive measures taken for and by society. One of the objectives of Action Group 8 is accordingly to develop recommendations for a joint governance strategy in response to natural hazards and risks covering as much of the Alpine Region as possible.



### **Forms of cooperation in the field of protection against natural hazards**

In the context of the above challenges, there are limits to what can be achieved with preventive governmental measures for the local management of natural hazards. Regional cooperation models for funding protective measures, however, can contribute to a solution. In the field of mountain torrent and flood control, for example, regional water associations or cooperatives are well situated to introduce regulations on a democratic basis for the management of natural hazards and to find internal solutions to conflicts and funding for joint protective measures.

Flood protection for endangered areas can only be established where the planning process is handled with the participation of all the local authorities involved and harmonised at the regional level. This calls for coordination between the various administrative units and interested parties. Flood protection measures over a distance of about 75 kilometres are currently being planned in a cooperative effort by the affected local authorities in the Lower Inn Valley of the Tyrol. At the level of implementation, the project will be handled by three water associations. The statutes of these associations of local authorities and infrastructure providers define the purpose, functions and financial instruments.

Avalanches also constitute a natural hazard that is highly relevant for the safety of areas of settlement in the Alps. Through a combination of permanent and temporary avalanche protection measures as well as cooperation between research and practice, a very high standard of risk management has been established. The risk management measures taken serve to reduce existing risks to an acceptable level that is economically viable in the long term. In addition to physical protective structures, risk governance also covers other measures such as local avalanche commissions working in an advisory function to the local authorities.

### **Events**

In October 2018, the world's biggest snow and avalanche conference, the ISSW (International Snow and Science Workshop), will take place in Innsbruck. Under the motto "Merging theory and practice", the latest results of research and practical experience will be presented with the goal of improving avalanche hazard assessment and further reducing the risk of avalanches.

The ISSW provides an ideal opportunity to discuss risk governance in the field of avalanche hazard. A panel discussion is to be held with regional and local decision-makers to present new aspects of the subject and further promote a cross-border and Alpine-wide exchange of information.

A part of the European Forum Alpbach will be dedicated to the subject of "Natural hazard management in times of climate change". This offers a perfect platform to discuss the various forms of cooperation as well as challenges and possible solutions with researchers and practitioners, local and regional decision-makers on an Alpine-wide basis in the context of an expert event. Cooperation with the Austrian Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (ASDR) will deliver significant added value for the diverse actors and participants.





## 4.5. Energy – Action Group 9

With the programme “TIROL 2050 – energy-autonomous”, the Tyrol has set itself an ambitious goal – to reduce energy consumption by half, move forward with the exploitation of local resources and achieve energy autonomy. That is to say, in a setting of regional added value, the Tyrol plans to turn to a decentral energy supply system on the basis of the renewable regional resources water, wood, sun, wind and soil and so avoid the use of fossil energy carriers. This is not an easy road to take and the journey will be long. It is an intergenerational project, one that calls not only for technical solutions and innovations but also for wide-ranging behavioural change in our society. The Tyrol will be contributing its experience with the process in particular to the work of Action Group 9.



### **Establishment of a macro-regional energy observatory**

With its specific geographical and structural characteristics, the Alpine Region has diverse potential for becoming a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy. In that context, reliable energy data are an important basis for decision-makers to formulate, implement and verify the effectiveness of energy policies and measures. At the macro-regional level, too, energy data can help to implement and monitor a long-term cross-border energy strategy for the Alpine Region. This is where the EUSALP Energy Observatory is relevant. With the help of the observatory, actual energy production and consumption in the Alpine Region will be mapped and macro-regional developments and trends identified. It will also be a help for those Regions in the Alpine Region that are not currently collecting and evaluating local energy data themselves. Implementation of the observatory project requires networking a series of actors as well as collecting and standardising the relevant data.

As a first step, the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency will support the establishment of a competence network in 2018. On the basis of existing regional cooperation agreements and observatories in the Alpine Region, a competence network will be developed to elaborate the framework conditions, prerequisites and fields of action for the EUSALP Energy Observatory in a series of workshops in 2018.

### **Development of a concept for an annual EUSALP Energy Conference**

Creating the right framework conditions for effective cooperation is one of the most complex tasks of the established EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. Of particular importance in this context is the involvement of all actors and stakeholders, as well as the need to ensure political leadership and strengthen cooperation between the different levels of governance. One important task, which the Tyrol will be working on in cooperation with Action Group 9, is the further development of a regular EUSALP Energy Conference as a visible platform for political decision-makers, experts, authorities and civil society. Under the auspices of the Tyrolean presidency, Action Group 9 will organise the 2<sup>nd</sup> EUSALP Energy Conference to be held in June 2018. It will be an awareness-building platform at the regional, national and European levels for discussion and formulation of the challenges confronting the EUSALP in terms of energy policy.

## 4.6. Alpine Governance - Objective 4

### **shaping.future.together.**

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region attaches particular importance to the development of a macro-regional governance model for the Alpine Region. Thereby, cooperation between the participating States, Regions, municipalities and stakeholders and coordination of the actions taken should be improved. In this context, representatives of civil society have an important role to play. Governance involves the interaction of information, deliberation, cooperation and decision-making. In accordance with the motto chosen for the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency, it is about the responsible development of decision-making and implementation instruments in the interest of optimum joint solutions for shaping the future of the people living in the Alpine Region.


Under the Slovenian presidency, the implementation structures for EUSALP were established, while under the Bavarian presidency, the work in the nine Action Groups started to gather speed, supported in particular by the AlpGov project of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme.



The Tyrolean EUSALP presidency has a strong focus on the subject of governance in the Alpine Region. The objective is to activate good governance and citizens' participation, with a special focus to be placed on young people. The Tyrol will particularly target awareness-building for the Strategy and related activities amongst policy-makers, institutional actors and citizens at the European, national, regional and local levels. Communication will have a strong role to play in this respect. Another way to achieve this goal will be to establish and strengthen cooperation and synergies between the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and existing initiatives in the Alpine Region.

An important concern in this context is the need to establish a structured exchange of information between the working groups and platforms of the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP Action Groups. This was begun in October 2017 with an informal workshop and is to be further developed under the Tyrolean presidency. In addition, the Tyrol is also working to strengthen cooperation between EUSALP and the AlpFoodway, GaYA and PlurAlps projects of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme, with the objective of organising awareness-raising events in collaboration with relevant EUSALP Action Groups.

The goal of the GaYA project of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme is stronger integration of young people in political life. Political decision-makers have too little awareness of the advantages of direct involvement of young people. New forms of governance have great potential for facilitating sustainable and more legitimate political decision-making. Intensive cooperation with the GaYA project will enable the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency to make use of findings from the project to improve youth involvement in the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and to hold a broad-based debate on the subject at the 2018 Annual Forum.



In order to interest young people in political matters including Alpine policies and secure their effective involvement, it is also necessary to hear their opinions and obtain their proposals on the question of the form of such participation. Accordingly, the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency is committed to establish closer cooperation with the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC), which will be held in Slovenia in 2018. The opinions voiced and demands raised by the youth delegates should also play a prominent role at the EUSALP Annual Forum to be held in Innsbruck on 20 and 21 November 2018.

The Tyrol intends to play an active role in communication for EUSALP at the regional and supra-regional levels. During its presidency, the Tyrol will be communicating topics related to EUSALP to spotlight the advantages of the Strategy for its citizens. In addition, the Tyrol will make active use of social media to communicate on the subject of EUSALP.

Apart from the two main events (official beginning of the Tyrolean presidency on 7 February and the Annual Forum in November), the Tyrol will place a focus on EUSALP in the framework of its annual Future Day, which takes place at the beginning of April. Other conferences on subjects of relevance to EUSALP will also be covered by the Tyrol's press team. In addition, there are plans to draw the attention of selected representatives of leading Austrian media to EUSALP and its work and provide them with targeted content. In advance of its presidency, the Tyrol has already prepared a marketing concept with a dedicated design and claim to reinforce the recognition value and visibility of EUSALP.

In the framework of the AlpGov project, a platform of knowledge and a communication strategy are currently being developed for the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region under the leadership of the EUSALP partner Region Lombardy. One of the objectives of these two measures is to facilitate the continuous exchange of knowledge between all parties involved in the implementation of the Strategy and promote sustainable knowledge management. Another objective is to offer external actors such as citizens, local authorities, associations and representatives of trade and industry an efficient source of information on the Strategy and an opportunity to participate in the implementation process. The Tyrol will play an active part in collaborating with the relevant working group and deliver input.

In the framework of the AlpGov project, a report is being prepared by the University of Innsbruck on "Governance Study on Mobility and Transport in the EUSALP", which will offer detailed treatment of the subject of Alpine governance in the field of mobility, a particularly important topic for the Tyrolean EUSALP presidency. The use of an Action Group as the point of departure for the presentation and development of good Alpine governance facilitates targeted, results-driven treatment of the subject.

Great importance must be attached to the exchange of information between the Action Groups responsible for implementation of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and the EUSALP Executive Board, which is in charge of coordination. It is necessary to be able to develop an adequate joint response and solutions to the main challenges encountered. For that reason, the Tyrolean presidency – in collaboration with Carinthia and the AlpGov project – is planning a joint session of the Board of Action Group Leaders and the Executive Board on 6 and 7 July 2018.



One application in the field of emergency governance is the free emergency app developed for the Tyrol in 2012. In an emergency situation, the app transmits the GPS coordinates of the location to the Tyrol emergency control centre at the push of a button and establishes a telephone connection to the centre so that it can alert and schedule the necessary rescue forces. This emergency app will now be used across borders in the pilot regions of the Tyrol and the South Tyrol.



The app will be running on all current smartphone operating systems, it will be easy and intuitive to use, energy-efficient and expandable beyond German, English and Italian to other languages. It will significantly accelerate localisation and assistance in cross-border Alpine areas and should become a model example of a possible EUSALP-wide application.

Macro-regional strategies are powerful instruments for enhanced, integrated, participatory, transnational regional policies in the EU and its neighbour Regions. These macro-regional strategies must be integrated in the new EU Regional Policy and other relevant fields of EU policy and embedded in the relevant instruments and sources of funding. In collaboration with Bavaria, the Tyrol will continue with the initiative launched under the Bavarian presidency to embed the macro-regional strategies in the regulatory framework of the EU after 2020.

Finally, the Tyrolean presidency is determined to pursue the political continuity of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and to actively implement the concept of the Trio presidency. In this regard, a continuous exchange with the previous and subsequent EUSALP presidencies is of central importance. To ensure an orderly handover of the presidency, a meeting of the Trio presidency in the Tyrol in December 2018 is scheduled.



# Calendar

Date	Event	Location
7 February	Kick-Off event EUSALP presidency Tyrol	Congress Park Igls, Tyrol
7/8 February	Executive Board I	Innsbruck, Tyrol
Spring	Meeting of the “Friends of EUSALP” of the European Parliament	Brussels
Spring	Meeting of the Interregional Group on macro-regional strategies of the Committee of the Regions	Brussels
5 April	Tyrolean Future Day dedicated to EUSALP	Innsbruck, Tyrol
7 June	EUSALP Energy Conference	Innsbruck, Tyrol
June	EUSALP Mobility Conference	Trento, Autonomous Province of Trento
5/6 July	- Executive Board II - Board of Action Group Leaders	Pörschach, Carinthia
18 August	European Forum Alpbach, expert event on risk governance	Alpbach, Tyrol
Autumn	Cooperation Workshop Alpine Convention – EUSALP	tbc
4 October	AlpFoodway event together with AG 6	Innsbruck, Tyrol
10 October	Panel discussion Natural Risks – focus on avalanches – in the framework of the ISSW Public Day	Innsbruck, Tyrol
November	EUSALP Dual Education Forum	Innsbruck, Tyrol
20 November	General Assembly	Congress Innsbruck, Tyrol
20/21 November	Annual Forum	Congress Innsbruck, Tyrol
21/22 November	Executive Board III (optional)	Innsbruck, Tyrol
13/14 December	EUSALP Trio presidency meeting	Tyrol

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