

9th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

"Circular and Smart Alpine Region"



14 – 15
November
2024

Agenda

14 November 2024

10:00 – 11:00

(Splendens Hall)

Youth Vision for Alpine Region

The Alpine region is facing different challenges due to climate and social change. Hence, the active involvement of young people is pivotal for safeguarding a sustainable future of the Alpine region.

The inhabitants of the Alpine region are most directly affected by the climate change. The extreme events are driving the need to increase knowledge and skills on how to deal with those challenges as effectively as possible. It is of great importance that the young generation is consulted and skilled in order to safeguard the quality of life in the Alpine area. Moreover, due to its specific geographical feature, the Alpine area is also facing social challenges, especially in terms of the emigration of young people from mountain valleys and cities.

The panel will be an opportunity for exchange among the speakers about the mechanisms needed to empower the young people of the Alpine region to respond properly to future challenges, especially related to the climate change and social change.

Speakers:

Silvia BUZZETTI, Programme Assistant, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, DG REGIO, European Commission

Branislav RAUTER, Principal, Rudolf Maister Secondary School Kamnik, Slovenia

Lionel CROISSANT, Associate Expert, Institut des Hautes Études de l'Éducation et de la Formation, and EUSALP Action group 3 (Labour market, education and training) representative, France

Rafaela RABIČ, EUSALP Youth Council representative

Pauline TREISSAC, European Affairs Officer, Europe and International Department, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Region, France

Moderator: **Dino Subašić**, Slovenian journalist and presenter

Language: English

11:15 – 12:30

(Splendens Hall)

Pitch your Project competition and awarding ceremony – side event

Pitch Your Project is a competition for young people between 16 and 29 years old. As experts of their living space, the Alpine Region, they are invited to submit projects ideas for a sustainable development of the Alpine Region.

Introduction speech:

Liliane LUCCHESI, Region Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Regional Councillor in charge of international solidarity, international youth mobility and sustainable development goals

Moderator: **Natael Fautrat**, Youth empowerment consultant in the Alpine region

Language: English

12:30 – 14:00

(the Lobby)

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00

(Glass Hall)

Welcome gathering for high level representatives

14:00 – 14:30

(Grandis Hall)

Official Opening of the 9th EUSALP Annual Forum

Speakers:

Tanja FAJON, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

Elisa FERREIRA, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms (video message)

Moderators: **Igor E. Bergant** and **Bernarda Žarn**, Slovenian journalists and TV presenters

Language: SI, FR, DE, IT, EN

14:30 – 15:15

(Grandis Hall)

High-level plenary panel: Alpine region – competitive, circular and smart in global world?

The Alpine macro-region is one of the most prosperous and competitive regions in Europe. With its unique geographic and natural features, it is often quoted as water tower of Europe and a biodiversity sanctuary. Almost a decade after the establishment of EUSALP, the region's main challenge remains – balancing its wealth and development with nature conservation and adopting innovative approaches to strengthen the area in a sustainable way, while also reducing disparities between various regions and within them. Macro-regional strategies have proved to be a successful tool for cooperation and learning from one another on challenges that go beyond national borders. As Europe undergoes green and digital transition and also faces increasing global competition and geopolitical tensions, the Alpine Region can serve as a development model, in particular in its ability to carefully balance the economic progress with the environmental objectives.

The panel will be an opportunity for the exchange between ministers and other high-level speakers about the mechanisms and the role of EUSALP in helping the Alpine Region to stay ahead of the world's most advanced economies by being competitive, circular and smart.

Speakers:

Tanja FAJON, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia
Dominique HASLER, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport, Liechtenstein
Anton MATTLE, Governor of Tyrol, Austria
Fabrice PANNEKOUCKE, President of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, France
Eric BEIßWENGER, State Minister for European and International Affairs, Bavaria, Germany
Luciano Emilio CAVERI, Regional Minister for European Affairs, Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region, Italy
Norman GOBBI, State Councillor of the Canton of Ticino, Switzerland

Moderator: Igor E. Bergant, Slovenian journalist and TV news presenter

Language: SI, FR, DE, IT, EN

15:15 – 15:30

(Grandis Hall)

Handover Ceremony of the EUSALP Presidency to Austria and Liechtenstein

Tanja FAJON, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia
Dominique HASLER, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport, Liechtenstein
Anton MATTLE, Governor of Tyrol, Austria
Peter KAISER, Governor of Carinthia, Austria

Language: SI, FR, DE, IT, EN

15:30 – 16:00

(the Lobby)

Break

15:30 – 16:00

(Glass Hall)

Press Conference

Tanja FAJON, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia
Dominique HASLER, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport, Liechtenstein
Anton MATTLE, Governor of Tyrol, Austria

Language: SI, DE

16:00 – 18:00

(Brdo Castle)

General Assembly of High Representatives responsible for the EUSALP *(by invitation only)*

16:00 – 17:30

(Grandis Hall)

Climate resilient water management in the Alpine Region

Alpine Region is experiencing a profound negative impact of climate change. Increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather related events (floods, erosion, landslides, drought ...) has now not only affected livelihoods in the region, but has brought about the necessity to rethink our management of one of the most precious resources: water. This has certainly been the case in Slovenia in 2023, when devastating torrential sediment processes and flash floods have prompted a public debate on how to approach water management in the new era of increasingly rapid climate change.

Speakers:

Lidija GLOBEVNIK, Director-General, Water Directorate, Ministry for Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Slovenia
Blaž MOZETIČ, Director of Planning Office, Slovenian Water Agency, Slovenia
Florian RUDOLF-MIKLAU, Head of Unit, Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria
Blaž LIPOVŠEK, Youth Parliament of Sava Commission
Marco LIPIZER, Referent for the River Contract, Department of Environmental Protection, Energy and Sustainable Development of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy

Moderator: **Aleš Bizjak**, Ministry of natural resources and spatial planning

Language: English

16:00 – 18:00

(Splendens Hall)

**EUSALP Energy Conference “Energy Transition in the Economy”
& EUSALP Energy Awarding Ceremony – side event**

Decision-makers, entrepreneurs, scientists and implementers discuss how to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies in Europe’s economy and outline the role the EUSALP in promoting a green economy. The event will conclude with the EUSALP Energy Awarding session, which was organized under the motto “Energy Transition in SME’s” and with a guided exhibition tour dedicated the topic of energy saving and climate protection.

Presentation of EUSALP Action Group 9: **Ulrich Santa**, Director, Energy Agency South Tyrol – CasaClima, EUSALP Action Group 9 Co-Leader

Speakers:

Panel 1: Policy frameworks

Tine SELJAK, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Vlasta KRMEJ, Director, Energy and Climate Agency of Podravje, Slovenia
Manuel AITA, EUSALP Youth Council member

Panel 2: Support Schemes and Programmes to Support the Energy Transition of the Economy

Marija ČEBULAR ZAJEC, Undersecretary, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport, Slovenia
Matteo MAZZOLINI, Director, Energy Agency Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy
Julia ZOTTER, Zotter Chocolate, Austria

Presentation of the winners and handing-over of trophies

Guided tour through the exhibition “Climate and I”

Moderators: **Etienne Vienot**, Energy and Environment Agency Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes and Maren Meyer, Energy Agency South Tyrol - CasaClima

Language: English

18:00 – 20:30

(The Lobby)

Networking dinner with concert

09:30 – 11:00

(Grandis Hall)

Could Alpine region become a circular economy model region?

The European Union has been a global leader in promoting the transition to a circular economy and sustainable production and consumption. Despite the progress made over the past years, the overall transition to a circular economy remains slow due to different challenges (i.e. economic and regulatory barriers, consumer behaviour, limited infrastructure etc.).

The panel will be an opportunity for the exchange between the speakers about the mechanisms and the role of EUSALP in helping the Alpine Region to become a model region for transition from linear to circular economy.

Speakers:

Introduction speech: **Jernej PINTAR**, Director, Technology Park Ljubljana, Slovenia

Slobodan ŠEŠUM, Director-General, Directorate for Economic and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovenia

Roland MAYER, Secretary General, Conference of Cantonal Governments, Switzerland

Robin ODDON, Project manager, Techtera, France

Nina MEGLIČ, Cluster manager at Strategic Research and Innovation Partnership Networks for the Transition to a Circular Economy, Slovenia

Denis JAHIC, General Manager and Board Member, AquafilSLO, Slovenia

Jan-Diederich LÜKEN, Professor of Business Economics, Faculty of Chemical Technology and Economics, Bavaria, Germany

Moderator: **Igor E. Bergant**, Slovenian journalist and national TV news presenter

Language: English

11:00 – 11:15

(The Lobby)

Break

11:15 – 12:15

(Grandis Hall)

Award ceremony for Green Infrastructure goes Business Award, Energy award and Pitch your project

This year's EUSALP Annual Forum was among other events dedicated to three initiatives: Green Infrastructure goes Business Award, Energy award and Pitch your project competition 2024. The panel will be an opportunity to present the mission and the aim of the initiatives and the introduction of the winning ideas in 2024.

Speakers:

Miro KRISTAN, The North Primorska (Goriška) Development Region, Slovenia

Maren MEYER, Energy Agency South Tyrol – CasaClima, Italy

Natael FAUTRAT, Youth empowerment consultant in the Alpine region

Moderator: **Bernarda Žarn**, journalist and TV presenter

Language: English

12:15 – 12:30

(Grandis Hall)

Closing of the 9th EUSALP Annual Forum

Moderators: Igor E. Bergant and **Bernarda Žarn**, Slovenian journalists and TV presenters

Language: English

OTHER EVENTS

14 November 2024

9:30 – 12:30

and

16:00 – 18:00

(Heros Hall)

Green Infrastructure goes Business Award: Coaching Workshop

(by invitation only)

The Green Infrastructure Goes Business Award supports innovative ideas, products and services for a green economy and promotes sustainable development in the area of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. The third edition of the international competition is focusing particularly on solutions with benefits for “wise water management”.

Language: English
