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The Alpine Convention Newsletter is published quarterly by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

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Dear friends of the Alpine Convention,

As you will see in the Newsletter in front of you the autumn 2017 kept us, the Alpine Convention family, busy. Between the Permanent Committee meeting and the meetings of our thematic working bodies, we also saw many (project) events taking place as well as the Annual Forum of the EUSALP and the UNFCCC COP23, and of course the over 140 Reading Mountains events that are just concluding in these days.

Publishing the newsletter every three months allows me to reflect on the activities of the past quarter of the year and every time I am amazed; not just by the amount of events, but also by their quality and the outreach effect they have.

I sincerely hope that this is the spirit in which we will also continue in 2018 – jointly and actively for the Alps.

At the end of the year, I would like to sincerely thank all the Alpine Convention partners and friends, wish you and your close-ones happy holidays and a splendid 2018!

Ambassador Markus Reiterer

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention



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Meeting of the Permanent Committee in Gmunden

The 64th Permanent Committee, which took place in the historic FAST in Gmunden from 3 to 5 October, assembled the whole Alpine Convention family for the second time during the Austrian Presidency. This time the focus laid on the Multiannual Work Programme (MAP) priority topics 3 and 4: biodiversity, landscape and green economy.

The meeting was once again characterised by a very positive and constructive atmosphere. Furthermore it was livened up by numerous interesting presentations and short films.

At the end of the first day the participants had the opportunity to see the natural reforestation of the Gschlieffgraben and learned about the challenges for forest management. This excursion was guided by Dr. Jirikowski (director of the FAST) himself and included an unforgettable boat trip on Traunsee.



First Exchange Workshop Alpine Convention - EUSALP

From 5 to 6 October the first Exchange Workshop between the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP on the level of Working Groups/Platforms and Action Groups was held in Gmunden (Austria). The joint informal event was initiated and organized by the Alpine Convention Working Group "Macro-Regional Strategy", according to its current mandate. Under the overarching theme "Generating innovations through sustainable use of Alpine resources", the chairpersons of all AC Working Group/Platforms and nearly all Action Group (and Subgroup-) Leaders of the EUSALP were present. The basis for the exchange included short presentations by all working bodies with an overview of the current and upcoming activities. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to informal discussion formats ("timeline", "World Café", "Speed-dating") in order to provide creative opportunities for an open exchange. In this context, the participants described the dynamic workshop format as inspiring and helpful developing new links between activities of the EUSALP and the Alpine Convention. Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, highlighted the workshop as an opportunity of creating innovation and new synergies within an already established Alpine tradition of

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cooperation and stressed the importance of mutual cooperation among all actors. Jean-Pierre Harkin as attending high level representative from the European Commission expressed that this kind of process is unique compared to other EU macro-regional strategies. Concerning the question of how to further intensify the overall cooperation, participants stated the need for a better alignment of the different working programs and action plans of the "Alpine Family" in terms of timelines as well as contents. Upon invitation of the European Commission, the results of the workshop have also been reported to the EUSALP Executive Board on 23 November.

[Alpine Tourism Mobility Day](#)



Three Austrian Federal Ministries (economy, transport and environment), together with the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development, hosted the first Alpine Tourism Mobility Day, which took place in Werfenweng (Salzburg, Austria) on 19 October. More than 150 participants from seven Alpine countries had an opportunity to exchange views on sustainable mobility solutions for tourist destinations and on the challenges of changed mobility needs in the Alpine region, to swap ideas for developing regional offers and to discuss possible cross-border cooperation. An interesting review of the Alpine Mobility Day is provided by the

presentations of speakers available [here](#) (in English).

This day was organised in the Framework of the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention and under the umbrella of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development proclaimed by the United Nations for 2017.

[New schedule for the Austrian Presidency](#)

Due to several time restrictions and taking the EU-Presidency in the second half of 2018 the period for the [Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention](#) was extended until April 2019. The new timetable foresees an informal Permanent Committee on 14-15 March 2018 in Vienna, the 65th Permanent Committee on 13- 14 June 2018 in Schaan and the 66th Permanent Committee on 6-7 November 2018 in Innsbruck. The 66th Permanent Committee followed by the XV. Alpine Conference is now dated from 2 to 4^h April 2019, where the Presidency will be handed over to France.

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One hundred climate change mitigation and adaptation actions

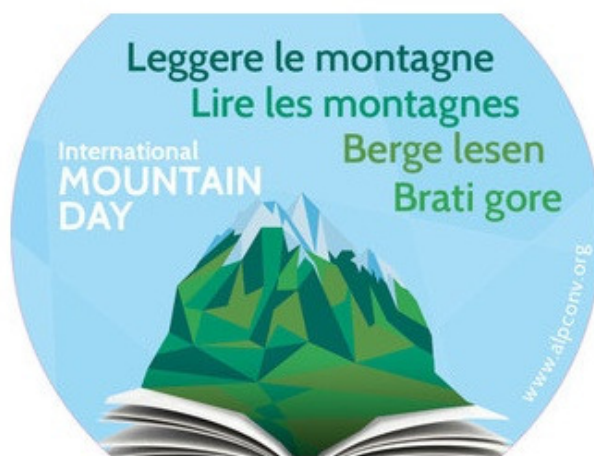
The analysis of the recent activities reported by the Alpine Convention actors has been presented to the Permanent Committee and it is now available on the dedicated [webpage](#). It contains first recommendations from the Alpine Climate Board, which will meet again on 30-31 January to pursue its work towards proposals for a target system.



News from the Secretariat

Reading mountains festival

More than 140 partners with even more events contributed to this year's festival "Reading Mountains 2017"! The opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity of the Alps – its many languages, its different, yet common cultural heritage and its arts in many shapes and forms spread the message of a sustainable development and protection of the Alps. See the [map](#) of events that took place and find ideas to join next year!



Alpine Convention event at the UN Headquarters

On International Mountain Day, 11 December, Kyrgyzstan, Peru and Austria organized a high level side event at the UN Headquarters in New York City where the Secretary General had the opportunity to present two actual Alpine Convention activities; the Reading Mountains festival and the activities in the scope of the Austrian Presidency's initiative on the Role of Women in Mountain regions. The event highlighted the importance of cooperation between mountain regions around the world with the goal to firmly put mountain issues on the international agenda.

The Alpine Convention Calendar for the year 2018 is dedicated to the topic of Water in the Alps and composes of 12 best photos, voted by the jury, which the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention received at the Photo contest that has been opened earlier this year. Authors from all around the Alps captured different forms of water in the Alps and showed the many fields of alpine conventions' work that the topic water actually touches upon. You can see all the winning photos [here](#) and order your copy of the calendar [here](#).

To be won are eight different prizes, made available by the Austrian Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat and the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention. The deadline has been extended until **31 October 2018**; visit the [dedicated page](#) to find all the details!



The good cooperation between the two conventions was highlighted for several times at the meeting and the

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Alpine Convention also got the possibility to present joint activities of the two conventions, such as the event which took place at the UNFCCC COP23, the role of women in mountain areas initiative as well as the Reading Mountains festival, with later on also saw an event in Romania.

PYRADAPT

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention participated on 8 November in the second PYRADAPT 2017 International Colloquium on climate change in the Pyrenees. The Colloquium was organized by the Pyrenean Observatory on Climate Change and the Working Community of the Pyrenees, under the current presidency of the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region.

During the event, the scientific community of the Pyrenees had the opportunity to present and discuss the main results of climate change research with a variety of actors, such as policy makers, government technical bodies and international organizations. The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was involved in an international panel discussion with the Carpathian Convention and the European Environment Agency. The main activities carried out by the Alpine Convention in climate change, reporting on the current initiatives of the working bodies, such as the Climate Board, were presented and insights on cooperation in the Alps were provided. The fruitful exchange between Alps and Pyrenees, which have different governance structures but face similar challenges in light of climate change, was continued on 9 November, where an Advisory Board for the Pyrenean Observatory on Climate Change was launched; the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention participated in this meeting, too.

Alps at the Climate Conference

The UNFCCC COP23 took place under the presidency of Fiji in the first half of November in Bonn. The Alps were well represented at the Conference – be it by side events or in the high-level segment. A first side event was organized by CIPRA International at the German Pavilion on 6 November and presented the emerging Climate Partnership of Alpine Communities, following up to the decisions of the XIVth Alpine Conference in Grassau (see separate report below). A second side event was co-organized by Austria, Italy and the Permanent Secretariat and addressed Climate Action in the Alps, the Carpathians, the Pyrenees and the Apennines under the title “Mountains in motion”. Staged at the EU pavilion on 14 November, the event involved speakers from different mountain ranges and transnational networks in Europe who compared experiences and knowledge.



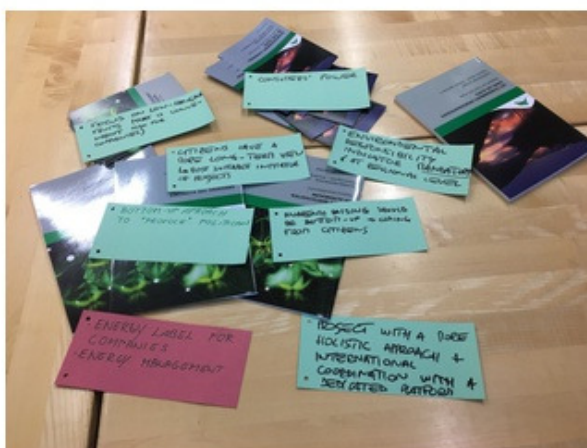
In his opening remarks at the high-level segment, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier mentioned the effects of climate change in the Alps. The Secretary General delivered a [speech](#) at the Plenary on 16 November, where he highlighted the wealth of activities carried out in the Alps on climate change mitigation

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and adaptation and emphasized the importance of activities at local level. The Secretary General highlighted that the Alps have already reached a 2° C warming and that mountains are amongst the most vulnerable areas to climate change.

Workshop at International Symposium Global Social Responsibility: Planetary Health – A good life for all?

On 22 and 23 November the International Symposium “Global Social Responsibility: Planetary Health – A good life for all?” took place at Management Centre Innsbruck (MCI). The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention contributed at symposium with breakout session about Green economy: A chance for the Alps in times of demographic change, moderated by Aureliano Piva and Sara Uhan. The workshop gave an overview of last two Reports on the State of the Alps on the topics of demographic change in the Alps in the last decades and on the development of a green economy in the Alps. The discussion focused on the interrelation between relevant green economy and demographic aspects in the Alps as well as the opportunities – for example regarding employment or wellbeing – for the Alpine population deriving from a green economy approach. It was pointed out that we need a good policy and a consistent transnational approach for greening economy and a better well-being for all. Moreover, the participants - mainly students - were also very interested into work of the Alpine Convention in general. Key messages from the different breakout sessions were discussed later at panel discussion with local stakeholders about sustainable development. During the Symposium the new Alpine Convention Exhibition entitled: “Eight countries, one territory and international treaty: a sustainable vision for the Alps” was on display.



Generations caring for soil in the Alps

The importance of our soils and what would be needed to protect them more effectively was discussed throughout generations this autumn. The issue of soils is currently addressed in the Compliance Committee and Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention as well as in the [EUSALP Action group 6](#), which is dealing with natural and cultural resources. The Interreg Alpine Space project [Links4Soils](#) is working on linking soil experts with practitioners and administrations to promote soil management and to enhance the applicability of the Alpine Convention Soil Conservation Protocol.

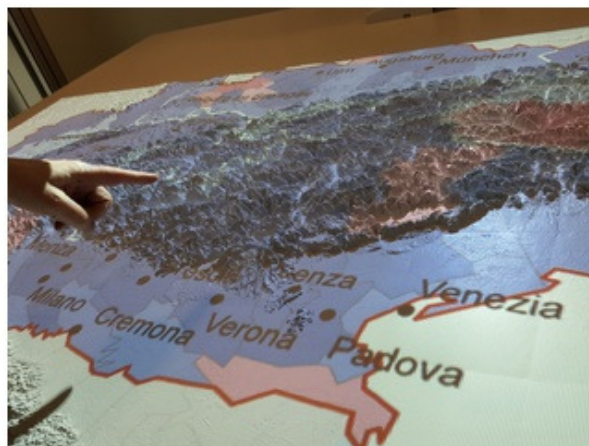


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Furthermore, the preparations of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention 2018 included lively discussions about the most important issues to be tackled regarding soils in the Alps, for example concerning the sealing of large areas every day.

Alps2050: A common spatial vision for the Alps –Kick-off

Looking at the Alps from a distance might sometimes be necessary to recognize the Alpine territory as one common territory - in all its cultural and natural diversities. Looking at the Alps on a different scale might be another option to do so. The three-dimensional model of the Alps, which the leader of the Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning, the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure established, visualizes this one territory, which should be regarded as a whole, when taking about spatial development in the Alps.



The need to have a common spatial vision for this one territory hand in hand with the need to intensify the cooperation amongst the Alpine States in the field of spatial development was identified and incorporated up by the Ministers responsible of spatial planning in the Alpine States in the respective Declaration on Sustainable Spatial Development in the Alps ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [SL](#)).

This November the one year project phase during which a scientific consortium (lead partner: Friedrich-Alexander- University Erlangen-Nürnberg, partners: EURAC Research, the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research and the Federal institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas Austria, subcontractors: University of Ljubljana and the National Institute for Environmental Science and Research Grenoble) will work on the development of common perspectives and a common spatial vision for the Alpine area was started at the kick-off meeting of the ESPON Targeted Analysis Alps2050 in Berlin. All participating stakeholders highlighted the importance of having a common spatial vision and respective visual materials to set a common (spatial) ground as a basis on which the Alpine Convention, the Interreg Alpine Space Programme as well as the Macro-regional Strategy for the Alpine Area can relate to and can refer to.

Parts of the project are also participatory elements. Stay tuned for news!

Alps in 25 maps

How is it possible to communicate the variety of the Alpine environment, society and culture? How to provide an easily understandable but at the same time not superficial overview of the challenges that the Alps are facing?

To answer these questions, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, in cooperation with EURAC research is launching the publication "The Alps in 25 maps". This booklet collects 25 maps describing the main characteristics of the Alps, from the flora to the fauna, from the languages to the impacts of climate change. It is a must-have compendium for policy makers, researchers, administrators, inhabitants, associations and, of course, for all the "Alp-lovers"! "The Alps in 25 maps" will be soon available [online](#) and a paper copy a can be

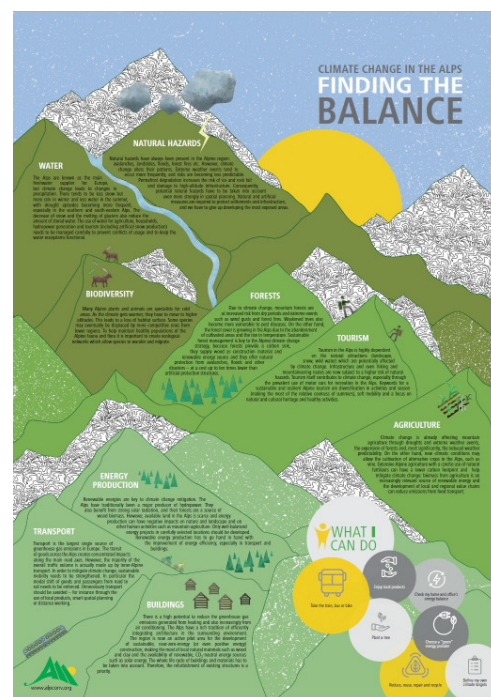
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[Thematic Working bodies webpage](#)

The webpage of the Alpine Convention was slightly modified, so that the subpage dedicated to [Working Groups and Platform](#) now also encompasses the three ad-hoc working bodies established in the last years: the [Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning](#), [Green Economy Advisory Board](#) and [Alpine Climate Board](#). Read more news on the activities by the Thematic Working bodies [here](#).

[New folder on climate change](#)

The Permanent Secretariat recently released a folder (A3 folded in A5) entitled "Climate change – How it affects the Alps and what we can do". It aims at providing a large audience with a graphic overview of the impacts of climate change on the environment and the people of the Alps and outlining possible action. It is available in the four Alpine languages and English [here](#) (printed copies upon [request](#)).



[Sustainable Tourism Working Group](#)

The first meeting of the [Sustainable Tourism Working Group of the Alpine Convention](#) has been organized on 18 October in Werfenweng (Austria). The Group started to work at the objectives of the mandate as the greening of alpine tourism through the reduction of CO2 emissions and the identification of strategies for innovating tourist products. This second topic will be



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developed by means of the organisation of a workshop, scheduled on 24 April 2019 in Bolzano/Bozen.

The meeting of the Working Group took place in the Framework of the Tourism Mobility Day organized by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

The Alpine Day of Tourism and Mobility focused on sustainable, innovative and future oriented ways of traveling in touristic regions especially in the Alpine Countries.

This Conference was also the first event organized within the formula of the Alpine Convention green event.

Mountain Forests Working Group

In the framework of the activities carried out by the Action Group 8 of EUSALP, co-headed by Bavaria and Austria, aims to improve risk management and to better manage climate change in the EUSALP area, the [Mountain Forests Working Group of the Alpine Convention](#) has been invited to present its work and the Forest Protocol at the Conference "Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region", in Bad Reichenhall (Germany) on 23 and 24 October 2017. The Conference was organised by the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection in the framework of the events and activities organized during the Bavarian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALP in 2017. The scientific and institutional presentations did by the speakers from Austria, Germany and Italy highlighted the aspect linked with the flood protection by the protection forests as well as the important role and function of mountain forests as supply of wood and developer of employment in rural Alpine regions. Inside this frame, the Mountain Forests Working Group carried out its own presentation about good practices and examples in the field of the Alpine region. The participation of the members of the working group to this conference had also the advantage of collecting data and information useful for the drafting of the report that the Working Group has to elaborate on the basis of its Mandate. Afterwards, the second meeting of the Working Group took place, during which the Members discussed and elaborated two provisional indexes - "Interdependencies between mountain forests and flood protection" and "Interdependencies between mountain forests and freshwater provision" - concerning one of the two reports that the Group has to draft.

Macro-regional strategy for the Alps Working Group elaborating different scenarios

In its meeting on 15 November 2017 in Vienna, the [Macro-regional strategy for the Alps Working Group](#) analyzed the outcomes of the first exchange workshop between the working bodies of the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP in Gmunden. The participants agreed that there is a need to develop a common vision on the future cooperation between the Alpine Convention, the EUSALP and the Alpine Space Program. In this connection the Macro-regional strategy for the Alps Working Group proposed to elaborate different scenarios for discussion and subsequent decision making within the Alpine Convention. These scenarios should consider enhancing the profile of the Alpine Convention vis a vis the other actors in terms of contents, the organizational dimension and the role of the Alpine Convention within the governance system of the Alpine Region.

Platform Ecological Network

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On 15 and 16 November 2017 in Valdieri into the beautiful territory of the Natural Park Alpi Marittime (Italy) the meeting of the [Platform Ecological Network of the Alpine Convention](#) has been organized. In this occasion the Countries supported by the French Research Center IRSTEA carried out the thematic Workshop dedicated to the Spatial planning Report, during which each Country presented its case studies. These will be included and analysed in the Report that the Platform has to elaborate on the basis of its Mandate for the period 2017-2018. Afterwards, the Members of the Platform discussed about the latest activities done

by the Platform in the framework of the events organized by the Alpine Convention and EUSALP. Also an update about the Projects ALPBIONET 2030, LinkPas, GreenConnect, the SAPA Network and the activities in the Alpi Marittime/Mercantour Pilot Region has been given to the Members during the meeting.

26th Meeting of the Compliance Committee



The [Compliance Committee](#) met on 28 and 29 November in Vienna to continue its in-depth review of the subject "Economical use of soil". The material for this procedure consists of the general information submitted by the Contracting Parties and of their answers to a set of specific questions related to the priority topics selected. For the purpose of gaining additional information a hearing with the external experts Uroš Brežan (Mayor of Tolmin, Slovenia), Paolo Pileri (Professor of landscape and land use planning, Politecnico di Milano, Italy), Roland Tremp (Spatial planner and former City Councillor of Chur, Switzerland)

and Kurt Weinberger (Director General of the Austrian Hail insurance, Vienna, Austria) was carried out. The lively discussion with the experts revealed that the legal systems in the field are heterogeneous and showed the need to find practice-oriented solutions to the current challenges, such as soil sealing and soil consumption, an appropriate and economical delimitation of settlement areas and measures ensuring that the areas defined as building areas are actually built upon.

Furthermore, a first experience exchange on the implementation of the articles 20 and 21 of the Soil Conservation Protocol took place.

The hard work of the Compliance Committee was greatly rewarded by a wonderful evening at the Spanish Riding School, where the members enjoyed an excursion and dinner.

The next meeting of the Compliance Committee is expected to take place on 10 and 11 July 2018 in Carinthia.

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[Transport Working Group meeting](#)

The [Transport Working Group](#) held its 2nd meeting of the current mandate in Paris on 1 December. The group is currently on track to produce updated information on transport in the Alps and recommendations on the internalisation of external costs, innovative logistics solutions and alternative fuels, for the attention of the XV. Alpine Conference. The next meeting will take place in spring 2018 in Chamonix. Working Group members and the Permanent Secretariat also attended regular meetings of the Zurich process EnvALP group (18 October) and EUSALP AG4 and Mobility Conference (24-25 October) and both these groups reported to the Transport WG, in order to ensure the coordination of the results and further action especially on the question of external costs.

[PLANALP](#)



The [Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Protection and Rescue](#) will be the host of the 26th [PLANALP](#) meeting and the 5th meeting of the EUSALP Action Group 8; therefore we will give a few words about the organization of protection against natural and other disasters in Slovenia.

Due to the geographical characteristics of Slovenia, natural disasters, especially floods, summer storms, fires and earthquakes, are common phenomena. The basis of the system of protection against natural and other disasters is defined in the Act on the Protection against Natural and Other Disasters and in the

Resolution on the National Program for the Protection of Natural and Other Disasters, 2016 to 2022, which provides for the coordinated preventive action of various sectors and actors and the realization of the concept of integrated managing the protection against natural disasters. In addition to national interests, the program also takes into account Slovenia's obligations arising from the Alpine Convention.

From the [National Assessment of the Prevention of Natural and Other Disasters](#) it is evident that Slovenia is most at risk of flooding. The last really large floods were in Slovenia in year 2014, when we in February faced also with [catastrophic consequences due to sleet](#). The concept of flood management is reflected in the Flood Risk Reduction Plan for the period 2017-2021 prepared by the [Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning](#).

[Green Economy Stakeholder Dialogues](#)

In the framework of the elaboration of the [Green Economy](#) Action Programme (GEAP) for the Alpine region, six stakeholder workshops were held between September and November 2017 throughout the Alps. The workshops covered a wide range of topics, from the sustainable use of natural resources to eco-innovation and green finance. They successfully brought together about 240 relevant stakeholders from businesses, municipalities and towns, science and research, administration authorities and the civil society. The

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participants shared and discussed inspiring good practice examples and drafted very useful inputs for the elaboration of the GEAP. The outcomes show a high potential for sustainable solutions in the Alpine region on the one hand, and a strong need for further actions on the other. Moreover, an online stakeholders consultation has been carried out until 15 December 2017. The workshops documentation and the results of the online consultation will be available [online](#) soon.



News from EUSALP

Action Group 6 at the EUSALP Annual Forum: Interactive Exchanges and Approval of Projects

The 1st EUSALP Annual Forum took place in Munich on 23-24 November 2018. At the EUSALP General Assembly high-level representatives of States and Regions adopted a "Joint declaration" welcoming the progress achieved to date in the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan at all levels, particularly in the Action Groups, and calling for a closer cooperation with regional and local stakeholders for the sustainable success of the Strategy.

The EUSALP Annual Forum included a variety of events, which ranged from an interactive youth conference involving the Deputy Secretary General of the Alpine



Convention Marianna Elmi, workshops interlinking different Action Groups to exchanges with the European Commission and sessions involving the Alpine Space Programme. The Citizens Forum, which was organized in form of a Market Place, featured the Alpine Convention, all 9 EUSALP Action Groups, the European Commission and the Alpine Space Programme. The Forum allowed the public to achieve concrete insights into the work of the mentioned stakeholders.

Action Group 6, co-led by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the Land Carinthia, presented at its market stand its activities on the three sub-topics of spatial development and soil conservation, future oriented farming and forestry and integrated and sustainable water management. In addition, the project "Next Generation 2030" on the perspectives of young mountain farmers, initiated by the Bavarian presidency 2017, as well as the project "PureAlps" on hardly degradable pollutants from the atmosphere in the Alpine Region contributed to attracting many visitors to the market stand.

On 22 November, also a EUSALP Executive Board meeting took place. In this context two projects of [Action Group 6](#) submitted to the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF) were approved: CirculAlps on circular economy, elaborated in cooperation with AG2 and AlpJobs on demographic changes, jointly prepared with AG3.

Also on 22 November 2017, the 5th AlpGov Partner Meeting took place in Munich. The project partners discussed the significant progress made regarding the activities highlighted in the work program of the different Action Groups. Jean-Pierre Halkin, DG REGIO, Head of Unit Macro-regions, Transnational /Interregional cooperation of the European Commission gave an input on the current state of discussion on future cohesion policy, embedding macro-regional strategies into the next multi-annual framework. In the

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framework of the AlpGov meeting also a Board of Action Group Leader workshop on financial dialogue took place. Finally, the upcoming Tyrolean EUSALP Presidency 2018 presented its activities.

Youth at EUSALP Forum

Contribution by CIPRA



Voting at age 16, taking young people's voice seriously, setting clear goals for participation processes: A group of active young people from the [GaYA](#) project presented these ideas on youth participation in political processes at the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) in Munich. They expressed their expectations and needs regarding their involvement into political processes and discussed them with several politicians from Alpine regions.

One main focus was the exchange between politicians and youth. The crossing points between school and town hall must be strengthened. Young people are happy to

be invited to meet politicians in the town hall or at international events, as was the case in Munich, upon invitation from the Bavarian Presidency of EUSALP. However, they also invite the politicians to meet them where they are, e. g. in clubs, at youth centres, on sports fields and in schools. Youth involvement at local level can be a stepping stone for participation at other levels.

For the project GaYA "Governance and youth in the Alps", having an active role in the annual forum of the EUSALP was a great first step towards more youth participation in alpine wide cooperation. GaYA provides different formats to foster meaningful conversations and collaborations between youth and decision-makers in the Alps. From September 2017 to January 2018 trainings and workshops take place in 15 different pilot areas. These areas - from Kranjska Gora in Slovenia to Chambéry in France - are also developing local action plans for participation and will implement measures to strengthen the involvement of young people in regional policy and to spread knowledge about innovative approaches of participation.



News from Delegations, Observers, Partners

Review: Conference "Energy Management in Alpine Hotels – Save Energy, Reduce Costs, Protect our Climate"

Contribution by Germany

On 28-29 November a conference on energy efficiency and energy management in hotels took place at the EURAC Research Convention Centre in Bolzano/Bozen, South-Tyrol. The event contributed to an alpine-wide dialogue and knowledge exchange on energy efficiency



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and management in the hotel and restaurant business initiated by the former German Presidency of the Alpine Convention. This alpine-wide dialogue contributes to climate mitigation and sustainable tourism in the alpine Region. The conference brought together more than 70 participants from a wide range of stakeholders from Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Switzerland, Austria and France including hotel-owners, representatives of hotel associations, climate protection initiatives, research institutes, politics and energy consultancies. These two conference days were packed with interesting presentations, a panel discussion and workshops in which participants e.g. discussed ways to promote and support energy management as a standard for hotels in the Alpine region or how hotel owners easily can save energy cost. Additionally a field trip to the particularly energy efficient hotel "Cyprianerhof" in Tiers was offered, where Hotelier Martin Damian guided a group of conference participants through the normally hidden places "behind the curtain". He showed how energy efficiency and climate mitigation measures had been implemented. The step by step implementation in his Hotel was used as an example in the preparation of the guidance "Energy Management in Alpine Hotels" – a guidance that is available in four alpine languages and can be used for free by hotel owners and everyone else interested. The results of the conference will be published soon [here](#) where you will also find the guidance. The Conference with "Green Event Südtirol" certification was organised by Adelphi on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. It was funded by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI), a new project financing programme by the German Federal Ministry. More information available [here](#).

Constructive Alps 2017

Contribution by Switzerland

On 20 October, at the Alpine Museum in Bern, the "Constructive Alps 2017" jury awarded four prizes and seven recognitions to eleven architectural projects from the total 261 projects which were submitted. Whether new or refurbished buildings, the jury mainly focused on the possible links between sustainable construction, harmonious setting into the architectural environment of the villages or towns, energetic solutions and social contributions for the community.

"Constructive Alps 2017" is a contribution from Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the implementation of the Alpine Convention and the Climate Action Plan.

The winners of this year competition are:

1. The Primary School of Brand (Austria)
2. MPreis supermarket in Sankt Martin (Austria)
2. The Cheese dairy Kaslab'n in Radenthein (Austria)
3. The Casa sociale, or community center, of Caltron (Italy)

All the projects, which had been selected for the second round of the call for project, are presented in a Hochparterre magazine edition especially published for this occasion. All details on the buildings, the running of the projects, as well as the downloadable version of the magazine are available on the [website](#) of the Constructive Alps Award.

International Architecture Exhibition "Constructive Alps 2013 & 2015" is showing in Ribnica



Contribution by Slovenia

From 13 to 22 December a touring International

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[Architecture Exhibition "Constructive Alps 2015" is showing at Ribnica Handicraft Centre \(Slovenia\).](#)

A touring international exhibition leads you through the most beautiful and environment friendly examples of renovated and newly constructed buildings in the Alps. Displayed projects were selected by members of the international professional jury among 550 registered projects at the calls for An International Architectural Prize for Sustainable Renovation and Buildings in the Alps in 2013 and 2015. The prize is awarded by the Federal Office for Spatial Planning from Switzerland in association with the government of the Principality of the Liechtenstein and with the support by University of Liechtenstein and CIPRA International. Moreover, the contest is organised under the framework of the Alpine Convention, signed also by Slovenia in 1994 together with 7 other countries, for promoting an adaptation on climate change in the Alps.

The call is opened every two years and has prize money for the best three selected projects up to 50,000 euros and award recognition for the selected short list projects. In 2013, at the contest the Slovenian project Centre Rinka in Solčava was awarded with 3rd prize. In 2015, the best three projects were: a new building in Austria, a renovated project from Switzerland and a new building in Italy. Two of the selected 11 best projects were from Slovenia: Youth Hostel Punkl, Ravne na Koroškem and Planina Laška seč, Tolmin, awarded also by a special award for an innovativeness and sustainable development.

Blanka Bartol, the head of Slovenian delegation to the Alpine Convention, is leading tours through the exhibition.

Youth participation in politics: GaYA action starts off from local to transnational level

Contribution by Alparc



In the frame of the EU Interreg Alpine Space project GaYA (Governance and Youth in the Alps, 2016-2018), 15 pilot sites engage in experimental approaches to involve young people in local politics. The project already presents successful actions: an award-winning project teaser and the participation of youth at the international EUSALP Forum on 23 November.

Over the last months, ALPARC and the seven other GaYA partners have been able to select 15 pilot sites throughout the Alps. A set of first workshops involving decisions makers, administrations, youth organisations, youth workers and youth took place in the majority of

pilot regions. The aim is to develop local participatory action plans and to implement one action within the GaYA project period, until December 2018.

The ALPARC operational unit is responsible for the implementation stage in 2018. It also assists and supports the pilot activities in two Nature park areas in the Southern French Alps. Two other areas of the ALPARC network are involved in the project as pilot sites: the Grosses Walsertal in Austria and the Massif des Bauges Nature park. Major outputs in 2018 will be a participatory toolkit and political recommendations for the inclusion of youth in all Alpine languages.

On the occasion of the first annual EUSALP forum on 23 November in Munich, the GaYA project and its teaser



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which was produced by ALPAC were awarded by the Alpine Space programme among two other projects. The international political forum also was the occasion for a group of young people to express their opinions in front of decision-makers from the Alpine region. In order to give youth a voice in the Alps in a creative way, an international film contest was recently launched by CIPRA. The winners are invited to present their films at the final conference of GaYA on November 30th 2018 in Chambéry (details below). Spread information on and take part in the GaYA film competition. Learn more [here](#). Watch the GaYA teaser video-clip: [EN](#) [DE](#) [FR](#) [IT](#) [SI](#).

Alpine Space projects GRETA, AlpFoodway and GaYA awarded at the EUSALP forum

Contribution by Alpine Space



On 23 November, the three Alpine Space projects having produced the best project video were awarded in Munich (Germany) in the framework of the EUSALP Forum.

The competition, which ran from the October 2017, was open to the [33 ongoing Alpine Space projects](#) and aimed at selecting the three project videos, which best

highlighted the project aims and results, and was the most creative. The three winning projects were awarded at the Alpine Space programme stand in the framework of the EUSALP forum.

The awards were delivered by Dr Brigitta Pallauf, President of the Regional Parliament of Salzburg, Austria, and by Raffaele Cattaneo, President of the Regional Council of Lombardy and rapporteur on macro-regional strategies in the Committee of the Regions, Italy.

Read more and watch the videos [here](#).

"The Alpine Town of the Year" association celebrates its 20th anniversary

Contribution by Alpine Town of the Year

From 9 to 10 November, the participants and partners of the "Alpine Town of the Year" association met in Villach to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this active city partnership: in addition to an anniversary celebration, the General Assembly and a workshop on the subject of the Green Economy, supported by the German Federal Environment Agency and the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention, a tree will be planted as a symbol: a symbol of the sustainable, future-oriented and lively partnership of award-winning Alpine towns; learning from each other, looking to the future, creating ideas, creating encounters. These are just a few of the characteristics and goals that characterize the entire network. On the occasion of the anniversary year, the focus and public profile will be sharpened once again: the identification of Alpine towns as a strong association, youth participation and cooperation between towns will be strengthened. The Alpine towns of the network



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should become even more actively and visibly aware of their important role as local global players. „While we may be small, indeed insignificant in global terms, we do our part just like the hummingbird that brings its drop of water to fight the forest fire. We are proud that we do not shy away from the challenges of creating a better quality of life in the Alps,“ underlines the president of the association "Alpine Town of the Year", Thierry Billet solemnly in the framework of the celebration.

Further information: [EN](#), [DE](#), [IT](#), [FR](#), [SL](#). Now also on [Facebook](#).

[AlpES Online Survey about symbolic plants, animals, and landscapes of the Alps](#)

Contribution by CIPRA International



Have you ever wondered which plants, landscapes and animals are of special symbolic and cultural value for the Alps? As the AlpES project team is placing a special focus on the cultural aspect of ecosystem services, they are in need of your help. Is it all edelweiss and ibexes? Find out for yourself by filling out the online survey in your language and help the AlpES team better understand the cultural relevance of ecosystems! To

participate in the survey no expert knowledge is necessary. [Here](#) you find the link of the survey, the completion of the form may take less than 10 minutes.

[alpMonitor living and working: towards a better life](#)

Contribution by CIPRA International

Like many other villages in the Alps "Alpwil" has experienced a steady decline in the last decades. A lot of people have moved away, houses are empty, gardens run wild, the village shop has been abandoned, and the village centre is deserted. As CIPRA shows through the project alpMonitor there are different ways of dealing with these developments. alpMonitor focuses on the responsibilities modern societies have in the shift towards sustainable development. The objective is living "the good life" in the Alps. CIPRA's approach is based on the values of participation, solidarity and frugality. alpMonitor acts complementarily to scientific reports by actively discussing impacts and promoting solutions for selected areas of everyday life. Currently the focus is on "[living and working](#)". What is the future for "Alpwil"? Please join the decision-making process of the fictitious alpine village [here](#) (de, fr, it, sl).

[speciAlps – natural treasures in your neighbourhood](#)

Contribution by CIPRA International

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speciAlps



Grasslands, marshes, hedges, biotopes and woods are valuable sites of biodiversity. Almost every municipality has their own special natural monuments. Together they not only constitute an important refuge for plants and animals, but are also valued by humans for their positive impact on the quality of life. The project "[speciAlps](#)" aims to identify, conserve and value natural treasures in all their diversity. After a successful initial phase, more than 150 municipalities within five pilot regions in Austria, France, Italy and Slovenia were selected to participate in the project accompanied by CIPRA International and the "Alliance in the Alps" network. "speciAlps" is supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), Germany, the "Heidehof Foundation", and the "pancivis foundation" from Liechtenstein. The project is based on the programme "Natural diversity in municipalities" ("Naturvielfalt in der Gemeinde") from Vorarlberg, Austria.

First steps of the Climate Partnership of Alpine Communities

Contribution by CIPRA International



Climate Partnership of Alpine Communities is the name given to a new initiative launched on 11 July this year with a workshop that was held in Mäder/AT. A second workshop was organised on 15 November 2017 in Brig/CH. Many initiatives focusing on climate change exist already, as the three organisers - CIPRA International, Alpine Town of the Year and Alliance in the Alps - know. However, the added value of this partnership is the linking role among different partners that it wishes to play. The feasibility phase of the project aimed to gather stakeholders from all the Alpine countries to discuss about possible improvements and

measures to fight climate change at the local level. Both workshops confirmed the need for a better share of information and good practices dealing with adaptation and mitigation to climate change. During the opening day of COP23 a side event was dedicated to the presentation of the Climate Partnership. Andreas Pichler (CIPRA), Jochen Flasbarth (DE), Heike Summer (LI), Helmut Hojesky (Alpine Convention) and Eike Christiansen (DE) advocated for a stronger role of towns and cities in the Alpine region regarding climate protection in the coming years.

Euromontana launched the European Charter for the valorisation of mountain food products

Contribution by Euromontana



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The EU mountain products legislation is alive, now it is time for producers and Member States to really seize this opportunity to give more added values to mountain areas.

On 18 October, around 100 mountain actors from all over Europe participated in a conference on "[How to better valorise mountain food products – Launch of the European Charter for Mountain Quality Food Products](#)" organised by Euromontana in Brussels.

For more information, read [Euromontana's press release](#) or visit the [page of the event](#).

The Network for European Mountain Research (NEMOR) has been created

Contribution by Euromontana



The [Network for European Mountain Research \(NEMOR\)](#) was established in the last months. The network is composed by researchers across different disciplines and European countries who want to promote research in, and for the sustainable development of, mountain areas. NEMOR's key objective is to advocate for European mountain research, to enable discussion of research priorities addressing mountain regions and to connect mountain networks. In addition, the network seeks to coordinate and enhance activities with reference to the priority topics of the "Mountains for Europe's Future" with a view toward the European Commission's new research programme (FP9) and other funding instruments. The network will meet at the Forum Alpinum on 4-6 June 2018 in Austria. For more information, [contact us](#).

YPAC 2018: Act 12

Contribution by YPAC



The Twelfth Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention session has been launched: teachers, pupils, CIPRA and Alpine Convention representatives, all active members in this school project born in 2006 and having become an association two years ago, met in Sonthofen (Germany) to prepare the next session which will take place in Maribor, Slovenia, at the end of March (20-23). The umbrella topic will be "preservation of soil". "When there is no more soil, it is desert!" These were the first words used by Thomas Peham, governmental delegation for the environment expert, in his opening presentation about this fundamental element in terms of resources and therefore in terms of development... How can soil be used sustainably in rural and urban Alpine areas? Which impact can soil evolution have on natural hazards?

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On such questions our approximately one hundred parliamentarians, journalists and members of platform future will be working on after a few months preparatory work in 10 delegations. They will debate about the future of Alpine societies, meet some politicians and vote, in the respect of democratic rules, for ten resolutions to improve the next generations' daily life in Maribor.

Women in mountain regions at the United Nations Regional Academy

Contribution by UNEP

Gender inequality is one of the most pervasive threats to sustainable development. As part of the Regional Academy United Nations, a group of students researched on gender inequality and environmental attitudes of Austrian female mountain farmers in collaboration with UN Environment and the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. Qualitative interviews revealed that women are crucial since they often take care of the mountain farm while men work full-time elsewhere. However, small farms are in decline due to pro-large farm government policies and difficulties adhering to EU-standards. This requires a more supportive environment for small farms, which are conducive both to sustainable food production in Austria and to job-security of women in mountain regions.



A determining step for the Mont Blanc

Contribution by Infopoint Chamonix

The signature of the declaration of intent relative to the application of the Mont Blanc massif as World Heritage site of UNESCO, on 24 October 2017, marked an important step in the history of the Espace Mont Blanc. For 25 years this cross border territory has been actively working in building a common future, in the view of enhancing the value of an exceptional natural environment for the benefit of its inhabitants. Today, the close collaboration practices of the three regions allow the Mont Blanc Cross border Conference to be the natural promoter of this UNESCO initiative. It is the start of a great adventure which will require mobilisation from all, for the Mont Blanc massif to receive all the attention it deserves.



Reading mountains in Domodossola

Contribution by Infopoint Domodossola

For this edition of the Reading Mountains Festival the Alpine Convention Infopoint Domodossola has decided to

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organize an one day long event on Monday, 11 December to celebrate the International Mountain Day with a program, involving different moments of the day and different places to spread knowledge all over the county.

The event begins in Domodossola at 9:00 in the Milani primary school, where the writer Maria Giuliana Saletta, born in the small village of Baceno (600 meters above the sea level), makes some animated readings of her books for the children, together with the illustrator Elisa Squillace and the actress Carla De Chiara.

In the afternoon, at 15:00, the trio moves to the lower secondary school to have a meeting with the author and other readings.

At 17:00 we continued the festival in Omegna with Domenico Brioschi, actor and film director that dedicated his animated readings to the students of lower secondary school.

The location was the Park of Fantasy, managed by Forum di Omegna and dedicated to Gianni Rodari, writer, pedagogue and poet specialized in texts for children and teens.

The evening was set in Verbania, where in collaboration with the Lions Spoken Book ("Amici del libro parlato" Association) the "voice donors" act with readings from alpine literature for kids and adults.

For more information visit our [website](#).



The list contains events organized in the framework of the Alpine Convention, as well as by Partners. Please bear in mind that this list may not be exhaustive. Updated list is available on the [webpage](#) of the Alpine Convention.

January

22-23 January	Water Platform meeting	Vienna, Austria
25-28 January	23° Memorial Danilo Re & ALPARC general assembly	Berchtesgarden National Park, Ramsau bei Berchtesgarden, Germany
29-30 January	Action Group 6 meeting	Bolzano/Bozen, Italy
30-31 January	Alpine Climate Board meeting	Vienna, Austria

February

7 February	Kick off Tyrolian Presidency EUSALP	Innsbruck, Austria
7-8 February	EUSALP Executive Board meeting	Innsbruck, Austria
20-21 February	Mountain Agriculture Platform meeting	Vienna, Austria
27 February – 1 March	WISO meeting & workshop	Domodossola, Italy

March

1-2 March	Green Economy Advisory Board meeting	Munich, Germany
14-15 March	Informal Permanent Committee meeting	Vienna, Austria
20-21 March	Alpine parks and drones, organised by ALPARC	Toblach, Italy

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