



Dear Friends,

Have you noticed that half of the year 2016 is already passed by? For the Alpine Convention family this was a very busy time with many projects going on and many events taking place; from institutional meetings of the Permanent Committee and Working Groups and Platforms, to the meeting of new initiatives; such as the meeting on Spatial Planning. The Presidency, the Secretariat as well as the Contracting Parties carried out many projects covering the topics of the Alpine Convention – so don't worry about the size of this newsletter, it merely shows how much is going on these days. We even helped building a school in Nepal!

One of my personal highlights of the past three months was the opening of the Gotthard tunnel, the world's longest railway tunnel, with a big spectacle on 1 June. At the time I described it as "a promise to the future to strengthen connectivity and connections within Europe and to shift freight transport from road to rail!" I am very excited that a similar project (in making), will be visited during the upcoming We are Alps tour that will kick-start with a visit to the Brenner Base Tunnel. Be assured, also the rest of the trip will be as exciting.

The Alpine Conference and the Alpweek will take place in less than four months and the preparations by the Presidency, the Contracting Parties, the Permanent Secretariat and the observer organizations are in full speed. But it is also fitting that we take a – short – brake during the summer and collect strength for an active autumn.

I therefore wish you happy and sunny summer holidays and lots of fun reading our newsletter on the beach, by the river or – better still – a mountain top.

Markus Reiterer,
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention



Spatial Development in the Alps

The Conference of Spatial Planning on 18 to 19 April in Murnau chaired by State Secretary Rainer Bomba in the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure finalized the joint "Declaration of Spatial Planning Ministers on challenges and future key issues in the field of spatial planning and development". The Declaration strengthens the further partnership-like cooperation between the Alpine countries in the implementation of the [Protocol on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development](#) and foresees first implementation activities. After the signing of the Declaration by the Ministers, it will be presented at the XIV. Alpine Conference on 13 October in Grassau.



Successful workshop on climate action and energy efficiency in hotel and restaurant industries in the Alpine region

Hotel and Restaurant businesses as key player in tourism industries have special potential and responsibility for climate protection measures. Experiences and good practices in the implementation of energy efficiency and climate action measures were discussed among the participants from e.g. politics, energy agencies, hotel, restaurants and



tourism organizations. Subjects such as efficient buildings, house techniques, sustainable transport or regional purchasing were presented and discussed among the participants of the event. The workshop took place in Oberschleissheim near Munich on 20 and 21 April 2016 and was part of the program of the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention. Opening speeches were held by Florian Pronold, Parliamentary State Secretary at the

German Federal Environment Ministry, and Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention. An [internet app](#) for hotel and restaurant operators is now available in the four alpine languages. The app informs users about various initiatives for climate action and increasing energy efficiency as well as support programs. [More details](#)

Stamp "The Alps – Diversity in Europe"

To mark the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention, Germany's Finance Minister has issued a special stamp with the slogan "Die Alpen – Vielfalt in Europa" (The Alps – Diversity in Europe). On its date of issue (2 June 2016) the special stamp was presented to Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Environment Ministry, Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, by State Secretary at the Federal Finance Ministry Werner Gatzert. The stamp can be purchased at all Deutsche Post sales outlets.





Those buying the stamp pay a surcharge on top of the regular postage. The revenues from this surcharge will be used to fund projects aimed at supporting sustainable development in the Alpine region and reconciling the area's economic interests with the needs of the environment.

[More info](#)

Foto: BMUB/Sascha Hilgers

Successful conference "Sustainable tourism in the Alps: a challenge (without alternative)"

On 8 June 2016 the conference on sustainable tourism in the Alpine Region, organized by the German Presidency, took place in Sonthofen, back to back to the Permanent Committee meeting. With more than 200 international participants the conference highlighted at least two important topics of the German Presidency: green economy and sustainable tourism. The conference present a great opportunity to exchange ideas, have thematic discussion and coordinate the needs of tourism development, protection of nature and cultural heritage as well as the role of local people in the tourism sector.



Secretary General Reiterer in his welcome address emphasized 5 main theses for sustainable tourism in the Alps:

1. Sustainability in tourism is a must, not a luxury
2. Sustainable tourism avoids touristic monocultures
3. Sustainable tourism works for the climate, not against it
4. Sustainable tourism is attractive
5. Sustainable tourism is the tourism of the future

The discussion that took place around the presentations took up these observations and confirmed an urgent need for more exchange about practical experiences in order to overcome obstacles while implementing more sustainable tourism strategies and products.

Permanent Committee meeting: getting ready for the Alpine Conference

The last Permanent Committee meeting before we assemble in Grassau for the Alpine Conference and the AlpWeek in October was framed by a wide program, fitting to the main topic of the meeting: "Sustainable Tourism in the Alps".

Some of the [Working Groups and Platforms](#) already presented the outcomes of their work as well as the new mandates outlining the work for the next two years. Ongoing initiatives such as the "Vision Renewable Alps" and EUSALP were further discussed. A special focus was put on the topics of tourism and climate change, including the

implementation of the COP21 decision, etc. Projects such as [Constructive Alps](#), [Help Nepal](#) and [100max](#) were presented.

An excursion was organized to one of the project areas of the “Mountain Forest Initiative” above Sonthofen (Burgberg). Furthermore music by Vuimera and a catering featuring local products rounded up the evening in a vibrant small alpine city. This meeting was organized following the principles of sustainable event organization for which the City of Sonthofen provided sustainable transport for the “last kilometers”.



News from the Secretariat

Reading Mountains Festival 2016

The Alpine Convention is organising the 2nd edition of “[Reading Mountains](#)”! This is the opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of the Alps – its many languages, different, yet similar cultural heritage and its arts in all shapes and forms. Join in by organising your own event in the week before the International Mountain Day – between 5 and 11 December. Remember 2015 events? Refresh your memory with the [film](#).



Action Group 6 Kick-Off Conference

On 28-29 June the official Kick-off Conference of EUSALP Action Group 6 (AG6) took place in Klagenfurt, Carinthia. The opening statement was given by Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, Markus Reiterer, who briefly outlined the milestones of the EUSALP process and the role the Alpine Convention is playing in it. The Conference was dedicated to pave the way towards the elaboration of an AG6 work plan by allowing the stakeholders to meet and discuss in the three subgroups: spatial development; future oriented farming and forestry, including socio-economic and cultural aspects; as well as water management.

Alps from a different perspective

Do you like to spend your free time in the Alps? Is a camera your usual companion to capture all the amazing moments, details and views? Show us how you see the Alps! Share captions from your Alpine adventures with us in a [photo contest](#) of the Alpine Convention; this year on the topic of “*Alps from a different perspective*”. The winning pictures are published in the official Alpine Convention for 2017. Authors of the winning pictures also get (money) prizes.

Principles of sustainable event organization

The Alpine Convention aims at organizing its events as “green events”. The Permanent Secretariat has elaborated “Principles of sustainable event organization” based on experience of the last years. During its meeting in Sonthofen

the Permanent Committee welcomed these principles and encouraged organizers of events in the framework of the Alpine Convention to implement these principles.

When organizing such events:

- Choose a location with high ecological standards (e.g. energy efficient) and good accessibility by public transport,
- Offer shuttles, if a location is not easily reachable by public transportation,
- Choose caterers and restaurants, which have high environmental standards, using regional/seasonal foods with at least one vegetarian menu alternative,
- Avoid single-use packaging (e.g. for sugar, salt, pepper or candies),
- Provide Alpine tap water instead of bottles.

We are Alps tour 2016

The “We are Alps” tour is an initiative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to promote specific alpine topics – in the year 2016 the topic is Green Economy, while using sustainable means of transport (i.e. train, bus, bike and on foot).



A selected [group of journalists](#) will participate in the tour taking place between 29 June and 5 July 2016 on a route linking Innsbruck (A) and Gorizia (I), via Austria, Germany, Slovenia and Italy. See the full programme [here](#).

When preparing the tour we selected projects and locations that highlight many different aspects of green economy in the Alps. Along the journey we will get to know initiatives on energy efficiency in lighting and building, renewable energy production, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem services and natural capital-based economy, and overall economic development as the basis for a good quality life in the Alps – at least as much of it as is possible in a week’s time!

Vision Renewable Alps

With the support of the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development and on the basis of contributions from all 8 countries and CIPRA International, the Permanent Secretariat prepared a progress report on the implementation of the Alpine Convention’s “Vision Renewable Alps”, which the 61. Meeting of the Permanent Committee decided to submit to the XIV Alpine Conference. The report shows that the Alpine countries have now established a political framework for the energy transition, with objectives for 2020 and sometimes 2030 or 2050. Specific initiatives were outlined, in particular fiscal measures to support energy efficiency refurbishment and construction of buildings, and feed-in tariffs for photovoltaic energy production. Activities are also ongoing at national, regional and municipal level as well as, in the frame of the Alpine Convention, alpine-wide, to support good energy governance and the exchange of experiences. These efforts should be sustained and reinforced, also in the view of implementing the decisions of

the COP21. Specific alpine cooperation topics could be identified.

The Secretary General also delivered a speech on the ecological limits of renewable energy development at the Energy Forum Alpine Region in Bolzano/Bozen organised by the European Forum Alpbach on 17 May, and the Secretariat participated in a workshop on the Energy Protocol organised by CIPRA Austria and the Innsbruck University on 21 April in Salzburg.

Meet the new team

With 1 May the Permanent Secretariat has concluded the selection procedures for the open positions and welcomes two new staff members: Liza Ellemunter, who will be primarily working on the EUSALP and Aureliano Piva, who will be working on SOIA.

All the staff members of the Secretariat are presented on the [webpage](#) of the Alpine Convention, where you can also find our contact information.



AlpGov Kick-Off Event & Meeting of EUSALP Action Group Leaders in Brussels

The official AlpGov Kick-off meeting took place on 15 June in Brussels. The project, submitted under the Alpine Space Program and approved on 6 June, aims at supporting effective and efficient EUSALP implementation through designing and testing appropriate governance structures. The meeting was chaired by the Lead Partner Bavaria and served to discuss the final project structure, as well as details regarding the implementation of the project.

On the next day, 16 June, the EUSALP Action Group Leaders met together with representatives of the European Commission and the Slovenian EUSALP Presidency, to discuss the recent developments and activities of the Action Groups.

4th Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck: Climate change and Health

This discussion evening aimed at the general public was organised on 18 May in a collaborative effort by Tirol Kliniken, the Medical Chamber of Tyrol, the alpS Research centre and the Permanent Secretariat. Heinz Fuchsig, Environmental Officer of the Austrian Medical Chamber, in his keynote speech outlined the numerous potential synergies between climate protection and a healthy lifestyle, in the fields of mobility, regional marketing and energy efficient buildings. A discussion ensued with contributions from the fields of medicine and passive house building, and the active participation of the public.

We helped building a school in Nepal!

The project "Capacity training for Reconstruction in Nepal" that the Alpine Convention launched after the devastating earthquake in 2015, concluded in March 2016. In coordination of EcoHimal, 12 participants (aged 17-46) were trained in carpentry and masonry during 390 fixed mandatory hours of theoretical and practical training. As part of their training, they built a new school building in the village of Aisselukhark. Read more about the project [here](#).



News from the Working Groups and Platforms

23rd meeting of the Compliance Committee - innovation for compliance

The Parties of the Alpine Convention met in Berlin for the 23rd meeting of the Compliance Committee to discuss difficulties of compliance in general as well as in specific cases.

The Compliance Committee is the primary organ for compliance checking in the Alpine Convention's legal regime. It carefully looks at the official national reports as well as on any other reliable source of information in order to report on the state of compliance with the provisions of the [Convention](#) and [its Protocols](#). In accordance with the corresponding decision of the XIII Alpine Conference the Compliance Committee currently concentrates its work on compliance checking with the "Protocol on Sustainable Tourism" and all provisions related to tourism. For the first time the Committee invited independent experts to gain a deeper insight into the actual situation in the Alps and to discuss the practices with regard to the development of tourism in the different Parties of the Alpine Convention.

The discussion with experts is an innovation which has proven a success, says the current Chair and legal advisor in the German Presidency team, Dr. Schroeder. The views and observations of independent experts completed the picture for the Compliance Committee.



Beside the general state of compliance the Committee also worked on a practical tool for all Parties for a consistent implementation of a central provision of the "Protocol on Sustainable Tourism". The Committee is tasked with the development of guidelines for the application of Article 6 paragraph 3 of the "Protocol on Tourism" which provides for a balance between intensive and extensive forms of tourism.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for the 6 to 8 July 2016 in Innsbruck. The committee is supposed to finalize its work and report to the XIV Alpine Conference in October 2016.

Photo by Sascha Hilgers (BMUB)

Water Platform

The Water Platform met for the last time in this mandate period on 17 April in Padova. Though this was the last official meeting of the platform, there is one big event still ahead: the 6th Water Conference (you can read more about it in the 'upcoming events' section). Preparation of the Conference was of course on the agenda of the meeting, but also the mandate for the period 2017/2018 was prepared and final documents that the Platform will present to the Alpine Conference were discussed – amongst these are: the Contribution on river hydro-morphology and sediment transport and Publication on the V Water Conference. The documents will be published after their approval by the Alpine Conference.

PLANALP

On 17 April, back-to-back to the meeting of the Water Platform the PLANALP meeting took place in Padua. The meeting focussed on the usual exchange of new developments and good practices from the countries and the idea and modalities of developing the 7th RSA on risk governance in the context of natural hazards.

MAP

The last meeting of the MAP WG took place in Berlin on 10 May. During the meeting the 5+1 priorities of the new MAP were discussed and selected as follows:

1. Focusing on people and culture
2. Taking action on Climate Change
3. Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape
4. Greening the economy
5. Promoting sustainable transport

+1 Playing a leading role in EUSALP

The Permanent Committee meeting in Sonthofen approved the priorities and decided to submit them for approval to the Alpine Conference.

Platform Ecological Network

The Platform Ecological Network met for the 16th time on 27 and 28 April in Chamonix (France). The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the exchange of experience, with presentations of current initiatives in France, Italy, Switzerland and within the Alpine Convention and EUSALP organs, as well as by guest organisations EURONATUR (European Green Belt Initiative) and European Wilderness Society (Pan-European Green Corridor Network). The hosts from the Community of municipalities of the Chamonix Valley and ASTERS (Natural Areas Conservatory of Upper Savoy) showcased the issues of ecological connectivity and climate change on a field trip to the Mer de Glace glacier. On the second day, Platform members revised the Pilot Regions evaluation process, a position paper on the

interaction between ecological connectivity and climate change (to be published soon) and the proposal for the Platform mandate 2017/2018.

Discussions were held with the President of the Community of Municipalities of the Chamonix Valley on the potential designation of the Mont Blanc massif as a Pilot Region for Ecological Connectivity. In addition, the Achantal Region (Germany) is currently being evaluated for a nomination as a Pilot Region.

The Platform will hold its next meeting back to back to the upcoming Alpine Conference and Permanent Committee, during the AlpWeek in Grassau on 11 October. It will also organise a workshop for the exchange of experiences between Pilot Regions on 12 October and an open session on ecological connectivity and Pilot Regions on 13 October.

Working Group Transport

The Working Group Transport held its 34th meeting in Paris on 6 June. Updates on the implementation of the Eurovignette directive, innovative logistic solutions for freight transport and the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure were presented. A compared analysis of the results from 15 existing studies on the calculation of external costs of transport was presented to the WG. This analysis, at this stage, suggests that the Eurovignette directive tends to underestimate the external costs of air pollution in mountain areas, and to a lesser degree the external costs of noise in mountain areas. Work on this issue will follow.

RSA 6 ad-hoc expert group meeting

The 5th meeting of the ad-hoc Working Group on the 6th Report on the State of the Alps was held this week in Berlin. The Working Group focused on the finalization of the Executive Summary of the report and the report as such. Both documents will be submitted to the Alpine Conference.



News from Delegations, Observers, Partners

The Italian Delegation supports discussion on Mountain Forest and the value of ecosystem services.

(Contribution by Italy)

The Italian delegation supported two meetings organized to discuss the topic of forest's ecosystem services and their value for green economy; the first, on "Marketing Forests and Water" was on the 22 March in the venue on FAO (Rome) and provided insights on macroeconomic, economic and financial aspects related to forest and water as ecosystem services. The outcomes of the workshop contribute to the activities on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WP-MMW).



The second was a workshop "Ecosystem Services of Alpine Forest Approaches, good practices and examples" promoted by the working group "Mountain Forest" of the Alpine Convention and held in Trento on 8 June. The meeting aimed at presenting recent best practices and examples of the management of ecosystem services rising out from mountain forest.

International expert exchange on woody debris

(Contribution by Austria)



From 11 to 13 May a workshop for practitioners on the topic of "woody debris" was held by the European Forestry Commission Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (EFC WPMW) in Salzburg, Austria. These workshops cater small groups of experts from all member countries of the EFC to discuss various topics evolving around natural hazard management and forest on a very practical level along concrete examples in the field in order to identify good practices and common challenges.

This year's workshop on the topic of "woody debris" experts from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland gathered for three days to discuss in detail:

- Sources of woody debris,
- Problems related to woody debris,
- Legal responsibility of woody debris,
- Financial responsibility of woody debris and
- Methods on how to deal with woody debris.

More information on the EFC WPMW and the final report of this workshop can be downloaded [here](#).

Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention met in Bassano del Grappa

The YPAC (Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention) met in Bassano del Grappa bringing together almost 100 youth

from the Alpine arch. The YPAC discussed the topic of Green Economy in the Alps and succeeded in formulating postulations on several important themes, including transport, climate change, tourism, waste management etc. Learn more [here](#).

The meeting of the YPAC was supported among others by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention, Austria, Italy and CIPRA international. The YPAC meeting also benefitted from the participation of students from the Carpathians and the Appenines which allowed for the involvement of students from other mountain ranges.

The “SAPA Table” for a joint management of protected areas within the Italian Alpine Arch

(Contribution by Italy)

The Italian system of Alpine Protected Areas (SAPA) in European and international networks meeting was held on 20 May in the framework of the International Festival Parks in Trezzo sull’Adda in collaboration with the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention. The meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the SAPA, a network comprising over 20 Italian Alpine protected areas, the 6 regions and 2 autonomous Alpine provinces, Federparchi, Ispra, and the scientific contribution of many research institutions and universities, such as Eurac research and the University of Urbino.



Celebrating 30 years of the institution of the Italian Ministry for Environment

(Contribution by Italy)

The President of the Republic of Italy, Sergio Mattarella, has on visited of the Italian Ministry of Environment Monday, 6 June, to celebrate its 30 years anniversary. Minister Gianluca Galletti, along with the Undersecretaries Velo and Degani, welcomed the president of the Republic, the presidents of the Senate and Chamber Pietro Grasso and Laura Boldrini and other High representatives of the State, civil and military authorities.



Slovenian day of the Alpine Convention

(Contribution by Slovenia)

In the spirit of friendship, sports and culture we celebrated another great Day of the Alpine Convention in Slovenia at the end of May. Starting on Friday with the presentation of the Report on the State of the Alps and continuing with a gathering on Saturday at the premises of the Slovenian Alpine Museum, Slovenian stakeholders try to bring the Alpine Convention closer to the general public.

Timetables in the Alps

(Contribution by Slovenia)

Vozni redi v Alpah 2016



On the initiative of CIPRA Slovenia, for the 8th year in a row the publication called "Timetables in the Alps" has been produced, offering exhaustive information of possible sustainable ways to travel in the Slovenian Alps. The 2016 edition of the timetables includes 48 lines of buses, trains, cable cars and boats that operate in the Slovenian Alps and across the border. The aim of the booklet is to promote sustainable mobility, show to the people that it is possible to travel in the Alps with public transport and support it in doing so.

Tolmin inaugurates "Alpine Town year"

(Contribution by CIPRA)

The Slovenian "Alpine Town of the year 2016" puts a special focus on youth.

It was symbolic: young accordionists inaugurated ceremoniously the "Alpine Town year" of Tolmin on 8 April 2016. Social responsibility, coupled with green economy are the landmark themes of the third Slovenian "Alpine Town of the year", following Maribor and Idrija. With a colourful celebration the mayor of Tolmin, Uroš Brežan, highlighted the cooperation between the network of awarded Alpine Towns and the population. Tolmin joins the association "Alpine Town of the year", which is working towards an environmentally and socially compatible development of the Alpine region. Children and young people guided through the programme with choreographies, artistic and vocal performances.

Amongst other guests from all Alpine countries, Eric Fournier, mayor of Chamonix/France, Thierry Billet, president of the association, Annecy/France, Maria Lezzi, head of the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development or the Slovenian state secretary Lidija Stebernak took part in the ceremony.



Photo: (c)Soca Valley Development Centre (3)

Alpine Space projects full (sustainable) energy!

(Contribution by ASP)

Four projects of Interreg Alpine Space are working on complementary solutions to the challenges of energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

On the one hand, [GRETA](#) and [PEACE Alps](#) work on the supply side. While GRETA concentrates on the technical inquiry, promoting the potentials of near-surface geothermal resources, PEACE_Alps offers support to the policy level for the implementation of their decisions and plans supporting the use sustainable energy and measures for energy efficiency.

On the other hand, [THE4BEES](#) looks at the demand side. Reversing the approach, the project partners start from the premise that "energy is consumed by people and not by buildings", and focus on behavioural change to save energy.

[CESBA Alps](#) widens the horizons. The project develops a tool to assess the level of sustainability in territories (communities, regions...) through a set of performance indicators.

The four projects underline the importance of a bottom-up approach, assuming that the involvement of stakeholders is the first and most important step towards change.

More information about Interreg Alpine Space and the co-funded projects [here](#).

New project "Strategic Planning for Alpine River Ecosystems" (SPARE)

(Contribution by CIPRA)

Rivers are the lifelines of sustainable development in the Alps. They provide multiple ecosystem services such as clean drinking water for human consumption, irrigation for agriculture, they are home to a myriad of organisms, they provide recreation opportunities, and their power helps us to produce energy. However, Alpine river ecosystems are a vulnerable natural capital, which are often under pressure from various human activities and lack sufficient protection.

The new [project SPARE](#) started in the spring 2016. The aim of the project is to contribute to a further harmonization of human use requirements and protection needs. Nine project partners from six Alpine countries show how strategic approaches for the protection and management of rivers can be improved across administrative and disciplinary borders, and promote awareness of the services provided by Alpine rivers, as well as their vulnerability. The Alpine



Convention is observer in the SPARE project. SPARE lasts from December 2015 to December 2018 and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme.

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Living.Together in the Alps. We are all in charge!

2nd event in the project Living.Together in the Alps.

(Contribution by Alliance in the Alps)

Immigration needs integration – this call for integration in rural areas results in great challenges for alpine municipalities. Especially when migrants origin from a different cultural or linguistic background, they have to cope with higher hurdles to get involved in their new environment. Successful integration is the result of numerous elements and partners. With the project Living.Together in the Alps, the Network Alliance in the Alps points out new perspectives and solution approaches.



More information on project results [here](#).

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Youth on the move for the Alps

(Contribution by CIPRA)

[Youth Alpine Express](#), raises awareness about sustainable lifestyles and environmental friendly mobility. In this [CIPRA Project](#), young people, youth workers and decision-makers travel from their hometowns in the Alps to four international events relevant for the Alps. The third journey led this May to the [Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention](#) in Bassano del Grappa. They have two days to travel to the event and three days on site to present their experience and their political demands, and one day to travel back home - in a sustainable way. One of the highlights for the youth was a constructive conversation with Markus Reiterer, the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention. The participants share their experience to their own local community and take leadership in sustainable lifestyles beyond the project. The last journey of this project, which is financially supported by Erasmus+ and BMUB, will lead to the [Alpweek](#) in Grassau. There will be [an opportunity](#) to meet and exchange with the youth.



InnovAlps: towards innovation and regional change in the Alps

(Contribution by ALPARC)

InnovAlps is a search for new and alternative approaches to regional development and transnational exchange on innovation in local development. Three nature park regions have engaged in this experience as pilot regions, coordinated by ALPARC: the Tiroler Lech Nature park (Austria), the Pfinz-Fingee Regional nature park (Switzerland) and the Baronnies provençales Regional nature park (France). After the first two workshops in the Lech valley in April and in the Pfinz-Fingee in May, the InnovAlps partners met in Baronnies provençales in June. Besides the workshop series, ALPARC has launched a survey that seeks innovative and alternative approaches to regional development in the Alps which contribute to quality of life and respect nature and landscapes.

The InnovAlps project will end with a final conference in the Pfinz-Fingee Nature park. "[Alpine Nature Parks – Models for Change](#)" wants to promote regional innovation in the Alps by highlighting the approaches identified in the project. It wants to bring together ambassadors of change in order to develop new ideas on how to support integrated regional development in Alpine protected area regions. The conference will take place on 29 and 30 September, 2016.

More information on the project and the pilot regions [here](#).



Photo: InnovaAlps - Copyright ALPARC



Upcoming events

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.

July

1-5 July	"We are Alps" tour	Alps
6-8 July	Compliance Committee	Innsbruck, Austria
6-8 July	Destination Green Italy: Governance models from the Alps to the Mediterranean	Rome, Italy
	The conference will bring together international and national experts to discuss organizational and managerial priorities for sustainable tourism in Italy. The conference is a certified "Going Green Event". For further information and meeting agenda see the link .	
12 July	"Youth at the Top" 2nd Edition: a civic and symbolic experience	Alps
	Groups of young people will meet in several protected areas and natural sites throughout the Alps, in order to share a physical, social, cultural and artistic collective experience in the mountains. Because "mountain experience is an educational experience". More information	

September

22-23 September	PLANALP Meeting	Annecy, France
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October

4 October	International Mountain Farming Conference : Mountain farming: Tradition and Responsibility for Tomorrow	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
	The discussions at the conference will focus on the prospects for traditional mountain farming especially in light of increasing requirements with regard to climate and environmental protection, nature conservation and the conservation of species. Further information and the registration form	

XIV Alpine Conference and Special Events during Alpweek

(on Alpweek see box below)

Venue

Conference Hotel Golf Resort Achental
Mietenkamer Str. 65
D-83224 Grassau

Programme:

11 October

19:00 Common Cultural evening „ALPWeek meets Achental"

12 October

14:00-16:00 Ministers and Delegations visit the ALPWeek
Reception of the German Presidency for all delegations, observers and participants of the ALPWeek and the Water Conference (Castle Herrenchiemsee), *start from the hotel (Conference Hotel Golf Resort Achental) at 16:00*

18:30

13 October

10:00-13:00 XIV Alpine Conference (CLOSED MEETING)

13:00-13:30 Press Conference

14:00-15:00 Meeting of the previous and present Presidents with the observers
ALPS.Go.Culture; Alpine Languages Poetry Slam,
A celebration in view of 25 years Alpine Convention on invitation of the German Presidency (Heftersaal Grassau)

19:00

Hotel Information

A number of rooms are blocked in the **hotel "Golf Resort Achental"** (Mietenkamer Str. 65, D-83224 Grassau; Phone: +49 (0) 8641 - 401 701; Email: tagung@golf-resort-achental.com) in Grassau, the center of activities of the Alpine Convention during the AlpWeek.

Apart from the official meetings, delegation offices, exhibitions, some AlpWeek sessions and side events will be located in the hotel. We kindly ask you to book your hotel room **until 7 July** using the code "**AlpWeek**".

For Further information and meeting agenda see the [link](#).

11-15 October	Alpweek Numerous thought-provoking sessions, market stands, and exhibitions await you as an opportunity to learn about current challenges and find common solutions in the fields of culture, demography, and quality of life in the Alps! Sign up as soon as possible if you would like to benefit from room reservation fast track: rooms in the Conference hotel are pre-booked for participants until 7 July . Program and Registration .	Grassau, Germany
12 October	6th International Conference "Water in the Alps" Here you can find further information about the conference (hotel, preliminary program...), as well as the link for registration , that is still possible until 1st September 2016 .	Schlosswirtschaft Herrenchiemsee, Germany
21 October	The Karawanks and the Alpine Convention	Tinju/Tainach, Austria

November

4 November	Celebrating 25 years of the Alpine Convention	Salzburg, Austria
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