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

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Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

I cannot start the introduction to a newsletter on the activities of the Alpine Convention in the past three months without mentioning the 25 May 2018, when the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) entered into force. As Alpine Convention we are taking data protection very seriously – and we have done so already before. This is why only persons that subscribed to the newsletter receive it. We will only use your personal information to send you the Alpine Convention newsletter. Should you, however, no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please use the unsubscribe link, which can be found on the bottom of each newsletter.

Also in this edition you will see also that we were busy with many events and activities taking place this spring! We have also launched a number of calls – be it the [Young Academics Award](#), the [Photocontest](#), the [ClimaHost](#) or the currently ongoing [We are Alps tour](#). Check them out and spread the word.

I wish you an enjoyable summer break and all the best till our next edition in September.

Kind regards,

Ambassador Markus Reiterer

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention



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News from the Infopoints

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Upcoming events

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Staff Retreat

On 9 and 10 April 2018 the teams of the Austrian Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat met in the beautiful Bergsteigerdorf Mallnitz for a second staff retreat during the Austrian Presidency. Together they looked back on their common journey and shared review of the previous events. It became very clear that there has been a lot of work done and there still is a lot to do. The constant motivation and energy of all members involved is due to the fact that everyone pursues the same goal: a sustainable future of the Alps. The next

year of the presidency will be full of challenges and crucial for a very successful handover of the presidency to France in April 2019.

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Austrian Climate Day

The 19th yearly meeting of the community of climate researchers in Austria, the "Klimatag" was organised in the framework of the Alpine Convention Presidency between 23 and 25 April 2018 in Salzburg, with a specific focus on the Alps. Current activities of the Alpine Climate Board and the Permanent Secretariat were presented on several occasions throughout the networking day and the opening session of the scientific conference, and at a dedicated stand. A report is available [online](#) (in German).



Conservation of Moorlands

One of the topics close to the heart of the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention is the conservation of Moorland, which was reason enough for Nature Park Academy Styria to organise a meeting on this topic. The event, which took place in beautiful Ausseerland/Ödensee on 15 and 16 May 2018, addressed the importance of mires as well as various threats they are exposed to.

A very active and interested group of participants used the opportunity to discuss this essential topic with experts in soil conservation in a scientific and legal context and deepened their knowledge in an excursion. The participants went home with new insights into the essential role of mires and a heightened sensitivity for the requirement of a strict protection of them.



65. Permanent Committee meeting

The 65. meeting of the Permanent Committee, organized under the [Austrian Presidency](#) was kindly hosted by the Liechtenstein Office of Environment. The focus of the meeting was on the [Multiannual Work Programme \(MAP\)](#) priority topic on sustainable transport, where activities of the Working Group

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transport and projects on transport from several observer organizations, amongst which the Alpine Intergovernmental Transport Committee that was set in motion at the last Alpine Conference were presented. In light of recent discussions on possible new high-capacity roads the Contracting Parties re-confirmed their unwavering commitment to the Transport Protocol and in particular its Art. 11.

The meeting also addressed other important topics, such as soil conservation, through the presentation of the postulations of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention, prepared by the Liechtenstein Gymnasium, and the project Links4Soils; the topic of spatial planning, through a presentation of the current state of the ESPON project Alps2050 as well as the EUSALP activities. Furthermore possibilities of optimising the working methods of the Alpine Convention were discussed. Concluding the meeting, contracting parties and observers presented their activities under the MAP in the past months.



Photo: Hannes Schlosser

Photo contest 2018: Wildlife in the Alps

The photo contest of the Alpine Convention is in full swing; we are already getting nice photos of all the different types of Wildlife in the Alps – from bugs to flowers, to birds and mammals.

There is still time to send in your pictures and to invite your friends to do the same! Show us your unique perspective on the Alpine fauna and flora. The 12 best pictures will be printed in the 2019 calendar. All submissions may be selected for future photo

exhibitions and publications of the Alpine Convention. And there are also prizes to be won, in addition to your three personal copies of the calendar.

We look forward to receiving your pictures before 8 September 2018. For participating please agree to [the terms and conditions](#) and upload your images on this link. Of course please take pictures without disturbing the wildlife or compromising your own safety!

Young Academics Award 2018: call for application is still open

The Young Academics Award, the Alpine Convention's initiative to reward young and innovative research, is

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[R](#)[Sun open for applications!](#)

The topic of this year is "Sustainable water management in the Alps", an extremely relevant and pressing issue especially in the delicate Alpine environment.

The Award is open to Master students from disciplines who wrote their thesis on this topic between 2016 and 2018. Besides the three prizes in the main category, that are dedicated to works with Alpine-wide relevance, there are four Infopoint prizes to be awarded to thesis with specific relevance to one of the following Alpine Convention Infopoints' territories: Grand Paradis National Park, Italy; Soča Valley, Slovenia; Valtellina, Italy; Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Italy.

Apply now, and help us disseminating the call! All the info, the call and the application form are [here](#).

We are Alps

The 5th We are Alps tour is being organised from 28 June to 1 July 2018. This year's focus is "Population and culture in the Alps – then and now". The group of 9 journalists from print, radio and web media from Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland about to start experiencing activities linked to demography, architecture, languages, Alpine traditions, handicrafts, food, literature and more, on a route linking Carinthia, Austria (Weissensee, Radenthein) with Gorenjska, Slovenia (Mojstrana, Kranjska Gora, Rateče) and Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy (Dordolla, Val Resia).



ClimaHost contest launched!

The alpine-wide contest "ClimaHost – Climate protection and energy efficiency in hotel and restaurants" was launched on 7 June by the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Svenja Schulze, the Austrian Federal Minister for Sustainability and Tourism Elisabeth Köstinger and the Secretary General Markus Reiterer. Managers of restaurants and hotels (from mountain huts to 5-star hotels) within the perimeter of the Alpine Convention which are particularly active in minimizing the carbon footprint of their business are invited to apply [online](#) until 31 August 2018. The Contracting Parties and Observers are currently setting up the international jury which will select the winners. The award ceremony will take place at the XV Alpine Conference. The contest follows up on the initiative started in the frame of the German

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Happy Birthday to the Carpathian Convention

The Carpathian Convention celebrated 15 years since it was signed this past May and we wish to sincerely congratulate all the contracting parties and the Secretariat for the work done so far on promoting sustainable development of the Carpathian Mountains. We deeply appreciate the work we have done together for the mountains of the World in the past years and we look forward to our joint endeavors also in the future!

Alpine Space Programme Committee in Vienna

The Permanent Secretariat participated as observer in the Alpine Space Programme Committee taking place in Vienna on 16 and 17 April. During the meeting, the project proposals received in the third call were selected. All in all, 16 projects in all the four Programme priorities were approved (Priority 1: Innovative Alpine Space, Priority 2: Low Carbon Alpine Space, Priority 3: Liveable Alpine Space, Priority 4: Well-Governed Alpine Space). More information on the approved projects also is available on the webpage.



A new tree and bicycles in Sonthofen

The Alpine Town of the year Sonthofen celebrated Arbor Day (25 April) and the 20. anniversary of the association Alpine Town of the year with active help of Secretary General Ambassador Mr Markus Reiterer, 1. Mayor of Sonthofen Mr Christian Wilhelm and 3. Mayor of Sonthofen Ms Ingrid Fischer planting a "common medlar" tree. But celebrating this occasion was not the most pressing issue of the visit. Sonthofen actively tackles a topic many Alpine municipalities are occupied with: finding the balance of supporting bicycling as the

most sustainable mean of transportation – next to walking - in the city and managing mountain biking in a good way in order to avoid conflicts.

Landscape Conference

Landscape is a highly subjective issue, its perception depending on different demands and perspectives. Like in

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a mirror you see in a landscape what you are looking for. Looking down onto many of the intensively developing central Alpine valleys one sees either mainly the beauty of the Alpine landscape (touristic gaze) or one sees mainly the rapid settlement and infrastructure development; looking onto a different kind of landscape one either sees exciting wilder areas and fascinating abundant houses or one sees a problematic population decline in those Alpine valleys concerned by depopulation.

Especially in the Alpine area, where space is limited available for a variety of human usages like growing foods or constructing settlements and infrastructure and for providing space for nature at the same time challenges in managing conflicting demands are very obvious. Also various different aspects regarding landscape(s) were tackled at the "landscape conference – between alps and metropolitan areas – landscapes in the Alpine area – challenges or dilemma?" this April in Innsbruck.

News from the ESPON "Alps2050 – Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area. Towards a Common Vision" project

On 22 and 23 May, two events took place in the framework of the ESPON "Alps2050 – Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area. Towards a Common Vision" project. Firstly, the steering Committee of the project (in which the Permanent Secretariat participates as stakeholder) was held on 22 May: during the meeting, the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg presented the intermediate results collected in the Interim Report, which was approved. On the second day, a stakeholder workshop was held, involving representatives from different stakeholder groups. During the workshop, the participants had the chance to discuss the main results so far achieved by the research project as well as future challenges to be addressed for a sustainable spatial development in the Alps. The interim report and other relevant documents are available on their [webpage](#).

European Environment Agency - EIONET meeting

The Permanent Secretariat participated on 6 and 7 June in a meeting of the EIONET (European Environment Information and Observation Network) at the premises of the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen. During the meeting, the most recent developments concerning the EEA, as well as its new publications and activities, were presented. Specifically, the Permanent Secretariat participated in two working sessions: the first on Climate ADAPT – the knowledge Platform on adaptation at European level, to which the Secretariat constantly contributes – and the second regarding a paper on climate change impacts and adaptation in transnational regions that will be soon published by the EEA. The meeting gave also the opportunity to the Permanent Secretariat to meet representatives from the Carpathians and the Pyrenees and to reaffirm in the context of the EEA the importance of analysing mountain-related environmental issues beyond the borders of the single countries.

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Meeting with the new director of CIPRA International

On 12 June in Schaan, the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention Markus Reiterer met with Kaspar Schuler - the new director of CIPRA International. During the meeting, several topics of future cooperation were discussed, as, for example, the Permanent Committee in Liechtenstein, the continuation of initiatives such as Berge Lesen and the intensification of the joint work on areas of common interest.

Save the date: AlpWeek Intermezzo – Tomorrow in the Alps

The AlpWeek team invites you to save the date for the “AlpWeek Intermezzo”, which will take place on 3 and 4 April 2019 in Innsbruck along the theme “Tomorrow in the Alps”. The lunch-to-lunch event will consist of:



- an afternoon of extensive discussions on crucial issues of sustainable development in the Alps (on invitation), which results will be presented as impulse to the XV Alpine Conference the following day,
- the official reception of the Austrian Presidency of the XV Alpine Conference and
- a public session full of ideas, projects and creative inputs for a radiant “Tomorrow in the Alps”.

We hope to see you there!



NEWS FROM THE THEMATIC WORKING BODIES

PLANALP meeting

Last April the 26th meeting of the Platform on Natural hazards of the Alpine Convention took place hosted by the Municipality of Piran, Slovenia. The main topic on the agenda has been the discussion of the current draft of the 7th Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of



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natural hazards risk governance, that the Platform is mandated to carry out. The text was discussed chapter by chapter, and significant attention was dedicated to the issue of the maps to be included in the report. The meeting also included the usual country reports section, during which its members exchange on the most recent natural hazards experienced in their territories.

The meeting was held back to back with the EUSALP AG8 meeting, also given the substantial overlap in the participants in the two bodies.

Tourism Working Group meeting

The second meeting of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group of the Alpine Convention during the mandate 2017-2018 took place in April in Bolzano/Bozen, Italy. On 24 April 2018 the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention organized with the support of EURAC Research the Workshop "How can tourism contribute to the sustainable development of the Alps?" aiming to understand and explore different ways for tourism to contribute to sustainable regional development in the Alps. The Workshop was an occasion to discuss together with the Members of the Sustainable Tourism Working Group of the Alpine Convention, academics, experts and



tourist operators on the future of alpine tourism. During the workshop inputs and case studies on cross-cutting fields like health, culture, and agriculture, linking with the meaning of innovation have been presented to the participants. The Italian delegation also presented their experiences in relation to sports events, including those as applied in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

Working Group MRS

The Working Group "Macro-regional Strategy" met on 24 April 2018 in Vienna and focused on "Reflecting on current interaction and developing future cooperation models with EUSALP in the context of implementing the Multiannual Programme 2017-2022". The workshop was facilitated by a moderator, who helped outlining the connections between actors and topics of the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP represented the core of the discussions. Exchange formats among the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP will be continued, the next meeting is scheduled for the 19-20 September 2018 in Vienna.

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[The Transport Working Group at a hotspot of Alpine transit](#)

As the chair of the Working Group on Transport phrased it, the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention set very high a standard last year by hosting a meeting of the Transport Working Group in Vienna. France, chair of the working group, had to show that it doesn't only operate from under the roofs of the Ministry of Ecological and Solidary Transition in Paris-La Défense but is also very much an Alpine country. Where could it have demonstrated this better than in Chamonix, at the foot of the top of Europe? So it did, calling the Group on 16 and 17 May at the very entrance of the Mont-Blanc tunnel.



Eric Fournier, mayor of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, welcomed the participants and gave a lively insight on the valley's sustainable mobility strategy. In the evening, members together had dinner downtown in a typical local restaurant looking almost like a mountain museum. The following day, Philippe Redoulez, director general of the French Mont-Blanc Highways and Tunnel Company (ATMB), and Gilles Rakoczy, director of the European Economic Interest Grouping for the Mont-Blanc Tunnel, with the effective help of Erika Noro, drove the Group in the heart of the mountain to explore the impressive infrastructure.

The meeting itself was studious. The Group took stock of all its work on which his chairman has to report to the Permanent Committee in Schaan, Liechtenstein on 13 June.

[Alpine Climate Board working on Climate targets](#)

At its 4th meeting, in Vienna on 4 and 5 June, the Alpine Climate Board defined a set of specific sectoral and transversal climate targets as the pathway to achieving the global objective of climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps in 2050. The targets have been presented to the Permanent Committee and are currently being revised by the Contracting Parties, Observers and Thematic Working Bodies. The final draft shall be submitted to the XV Alpine Conference.

[Green Economy Advisory Board Meeting](#)

More than one year has passed since the last meeting, but the Board and its consortium of consultants, both working on the drafting of the Green Economy Action Programme (GEAP) as mandated by the XIV Alpine

Conference, have never been like. In these last months, six stakeholders workshops have been organized throughout the Alpine arc, one online consultation tool created and a major literature review conducted. These activities allowed the first version of the Action Programme to be drafted and presented to the members of the Advisory Board.

The Munich meeting was therefore the opportunity not only to discuss amendments to the text, but most importantly to start an in-depth discussion on the key part of the Action Programme: its actions. Overall the first draft of the GEAP has been positively evaluated and well received by the participating contracting parties of the Alpine Convention. The group discussed possible processes and initiatives for the following action fields (1) greening finance, (2) encouraging eco-innovation, (3) greening regional development, (4) valorising ecosystems and biodiversity, and (5) living and working in a green economy. The evolution of a digital society was mentioned as a cross-cutting challenge for the Alpine region. Moreover, upcoming communication tasks and common projects in the future were discussed. Italy and Germany presented project ideas to establish Green Economy Pilot Regions in the Alpine area.

The final text of the GEAP will be presented to the XV Alpine Conference in April 2019.

Water Conference and Water Platform meeting

Water experts from around the Alps gathered in Breitenwang, Austria, on 5 June for the 7th Water Conference of the Alpine Convention that took place in the scope of the Forum Alpinum, organized by ISCAR.

The main topics addressed by the Water Conference were the impacts of and response to droughts in the Alpine region, which are among the priority topics of the work of the Water Platform of the Alpine Convention according to its current biannual mandate; Green infrastructures for an integrated and sustainable water management, with a link to the activities in the scope of EUSALP; and the topic of Common guidelines for the use of small hydropower in the Alpine region where an evaluation of the already existing document was presented. The presentations from the Conference will be available online shortly.



On 7 June the regular meeting of the Water Platform took place. Its main discussion was held on the two outcome documents of this mandate period: a document on droughts and the evaluation document of the Common guidelines for the use of small hydropower in the Alpine region. Both documents will be prepared for the Alpine Conference next year.

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Forests

On 28 June 2018 in Santo Stefano di Cadore, Italy the Italian Delegation organizes the thematic Workshop "The Silviculture in the alpine forests - green economy and functions of environmental protection" in cooperation with Veneto Agricoltura and the order of agronomist and foresters of the Belluno's Province. The Workshop aims at investigating the role and the awareness of the silviculture of the Alpine forests for the green economy, the protection of drinking water, and the climate change effects as well as the problems and perspectives linking with the silviculture and the sustainable economy in this filed.

The workshop is organized in the framework of the activities of the Mountain Forests Working Group, which in this occasion meets at its third meeting during the mandate 2017-2018.

The Mountain Forests Working Group participated also at the ForumAlpinum 2018 & VII Water Conference Alpine "Water – common good or source of conflicts?" (June 2018) with a poster on "The function of water protection in the mountain forests of the Alps". The proposed poster intended to inform about the work carried out by the Mountain Forests Working Group and to present, starting from the first data collected, the role of the protection forests its functions and ways in which forests protect drinking water areas and defend from the floods as well as the initiatives that in the Alpine countries are currently underway for their management and enhancement.



[Platform Ecological Network: state of the art report on the integration of ecological connectivity aspects in spatial planning in the alpine countries](#)

According to the mandate of the Platform Ecological Network by the Alpine Conference in Grassau, Germany in 2016, the Platform members are currently working on a report illustrating how ecological connectivity aspects are considered in spatial planning documents in the different alpine countries. The work on the report is scientifically accompanied by two researchers from IRSTEA (National Research Institute of Science and

Technology for Environment and Agriculture, France). It will give an overview about the general situation in the alpine countries focus on several best practice cases that will be analyzed more in depth. All country representatives were asked to provide their best practice examples together with some (national) expert interviews and a text analysis of the related spatial planning documents. The group will continue to work on the report until the end of the year, in order to present the results to the next Alpine Conference in April 2019.

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[EUSALP AG6: What happened in spring?](#)

The second AlpGov Partner Meeting of the year took place on 17 and 18 April 2018 in Innsbruck. Besides the regular report on the status of the project implementation and updates by the single Action Group Leaders, the project partners discussed the EUSALP communication. It was underlined, that despite the establishment of the EUSALP Website and the Platform of Knowledge (PoK), as well as of other communication tools, there are still some operational aspects which need to be clarified. In addition, the partner consortium discussed the future options for the AlpGov project. In a first feedback round, all partners expressed their agreement to prolong the AlpGov project by 6 months. In parallel a new follow-up project could be developed.



The EUSALP AG6 Awareness Raising Series on Intelligent Land Use and Soil Conservation had its kick-off on 17 April 2018 in Innsbruck. The series was organized by the Interreg Alpine Space project Links4Soils and the Land Tyrol, who currently holds the EUSALP presidency, together with EUSALP AG6. It included 4 events on the topic of soil conservation in April and May in Tyrol, as well as an excursion to the municipality of Fliess, Austria to discuss the topic of spatial development. Representatives of municipalities and planning offices, as well as interested citizens, had the opportunity to discuss with experts the various aspects of soil conservation and spatial development.

The Awareness Raising Series also included an event on spatial development, which took place back to back to the annual conference of Plattform Land South Tyrol on 31 May 2018 in Chiusa/Klausen, Italy.

The Permanent Secretariat also participated in the 8th AG4 meeting and 3rd Mobility Conference in Trento, Italy on 19 and 20 June and a workshop of AG9 on a possible Alpine Energy Observatory in Innsbruck on 6 June.

[6th EUSALP AG7 meeting](#)

On 21 and 22 March 2018 in San Michele, Italy the 6th EUSALP AG7 meeting took place. During the meeting the participants have been informed about the milestones and planned key activities for 2018 in the field of developing ecological connectivity and they have been involved in interactive sessions in order to select ideas for AG7 implementation initiatives and also to identify new spatial priority areas and actions.

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News from Delegations, Observers, Partners

Alpine Convention AAA+

Contribution by Germany

As contribution to the Alpine Convention AAA+ (2016-2018) a CIPRA Germany project aimed at fostering sustainable local government policy in the Bavarian Alpine region was carried out. The project focussed on climate change, mobility issues and sustainable tourism. Workshops were organised, networking activities bolstered and momentum generated for implementing a green economy in the Alpine region. The results of the project were recently published (in German) in the [Dossier "Kommunalpolitik im bayrischen Alpenraum"](#) (Dossier on local government policy in the Bavarian Alpine region). It shows that for many local politicians the Alpine Convention is a well-known instrument for fostering sustainable development in the Alpine region. The dossier also stresses the need to support local authorities in developing specific sustainable development strategies at local level. The project was supported by the Federal Ministry for the Environment.

Green Economy in the Apennine Region

Contribution by Italy

The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea - Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention, within the framework of its activities of mountain cooperation for the diffusion of RSA 6 contents, promoted the [International Conference "Green Economy in the Apennine Region"](#). The conference took place on 22-23 May 2018 in Camerino, Italy and was organized in partnership with University of Camerino and Eurac Research. The work carried out by the Alpine Convention in the field of green economy found very great interest and its potentiality of transfer in the Apennines context

was widely acknowledged. Over 50 speakers presented [Contributions](#) concerning national and international researches and projects developed in mountain areas throughout Europe, relatively three main topics concerning the green economy: natural resources, public policies, and labour and business. A poster session was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of about 40 Italian and European [Good practices](#) of green economy in mountain areas. During the event was signed a [Charter for local adaptation to climate change in the Apennines](#), which promotes the action of local authorities through adaptation measures for resilient planning in line with the national and European policies. The numerous proposals for a follow-up of this



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initiative will be included in a publication and other thematic events in the coming months. More information [here](#).



Jezersko becomes the first Slovenian town to be part of Mountaineering Villages

Contribution by Bergsteigerdoerf Jezersko

On 26 May, 2018, the Jezersko Municipality became part of the international network of Mountaineering Villages, an event which coincided with the celebrations of the Alpine Convention Day. Together with the Alpine Association of Slovenia, the town has undertaken to promote sustainable tourism based on outdoor activities in the mountains without excessive infrastructure, to act in an environmentally responsible manner, and to

respect the cultural and natural heritage. Jezersko, which lies at the foot of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps and the Karawanks, is one of a hundred landscape areas defined by the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia as having recognizable features which are important at the national level. Jezersko provides a multitude of activities: numerous hiking trails of all difficulties, summer and winter climbing routes, magical ski tours which also include steep and technical descents, kilometers and kilometers of cross-country skiing and mountain bike trails, ice-skating, snowshoeing, etc.

Kreuth will be Germany's next „Bergsteigerdorf“

Contribution by Bergsteigerdoerfer

In July it is time again for Germany to celebrate: the town of Kreuth will be the new Bergsteigerdorf in the Bavarian Alps.

Kreuth (725 m) is located just south of the lake Tegernsee, roughly 60 kilometres away from the Bavarian capital Munich. Despite being located within a daytrip distance to a metropolitan area and its low elevation, the town of Kreuth represents the philosophy of the Bergsteigerdörfer like no other. The region offers numerous hiking, mountaineering, biking and ski mountaineering opportunities in the Mangfall mountain range with the Halserspitze as its highest peak (1 862 m). And there is a special gem: some of the best alpine sports climbing within the foothills of the Bavarian



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Alps can be found here on limestone walls and isolated towers.

Including Kreuth, in Germany 4 towns in different mountain and environmental settings will carry the desirable certification of the German Alpine Club.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones) to facilitate work in protected areas

Contribution by Alparc

Sunrise of a bright autumn day in a mountain nature reserve, somewhere in the Swiss Alps. Several chamois and ibex graze in loose order on a pasture above the tree line. Suddenly, a movement and noise in the sky and all animals are gone within seconds. What happened? A small multi-coper appears flying along the mountain ridge, probably to film the vertiginous view from the heights.



Small flying devices, drones, equipped with high performance photo or video cameras but also a lot of other technical equipment are more and more often seen in mountain areas, also in the alpine protected areas. Their presence can represent a great risk of disturbance to wildlife that needs to be taken into account and managed by the responsible of these conservation areas. On the other hand, the new technology offers a large variety of interesting tools and possibilities to facilitate the day today work of protected areas managers when used in a responsible way.

An international ALPARC conference that took place the 26-27 March 2018 in Dobbiaco/ Toblach, Italy was the occasion to hear about current experiences with the new technology in alpine protected areas. Indeed, several protected areas are already using drones for vegetation mapping, remote sensing activities, development of 3D elevation modeling or technical interventions in inaccessible areas. An expert for a British research institute presented "guidelines of good practice of drone use" developed in an international context for another highly sensitive area, the Antarctica.

Further information about this event and the presentations are available [online](#).

The Alpine Space project PEACE Alps won the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2018 Award!

Contribution by Alpine Space Programme

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PEACE Alps has been awarded for its commitment in making the transition to a low-carbon alpine area. The project helps authorities to overcome any barriers in implementing their strategic action plans – as Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). When receiving the award on stage, Silvio de Nigris, lead partner of the project, thanked the project partnership: "Behind a cooperation project there are people. We can reduce carbon footprint by working with people who are determined to make change happen".

Read more [here](#).

Tourism: the two sides of the coin

Contribution by CIPRA

People from all over the Alpine arc and beyond met in Bled, Slovenia on 25 and 26 May 2018 for the annual conference of CIPRA International, CIPRA Slovenia and the community network "Alliance in the Alps". Under the title "[Alpine Tourism: Quality of Life Included](#)", they discussed the contribution sustainable tourism can make to a good life in the Alps - and the dangers posed by exuberant tourism. Tourism has many positive aspects, stated Jana Apih of Goodplace, a Slovenian association for sustainable tourism. Never before have people been more mobile than today, every tenth person worldwide works in tourism; prosperity in tourism regions has grown. However, every hotel has a capacity limit - just like tourist attractions and destinations. She referred in exemplary fashion to tourist strongholds away from the Alps such as Venice, Barcelona or Amsterdam, where resistance to mass tourism is growing. Christian Baumgartner also located problems like this in the Alps. The board member of CIPRA International summarised his conclusions on the conference in "twelve steps for a better quality of life in Alpine destinations". More on this topic can be found on the [website](#).



Photo: CIPRA



Photo: Andor Bujdoso – Dreamstime.com

Summer adventures with the "Youth Alpine Interrail Pass"

Contribution by CIPRA

Sustainability or travel fever? One does not exclude the other. In July and August 100 young people will travel in a sustainable way across the Alps visiting their neighbouring Alpine countries by public transportation. Many of them will do it for the first time. Along the way,

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they will have the possibility to meet new friends and enjoy some summer specials like free entries in museums and in the centres of the national parks. Travelling by train means slowing down the journey and having more time to get to know the places and the people along the route. Travellers can share their adventures on social media and on the project's website. At the end of the summer, on 20 September this pilot project will be concluded and all the travellers and the partners will meet in Bern for the closing ceremony where the best photographers and authors will be awarded.

"Youth Alpine Interrail" is a project of the CIPRA Youth Council and CIPRA International, in cooperation with Eurail. It is supported by the Alpine Convention signatory states. Further information on the project can be found on the [webpage](#).

Integration Projects in the Alps awarded

Contribution by CIPRA



A House of Solidarity in Bressanone/Brixen, Italy, Help for self-help for refugee women in Jesenice, Slovenia, a talent factory for underage asylum seekers in Styria, Austria, community agriculture in Valle Stura, Italy: the most innovative integration projects from the Alps took part in the first edition of the Alpine Pluralism Award during the PlurAlps Conference in May in Turin. The projects "The 6th Continent", "Revealed Hands", "Germinale Agricoltura Comunitaria" and "Talents for Austria" won the first prize in the categories social integration, labour market integration, educational

integration and landscape management. In addition, ten other projects out of a total of 41 submissions received an award.

The award ceremony was organised in the framework of the PlurAlps Mid-term Conference. More than 100 representatives from political institutions and from civil society discussed what opportunities migration offers for the Alps and how newcomers can be better integrated into local societies. Musical entertainment was provided by the CoroMoro Choir from Italy. Young refugees from different African countries sang songs in Piedmont dialect and were warmly applauded by the audience. [More information](#) about the conference and the winning projects.

BeeAware! Bee conservation in Alpine communities

Contribution by CIPRA

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CIPRA International has recently launched BeeAware!, a three year project to support alpine communities in protecting their bees, improving biodiversity and raising awareness among citizens.

Bees not only underpin biological diversity; as invaluable pollinators they also provide diversity on our dining tables. Intensive agriculture, use of pesticides and fertilizers, cultivation of monocultures and increasingly intensive land use are endangering bees and contributing significantly towards their worldwide decline. All bees, whether domesticated honeybees or wild bees are under threat.

The BeeAware! project will be implemented in 25 pilot communities throughout the Alps. Each participating community will be provided with a so-called bee conservation package, which includes various measures, awareness-raising and implementation materials. They are supported by animators and experts, in cooperation with CIPRA's partner networks "Alpine Town of the Year" and "Alliance in the Alps". For more information in German, French, Italian and Slovenian, please visit our [website](#).

[Euromontana organises its XI European Mountain Convention on Cultural Heritage](#)

Contribution by Euromontana

How can we turn an irreplaceable inheritance from the past into a game changer for our future? This is the objective of the XI European Mountain Convention on "[Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development of Mountain areas](#)".

The XI European Mountain Convention aims to present how cultural heritage can be used in modern and innovative ways as an asset and to foster the attractiveness of mountain areas, and how new tools and practices can help to develop new sustainable socioeconomic development models.

With one day of study visits and 2 days of conference, this XI European Mountain Convention will help mountain people to better exploit all the added value of their cultural heritage and turn it into an engine for the future development of their mountain areas. In addition, during the workshops, several projects from the Alps, like PLURAlps, YOUrAlps and AlpFoodWay, will be presented.

The event, organized by Euromontana in collaboration the Agency for Mountain Areas ([AZM, Romania](#)), will take place from 25 to 27 September 2018 in Vatra Dornei, Romania. The draft agenda is available [here](#). For more information and registration, please visit the [page of the event](#).

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Alpine Convention meets WWFs Young Action Leaders

Contribution by WWF

As part of WWF Austria's Action Leader Training, a 10-month long Action Leader Training, a main component of WWF Austria's youth network, Generation Earth, brings 20 motivated youth together and empowers them to get active for the planet and create a more fair, inclusive and sustainable world. The 2017/2018 theme's focus is on "SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption." Together with experts and other inspiring people, participants explored innovative and creative examples for reducing consumption and living a more sustainable lifestyle.

During the last training weekend in May 2018 just outside of Innsbruck, Taja Ferjančič Lakota from the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention paid a visit to the group and discussed the topic of Alpine politics and how youth could get involved.

On a sunny afternoon, the group sat outside in the garden and listened eagerly to what Taja had to say about the Alpine Convention. The workshop started with a rough overview of what the Convention is and which countries are part of it. Then it went deeper into the aims of the Convention and her work. As questions arose within the group, the presentation turned into a lively Q&A session. At the end of the workshop, the group thanked her for her efforts and now have a better sense for how important an international agreement like the Alpine Convention is what the Secretariat is doing to implement it.

Currently, youth from across Austria are applying to join the next Action Leader Training which starts in September 2018. The next year's topic will focus on plastic and can be found on the website.

Arge Alp meeting

The Conference of the Heads of Government of the Arge Alp Regions will take place in Scuol, Switzerland, on 29 June 2018. The topics discussed, *inter alia* concern the use of hydropower in the Alps, the EU rules related to charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures and the management of wolf populations in the Alps. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

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[Workshop on the Transport Protocol](#)

CIPRA Austria and the University of Innsbruck continued the series of yearly workshops on the legal implementation of the Alpine Convention Protocols with a session on the Transport Protocol, held in Salzburg on 11 April 2018. The proceedings will be published in a few months.

[YOUrALPS: Educating youth for the Alps](#)

At the partner meeting of the [YOUrALPS project](#) (lead by ALPARC within the Alpine Space Programme) in Innsbruck on 17 April, the Permanent Secretariat presented the Alpine Convention's communication activities in order to identify possible synergies with the environmental education actions and tools being prepared by the partnership.



[Choose your source of energy!](#)

Contribution by Infopoint Tolmin

Can we reduce our carbon footprint also when talking about everyday traffic? At the end of May Posoški razvojni center, the infopoint of the Alpine Convention, and e-MOTICON project (Interreg Alpine Space) organised promotional event about e-mobility. The event attracted many e-vehicles enthusiasts and for one day Tolmin city square turned into e-mobility hub. Citizens had not only the opportunity to test different types of electric cars and electric bicycles but also to get first-hand information about up-sides and down-sides of owning an e-car, about actual prices of e-vehicles and possibilities of getting a subsidy or a favourable loan. A good example of how e-mobility can contribute to nature protection was given by Triglav National Park; with their new fleet of fully electric-driven ZOE's used by their rangers, they had already decided on their source of energy – they chose to drive electric!

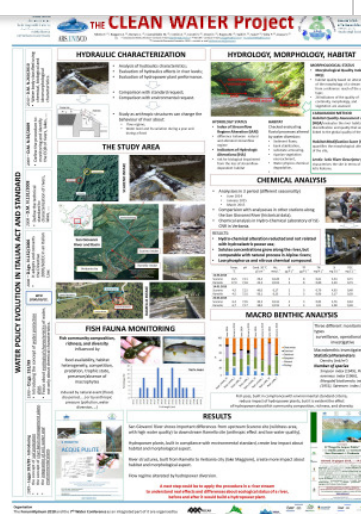
[Infopoint of Domodossola at the Forum Alpinum](#)

Contribution by Infopoint Domodossola

The project named CLEAN WATERS, created by Ars.Uni.Vco in collaboration with the Institute of Ecosystem Study - National Research Council in Verbania (VB), has been presented during the workshop at the

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Lake Maggiore basin (North western Italy), has always provided opportunities for hydroelectric plants. As is generally known, the right balance between the preservation of the ecological quality of rivers and hydro-power generation is not easy to maintain, mainly due to lack of further research. The exploitation of water for hydroelectric purposes can alter the habitats inducing their loss, causing a biodiversity impoverishment, with significant effects on the most sensitive taxa and on the ecological quality of the water course.



As a result of these requirements, the "Clean Water" Project, a pilot study carried out on the River San Giovanni with. ISE CNR of Verbania, was launched.

The main aims were:

- 1) to gain scientific knowledge on the effects on the biodiversity of the different human impacts in river basin;
- 2) to verify how the presence of human impacts affect the hydro-morphological, chemical and biological quality of the rivers systems, up and down the infrastructures;
- 3) to set up a best practice to analyse impacts,
- 4) to verify the compliance with the European Directives and Italian standard.

The results showed the reduced effect of small hydroelectric plants if proper facilities have been realized to increase the river quality, so they can be compared with the effect of other anthropic river structures. A next step is to apply the procedure in a river before and after a construction of a hydroelectric plants to understand the real effect about ecological status. [Click here](#) for more information.



Upcoming events

The list contains events organized in the framework of the Alpine Convention, as well as by Partners. Please

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Keep in mind that this list may not be exhaustive. Updated list is available on the webpage of the Alpine Convention.

July

28 June – 1 July	We are Alps tour	Carinthia (Austria), Gorenjska (Slovenia), Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy)
3-4 July	5th AG6 meeting	Latschach ober dem Bodensee, Austria
5-6 July	Executive Board and AlpGov Meeting	Pörschach, Austria
5 July	Alpine Space Synergy brunch	Klagenfurt, Austria
10-11 July	Compliance Committee meeting	Drobollach, Austria
12 July	Youth at the Top event - 4th Edition	Alps
13 July	Inauguration of Bergsteigerdorf Kreuth	Kreuth, Germany

August

5 August	Inauguration of Bergsteigerdorf Lungiarü	Lungiarü, Italy
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September

18-19 September	WG Tourism meeting	Kranjska Gora, Slovenia
25-27 September	XI european Mountain Convention; Cultural Heritage as an Engine for Creativity, Innovation and Socioeconomic Development of Mountain areas	Vatra Dornei, Romania
26-27 September	WISO meeting	Berchtesgaden, Germany
28 September	Planalp meeting	Hinterstoder, Austria

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