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Dear Colleagues and Friends

The first quarter of 2018 has already seen a number of significant activities in and around the Alpine Convention, including highlights such as an informal meeting of the Permanent Committee in Vienna, a damage prevention and compensation workshop of the WISO platform in Domodossola, the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention in Maribor, the fourth annual meeting of VAO in Grenoble, the ALPARC general assembly in Berchtesgaden, the annual meeting of the Alpine Towns of the Year in Bressanone/Brixen and a meeting on the role of women in mountain areas in the framework of the annual meeting of the Committee on the Status of Women in New York – just to name a few. I also had the pleasure of visiting four of the eight Alpine Countries (Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Slovenia) as part of our on-going efforts to work closely with our contracting parties.

In addition, we have published a new booklet called "The Alps in 25 maps" (which is available in print already and will be made available on our webpage soon) and a new flyer on "[The Role of Women in Mountain Areas](#)".

So, yes, we had an active and constructive start into the New Year both on the side of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and of partners, info-points, contracting parties, observers, etc.

I wish you a good read of our new newsletter and a very Happy Easter.

Kind regards,

Ambassador Markus Reiterer

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

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### Informal Permanent Committee

An informal Permanent Committee took place in Vienna on 14-15 March to discuss and examine the working methods of the Alpine Convention and its relationship with other relevant players in the Alpine area, including the strategic role of the Alpine Convention.

"The meeting underlined" stated Ewald Galle, chair of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Conference "the strategic importance of the Alpine Convention for the sustainable development and protection of the Alps - now maybe more than ever."



### Alpine Climate Board



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On 30-31 January 2018 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Alpine Climate Board took place in Vienna.

Based on the work done so far in particular within the stock-taking exercise this meeting focused on the elaboration of a climate target system.

The Alpine Climate Board is working towards two overarching goals: The climate-resilient and climate-neutral Alps in 2050.

Once more it became very clear, that the Alps have a particular role in terms of climate change mitigation and adaption which has to be carried with great responsibility.



### [Visit to Liechtenstein](#)

As his first official visit in 2018, Secretary General Markus Reiterer met with the Liechtenstein Minister for Home Affairs, Education and Environment, Ms. Dominique Gantenbein. The discussion mainly focused on the close and productive cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the Principality and provided ample opportunity to exchange views on the essential topic of protective forests in their function for practically all activities in the Alpine region. Among numerous activities, Liechtenstein actively supported the Reading Mountain festival, most recently through the organisation of an Alpine poetry slam. Looking at the



future, the city of Schaan in Liechtenstein will graciously be hosting the next meeting of the Permanent Committee taking place in June under Austrian Presidency. The Minister and the Secretary General also highlighted the importance of initiatives concerning education and the youth, including e.g. the Young Academics Award of the Alpine Convention and the Youth Parliament.

During their visit, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, Ms. Elmi also visited CIPRA International that has its seat in Liechtenstein for an informal exchange of views.

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### [Alpine Space Programme Committee meeting](#)

The Permanent Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Alpine Space Programme that took place in Innsbruck on 6 February 2018 in Innsbruck. The meeting took place before the official inauguration of the

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tyrolean EUSALP Presidency and saw several further opportunities of exchange with EUSALP. The discussions in the Committee focused on setting the next programme deadlines and on strategic issues. As a concrete implementation example, the project INTESI was presented to the Committee.

### Werkraum Bregenzerwald

On 6 February the Secretary General followed the invitation of CIPRA Germany, in the frame of the Alpenkonvention AAA+ project, to participate in an excursion of stakeholders from the Allgäu region to the Bregenzerwald, to discuss the potential links between tourism and handicrafts and visit good examples over the Austrian border. In his speech at the "Werkraum Bregenzerwald" training and exhibition venue, Markus Reiterer emphasized the importance of Alpine crafts within the cultural heritage and as a key factor to maintain sustainable population levels in rural areas and develop further the Alpine green economy.

### Strengthening the cooperation between the Alps and the Carpathians

On the occasion of a round table at the Ukrainian Ministry for Regional Development on 20 February 2018 in Kiev Secretary General Ambassador Markus Reiterer presented the experience of the Alpine Convention in sustainably developing mountain areas. Although situated in different socio economic contexts the Alps and the Carpathians face similar challenges, among which climate change and out-migration rate as the most important ones.

A lively discussion with Vice Prime Minister Zubko, members of the Ukrainian Parliament, heads of regional administrations of the Carpathians, Dr Harald Egerer from the Carpathoian Convention and the Austrian Ambassador to Ukraine turned about mountain farming, the role of forests for the prevention of natural hazards and development options for sustainable tourism.

SG Ambassador Reiterer emphasized that "using the various potentials of greening the economy can give the sustainable development of mountain areas a considerable push".

The Permanent Secretariat also gave a presentation on different governance models for mountain policies implemented in the Alps, which was of particular interest, as the Ukraine is currently developing a new mountain law.

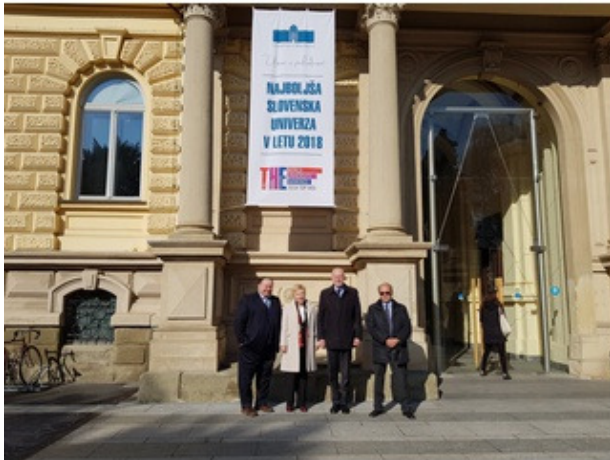
### French stakeholders visit the Permanent Secretariat

Contacts of the Permanent Secretariat with French stakeholders are intensifying, with the French Presidency of the Alpine Convention due to start in just one year. In early February the Councillor of the Region Sud Laurence Boetti-Forestier visited the Permanent Secretariat and exchanged with the Secretary General about the challenges and opportunities in remote cross-border areas. Also representatives of the French embassy in

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Vienna visited the Permanent Secretariat. Possible cooperation is also being discussed with further public and private organisations, in synergy with the French Ministry of Sustainable and Solidary Transition.

### Secretary General Reiterer in Slovenia



On the occasion of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention meeting in Maribor (read more about it below), the Secretary General, Mr Reiterer visited Slovenia and also met with other Slovenian stakeholders; he visited the new offices of the Slovenian Alpine Association, which is currently actively working towards the first Slovenian Bergsteigerdorf – Jezersko. Mr Reiterer also met with the Slovenian head of delegation and focal point to the Alpine Convention to discuss future active involvements of Slovenia in the Alpine Convention including the 2021-2022 Presidency.

On Thursday, the Secretary General visited both Slovenian info points – in Mojstrana and Tolmin and discussed their activities planned for 2018 to promote the Alpine Convention in their territory. Both infopoints will also be actively involved in the Slovenian Alpine Convention Day.

### The Alps represented in the framework of the UN Commission on the Status of Women



One of the focuses of the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention is the issue of women in mountain areas. As a follow-up to the conference on the topic held in Alpbach, Austria in April 2017, a further discussion with a global focus was launched in an event at the United Nations in occasion of the International Mountain Day 2017. The latest relevant initiative was the organization of a side event on “The role of women in mountain areas”, which took place in on 19 March 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York in the framework of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women. The event was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of

the Alpine Convention in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations and saw the co-participation of several Permanent Missions of mountain states around the world, such as Bhutan,



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Kirgizstan, Andorra and Peru. After two keynotes by Musonda Mumba of UN Environment and Marianna Elm of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, a rich panel discussion with the other attending Missions took place. The topic was particularly suited to this year's Commission on the Status of Women theme, which is "Empowering rural women and girls". For the side event, a flyer with testimonials from around the world was prepared.

### **Photo contest 2018: Wildlife in the Alps**

Stay tuned, any day now, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention will publish the Photo-contest for the year 2018: we are looking for the nicest and most interesting pictures of Wildlife in the Alps; from bugs to ungulates and carnivores, from flowers to majestic trees. Check out the [webpage](#) to get more information. Participate until 8 September 2018! But, please, take the pictures without disturbing the wildlife or compromising your own safety.

### **New team members**



This year begins with the arrival of two new colleagues: Sebastian and Cecilia.

Sebastian has lived in many different regions of the alpine territory before coming to Innsbruck in 2007. During the next months he will assist the Compliance Committee of the Alpine Convention in its in-depth review on the use of soil. He holds a degree in in general and applied Linguistics and has passionately studied the relation between culture and territory.

Cecilia comes from Aosta, Italy and she's studying Territorial and Business Economy and Policies. She loves languages, climbing and outdoors activities. She will

stay with us for an internship until the end of May.

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



### **Space, sustainable, cooperation, perspectives, visions – Alps2050**

These are some of the keywords outlining "Alps 2050 -

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Common Spatial Perspectives for the Alpine Area. Towards a Common vision . The ESPON targeted analysis is currently being undertaken very actively by a devoted partnership. The Inception Report and more information can already be read [here](#).



## NEWS FROM THE THEMATIC WORKING BODIES

### Water Platform meeting



The third meeting of the Water Platform took place in Vienna back-to-back to a [second expert workshop](#) on droughts where national and regional experts from the Alpine Countries, observer organizations, as well as the Carpathians (Czech Republic) presented their experiences with drought events in the past and existing strategies, approaches and measures to cope with challenges in different sectors of water resources management.

The Water Platform meeting focused on the preparation of the two publications (on drought periods and on the implementation of Small hydropower guidelines), according to the mandate and on the organization of the 7<sup>th</sup> Water Conference, that will take place on 5 June as part of the [Forum Alpinum](#). The main topics of the Water Conference will be droughts in the Alps, implementation of Small hydropower guidelines and green infrastructure.

### Mountain Agriculture Platform

The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the PF Mountain Agriculture took place on 20- 21 February 2018 in Vienna. Its agenda contained the perspectives of mountain agriculture and discussed relevant aspects of its future. The goal of a climate and environmentally friendly mountain agriculture was the main topic of this meeting and made the connection between this platform and the Alpine Climate Board evident.





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The members of the platform exchanged information on good practices in their countries and had the opportunity to hold a lively discussion on conflicts related to the production and use of energy in mountain areas.

### WISO meeting

The last week of February was an intense one for the "Large Carnivores, Ungulates and Society (WISO)" Platform of the Alpine Convention: on 27 and 28 February a workshop organized by the Chair of the Platform with the support of the Platform members took place, followed by the third WISO Platform meeting on 1 March. All events took place in Domodossola, Italy, hosted by the Info-point of the Alpine Convention. On this occasion the Alpine Convention photo-exhibition was also inaugurated at the Info-point (see news below).



The workshop on "Prevention and compensation of damages by large carnivores" was organized in order to facilitate the discussion on different national and regional approaches to damage prevention and compensation as well as to foster the discussion between different stakeholders from different fields, such as wildlife management, agriculture, nature protection, administration etc.. It saw the participation of partners from the vast majority of alpine countries and concluded with an excursion to a local mountain farm, where the participants had the chance to see protection measures against damages by wild ungulates and discuss the concrete challenges with local actors from the economic sector and protected areas.

After the workshop an institutional meeting of the Platform took place where the topic was further discussed as well as the national updates on the situation with large carnivores and wild ungulates was given.

### Green Economy Advisory Board

After its first meeting in Spring 2017, the Green Economy Advisory Board undertook a number of activities: with the purpose of drafting the Green Economy Action Programme (GEAP) for the Alpine region, as mandated by the XIV Alpine Conference, the Board and its consortium of consultants first of all carried out a thorough analysis of the needs and requirements for such an action programme. The next step was to involve stakeholders from businesses, towns, municipalities and other administration authorities, science and research as well as the civil society in contributing to the GEAP: for this purpose, a set of six workshops took place all over the Alps on different Green Economy topics, together with an online consultation, through which

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interested people could contribute directly to the process.

Thanks to all these different inputs and background work, and with the active support of all the Alpine Convention's thematic working bodies, a vision for an Alpine Green Economy is being outlined, the relevant action fields identified and the most suitable actions singled out. All these aspects will be contained in the first draft of the GEAP that the Advisory Board will discuss in its upcoming June meeting in Munich.

Follow the works of the [Green Economy Advisory Board](#).

### VAO Symposium

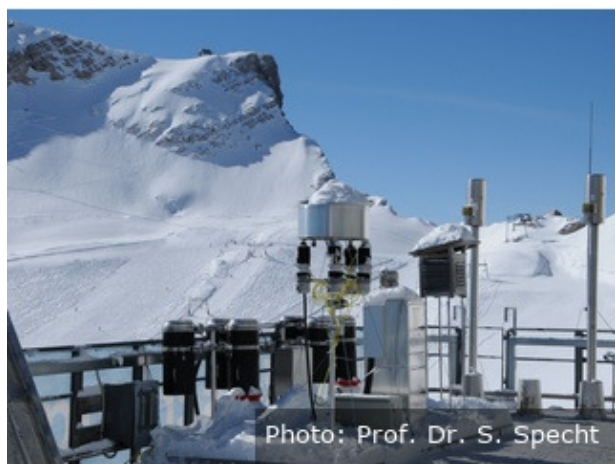


Photo: Prof. Dr. S. Specht

The fourth annual Symposium of the Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO) took place from 13 to 15 March 2018 on the site of the French partner OSUG (Observatoire des Sciences de l'Univers de Grenoble) in Grenoble.

In about 70 lectures and presentations, the scientific and technological progress was presented to approximately 100 participants. In addition, there were several splinter meetings on topics such as satellite validation or aerosols in order to initiate future joint, cross-border projects in this context.

Key notes were given by representatives of the University of Grenoble, of the European Committee of

the Regions (CoR), of the European Space Agency (ESA) and of the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. All emphasized the importance of the VAO as a scientific institution for the study of climate change and its consequences across national borders. Mountain regions are particularly predestined for such investigations. Bavaria has been supporting the VAO for several years. ESA recently became an Observer of the VAO. The CoR also backed the VAO. An intensive cooperation is already planned.

The "Virtual Alpine Observatory" was founded in 2012 as a network of European high-altitude research stations in the Alps and similar mountain regions. Observatories from eight countries are now represented in the network. Besides Germany, these are France, Georgia, Italy, Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia; Scientific questions can be answered through the cross-border and interdisciplinary bundling of forces in a substantive depth, which is only becoming possible through this cooperation.

### EnvALP Zürich meeting

Within the EnvALP group of the Zurich process, the Permanent Secretariat attended a meeting on 22 January and participated in the preparation of a desk report on future developments in the transports sector, and in the draft of recommendations on further analysis of the potential environmental impacts, for the attention of the



## News from EUSALP

### Kick off Tyrolean EUSALP Presidency and meeting of the Executive Board

In 2018 the Austrian region Tyrol holds the Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) under the motto "*shaping.future.together – in the Interest of Alps!*". The kick-off event of the Tyrolean Presidency took place on 7 February 2018 in Innsbruck-Igls, where Bavaria, which was chairing the Strategy in 2017, officially handed over the EUSALP Presidency to Tyrol. On this occasion also the program of the Presidency was officially presented, which focuses mainly on the thematic areas of mobility and connectivity. Other key topics include dual training, sustainable use of natural resources, management of natural hazards and energy.

The Federal President of the Republic of Austria Alexander Van der Bellen, the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Sebastian Kurz, Walter Deffaa, Special Adviser to European Commissioner Corina Crețu in charge of Regional Policy, the President of the European Committee of the Regions Karl-Heinz Lambertz as well as the Governors of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, South Tyrol and Trentino attended the kick-off.

The EUSALP Executive Board also had its meeting on 7 and 8 February 2018 in Innsbruck, where an addition to the Rules of Procedure was discussed. The aim was to define a procedure for establishing the list of focus topics of the respective Presidencies in close cooperation with the Action Groups. Regarding the project of the Alpine Space Programme AlpGov, the Executive Board members decided to ask the lead and project partners to come up with a proposal on how to best prolong the project as soon as possible. The Innsbruck meeting of the Executive Board was also the occasion for Italy and France to announce their candidacy for the Presidency of the EUSALP in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

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### 4th EUSALP AG6 Meeting

The fourth EUSALP AG6 Meeting took place on 29 and 30 January 2018 at the European Academy (EURAC) in Bolzano/Bozen and was organized as a "Green Event".

After welcome addresses by Marianna Elmi, Deputy Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, and Andrea Zeppa, General Secretary of the City of Bolzano/Bozen, the first part of the meeting was dedicated to common activities of AG6: In general the state of affairs of the applications to the ARPAF and in particular of the two approved projects with the involvement of AG6 members "AlpJobs" and "CirculAlps" were presented. In addition, an ARPAF "AlpJobs" partner and observer meeting took place to define important administrative details before the official kick-off in April in Trento. Besides that, the participants tackled the concept and work plan for the AG6 study on governance mechanisms in the field of spatial development and soil conservation. The AG6 members were informed about the state of the call for tenders for the AG6 study on water

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governance, which the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is commissioning. Finally the AG6 study on available financing and the financing workshop AG6, both carried out by AG6 co-leader Carinthia, will organize in autumn 2018 for the AGs 6-9 were addressed.

In its main part the 4<sup>th</sup> EUSALP AG6 Meeting focused on an active and result-oriented exchange within the three sub-groups:

The sub-group "Spatial development and soil conservation" made considerable progress, among which the definition of the details for the 2018 regional awareness raising event's series on reduced land take and on soil consumption. Furthermore the structure of the declaration on intelligent land use was defined and the timeline was set for its elaboration including the involvement of local and regional decision makers.

Sub-group "Future oriented farming and forestry" (SG2) discussed about the project "Next Generation – Mountain Farming 2030" and the collection of information of relevant networks and their actors. SG2 also is planning a common information exchange meeting with ARPAF-projects CirulAlps and AlpJobs in 2019.

Significant progress was achieved by the sub-group "Integrated and sustainable water management" (SG3), which finalized the details on the collection of good practices and recommendations regarding green infrastructure and river restoration. Moreover, the group also analyzed the preliminary results of the Alpine Convention's Water Platform for the preparation on the report on water demand and supply management in case of droughts. In addition, SG3 defined its contribution to the Forum Alpinum, which includes the 7<sup>th</sup> Water Conference, in summer 2018.

### **Awareness Raising Series on Intelligent Land Use and Soil Conservation**

<b>Dates of AG6 Awareness Raising Series</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 17-18 May 16-17 May 24	<a href="#">AG6 Kick-off</a> <a href="#">Awareness Raising Series</a>	Innsbruck-Fliess, Austria
May 31	Annual Meeting Platform Land	Klausen/Chiusa, Italy
June 20-21	Annual Conference European Land and Soil Alliance	Stuttgart, Germany

### **7<sup>th</sup> EUSALP AG4 meeting**

The Secretary of the Transport Working Group, as well as the Permanent Secretariat, attended the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EUSALP AG4 (Mobility). The Permanent Secretariat agreed to participate in a dedicated internal task force of AG4 which will propose a methodology for the assessment of single project proposals.

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## News from Delegations, Observers, Partners

### German Soil of the Year 2018 is an Alpine Soil

Rock humus soil, the "Folic Histosol" was chosen as the "Soil of the Year 2018". These very specific soils which develop under the condition of short vegetation phases and long cold phases are particularly important and vulnerable.

In high mountains, it stabilizes slopes, stores water and carbon and holds a unique vegetation. Due to climate change these soils are influenced, thus slopes can become unstable and erosion can increase. But also excessive grazing or heavy tourism activities (mountain biking outside of the designated routes) can result in deep cuts in the soil which can increase erosion.

This important soil worth protecting was selected under the patronage of Bavaria to raise awareness for its relevance and its endangerment. "Soil of the Year" is a joint action of the German Soil Science Society, the German Federal Association of Soil and the Engineering Association for Contaminated Sites and Land Use Management. The action is supported by the German Federal Environmental Agency. More information and materials can be found [here](#) (Flyer/Poster).



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### Implementing the MAP 2017-2022 – Breathing life into the partnership approach

*Contribution by Germany*

Strong partnerships are essential for the successful implementation of the MAP. Observers have a particularly important role to play as multipliers for implementation of the Alpine Convention as they can create links to civil society and facilitate participatory bottom-up processes.

Expert talks were held in Berlin on 22 February 2018 between the German Environment Ministry (BMUB), CIPRA International, the Community network Alliance in the Alps and the Alpine Town of the Year Association to discuss how to make an even greater contribution to implementing the MAP through joint projects for the entire Alpine region.

In the period 2017 to 2020, Germany will be promoting projects by these networks on the MAP priorities with funding of €600,000. This covers bilateral projects and the co-financing of projects from the Alpine Space Programme including GAYA, PlurAlps, the Climate Partnership of Alpine Communities and the Action Programme on Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region.



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Germany considers project-based support for activities by observers to be a particularly effective option for implementing the Alpine Convention in a practical way that promotes outreach.

Agreement was therefore reached that the German delegation's strategic talks on cooperation with Alpine networks will continue in future.

### Green Economy in the Apennine Region

*Contribution by Italy*

SAVE THE DATE. The Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea - Italian Delegation in Alpine Convention, in the framework of its activities of mountain cooperation for the diffusion of the RSA 6 contents, promotes the international conference "Green Economy in the Apennine Region", organised in partnership with the University of Camerino and the European Academy Research Bolzano.

The event will take place 22-23 May 2018 in Camerino (MC) and will involve universities, public institutions and private companies in a conversation on the topic of green economy in mountain regions. The conference is a preeminent occasion for the dissemination of the RSA 6 contents, exploring the potentiality of transfer in the Apennines context of the Alpine method for promoting green economy. The participants are thus invited to present contributions on fostering a green economy in respect to three main topics: natural resources, public policies, and labour and business. The event features also a call for good practices of green economy in mountain areas, with the aim of collecting innovative and relevant experiences regarding: energy efficiency projects, low carbon emissions experiments, efficient uses of environmental resources, ecosystem services management and natural capital valorisation, and quality of life and wellbeing enhancement. [More information](#)

### AlpWeek Intermezzo – Tomorrow in the Alps – Save the date

The AlpWeek organization committee is joining forces for a short Intermezzo between two AlpWeeks. The lunch-to-lunch event (3-4 April 2019) will include a political exchange with representatives and stakeholders from all Alpine countries on 3 April in the afternoon discussing on future-oriented hypotheses aiming at developing postulations to be taken into account at the XV Alpine Conference taking place the following day.

Furthermore the project showcase "Tomorrow in the Alps" based on inspiring stories, created from implementing projects within the MAP\*-framework, will

be organized as the second part of the event. Creative ideas for a (better) tomorrow in the Alps, lively discussions and cultural contributions will add up to an Alp-Week-experience in a short format.



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The event is supported by the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2018-2019. Organizing partners are: Alliance in the Alps, Alpine Space Program, Alpine Town of the Year, CAA, CIPRA International, ISCAR, WWF and Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

*\*Multiannual Work Programme of the Alpine Convention 2017-2022*

### **The 23rd Danilo Re Memorial: an unforgettable event**

*Contribution by Alparc*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Danilo Re event took place at the Berchtesgaden National park 25-28 January 2018, in the frame of the celebration of the park's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A combination of excellent weather conditions and outstanding involvement by the Berchtesgaden national park staff made this event unforgettable. Alpine and transnational friendship was celebrated.

Alpine rangers and staff of the protected areas from all the alpine countries and even Slovakia competed in four categories: mountaineering ski, giant slalom, shooting and cross-country, with a total of 46 teams: a record number of participants for the Danilo Re Memorial. The Permanent Secretariat participated for the second time with a team consisting of Vera Bornemann (cross country), Taja Ferjančič Lakota (shooting), who won the third place in her category, Wolfger Mayrhofer (ski-mountanerring) and Aureliano Piva (giant slalom).

In addition to the competition, the participants had the opportunity to take part in a seminar exchange focused on the handling of booming nature sports titled "Leisure time activities and its handling in protected areas". During the seminar the ALPARC operational unit presented its work on awareness-raising about disturbance to wildlife in winter. A teaser introducing the initiative "Be Part of the Mountain" was shown for the first time.

Moreover, during the Danilo Re Memorial, the ALPARC General Assembly was held on 26 January 2018 with the participation of , the German Focal Point Person of the Alpine Convention, Silvia Reppe and the representative of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Simone Remund and Secretary General, Markus Reiterer.

### **New Mountaineering Villages and celebrations this summer**

*Contribution by Bergsteigerdoerfer*

Starting in May, three new Mountaineering Villages ("Bergsteigerdörfer") will join the initiative in 2018. Starting on 26 May, we welcome the first Slovenian member: beautiful Jezersko. An excursion from the CIPRA annual conference in Bled will be organized to the inauguration of Jezersko as Bergsteigerdorf. On 13 July there will be the joining ceremony of Kreuth in Bavaria.



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And by 5 August we are proud to welcome the first Latin speaking member – picturesque Länggards in the Dolomites. Who still hasn't had enough of the Alpine Association's Bergsteigerdörfer is more than welcome to join the 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in Malta, Carinthia, 28-30 September to catch up on all the news and talk about the importance of water in everyday life. More about the Mountaineering Villages is available [here](#).

### **Youth Film Competition "My Alps – My Chance"**

*Contribution by CIPRA International*



Photo: gencko-pixabay

Are you a committed member of your community? Are you active in promoting training, sustainability, social activities or other matters in the Alps? Film your own project and enter the GaYA film competition "My Alps - My Chance" until 31 May 2018. Young people between 16 and 25 years get the chance to film the Alps from their perspective and express them in a creative way. The 15 best film clips will be shown to an international audience at the GaYA Film Festival in Chambéry, France from 30 November to 1 December 2018. The prize is an invitation to the event, including arrival, two overnight stays and a great leisure program. The GaYA project

aims to increase the quality of democratic processes in the Alpine space by enhancing the involvement of young people in regional governance and by developing new approaches for decision makers. It is a collaborative effort by eight partners from different Alpine countries. GaYA is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme. [Registration and further information](#).

### **PlurAlps – Innovative Integration in the Alps**

*Contribution by CIPRA International*

How can social innovation and development be promoted? In Slovenia, women with a migration background are trained in textile design, in Italy, refugees restore an abandoned chestnut forest and in Austria communities

support newcomers to enter the labour market. These are just some of the many initiatives submitted for the Pluralism Award 2018 which gives recognition and visibility to integration and migration activities in the Alps. At the PlurAlps conference on 16-17 May 2018 in Turin, Italy, the most promising initiatives from the Alpine regions will be awarded. Representatives from business, politics and the civil society as well as people

**Interreg**  
**Alpine Space**  
**PlurAlps**  
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interested in the topics of integration and migration are invited to exchange opinions and ideas and to find inspiration. The conference and the Award are part of the PlurAlps Project which is funded by the Interreg Alpine-Space Programme. The ten project partners aim to show how cultural diversity can promote social innovation and development in the Alps. [Registration](#) for the PlurAlps Conference in Turin, Italy.

### **"Alpwil – How municipalities shape future"**

*Contribution by CIPRA International*



How do villages deal with spatial planning, natural diversity and migration? Where do we find happiness? The current issue of the magazine *AlpsInsight* by CIPRA International shows how communities in the Alps are shaping their future. The differences between Alpine regions have increased. Municipalities situated along the main transport routes are fighting against traffic and settlement pressure, while in remote regions an aging population and emigration are major issues. The various contributions in the thematic magazine *AlpsInsight* show good examples linked to the topics of nature and people, spatial planning, tourism, living and working, and social

innovation. For example, the village of Frastanz, Austria deals with natural diversity, Sonthofen, Germany explores possible uses for conversion areas, La Grave, France discusses development, Valendas, Switzerland experiences new impulses and Ostana, Italy reinvents itself. Mayor Luzia Martin-Gabriel tells about how she brings new ideas to the municipality of Sonntag, Austria. Jana Salat focuses her research on happiness and talks about the importance it has in our society. The magazine is for free and is available in all Alpine languages [here](#).

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## [New Euromontana brochure on good practices for developing mountain attractiveness](#)

*Contribution by Euromontana*

The [brochure](#) collects good practices demonstrating how European mountains are innovative and succeed to highlight and to further develop their potential. Maintaining and increasing the attractiveness of mountains is one of the biggest challenges faced by mountain territories. However, despite the difficulties, many local or regional initiatives exist and make it possible to improve their attractiveness. It is not always necessary to reinvent the wheel: these good examples should inspire to develop new projects and initiatives in different mountain areas to improve and maintain the vitality and attractiveness of mountains in a sustainable way.

The brochure presents examples of success in different fields, such as agriculture and rural development, innovation, energy, the environment, sustainable tourism, services of general interest, etc.

To download the brochure, [click here](#).

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## [Two brochures to showcase examples of Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas](#)

*Contribution by Euromontana*

[SIMRA](#) - Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas - is a four-year EU Horizon 2020 funded project in which Euromontana is a partner. The project has released two brochures collecting examples of social innovation in Europe and the Mediterranean regions, many of them taking place in mountain areas. The [first brochure](#) showcases the project's future case studies, i.e. examples of social innovation from different fields such as cultural heritage, energy, forest management, local development or social farming. The [second brochure](#) focuses on how social innovation can deliver rural services. A sneak peek of what you will find in these



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brochures includes mountain therapy for people with disabilities in Italy, a watchmakers network to support local development in Switzerland and a time bank association in Austria. The examples presented in these brochures are extracted from the [SIMRA database](#). If you have an example of social innovation in marginalised rural areas to share, don't hesitate to [click here to submit it](#).

### **The Pegasus Final Conference: delivering environmental and social benefits from agriculture and forestry**

*Contribution by Euromontana*

On 7 February 2018, more than 120 people gathered in Brussels to discuss the key lessons and messages of the PEGASUS H2020 project - Public Ecosystem Goods And Services from agriculture and forestry: Unlocking the Synergies. The [final conference of PEGASUS](#) took the participants through a summary of the results of over 3 years of research on concrete ways to enhance the provision of environmental and social benefits by agriculture and forestry, and what this means for policy and practice in Europe. Mountain ecosystems deliver numerous environmental and social benefits of great added value, such as food and timber production, climate regulation, air quality and flood regulation. Mountain indeed have an important role to play as they cover 29% of Europe's area.

The Final Conference presented the outputs of the PEGASUS project: case studies, toolkit, policy briefings. In particular, the project carried out [34 case studies](#), many of them located in mountainous areas, and exploring the links between the provision of environmental and social benefits and land management, with a special focus on the way both local stakeholders and/or the private sector can be engaged, and on the available policy support schemes for farmers and foresters.

For more information on the project and on the conference, visit [Pegasus' website](#).



### **Tour des Villes in Tolmin**

*Contribution by Posoški Razvojni Center*



In the framework of Tour des Villes project, representatives of Alpine Towns Tolmezzo, Sonthofen and Idrija gathered in Tolmin, Alpine Town of the year 2016 for project's fourth study visit and workshop. The event took place in Podbrdo on 8-9 March 2018. Project is focusing on challenges in sustainable settlement

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development that many towns and villages in the Alpine region face. On field trips project partners are searching for new and sustainable use of wasteland and disused buildings. Municipality of Tolmin, the hosting partner, prepared an excursion to Podbrdo in Baška grapa, a remote valley, characterised by steep slopes, little open space, railway, depopulation and several abandoned industrial facilities. In two days of intense work, participants gained a deep insight on region's state of play and offered their hosts a number of interesting solutions for revitalisation of the valley at the southern edge of Julian Alps.

## **YPAC 2018**

*Contribution by YPAC Maribor*



Last week kept young delegates from the Youth parliament to the Alpine Convention very busy. They got together in Maribor, a city in the most eastern part of the Slovenian Alps, and discussed proposals about the protection of the soil in the Alpine region. The discussions were very fruitful; ten teams from ten different schools representing seven Alpine countries came up with very productive so(i)lutions, which were presented and voted on in the General Assembly on Thursday, 23 March. Out of 16 postulations 10 were adopted by the Youth Parliament which will be presented in their countries to the representatives of different

political bodies. Hopefully, some positive changes will take place in the fields of agriculture, spatial planning and in dealing with natural disasters in the Alps, when youth is acting for the future of the Alps.

In order to provide a solid basis for the on-going decade-long cooperation an MoU was signed between the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the YPAC-Association.

## **Bressanone/Brixen is the "Alpine Town of the Year 2018"**

*Contribution by Alpine Town of the Year 2018*

The title "Alpine Town of the Year 2018" was officially handed over to Bressanone/Brixen from Tolmezzo, "Alpine Town of the Year 2017" at a solemn event on Friday, 23 March 2018 in Bressanone/Brixen. Delegations from all Alpine Towns of the Year, the Governor of South Tyrol, Arno Kompatscher and Andreas Pichler, director of CIPRA International were among the congratulant.

The city forms the regional centre for one of the most important valley systems of the autonomous province of South Tyrol. The bustling Alpine metropolis with a population of around 22,000 receives the title due to several advantages and efforts. The international jury's reasoning: "The city can demonstrate sustainable success,

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especially in terms of a sustainable Alpine policy, future-oriented concepts and also as an exemplary key destination between city and mountain. In addition, Bressanone/Brixen implements the approaches of the Alpine Convention in a goal-oriented manner and reveals promising building blocks for the future.” “For Brixen/Bressanone, this is both recognition of the work already done and an urgent invitation to continue along this path, to innovate again and again to invent an Alpine future of which we are proud for our children and our grandchildren”, invited Thierry Billet, president of the Alpine Town of the Year association on Friday evening. And indeed, the town has ambitious plans for 2018: for example in the area of water conservation, in the maintenance of the alpine habitat in cooperation with the associations, with a focus on green economy or in strengthening the relations with the surrounding area.

“It is an honor for our city receiving this title. At the same time, it is also a great responsibility of which we are aware. In this and the following years we would like to live and experience the philosophy “Alpine Town of the Year””, says Peter Brunner, mayor of Bressanone/Brixen. More information on [webpage](#) or [Facebook](#).



## News from the Infopoints

### News from Infopoint in Domodossola

In February and March 2018 the Info-point of Domodossola has hosted two important events: the international workshop of the Alpine Convention entitled “Prevention and compensation of damages from large carnivores” and the photo exhibition called “Eight countries. One territory and an international treaty: a sustainable vision for the Alps”.

“Prevention and compensation of damages from large carnivores”: at the workshop, that took place at Collegio Rosmini on 27-28 February with experts from the whole Alpine Arch, of the WISO Platform of the Alpine Convention.

At the end of the workshop the experts appreciated the excursion in Borgata Vallesone, in which they could touch real experiences from mountain agriculture and connected damages caused by ungulates. They spoke to representatives from Parco Nazionale Val Grande, Aree protette della Val d'Ossola e Polizia provinciale. In that occasion the project “Eco-food supply processes” has been presented, showing its aim of valorizing meat from local game and the events we are going to organize in collaboration with local small enterprises.

Eight countries. One territory and an international treaty: a sustainable vision for the Alps: from the 27 February to the 12 March 2018 the photo exhibition has been open to visitors at Collegio Mellerio Rosmini, where our info-point is based.

At the time of the opening of the exhibition there were many authorities and students of the institute Rosmini,



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including Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of Alpine Convention, Francesca Zanetta, Commissioner of Fondazione Cariplo, Angelo Tandurella, vice Mayor of the Domodossola municipality, don Fausto Gobber, administrator of the Rosminian order, Paolo Crosa Lenz, President of Aree protette dell'Ossola and Andrea Cottini, responsible of Domodossola info-Point-ARS.UNI.VCO.

The exhibition was visited by many people, in particular guided tours were organized with the schools of Domodossola. Over 120 children of primary school "Lorenzo Milani" of Domodossola, with their respective teachers, have joined this proposal by visiting the exhibition under the guidance of the Domodossola Info-Point representatives.

#### [Infopoint Mojstrana hosted the Alpine Convention Photo-exhibition](#)



In the first weeks of the New Year, from 12 January to 19 February the infopoint in Mojstrana hosted the Alpine Convention photo exhibition. The official opening of the exhibition was on 19 January, on the January 'museum night' with a full auditorium. The Slovenian Focal Point, Ms Majda Lovrenčič and the representative from the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, Ms Taja Ferjančič Lakota presented the exhibition and explained the role of the Alpine Convention. The exhibition was well visited and received good feedbacks.



## 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. Updated list is available on the [webpage](#) of the Alpine Convention.

#### [April](#)

11-13 April	<a href="#">Tagung.Landschaft</a>	Innsbruck, Austria
11-12 April	Planalp meeting	Piran, Slovenia
11 April	<a href="#">CIPRA Austria Workshop: Das Protokoll Verker</a>	Salzburg, Austria
17-18 April	<a href="#">EUSALP Workshop: Der Zukunft den Boden bereiten</a>	Innsbruck, Austria
23-25 April	<a href="#">19. Österreichischer Klimatag</a>	Salzburg, Austria

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23-24 April	Tourism Working Group meeting	Bozano/Bozen, Italy
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**May**

15-16 May	<a href="#">Conservation of moorland in the Alps</a>	Bad Aussee, Austria
16-17 May	<a href="#">Transport Working Group meeting</a>	Chamonix, France
16-17 May	<a href="#">EUSALP Workshop: Der Zukunft den Boden bereiten</a>	Innsbruck, Austria
24-26 May	<a href="#">CIPRA and AIDA Yearly Conference</a>	Bled, Slovenia
24-26 May	<a href="#">Slovenian Alpine Convention Days</a>	Slovenia
26 May	<a href="#">Opening of the first Slovenian Bergsteigerdörf</a>	Jezersko, Slovenia

**June**

4-6 June	<a href="#">ForumAlpinum2018</a>	Breitenwang, Austria
5 June	<a href="#">Water Conference</a>	Breitenwang, Austria
7 June	<a href="#">Water Platform meeting</a>	Breitenwang, Austria
4-5 June	<a href="#">Alpine Climate Board meeting</a>	Vienna, Austria
6-7 June	<a href="#">Green Economy Action Board meeting</a>	Munich, Germany
7 June	<a href="#">EUSALP Energy Conference</a>	Innsbruck, Austria
12-14 June	<a href="#">65th Permanent Committee meeting</a>	Schaan, Liechtenstein
end-June	<a href="#">start of the We are Alps tour</a>	Alps

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