

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

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## ALPINE CONVENTION NEWSLETTER

Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

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*"She wore her yellow sun-bonnet,  
She wore her greenest gown;  
She turned to the south wind  
And curtsied up and down.  
She turned to the sunlight  
And shook her yellow head,  
And whispered to her neighbour:*

*"Winter is dead" (\*)*

A.A. Milne

Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends,

The arrival of spring will soon be heralded by wild daffodils flowering at different altitudes in the Alpine arc, creating otherworldly scenery. In the Alps, holiday is just around the corner! During the past winter, Mother Holle had a lot of snow in store for us, which led to an extremely rare avalanche danger scale of 5 in some Alpine regions and making precautionary closures of transportation routes and pistes necessary. Nevertheless, I hope that you have been able to collect some beautiful winter impressions in the Alps!

In the meantime, the *modus operandi* of our Permanent Secretariat remained unaffected by the weather conditions and has been shifted into a higher gear in order to prepare for the XV Alpine Conference, the 67<sup>th</sup> Permanent Committee, the AlpWeek *Intermezzo*, the "We Are Alps Compact" Tour and the closing ceremony of the Young Academics Award. All events are scheduled from 2-4 April 2019 and will take place in Innsbruck (AT). During the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention, the 7<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps on Natural Hazard Risk Management and the "Climate Target System" in respect of a climate neutral Alpine space by 2050 will be presented and discussed on ministerial level. France will officially take over the Presidency of the Alpine Conference from Austria. The AlpWeek *Intermezzo* is kicked off on 3 April 2019 with a political discussion on relevant topics for the future of the Alpine Region. The public is invited on the next day to a project showcase featuring inspiring stories on the topic "Tomorrow in the Alps", followed by interactive market stands.

During the XV Alpine Conference representatives of the [Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention](#) (YPAC), actively supported by the Secretariat, will get the opportunity to interact with Ministers and Delegations from the Alpine countries. Prior to the Conference, the YPAC meets in Merano/Meran (IT) from 25 until 29 March and focusses on the question: "How to cope with climate change?".

Wishing you a happy spring,

Ambassador Markus Reiterer  
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

(\*) *Can you figure out what A.A. Milne was referring to in this verse? Send your answer to [communications@alpconv.org](mailto:communications@alpconv.org) and have a chance of winning a tasty prize!*



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**News from the Austrian Presidency**  
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## **Committee**

The 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Compliance Committee, held from 6 till 8 February 2019 in Vienna (AT), had a very concrete aim: finalising the Report "*Economical use of soil*" prepared by the Permanent Secretariat. Members of the Compliance Committee as well as experts worked on the report. Milestones were the definitions of important terms in the context of soil as well as the recommendations by the Committee. Thanks to the commitment of all involved parties and the interpreters, the updated versions of the report including the results of the discussions could be prepared at the end of the meeting in all four alpine languages.

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## **ClimaHost Contest**

The winners are determined! Managers of 35 hotels (from mountain huts to 5-star hotels) and 4 restaurants submitted their applications to the alpine-wide contest "ClimaHost – Climate protection and energy efficiency in hotels and restaurants". An expert committee selected the top 3 as well as the winners of two special awards for the categories "historic structure" and "mountain hut". During the evening reception of the XV meeting of the Alpine Conference, Federal Minister Elisabeth Köstinger will announce the prize winners in a festive award ceremony and present video shots with impressions of the top 3 hotels/restaurants.

The contest, which is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism and the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, aimed at hotels and restaurants that make high efforts and contributions to climate protection. Applications came from Italy, Switzerland, Austria, France, Germany and Slovenia.

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### **Youth at the XV Alpine Conference**

The XV. meeting of the Alpine Conference will also prepare a stage for young people travelling, working, studying and living in the Alps: Members of the Youth Alpine Interrail initiative ([YOALIN](#)), an initiative that supported young people this summer on their journey through the Alps with a reduced fare ticket for public transport, will talk about their adventures. In addition, members of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention ([YPAC](#)) will participate in the conference and several side events – also to direct attention to their resolutions on soil, developed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament in March 2018.

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## **News from the Secretariat**



### **Preview on a week of Alpine events and the XV Alpine Conference**

The Permanent Secretariat and the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention welcome the ministerial Delegations of the Alpine States, the EU, the Observers and Partners in Innsbruck (AT) for a week of events in the run-up to and during the XV Alpine Conference!

From 2 until 4 April 2019, representatives of the public and private sector, NGO's, students, experts and people from all across the Alps will discuss, exchange best practices and experiences and take decisions on pressing Alpine issues. The Alpine Conference focusses on climate change and soil. The Conference is expected to adopt the Innsbruck Declaration on "Climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps 2050". In addition, the governance of natural hazard risks will be exhaustively addressed with the presentation and discussion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Report on the State of the Alps.

We start on Tuesday, 2 April with the 67<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Committee. On Thursday 4 April, the XV Alpine Convention will take place. Parallel to the official meetings, a jury



will select the winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Young Academics Award competition and the "We are Alps Compact" Tour will start its journey through and abroad Tyrols Capital. We will regularly update you via our social media channels!

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### **Meeting with the Vice-President of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region**

On 28 January, the Secretary General met in Aix-en-Provence (FR) with Ms Chantal Eyméoud, Vice-President of the southernmost Alpine region, in charge of Mountain economy. The exchange allowed the identification of many common topics of interest and complemented the visit of Markus Reiterer to the northern French Alps in October, paving the way for the French Presidency of the Alpine Convention.

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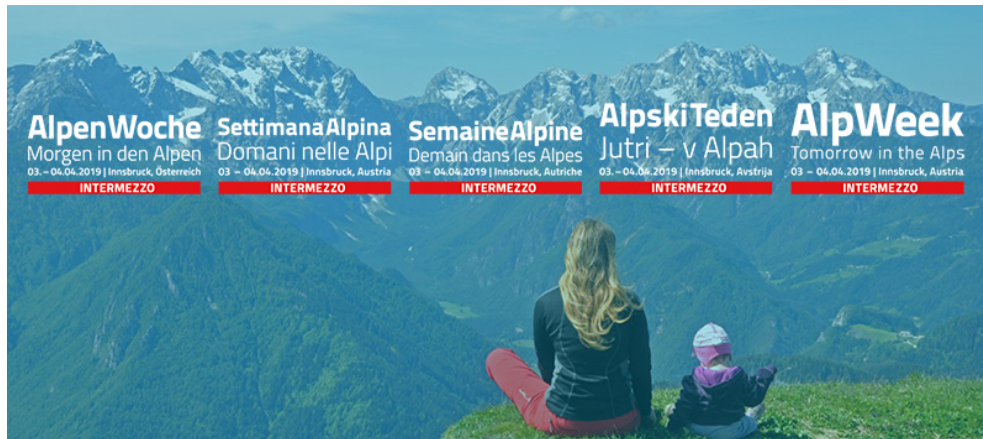


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### **PSAC @ Memorial Danilo Re**

For the third time, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention participated at the memorial Danilo Re with its own team. Between 24 and 26 January 2019, 50 teams gathered in the Contamines-Montjoie Nature Reserve (FR), for the "Olympic Games of the Alpine protected areas" and in memory of the park ranger Danilo Re, who gave his life serving and protecting the Alps. The participants competed in the four disciplines ski mountaineering, giant slalom, shooting and cross country skiing. In addition, the team of the Permanent Secretariat presented its activities related to youth in the framework of a seminar on reconnecting the young to the mountain environment.

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### **Final sprint towards the Alpine Intermezzo - AlpWeek**

As the Intermezzo, the "smaller sister" of the quadrennial AlpWeek, is coming closer the organizers of the [AlpWeek Intermezzo](#) held their final meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February in the office of the Permanent Secretariat in Innsbruck. Setting the final to-do's and planning the last details concerning the programme, logistics and communication jointly agreed upon by the Alpine organization involved, the last run started towards the happening of AlpWeek Intermezzo. Being certified as a Green Event Tirol 2019, is only one of the starting points on the importance of sustainable solutions in the sensible mountain environments. One can be curious about the discussions of the dialogues with decision makers and stakeholders from the Alpine arc on 3 April as well as the vibrant public part including inspiring projects, music and a poetry slam summary on 4 April all focusing on: Tomorrow in the Alps!

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### **PSAC welcomes new staff members**

Spring also brings new team members for the Permanent Secretariat. At present, Živa Novljan, who started out as an intern now enhances the team in Innsbruck as a project officer. Victoria Pirker became the new organisational and administrative Support Officer in relation with the (upcoming) French Presidency. Victoria

is Austrian and speaks fluently French and English. She has a solid experience of working with public administrations as well as with NGOs and of conference organisation. Mathias Cox from Belgium joined the team as an intern and is holding a Bachelor's Degree in Geography.

We wish them good luck !

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### **The Secretariat visits the terraxcube**

On 21 February, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention visited the Eurac Research terraXcube, a new research infrastructure in Bolzano/Bozen (IT) that simulates the Earth's extreme climatic conditions to study their influence on humans, ecological processes and technologies. The team of the Secretariat was accompanied by the Director, Mr. Christian Steurer, who illustrated the performances of the climatic chambers, which can house equipment, machinery, plants and other organisms, as well as products both small and large for extended periods of time. In these climatic chambers the extreme arctic cold and Himalayan storms as well as the scorching heat of a North African desert can be recreated, tested and studied by the researchers. More information on terraXcube is available on the [website](#).

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### **"The Alps - A journey through maps & pictures": exhibition now available in five languages**

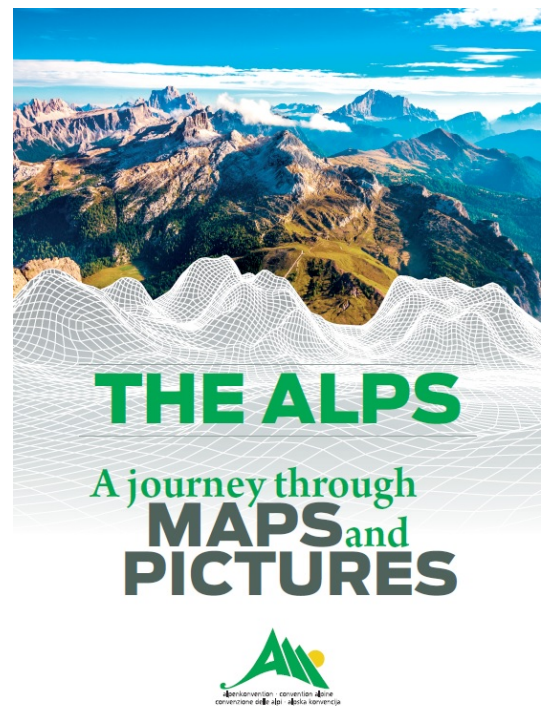
With funding from France, the modular exhibition realised in 2018 on the basis of the "Alps in 25 maps" publication has now been translated from English into the four Alpine languages. A second set has been produced to be displayed in various locations in France during the French

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Presidency, starting with several events co-organised by CIPRA France. Partners interested in showing the exhibition in their area are warmly invited to contact the Permanent Secretariat: [communications@alpconv.org](mailto:communications@alpconv.org).

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### **The story of Reading Mountains in 9 leporello postcards**

In order to spread the message of the Reading Mountains Festival across and beyond the Alps all year long, the Secretariat developed a Leporello of 9 postcards. The leporello tells the story of the Reading Mountains Festival, that goes back to the year 2015 when the Permanent Secretariat took the initiative for an alpine wide literary event. The most diverse literary events, which have in common that they reflect the linguistic and cultural diversity in the Alps, take place every year around on 11 December to celebrate International Mountain Day!

You can spread and become part of the story of the Reading Mountains Festival by ordering your free leporellos to disseminate in your local reading club, library, school, etc. via [communications@alpconv.org](mailto:communications@alpconv.org).

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### **The Secretariat congratulates Morbegno as "Alpine Town of the year" 2019**

On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the city of Morbegno (IT) was awarded "Alpine Town of the Year" 2019. The city, seat of one of the Alpine Convention Infopoints, can be considered as being the centre for the slow tourism lovers as well as for its cultural heritage and the food and wine-growing traditions. The town of Morbegno is also engaged in the promotion of the regional agriculture – especially in vine-growing - and in the sustainable energy supply from district heating.

Secretary general of the Alpine Convention, Ambassador Markus Reiterer, participated in the opening ceremony with a speech about the values of the communities, which were awarded by the Association Alpine Town of the Year for the particular commitment to the implementation of the Alpine Convention. The day after, the Secretary General met the young students who demonstrated against the climate change effects by encouraging them to take actions!

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## **NEWS FROM THE THEMATIC WORKING BODIES**

### **5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Alpine Climate Board**

Considerable steps have been taken during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Alpine Climate Board (ACB) on 22 January 2019 in Vienna. The ACB worked towards a finale version of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050. After chapters 1-5, that include qualitative but quite concrete targets for twelve sectors, had been adopted by the Permanent Committee in November 2018 in Innsbruck, chapters 6-7 of the target system, dealing with a communication strategy and recommendations, have been discussed, reviewed and approved.



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Further, the members of the board discussed the Declaration of Innsbruck, which is a main outcome of the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention and focuses on climate change and natural hazards. Helmut Hojesky, Chair of the ACB, introduced some pillars of the workshop on the "Implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050" that is organised by the board and will be held on 13-14 May 2019 in Salzburg (AT).

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## News from EUSALP



### **Kick-off Italian EUSALP Presidency - EUSALP Executive Board**

In 2019 Italy holds the Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) under the motto "*shaping.future.together*". The organizational coordination of this Presidency has been entrusted to Lombardy Region assisted by Piedmont Region and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano. The kick-off event of the Italian Presidency took place on 28 February 2019 in Milan (IT), where the Austrian Region Tyrol, which was chairing the Strategy in 2018, handed over the EUSALP Presidency to Italy. On this occasion, the program of the Presidency was officially presented. The leading theme of the program is enhancing the competitiveness of the Alpine region through Green Economy. Other key topics include education and training, sustainable development of mobility and intermodal transport of people and goods, connectivity and access to services in remote areas as well as improving energy efficiency.

The EUSALP Executive Board also had its meeting on 28 February and 1 March 2019 in Milan (IT). The delegates decided to considerably strengthen the interaction between the coordination level constituted of the Executive Board and the implementation level of the Action Groups. Furthermore, a EUSALP Strategic Paper on Communication and the terms of reference of the second edition of the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF), an initiative of the European Commission to support the EUSALP implementation, were adopted. Finally, a working group dealing with the involvement of youth in the EUSALP was established within the Executive Board.

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### **Meeting of the AlpGov project partners**

The Board of Action Group Leaders (BAGL) is a coordination body dealing with the horizontal coordination of issues concerning all EUSALP Action Groups.

On the occasion of the kick-off of the Italian EUSALP Presidency in Milan the leaders of the Action Groups met to discuss the current status of the work package implementation, the prolongation of AlpGov for 6 months and the communication aspects within the project. In addition the project partners elaborated first ideas for the structure of a possible AlpGov 2 project. Moreover cross-sectoral meetings took place on multifunctional forests and sustainable use of timber, as well as on smart villages.

The leaders of the Action Groups also met with the Executive Board for a joint meeting to discuss how the interaction between the two bodies could be improved, an aspect relevant for both parts.

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### **7th EUSALP AG6 Meeting in Villach**

The 7<sup>th</sup> EUSALP AG6 meeting took place on 13-14 March 2019 in Villach (AT).

The member of the regional government of Carinthia responsible for environment, nature protection, energy, women and generations Sara Schaar officially opened the meeting and encouraged the participants to continue implementing the activities outlined in the AG6 work program.

In all three topics of AG6 "Spatial development and soil conservation", "Future oriented farming and forestry" and "Integrated and sustainable water management" considerable progress was made. Particularly noteworthy is the adoption by AG6 of a document on "Water demand and supply management in case of peaks of demand and/or regional droughts" containing recommendations for the prevention of water scarcity situations. In addition, AG6 members exchanged their views on the preparation of applications for the second edition of the ARPAF. Furthermore, the organization of the AG6 networking conference on territorial brands for value chains in the field of Alpine traditional food planned for 13 May 2019 in Bolzano/Bozen (IT) was continued. Finally, the AG6 members defined several follow-up activities based on the Declaration on sustainable land use and soil protection, which has been supported so far by 6 States and 20 Regions of the EUSALP.

The next AG6 meeting on 1-2 July 2019 in South Tyrol will be mainly dedicated to the elaboration of a new work program for the period 2020-2022.

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### **The Permanent Secretariat is now Observer in EUSALP AG9 (Energy)**

In its first attendance in the AG9 in quality of Observer, in St. Pölten (AT) on 7-8 March, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the discussion on the work plan for the period 2019-2022. This collaboration should



enable synergies with the Alpine Convention's activities on the topics of energy and climate, especially the work of the Alpine Climate Board.

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### **Continued participation in EUSAL AG4 (Mobility)**

The Permanent Secretariat participated in the work of the AG4 at its 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in Bolzano on 18-19 March, as well as in two meetings of its Project Assessment Methodology Task Force. The AG4 work plan for 2019-2022 was discussed, and progress towards the project assessment methodology made.

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### **Taking place right now: Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention & Climate Change**

News as fresh as this can rarely make it into our newsletter. A more current news on a more pressing topic is hardly possible: the 14<sup>th</sup> Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention is meeting in Merano/Meran 25-29 March and discussing how coping with climate change is possible. In line with the global demonstrations "Fridays for future" the YPAC students are highly motivated to discuss about issues and solutions to enforce their future in the Alps to be ensured, taking into account, that climate change is already happening. The students work on the topic in depth in the fields ecology, health, human right to life and youth participation. Hot discussions are to be expected not only during the General assembly in the Town council of Merano/Meran on Thursday 28 March. Friday may be demonstration day to be talked about in adults parliaments, but the following Wednesday, 3 April and Thursday 4 April YPAC students will be able to talk in the XV Alpine Conference and the AlpWeek Intermezzo. Let's make sure to grant them open ears by decision makers and follow up on their claims for their future!

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

*Contribution by Germany*

Strong partnerships are essential for the successful implementation of the Multi-Annual Programm (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 15 January 2019 between the German Environment Ministry (BMU) and the Alpine Networks CIPRA International, the Community network Alliance in the Alps, the Alpine Town of the Year Association and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas ALPARC. Participants discussed how to make an even greater contribution to implementing the MAP through joint projects for the entire Alpine region. Secretary General Ambassador Markus Reiterer took an active part in this result-oriented dialogue.

In the period 2017 to 2019, Germany is promoting projects by these networks on all MAP priorities with funding of € 1.9 Mio. This covers bilateral projects and the co-financing of projects from the Alpine Space Programme including GAYA, PlurAlps, YOurAlps, ALP.BIO.NET2030, the Climate Partnership of Alpine Communities and the Action Programme on Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region.

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

The German delegation's strategic talks on cooperation with Alpine networks and observers of the Alpine Convention are in place since the German presidency 2015-2016 and will be continued in the future.

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## **Frontiere-Grenzen 2019 - 10<sup>th</sup> edition**

The Literary Award of the Alps "Frontiere Grenzen" celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Over the years, the competition has become a leading cultural event in the region. New this year is the extended participation. The Alpine short story competition is open to citizen from all Italian regions and European states bordering the Alps! The admitted languages are Italian, German, French and Slovenian.

Frontiere Grenzen is organized by the cultural association "La Bottega dell'Arte" in collaboration with the libraries of Primiero and Canal San Bovo in Trentino and the Association of South Tyrolean Writers and takes place under the Alpine Convention's patronage. This free themed literary prize for short stories, open to all genres of contemporary fiction, from traditional storytelling to new linguistic experiments, from thrillers to fantasy, from horror to science fiction, from letters to theatrical texts. Two short stories, one published and one unpublished story, will be awarded 4,000 Euro and 2,000 Euro respectively.

The famous writer, Helena Janeczek, who won the [Premio Strega 2018](#), will take part in the jury. Furthermore, the jury includes Carlo Martinelli (president), Pietro De Marchi, Lisa Ginzburg and Stefano Zangrando. The deadline for the presentation of the stories is set at Friday, 7 June 2019, while the award ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, 26 October 2019 in Primiero San Martino di Castrozza. The participation terms are available on the [website](#) of Frontiere-Grenzen. Wishing all participants good luck!

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## **ForumAlpinum 2018:**

### **Proceedings online**

*Contribution by ISCAR*

*How to handle foreseeable future water use conflicts? Which are the appropriate measures to avoid them? How to put sustainable water management into practice in the Alpine region?*

The answers to these and more questions, which were presented during the [ForumAlpinum 2018](#) and the [7<sup>th</sup> Water Conference](#), are now available [online](#). The proceedings contain abstracts of all presentations and posters on the experiences and activities carried out by the Alpine countries in the respective fields of water resources management. Find also the policy brief with key messages of the ForumAlpinum on the use and management of water in the Alps in times of climate change and growing demand.

For further reading: ["Common guidelines for the use of small hydropower in the Alpine Region"](#).

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## **The Alpine Partnership for Local Climate Action (ALPACA) takes on its work**

*Contribution by Alliance in the Alps*

The partnership builds on the idea that municipalities and local authorities play a key role in climate change mitigation and adaptation. They are strongly supported by different organizations, such as climate and energy agencies, networks, researchers.

In 2019, the first activities will be carried out with a focus on how communities and local authorities and their partners can communicate/mediate in a more effective way on climate change in order to get political leaders, authorities, entrepreneurs and citizens to act? The ALPACA partners want to address the above-mentioned issue within the framework of this project. Among the activities, an internal workshop is planned for 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of May in Grenoble, as well as a public conference on Climate Communication and Awareness for autumn 2019, most likely in Italy.

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## **Quality of life on the test - the work in PlurAlps pilot communities has begun**

*Contribution by Alliance in the Alps*

The pilot regions completed filling the social planning tool which consists of quantitative and qualitative questions in different fields of action, i.e. administration, active citizenship, living and housing etc. Statistical figures are also surveyed. The next step is an evaluation of all answers by a wide-ranging working group. People from administration, politics, associations, institutions and civil society are involved. The existing quality of life in the community is being captured. Based on this analysis, action plans will be drawn up in the coming months containing activities to improve and strengthen the quality of life. Feedback and interim results from one of our pilot communities, Sattel/Switzerland: "We would like to use the results as a basis for the development of a new community mission statement. And we want to increase the appeal of our community for immigrants."

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### **Disturbance of wildlife in winter: awareness-raising in the Alps**

*Contribution by ALPARC*

Awareness-raising and communication actions on human-nature conflicts in nature and mountain sports are growing throughout the Alpine region. To support nature conservation and to reduce the disturbance of wildlife by winter sports, flyers, web pages, videos, events and meetings have been developed in several Alpine protected areas under the umbrella of the international initiative "*Be Part of the Mountain*".

Some Protected Areas are in the front line in promoting the topic. For example, this winter, the Vanoise National Park (FR) has launched an awareness campaign on this subject. In the Ecrins National Park (FR) the rangers organize meetings, events, animations on the theme of winter wildlife disturbance. In Italy, the Aree Protette dell'Ossola with CIPRA IT, also based on the BpM campaign, are developing several activities in the frame of the RESICETS project, the initiative involves several stakeholders of the tourism sector.

Further information about the "Be part of the Mountain" initiative is available [here](#).

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### **YOUrALPS project: Insights on environmental education know-how**

*Contribution by ALPARC*

The partners of the Alpine Space project YOUrALPS met on February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the Burgenland (AT) to learn from different practices, knowledge and techniques on environmental education. In the context of the project steering group meeting, the project partners had the possibility to gain some inspiring knowledge about education practices in the Austrian partner land. One of the impressive stops was the nature lab in Bad Sauerbrunn, the so called „*Werkstatt Natur*“, a not for profit institution which was founded by the regional hunter's federation. Today, the lab hosts more than 10 000 kids per year which participate in one of the pedagogical programs. Some of these practices and techniques, might be included in the contents of the Alpine school model, one of the major YOUrALPS project outputs, aiming at re-connecting youth to their natural environment. Since September 2017, 14 pilot sites have been carrying out activities on education for sustainable development in order to validate the theoretical model and be certified as “Alpine school”. Further information is available [here](#).

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### **The 24<sup>th</sup> Danilo Re Memorial: competing, learning and celebrating**

*Contribution by ALPARC*

The 24<sup>th</sup> Memorial Danilo Re took place at the Les Contamines Montjoie Natural Reserve from 24th to 28th January 2018, in the frame of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Reserve. The Memorial hosted as usual the ALPARC General Assembly.

The event gathered the Alpine rangers, staff and managers of protected areas that are daily engaged in the conservation and protection of the alpine biodiversity. Participants from all the alpine countries and Slovakia competed in four categories: mountaineering ski, giant slalom, shooting and cross-country, with a total of 50 teams. During the opening ceremony, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Solidary gave a speech in a [video format](#). Mr François de Rugy said: *"The event marks the entry in an important year for the action of France in the Alps, since, next April, France will endorse the Presidency of the Alpine Convention"*. In addition to the competition, two seminars were held. One, focused on sustainable tourism on the Espaces Valéens terriotires in France and another on education.

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### **Landscape is negotiable**

*Contribution by CIPRA*

How does our view of the Alps shape the way we deal with nature and natural resources? The current issue of the theme magazine AlpsInsight sheds light on our relationship to the Alpine landscape. The change of landscape is a creeping process that receives less public attention than economic crises or political changes, but has a great influence on our quality of life. *Why does everyone understand landscape as something different? Can the Alpine landscape still be saved? How can we perceive the Alps with all our senses?* The various articles in the theme magazine show: The face of the Alps is divers and constantly changing. Composer Henry Torgue tells how he transforms landscape into music. Gion A. Caminada wants to create relationships with his architecture, as he explains in the interview. For CIPRA International president Katharina Conradin, landscape is negotiable - but its protection is not. AlpsInsight is available online in all Alpine languages [here](#) or can be ordered free of charge at [international@cipra.org](mailto:international@cipra.org).

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### **Youth Alpine Interrail 2019**

*Contribution by CIPRA*

Travelling by train, discovering the Alps, tackling sustainable challenges: The "Youth Alpine Interrail" project makes it possible once again this summer. For 50 to 80 Euros, young people can experience eight Alpine countries and at the same time travel climate-friendly by public transport. Traveling is more than flying on the other side of the world. It is not only about arriving, but also about perceiving the changing landscape and developing a relationship with the country and its people. Young people between the ages of 16 and 27 can apply for the "Youth Alpine Interrail Pass" until 7 April 2019. This year there will be a kick-off event on 7 June in Feldkirch/A, where travelers can get to know each other beforehand and make travel plans together. More information [online](#).

Youth Alpine Interrail is a project of the CIPRA Youth Council and CIPRA International and is supported by the signatory states of the Alpine Convention. It is financially supported by the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development, the RHW Foundation, the Austrian Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, the Liechtenstein Office for the Environment and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

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### **Young ideas for the climate**

*Contribution by CIPRA*

What we eat, the things we own, how we move around - our lifestyle - influences our environment and the climate. 17 young people from Liechtenstein and Slovenia discussed sustainable lifestyles in the Alps within the framework of the project LOCAL (Low Carbon Alpine Lifestyle) financed by Erasmus+. The workshop participants developed own ideas for more sustainability such as creating a community garden, introducing deposit bottles instead of disposable plastic in the school, vertically greening the walls of the school yard or creatively using parking spaces to draw attention to sustainable mobility. With the two-year LOCAL project, the municipality of Schaan, Idrija and Tolmin, Alpine Town of the Year Association and CIPRA International are committed to strengthening the political participation of young people and promoting sustainable awareness.

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### **What the landscape tells us**

*Contribution by CIPRA*

*How do we perceive changes in the landscape? Why do we feel more closely connected to some places than others?* These questions are raised by CIPRA with "Re-Imagine Alps", its new interactive map of the region. The landscape in the Alpine region is undergoing profound change, from an environment to which people can link personal stories, to an exchangeable resource. Using stories, images and experiences, CIPRA intends to return the landscape to the centre of our attention and strengthen our relationship with our surroundings. Voices, information, good examples and activities are all embedded in the interactive Alpine map which can be viewed in the four alpine



languages at [map.cipra.org](http://map.cipra.org). The map is being constantly updated and will in future be adding further topics alongside landscape. More information [here](#).

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### **Youth participation is a must-have, not a nice-to-have**

*Contribution by CIPRA*

More youth participation in the Alps! This was the plea made by the GaYA Conference in Chambéry, France, to politicians and policymakers in the Alpine countries. The strength of feeling involved was illustrated by the participation of some 200 young people from every Alpine country that discussed ideas together with politicians and youth workers in interactive sessions. The event also featured music and Alpine cuisine, as well as films made by young people that were presented in the context of an Alpine-wide film competition. The conference also represented the conclusion of the EU-sponsored GaYA project. In addition to the international exchanges and policy recommendations, the project partners also presented a toolkit for youth participation and a comparative study on participatory democracy in the Alps. More details [online](#).

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## News from the Infopoints

### **Project 2019: The Alpine Convention presented in the schools of the Verbano Cusio Ossola Province (IT)**

*Conbution by Infopoint Domodossola*

In the months of February and March, as Infopoint of the Alpine Convention in Domodossola (IT), we begin our journey among the schools of the Verbano Cusio Ossola Province to talk about the Alpine

Convention and to raise awareness on the issues of environmental protection and sustainable management of the resources in the Alps. This is a great opportunity also to remind the kids of the Info-Point Prize "Reading Mountain" and to give to the "little" audience the book that collects the stories written for the edition 2018 of the literary competition. The activities INFO-POINT 2019 are sponsored by Cariplo Foundation. [Here](#) it follows the list of the meetings in the schools.

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### **Infopoint of Domodossola presents the publication "The Mountain and the fantasy: give your creativity free reign"**

Following the success of the first edition of the Infopoint Award "Reading Mountains 2018" entitled "The Mountain and the fantasy: give your creativity free reign", the infopoint of Domodossola sent this publication, which collects the stories written by the students who participated in the literary contest, to the primary school classes in the territory of the Verbanio Cusio-Ossola. On this occasion, the Infopoint also presented the Alpine Convention, its objectives and activities to young students thanks to the support provided by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the contribution of the CARIPLO Foundation.

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Below you can find an overview of the upcoming events organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and its Partners. An updated list of events is available on the [webpage](#) of the Alpine Convention.

### **April 2019**

2-3	67 <sup>th</sup> Permanent Committee Meeting	Innsbruck (AT)
3-4	We are Alps Compact	Innsbruck (AT)
3-4	<a href="#">Alpweek Intermezzo</a> – Tomorrow in the Alps	Innsbruck (AT)
4	XV Alpine Conference	Innsbruck (AT)
9	Workshop „Das Protokoll „Bergwald“ der Alpenkonvention“, CIPRA Österreich	Salzburg (AT)
24	Conference „Shaping the Future of Climate Change	Vienna (AT)

	Adaptation in the Alpine Countries" (GoApply final conference, <a href="#">online registration</a> )	
24-25	Meeting PLANALP	Leibnitz (AT)

### **May 2019**

5	Gschnitztal joining ceremony to Mountaineering Villages ("Beitrittsfeier")	Gschnitztal, Tyrol (AT)
13-14	Workshop "Implementation of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050"	Salzburg (AT)
14-15	2019 " <a href="#">Educating and learning for sustainable development in the Alps: the Alpine school and Ouralps network</a> "	Morbegno (IT)
23-31	European Climate Change Adaptation Conference	Lisbon (PT)

### **June 2019**

4-5	RSA8 Ad-hoc expert group	Paris (FR)
12-13	Meeting of the Transport Working Group	Grenoble (FR)

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