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

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Dear Friends, Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to share with you the new edition of our newsletter. As you can see, since last July numerous activities have been carried out on a wide array of topics ranging from mountain agriculture to spatial planning, mountain forest, climate change, water, alpine culture etc. Yet another proof of the Alps diversity and creativity.

Enjoy the read!

Ambassador Markus Reiterer

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention



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The International Conference on the "Future of



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Mountain Agriculture in the Alps took place in St. Johann im Pongau (Salzburg, Austria) on 13 and 14 September 2017. Participants from the entire Alpine region discussed future challenges and opportunities for farms and forestry enterprises in the Alpine area. The conference shed light on the future developments of CAP 2020 and examined the expectations of different stakeholders. Clear statements were made by Austrian federal minister Andrä Rupprechter, German federal Minister Christian Schmidt and political representatives of the Alpine regions.

The audience has been invited to participate in lively discussions and to express their opinions. Furthermore they had the chance to visit different mountain farms and learn more about mountain farming in actual practice. On the second day of the conference a [memorandum](#) was presented by Ignaz Knöbl, president of the [Platform Mountain Agriculture](#), and adopted as a valuable instrument for sustainable mountain farming. Read more about the conference via this [link](#).

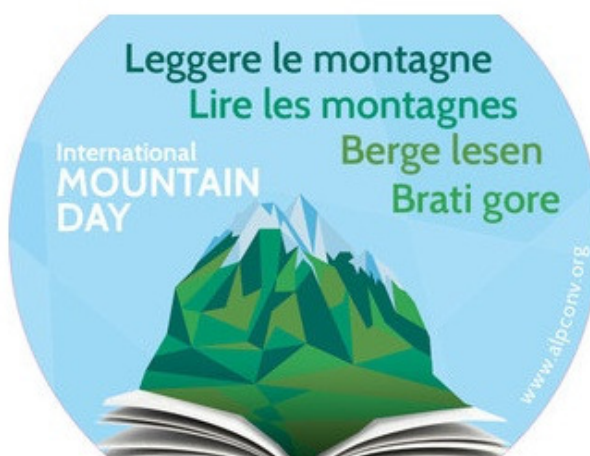
[Second meeting of the Alpine Climate Board](#)

On 18 and 19 September the second meeting of the Alpine Climate Board took place in Vienna. The results of the successful stock-taking of relevant activities on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in the alpine region, to which the various organs of the Alpine Convention, Contracting Parties and Observers have contributed, were presented and discussed jointly and first recommendations for further action were drafted. Subsequently the members of the Alpine Climate Board participated in a brainstorming exercise to prepare the elaboration of a target system. Thus a further step towards a Climate neutral and resilient Alpine region was made.



[Reading mountains festival](#)

The festival to celebrate modern alpine literature and alpine culture, on International Mountain Day (11 December) is back! For the 3rd year the Permanent Secretariat invites partners from across the Alps to join! Invite a local author for a reading, hike in a group and read a book at the top of a mountain, start a reading circle and discuss alpine literature, present an exhibition on Alpine books in your local library, give a chance to young authors, combine literature with music/performing arts or gastronomy... there are many ways to participate, aspiring to the sustainable development and protection of the Alps. You can register your event our [webpage](#). All participating organizations will receive posters, stickers and bookmarks for the promotion of their event. Not interested in organizing, but would love to join? Check out the map for the event close to you – new events are added daily!



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The new Photo Exhibition "Eight countries, one territory and an international treaty - a sustainable vision for the Alps" goes to Trento

The Permanent Secretariat has been invited to display its new Photo Exhibition in the framework of the events and activities organised in the occasion of the XVIII Edition of the "B. I. T. T. M. - Le Giornate del Turismo Montano (Mountain Tourism Days), that took place in Trento from 26 to 30 September.

The exhibition entitled "Eight countries, one territory and an international treaty: a sustainable vision for the Alps" will lead the visitor on a journey through twenty-two pictures and captions, in understanding the many complex socio-economic, environmental and cultural aspects that characterize and make unique the Alpine territory. The visitor will also discover the work and efforts undertaken by the eight alpine Countries. The photo exhibition has been inaugurated at the Alpine Convention Infopoint in Chamonix (France) last June.



Alpine Convention calendar 2018

Every year the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention publishes a photo contest and looks for the best pictures of a certain topic in the Alps. These pictures are then displayed in the Alpine Convention calendar for the next year. And so we did also this year. The topic of the photo contest that was open from 15 March to 3 September was "Water in the Alps". Thanks to our partners, the call was widely disseminated and we received many very nice pictures that will be published soon. Interested? Follow our [webpage](#) and social media to be the first to see them! If you would like your personal copy of the calendar, [write to us](#). We would like to thank everyone who participated!

"Sara after Sarah" - a new intern in the PSAC team

In the middle of September Sarah Twardella left our team and we got a new Sara - Sara Uhan as an intern in the PSAC team. Sara Uhan is an enthusiastic geographer with many interests. She is coming from Slovenia and is staying with us till the end of December.

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.



Open internship positions for 2018

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is looking for interested, engaged and diligent interns for a period of 4-6 months in the



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course of the year 2018. Find out more [here](#), spread the call and apply soon!

We are Alps tour 2017

The 2017 edition of the We are Alps tour was the longest yet, in terms of both time and distance. It lasted for 8 days and took the 11 participants from 4 countries on the route from Vienna to Monaco, using 20 trains, 8 buses, 2 trams, 3 boats and 1 cable car, plus bicycles and feet. As every year, the tour was organised in cooperation with many local partners. It offered the participants an insight into the different waters of the Alps – from small streams, to rivers, lakes and seacoast in Monaco. Along the way, projects on water management and water use were presented: from drinking water to water sports and spa, from water ecology to irrigation, hydroelectricity and more, also highlighting the issues of natural disasters and climate change. Interested in more? Check out the blog about the tour [here](#). All journalists taking part in the tour committed to publish at least two articles or broadcasts about the tour and many have already been released! You can check them on the We are Alps [webpage](#).



Meeting in the Principality of Monaco

On 3 July the Secretary General met with Ms Marie-Pierre Gramaglia, Minister of Infrastructure, Environment and Urbanism of the Principality of Monaco. The environmental actions in Monaco and the involvement of the Principality in the activities of the Alpine Convention, especially on ecological connectivity and climate change, were discussed.

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Mayor of Bolzano, Renzo Caramaschi visits the PSAC

The Mayor of Bolzano, Renzo Caramaschi visited the Bolzano/Bozen offices of the Permanent Secretariat and met with Secretary General Markus Reiterer and Vice-Secretary General Marianna Elmi.

The meeting was an opportunity to present the activities ongoing within the Alpine Convention and the PSAC, to discuss possible synergies and common projects with the Municipality of Bolzano as well as having an interesting exchange on the environmental problems the City of Bolzano is facing. The Municipality of Bolzano, despite being highly ranked at the national level on many environmental indicators, still faces relevant

challenges: Mayor Caramaschi highlighted for example the issues of mobility and transport, on which the Municipal Council is very active, but also depends heavily on action by the national, the local and the private sector level.

Mayor Caramaschi also showed a strong interest for the topics of green economy and recommended further cooperation on this, possibly in the form of a workshop or conference.



General Secretary at the inauguration of two new Bergsteigerdörfer

On 21 and 23 July, Secretary General Markus Reiterer participated in the opening ceremonies of the new Bergsteigerdörfer (mountaineering villages): Sachrang/Schleching in the Bavarian Chiemgau region and Matsch in South Tyrol. He welcomed new villages, together with the political representatives, to the circle of sustainable tourism oriented municipalities and praised this initiative of the Austrian Alpine Club, which has already been in place for over 10 years, as a very good implementation project of the Alpine Convention. With the new Bergsteigerdorf Matsch this initiative becomes even more international with the first one in South Tyrol (Italy). The Alpine Convention is looking forward to a further international development.



Spielleit und Pumpersudl

On 26 August the mountain Municipality of Mieders in Stubai Valley, Tyrol (Austria) was fascinating with nature, culture, fairy tales, legends, the Middle Ages, music, literature and games within the framework of the event "Spielleit und Pumpersudl".

The Alpine Convention participated with an own stand on the Koppeneck, where visitors could test their knowledge about the Alps playfully and get plenty of useful information about the Alpine Convention.

The evening program "Ja SAGE amol". The fabulous Poetry Slam with dialect-effect"

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Simultaneously represented a pre-event of our this year's edition of the literature festival [Reading Mountains](#) and with its performed plurality of dialects has it given a little foretaste of the colourful mélange of languages and forms of literature we will expect for the International Mountain Day.

The Permanent Secretariat provides its patronage to the MIMOFF 2017 - International Mountain Film Festival

From 27 to 30 September the MIMOFF - Milano Mountain Film Festival organised by Associazione Montagna Italia was held in Milan.

With the patronage of many partners, including the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the international film competition with more than 110 entries from 16 nations of the world promotes the mountain environment through the projection of suggestive works that explore different themes related to the knowledge of the world's highlands: mountaineering, hiking, glaciers, travel, fauna and flora, peoples. More information you can find [here](#).



News from the Working Groups and Platforms

Compliance Committee

Within its ongoing ordinary in depth review, the Compliance Committee finalized a written procedure for defining the questions regarding the topic "Economical use of soil". The Contracting Parties are asked to submit the answers to these questions till the end of September 2017. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat is currently elaborating a balanced proposal for a group of experts, who should participate at a hearing on the topic of the in depth review. This hearing of experts will be carried out during the next meeting of the Compliance Committee on 28-29 November in Vienna.

Water Platform meeting



On 14-15 September the Water Platform met for the second time in this mandate period. The meeting took place in Ajdovščina (Slovenia) and had three parts; an expert discussion on Droughts, an excursion and the institutional Water Platform meeting. At the expert meeting the participants presented drought risk management experiences and activities in different alpine countries. The excursion was organised to Vogršček Water and Drought management reservoir and to the double purpose hydropower (hydropower and fish farm). The meeting of the Platform focused on the

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implementation of the mandate focuses, focus 1: droughts, where a follow up of the expert discussion was done and the decision was taken to elaborate a short document on the topic, including the outcomes of the Questionnaire sent to the contracting parties; focus 2: outcomes of the questionnaire on the usage of Guidelines on small hydropower in practice where the conclusion was, that their principles are still in use, but would demand even more active and continuous promotion. the platform also discussed the organization of the next Water Conference that will take place in June 2018 in Austria.

PLANALP meeting

On 20 September PLANALP met for the 25th time since the founding of the platform. The meeting was hosted by the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control in the Section of Tyrol in Innsbruck.

The focus of the meeting was the discussion on the first draft of the seventh Report on the State of the Alps, on the topic of natural hazard risk governance. Additionally, the representative of the countries exchanged information on their structures, procedures and experiences in the field of risk governance. As tradition of the Platform, countries reported on the most recent hazardous events in the different Alpine states, in order



to continue the fruitful exchange of experiences and strategies in the sector of natural hazards. The meeting was preceded by a field visit to Sellrain, where concrete examples of protection measures, both structural and biological were showed and explained.

During the meeting, the chair of the Platform Rudolf Hornich also took the opportunity to celebrate the 25th meeting anniversary of the Platform, which is active since 2004. He thanked all the participants for their longstanding commitment and pointed out the outstanding technical quality of the work and results produced by the experts of PLANALP. In conclusion, he wished a continuation of PLANALP's effective work and beneficial activities.

The meeting was held back-to-back with the EUSALP Action Group 8 "To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention", in order to ensure coordination and to avoid overlap between the two bodies. The next meeting of PLANALP is foreseen for April 2018 in Slovenia.

The Mountain Forests Working Group participates at the Conference "Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region"

The Alpine Convention Working Group on Mountain Forests will participate with a presentation at the Conference "*Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region*", which takes place in Bad Reichenhall (Germany) on 23 and 24 October 2017.

The Conference is organised by the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection in the framework of the events and activities organized during the Bavarian Presidency of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region EUSALP in 2017. The Action Group 8, co-headed by Bavaria and Austria, aims to improve risk management and to better manage climate change in the EUSALP area. As part of the Bavarian presidential program, the symposium elaborates on the aspect of

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flood protection by protection forests. Multifunctional mountain forests are indispensable for the protection of life and limb as well as for the protection of enormous asset values throughout the Alpine area. At the same time, mountain forests have multiple other important functions such as supply of wood and maintaining employment in rural Alpine regions. The participants will have the chance to meet experts from Bavaria and other EUSALP countries and regions to discuss their experiences concerning protection forests in the Alpine region in respect of flood protection and heavy rain as well as exchanging experiences on risk governance in this field.

Inside this frame the Mountain Forests Working Group will make its own presentation about good practices and examples in the field of the alpine region. The participation of the members of the working group to this conference will also have the advantage of collecting data and information useful for the drafting of the report. Afterwards, the second meeting of the Working Group will take place.

WISO meeting

With the kind hospitality of the Liechtenstein Office of Environment, the second meeting of the WISO Platform took place in Vaduz on 25-26 September; the Platform meeting was followed by an excursion. The numerous participants exchanged on the situation regarding the status of Large carnivores and Wild Ungulates as well on the legal and political developments since the last meeting. The topic of brown bear management was further discussed based on the document "Guidelines for Common Management of Brown Bear in the Alpine and Northern Dinaric Region" presented by the DinAlpBear



Project. It was also decided that the next meeting, including an expert workshop, will focus on prevention measures for damages caused by large carnivores and will take place in February in Italy.

The excursion to a protective forest ("Schutzwald") offered a possibility to discuss protective forest maintenance, game stock adjustment efforts and its effects on habitat requirements of large carnivores. Further on, at the southeastern border area between Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Austria, the different practices of feeding and hunting systems were presented and discussed from a transnational perspective.



EUSALP Action Group 6: Latest developments

On July 4, 2017 a regular EUSALP Executive Board Meeting took place in Brussels (Belgium). Action Group 6 (AG6), which is led by the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the Land Carinthia, was invited, as AG3 and AG9 to present its current state of play. The presentation highlighted the ongoing activities of the three AG6 sub-groups "Spatial development and soil conservation", "Future oriented farming and forestry" and "Integrated and sustainable water management". Based on the experience of AG6, the AGL outlined the main challenges the AG is currently facing. The active participation of nominated AG members and the valuable contributions of representatives of civil society institutions is a key to successfully continue the work of AG6.

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Moreover, the continuous exchange between all Action Groups and their activities is a necessary precondition to implement the single work plans. Particular focus was laid on the submission of an expression of interest of SG1 and SG2 for the 3rd call of the Alpine Space Program. In addition, SG3 already developed an advanced draft of recommendations regarding green infrastructure solutions in water management. As usual the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention participated at the Executive Board meeting in their role of observer.

On 18 September Action Group 6 met with representatives of other Action Groups in Innsbruck. Aim of the workshop was to brainstorm on potential concepts for a common application for the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF). This initiative of the European Parliament supports the implementation of EUSALP and aims at developing projects in the following fields on intervention: Circular economy, Demographic changes – initiatives against depopulation in remote areas and Sustainable mobility solutions for regional and local levels as well as across regional borders. The deadline for submissions is set at the end of October; in November 2017 the winners will be announced.



Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region

Contribution by: Germany

After the successful conference in Rosenheim (conference documentation [here](#)), in May 2017, we start with a set of six stakeholder workshops for the elaboration of the Action Programme for a Green Economy in the Alpine region. The purpose of the Action Programme is to further develop and specify the recommendations given in the sixth Report on the State of the Alps, and to identify concrete fields of action and relevant actors for the implementation. The main aim is to deliver a stakeholder-driven, realisable and broadly supported programme that builds on existing achievements, responds to business needs and pushes innovative initiatives towards a truly transnational, common approach.

The workshops cover a variety of topics, such as the sustainable use of natural resources, green finance, circular economy, eco-innovations, climate change and the role of cities and municipalities for the greening of the Alpine economy. Moreover, at the end of October we will open an online consultation for commenting on the key aspects of the Action Programme and to bring in specific interests and proposals of all stakeholders. Please find more information on the workshops and the online consultation [here](#).

Energy Management in Alpine Hotels – Save Energy, Reduce Costs, Protect our Climate, Bozen/Bolzano 28-29 November 2017

Contribution by: Germany

Through well-planned energy-saving measures and energy management, Alpine hotels can become more environmentally friendly, reduce operating costs and even increase guest comfort. The conference "Energy Management in Alpine Hotels" gives the opportunity to make valuable contacts, share your own experiences with the topic and find out about industry best practices as well as support and advisory offers throughout the entire Alpine region. The focus of the event is the exchange of experiences among small- and mid-sized

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companies. Energy consultants will provide technical contributions, and entrepreneurs as well as experts from the fields of energy; climate protection and sustainable tourism will introduce exciting initiatives and practical examples. The first day of the event will conclude with a joint for a get together. On the second day, we invite you to an excursion to the "Cyprianerhof Dolomit Resort," where you can learn about the advantages of structured energy management first-hand.

Participation in this event is free of cost. The conference will take place in German, French, Italian and Slovenian language and will be simultaneously interpret. You can register for the event [here](#).

Adelphi is organising this event on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment. The event will be linked to the Alpine-wide initiative for the exchange of experience on issues of climate protection and energy efficiency in the hotel and restaurant business sector, which started in the years 2015/2016 under the German Presidency. It aims to promote a network of partners in the hotel and restaurant sector in the Alpine region. More information you can find [here](#).

Small steps towards big successes - Annual conference in Budoia (Italy) on 23- 24 June and celebration of the 20th anniversary

Contribution by: Alliance in the Alps



The key question of the Conference was "What makes municipalities smart and successful?" The answer is a focus on strategies, connected to a clear vision of the future.

The conference was an opportunity to look back on projects, successfully developed during 20 years of Alliance in the Alps. The participants could learn from their experience and the idea to develop a certain vision for the future and fit all activities to these long-term objectives.

Such as the Biosphärenpark Großes Walsertal (Austria), who follow their holistic approach of sustainable development in the region in order to be authentic and attractive for visitors and locals; or the Municipality of Nenzing (Austria) who takes countless small steps towards a welcoming society.

Since the beginning of 2017, the Italian members of Alliance in the Alps have worked on a vision to improve climate adaption in their municipalities. The main objectives are fixed in the *Carta di Budoia* which has been signed by Italian and French municipalities yet and will be shared within the network.

Further information you can find at the Alliance in the Alps [webpage](#).

Conference of the Heads of Government of Arge Alp

The meeting of the heads of government of the member regions of Arge Alp on 30 June in Lautrach (Bavaria, Germany) served primarily as a productive exchange of views of important institutional actors in the Alpine Region: Alpine Convention, Alpine Space Program, EUSALP and precisely Arge Alp. Secretary General Reiterer emphasized the strong interlinking of the activities of the Alpine Convention and of the actions of Arge Alp in the fields of climate change, transport and mobility as well as mountain farming. "The Alpine Regions are core

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partners for implementing the Alpine Convention stated Secretary General Reiterer. Furthermore, the Conference offered an opportunity to present the 6th Report on the State of the Alps on Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region, the guidelines on balancing intensive and extensive forms of tourism and the recommendations for action in favour of the preservation of protected areas maintaining their protective purpose.

"Cold hands and warm hearts for nature protection"

Contribution by: WWF

The spirit to learn more about the different needs and interests of people and nature, without stopping at administrative borders – motivated the WWF-supported youth network Generation Earth to call for a three-week "River walk" along the Inn river from 16 of July to 6 of August. 21 young people did walk, bike and paddle along the river, visited hydropower plants as well as river restoration projects, and met various stakeholders, from local farmers to Alpine Conventions Secretary General, Markus Reiterer.

Their impressions have been documented in a [video](#).

Bergsteigerdörfer: brand new website

Contribution by: Bergsteigerdörfer

After welcoming their newest members in July, the network of the so called „Mountaineering Villages“(Bergsteigerdörfer) in Bavaria and South Tyrol, and preparing to celebrate the first Slovenian village next year, the initiative of Alpine Associations presents a brand new Website.



Background, history, suggestions for activities, etc. – no matter what season, alpine discipline or level, up-to-date information can be found on the [website](#). But not only the content has been updated, most information is now available in several languages: German, English, Italian and Slovenian!

What are these so called "Mountaineering Villages"? All villages and valleys gathered in the initiative have one objective in common: to promote sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism and economy in the Alps and in the same time preserve alpine natural and cultural heritage for future generations. In cooperation with the Alpine clubs, the communities commit to uphold and incorporate the protocols of the Alpine Convention with respect to further development (tourism, natural conservation, sustainable spatial planning and settlement development).

Youth at the Top 2017, the International Youth Event in the Alps

Contribution by: ALPARC



Hundreds of young people met across the Alps and the Carpathians, all engaging in a great adventure spending one day and one night in the mountains.

The third edition of "Youth at the Top" took place on 11

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July 12 July in six Alpine countries and three countries of the Carpathians. This time, the international youth event hosted 48 events which involved numerous different day and night activities. Hence, more than 600 enthusiastic young people from Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia set out on a great adventure to discover the treasures of the mountain environment.

The overall goal of "Youth at the Top" is to reconnect the younger generation with their living environment and raise their awareness regarding the protection of the Alps and the interconnectedness of the Alpine territory.

A novelty in the third Youth at the Top (YAT) edition was the distribution of the teaching tool "The Alps in my Backpack" – a large canvas with a map of the Alps including various options for educational purposes.

The time leading up to the next edition of YAT in 2018 is a precious resource for the continued experiencing and preserving of the mountains and nature, gathering new stories and experiences before the youngsters all meet up and reach the top again.

Youth at the Top is a project led by ALPARC. For this activity ALPARC has the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Principality of Monaco. Visit our [website](#) or follow us on the social media.

Whatsalp and youth approaching the finishing line

Contribution by: CIPRA International



Alpine wide exchange and networking, outdoor learning and discussing, shooting a movie – and all packed into an alpine adventure: no wonder young people from all over the Alps have been hiking with the whatsalp core group as "Whatsalp youth", among them also members of the CIPRA Youth Council. What the youth participants seem to appreciate most is the inspiration they get out of the exchange with the other hikers. Afterwards they go home motivated to develop their own local projects with support from CIPRA and its alpine wide network. There are only a few days left until the core team of whatsalp will reach the end of its transalpine route from

Vienna to Nice. Since the start of the journey in June 2017, alpine enthusiasts of all ages have joined the group and taken part in documenting the current state of Alpine regions as well as the changes these have undergone. Would you like to know what is happening and where? Check out the project's [website](#) and blog with every-day updates and articles.

YOUrALPS Summer School – the starting shot for the development of the Alpine School Model

Contribution by: Alparc



The YOUrALPS summer school carried the flag of empowering teachers and educators in order to start the test phase of pilot actions in the winter semester 2017/18. New pedagogical approaches, practical

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excursions and participatory activities provided inspiration and concrete instruments with regard to a first structure of an innovative school model – the Alpine School.

From 28 August to 31 August representatives from all project pilot sites met in Naklo (Slovenia) to participate in the elaboration of a framework for the Alpine School Model. In this way, 45 participants from France, Italy, Slovenia, Austria and Germany spent four productive days together, actively engaging in discussions and fruitful exchanges concerning expectations, goals and respective approaches. In the course of the four days, the pilot sites were trained on the pedagogical approach of nature interpretation with the aim of giving young people the possibility to explore by themselves and foster individual learning. Moreover, the crucial importance of protected areas in backing mountain-oriented education was underlined, placing emphasis on several activities already in place, promoting the connection of the young generation to their living environment. The project YOurALPS brings together 12 partners and 25 observers from 5 different Alpine regions and sectors. Alparc - Alpine Network for Protected Areas is lead partner and responsible for the work packages management and communication.

YOurALPS is cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) via the Interreg Alpine Space Programme. Hence, the requirements of the Alpine Space Programme are strictly applied.

For more information on the project you can visit [YOurALPS webpage](#).



Three countries for one river

Contribution by: ISCAR and WWF

The Inn is one of the largest rivers in the Alpine Arc, and one with a quite high conflict potential due to the number of stakeholders and user interests. On its nearly 520 km long way from the 2600 m high Lunghin Lake to the mouth into the Danube in the Alpine Foothills, it not only crosses 3 nations – Switzerland, Austria and Germany (with a small tributary from Italy) – but touches five provinces, 16 districts and more than 200 municipalities.

On 13 and 14 September, the Alpine Convention observer organizations ISCAR and WWF organised the first three-country “Inn River dialogue”, hosted by the

University of Innsbruck and supported by the Province of Tyrol. Nearly 100 representatives of national and provincial governments, municipalities and district administrations, hydropower companies, tourism and fisherpeople’s associations, research institutes and nature stewardship organisations met to inform about existing strategies and activities as well as to identify challenges for the future – from the range of administrative levels which need to work together for effective flood risk management, to the harmonization of



Photo: WWF Anton Vorauer

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fishers and environmentalists vision for fish diversity. Some called for urgent actions in the view of climate change which is already changing the water flow dynamics, while other emphasized the time needed for achieving a real change in people's opinions and behaviour.

In the end, there was a large agreement on one fact: the transboundary multi-sector dialogue opened new perspectives, and it should be continued.

A summary of the workshop results and more pictures of the event are to be found [here](#).

Take yourself some SPARE time

Contribution by: CIPRA International



Fishing, farming, swimming, canoeing, hiking and drinking are only some of the many ecosystem services alpine rivers provide us with. The project SPARE (**S**trategic **P**lanning for **A**lpine **R**iver **E**cosystems) engages citizens, farmers, associations, private companies and all other actors in the management of alpine rivers to make sure we keep on profiting from these resources. With the motto "A picture speaks a thousand words" the project's content and information about the five pilot case studies is now communicated through multimedia [infographics](#) and [photobooks](#). Started in late 2015, SPARE finds itself

in the midst of activities. On 27 September an International Knowledge Exchange Workshop, organised by the SPARE Project Partners from the [Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia](#) in Ljubljana, was the opportunity for project partners and international experts to discuss how to successfully achieve active participation of local populations in decision making processes. Because isn't it much more satisfying to implement a decision to which you have contributed? Other workshops and events aim to install alpine wide cooperation networks in order to facilitate alpine river management and protection with some of the workshops offering the possibility to discover the pilot case studies through field trips. Impressive pictures from our pilot case study sites across the Alps demonstrate the uniqueness and richness of alpine rivers. You would like to find out more about the SPARE project? Check out our [website](#) and subscribe to our [newsletter](#).

Destination Alps – where locals and guests are living

Contribution by: CIPRA International

What does tourism contribute to the cohesion of society? How does it shape our perception of landscape? These and other questions are addressed by the current issue of the "AlpsInsight" magazine by CIPRA International. A tourist destination is a space to live for locals and guests and resultss in different needs and opinions encountering. Tourism offers an income for many people in the Alps, but it is no end in itself. "The success of



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tourism is a dilemma at the same time, is stated on page 5 of the magazine. In an interview, environmental historian Verena Winiwarter talks about idyllic postcards and the reality of tourism. Another article focuses on the ambivalent relation between nature conservation and tourism. Furthermore, a cultural philosopher wonders what kind of "determination" Alpine destinations have. In the Panorama, guests from different countries are telling what they are looking for in the Alps. The varied contributions of the issue "Destination Alps - where locals and guests are living" illuminate the interaction between tourism industry and other areas. "AlpsInsight" is online available in French, Slovenian, Italian and German [here](#) or can be [ordered](#) free of charge.

WhatsAlp Wien – Nice 2017

Contribution by: WhatsAlp

How is the image of the Alps changing over the decades? What traces do people and natural events leave in the landscape? Between June and September 2017, under the name *WhatsAlp* a group of alpine experts trekked from Vienna to Nice through the Alpine region. Whilst on foot, the walkers wanted to document the current state and the changes of the Alpine regions along their journey. An important guideline of this thematic long distance hike is the [Alpine Convention](#). Along the [WhatsAlp](#) route, the group will join various site meetings with interested parties on location about current issues and topics. On 27 June the WhatsAlp group met the "We are Alps" tour of the Permanent Secretariat in Schwarzach (Austria). During the walk the WhatsAlp group communicated the relevance and role of the Alpine Convention for the alpine regions. With the project WhatAalp Youth CIPRA also participated at the project.



Give Youth a Voice in the Alps! GaYA Encourages Youth Participation in Local - Urban and Rural - Politics

Contribution by: Alparc

How can young people become more involved in local political processes? How can local politicians, their municipalities and the young themselves benefit from increased inclusion? These questions are central to the EU Interreg Alpine Space GaYA project (Governance and Youth in the Alps), and especially to its pilot stage that started at the beginning of September. As project partner and coordinator of the pilot phase in 2018, ALPARC also works closely with three Nature park regions in France.



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Over the next months, the pilot stage will start in the different GaYA pilot areas. Based on local needs and challenges, the aim is to test innovative approaches to mobilise and include youth in political processes in various fields: from youth-related topics such as education and culture to wider regional challenges such as biodiversity and climate change. Accompanied by the GaYA partnership and supported by external experts in the fields of citizen participation and democratic innovation, each pilot area will develop a participatory action plan and should implement at least one specific action in 2018. The experiences and lessons from this experimental approach will help the consortium to develop a toolkit and recommendations for policy-making in the field of youth participation in local politics.

Interreg
Alpine Space



GaYA 
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

GaYA runs from November 2016 to February 2019 and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space programme. ALPARC is work package leader in the pilot stage (End 2017-2018).

Have a look at the GaYA comparative [report](#), available in all Alpine languages). You can also watch the GaYA teaser [video-clip](#), available in [EN](#) [DE](#) [FR](#) [IT](#) [SI](#). To keep yourself updated, please visit our [webpage](#).

Alpine Space project on climate change among RegioStars 2017 finalists

Contribution by: Alpine Space Programme

The Alpine Space project [SEAP_Alps](#) has been selected among the RegioStars finalists in the "Energy Union: Climate action" category this year! The vote for the Public Choice Award is open and you can support the visibility of Alpine projects at the European level by voting [here](#) for SEAP_Alps.

The yearly [RegioStars Awards](#) identify good practices in regional development and honour Europe's most inspiring projects supported by the EU Cohesion Policy. SEAP_Alps has adapted an EU Covenant of Mayors concept to Alpine regions, thereby providing local authorities with a joint methodology for energy and climate adaptation planning. To assist decision makers, the project has provided a platform for knowledge transfer and capacity building. Furthermore, SEAP_Alps has tested a new public-private investment concept, which allows municipalities to meet energy-efficiency requirements for buildings. The project [PEACE_Alps](#) builds on the results of SEAP_Alps and is running until then end of 2018.



Alpine Space programme: 112 expressions of interest received in the third call for project proposals

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The first step of the third call for project proposals of the Alpine Space programme was closed on 28 June. The 112 expressions of interest received are currently being assessed by the joint secretariat. On 11 and 12 October, the programme committee will select the proposals that will be invited for the second step of the application process. More information on the third call for project proposals can be found [here](#).

News from the Infopoints

The Infopoint of Domodossola presents "The new mountaineers: who are they, what do they do?"

On August 5, in the framework of the activities organised by the Infopoint of the Alpine Convention in Domodossola (Italy) the event "The new mountaineers: who are they, what do they do?" was successfully organised by the CAI section of Valle Vigazzo at the Buttogno Visit Center of Val Grande National Park, under the principles of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism (CETS). The event gained the patronage of the Alpine Convention and the ARS.UNI.VCO Association as responsible of Domodossola Infopoint. The workshop focused on the return of young people to the mountain territories due to life choices and new work



opportunities. This was also the occasion to present the main results and future trends related to demographic changes in the Alpine region, as well as the work that the Alpine Convention is doing on this important topic. During this event, some personal and positive experiences of young people, who decided to return to live in the mountains, were presented to the public. The organizers hope that in the next future cases of repopulation of mountainous areas by the new mountaineers will be welcomed and supported also by the decision-makers.

Mountain marathon of the three valleys: Doors, Kot, Krma



The infopoint of the Alpine Convention at the Slovenian Alpine Museum in Mojstrana (Slovenia) participated in the organisation of the "Mountain marathon of the three valleys: Doors, Kot, Krma" that was initiated by the legendary Mojstrana mountain runner Franci Teraž and his wife a few years ago. The route for the run foresaw a 48 km run with 3400 meters of elevation, but was reduced due to the bad weather on 1 July when the run took place. Nevertheless 48 runners participated at the event that aimed at showing the sustainable possibility of human activities in high mountain nature.

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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.

October

3–5 October	Permanent Committee 64	Gmunden, Austria
5–6 October	Workshop between Working Groups & Platforms and EUSALP Action Groups	Gmunden, Austria
10-13 October	Innsbruck Nature Film Festival	Innsbruck, Austria
18-19 October	Tourism-Mobility Day	Werfenweng, Austria
18 October	Europe Direct event “ Why Europe matters for the Alps ” with presentation of Alpine Space projects ASTUS, e-MOTICON and MORECO	Munich, Germany
23-24 October	Symposium on “Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region”	Bad Reichenhall, Germany
25 October	Green Economy Action Programme Workshop on Circular Economy	Edolo, Italy

November

2-4 November	6 th International Symposium for Research in Protected Areas	Salzburg, Austria
9-10 November	Green Economy Action Programme Workshop on the “Role of municipalities and cities”	Villach, Austria
13 November	Green Economy Action Programme Workshop on the Eco-Innovations	Basel, Switzerland
14 November	WG MRS meeting	Vienna, Austria
15-16 November	Econet PF meeting	Parco delle Alpi Marittime e Mercantour, Italy
22 November	AlpGov Project meeting	Munich, Germany
23-24 November	EUSALP annual forum & General Assembly	Munich, Germany
28-29 November	Compliance Committee meeting	Vienna, Austria
28-29 November	Conference “Energy management in Alpine hotels”	Bolzano, Italy

December

1 December	WG Transport meeting	Paris, France
11 December	Reading Mountains Festival	Alps

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