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**Tagung der Alpenkonferenz**  
**Réunion de la Conférence alpine**  
**Sessione della Conferenza delle Alpi**  
**Zasedanje Alpske konference**

**XIII**

12.11.2014

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**OL: DE**

**DECISIONE SUL TEMA DELLA SESTA RELAZIONE SULLO STATO  
DELLE ALPI**

**A Relazione della Delegazione tedesca**

**B Proposta di decisione**

**Allegato:**

- I. Relazione sullo stato delle Alpi 2016 sul tema “Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region”**

## **A Relazione della delegazione tedesca**

### **1. Istituzione del gruppo di esperti ad hoc**

#### Decisioni delle Conferenze delle Alpi

L'XI Conferenza delle Alpi (Brdo pri Kranju, marzo 2011) ha invitato "le Parti contraenti a unire i loro sforzi per la riduzione e l'utilizzo del potenziale di neutralizzazione delle emissioni di gas serra nei territori alpini, nella misura più ampia possibile, nei vari settori, tenendo conto sia delle politiche nazionali di mitigazione sia delle iniziative regionali e locali adottate nel territorio alpino (punto B5). La XII Conferenza delle Alpi (Poschiavo, settembre 2012) ha ribadito "il proprio impegno per una maggior sostenibilità delle aree montane" (punto B3). Essa ha inoltre affermato di ritenere fermamente "che, nell'ottica della riduzione del consumo energetico nonché della produzione e dell'utilizzo sostenibili delle fonti energetiche nelle Alpi, sia importante che la Convenzione delle Alpi si dedichi maggiormente alla tematica delle infrastrutture energetiche e del loro impatto sull'ambiente e sui paesaggi alpini" (punto B4).

### **2. Compiti nell'ambito della Convenzione delle Alpi**

#### La Convenzione delle Alpi, i suoi Protocolli e il Programma di lavoro pluriennale

In conformità all'articolo 2 della Convenzione quadro e dei Protocolli Pianificazione territoriale e sviluppo sostenibile, Protezione della natura e tutela del paesaggio, Agricoltura di montagna, Foreste montane, Turismo, Energia, Difesa del suolo e Trasporti, nonché agli ambiti di attività del Programma di lavoro pluriennale 2011-2016, Cambiamenti demografici, Cambiamenti climatici, Turismo, Biodiversità, Trasporti e mobilità, il gruppo di esperti ad hoc si occupa del settore prioritario della green economy, comprendente i fattori socioeconomici (istruzione, occupazione, crescita economica, ecc.) e il relativo impatto sull'ambiente alpino e sulla qualità della vita delle popolazioni residenti nelle Alpi.

#### Contributo alla cooperazione panalpina

Negli scorsi anni, soprattutto all'interno dei Gruppi di lavoro e delle Piattaforme della Convenzione delle Alpi sono state intraprese numerose attività sui temi della protezione della natura e tutela del paesaggio, dell'agricoltura di montagna, delle foreste montane, del turismo, dell'energia, della difesa del suolo, dei trasporti e dei cambiamenti demografici e climatici, tenendo conto degli interventi paralleli dei gruppi di osservatori e stakeholder. Sia le Relazioni sullo stato delle Alpi che le Piattaforme e i Gruppi di lavoro affrontano vari argomenti

connessi al concetto di green economy, tra cui ad esempio i problemi legati alla possibilità di uno sviluppo dei trasporti, di un turismo e di un uso delle risorse idriche sostenibili.

Tutto ciò costituisce una base essenziale per le attività nell'ambito della green economy.

### **3. Attività durante il periodo di mandato**

#### Attività principali

Nella regione alpina cresce ulteriormente la consapevolezza dell'esigenza e del potenziale di una green economy, già consolidatasi soprattutto nelle zone rurali in virtù della specificità del territorio. Il dibattito in corso sulla green economy potrebbe fornire un ulteriore stimolo a tale riguardo. Il concetto di green economy riguarda tutti i settori economici, da quelli tradizionali come l'agricoltura e le foreste a quelli più moderni e innovativi dei servizi. Il concept di green economy potrebbe rivelarsi utile per definire ed attuare meglio il principio guida dello sviluppo sostenibile. Il suo elemento fondamentale è rappresentato dal rapporto tra l'economia e l'ecologia, ma vi trovano spazio anche obiettivi sociali, come l'organizzazione equa e socialmente corretta della transizione verso un'economia verde. Inoltre, occorrerà rafforzare le varie sinergie tra gli obiettivi sociali e quelli ambientali. Ad esempio, una green economy può contrastare sviluppi sociali negativi, quali l'abbandono delle aree rurali o la diminuzione delle zone coltivate o delle aree forestali, in quanto fornisce il potenziale per la creazione di nuovi redditi sostenibili e di opportunità occupazionali in queste regioni. La qualificazione del personale costituisce un importante criterio.

Ad oggi, non sono esistite né un inventario sistematico o né un'analisi approfondita degli approcci attualmente in uso per promuovere la green economy nella regione alpina. Pertanto, occorre condurre un esame sistematico del potenziale di un'economia verde nelle Alpi. Il lavoro del gruppo di esperti ad hoc è ripartito su diversi livelli di analisi che spaziano dal livello locale a quello nazionale al fine di coprire ed essere in grado di discutere i diversi campi potenziali d'interesse e i nuovi fenomeni in atto nelle Alpi.

In questo contesto, il mandato deve comprendere i seguenti obiettivi:

1. Raccogliere e valutare dati e informazioni panalpine sullo stato e il potenziale di sviluppo della green economy nelle Alpi.
2. Raccogliere e valutare le buone pratiche che promuovono la green economy nelle Alpi, concentrandosi su strategie, linee, misure e strumenti a livello politico, ma considerando anche i progetti e le iniziative della società civile e del settore privato ed enfatizzandone i vantaggi economici, ecologici ed eventualmente sociali. La selezione degli esempi deve essere basata su criteri specifici sociali, economici ed ecologici appositamente concordati. Saranno inoltre definiti criteri congiunti per l'esame e la selezione delle buone pratiche,

tra cui la trasferibilità ad altre regioni alpine, gli effetti, il carattere innovativo o la rilevanza economica. Tale processo sarà affiancato dalla verifica degli studi scientifici sul potenziale e i vantaggi di una green economy nella regione alpina.

3. Preparare raccomandazioni per i responsabili politici relative all'attuazione e alla trasferibilità delle buone pratiche.
4. Preparare un sunto della relazione sulla base dei criteri utilizzati per la Relazione sullo stato delle Alpi.

Per intraprendere le sue attività, il gruppo di esperti ad hoc si avvarrà della ricerca già esistente. Tuttavia, dovrà intensificare il contatto con le istituzioni che dispongono di dati rilevanti (amministrazioni pubbliche e tutte le autorità in grado di fornire dati raccolti e validati) e valutare l'opportunità di mettere a disposizione i dati raccolti e armonizzati tramite il sistema SOIA (Sistema di Osservazione e Informazione delle Alpi).

#### Comunicazione

Il gruppo di esperti ad hoc è considerato un gruppo aperto che istituisce ed espande reti di esperti, stakeholder e altri operatori tramite workshop, seminari e riunioni di esperti, allo scopo di raccogliere nuovi dati e informazioni e di creare un quadro realistico della situazione nella regione alpina per quanto riguarda la green economy e i relativi fattori. Il gruppo di esperti ad hoc può inoltre ricorrere al lavoro svolto nell'ambito dell'EUSALP. I suddetti eventi potranno essere organizzati insieme ad altre istituzioni, iniziative, progetti, ecc. Inoltre il gruppo effettuerà tutte le riunioni necessarie per adempiere il proprio mandato e prendere le relative decisioni.

#### Preparazione di documentazione

Il principale risultato del mandato sarà la preparazione della sesta Relazione sullo stato delle Alpi.

### **4. Composizione e organizzazione del lavoro**

#### Presidenza e composizione del gruppo di esperti

Il gruppo di esperti ad hoc sarà presieduto dalla Presidenza tedesca della Convenzione delle Alpi, con la quale coordinerà il proprio lavoro, usufruendo del supporto del Segretariato permanente. Il gruppo comprende esperti delle Parti contraenti e degli Osservatori ufficiali. Le Parti contraenti hanno un compito speciale nella preparazione della relazione, in particolare per quanto riguarda il reperimento delle informazioni e dei dati a livello nazionale. Inoltre, alle riunioni del gruppo di esperti ad hoc potranno partecipare e dare il proprio contributo alla

relazione importanti stakeholder ed esperti attivi nei progetti di cooperazione e ricerca che si occupano di temi interessanti per il gruppo.

#### Organizzazione del lavoro

Ad alcune riunioni il gruppo di esperti potrà invitare delegazioni delle pubbliche autorità e associazioni rilevanti, nonché esperti esterni.

Il mandato è valido fino alla XIV Conferenza delle Alpi, in occasione della quale il gruppo di esperti, tramite il Comitato permanente, presenterà la sesta Relazione sullo stato delle Alpi e una relazione sull'attuazione del mandato.

## **B Proposta di decisione**

La Conferenza delle Alpi

1. decide che il tema della sesta Relazione sullo stato delle Alpi (RSA 6) sarà "Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region";
2. approva il mandato biennale (2015/16) conferito al gruppo di esperti ad hoc per la RSA 6;
3. affida alla Germania la presidenza del gruppo di esperti ad hoc per la RSA 6;
4. invita le Parti contraenti e gli Osservatori a nominare degli esperti per il gruppo ad hoc incaricato della RSA 6.



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**ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA**

**1**



## “Report on the State of the Alps 2016 – Greening the Economy in the Alpine Region”

### Preparing the Report on the State of the Alps 2016 under the German Presidency

The German Presidency of the Alpine Convention for 2015 and 2016 intends to continue the series of Reports on the State of the Alps (RSA) published every two years since 2007 and, in collaboration with the other member states, prepare a Report on the State of the Alps 2016. The key theme for this Report proposed to the Permanent Committee and to the Alpine Conference is “Greening the economy in the Alpine region - from the niche to a guiding principle”.

In the run-up to the German Presidency, the feasibility of reporting on this topic has already been examined.

### The green economy concept

There are various approaches that can be used to achieve a green economy. One such approach was designed and driven forward by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a result of the global economic and financial crisis and in preparation for the Rio+20 Summit. For the implementation of a green economy, UNEP launched the Green Economy Initiative by publishing the report entitled “Towards a Green Economy“ in 2011<sup>1</sup>. At the Rio+20 Earth Summit, the topic “Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication” was presented as one of two key themes. In the Outcome Document this theme was described as one of the most important tools available for achieving socially, ecologically and economically sustainable development<sup>2</sup>.

UNEP defines green economy as an approach to economic management which improves human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. To put it simply, green economy is a low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive management approach. It promotes an increase in income and job opportunities through public and private investments in lowering carbon dioxide emissions and environmental pollution, increasing energy and resource efficiencies and preventing the decline of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Both UNEP’s Green Economy Report and the UN’s Rio+20 Resolution underline the importance of sustainable consumption on the de-

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme 2011: Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication - A Synthesis for Policy Makers. Nairobi, 52 see.: 2.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations 2012: The future we want. Resolution 66/288, adopted by the General Assembly on 27. July 2012, 53 see.: 11 ff.





mand side of a green economy, highlighting the need to foster sustainable consumption patterns.

UNEP's green economy concept and the OECD's green growth concept are closely related. As early as 2009, a Green Growth Declaration was adopted by 34 ministers, thereby giving the OECD a political mandate to work on a green growth strategy. In 2011 the strategy was published under the title "Towards Green Growth"<sup>3</sup> and was the starting point for a long-term green growth agenda. Green growth denotes an alternative pathway for growth, avoiding negative impacts on the environment, biodiversity and natural resources. Green growth is based on the sustainable use of natural resources as an essential prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and improving the quality of life. The reorganisation of the economy to achieve the environmental benefits of greater energy and resource efficiency and better management of natural capital, offers many economic advantages such as lower energy and material costs, lower environmental and health costs for society and higher employment rates through the required investments in the reorganisation. In addition, the environmental and efficiency technologies needed for this will also open up new opportunities on the market and could be a strong driver for growth.

The green economy concept has established itself as an essential component of political discourse, both at EU level and at national level including several Alpine states.

### **Special frameworks, opportunities and challenges of green economy in the Alpine Region**

Prior to the Rio+20 Summit, an international conference had already looked into the relevance of the green economy for the world's mountain regions (International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio+20), in order to strengthen the specific issues of mountain regions in the Rio+20 discourse. The Outcome Document<sup>4</sup> of the Conference stresses the special role of mountains in delivering mountain ecosystem services and their direct and indirect contribution to a green economy. This includes, above all, the storage and supply of high-quality water, opportunities for using clean, renewable energy (especially hydropower), the role played by mountains in regional and global climate regulation through biogeochemical and biophysical processes, and safeguarding the habitats of a wide range of animal and plant species, many of them small and marked by extreme conditions. Another factor is a plethora of cultural services, such as opportunities for recreation and a rich cultural heritage. Thanks to centuries of

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<sup>3</sup> OECD 2011: Towards green growth. The OECD Green Growth Strategy. 142 see.  
<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/towardsgreengrowth.htm>

<sup>4</sup> ICIMOD - For Mountain and People 2011: Green Economy for Sustainable Mountain Development - A concept paper for Rio+20 and beyond. Outcome of the International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio+20, 5-7 September 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal



intimate connections between the Alpine human communities and the natural environment, there are numerous ideas for the careful and sustainable use of limited natural resources. The Outcome Document also underlines that thoughtful planning and implementation of economic activities is required in mountain regions due to their high fragility.

The Outcome Document of the International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development Opportunities and Challenges in View of Rio+20 points out that it is difficult to quantify the extensive Mountain Ecosystem Services and their economic importance is thus often underrated. The challenge is to achieve a more targeted utilisation of mountain-specific ecosystem services, to strengthen regional economies by acknowledging their true value and to recognise the opportunities offered by an expanding market of niche mountain products. Furthermore, the Outcome Document emphasises that mountain-specific indicators have to be developed for measurement of progress towards a green economy in mountains.

Owing to the heterogeneous economic and social structure and the natural environment in the Alps, it is not easy to encapsulate aspects of a green economy which are specific to the Alps. Nevertheless, the discussion at international level has put forward some good ideas. An RSA on "Greening the Economy" could, for example, implement the recommendation of the International Conference on Green Economy and Sustainable Mountain Development, namely to improve the reporting on greening the economy by incorporating mountain-specific data.

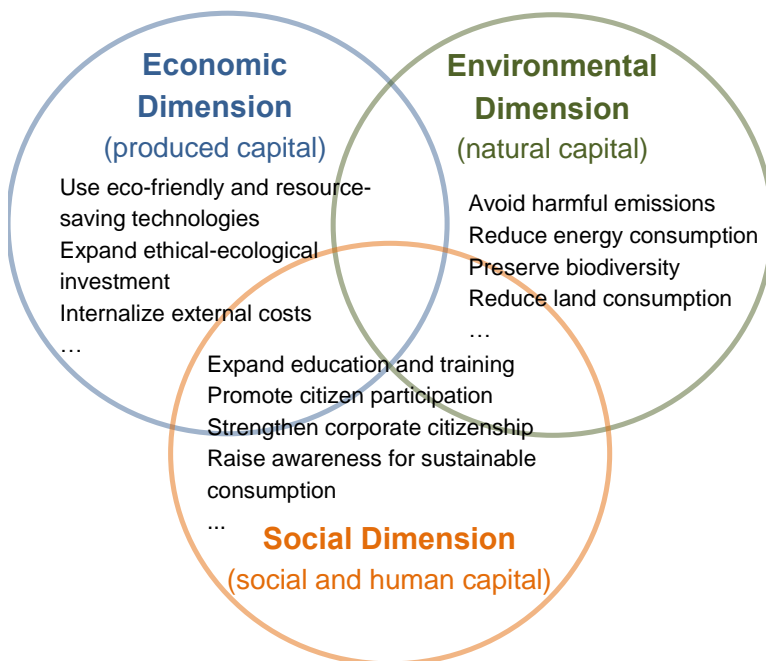
An RSA focusing on the green economy will have to take into account the Alpine Convention's essential objective of protecting the Alpine habitat. The high sensitivity and limited carrying capacity of Alpine ecosystems are why it is crucial to accept the limits of economic growth in the Alpine Region and to define ecological guard rails. Discussions about a green economy in the Alpine Region ought to reflect the specific opportunities and potential of eco-friendly economic practices and should also reflect the importance of the natural resources as the basis and boundaries for economic activities.

### **Possible range of green economy topics in the Alpine Region**

Depending on the spatial context and the stakeholders involved in the topic, different priorities will be set for the interpretation of the green economy concept. The term green economy has not been clearly defined.

The green economy was described by the Rio+20 Conference as a tool for implementing sustainable development; consequently, the concept encompasses all three dimensions of sustainability. Here, the focus is put on the connection between environmental protection and economic growth, taking into account the social aspects which also play a role in this context. Examples of such social aspects are the socially compatible and participative reorganisation of the economy, the resulting employment effects and need for qualifications.

This presents us with an extremely broad range of themes and activities which are covered by the concept of a green economy. The range spans the use of technologies for saving energy, water and raw materials, the recycling of waste and the marketing of ecologically sound products and services. It also includes services, the fostering of innovation in the field of sustainable technologies, the expansion of the green job market and public participation in planning and decision-making processes. It is crucial to understand that green economy is a coherent, integrated concept that encompasses all economic sectors.



When preparing the report it is important to make clear that the green economy concept affects numerous social and economic fields. This means that its implementation will require a broad range of ideas and initiatives from a significant number of government and non-government agents.

Several of the topics covered in previous Reports on the State of the Alps overlap with the green economy concept, and other areas are addressed in a green economy context. The RSA 2016 will draw on the

work already done. At the same time, the key topic of a green economy can incorporate many new aspects which have not been covered so far. This is especially true for social and economic fields which can provide a platform for identifying new target groups for the RSA.

### Preparatory work for the feasibility study

The German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) commissioned a feasibility study in July 2014 for the RSA 2016 under the heading “Greening the Economy“. The aim of the study was to identify the potential range of thematic aspects to be included in such a report, to develop an idea for the necessary fields to be covered, to assess the availability of data and information and to hold a workshop to discuss ideas and suggestions emerging from this process. All the national delegations of the Alpine Convention, some selected observers and several experts were invited to attend this workshop.

The workshop was held in Freising/Bavaria on 25th and 26th September 2014, attended by 14 participants from Alpine states and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. Apart from setting thematic priorities, discussions were held on questions of potential forms

of presentation, and on possible data sources and good practice examples which should be included in the RSA 2016. Furthermore, general suggestions were made for the reporting process and the report itself.

The key outcomes of the discussions are:

- **General remarks**

“Greening the Economy” – the title proposed for the report – emphasises that the focus of the report will be on indicators, case regions and examples illustrating the transition process towards a green economy. This means that, apart from potential actions to be taken, the report should also address the requirements and framework conditions for strengthening a green economy in the Alps.

An economic system in the Alps can only be termed ‘green’ or ‘greening’ if it respects, or is restructured to respect, the ecological boundaries of the region.

- **Thematic priorities**

The wide range of topics that fall under the green economy concept should be reflected in the RSA 2016. This means that the various opportunities for economic growth through green management practices must be made clear. Alongside the economic and ecological dimension, social aspects must be taken into account when working towards a green economy. Furthermore, synergies between social objectives and the transition towards a green economy should be highlighted. The latter in particular provides opportunities for the Alpine population to become more involved with the RSA and to use it as a platform for exchanging ideas.

It makes sense to identify the thematic focal points of the green economy concept specific to the Alpine region. With this in mind, special attention must be given to the conditions of production and socioeconomic requirements that are specific to the Alpine region. This refers to Alpine specific ecological limits for economic development as well as development problems and opportunities. In this context, it is possible that individual members will set their own different priorities. In order to strengthen the thematic focus, it is important to make links between the RSA and the Alpine Convention and its protocols, with particular reference to their aims and objectives.

The prioritisation of themes proposed by workshop participants showed that preferences were varied. Some themes were highly prioritised by most of the participants (such as “More efficient use of energy“, “Preserve biodiversity“ and “Expand ethical-ecological investment“). Only a few themes on the proposed list were recommended unanimously for elimination (e.g. “Foster technology acceptance“ or “Remove trade barriers“). Overall, the proposed themes were met with widespread interest.

Green	consistent high prioritisation: 15 or more green dots	Orange	Controversial view of the topic: more than 1 red dot
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For the prioritisation the participants were given 30 green points and four red points. The green points were used to mark areas of activity to be prioritised. The red points could be used to mark areas of activity that the participants thought should not be further dealt with.

Thematic Structure		Prioritisation results	
Context, aims	Areas of activity and scope of action	Green	Red
<b>Social Dimension</b>			
Raise awareness of challenges and opportunities	Foster technology acceptance and ensure open technology	2	2
	Increase willingness to innovate	13	0
	Strengthen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	18	0
	Foster sustainable consumption	26	0
Build a culture of participation	Foster employee participation	3	0
	Support public engagement; promote public participation	21	0
Consider social impacts	Design flanking measures to mitigate the adverse social effects of programs and instruments on low-income households	6	2
Enhance education and skills	Expand education and training opportunities in the field of sustainability	12	0
Promote employment, offer meaningful jobs	Create environmentally friendly jobs ("green jobs")	14	0
<b>Environmental dimension</b>			
Increase energy and resource efficiency; Decouple economic growth and detrimental environmental impacts	More efficient use of energy ("relative decoupling")	19	0
	More efficient use of raw materials and other natural resources ("relative decoupling")	22	0
Conservation of non-renewable resources	Reduce energy consumption ("absolute decoupling")	16	0
	Use less non-renewable resources ("absolute decoupling")	11	0
	Reduce use of water ("absolute decoupling")	2	2
	Increase energy supply from renewable energy sources in the long term	14	0
	Replace or recycle non-renewable resources/ raw materials	12	0
	Preserve biodiversity	18	0
	Preserve Alpine landscape ( <i>added in the workshop</i> )	7	0
	Reduce land consumption	17	1
Avoid, reduce and remove contamination or other negative environmental impacts in a targeted way	Avoidance of harmful emissions and pollutants to all environmental media	13	0
<b>Economic dimension</b>			
Ensure access to open, properly functioning and efficient markets	Remove trade barriers while respecting environmental and social standards	3	3

Thematic Structure		Prioritisation results	
Context, aims	Areas of activity and scope of action	Green	Red
<b>Increase the importance of green technologies; modernise traditional economic/ industrial sectors</b>	Exploit the green potential of new technologies	6	0
	Use eco-friendly and resource-saving technologies	12	0
	Organise corporate structures so that they are eco-friendly and resource-saving	10	0
<b>Sustainable organisation of the financial market</b>	Expand ethical-ecological investment	18	0
	Strengthen regional financial circuits	13	4
<b>Accounting and reporting: new indicators are needed</b>	Develop and implement alternative models for measuring welfare	13	1
	Add some key indicators to corporate financial statements	4	2
<b>Define political and regulatory framework conditions</b>	Set up regulatory frameworks including rigorous social and environmental standards	6	0
	Remove regulations that hamper innovation in the environmental and energy sectors and promote environmentally friendly innovations	5	0
	Internalize external costs, reduce environmentally harmful subsidies	25	0
	Promote environmentally friendly technologies, applications and products	15	0
	Increase public investment in environmentally friendly technologies, applications and products	13	0
	Provide effective protection of intellectual property rights (IPR)	3	5

- **Data availability and forms of data presentation**

As in previous Reports on the State of the Alps the availability of data, especially if the RSA is to be indicator-based, will set limits to the key topic of “Greening the Economy“. National statistics provide data for generating economic indicators; frequently, however, they focus solely on large spatial units which incorporate areas outside the parameters of the Alpine Convention, where different structures prevail. That is why, apart from the official statistics, it is important to check other potential data sources (e.g. data provided by the chambers of commerce or data from research projects) to see if they may be useful.

Pan-Alpine data-based material can be supplemented by presentations of those cases where data are only available for certain countries or regions, or where data cannot be compared across borders (“case regions”). This type of presentation was also adopted in previous Reports on the State of the Alps. As some of the conceptual studies already presented at regional level deal at least with selected elements of green economy, these may provide differentiated analyses for the regions in question.

With regard to key topics, best practices that promote green economy in the Alpine Region need to be identified and systematically reviewed. There will be a focus on political measures and tools at regional and municipal level and also on societal initiatives and their support through politics. The workshop participants recommended that the selection of practice examples should be made in a transparent and criteria-based manner thus facilitating the

presentation of transferable examples that are specific to the Alpine Region and simultaneously address a wide range of green economy aspects. Furthermore, the development of expert-based scenarios or the incorporation of views from people living in the Alps on the future development of the region might be considered as a means of making the RSA 2016 more attractive for the target groups addressed.