

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

XIV

10.08.2016

TOP / POJ / ODG / TDR

A2

IT

OL: IT

**RELAZIONE SULLE ATTIVITÀ DEL SEGRETARIATO PERMANENTE
NEL BIENNIO 2015 - 2016**

A Relazione del Segretariato permanente

B Proposta di decisione

Allegato

- I. Relazione estesa sulle attività del Segretariato permanente della Convenzione delle Alpi nel biennio 2015-2016**

A Relazione del Segretariato permanente

La relazione allegata presenta le attività svolte dal Segretariato permanente nel biennio di presidenza tedesca 2015 – 2016. In questo biennio ricco di attività, il Segretariato ha principalmente fornito supporto agli organi e alla Presidenza della Convenzione delle Alpi, p. es. attraverso la preparazione e l'organizzazione delle riunioni statutarie della Convenzione, l'assistenza a Gruppi di lavoro e Piattaforme o il supporto alla Presidenza nell'elaborazione del nuovo MAP e della RSA 6. Inoltre, il Segretariato permanente si è impegnato in molteplici altre attività, riportate in dettaglio nell'Allegato, fra le quali si sottolineano i seguenti ambiti di intervento di maggior rilievo: 1) Supporto agli organi della Convenzione delle Alpi e alle attività di implementazione 2) comunicazione della Convenzione delle Alpi, 3) Progetti del Segretariato permanente 4) ABIS/SOIA, 5) EUSALP, 6) Iniziative di cooperazione e 7) variazioni nell'organico.

1. Supporto agli organi della Convenzione delle Alpi

In questo ambito essenziale di attività del Segretariato permanente, oltre al supporto nell'organizzazione e gestione delle riunioni del Comitato permanente, del Gruppo di verifica e dei Gruppi di lavoro e delle Piattaforme, il Segretariato permanente ha fornito supporto alla Presidenza in diverse attività di implementazione della Convenzione.

Fra di esse, sono da menzionare le attività di supporto all'implementazione del Piano di azione sul clima, fra cui l'organizzazione di un tour "We are Alps" - dedicato ai giornalisti - sul tema e l'organizzazione in collaborazione con l'ambasciata francese in Austria, l'Università di Innsbruck e Alp-S, dell'iniziativa Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck, una serie di incontri pubblici sui cambiamenti climatici rapportati ai temi dei rischi naturali, dell'energia e del turismo. Il Segretariato permanente ha anche redatto un contributo sui cambiamenti climatici nelle Alpi per il prossimo rapporto "*Climate Change Impact and Vulnerability in Europe*" dell'Agenzia Europea per l'Ambiente. Il Segretario generale ha altresì partecipato all'apertura della seduta annuale del Parlamento dei Giovani della Convenzione delle Alpi, dedicata ai servizi ecosistemici nel contesto dei cambiamenti climatici, e al convegno sulla protezione del clima nei comuni "Protezione del clima ora". Il Segretario generale ha infine partecipato al segmento "High Level" della COP 21.

Inoltre, il Segretariato permanente ha attivamente supportato la Presidenza nel processo di elaborazione del Programma di Lavoro Pluriennale 2017-2022, partecipando a tutte le riunioni del Gruppo di Lavoro ad hoc, moderando due tavoli al *workshop* preparatorio a Triesenberg (LIE) e contribuendo all'analisi di un questionario preliminare rivolto a diversi operatori alpini, nonché alla stesura del testo.

2. Comunicazione della Convenzione delle Alpi

Nell'ultimo biennio è stata rafforzata l'attenzione alla comunicazione della Convenzione delle Alpi e delle attività a essa afferenti tramite le seguenti iniziative:

- rafforzamento della presenza sul *web*, grazie al quale sono stati quasi raddoppiati i *likes* e *followers* su Facebook e Twitter.
- La *newsletter* trimestrale curata dal Segretariato permanente, redatta anche grazie ai contributi forniti dalle Parti contraenti, dagli Osservatori, dai Gruppi di lavoro e dalle Piattaforme.
- Il miglioramento dell'impostazione grafica del sito web della Convenzione delle Alpi, che ha aumentato la sua accessibilità da parte degli utenti. Il sito del Segretariato ha pubblicato inoltre numerosi comunicati per una diffusione il più possibile tempestiva delle principali informazioni nelle lingue ufficiali della Convenzione.
- La realizzazione di un filmato sull'agricoltura di montagna, di un cortometraggio sul tema "Uomini, libri e montagne. La ricerca di una letteratura alpina" e di una nuova *clip* breve di presentazione della Convenzione delle Alpi e dei suoi obiettivi.
- Attività mirate di intensificazione della comunicazione, fra cui in particolare, le edizioni 2015 e 2016 del tour dei giornalisti „We are Alps“ sui temi del cambiamento climatico e della green economy e la nuova mostra itinerante sulla Convenzione delle Alpi.
- Ideazione e realizzazione delle attività dedicate alla Giornata internazionale della montagna con l'iniziativa "Berge Lesen, Lire les Montagnes, Leggere le Montagne, Brati Gore". Nell'edizione 2015 dell'iniziativa sono stati organizzati circa 100 eventi in tutto l'arco alpino e non solo, con la partecipazione di migliaia di persone e una notevole risonanza mediatica. Le attività sopra citate hanno beneficiato del sostegno anche economico della Presidenza, delle Parti contraenti e di altri partner quali gli infopoint della Convenzione delle Alpi a cui va il più sentito ringraziamento del Segretariato permanente. Questo successo ha portato all'ideazione di una nuova edizione, prevista per la settimana dell'11 dicembre 2016.
- Un altro elemento importante della comunicazione è stato infine il costante dialogo con gli Osservatori della Convenzione delle Alpi e con le reti.

3. Progetti del Segretariato permanente

Oltre all'organizzazione dell'evento „Leggere le Montagne“, del tour per giornalisti „We Are Alps“ e dell'iniziativa „Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck“, già menzionati nelle sezioni sulla comunicazione e sul supporto agli organi della Convenzione, il Segretariato permanente è

stato impegnato nella realizzazione di diversi progetti. Fra di essi, spiccano l'ideazione e l'organizzazione dell'edizione 2016 del premio *Young Academics Award* (il cui evento culmine è la consegna dei premi ai vincitori e alle vincitrici nel corso del ricevimento ufficiale della Conferenza delle Alpi), l'organizzazione delle edizioni 2015 e 2016 del concorso fotografico della Convenzione e, infine, il progetto "Help Nepal". Quest'ultimo progetto, avviato subito dopo i devastanti terremoti in Nepal dell'aprile 2015, si è concluso nel 2016. Il progetto è stato finanziato tramite un contributo della Presidenza, tramite mezzi propri del Segretariato permanente nonché grazie a contributi volontari (in particolare da parte del Liechtenstein e di INTRALP). Grazie al progetto, 12 abitanti del villaggio di Aisselukharka nel distretto di Khotang hanno seguito un percorso formativo per apprendere tecniche di costruzione e falegnameria adatte alla ricostruzione di edifici antisismici. Il progetto inoltre ha portato alla costruzione di una scuola.

4. ABIS/SOIA

Nell'ultimo biennio, le attività del Segretariato permanente in quest'ambito si sono concentrate essenzialmente sul Quinto e Sesto Rapporto sullo stato delle Alpi (RSA 5 e RSA 6) e sulla creazione di una piattaforma WebGIS.

Nell'anno 2015 è stata pubblicata la RSA 5 nelle quattro lingue ufficiali della Convenzione delle Alpi e in inglese e sono stati inoltre predisposti volantini che riportano i risultati salienti del rapporto. Il Segretariato ha inoltre fornito il proprio sostegno a svariati eventi per la diffusione della RSA 5.

Il Segretariato permanente ha inoltre supportato - e tuttora supporta - le attività del Gruppo di lavoro ad hoc per la realizzazione della RSA 6, fra cui la predisposizione di parte della cartografia, l'organizzazione delle riunioni del Gruppo di lavoro, la raccolta dei dati, la realizzazione di un piano di comunicazione e l'elaborazione tecnica e grafica della pubblicazione.

Nel corso del biennio 2015 – 2016, su iniziativa del Segretariato Permanente, notevoli risultati sono stati ottenuti nello sviluppo dell'applicazione WebGIS della Convenzione delle Alpi, che permette di riprodurre i risultati di tutte le RSA sotto forma di rappresentazioni cartografiche personalizzate. Gran parte delle mappe elaborate per le scorse RSA sono ora visualizzabili tramite questo strumento, accessibile dal sito della Convenzione delle Alpi.

5. EUSALP

In ottemperanza alle decisioni adottate dalla Conferenza delle Alpi a Torino e a quanto deciso in materia dal Comitato permanente, il Segretariato permanente ha contribuito

attivamente anche all'elaborazione e ulteriore attuazione di EUSALP. In particolare, esso ha sostenuto le attività del Gruppo di lavoro "Strategia macroregionale", ha contribuito ai contenuti dei lavori in atto in EUSALP e ha contribuito anche a garantire la necessaria trasparenza e informazione.

Alla fine del 2015 il Segretariato permanente, insieme al Land Carinzia, ha assunto la guida dell'*Action Group 6* "Conservazione e valorizzazione delle risorse naturali compresa l'acqua e delle risorse culturali". Come primi punti fondamentali per i primi tre anni di attività dell'*Action Group 6* sono stati identificati i seguenti temi: "Sviluppo territoriale e protezione del suolo", "Contributo dell'agricoltura e delle foreste alla protezione della natura e al mantenimento della biodiversità" e "Gestione sostenibile e integrata delle risorse idriche".

La manifestazione di lancio tenutasi il 26 gennaio a Brdo ha rappresentato l'inizio ufficiale di EUSALP; durante questo evento, il Segretariato permanente ha partecipato all'*Executive Board*, alla *General Assembly* e a diversi *panel* tematici.

L'*Action Group 6* ha tenuto il 31 marzo e 1 aprile 2016 la propria prima riunione preparatoria informale a Bolzano/Bozen. Durante questa prima riunione i partecipanti e le partecipanti, coordinati dal Segretariato permanente e dal Land Carinzia, hanno elaborato delle proposte tematiche per il programma di lavoro. I risultati di questo incontro preliminare sono serviti da base di discussione per la conferenza di lancio ufficiale a Klagenfurt il 28 e 29 giugno. Durante questa riunione, le proposte tematiche emerse nell'incontro preparatorio sono state discusse; sono state inoltre stabilite delle priorità tematiche per ogni sottotema.

Il Segretariato permanente è partner di "AlpGov", progetto comune di tutti i leader dei gruppi di azione sviluppato nell'ambito della Priorità 4 (Governance) del programma di cooperazione territoriale Spazio Alpino. Il progetto è stato approvato il 7 giugno 2016. Il Segretariato permanente ha preso parte al *kick-off meeting* del 15 giugno 2016, tenutosi a Bruxelles.

Oltre alla leadership dell'*Action Group 6*, in cooperazione con il Land Carinzia, esistono connessioni con le attività degli *Action Group 7, 8 e 9*. Il Segretariato permanente è inoltre osservatore nell'*Action Group 4*.

Infine, il Segretariato permanente ha continuato anche nel biennio 2015-2016 a ricoprire il ruolo di osservatore nell'*Executive Board* e nella *General Assembly* di EUSALP.

6. Iniziative di cooperazione

Nel corso degli anni 2015 e 2016, il Segretariato permanente ha consolidato e dato il via a diverse iniziative di cooperazione con diverse tipologie di attori: Infopoint della Convenzione delle Alpi, organizzazioni rappresentanti la società civile, associazioni nonché altre

Convenzioni e strutture internazionali. Maggiori dettagli sulle singole cooperazioni sono riportati nell'Allegato.

7. Variazioni nell'organico

Al termine del proprio secondo anno di servizio la Vice-segretaria generale Simona Vrevc ha rinunciato al proprio incarico per motivi personali. Nell'ottobre 2015 il Comitato permanente ha designato su proposta del Segretario generale la dott.ssa Marianna Elmi quale nuova Vice-segretaria generale. La dott.ssa Elmi ha assunto la nuova funzione il 1° gennaio 2016. Il 1° marzo 2016 è entrata in servizio la sig.ra Nathalie Morelle, selezionata per la posizione vacante di responsabile di progetto sui temi relativi all'energia, ai cambiamenti climatici e ai trasporti. A maggio 2016 l'incarico di addetto al SOIA lasciato vacante dalla dott.ssa Elmi è stato assunto dal sig. Aureliano Piva. A seguito della riallocazione di risorse decisa dal 59° Comitato permanente per il finanziamento delle attività relative a EUSALP, è stato messo a concorso un posto aggiuntivo a tempo determinato per un periodo di tre anni; tale incarico è stato conferito alla sig.ra Lisa Ellemunter. Infine, la signora Doris Jaffre, che per molti anni si è occupata della contabilità del Segretariato permanente, è andata in pensione a fine 2015 ed è stata sostituita dalla sig.ra Dagmar Huber.

Per ulteriori dettagli si rimanda all'allegata relazione estesa.

B Proposta di decisione

La Conferenza delle Alpi

1. prende atto della relazione del Segretariato permanente e lo ringrazia del lavoro svolto;
2. invita le Parti contraenti a sostenere e promuovere i progetti di cooperazione previsti dal Segretariato permanente in conformità alle priorità del MAP/PLP.

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

XIV

10.08.2016

TOP / POJ / ODG / TDR

A2

IT

OL: EN

ANLAGE/ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/PRILOGA

1



Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Activity report

January 2015 – October 2016

Submitted to the XIV Alpine Conference

Contents

Introduction	3
1. Support to the bodies and the Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention	4
1.1 Permanent Committee.....	4
1.2 Compliance Committee	4
1.3 Working Groups and Platforms	5
1.4 Meetings within the Presidency Programme	6
1.5 Meetings with representatives from the Contracting Parties	6
1.6 Support to implementation of Alpine Convention activities	7
1.6.1 Process for the development of the Multiannual Programme 2017 – 2022 (MAP)	7
1.6.2 Implementation of the Climate Action Plan	7
1.7 Other support activities.....	8
1.7.1 Vision “Renewable Alps”	8
1.7.2 EXPO 2015.....	8
2 Communicating the Alpine Convention	9
2.1 Media relations	9
2.2 Newsletter	10
2.3 Website.....	10
2.4 Facebook and Twitter	10
2.5 Multimedia	11
2.6 Events, conferences, international days and exhibitions	12
2.6.1 Events supported by the Permanent Secretariat.....	12
2.6.2 Conferences (selection).....	13
2.6.3 International Days.....	13
2.6.4 Exhibitions	14
3 Projects of the Permanent Secretariat	14
3.1 “Reading Mountains/ Leggere le montagne/ Berge lesen/ Lire les montagnes/ Brati Gore” 14	
3.2 We are Alps tour	16
3.3 “Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck”	17
3.4 Young Academics Award	18
3.5 Photo contest.....	18
3.6 Help Nepal	18
4 SOIA	20
4.1 Reports on the State of the Alps.....	20

4.1.1	Fifth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 5)	20
4.1.2	Sixth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 6)	20
4.1.3	WebGIS project	21
5	Cooperation	22
5.1	Infopoints of the Alpine Convention.....	22
5.2	Civil society organizations and associations	22
5.2.1	CIPRA (international and national levels).....	22
5.2.2	Alliance in the Alps (AidA)	22
5.2.3	Alpine Town of the year	23
5.2.4	Alparc.....	23
5.2.5	Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC)	23
5.2.6	Alpine Pearls.....	24
5.2.7	Bergsteigerdörfer	24
5.2.8	CAA and Alpine Associations	24
5.2.9	AlpWeek	24
5.3	Cooperation with other Conventions and International Structures.....	24
5.3.1	European Environment Agency.....	24
5.3.2	Mountain Partnership	25
5.3.3	United Nations	25
5.3.4	UNFCCC.....	25
5.3.5	Carpathian Convention	26
5.3.6	Territorial Cooperation Programme “Alpine Space” (ASP)	26
5.4	Other cooperation	26
5.4.1	AGOCA.....	26
5.4.2	Collaboration in the Zurich Process.....	26
6	EUSALP	27
7	Personnel	30
8	Calendar of participation in events by the Permanent Secretariat.....	31

Introduction

According to article 3 of the Statute of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, the Secretary General prepares an annual report on the activities of the Permanent Secretariat for the attention of the Permanent Committee and the Alpine Conference. This report gives an overview of the activities of the Secretariat during the years 2015 and 2016, thus updating the report on the activities of 2015 presented during the 60th meeting of the Permanent Committee in Innsbruck.

In the last two years, besides its institutionally defined core activities, the Permanent Secretariat specifically focused on the further promotion of the Alpine Convention's objectives and implementation through information and communication activities, on the process of the establishment of the Macro-regional Strategy for the Alpine Region and on the further development of the System for Observation and Information of the Alps. Moreover, the Secretariat developed and carried out own projects and intensified cooperation with relevant alpine and non-alpine actors.

The report is structured in seven main chapters, each one describing a specific field of activities of the Secretariat:

1. Support to the bodies and the Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention
2. Communicating the Alpine Convention
3. Projects of the Permanent Secretariat
4. System of Observation and Information on the Alps (SOIA)
5. EUSALP
6. Cooperation
7. Personnel

It has to be noted that many of the activities of the Permanent Secretariat have a cross cutting character and contribute to several objectives; therefore, some activities are mentioned in more than one chapter.

1. Support to the bodies and the Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention

1.1 Permanent Committee

The Permanent Secretariat worked closely with the German presidency in organising the 58th Permanent Committee meeting in Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 12-13 March 2015, the 59th Permanent Committee meeting in Berchtesgaden (DE), 15-16 October 2015 the 60th Permanent Committee meeting in Innsbruck (AT), 25-26 February 2016, the 61st Permanent Committee meeting in Sonthofen (DE), 9-10 June 2016 and the 62nd Permanent Committee meeting in Grassau (DE), 11-12 October 2016. The Permanent Secretariat supported the Presidency in organising these meetings either as by obtaining the “Going green event” or “Green event” labels available at regional level or by applying the “Recommendations for the Sustainable Organization of Meetings and Events of the Alpine Convention”, which is a novelty in the organisational practice.



Figure 1: The 61st Permanent Committee meeting in Sonthofen.

1.2 Compliance Committee

The Permanent Secretariat supported the Presidency in the preparation and realization of the 21st meeting of the Compliance Committee in Berlin (DE), 17-18 March 2015, the 22nd Compliance Committee meeting in Benediktbeuern (DE), 15-17 December 2015, the 23rd meeting of the Compliance Committee in Berlin (DE), 12-13 April 2016 and the 24th Compliance Committee meeting in Innsbruck (AT), 6-8 July 2016. The latter was certified as “Green Event Tirol”.

1.3 Working Groups and Platforms

One of the objectives of the Permanent Secretariat in 2015 and 2016 was to stronger involve and contribute to the work of Working Groups and Platforms, with the aim of facilitating the exchange of information and identifying synergies. In order to better achieve this objective, the Permanent Secretariat supported the Presidency in the organization of two workshops for the chairs of Working Groups and Platforms, respectively in the course of the 58th PC meeting in Bolzano/Bozen and in the course of the 60th PC meeting in Innsbruck. The main purpose of these workshops was to provide general information on the working methods of the Working Groups and Platforms, to facilitate the exchange on the new mandates and to detect possible synergies and scope for common actions or collaboration.

Additionally, the Permanent Secretariat actively participated in the following Working Group or Platform meetings and supported, as required, the respective Chairs:

- Working Group “Macro-Regional Strategy”, Zürich (CH), 26 January 2015, Munich (DE), 20 February 2015, Innsbruck (AT), 8 September 2015, Innsbruck (AT), 12 January 2016, Bolzano/Bozen (I), 30 March 2016.
- Working Group “Mountain Agriculture”: Vienna (AT), 6-7 May 2015, 21-22 January 2016 and 12-13 July 2016.
- Working Group “Transport”: Paris (FR), 27 February and 10 July 2015, 8 February and 6 June 2016.
- “Natural Hazards” – PLANALP Platform: Salzburg (AT), 4-5 March 2015, Munich (DE), 12-14 October 2015, Padua (I), 6 April 2016.
- “Water Management in the Alps” Platform: Lyon (FR), 22-23 June 2015, Munich (D), 17-18 September 2015, Padua (I) 6 April 2016.
- “Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society” – WISO Platform: Rome (I), 29 May 2015; Nova Levante/Welschnofen (I), 29-30 September 2015, Valdieri (I), 20-21 Januar 2016.
- Working Group “Mountain Forests”: Oberammergau (DE), 8 July 2015, Engelberg (CH), 3 November 2015, Trento (IT), 8 June 2016.
- “Ecological Network” Platform: Berchtesgaden (DE) 18-19 March 2015, Bled (SI), 30 September 2015, Chamonix (FR), 27-28 April 2016.
- Working Group “Sustainable Tourism”: Belluno (IT), 17 April 2015, Munich (DE), 2 July 2015, Innsbruck (AT), 23 November 2015, Milano (IT), 2 February 2016 and Kempten (DE), 31 May 2016.
- Working Group “MAP”: Workshop in Triesenberg (LI), 18-19 May 2015 and meeting in Berlin (DE), 16-17 November 2015, Munich (DE), 14-15 March 2016 and Berlin (DE), 9-10 May 2016.
- Ad hoc Expert Group “Sixth Report on the State of the Alps – RSA6”: Berlin (D), 3-4 March 2015, Innsbruck (AT), 9-10 June 2015, Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 7-8 October, 2015. Participation in the Workshop in Trento, 22 October 2015. Further meetings were held in Munich (DE) 16-17 March 2016, and Berlin (DE), 28-29 June 2016.

1.4 Meetings within the Presidency Programme

The Secretariat also participated in and supported, as appropriate, the following meetings:

- “Vision for renewable Alps”, Innsbruck (AT), 7 September 2015.
- Workshop in preparation for the Alpine Building Conference, Merano/Meran (IT), 23-24 July 2015.
- Spatial Planning expert meetings and conference preparatory meetings: Munich (DE) 5 February, Berlin (DE), 27 May, 18 September and 2 December 2015 and 9 March 2016.
- Stakeholder-Conference „Spatial Development in the Alps“, Munich (DE) 28-29 January 2016.
- First Alpine Building Conference, Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE), 16-17 March 2016.
- Conference of National Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning of the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention, Murnau (DE), 18 April 2016.
- Workshop on Climate Action and Energy Savings in the Hotel and Restaurant Industries, Oberschleißheim/Munich (DE), 20-21 April 2016.
- Conference “Sustainable Tourism in the Alps. A challenge (without alternatives)”, Sonthofen (DE), 8 June 2016.
- Alpine Soil Symposium “Soil Conservation Protocol of the Alpine Convention – between demand and reality”, 23-24 June 2016, Bad Reichenhall (DE).
- Presentation of the stamp “The Alps - Diversity in Europe”, Sylvensteinspeicher (DE), 30 June 2016

1.5 Meetings with representatives from the Contracting Parties

Additionally, during the reporting period, the Secretary General met with a number of high-level representatives from Contracting Parties, including the Ministers from Germany, Barbara Hendricks and Bavaria, Ulrike Scharf, the Austrian Minister Andrä Rupprechter, the Liechtenstein Minister Amann-Marxer, representatives from Alpine regions (President Queyranne of Rhone-Alpes, presidents Platter of Tyrol, Kompatscher of South Tyrol, Norman Gobbi and Paolo Beltraminelli of Ticino), the Slovenian minister for Environment Irena Majcen, the Slovenian minister for Culture Anton Peršak and the Slovenian minister responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion Alenka Smerkolj. Other meetings of the Secretary General were held with the Slovenian State Secretary, Tanja Bogataj and the President of the Slovenian Parliament, Milan Brglez, as well as with mayors and other representatives of local communities from e.g. Grenoble, Chamonix, Sonthofen, Morbegno, Kamnik, Ramsau, Villach, Sonthofen, Tolmin, as well as Innsbruck and Bolzano/Bozen. The Secretary General participated in hearings of the European Economic and Social Committee as well as the Committee of Regions. He also met with EU Commissioner for transport Violeta Bulc at the Brenner conference in March 2015. The Secretary General also attended the meeting of the Ministers of Transport on 31 May 2016 in Lugano, as well as the inauguration of the Gotthard tunnel the following day. In September 2016 the Secretary General participated in the Bled Strategic Forum.

Finally, ties with the observers of the Alpine Convention have been fostered through regular exchange and interaction.

1.6 Support to implementation of Alpine Convention activities

1.6.1 Process for the development of the Multiannual Programme 2017 – 2022 (MAP)

The Permanent Secretariat supported the Presidency in the process of the elaboration of the 2017-2022 Multiannual Programme of the Alpine Convention. In particular, the Permanent Secretariat took an active role in the Workshop in Triesenberg (LI), 18–19 May through the moderation of some of the round tables and the preparation of the respective reports. The Permanent Secretariat was also involved in the preparation of the evaluation of the preliminary questionnaire on the future challenges and priorities of the MAP.

The Permanent Secretariat attended all meetings of the Ad-hoc Working group for the preparation of the Multiannual Programme, led by the current Presidency, and concretely contributed to the drafting of the MAP text.

1.6.2 Implementation of the Climate Action Plan

In 2015 and 2016, the Permanent Secretariat put a strong emphasis on the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. The Secretariat participated in the annual exchange meeting on adaptation in the Alps organized by the C3 Alps project (in which the Permanent Secretariat was observer) on 24 March 2015 in Vaduz. The activities of the Alpine Convention in relation to climate change were presented during the European Climate Change Action (ECCA) Conference in Copenhagen, 12-14 May 2015.

Climate change was also the lead topic in the 2015 edition of the “We are Alps” tour and within the events of the Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck; both initiatives are described more in detail in the chapter “Projects of the Permanent Secretariat”.

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding with the EEA, the Permanent Secretariat authored a contribution on the Alpine Region for the “Climate Change, Impacts and Vulnerability in Europe” publication, that will be finalised in 2016. A representative of the Permanent Secretariat was also invited to take part in the advisory board for the scientific review of the publication and participated in a meeting for this purpose on 26 March 2015 in Copenhagen.

Moreover, the Permanent Secretariat co-organised with the French Institute in Austria and the French Tirolean Association of Innsbruck an exchange on climate change between Tirolean students, the French Ambassador and the Permanent Secretariat itself (9 December 2015).

In 2015, the Secretary General participated in the high level discussions at the UNFCCC COP 21 meeting in Paris, highlighting the significance of climate change for the Alpine region and the activities carried out in the framework of the Alpine Convention.

Together with the French embassy in Austria, the University of Innsbruck and the alpS research center, the Permanent Secretariat co-organized the Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck. In 2015, the topics climate change and natural hazards, climate change and energy as well as climate change and tourism were discussed, while the 2016 edition focused on the topic of

climate change and health. All events benefitted from high level and expert input and attracted substantial audiences.

1.7 Other support activities

1.7.1 Vision “Renewable Alps”

With financial and technical support from Switzerland, and on the basis of contributions from the Contracting Parties and Observers, the Permanent Secretariat started in 2015 a process of collection of information for drafting a progress report on the Vision “Renewable Alps”, as mandated by the XIII Alpine Conference. The report, finalized in 2016, gives an overview of the recent policies and strategies defined in each Alpine country and outlines specific activities at all levels (local to international). The report is to be submitted to the XIV Alpine Conference.

1.7.2 EXPO 2015

Following the decisions of the XIII Alpine Conference, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the EXPO 2015 in Milano supporting the Italian delegation to the Alpine Convention in the organization of the “Mountain Week” that took place between 4 and 11 June 2015. The Permanent Secretariat participated in several events during the Mountain Week, including the opening event at the Expo Biodiversity park about “Mountain Cooperation for Food: initiatives in the Alps, the Carpathians and other mountain regions” (4 June), the concert “Alps. Borderless” at the “Cascina Triulza” jointly organized by the Province of Sondrio, the Val Poschiavo region, the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), CIPRA International and the Alpine Town of the Year Association (7 June), the Energy forum organized by the Swiss delegation (8 June), the Mountain Day at the German Pavilion with a conference about mountain farming and the prime quality products of upland farmers and about the reduction of food waste and possible ways forward (9 June), the Journey on the “Slow Train” organized by Val Poschiavo and the Province of Sondrio. Finally, the Secretariat participated in the Closing Event at the Expo Biodiversity park with a conference on “Selling the mountain excellence: labels, marketing and internationalization of mountain farming products” (11 June).

For the occasion of the Expo 2015 the Permanent Secretariat produced a short film on mountain farming and the importance of mountain products, which premiered at EXPO in June 2015 (see below chapter “Communicating the Alpine Convention”).

2 Communicating the Alpine Convention

One of the core activities of the Permanent Secretariat is the dissemination of information on the Alpine Convention and its promotion. Consequently, a special focus in 2015-2016 has been given to communicating the Alpine Convention; this resulted in an increased number of articles in the media, in an increased social media presence on Facebook and Twitter as well as in several activities carried out on the webpage of the Alpine Convention and its partner organizations.

A significant step in the communication activities was undertaken in 2015 with the launch of the quarterly Alpine Convention newsletter.

Additionally to the media relations, information and communication activities were carried out by individual presentations on the Alpine Convention to interested organizations, such as schools and local bodies. In this regard, several presentations were organized for school and university groups visiting the offices of the Permanent Secretariat (for example for a group of students from the University of Primorska, a group of master students of Geography from the Kaiserslautern University and a group of students from the tourism school in Bolzano/Bozen). Moreover, presentations were organized for interested partners (such as the Lions Club Idrija) and the participation of the Alpine Convention was ensured through patronages (see below in the paragraph “Events”).

2.1 Media relations

Upon initiative of the Permanent Secretariat, more than 400 contributions were published in print and online media, on radio and television as well as on the webpages of the Alpine Convention’s partners. Three main activities taking place in 2015-2016 were particularly interesting for the press and gained significant media coverage: the “Reading mountains” initiative, the “We are Alps” tours and the meetings of the Youth Parliament (for more information on these initiatives, see the respective paragraphs in chapter 3 and 5).

Promotional activities and projects, such as the Photo contest and the new Exhibition prepared by students, were used to the highest possible extent for promotion purposes and to increase the presence of the Alpine Convention in the media.

Furthermore, articles drafted by the staff of the Permanent Secretariat were published in various magazines, such as the leading Czech Mountain magazine “Lide&Hory”, the Cipra Austria Publication “Die Alpenkonvention”, the quarterly magazine “Der Offizier”, the Tyrolean Yearbook of Political Affairs as well as the magazine “Bergauf”, published by the Österreichischer Alpenverein (Alpine Club), and the “Auf Tour” by the Alpenverein Villach. The Alpine Convention Infopoints promoted the Convention, its activities and goals in their local media and through their channels.

Promotional campaigns were also carried out for Expo 2015, the promotion of the RSA5, the Alpine Convention day in Slovenia, the Photo-contest and each of the Permanent Committee meetings as well as for the activities related to EUSALP. In the second half of 2015, a significant promotion campaign was carried out for the promotion of the “Reading mountains” initiative. Also, together with Switzerland, the Matterhorn project was carried out.

In the first half of 2016 the main focus was on the “Help Nepal” project, the promotion of the Young Academics Award and the Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck, the 2016 edition of the Photo-contest, the “We are Alps” tour and “Reading mountains”, including the promotion of the new film “People, Books and Mountains - The Quest for alpine literature” and the launch of the 2016 edition of the initiative (still ongoing).

2.2 Newsletter

In 2015 the production of the Alpine Convention Newsletter was started. The newsletter is published quarterly (by the end of March, June, September and December) and is distributed to the subscribers via email; moreover, a PDF version is available on the webpage. Subscription is possible on the webpage of the Alpine Convention. The newsletter consists of the following chapters:

- news from the Presidency, highlighting the main activities of the Presidency – based on its inputs;
- news from the Secretariat, highlighting the Secretariat’s activities and projects;
- news from the Working Groups and Platforms, presenting the meetings of the groups and the main topics discussed;
- news from the Observers and Partners, presenting activities and projects of the Observer and partner organizations – based on their inputs;
- upcoming events – a list of events planned in the next 3 months.

The inputs by the Presidency, the Working Groups and Platforms, the Observers and Partners to the newsletter play an important role in ensuring a high quality newsletter.

Additionally to the four regular editions of the newsletter, two special editions were prepared in 2015; in April the edition on “Help Nepal”, in which the call for help was issued, and in December the edition on all the events taking place in the scope of the “Reading mountains” initiative. In the part of 2016 covered by this report, the Newsletter subscriptions increased and an increased interest was also noted in partners contributing with texts.

2.3 Website

The number of users visiting the Alpine Convention's website is around 40.000 per year; this shows that the page has become a point of reference for information on the Alpine Convention. The webpage is user-friendly and offers a broad spectrum of topics related to the Alpine Convention, with a high level of up-to-dateness: news is published regularly in all alpine languages and in English and remains accessible on the homepage. In 2015 and 2016, the layout of the website has been continuously improved in order to provide a better user experience. Moreover, the WebGIS platform was integrated in the Website and the Mountain Lex database was redesigned and updated.

2.4 Facebook and Twitter

The Permanent Secretariat was active in promoting the Alpine Convention and its activities and projects on social networks and used them for strengthening cooperation with partners and cross-promoting events and initiatives. In 2015-2016, the number of followers and likes of the Alpine Convention social media accounts doubled. Posts were done regularly in order

to ensure visibility and connections to partner organizations were also made. Social media accounts were especially important in the promotional campaigns, such as the one for the “Reading mountains” initiative, where links to almost 100 partners were established, thus providing a high visibility to the Alpine Convention Facebook page and Twitter account.

A separate Facebook profile, established for the “We are Alps” brand, was actively used during the “We are Alps” tour 2015 and 2016.

2.5 Multimedia

Upon the occasion of Expo 2015, the Permanent Secretariat produced a film on Alpine agriculture. The film highlights the importance of farming for the Alps, the Alpine landscape and Alpine culture. It emphasizes the economic as well as the environmental role played by farming in the Alps and shows how agriculture is a link between tradition and modernity, families and communities. The film also expresses the importance of local value chains and shows the links between farming and other sectors, such as forestry and tourism. The total duration of the film is 5.20 minutes; the film language is English, with subtitles available both in each of the alpine languages and in English. A short 1-minute teaser for the film has also been produced with subtitles in all the alpine languages and English.

The film premiered at the Expo 2015 and since then was shown at several events, among others at the Innsbruck Nature Film Festival and at the XIX Edition of the Gran Paradiso Film Festival. As a teaching tool, it was used by several schools in the Alps. All versions of the subtitled film are available on the webpage of the Alpine Convention and on its YouTube channel. Finally, the English version of the film was also published on Facebook and Twitter.

As a follow up to the “Reading Mountains” initiative the film “People, Books and Mountains - The Quest for alpine literature” was prepared with financial support from the German Presidency. During the preparation, special attention was given to equal presentations of all alpine languages and the educational aspect of the film by explaining the term “Alpine literature” as well as to give visibility to all the events organized in the scope of the initiative. All four alpine languages – thanks to the participation of four authors representing them - and English are spoken in the film, which is also available with subtitles in each of the Alpine languages as well as English. The total duration of the film is 25 minutes. The film features a discussion with four authors who look for answers to the questions of what Alpine literature is, what role it plays and what the main characteristics of the Alpine literature are. A 2.5 minute teaser was prepared to promote the film and the initiative; this version is also available with subtitles in all alpine languages as well as in English.

The film premiered at the Permanent Committee meeting in Innsbruck in February 2016 and was then sent to all the partners who organized events in the scope of the “Reading mountains” 2015 for their further use and dissemination. The Permanent Secretariat also followed up in promoting the film on its webpage and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube); through these channels, more than 2000 people viewed the film. Additional promotion was done on local, regional and national TV stations as well as film festivals and confirmation of at least 15 showings were received. Amongst those are also the presentation of the Film at the Innsbruck Nature Film Festival, the Slovenian festival “Poetry and Wine” and the Italian Festivals “Montagna Libri” and “Festival delle Alpi”.

Finally, for a general presentation of the main objectives and goals of the Alpine Convention, a general Alpine Convention teaser was produced. The film explains in 1,5 minutes what the Alpine Convention is and what it does and emphasizes the role of people living in the Alps. It can be used as introduction to presentations on the Alpine Convention and is available on all social media sites as well as on the webpage. This film is available with subtitles in each alpine language and in English.

2.6 Events, conferences, international days and exhibitions

2.6.1 Events supported by the Permanent Secretariat

In 2015-2016, the Permanent Secretariat supported several initiatives related to the Alpine Convention and carried out in the Alps in order to promote awareness regarding the Alpine Convention, its objectives and its activities. Among others, the following activities can be highlighted:

- A financial contribution was given to the V Edition of the cultural and touristic event “Festival of the Alps” organized by the Montagna Italia Association (27-28 June 2015). In this occasion the Permanent Secretariat showed the video clip about the Mountain Farming realized for EXPO 2015.
- A financial contribution was given to the XIX Edition of the Gran Paradiso Film Festival, promoted and organized by the *Fondation Grand Paradis* (Cogne - IT, 24-29 August 2015). For this Edition of the Film Festival, the Permanent Secretariat organized a quiz about the Alpine Convention, its Protocols and its main activities addressed to the participants in the Festival.
- Patronage was granted to the XVI Edition of the BITM - *Borsa Internazionale del Turismo Montano* (Trento - IT, 18 September 2015). In this occasion the Permanent Secretariat presented the IV Report on the State of the Alps on sustainable tourism in the Alps.
- Patronage was granted to the XX Edition of the event «Oltre le Vette - metafore, uomini, luoghi della Montagna», (Belluno – IT, 7 - 16 October 2016).
- Patronage was granted to the VIII Edition of the Literary Contest “Frontiere-Grenzen” (Fiera di Primiero - IT, 14 November 2015).
- The project “Timetables in the Alps” carried out by CIPRA Slovenia was supported in 2015 and 2016 for its role in promoting sustainable mobility in the Alps.
- Patronage was granted to the Innsbruck Nature film festival 2015; during the festival, the film on mountain agriculture produced by the Secretariat was shown (Innsbruck, 6-9 October). For the 2016 edition of the festival, financial support was given to the festival as well and during all the days of the festival the new film on “Reading mountains” was shown.
- Support and active participation with a stand were ensured at the Alpine Convention Days in Slovenia (Mojstrana, 30 May 2015; Tolmin and Bohinj, 27-28 May 2016).

- The Permanent Secretariat supported and actively participated in the 2015 edition of the Youth Parliament in Slovenia (Kamnik, 16-20 March 2015) and in the 2016 edition in Bassano del Grappa (12 May 2016).
- Support for the “Poetry and Wine” event in Ptuj with a panel discussion on the topic of “Alpine literature” and the showing of the film.

2.6.2 Conferences (selection)

The Permanent Secretariat participated with an active role (speaker, greetings, participation to a round table or a panel) in the following conferences:

- Recharge.green Alpine Space project. Participation in the round table at the Final Event, 20-21 May.
- AlpES Alpine Space Project kick-off meeting, participation in round table.
- Planalp Conference, 13-14 October in Munich (DE).
- Conference “The decline of rural areas”, 30 November –1 December in Villach (AT).
- CIPRA yearly Conference, 25 September in Ruggell (LI).
- Constructive Alps Exhibition, 30 October in Bern (CH), 19-20 November in Poschiavo (CH), 13 April 2015 in Domodossola (IT).
- “Climate Protection Now!” Conference on Climate Change in the Alps, 29-30 October in Benediktbeuern (DE).
- COP21 in Paris (FR) - the Permanent Secretariat was present from 7 to 10 December.
- Kick-off of the EUSALP in Brdo (SI), 25-27 January 2016 (information stand and participation).
- DAV Climate Protection Symposium, Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE), 29 April 2016.
- Alpine Space Energy Forum (Forum Alpbach), Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 17 May 2016.
- ÖAV Nature protection officers’ seminar, Krakau (AT), 14 July 2016.
- Bled Strategic Forum (SI), 5-6 September 2016.
- Ongoing preparations for the event “Alpine Convention and Karawanken” that will take place on 21 October 2016 in Tinje/Tainach (AT).

2.6.3 International Days

The Permanent Secretariat marked the celebrations of several International Days in 2015 and 2016 through press releases, news, video clips on the web site and on social media. Aim of these posts was to have interactive, interesting and wide-reaching messages.

The International Days celebrated were: the International Wildlife Day (3 March), the International Women Day (8 March), the International day of Forests (21 March), the World Water Day (22 March), the World Health Day (7 April), the World Day for Cultural Diversity (21 May), the International day for Biological Diversity (22 May), the World Environment Day

(5 June), the World Population Day (11 July), the International Habitat Day (5 October), the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (13 October), the International Mountain Day (11 December).

2.6.4 Exhibitions

A new Alpine Convention exhibition was finalized in spring 2015 as the final step of a year-long school cooperation between the Management Center Innsbruck and the *École Supérieure d'Art de l'Agglomération d'Annecy*. Both schools worked together, in the spirit of the Alpine Convention, to prepare a concept and the artwork to present the most important topics for the Alps: from biodiversity to tourism, from forestry to transport and much more. The exhibition was already shown at the Permanent Committee meeting in Berchtesgaden and continued its travels around the Alps in 2016. A copy of the exhibition is also shown at the premises of the Secretariat in Innsbruck. The exhibition is available to be shown in other venues.

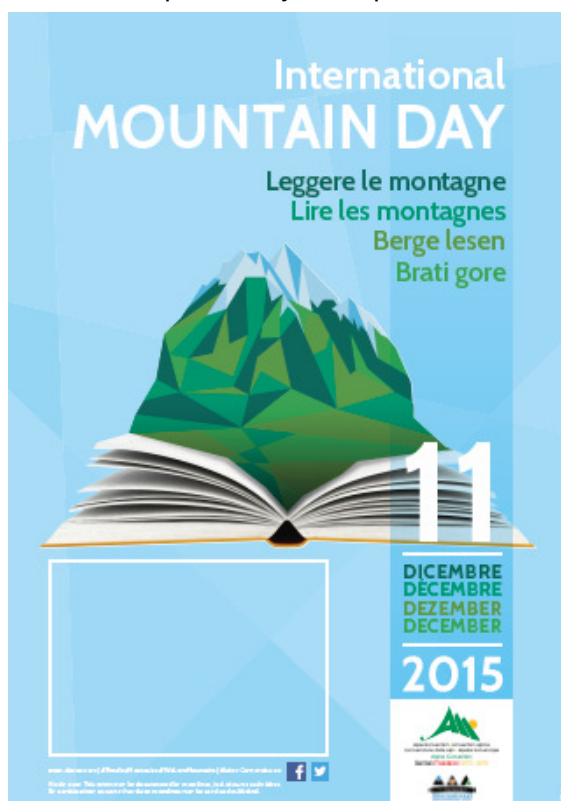
3 Projects of the Permanent Secretariat

3.1 “Reading Mountains/ Leggere le montagne/ Berge lesen/ Lire les montagnes/ Brati Gore”

The “Reading Mountains” initiative was launched by the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat for the celebration of the International Mountain Day (IMD) on 11 December 2015 to implement the Alpine Convention’s Declaration on Population and Culture. The idea was to promote modern Alpine literature, as well as reading and alpine culture in general, through reading events that took place at the same time in many different locations around the Alps. With the help of many local partners, almost 100 events were organized across the Alps and

beyond - from Paris to Lendava and from Hamburg to Rome. A map of all the events can be found on a special section of the Alpine Convention website. For the promotion of the initiative, a corporate identity concept was elaborated with a symbol uniting a mountain and an open book. With the financial support of the German presidency, posters and bookmarks for the promotion of the single events were printed and distributed to all the participating organizations.

On social media the hashtag #ReadingMountains was used. An important element of the initiative was that the reading events were organized in all official languages of the Alpine Convention as well as other languages spoken in the area. The initiative was accompanied by major media coverage of the events.



Beyond the support to the coordination and publicity of all “Reading Mountains” events, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, with the financial support by the German presidency, directly organized two events in Bolzano/Bozen and Innsbruck respectively. An event at the Museion in Bolzano/Bozen was organized by the Bolzano/Bozen office, in cooperation with the Divisions of Culture of the Province of Bolzano/Bozen, the Municipality of Bolzano/Bozen and with the Bolzano/Bozen sections of Italian and Austrian Alpine club (CAI and Alpenverein). The event hosted three readings in Italian, German and Ladin language by Antonella Fornari, Jörg Zemmler and Rut Bernardi, accompanied by local music performances played by Greta Marcolongo and Opas Diandl and with the projection of mountain pictures by the photographers Alessandro Gruzza and Georg Tappeiner. More than 150 people participated in the event.

In the city of Innsbruck, the Permanent Secretariat organized the 1st Alpine Poetry Slam, with poets from almost all Alpine countries, as well as music by a local, traditional, modern trio and stunning art from two young artists. The poetry slam was a successful celebration of modern Alpine culture, enjoyed by participants and contributors alike. The event was supported by the German presidency, Tyrol, the bookstore Tyrolia and the Tiroler Umweltanwaltschaft and moderated by the Austrian comedian and poetry slammer Markus Koschuh. Special attention was given to the sustainable organisation of all parts of the event, awarded with the certification “Green Event Tirol”.

The four Alpine Convention Infopoints were also very active in the framework of the “Reading Mountains” initiative. With the support of the Permanent Secretariat, the Infopoints organized readings of local authors accompanied by music performances and buffets with local food. For the organization of these events a financial contribution for each Infopoint was given by the German presidency on the basis of a specific Memorandum of Understanding. In the scope of the initiative, the film “People, Books and Mountains - The Quest for alpine literature” was prepared featuring authors from four alpine language groups in a discussion on what Alpine literature and what are its characteristics (see above the chapter “Multimedia”).

More information on the initiative “Reading Mountains” is available at:

<http://www.alpconv.org/en/convention/agreements/infopoints/default.html>.

Due to the success of the initiative in 2015 it was decided to follow-up on the initiative. The preparations for the 2016 edition are already underway; a new poster and new bookmarks have been designed and the planning of events is in progress.



Figure 2: the audience at the “Reading Mountains” event in Bolzano/Bozen.



Figure 3: the “Reading Mountains” event in Innsbruck.

3.2 We are Alps tour

A journey through the Alps for 10-15 selected journalists from most of the Alpine Countries is organized every year with the aims to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities of our region and the Alpine Convention and its responses to the potentials and challenges existing in the Alpine region. The itineraries are structured in order to emphasize the characteristics, features, opportunities and common issues the Alpine inhabitants are facing, including public transport and a particular topic for each year.

The 2015 edition of the tour took place between 29 June and 6 July and focused on the topic of climate change. During this travel that led from Grenoble, via Megève, Sallanches, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Interlaken-Jungfrauoch, Liechtenstein, Großes Walsertal and Sonthofen to the Zugspitze, presentations and research on climate change observation, adaptation and mitigation in the Alps were organized in cooperation with several local stakeholders. Projects on glacier monitoring, climate change education, innovative mobility, energy efficiency, changes in biodiversity, new approaches in agriculture and tourism were presented and people from different fields - researchers, farmers, experts, business people, inhabitants and politicians of different governing levels - were met. The tour concluded with a meeting with the German Federal Minister for the Environment Barbara Hendricks and her Bavarian colleague Ulrike Scharf. Not just through presentation and examples, the members also experienced climate change first hand with an average daily temperature well over 30°C. During the trip, sustainable means of transport were used – buses (a total of 15), trains (a total of 29), trams, cable-cars, bikes, a taxi and traveling by foot. Over 50 articles were published about the tour and the topics related to the tour were presented by local and regional media on the way as well as by journalists participating in the tour.

The 2016 edition of the tour focused on the topic of Alpine Green economy and took 12 participants (journalists and representatives of the Alpine Convention Infopoints as well as from the ad-hoc Working Group for the preparation of the RSA6) from Innsbruck (AT) to Gorizia (IT), passing Austria, Germany, Slovenia and Italy. The tour took place from 29 June to 5 July and highlighted many different aspects of green economy in the Alps, including energy efficiency in lighting and building, renewable energy production, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem services and natural capital-based economy, and overall

economic development as the basis for a good quality life in the Alps. As always in the We are Alps tour, the group travelled exclusively by sustainable means of transport. During the tour, participants had the opportunity to meet the actors of flagship projects contributing to innovative approaches on topics such as water and forest management, spatial planning, transport, tourism, farming, energy production and savings and many more. The second day of the tour was the opportunity for the participants to meet the German State Secretary Schwarzelühr-Sutter and the Bavarian minister Scharf at the visit to the Sylvensteinspeicher Dam and to see the jubilee Alpine Convention stamp.



Figure 4: the We Are Alps 2016 tour.

3.3 “Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck”

In collaboration with the Research Focus “Alpine Space - Man and Environment” and the France focus centre of the University of Innsbruck, the alpS Research Center and the French Institute in Austria / French Embassy in Vienna, the Permanent Secretariat organized in 2015 a series of three events named “Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck”.

The aim of this initiative was to provide a forum for public information and discussion to address the issue of climate change in the Alpine region. The following events were organized, in order to deal with different topics related to climate change:

- 23 June 2015, topic of climate change and natural risks (in presence of the Chair of the PLANALP Platform Ms. Patek).
- 20 October 2015 - topic of climate change and energy (in presence of Mr. Teixeira da Silva, French Ambassador in Vienna).
- 9 December 2015 - topic of climate change and tourism (in presence of the Governor of Tyrol, Mr. Platter, the French Ambassador in Vienna Mr. Teixeira da Silva and the co-chair of the Working Group Sustainable Tourism Mr. Bausch).

In 2016 the initiative continued with a different ad-hoc partnership and with the event on 18 May 2016 on the topic of climate change and health (co-organized by Tirol Kliniken, the Medical Chamber of Tyrol, alpS and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention).

3.4 Young Academics Award

In the last two years, the 2016 edition of the Award for young scientists was developed and launched by the Permanent Secretariat, in cooperation with the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention and with the financial support by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention. While maintaining its aims and general setting, the 2016 edition of the award focused on master theses only and not on master and PhD thesis (as in the previous editions) due to the difficulty in objectively comparing two different types of theses in the same award. The topic of the 2016 Young Academics Award was “greening the economy”. An international jury of three members was formed, with representatives from academic institutions and from the RSA 6 Working Group. The Young Academics award has been hosted as event in the context of the AlpWeek, where a workshop with all participants and the jury was held; after this, an open poster presentation was organized.

3.5 Photo contest

The topic of the 2015 edition of the photo-contest of the Alpine Convention was “LIFE IN THE ALPS – People, Arts and Culture”. The photo-contest was open from the end of May until the end of September. Amongst the received pictures that fulfilled all the criteria the jury, consisting in the staff of the Secretariat, selected the best 13 pictures that are shown in the Alpine Convention calendar for 2016. Authors of the winning pictures received prizes and copies of the Calendar.

The calendar was distributed to all the Contracting Parties, the partners of the Alpine Convention, the Infopoints and through a campaign online. They were also used as Christmas gift of the Permanent Secretariat.

The topic of 2016 edition of the photo-contest is “Alps from a different perspective”; the contest is open between 2 June and 27 September 2016. As every year the jury from the Secretariat will select 13 best pictures that will be shown in the Alpine Convention calendar for 2017.

3.6 Help Nepal

The Alpine Conventions’ initiative “Help Nepal” was launched after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal in April 2015 signifying help “from one mountain range to the other”. In the scope of the initiative, a call for projects was launched and the project “Capacity training for Reconstruction in Nepal” carried out by the EcoHimal organization was selected to be supported by the funds raised by the Alpine Convention (total sum of 15.000 €). The project included education and training of a group of 12 trainees from the village of Aiselukharka (Khotang district in Nepal) in masonry and carpentry as well as in the (re-) construction of seismic resilient buildings. The training lasted for 2 months and consisted of a theoretical and a practical part. During the training, masonry trainees constructed a two-level school building using earthquake safe practices and the carpentry trainees produced desks, benches, chairs, beds, cupboards, footrests, computer table, windows and door frames for the school building.

In the process of the training they built a new school building that is already in use in the village of Aiselukharka.

With their knowledge, the trainees will support the reconstruction after the earthquake in the upcoming years and wider post-disaster livelihood recovery. Furthermore they will contribute to the community building in their villages and help with the raising of awareness on earthquake issues.

4 SOIA

In 2015 and 2016, the main activities of the Permanent Secretariat within the System for Observation and Information on the Alps were related to the finalization of the RSA5 on Demographic change and the support to the *ad hoc* Working Group for the elaboration of the RSA6 on Green Economy. Moreover, the WebGIS project ended its pilot phase and was launched as a platform on the Alpine Convention website.

4.1 Reports on the State of the Alps

In the last two years, the Permanent Secretariat's activities in the framework of the Reports on the State of the Alps focused on the finalization of the Fifth report on the State of the Alps (RSA5) and on the drafting of the Sixth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA6).

4.1.1 *Fifth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 5)*

The main tasks within the finalisation of the RSA5 on Demographic Change were related to the publication and the dissemination of the RSA5, as foreseen in the Dissemination strategy. This entailed the preparation of the report in four alpine languages and English, including the harmonisation and final revision of the texts in all language versions and the coordination of the printing process. In order to better present the results of the RSA5, the Permanent Secretariat also prepared a summary in form of information leaflets.

The results of the RSA5 were presented in several occasions and events. These events were organised by the Contracting Parties – such as the Alpine Convention Day in Slovenia on 29 May 2015 and an event in Villach (AT) from 30 November to 1 December 2015 – as well as by partners and NGOs. The Infopoints in Morbegno and Domodossola (IT) organised a presentation with the participation of the Permanent Secretariat on 18 April and 20 May 2015. Alliance in the Alps organised two events on this issue on 24 April 2015 in St. Kanzian (AT) and 19-20 June 2015 in St. Martin de Bellville (FR). The Secretary General participated in a presentation of the RSA 5 results organized by the Italian delegation on 10 November 2015 in Rome. A highlight on the results was also presented at the yearly assembly of Alpine Town of the Year in Trento on 22 October 2015 and at the conference “Zuwanderung gewollt?” organized in Grainau (DE) by the network Alliance in the Alps on 22 and 23 January 2016.

4.1.2 *Sixth Report on the State of the Alps (RSA 6)*

The Permanent Secretariat provided both organizational and technical support to the activities of the *ad hoc* Working Group for the preparation of the Sixth Report on the State of the Alps. The organizational support included the assistance in the preparation of the meetings of the Working Group and the hosting of two Working Group meetings at the Permanent Secretariat's seats in Innsbruck and Bolzano/Bozen. The main contribution of the Permanent Secretariat consisted in the preparation of some maps, in the contribution to texts and in the support to the Working Group as well as to the consultant in charge of the report drafting. These activities included the elaboration of an updated list of municipalities in the Alpine area, including LAU and NUTS codes, to be delivered as a basis for the data collection process. The elaboration foresaw the harmonization and update of the statistical

identification codes, based on data provided by Eurogeographics, for the cases in which an administrative change at municipal level occurred since the RSA 5. The Permanent Secretariat was primarily responsible for the proofreading, editing and layouting of both the report and its executive summary; the latter will be translated and published in all alpine languages at the beginning of 2017. Finally, the Permanent Secretariat facilitated the exchange between the European Topic Center SIA / ULS, the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the RSA 6 *ad hoc* Working Group; this exchange led to the drafting of several maps on land use and land cover that have been included in the final RSA 6 draft. More details on the cooperation between the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the EEA can be found in the chapter “Cooperation”.

4.1.3 WebGIS project

The WEBGIS platform was established in 2014 as a pilot project; 2015 and 2016 were crucial years in the further development of the platform. The Permanent Secretariat closely cooperated with the technical development team at the European Academy of Bolzano/Bozen for the improvement of the users' experience of the platform, providing feedbacks and suggestions. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat also cooperated with EURAC for the harmonization and the visualization in the Platforms of the data used for the Reports on the State of the Alps.

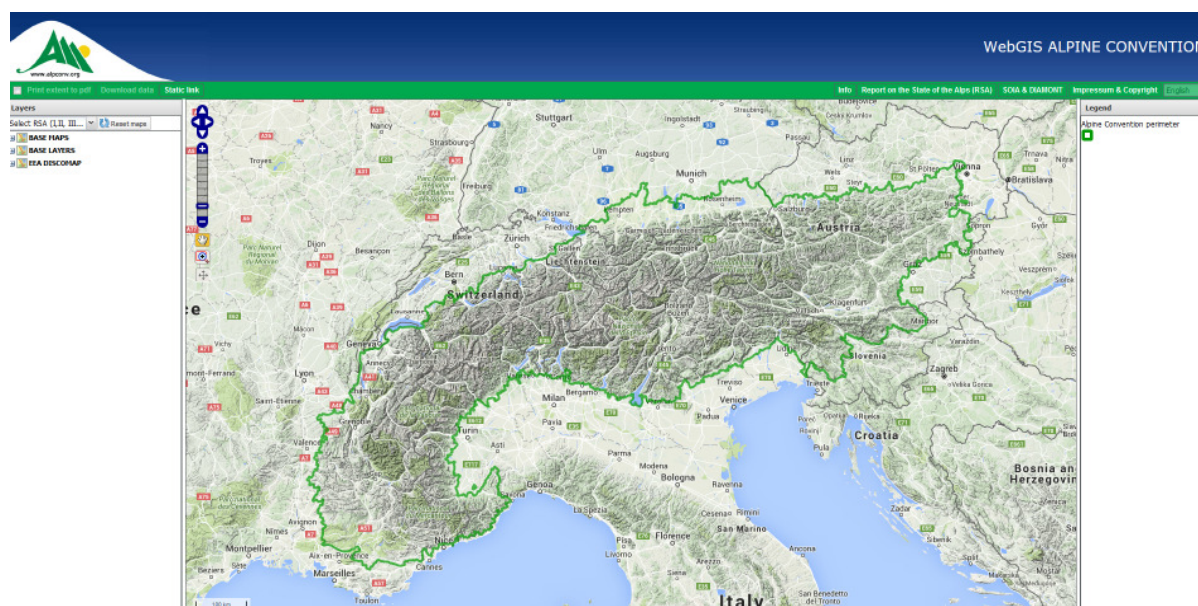


Figure 5: the Alpine Convention WebGIS homepage.

5 Cooperation

5.1 Infopoints of the Alpine Convention

The Secretariat maintained close contacts and implemented several projects in cooperation with the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention in Chamonix (FR), Cogne, Domodossola and Morbegno (IT).

The Infopoints of Domodossola and Morbegno organized two events for the presentation of the RSA5 results (respectively on 18 April and 20 May 2015). Moreover, they organised events within the celebration of the IMD event “Reading Mountains”. The Permanent Secretariat supported financially these dissemination activities on the basis of a specific MoU. The Infopoints Cogne, Morbegno and Domodossola participated in the 2016 edition of the Young Academics Award, involving candidates to submit their work for so-called “Infopoint prizes”. Concerning the Infopoint in Chamonix, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the inauguration of Chamonix as Alpine Town of the Year 2015. A visit to the Chamonix Infopoint took place on 26 April 2016 and a return visit to the Permanent Secretariat offices was foreseen for September 2016.

In 2015 the Memorandum of Understanding with the Infopoint in Domodossola has been renewed until 2018. In 2016 the Memorandum of Understanding with the Infopoint in Cogne (Fondation Grand Paradis) has been renewed until 2019.

Representatives from the Morbegno and Domodossola Infopoints participated in the 2015 and 2016 editions of the “We are Alps” tours.

5.2 Civil society organizations and associations

5.2.1 CIPRA (*international and national levels*)

The Permanent Secretariat is in regular exchange with CIPRA International and the national levels, also through regular meetings. Specifically, the following activities in the framework of the cooperation with CIPRA have to be mentioned for the years 2015-2016:

- Exchange with CIPRA France, especially for the organization of the We Are Alps tour.
- Contributions by the Permanent Secretariat to the Alpine Convention magazine by Cipra Österreich.
- Participation of the Permanent Secretariat in the yearly CIPRA conference and in the “Climate Protection Now!” Conference on Climate Change in the Alps, 29-30 October 2015 in Benediktbeuern (DE).
- Cooperation in the planning of the AlpWeek 2016.

In addition, regular exchanges with CIPRA International take place.

5.2.2 Alliance in the Alps (*AidA*)

The Permanent Secretariat has a regular exchange with the Alliance in the Alps network, which includes the mutual support in promotional activities.

During 2015 the main projects implemented in cooperation with the network Alliance in the Alps were related to the dissemination of the RSA5 results. AidA organised two events, where the topic of demographic change was discussed. The first event in St. Kanzian (AT) (24 April 2015) was dedicated to “Coping with demographic change – maintaining mobility and local supply”. The second event in Saint Martin de Belleville (FR) (19 to 20 June) focused on the necessity to integrate nature conservation and societal developments. During both events representatives from the PSAC presented the results of the RSA5.

The main cooperation in 2016 is linked to the organization of Alpweek 2016 in which both AidA and the Permanent Secretariat work closely together on organisational tasks.

5.2.3 Alpine Town of the year

Besides the regular communication and coordination, in 2015 specific common activities with the Alpine Town of the year network were carried out in the context of Expo. Moreover, the Alpine Town of the year network was one of the partners of the “We are Alps” tours: both Chamonix (France, Alpine Town of the Year 2015) and Tolmin (Slovenia, Alpine Town of the Year 2016) were visited in the respective “We Are Alps” tours.

A representative of the Permanent Secretariat participated in the yearly assembly of the network Alpine Town of the Year in Trento (IT) on 22 October 2015. During the meeting, the main highlights of the RSA 5 were presented and copies of the report were distributed. Moreover, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the workshop on Green Economy in the Alps, organized on 23 October 2015 as a side event to the assembly.

5.2.4 Alparc

The Permanent Secretariat continued its cooperation with Alparc, based on the Memorandum of Cooperation. In 2015-2016, common initiatives were mainly linked to the Econet Platform activities and to the collaboration within the Alpine Space Projects Green Alps, recharge.green as well as within projects by the Secretariat. Alparc contributed to the section on biodiversity of the text drafted by the Permanent Secretariat for the European Environment Agency State of the Environment Report (SOER). Moreover, Alparc contributed to the organisation of the 2015 International Mountain Day event in Chambéry (FR). The Permanent Secretariat participated in the Workshop on the future of Alparc, held on 13 October 2015 in Berchtesgaden (DE).

5.2.5 Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC)

Regular exchange is ongoing with the YPAC schools. In 2015, active cooperation was ongoing with the school in Kamnik (SI) that hosted the 2015 edition of the YPAC as well as with CIPRA international, who coordinated part of the tasks related to the communication of YPAC and the activities related to “Platform future”. The Permanent Secretariat was present at the YPAC meeting and helped with the promotion in the media. The Secretariat also participated in the YPAC yearly meeting. Good cooperation continued also in 2016 when YPAC was organized in Bassano del Grappa (IT). The Secretariat participated in the General Assembly meeting and supported the promotion of the event. Further exchange and cooperation is foreseen also for 2017, when the YPAC will meet in Innsbruck.

5.2.6 Alpine Pearls

In 2015 and 2016 the cooperation with the Alpine Pearls network was mainly focused on the organization of the visits to the Alpine Pearls of Interlaken and Mallnitz (AT) for the “We are Alps” tour.

5.2.7 Bergsteigerdörfer

The Permanent Secretariat also cooperates with the Bergsteigerdörfer (Mountaineering Villages); in 2015 and 2016, this cooperation included the participation in events, the cooperation in the framework of the “We are Alps” tour (e.g. the 2016 tour had visits in Ramsau – the first Bergsteigerdorf in Germany), Weißbach and Mallnitz (AT), and the cooperation in promotional activities. A MoU with the Bergsteigerdörfer is currently in planning.

5.2.8 CAA and Alpine Associations

Alpine Associations may play a particular role in promoting the Convention. Therefore, the Secretariat has participated in several activities carried out by national Alpine associations, including participation in a Symposium of the DAV on climate change and the participation at the meetings of the responsible persons for nature protection of the ÖAV. Several alpine clubs were involved in the first edition of Reading Mountains (including the Monegasque Alpine Club) and/or will be in the 2nd one. The Secretary General also has foreseen participation in the meeting of the CAA board in September 2016 in Innsbruck (AT). Initial contacts have also been established with the Belgian Alpine Club.

5.2.9 AlpWeek

The preparations for the fourth edition of the AlpWeek “Alps & People - Living culture!” between 11 and 15 October 2016 in Grassau (DE) started in 2015 and kept running in 2016 with regular exchanges between the Permanent Secretariat and the planning partners (Alpine Town of the Year, Alliance in the Alps, CIPRA international, CAA, Interreg Alpine Space programme, ISCAR, Ökomodell Achantal e.V).

The manifold aspects of the relationship between the Alps and the people who live, work and recreate there will be the AlpWeek’s main focus highlighted in the three main fields of action: demography, culture and quality of life. The AlpWeek will contain a wide program consisting of sessions, exhibitions, market places and excursions. It will be an opportunity for networking between Observers, Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

The AlpWeek website (<http://alpweek.org/2016/en/>) and social media presentation (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlpWeek> / Twitter: <https://twitter.com/alpweek>) are online.

5.3 Cooperation with other Conventions and International Structures

5.3.1 European Environment Agency

The cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) is crucial for all SOIA – related activities, as it ensures access to EU-wide knowledge and data. In 2015, the joint work plan under the general Memorandum of Understanding between the Permanent

Secretariat and the EEA was updated. The new joint work plan has been drafted in order to concretely contribute to the needs of the two organizations in the two upcoming years. This work plan foresees a contribution by the EEA and by the European Topic Centre SIA / ULS for several activities concerning the RSA6 (see also the related paragraph under Chapter 4 on SOIA). Moreover, the joint work plan foresees a contribution by the Permanent Secretariat to Publications by the EEA. In 2015 and 2016 the Secretariat contributed to two EEA publications: the “State of the Environment Report” (SOER), in cooperation with Alparc and, in cooperation with the Alpine Space project C3 Alps, the “Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability in Europe Report”. The SOER was published in 2016, while the “Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerability in Europe” Report will be finalized in 2016.

5.3.2 Mountain Partnership

The exchange between the Mountain Partnership and the Permanent Secretariat is ongoing. In the years 2015 and 2016, the Permanent Secretariat regularly contributed to the newsletter of the Mountain Partnership, while the Mountain Partnership Secretariat promoted the Reading mountains initiative, the We are Alps tours and several Alpine Convention events through its channels.

In May 2015 the Secretary General of the Alpine Convention visited the offices of the Mountain Partnership and discussed the possibilities to strengthen cooperation between the two bodies; moreover, possible future common projects were discussed with the team coordinator of the Secretariat of the Mountain Partnership, Mr. Thomas Hofer.

Regular skype meetings are organized between the staff of the Mountain Partnership Secretariat and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

5.3.3 United Nations

The main partner of the Permanent Secretariat in the UN structures is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Vienna, which also acts as the constituency representative in the Mountain Partnership Steering Committee.

The Permanent Secretariat contributed to the preparation of policy briefs for different topics relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), led by the Vienna office of UNEP. The cooperation also resulted in the elaboration of a short film to promote the World Environment Day.

5.3.4 UNFCCC

The Permanent Secretariat actively participated in the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris; the Secretary General gave a speech at the high-level segment as representative of an intergovernmental observer organization. In his speech, the Secretary General referred to many initiatives from the Alps relevant for COP21, as well as to the Alpine municipalities appeal “Climate change mitigation now!” and to the concrete proposals elaborated by the alpine youth. The Secretary General also referred to the “International petition on mountain ecosystems and peoples affected by climate change”. He finally concluded highlighting the high expectations of the people of the Alps, of other mountain regions and of the world at large towards the conference and the need to act resolutely to achieve the set aims.

5.3.5 *Carpathian Convention*

Regular exchange is ongoing between the Secretariats of the Carpathian and Alpine Conventions and regular meetings are held at least once per year, as per the Memorandum of Understanding. In 2015, joint activities were planned and implemented in the scope of Expo 2015 as well as at the UNFCCC COP21.

5.3.6 Territorial Cooperation Programme “Alpine Space” (ASP)

The Permanent Secretariat is actively participating in the Alpine Space Programme. For the 2014-2020 Programme, the Permanent Secretariat was admitted as Observer in the Programme Committee and has participated in the Committee meetings in Berlin (25 November 2015), Munich (3 May 2015), Lyon (15 – 16 December 2015), Zurich (20 January 2016) and Lugano (6 - 7 June 2016). The Secretariat also participated in the Alpine Space Workshop on Priority 4 Governance (5 May 2015). On a bilateral level, regular exchanges with the Managing Authority of the Program took place.

At the first meeting of the Chairs of the Working Groups and Platforms under the German Presidency, organized in the context of the 58th Permanent Committee in Bolzano/Bozen, a representative of the Joint Secretariat of the ASP presented the upcoming Programme. Moreover, a representative of the Alpine Space Programme attended the EUSALP Action Group 6 preliminary informal meeting (Bolzano/Bozen, 31 March - 1 April 2016) and the Action Group 6 Kick-off meeting (Klagenfurt, 28 - 29 June 2016).

In the two past years, the Secretariat received several requests for participation in ASP project as observer and evaluated them according to homogeneous and standardised criteria. After the selection of the approved projects by the Programme Committee of the ASP, until October 2016, the Permanent Secretariat confirmed its observer role in the projects AlpES and SPARE, which were successful in their application in the first call.

5.4 **Other cooperation**

5.4.1 *AGOCA*

Based on the success of a similar project in the years before, another beekeeping project was carried out by AGOCA with the Permanent Secretariat's financial support. Based on the cooperation agreement signed, the project was carried out in Tajikistan between November 2014 and November 2015. The focus of the project was on training and education concerning beekeeping in different times of the year, in order to promote an alternative income opportunity for rural areas.

5.4.2 *Collaboration in the Zurich Process*

The Permanent Secretariat participated as observer in three meetings of the ENVALP – Group of the Zürich process on 26 March and 2 November 2015 and 18 March 2016. The Secretary General participated in the meeting of the Ministers of Transport on 31 May 2016 in Lugano, and on the inauguration of the Gotthard tunnel the following day.

6 EUSALP

Following the decision of the XIII Alpine Conference in Turin (to aspire to a leading role in particular as regarding Pillar 3 of EUSALP) the Working Group Macroregional Strategy met on 26 January 2015 in Zurich and on 20 February 2015 in Munich and analyzed the possible options for the involvement of the Alpine Convention in the future governance structure of the Strategy. This analysis paved the way for the corresponding decision taken by the Permanent Committee at its 58th meeting in Bolzano. The Permanent Committee decided that the Alpine Convention shall aim at participating in particular in the following actions of the EUSALP “To preserve and valorize natural resources, including water and cultural resources” (leading role), “To develop ecological connectivity in the whole territory of the EUSALP” (leading role) and “To improve natural risk prevention and management and to better manage climate change” (at least active membership).

The discussion on a possible governance structure for the EUSALP in the Steering Committee meeting in Ljubljana on 21 April 2015 focused on core elements regarding the composition of the institutions foreseen as well as on their functions and interaction. On the basis of the corresponding decision of the 58th Permanent Committee meeting in Bolzano, the Permanent Secretariat called for granting the Alpine Convention full membership in the General Assembly and the Executive Board.

The Secretary General presented the position of the Alpine Convention in the public hearing on the EUSALP organized by the European Economic and Social Committee on 25 June 2015 in Ispra. On the occasion of the Conference of the Heads of Government of Arge Alp on 26 June in Lugano, he emphasized the importance of cooperation based on a spirit of partnership of all EUSALP stakeholders.

The in-depth discussion on a governance structure for the EUSALP in the Steering Committee meeting in Vienna on 2 July 2015 focused on core elements regarding the composition of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Action Groups as well as on their functions and interaction. Just as the Alpine States and Regions, the Alpine Convention was invited to present until mid-September 2015 a well-founded expression of interest concerning its participation in Action Groups as leader.

On 28 July 2015 the European Commission finally published the EUSALP Communication and Action Plan. The governance foreseen includes the Alpine Convention in an advisory capacity in the political decision level (General Assembly) and in the coordination level (Executive Board) of the Strategy.

Furthermore, the Secretary General had a fruitful exchange on governance issues with representatives of the Commission on 2 September 2015 in Brussels. On this occasion the Head of the Commission’s Competence Centre “Macro-regions and European Territorial Cooperation” took the view that the Alpine Convention is a key partner for the success of the EUSALP.

In the meeting of the Working Group Macroregional Strategy on 8 September 2015 in Innsbruck an agreement was reached for the Alpine Convention to apply for the Action Group Lead of Action 6 “To preserve and valorize natural resources, including water and

cultural resources” together with the Land of Carinthia. The corresponding expression of interest was timely transmitted to the members of the EUSALP Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee meetings on 8 and 9 October 2015 in Milan and on 30 November and 1 December 2015 in Brussels were dedicated both to a clarification of the governance structure of the EUSALP and to a selection of the institutions responsible for the implementation of the Strategy. In this respect, the composition of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Action Groups as well as their functions and interaction were clarified. Based on their corresponding expression of interest the Alpine Convention, represented by the Permanent Secretariat, and the Land of Carinthia were selected as leaders of the Action Group 6 “To preserve and valorize natural resources, including water and cultural resources”.

The Working Group Macroregional Strategy met on 12 January 2016 in Innsbruck and discussed current matters of the involvement of the Alpine Convention in the EUSALP. The Permanent Secretariat participated in the discussion as regards the co-leadership of Action Group 6. Particular attention was given to the coordination between the Working Group Macroregional Strategy and Action Group 6, to the recruitment of members for Action Group 6 and to collecting ideas for intended outputs for the three subtopics of Action Group 6, namely spatial planning and soil conservation, contribution of farming and forestry to nature protection and biodiversity preservation and integrated and sustainable water management.

The first meeting of the Action Group Leaders on 21 January 2016 in Brussels saw primarily information on the role the Action Group Leaders will have to play within their Action Groups and within the general governance of EUSALP.

The official launch of the Strategy took place at the EUSALP-Kick off Conference on 25 and 26 January 2016 in the Slovenian location of Brdo. The high level part included the constituting General Assembly, where the Alpine Convention was represented by Deputy Secretary General Marianna Elmi. The Joint Statement adopted at the Conference endorsed the leaderships of the Action Groups. As a key player for the success of the EUSALP the Alpine Convention contributed substantially to the panels “Partnership with stakeholders” and “Cooperation for green opportunities and challenges”.

The Steering Committee meeting on 26 January 2016 in Brdo, in which the Secretariat participated, was dedicated to a clarification of additional elements of the governance structure of the EUSALP.

The Permanent Secretariat actively participated in the preparation meetings for the AlpGov project on 27 January 2016 in Ljubljana and 10 March 2016 in Munich, chaired by the Lead Partner Bavaria. the meetings served to define the Work Packages and the resulting activity scheme of the project for preparing the AlpGov draft application form.

Action Group 4 “To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport”, led by the EGTC EUREGIO Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino, held its kick-off meeting on 9 March 2016 in Innsbruck. The Alpine Convention, which has an observer role in this Action Group, was represented by both the Presidency of the Transport Working Group and the Permanent Secretariat.

At the meeting of the Working Group Macroregional Strategy on 30 March 2016 in Bolzano/Bozen, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the discussion on the future

mandate of the Working Group for the period 2017-2018. As a result, the Troika-chair of the Working Group Macroregional Strategy and the Permanent Secretariat met on 14 April 2016 in Munich to draft a proposal of the mandate. After having incorporated the comments, the draft mandate agreed among the members of the WG was presented at the 61st meeting of the Permanent Committee on 9-10 June 2016 in Sonthofen for decision.

The Permanent Secretariat organized in partnership with Carinthia an informal preparatory meeting of Action Group 6 on 31 March and 1 April 2016 in Bolzano/Bozen. Aim of the meeting was to discuss achievable elements of a work program aiming at implementing the EUSALP Action 6 “To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources” as well as possible forms of involvement of different stakeholders in the Action Group’s activities. The meeting allowed a first collection of themes within each of the three sub-topics.

The Permanent Secretariat participated in the first meeting of the EUSALP Executive Board that took place in Brussels on 18-19 April 2016. The discussion focused on the clarification of substantial aspects of the EUSALP governance structure.

The application of the AlpGov project, which sees the Permanent Secretariat as a partner, was approved by on 7 June 2016. The project aims at setting up the EUSALP Governance and supporting the Actions Groups in implementing the Action Plan. The Permanent Secretariat participated in the official AlpGov Kick-off meeting on 15 June 2016 in Brussels.

The second meeting of Action Group Leaders took place in Brussels on 16 June 2016. Objective of the meeting was the analysis of the results of the first kick—off events of the single Action Groups, the horizontal coordination between the Action Groups and the common rules of procedures for all Action Groups.

Action Group 4 “Mobility” held its second meeting on 28 June 2016 in Bolzano. The participants discussed the proposals for the topics for the Action Group 4 as well the elaboration of the work program. The Permanent Secretariat participated as observer.

The Permanent Secretariat organized, in partnership with Carinthia, the Action Group 6 official Kick-off Conference on 28-29 June 2016 in Klagenfurt. Representatives of ministries and regional governments met with civil society and research experts to design the next steps of Action group 6 “Preserve and valorize natural resources, including water and cultural resources”. Core elements of the conference were interactive discussions of the Action Group’s three main sub-topics: spatial development and soil conservation, future oriented farming and forestry and integrated and sustainable water management. The valuable outputs of the discussion will be included in the AG6 work program, which will be elaborated by the Action group leaders together with the stakeholders. The next meeting of the Action Group 6 will take place at the end of the year 2016 in Innsbruck.

7 Personnel

In relation to the personnel of the Permanent Secretariat, 2015 brought substantial changes. The Deputy Secretary General Ms. Simona Vrevc resigned one year earlier as the foreseen mandate due to personal reasons. Dr. Marianna Elmi was appointed as the new Deputy Secretary General by the 59th Permanent Committee. Furthermore, Mr. Gilles Chomat resigned from the Project officer post for Energy and Transport and Ms. Doris Jaffre, the accountant, retired. For these vacant posts, selection procedures were carried out. Ms. Dagmar Huber was appointed as accountant, Ms. Nathalie Morelle was appointed Project officer for Energy, Climate Change and Transport while the SOIA project officer position (which became vacant with the appointment of Dr. Elmi as Deputy Secretary General) was filled in 2016 by Mr. Aureliano Piva. Based on the decision of the 59th Permanent Committee to establish a specific cost category for the EUSALP-related activity, a vacancy was published for a EUSALP officer. This position has been filled by Ms. Lisa Ellemunter, who started her work mid-April 2016

All the above-mentioned selection procedures, including the one for the Deputy Secretary General, were based on the same approach, with the aim to identify the best qualified candidate for the relevant position. This approach consisted of three stages: 1) preliminary evaluation based on the documents presented by the candidates, 2) e-test (written PC-based tests with standardised questions) 3) hearings of a selected group consisting of the candidates who qualified best in step 2. The hearings, also based on standardised questions, were mostly carried out through Skype-calls in order to save costs. The evaluation process also included an evaluation of language skills. The described changes in the personnel required the adaptation of the internal organizations and requested additional flexibility from the staff in order to carry out all planned activities. As of October 2016, all the vacant positions at the Permanent Secretariat have been filled and clear lines of responsibility have been assigned.

It is noted that 2016 marked the ninth consecutive year in which the salary scales of the Permanent Secretariat were not adapted to current inflation levels (the last modification was undertaken in 2008).

8 Calendar of participation in events by the Permanent Secretariat

From	To	Event	Place
13/01/2015	14/01/2015	Retreat with the German Presidency	Mittenwald, DE
22/01/2015	23/01/2015	Danilo Re, opening event	Defereggental, AT
23/01/2015	23/01/2015	Opening Alpine Town of the Year 2015	Chamonix, F
23/01/2015	24/01/2015	General assembly Alparc	St. Jakob i Defereggental A
26/01/2015	27/01/2015	EUSALP Steering Group and Working Group Macroregional Strategy	Zurich, CH
29/01/2015	29/01/2015	Winter conference Ökosoziales Forum and meeting with minister Rupprechter	Innsbruck, AT
29/01/2015	30/01/2015	Arge Alp Steering Committee	Montagnola, CH
03/02/2015	03/02/2015	Meeting Mayor of Chamonix	Chamonix, FR
03/02/2015	03/02/2015	Meeting Vice Mayor Alain Boulogne, Pascal Clouaire (élu à l'Europe de la Ville de Grenoble), Eric Recoura (directeur des Relations Internationales), Serge Gros (CAUE)	Grenoble, FR
04/02/2015	04/02/2015	Meeting Nadine Mordant	Grenoble, FR
04/02/2015	04/02/2015	Meeting President Queyranne	Lyon, FR
06/02/2015	06/02/2015	Exchange meeting with CIPRA International	Schaan, LI
09/02/2015	09/02/2015	Presentation AC to Lions club, meeting Cipra Slovenia, meeting school YPAC Kamnik, meeting Ministry	Slovenia
19/02/2015	19/02/2015	Meeting Multiannual Work Programme	Munich, DE
19/02/2015	19/02/2015	Visit to Logictis Competence Center	Prien am Chiemsee, DE
20/02/2015	20/02/2015	Working Group Macroregional Strategy	Munich, DE
25/02/2015	25/02/2015	CIPRA Österreich Committee Meeting	Innsbruck, AT
27/02/2015	27/02/2015	Working Group Transport meeting	Paris, F
03/03/2015	04/03/2015	Working Group RSA 6 meeting	Berlin, DE
04/03/2015	05/03/2015	PLANALP meeting	Salzburg, AT
09/03/2015	09/03/2015	Participation in honor Award to Wolfgang Burhenne with Minister Rupprechter	Wien, AT
11/03/2015	13/03/2015	Workshop chairs of Working Groups and Platforms and Permanent Committee	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
14/03/2015	14/03/2015	Final Conference, Project Mountaineering Villages without borders	Val di Zoldo, IT
16/03/2015	16/03/2015	Participation in FIANET board meeting	Garmisch, DE
17/03/2015	19/03/2015	YPAC	Kamnik, SI
17/03/2015	18/03/2015	Compliance Committee	Berlin, DE
18/03/2015	19/03/2015	Ecological Network Platform meeting	Berchtesgaden, DE
20/03/2015	20/03/2015	Brenner Congress 2015	Innsbruck, AT
24/03/2015	24/03/2015	Climate Change adaptation (C3 Alps project)	Vaduz, FL
26/03/2015	27/03/2015	Zürich Group meeting	Zürich, CH
26/03/2015	26/03/2015	Participation in EEA Advisory Group meeting on climate change report	Copenhagen, DK
09/04/2015	10/04/2015	<i>Biennale de l'Habitat durable</i> (sustainable housing)	Grenoble, F
14/04/2015	14/04/2015	Preparation meetings for We are Alps	Großer Walsertal, A, Schaan, FL
15/04/2015	16/04/2015	Site planning visit for Alpine Conference preparation	Achental, Herrenchiemsee, DE
17/04/2015	17/04/2015	Sustainable Tourism Working Group	Belluno, IT
18/04/2015	18/04/2015	Presentation RSA 5 Infopoint Morbegno	Morbegno, IT
27/04/2015	27/04/2015	Meeting with mayor Oppitz-Plörer	Innsbruck, AT
27/04/2015	27/04/2015	Site planning visit for PC 59 preparation	Haus der Berge, Berchtesgaden
30/04/2015	30/04/2015	Meeting president of the Tyrolean parliament Van Staa	Innsbruck, AT
03/05/2015	03/05/2015	Participation in the Alpine Space Programme Committee	Munich, DE
04/05/2015	04/05/2015	CEI - meeting of heads of international organisations	Wien, AT
05/05/2015	05/05/2015	Green Infrastructure hearing, European Commission	Brussels
06/05/2015	06/05/2015	Expo 2015	Bolzano/Bozen, IT

06/05/2015	07/05/2015	Mountain Agriculture Platform meeting	Vienna, AT
07/05/2015	07/05/2015	Meeting Thomas Hofer, Mountain Partnership	Rome, IT
08/05/2015	08/05/2015	Meeting with Secretary General Dr. Michael Linhart	Innsbruck, AT
08/05/2015	08/05/2015	Filming Expo	Padaun
12/05/2015	14/05/2015	ECCA European Climate Change Adaptation conference	Copenhagen, DK
17/05/2015	19/05/2015	Workshop Multiannual Programme	Triesenberg, LIE
20/05/2015	21/05/2015	recharge.green project	Sonthofen, DE
20/05/2015	20/05/2015	Presentation RSA 5 Infopoint Domodossola and site visit	Domodossola, IT
27/05/2015	27/05/2015	Spatial Planning expert group	Berlin, DE
28/05/2015	30/05/2015	WISO meeting, Day AC SL	Rome, IT and Kranjska gora, SIT
04/06/2015	09/06/2015	Expo 2015	Milano, IT
09/06/2015	10/06/2015	RSA 6 Working Group meeting	Innsbruck, AT
12/06/2015	13/06/2015	Austrian International Law Association, 40th annual Meeting, presentation on Alpine Convention	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
15/06/2015	15/06/2015	Meeting Director Helmut Moroder	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
16/06/2015	16/06/2015	Press Conference, announcement Alpenforum Innsbruck	Innsbruck, AT
16/06/2015	16/06/2015	Meeting President Platter	Innsbruck, AT
18/06/2015	19/06/2015	Alpinfonet Final Conference	Prien am Chiemsee, DE
18/06/2015	18/06/2015	Climate Change conference, French Embassy	Vienna, A
18/06/2015	20/06/2015	Annual Meeting, AidA	St. Martin de Bellville, FR
22/06/2015	23/06/2015	Water Platform meeting	Lyon, FR
23/06/2015	23/06/2015	Alpenforum Innsbruck on natural hazards	Innsbruck, AT
23/06/2015	23/06/2015	Tourismusenquete Kärnten	Klagenfurt, AT
23/06/2015	23/06/2015	Alpweek Planning Meeting	Grassau, DE
25/06/2015	25/06/2015	EU Hearing on Macroeconomic Strategy	ITspra, IT
26/06/2015	26/06/2015	Arge AlpHead of Government Meeting	Lugano, CH
29/06/2015	05/07/2015	We are Alps tour and Ministerial meeting	
02/07/2015	03/07/2015	Sustainable Tourism Working Group	Munich, DE
07/07/2015	07/07/2015	Coordination meeting with Presidency	Garmisch-Partenkirchen
08/07/2015	08/07/2015	Working Group Mountain Forests meeting	Oberammergau, DE
10/07/2015	11/07/2015	ÖAV, annual meeting of the persons responsible for nature protection	Kartitsch
10/07/2015	10/07/2015	Working Group Transport meeting	Paris, F
13/07/2015	14/07/2015	Official visit Secretary General to Sonthofen	Sonthofen, DE
23/07/2015	24/07/2015	Workshop Nearly Zero Energy Buildings	Meran/Merano, IT
06/08/2015	06/08/2015	Planning meeting and visit, PC 59	Berchtesgaden, DE
10/08/2015	10/08/2015	Meeting Superintendent Olivier Dantine	Innsbruck, AT
11/08/2015	11/08/2015	Planning meeting and visit, CC 22	Benediktbeuern, DE
02/09/2015	03/09/2015	Meeting on Macroeconomic Strategy	Brussels
04/09/2015	04/09/2015	Event "Mediterranean Mountains, A partnership for Sustainable Mountain development"	Milano, IT
08/09/2015	08/09/2015	Macroeconomic Strategy Working Group Meeting	Innsbruck, AT
16/09/2015	16/09/2015	Ceremony of Ramsau becoming Bergsteigerdorf	Ramsau, DE
17/09/2015	17/09/2015	Meeting with CIPRA	Innsbruck, AT
17/09/2015	18/09/2015	Water Plattform meeting	Munich, DEE
21/09/2015	21/09/2015	Alpine town of the year	Tolmin, SI
18/09/2015	18/09/2015	Meeting experts Sustainable Spatial Planning	Berlin, DE
21/09/2015	22/09/2015	Slow Train	Poschiavo, CH
25/09/2015	25/09/2015	Cipra yearly conference	Ruggel, LIE
29/09/2015	30/09/2015	CIPRA Austria, annual meeting	Lunz am See, AT
29/09/2015	30/09/2015	WISO meeting	Nova Levante/Welschnofen, IT
30/09/2015	30/09/2015	Ecological Network Platform meeting	Bled, SI
02/10/2015	03/10/2015	Meeting of the Alpine Greens	Schmirn

02/10/2015	04/10/2015	Toblacher Gespräche	Toblach, IT
07/10/2016	08/10/2016	RSA 6 Working Group meeting	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
08/10/2015	09/10/2015	Bergsteigerdörfer annual meeting	Mauthen
12/10/2015	13/10/2015	PLANALP meeting	Munich, DEE, DE
14/10/2015	14/10/2015	ALPARC meeting	Berchtesgaden, DE
14/10/2015	16/10/2015	59th Permanent Committee	Berchtesgaden, DE
20/10/2015	20/10/2015	Alpenforum Innsbruck on energy	Innsbruck, AT
22/10/2015	23/10/2015	Workshop on Green economy and presentation RSA 5 to Assembly Alpine Town of the Year	Trento, IT
29/10/2015	29/10/2015	CIPRA Conference on Climate Protection in municipalities "Climate Protection now!"	Benediktbeuern, DE
30/10/2015	30/10/2015	CAI General Conference	Florenz, IT
30/10/2015	31/10/2015	Constructive Alps opening	Bern, CH
02/11/2015	02/11/2015	Zürich Group meeting	Zürich, CH
03/11/2015	03/11/2015	Meeting Working Group Mountain Forests	Engelberg (CH)
10/11/2015	10/11/2015	Presentation of RSA5 organized by the Italian delegation	Rome, IT
16/11/2015	17/11/2015	Working Group Multiannual Programme meeting	Berlin, DE
17/11/2015	18/11/2015	Alpweek Partner Meeting	Munich, DE
18/11/2015	20/11/2015	Constructive Alps opening	Poschiavo, CH
23/11/2015	23/11/2015	Sustainable tourism WG meeting	Innsbruck, AT
30/11/2015	01/12/2015	Conference RSA 5 organized by the Austrian delegation	Villach, AT
02/12/2015	02/12/2015	Meeting experts Sustainable Spatial Planning	Berlin, DE
03/12/2015	03/12/2015	Meeting Harald Egerer, exchange with Carpathian Convention	Innsbruck, AT
07/12/2015	10/12/2015	COP21	Paris, F
10/12/2015	10/12/2015	IMD - First Alpine Poetry Slam	Innsbruck, AT
11/12/2015	11/12/2015	IMD - Reading Mountain event in Bolzano/Bozen	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
11/12/2015	11/12/2015	Participation in the Reading Mountain Event in Chambéry	Chambéry, FR
15/12/2015	16/12/2015	Participation in the Alpine Space Programme Committee	Lyon, FR
15/12/2015	17/12/2015	Compliance Committee meeting	Benediktbeuern, DE
17/12/2015	18/12/2015	Filming of IMD video	Ljubljana, SI
12/01/2016	12/01/2016	Macoregional Strategy Working group Meeting	Innsbruck, AT
20/01/2016	20/01/2016	Participation in the Alpine Space Programme Committee	Zurich, CH
20/01/2016	21/01/2016	WISO meeting	Valdieri, IT
21/01/2016	22/01/2016	Mountain Agriculture Platform meeting	Vienna, AT
22/01/2016	22/01/2016	Presentation of RSA 5 in Conference on Migration in the Alps organized by Alliance in the Alps	Grainau, DE
25/01/2016	26/01/2016	Participation in the EUSALP Kick-off conference	Brdo, SI
27/01/2016	28/01/2016	Coordination meeting on EUSALP with AG 6 co-leader Carinthia	Kärnten, AT
27/01/2016	27/01/2016	Participation in the AlpGov project preparatory meeting	Brdo, SI
28/01/2016	29/01/2016	Keynote - Stakeholder Conference on Spatial Planning	Munich, DE
02/02/2016	03/02/2016	Meeting Working Group Sustainable Tourism	Milano, IT
08/02/2016	08/02/2016	Transport Working Group meeting	Paris, F
25/02/2016	26/02/2016	60th Permanent Committee	Innsbruck, AT
03/03/2016	04/03/2016	Participation in workshop "We4DRR" organized by PLANALP chair	Hittisau, AT
09/03/2016	09/03/2016	Participation as observer in EUSALP AG 4 (Mobility) meeting	Innsbruck, AT
09/03/2016	09/03/2016	Meeting experts Sustainable Spatial Planning	Berlin, DE
10/03/2016	10/03/2016	Participation in the AlpGov preparatory meeting	Munich, DE
14/03/2016	15/03/2016	Working Group Multiannual Programme meeting	Munich, DE
15/03/2016	15/03/2016	Coordination meeting with presidency	Munich, DE
16/03/2016	17/03/2016	Keynote at Alpine building conference	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, DE
16/03/2016	17/03/2016	RSA 6 Working Group meeting	Munich, DE
17/03/2016	18/03/2016	Berginale	Berchtesgaden, DE
17/03/2016	18/03/2016	Berginale	Ramsau, DE
18/03/2016	18/03/2016	Zürich process ENVALP working group meeting	Zürich, CH

30/03/2016	01/04/2016	Macroregional Strategy Working group meeting & Informal preparatory meeting AG 6 EUSALP	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
06/04/2016	06/04/2016	PLANALP meeting	Padova, IT
06/04/2016	06/04/2016	Water Platform meeting	Padova, IT
11/04/2016	12/04/2016	YPAC	Bassano del Grappa, IT
13/04/2016	13/04/2016	Constructive Alps opening	Domodossola, IT
14/04/2016	14/04/2016	Conference on intermodal transport in the Brenner corridor	Trento, IT
18/04/2016	18/04/2016	High-level meeting on Spatial Planning declaration	Murnau, DE
20/04/2016	21/04/2016	Keynote in workshop "Climate Protection and energy efficiency in gastronomy"	Oberschleißheim, Munich, DE
21/04/2016	22/04/2016	Participation in opening of the Research Centre for internal areas and the Appenines	Campobasso, IT
21/04/2016	21/04/2016	Workshop on the Energy Protocol of the Alpine Convention	Salzburg, AT
26/04/2016	28/04/2016	Ecological Network Platform meeting and meeting with Infopoint Chamonix	Chamonix, FR
29/04/2016	30/04/2016	DAV Climate Proection Conference	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, DE
03/05/2016	04/05/2016	Preparatory visit for XIV Alpine Conference	Grassau, DE
08/05/2016	08/05/2016	Meeting experts Sustainable Spatial Planning	Berlin, DE
09/05/2016	10/05/2016	Working Group Multiannual Programme meeting	Berlin, DE
17/05/2016	17/05/2016	Speech at energy Forum Alpine Space	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
19/05/2016	20/05/2016	Participation in round table at the International Parks Festival	Trezzo sull'Adda, IT
23/05/2016	24/05/2016	Staff retreat of the Permanent Secretariat at the MUSE	Trento, IT
26/05/2016	26/05/2016	Participation in round table at the "Rete Montagna" conference	L'Aquila, IT
26/05/2016	29/05/2016	Day of the Alpine Convention	Slovenia
30/05/2016	30/05/2016	Meeting with CIPRA	Zürich, CH
31/05/2016	01/06/2016	Zurich Process, Meeting of Transport Ministers, opening of the Gotthard Tunnel	Lugano, CH
31/05/2016	31/05/2016	Meeting Sustainable Tourism Working Group	Kempten, DE
03/06/2016	03/06/2016	Guest lecture University of Innsbruck	Innsbruck, AT
05/06/2016	06/06/2016	Preparation meeting "Women in the Alps" Conference	Vienna, AT
06/06/2016	06/06/2016	Transport WG meeting	Paris, F
06/06/2016	07/06/2016	Participation in the Alpine Space Programme Committee	Lugano, CH
07/06/2016	08/06/2016	Conference "Sustainable tourism in the Alpine region: a challenge (without alternative)"	Sonthofen, DE
08/06/2016	08/06/2016	Meeting Working Group Mountain Forests	Trento, IT
09/06/2016	10/06/2016	61st Permanent Committee	Sonthofen, DE
13/06/2016	13/06/2016	Preparation meeting We are Alps	Ramsau, DE
14/06/2016	14/06/2016	Preparation meeting We are Alps	Innsbruck, AT
23/06/2016	23/06/2016	Meeting with Major of Innsbruck	Innsbruck, AT
28/06/2016	28/06/2016	Kick off meeting EUSALP AG6	Klagenfurt, AT
28/06/2016	28/06/2016	Participation as observer in EUSALP AG 4 (Mobility) meeting	Bolzano/Bozen, IT
28/06/2016	29/06/2016	RSA 6 Working Group final meeting	Berlin, DE
29/06/2016	05/07/2016	We are Alps tour	
04/07/2016	05/07/2016	EEA EIONET meeting on TOUERM (sustainable tourism indicators)	Copenhagen, DK