



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

XV

01.03.2019

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**BERICHT ÜBER DIE AKTIVITÄTEN DES STÄNDIGEN
SEKRETARIATS IM ZEITRAUM 2016 – 2019**

A Bericht des Ständigen Sekretariats

B Beschlussvorschlag

Anlage

- I. Ausführlicher Tätigkeitsbericht des Ständigen Sekretariats der Alpenkonvention für den Zeitraum 2016 - 2019.**

A Bericht des Ständigen Sekretariats

Während des österreichischen Vorsitzes 2016 – 2019 war das Ständige Sekretariat sehr stark in eine Vielzahl von Aktivitäten zur Umsetzung der Alpenkonvention eingebunden. In erster Linie unterstützte das Sekretariat den Vorsitz der Alpenkonvention und seine wichtigsten Organe (Alpenkonferenz, Ständiger Ausschuss, thematische Arbeitsgremien, Überprüfungsausschuss); außerdem übernahm es eine tragende Rolle bei der Konkretisierung der Prioritäten des Mehrjährigen Arbeitsprogramms (MAP), nicht nur durch die Unterstützung der Vertragsparteien, sondern auch durch die Umsetzung verschiedener eigener Projekte. Ein weiterer wichtiger Tätigkeitsbereich betraf die ständige Verbesserung der Kommunikation der Alpenkonvention, um einen immer größeren Nutzerkreis zu erreichen. Darüber hinaus kümmerte sich das Ständige Sekretariat um die Koordination und Weiterentwicklung des Alpenbeobachtungs- und Informationssystems. Und schließlich arbeitete es aktiv an der Verstärkung der bestehenden Kooperationsprozesse und dem Aufbau neuer Netzwerke mit lokalen, nationalen und internationalen Institutionen mit.

Die nachstehenden Abschnitte enthalten einen Auszug der Aktivitäten, die in den verschiedenen Bereichen durchgeführt wurden. Für weitere Einzelheiten zu allen Tätigkeitsbereichen des Ständigen Sekretariats – von denen viele in dieser Zusammenfassung nicht aufgeführt sind – wird auf den beigefügten ausführlichen Bericht verwiesen.

1. Unterstützung der Organe der Alpenkonvention

Zu diesem wichtigen Tätigkeitsbereich des Ständigen Sekretariats zählen sämtliche Aktivitäten zur Unterstützung des Vorsitzes bei der Umsetzung der Alpenkonvention, einschließlich der Organisation der Sitzungen des Ständigen Ausschusses, der Sitzungen des Überprüfungsausschusses und Unterstützung der 12 thematischen Arbeitsgremien. Zu erwähnen ist, dass das Ständige Sekretariat in den Jahren 2016-2019 große Anstrengungen in die Umsetzung der Richtlinien für die Organisation nachhaltiger Veranstaltungen steckte. Diese Richtlinien fanden für alle Sitzungen des Ständigen Ausschusses Anwendung, wodurch ein konkreter Beitrag zur ökologischen Nachhaltigkeit geleistet wurde.

2. Umsetzung des Mehrjährigen Arbeitsprogramms

Das Ständige Sekretariat trug maßgeblich zur Umsetzung der Prioritäten des bei der XIV. Alpenkonferenz verabschiedeten Mehrjährigen Arbeitsprogramms bei¹, nicht nur durch Unterstützung der vom Vorsitz und den Vertragsparteien durchgeführten Aktivitäten, sondern auch durch eigene Initiativen und Projekte. Darunter sind zu nennen:

- Die Journalistenreisen „We are Alps“ im Jahr 2017 zum Thema Wasser und im Jahr 2018 zum Thema Bevölkerung und Kultur in den Alpen.
- Die Organisation des Festivals „Berge lesen“ in den Jahren 2016, 2017 und 2018.
- Die Förderung verschiedener Initiativen zum Thema „Die Rolle der Frauen in Bergregionen“.
- Der Vorsitz der Plattform „Große Beutegreifer, wildlebende Huftiere und Gesellschaft“.
- Der Ko-Vorsitz der Aktionsgruppe 6 der EUSALP.

3. Kommunikation der Alpenkonvention

In dem Zeitraum 2016-2019 wurde die Kommunikation der Alpenkonvention und ihrer Aktivitäten verstärkt. Für einen noch besseren Zugang zu den Themen und Inhalten der Alpenkonvention erfolgt derzeit eine umfassende Aktualisierung der Webseite, die in den ersten Monate 2019 abgeschlossen wird. Die Aktualisierung der Webseite bietet auch die Gelegenheit zu einer Modernisierung der Corporate Identity, die auch 2019 abgeschlossen wird. Es wurden vier Ausgaben des Newsletters pro Jahr sowie die zusätzlichen Sonderausgaben anlässlich des Festivals „Berge lesen“ veröffentlicht. Und schließlich wurde die Präsenz der Alpenkonvention auf Facebook und Twitter weiter verstärkt.

4. Koordination des Alpenbeobachtungs- und Informationssystems

In den vergangenen zwei Jahren konzentrierten sich die Aktivitäten des Ständigen Sekretariats in diesem Bereich vor allem auf die Veröffentlichung und Vorstellung des sechsten Alpenzustandsberichts zum Thema „Grünes Wirtschaften im Alpenraum“ sowie die Vorbereitung des siebten Alpenzustandsberichts zum Thema „Naturgefahren Risiko-

¹ Die sechs Prioritäten sind: 1) Fokussierung auf Menschen und Kultur; 2) Maßnahmen gegen den Klimawandel; 3) Erhaltung und Inwertsetzung der Biodiversität und Landschaft; 4) Grünes Wirtschaften; 5) Förderung des nachhaltigen Verkehrs; 6) Ausübung einer führenden Rolle in der EUSALP.

Governance ". Darüber hinaus arbeitete das Ständige Sekretariat intensiv an der Optimierung der WebGIS-Plattform und der Verbesserung ihres internen Daten- und Informationsarchivs.

5. Kooperationsinitiativen

In den vergangenen zwei Jahren wurden vom Ständigen Sekretariat verschiedene Kooperationsinitiativen mit unterschiedlichen Akteuren konsolidiert und auf den Weg gebracht: Infopoints der Alpenkonvention (mit der Neuerrichtung der slowenischen Infopoints in Tolmin und Mojstrana sowie des österreichischen Infopoints des Naturparks Dobratsch), die Zivilgesellschaft vertretende Organisationen, Vereine sowie andere Konventionen und internationale Einrichtungen.

6. Änderungen im Stellenplan

Die Personalbesetzung des Ständigen Sekretariats blieb in den vergangenen zwei Jahren im Großen und Ganzen gleich, und es gab keine wesentlichen Änderungen im Stellenplan. Seit Juli 2018 ist Frau Dr. Leentje Ann Sourbron Teil des Mitarbeiterstabs und als Vertretung einer Mitarbeiterin in Mutterschaftsurlaub für die Kommunikation zuständig.

B Beschlussvorschlag

Die Alpenkonferenz

1. nimmt den Bericht des Ständigen Sekretariats zur Kenntnis und dankt ihm für die geleistete Arbeit;
2. bittet die Vertragsparteien, die vom Ständigen Sekretariat zur Umsetzung der Prioritäten des MAP vorgeschlagenen Projekte auch in den zwei Jahren des französischen Vorsitzes zu unterstützen und zu fördern.



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Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

Activity report

October 2016 – April 2019

Submitted to the XV Alpine Conference

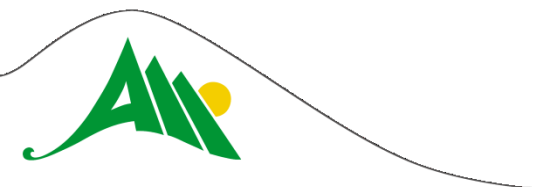


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All the pictures in the report are by the Permanent Secretariat of Alpine Convention.

Foreword

Also during this reporting period, we worked hard to fulfil our tasks to the best of our abilities. The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention focused its activities on the support to the Contracting parties and on putting the Multiannual Programme of the Convention 2017 – 2022 into practice. Our efforts were dedicated to the topics of climate change and natural hazard risk management, in a year that both saw catastrophic events have strong impacts on our alpine landscape and the UNFCCC COP take a further step towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, our strong commitment went much further than that: we took steps forward for sustainability and protection in the Alps by working in the domains of population and culture, biodiversity and landscape, green economy and transport. In addition, the Secretariat continued its leading role in the Action Group 6 of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), with spatial development and soil conservation, sustainable agriculture and forestry as well as water as its core topics.

For sixteen years now, the Secretariat has been drawing on its strong mission, its history and the vitality and engagement of its team to power through a world in transition, which presents always new challenges for sustainability and requires innovative approaches. We fulfilled the commitment to pursue, together with the Contracting Parties the Observers and other partners of the Alpine Convention, the preservation of the Alpine natural and cultural diversity and to promote sustainable development in the Alps.

I invite you to discover in the following pages the Permanent Secretariat's wide range of actions and its most important projects, events and milestones during the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention. This activity report gives an overview of the innumerable projects that we created, the engaged people we met across the Alps, the events we organised, often in cooperation with partners throughout the Alpine arc. If you'd like to discover more, visit our recently renovated website for more and detailed information.

I would also like to use this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the entire staff of the Permanent Secretariat for their tireless and conscientious work; their professionalism and enthusiasm for the Alps and their protection and sustainable development is the indispensable ingredient and basis for the wealth of activities presented in this report.

Ambassador Markus Reiterer

Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

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 to be submitted to the attention of the Permanent Committee. The last Activity report of the Permanent Secretariat on the period October 2016 – December 2017 was presented at the 65th Permanent Committee in Schaan (LI). The current report complements the one from Schaan and presents an overview of the activities of the Permanent Secretariat during the Austrian Presidency of the Convention, thus including the months of November and December 2016 and covering up until the month of April 2019.

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

1. Support to the Bodies and Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention.
2. Support to the implementation of the Multiannual Work Programme 2017-2022.
3. Communicating the Alpine Convention.
4. System of Information and Observation of the Alps (SOIA).
5. Cooperation.

Two final chapters are dedicated to an update concerning the staff of the Permanent Secretariat as well as to a comprehensive table of the most relevant staff missions and meetings in which the team of the Permanent Secretariat participated in the period covered by the report.

Many of the activities of the Permanent Secretariat have a cross-cutting character and contribute to several objectives; some activities may be therefore mentioned in more than one chapter.

1 Support to the Bodies and the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention

Highlights

The support to the Bodies and the Contracting Parties of the Alpine Convention is a core task of the Permanent Secretariat. In this reporting period, the Secretariat has supported the organisation of five Permanent Committee meetings, four meetings of the Compliance Committees and has strongly supported the Austrian Presidency and the twelve Thematic Working Bodies of the Convention. At the same time, the Secretariat has continuously aimed at achieving high environmental standards for all meetings in the framework of the Alpine Convention, by implementing and further promoting the “Recommendations for the Sustainable Organisation of Meetings and Events of the Alpine Convention” criteria.

Alpine Conference and Permanent Committee

The Permanent Secretariat supported the organisation of the XIV Alpine Conference in Grassau (DE) on 13 October 2016, of its 62th Permanent Committee Meeting as well as the organisation of events directly connected to the Conference, such as exhibitions and side events, the AlpWeek and the official reception.



Figure 1: the 66th Permanent Committee.

The Secretariat worked closely with the Austrian presidency in organising the 63rd Permanent Committee meeting in Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 5-6 April 2017, certified as “Green Event Südtirol Alto Adige”, the 64th Permanent Committee meeting in Gmunden (AT), 4-5 October 2017, certified as “Klimakultur Green Event Oberösterreich”, the informal meeting of the Permanent Committee in Vienna (AT), 14-15 March 2018, the 65th

Permanent Committee meeting in Schaan (LI), 13-14 June

2018, jointly organised with Liechtenstein as a Green Event of the Alpine Convention and, finally, the 66th (6-7 November 2018) and 67th (2-3 April 2019) Permanent Committee meetings in Innsbruck (AT), both certified as “Green Events Tirol”. The Austrian presidency was also supported by the Permanent Secretariat in preparing the XV Alpine Conference in Innsbruck (AT), 4 April 2019, the 67th Permanent Committee meeting directly before the Conference and the “AlpWeek Intermezzo”.

The staff of the Permanent Secretariat participated in two joint staff retreats with the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in Gmunden (AT), 18-19 January 2017 and in Mallnitz (A), 9-10 April 2018. Further support to the Presidency was given through the coordination of the production of publicity and information materials, such as buffs, banners and presidency brochures.

Compliance Committee

The Permanent Secretariat supported the preparation and realization of the following sessions of the Compliance Committee: 25th session in St. Gallen (CH), 9-10 March 2017, 26th session in Vienna (AT), 28-29 November 2017, 27th session in Drobollach (AT), 10-11 July 2018 and 28th session in Vienna (AT), 6-8 February 2019. All meetings of the Compliance Committee have been organised taking into consideration the Recommendations for the Sustainable Organisation of Meetings and Events of the Alpine Convention.

Thematic Working Bodies

The Permanent Secretariat has ensured its continuous support to the Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention through the assistance to the Chairs in the preparation of meetings and documents and in the follow-up; an appointed project officer for each Thematic Working Body has been in charge of these activities. The Permanent Secretariat also supported the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in the organisation of the meeting of the Heads of Working Groups and Platforms in Vienna (January 30-31, 2017).

The Permanent Secretariat supported the following meetings of the Thematic Working Bodies:

- Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning: Berlin (DE), 30 November 2016, 11 May 2017 and 21 November 2017. The latter also was the kick-off meeting for the ESPON Targeted Analysis “Alps2050”. Combined meetings of the Ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning and the Steering committee of the ESPON project “Alps2050” took place on 22-23 May, 16 October and 6 December 2018.
- Advisory board “Green economy action plan”: Innsbruck (AT), 30-31 April 2017, Munich (DE), 6-7 June 2018 and Berlin (DE), 12-13 December 2018.
- Alpine Climate Board: Vienna (AT), 22-23 February 2017, 18-19 September 2017, 30-31 January 2018, 4-5 June 2018 and 22 January 2019 as well as participation in preparation meetings in Vienna (AT).
- Platform “Ecological Network”: Grenoble (FR), 21-22 June 2017, Valdieri (IT), 15-16 November 2017 and Munich (DE), 6 December 2018.
- Platform “Large Carnivores, Ungulates and Society”: Innsbruck (AT), 15-16 March 2017, Vaduz (LI), 25-26 September 2017, Domodossola (IT), 1 March 2018 and Berchtesgaden (DE), 26-27 September 2018.
- Platform “Mountain Agriculture”: Vienna (AT), 13-14 June 2017 and 20-21 February 2018.

- Platform “Natural Hazards” – PLANALP: Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE), 16-17 March, Innsbruck (AT), 19-20 September 2017, Piran (SL), 11-12 April 2018, Hinterstoder (AT), 26-27 September 2018.
- Working Group “Macroregional Strategy”: Vienna (AT), 18 November 2016, 26 January 2017, 20 June 2017, 15 November 2017 and 24 April 2018.
- Working Group “Mountain Forests”: Padova (IT), 22 March 2017, Tolmezzo (IT), 27 April 2017, Bad Reichenhall (DE), 23-24 October 2017, Santo Stefano di Cadore (IT) 27-29 June 2018, Ljubljana (SI), 12 December 2018
- Working Group “Sustainable Tourism”: Werfenweng (AT), 18 October 2017, Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 24 April 2018.
- Working Group “Transport”: Paris (FR), 4 November 2016, Vienna (AT), 4-5 May 2017, Paris (FR), 1 December 2017, Chamonix (FR), 16-17 May 2018 and Paris (FR) 4 December 2018.
- Platform “Water Management in the Alps”: Padova (IT), 23-24 March 2017, Ajdovščina (SI), 14-15 September 2017, Vienna (AT), 22-23 January 2018, Breitenwang (AT), 7 Juni 2018 and Torino (IT), 1-2 October 2018.

Support to meetings within the Presidency Programme

The Secretariat also participated in and supported the Austrian Presidency for several meetings organised in the context of the Presidency Programme. A selection of meetings is presented here; further meetings and events organised in the framework of the Presidency programme can be found under the respective priorities of the Multiannual Programme.

- First presidency event: “Karawanks and the Alpine Convention”, Tainach/Tinje (AT), 21 October 2016. The Permanent Secretariat contributed also to a publication on the topic based on the inputs for the event.
- Conference “The role of women in mountain areas”, Alpbach (AT), 18-19 April 2017. The Permanent Secretariat contributed with a welcome and a keynote speech and participated in several preparatory meetings for the conference.
- International Conference on the Future of Mountain Agriculture, St. Johann im Pongau (AT), 13-14 September 2017.
- 2nd Forest Summit “Protection.Forest.Climate” (Waldgipfel “Schutz.Wald.Klima”), Innsbruck (AT), 18 September 2017.
- International workshop “Environmental data management and regional cooperation in mountain regions”, Vienna (AT), 25-26 September 2017.
- Alpine Tourism & Mobility Day, Werfenweng (AT), 19 October 2017.
- Support to a market stand of the Presidency at the EUSALP Annual Forum, Munich (DE), 23-24 November 2017.
- Support to the workshop “Who owns the nature”, Latschach ober dem Faaker See (AT), 1-3 March 2018.

- “Klimatag”, Austrian Climate Day, Salzburg (AT), 23-24 April 2018, organised with a focus on the Alpine Convention (participation of the Permanent Secretariat in the planning of a networking day, several interventions and a poster presentation).
- Conference “Conservation of moorlands in the alps”, Ödensee - Bad Aussee (AT), 15-16 May 2018.
- Market stands of the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP Action Group 6 during the Networking Village at the 2nd EUSALP Annual Forum, Innsbruck (AT), 20-21 November 2018.

Meetings with representatives from the Contracting Parties

In 2017 and 2018, the Secretary General met with a number of high-level representatives from the Contracting Parties, including the President of the Alpine Convention Austrian Federal Minister Elisabeth Köstinger, and her predecessor, Austrian Federal Minister Andrä Rupprechter, the Liechtenstein Minister for Home Affairs Education and Environment, Dominique Gantenbein, the Minister from Monaco, Marie-Pierre Gramaglia, the Italian State Secretary Barbara Degani, the Slovenian minister Irena Majcen and the Slovenian State Secretary Lidija Stebernak, the Bavarian State Minister Marcel Huber, as well as the mayors of the two host cities, Renzo Caramaschi of Bolzano/Bozen and Georg Willi of Innsbruck. The Secretary General and the staff of the Permanent Secretariat also regularly met with other representatives from the Contracting Parties and Alpine regions and held numerous meetings with Heads of Delegation as well as with Focal Points.



The Alpine Convention “Recommendations for the Sustainable Organisation of Meetings and Events”

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention has worked intensively in order to implement a systematic approach in the sustainable organisation of meetings in the framework of the Alpine Convention. Combining its extensive “hands-on” experiences in the organisation of meetings with a thorough review of national and regional “green meetings” certifications already available in the Alps, the Permanent Secretariat has elaborated a checklist for the organisation of an “Alpine Convention Green event” as well as a logo. The 64th Permanent Committee in Gmunden has positively evaluated the initiative and has invited all Alpine Convention bodies to consider the proposed measures in the organisation of their events.

2 Support to the implementation of the Multiannual Programme 2017-2022 (MAP)

The Permanent Secretariat, both through its own activities and through the support to Alpine Convention Bodies, Contracting Parties and to the Presidency has contributed to the implementation of the six priorities of the MAP: “Focusing on people and culture”, “Taking action on climate change”, “Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape”, “Greening the economy”, “Promoting sustainable transport” and “Playing a leading role in EUSALP”. The following paragraphs contain a description of selected activities carried out by the Permanent Secretariat for implementing the MAP priorities; an overview for each priority is presented in the tables below.

Priority “Focusing on people and culture”

- Reading Mountains Festival 2016, 2017 and 2018
- Activities of the topic “Role of women in mountain areas”
- Young Academics Award
- We are Alps 2018
- Alpine Convention Photo Contest
- Support to the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention (YPAC)
- Participation as observer in the Alpine Space Projects AlpFoodWay and DuALPlus
- Contribution to relevant activities, events and conferences

Priority “Taking action on climate change”

- Support to the Alpine Climate Board
- Support to the Platform “PLANALP”, including for the elaboration of the RSA 7
- Support to the Platform “Water Management in the Alps”
- We are Alps 2017
- Climate card game
- Publication of a climate change flyer and a roll-up on Natural Hazard Risk Governance
- Global cooperation with relevant international processes and institutions (UNFCCC, EEA) and other mountain areas (Pyrenees, Carpathians)
- Support to the Alpine Partnership for Local Climate Action (ALPACA)
- Alpen Forum Innsbruck
- Support to the ClimaHost competition
- Participation as observer in the SPARE and GoApply Alpine Space projects
- Participation in EUSALP AG9 “To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy”
- Contribution to relevant activities, events and conferences

Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape

- Chairing of the Platform “Large Carnivores, Ungulates and Society - WISO”
- Support to the Platform “Ecological Network – ECONET”
- Support to the Ad Hoc Expert Group for Spatial Planning
- Participation in EUSALP AG7 “To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory”
- Participation as observer in the Alpine space projects Links4Soils, ALPBIONET2030, AlpES and trAils
- Contribution to relevant activities, events and conferences

Greening the economy

- Support to the Ad-hoc Working Group for the finalisation of the RSA 6 and its presentation and dissemination
- Support to the Advisory Board in the elaboration of the Green Economy Action plan
- Support to the Working Groups “Mountain Forests” and “Sustainable tourism” as well as to the Platform “Mountain Agriculture”
- Contribution to relevant activities, events and conferences

Promoting sustainable transport

- Support to the Working Group “Transport”
- Organisation of the “Experience exchange on mountain bike and bicycle networks in the Alps”
- Participation as observer in EUSALP AG4 “To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport”
- Participation in the Zürich process “EnvALP” Group meetings
- Participation as Observer in the ASTUS Alpine Space project
- We are Alps 2017 and 2018
- Support to the “Youth Alpine Interrail” initiative
- Contribution to relevant events and conferences

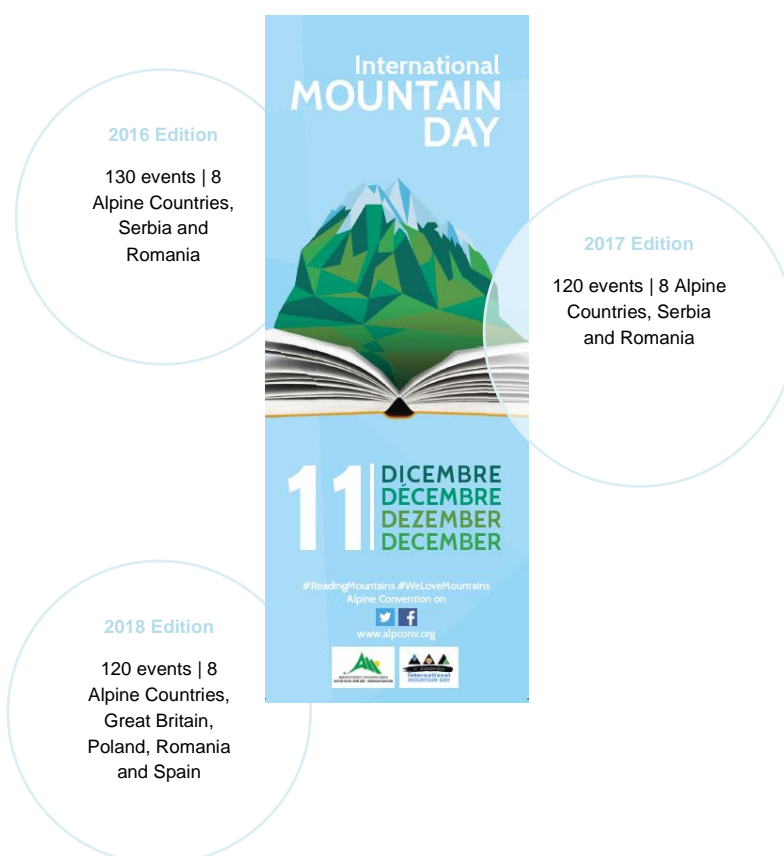
Playing a leading role in EUSALP

- Support to the Working Group “Macroregional Strategy for the Alpine area”
- Co-lead of EUSALP AG6 “To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources”
- Participation in the EUSALP General Assembly and Executive Board as well as in the exchange workshops between EUSALP and Alpine Convention
- Participation as partner in the Alpine Space AlpGov project

Priority “Focusing on people and culture”

Reading Mountains | Leggere le montagne | Berge lesen | Lire les montagnes | Brati Gore

The “Reading Mountains” Festival, launched in 2015, aims at celebrating mountains – and especially the Alps – on the International Mountain Day (11 December) by celebrating their literature and artistic expression. In the three editions covered by this report (2016, 2017, 2019) the Festival, thanks to the efforts of the Permanent Secretariat and the many partners involved, managed to consolidate its status as a major and well recognised cultural event. All the three editions saw around 120 events in all Alpine languages and across the Alpine Countries, but not only: Reading Mountains was also present in Europe and worldwide, from Romania, to Serbia, Spain and beyond. As it is tradition, the Permanent Secretariat, beyond the coordination of the festival, also took care of the organisation of events in its host cities Innsbruck and Bolzano/Bozen.



In 2016, the second edition of “Reading Mountains” took place between 5 and 11 December and more than 130 events were organised in the Alps, as well as in Serbia and Romania. The Permanent Secretariat directly organised events in Bolzano/Bozen and Innsbruck. In Bolzano/Bozen, an event at the Museion (museum of contemporary art) took place, in cooperation with the Divisions of Culture of the Province of Bolzano/Bozen and the Municipality of Bolzano/Bozen. The event hosted three readings in Italian, German and Ladin language by Stefano Zangrando, Sepp Mall and Roberta Dapunt, accompanied by local

music performances by Opas Diandl as well as a panel discussion about the meaning of borders. The discussion was moderated by the writer Bernd Schuchter.

The initiative in Innsbruck was spread across several locations in various dates; events were organised both in cooperation with the Italian, French and Canadian centers of the Innsbruck University and by the Permanent Secretariat itself. Particular attention was devoted to children, through the organisation, in cooperation with the Società Dante Alighieri, of the reading of the “King Laurin” saga and a series of games and activities for pupils. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat organised a reading at the “Theaterwagen” at the Innsbruck Christmas Market, which took place every day of the Reading mountains festival. On 9 December, the Permanent Secretariat organised the “LiterNatur-Abend” in the Treibhaus Innsbruck, where Austrian herdsman and author Bodo Hell read several of his texts regarding mountains and nature. He was accompanied by alphorn player Fritz Moßhammer and the Christian Wegscheider Trio.

In 2017, in total more than 120 events took place. In Innsbruck, the following readings took place: “Discover mountains with Conni”, targeted to a younger audience, “Vom Leben in den Wäldern und Höhen” about the influence of Henri David Thoreau on alpine literature and the event “Berge lesen-hören-sehen-erleben-verstehen” in cooperation with the International centres of the Innsbruck university and the “American corner Innsbruck”. A preview of the “Reading Mountains” initiative was given already in summer 2017 at the cultural event „Spilleit & Pumpersudl“, which took place in Miederer Berg in Stubaital (Austria); the Permanent Secretariat participated with a stand with games on the Alps and organised a Poetry slam. In Bolzano/Bozen, an Alpine Poetry Slam in the theatre “Carambolage” was organised, with nine young alpine poets from Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein, France, Slovenia, Austria and South Tyrol (Italian, German and Ladin speaking), accompanied by the music performances of Lene Morgenstern and Michael Lösch. The Infopoints of the Alpine Convention organised events in Chamonix, Domodossola, Morbegno, Cogne, Tolmin and Mojstrana. The Infopoint Tolmin also produced a short film on the “library bus” initiative developed for Reading Mountains.

In 2018 there were around 120 events organised in the scope of reading Mountains. Most of them happened in the eight Alpine countries, but there were also events in Great Britain, Poland, Romania and, for the first time, in Spain.

In Bolzano/Bozen, the event “La scoperta al femminile della montagna/Frauen

entdecken die Berge”

was organised directly at the Permanent Secretariat’s premises at Eurac Research. The event hosted three



Figure 2: the 2018 “Reading Mountains” event in Innsbruck.

interventions by women connected to the Alps: the author Ingrid Runggaldier, who presented



Figure 3: the 2018 “Reading mountains” event in Bolzano/Bozen.

her book about women in alpinism, the mountain guide Veronika Schrott and the alpine hut manager Roberta Silva. The initiative in Innsbruck consisted of four events on different venues all over the city. A reading event at the Tyrolia book store was organised with the title “Stories of success” and a podium discussion with the deputy governor of Tyrol, Ingrid Felipe, the bishop Hermann

Gletler, the economics professor Josef Nussbaumer and the Secretary General Markus Reiterer. The event was moderated by Axel Klemmer and accompanied musically by the Stubai Freitagsmusig. Another reading, under the title “Reading & Dialogue, Ascent and Descent”, took place in the Wagner’sche Bookstore with two authors from Tyrol, Hubert Flattinger and Erich Ledersberger. Furthermore, geography students at the Innsbruck University organised a “Power point karaoke”, in which they had to present unknown Power point slides in front of the audience who had to vote for the most creative speaker. The fourth and final event was organised for pupils by the Società Dante Alighieri.

For the editions in 2016, 2017 and 2018, the Permanent Secretariat coordinated the promotion of the events through the design, printing and shipping of promotional materials (bookmarks, posters and stickers), through information on the Alpine Convention website, through a campaign on social media with the hashtag #ReadingMountains and also through a special edition of the Alpine Convention newsletter.

Role of women in mountain areas

In the timeframe covered by this report, the Permanent Secretariat has been very active concerning the topic “the role of women in mountain areas”, launched by the Austrian presidency of the Alpine Convention. First of all, the Permanent Secretariat supported the organisation of the Conference “The role of women in mountain areas” in Alpbach (AT) in April 2017. The Secretary General gave an opening remark at the Conference, while the Deputy Secretary General gave the keynote speech and participated in a panel on “Women and culture”. Based on the topics discussed at the conference, the Secretariat developed a flyer (see the Publications section on page 31). Following the interest raised on the topic by this event, the Secretariat, together with the Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, organised in 2017 an event for the International Mountain Day at the UN in New York, in which the Secretary General participated. In 2018, always in cooperation with the Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the side event “The role of women in

Mountain areas” was organised in the Framework of the 62nd UN Commission on the Status of Women, whose yearly theme was “Empowering rural women and girls”. The side event was very well attended and generated much interest; the flyers developed by the Permanent Secretariat were also distributed here. Moreover, in the framework of the Regional Academy of the United Nations (RAUN), the Permanent Secretariat, upon invitation by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat hosted at UNEP Vienna, mentored the development of a study by three Academy students on the topic of women farmers in the Alps. The study was presented at a RAUN event at the UN premises in Vienna. Finally, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the yearly assembly of the We4DRR (Women for disaster risk reduction) network in Trento in 2017.

Young Academics Award

After the closing of the edition on the topic *Greening the economy in the Alps*, which took place during the Alpine Conference official reception in Grassau, another edition of the Young Academics Award was organised on the topic of *Sustainable water management in the Alps*.



Figure 4: the 2016 prize ceremony of the Young Academics Award during the XIV Alpine Conference.

The topic was selected in coordination with the Austrian Presidency, with the support of the Platform “Water management in the Alps” and ISCAR. Moreover, the Infopoints of the Convention were involved in order to offer “Infopoint prizes” in addition to the three main prizes. All in all, a total of six money prizes and a voucher for a hotel-stay will be made available to the winners by the Austrian Presidency and the participating Infopoints.

The call was released in early summer 2017, published and widely disseminated. It was promoted intensively, especially in the peak times of the academic year, through direct contacts with interested institutions and partner networks and through the Alpine Convention website and the social media.

As in the previous editions, an academic jury representing all four Alpine languages was set up. This edition’s jurors are Antonio Ballarin Denti (Università Cattolica of Milan), Mimi Urbanc (Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Ljubljana), Leopold Füreder (University of Innsbruck) and Emmanuel Reynard (University of Lausanne). On 31 October 2018 the deadline for the application closed: after that date the evaluation process began, involving all the jurors and the participating Infopoints. Overall, 26 theses in all four Alpine languages and English have been received, written by students from five different Alpine nationalities. The jury will select eight finalists, which will be invited to

Innsbruck to present their work to the jurors in a workshop; the jurors will then make the final choice about the winners of the Award. The award ceremony will be held during the reception of the Alpine Conference.

We are Alps 2018



Figure 5: a real hands-on experience! Cooking with the journalists involved in the We Are Alps 2018.

Since 2014, every early summer, the Permanent Secretariat has been inviting a group of 10-15 journalists from various countries and media (selected through a call for interest) to get insights on a specific topic of work of the Alpine Convention while travelling across the Alps by sustainable transport for about one week: this is, in sum, the We are Alps tour.

The fifth edition of the tour took place from 28 June to 1 July 2018 under the motto “Population and culture in the Alps – Then and now”. Eleven journalists coming from Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland and Austria visited a dozen of different sites in Carinthia (AT), Gorenjska (SI) and Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT). There, local partners of the Alpine Convention provided them with insights into both the cultural heritage of the Alps and current cultural and demographic issues, and demonstrated their different ways to approach them. True to the “hands on” approach, this even included the participants joining in some singing, dancing and cooking. A blog of the tour and a gallery giving an insight into the experiences made by the participants were published on the Alpine Convention website, as well as links to the resulting articles and broadcasts (25 pieces to date).

Alpine Convention Photo Contest

In the past two years, the Photo Contest of the Alpine Convention was dedicated to the topics “Water in the Alps” (2017) and “Wildlife in the Alps” (2018). These Photo Contests were open from mid-March until the beginning of September and were communicated and promoted through the website, the social media channels and the Newsletter of the Alpine Convention. Both editions could count on a lot of response. Amongst the received pictures that fulfilled all the criteria, the jury, consisting of the staff of the Permanent Secretariat, selected the best thirteen photos, which were published in the Alpine Convention calendars of 2018 and 2019, accompanied by a short foreword of the Secretary General. The authors of the winning pictures received prizes and copies of the calendar.

The calendars were distributed to all the Contracting Parties, the partners of the Alpine Convention, the Infopoints and through an online campaign. Furthermore, they were sent to the contacts of the Permanent Secretariat as a Christmas gift.

Support to the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (YPAC)

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was actively involved in the organisation of the YPAC 2017, including through regular meetings with the organising school (Gymnasium in Innsbruck) and through the participation in the preparatory meeting in Innsbruck (AT), 15-16 November 2016.

The Secretary General actively participated in several events during the YPAC week and the Permanent Secretariat held the introductory session at the opening of the YPAC 2017.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention was also actively involved in the organisation and preparatory meeting in Sonthofen (DE), 8-10



Figure 6: taking action for the future of the Alps! The young participants discussing the YPAC 2017 postulations.

November 2017, for the YPAC 2018, which focused on the topic of soil. The Secretary General was present at the YPAC in Maribor 19-23 March 2018, held a speech at the opening, participated in the General assembly and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the YPAC.

The organisation of the YPAC 2019 in Merano/Meran, 25-29 March 2019, on the topic of climate change also saw the involvement of the Permanent Secretariat. In addition, delegates of the YPAC were invited to the XV Alpine Conference and to the AlpWeek Intermezzo on 3-4 April 2019.

Contribution to other relevant activities, events and conferences

- Celebration for the 25 years of the Alpine Convention, Salzburg (AT), 4 November 2016.
- Transnational exchange workshop on handicrafts culture in the Alps, Andelsbuch (AT), 22 September 2017.
- Presentation at the CIPRA Germany Alpenkonvention AAA+ excursion in Andelsbuch (AT), 6 February 2018.
- Presentation at a meeting of the YOUrALPS project, Innsbruck (AT), 17 April 2018.
- AlpFoodWay mid-term conference, 4 October 2018.

Priority “Taking action on climate change”

Support to the Alpine Climate Board

The Permanent Secretariat provided broad support to the Alpine Climate Board, by attending the “core group” meetings, preparing all the Board meetings and contributing to and co-editing the two main products of the Board, namely the stock taking report and the Alpine Climate Target System 2050. In particular, the Permanent Secretariat facilitated contributions to the Report and the Alpine Target System 2050 from the Thematic Working Bodies.

Support to the Platform PLANALP, including for the elaboration of the RSA 7

The Permanent Secretariat supported PLANALP and its Chair in the preparation of the seventh Report on the State of the Alps with different activities.

Firstly, one of the main activities was the preparation of the maps to be included in the report, which encompassed a thorough harmonization and update of the statistical identification codes (NUTS and LAU2) for all alpine municipalities, especially where an administrative change at the municipal level occurred since 2015. The Permanent Secretariat also prepared and concluded an agreement with EuroGeographics in order to be able to use in the report the most updated version of the EuroBoundary map.

Secondly, the Permanent Secretariat supported the chairs of PLANALP in running the Platform’s meetings, in keeping minutes and track of the different delegations’ inputs, proposals and requests and, in general, in providing guidance for the timeline and in steering the process of drafting. The Permanent Secretariat also assisted in the organisation of a workshop in Bolzano/Bozen (IT) to support the Chair and the Italian Delegation to PLANALP. After the approval of the text, the Permanent Secretariat coordinated the process of translation and linguistic harmonization, as well as the editing, layout and printing of the report. A linguistic harmonization also took place, in order to ensure the content and stylistic consistency of the RSA in all its language versions.

Support to the Platform “Water Management in the Alps”

The Platform “Water Management in the Alps” could count on an active contribution and involvement of the Permanent Secretariat, which took care of the dissemination of the two final reports of the Platform (the first one on droughts and the second one on the application of the “Common Guidelines for the use of Small Hydropower in the Alpine region”). Support from the Permanent Secretariat was also provided in the framework of the two water conferences that were organised during the 2016-2019 mandate period: the 6th Conference “Water in the Alps - Water Management in a Field of Conflicting Interests: Between Natural Hazards and Nature Protection” that took place in on 12 October 2016 on the Herrenchiemsee Island (DE) and the 7th Conference “Water in the Alps – Management of hydrological extremes and sustainable hydropower use”, organised in Breitenwang (AT) on 5 June 2018 in the context of the Forum Alpinum.

We are Alps 2017

The 2017 edition of the We are Alps tour was dedicated to the topic “Water in the Alps”; the tour started in Vienna (AT) on 25 June and ended in the Principality of Monaco on 2 July, crossing Austria, Italy, France and the Principality of Monaco. The topic was approached from the point of view of drinking water, tourism (snowmaking and water sports), flood protection, ecological networks and energy (hydropower and heat pumps). Ten journalists from Slovenia, Italy, Belgium and Romania and a representative of the Domodossola Infopoint participated in the tour; they released 33 dedicated press articles, 7 TV news report and a TV talk show. A short film about the tour was prepared by one of the participants and is available on the webpage of the Alpine Convention.

Climate card game

On behalf of the Austrian Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat has designed and produced a card game to raise awareness on climate change and ways to face it among the general public. The game has been produced in English as a test and may be translated in the Alpine languages later on.

Cooperation on the topic of climate change with relevant international processes and institutions (UNFCCC, EEA) and other mountain areas (Pyrenees and Carpathians)

The Permanent Secretariat was actively present at the UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn, where, together with the Austrian presidency and Italy, it organised a side event under the title “Mountains in motion: Climate Action in the Alps, the Carpathians, the Pyrenees and the Apennines” (14 November 2017), which saw the participation of representatives from the four mountain ranges. The Secretary General gave an Official speech in the high level segment on 15 November 2017, highlighting the significance of climate change for the Alpine region and the activities carried out in the framework of the Alpine Convention.

In 2018 the presence of the Alpine Convention at the UNFCCC COP 24 in Katowice (PL) was also ensured through the organisation and moderation of the side event “Mountain regions moving towards carbon neutrality” (7 December 2018) as well as through the participation in the event “Mountain adaptation – vulnerable peaks and people” (11 December 2018), in cooperation with UNEP.

The Permanent Secretariat also cooperated with the Pyrenean Observatory on Climate Change (OPCC), by participating in its meeting and advisory board in Biarritz (FR, 8 November 2017) as well as by confirming the potential participation as observer in the project MONTCLIMA (climate and natural hazards in the South Western European mountains) on the joint challenges of climate change and natural hazards.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat cooperated in the framework of the existing Partnership Agreement with the EEA on the topic of climate change, by participating in the EIONET Workshop “Climate change impacts and adaptation” with a presentation on climate change adaptation activities in the Alpine Convention (Copenhagen, 21-22 June 2017). The Permanent Secretariat has also regularly contributed to the EEA Climate ADAPT newsletter, providing eight articles. Finally, the Secretariat cooperated with the EEA in the drafting of a

regional Alpine factsheet on adaptation initiatives, a Technical Paper on “Adaptation policies and knowledge base in transnational regions in Europe” and a related briefing.

“Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck”

The series of public discussion evenings “Alpen-Forum-Innsbruck”, initiated in 2015 in cooperation with the “alpS” Research Centre, came to a conclusion in 2017 with the organisation of one event on “Climate change and Agriculture”, co-organised with the Research Focus “Alpine Space – Humans and Environment” of the University of Innsbruck, the Tyrolean Chamber of Agriculture and the Rural Advanced Training Institute as well as of one event on “Climate change and Water”, co-organised with the Tyrolean Insurance.

Contribution to other relevant activities, events and conferences

- Support, especially through communication activities, to the Climahost competition for climate-friendly accommodation and restauration structures supported by Germany and Austria.
- Support to Alpine Partnership for Local Climate Action (ALPACA) through the participation in two exploratory workshops in Mäder (AT), 11 July 2017 and Brig-Glis (CH), 15 November 2017 as well as support for the related side event at UNFCCC COP 23, Bonn (DE), 6 November 2017 and participation in the launch of the ALPACA at the conference “Make Climate Visions Become Reality!”, Innsbruck (AT) 7-8 November 2018.
- Participation in EUSALP AG9 “To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy”. From early 2019, the Permanent Secretariat has been officially confirmed as Observer in the Action Group.
- Participation in the conference “Energie der Alpen” (Energy of the Alps), Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE), 15 November 2016.
- Seminar “Strategie di adattamento cambiamenti climatici nell’ambito forestale” (Adaptation strategies to climate change in forestry) organised by Alliance in the Alps Italy in the framework of the Project “Climate adaptation at the local level – an implementation strategy with municipalities and non-state actors”, Vallarsa (IT), 5 May 2017.
- Keynote in the ÖAV NaturschutzreferentInnen seminar (Seminar for members in charge of nature protection of the Austrian Alpine Club), Grünau im Almtal (AT), 13 July 2017.
- 2nd Forest Summit “Protection.Forest.Climate” (Waldgipfel “Schutz.Wald.Klima”), Innsbruck (AT), 18 September 2017.
- Conference “Energy management in Alpine hotels”, Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 28-29 November 2017.
- “Klimatag (Climate day) 2018”, Salzburg (AT), 23-24 April 2018: participation of the Permanent Secretariat in the planning of a networking day, speeches in plenary and parallel sessions and poster presentation.

- Expert workshop for a “EUSALP Energy Observatory”, Innsbruck (AT), 6 June 2018.
- Presentation “Sustainable energy policy in the Alps: The contribution of the Alpine Convention”, 2nd EUSALP Energy Conference, Innsbruck (AT), 2 October 2018.
- Keynote at the final conference of the SPARE Alpine Space project, Innsbruck (AT), 21-22 November 2018. Regular contacts with SPARE project representatives also took place, in order to evaluate the possibility of sharing data.
- Preface to the book on regional risk governance “Regionale Risiko Governance: Recht, Politik und Praxis – Staatliche Steuerungsinstrumente und gesellschaftliche Aushandlungsprozesse im Umgang mit Naturgefahrenrisiken”, prepared in the framework of EUSALP AG8.

Priority “Conserving and valuing biodiversity and landscape”

Chairing of the Platform “Large Carnivores, Ungulates and Society - WISO”

In addition to the general support function to the Thematic Working Bodies of the Alpine Convention, the Permanent Secretariat was entrusted by the XIV Alpine Conference with the chairing of the Platform “Large carnivores, ungulates and society - WISO” of the Alpine Convention. This function was fulfilled by Deputy Secretary-General Marianna Elmi with the support of Ms Taja Ferjančič-Lakota.

The following activities were carried out:

- Organisation of a series of preliminary face to face/phone meetings with the national delegations in the WISO Platform.
- Organisation and chairing of four Platform meetings: Innsbruck (AT), 15-16 March 2017 and Vaduz (LIE), 25-26 September 2017, Domodossola (IT), 1 March 2018 and Berchtesgaden (DE), 26-27 September 2018. The meeting in Vaduz was organised with the support of the Liechtenstein delegation and the one in Berchtesgaden with the support of the German delegation in the WISO Platform.



Figure 7: group photo of the participants in the international workshop “Prevention and compensation of damages by large carnivores”.

- Stakeholder workshop on the topic of “Prevention and compensation of damages by large carnivores”, Domodossola (IT), 27-28 February 2018, carried out back-to-back with a WISO meeting.
- Participation in two meetings of the LIFE DINALPBEAR project, Venice (IT), 6-7 February and Stari trg ob Kolpi (SI), 16 May 2017 and support in the review of the final DINALPBEAR report containing guidelines for a joint alpine bear management.
- Participation of the Chair in the conference “The wolf in the Alpine cultural landscape”, Sölk (AT), 16-18 May 2017.
- Presentation by the Chair of the WISO activities at a meeting of the “EU Platform on coexistence between humans and large carnivores”, Brussels (BE), 1 June 2017.
- Report by the Chair on the WISO activities to the 64th Permanent Committee in Gmunden (AT), 4-5 October 2018.

- Coordination of the production of the outputs foreseen by the mandate of the WISO Platform, including mandating an external expert for carrying out a study on the use of EAFRD funds for prevention measures for damages by large carnivores.
- Preparation of all the documentation related to the work of WISO, i.e. minutes of the meetings, output documents, report for the XV Alpine Conference and new mandate.

The Permanent Secretariat organised, in cooperation with the Italian representatives in the WISO Platform, a staff excursion in the Adamello Brenta Nature Park (IT), where the team had the possibility to observe brown bears in their natural environment and learn more about the brown bear's behaviour and distribution.

Support to the Platform "Ecological Network – ECONET"

The Permanent Secretariat supported the ECONET Platform in the implementation of its mandate through the participation in its meetings and by providing guidance regarding the ongoing processes and most important deadlines in the framework of the Alpine Convention.

Support to the Ad hoc Expert Group for Spatial Planning

The Permanent Secretariat supported the submission of the proposal for the ESPON Targeted Analysis "Alps2050 - Common spatial perspectives for the Alpine Space - Towards a common vision", which has been finalised and approved. The Permanent Secretariat was actively involved as one of the Stakeholders in the Steering Committee of the project, participating in its meeting and providing feedbacks to the main outputs. The Permanent Secretariat was also actively involved into the Alps2050 stakeholder workshop in Munich (DE), 23 May 2018 and the Alps2050 workshop which took place in the framework of the 2nd EUSALP Annual Forum in Innsbruck (AT), 21 November 2018.

Participation in EUSALP AG7 "To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory"

Following up to the EUSALP Ministerial Conference on Green Infrastructure (Munich, DE, 2 October 2017), the Permanent Secretariat was involved in the further activities of EUSALP AG7 and participated in advisory capacity in its meetings in San Michele all'Adige (IT), 21-22 March 2018 and Torino (IT), 17-18 October 2018.

Participation as observer in the Alpine space Links4Soils, ALPBIONET2030, AlpES and trAils projects

The Permanent Secretariat participated as Observer in several Alpine Space projects related to biodiversity and landscape. In this capacity, the Secretariat participated in the following meetings and conferences and carried out the following activities:

- Participation and presentation as observer in the Kick-off Conference of the project Links4Soils in Ljubljana (SI), 29 May 2017.
- Participation in the Links4Soils and Alpine Soil Partnership meeting in Innsbruck (AT), 7-8 November 2017.

- Participation in the mid-term conference of the Alpine Space project ALPBIONET2030 in Berchtesgaden (DE), 3 July 2018.
- Participation in the AlpES stakeholder workshop in Bolzano/Bozen (IT) on 25 October 2018 and keynote in the final AlpES conference, Innsbruck (AT), 21-22 November 2018. Regular contacts with the AlpES project leaders were also kept for feedback and for possible uses or sharing of data.
- The Permanent Secretariat is also observer in the trAils project, but has not been involved in any meetings so far.

Contribution to relevant activities, events and conferences

- Participation in the Fachbeirat (Expert board) “Intelligente Flächennutzung” (Intelligent use of soil), Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 29 August 2017.
- Participation in the EUSALP Ministerial Conference on Green Infrastructure, Munich (DE), 2 October 2017.
- Participation in the Yearly Conference „Jahreskonferenz Netzwerk Zukunftsraum Land“, Schwaz (AT), 6 October 2017.
- Participation and presentation in the workshop “Lebensraumvernetzung als Beitrag zur Sicherung der Biodiversität in Österreich” (Ecological connectivity as a contribution to ensure biodiversity in Austria), Innsbruck (AT) 16-17 October 2017.
- Support to the workshop “Who owns the nature”, Latschach ober dem Faaker See (AT), 1-3 March 2018.
- Presentation at and support of the “conference.landscape” in Innsbruck-Igls (AT) 11-13 April 2018.
- Conference “Conservation of moorlands in the alps”, Ödensee - Bad Aussee (AT), 15-16 May 2018.
- Keynote at the final conference of the AlpES project, Innsbruck 21-22 November 2018.

Priority “Greening the economy”

Support to the Ad-hoc Working Group for the finalisation of the RSA 6 and presentation and dissemination of the report

After the approval of the sixth Report on the State of the Alps by the XIV Alpine Conference in late 2016, the Permanent Secretariat coordinated the activities related to the proofreading, translation and printing of the text. The report was printed in the beginning of May 2017; since then, the Secretariat participated in several activities through which the intensive dissemination process of RSA 6 took place:

- “Greening the economy in the Alpine region: Alpine-wide conference”, Rosenheim (DE), 11 May. The Conference was organised by the German Federal Environment Agency and it had a dual purpose: on the one hand to present the results and the recommendations of the RSA 6, on the other to gather together stakeholders and decision-makers from the Alps and beyond to initiate a discussion on how to foster and promote Alpine green economy.
- Preparation of a flyer on the results of the RSA 6.
- Dissemination to and through the Alpine Convention Infopoints.
- Dissemination through news on the website, newsletter and social media posts.
- Other presentations:
 - Dissemination during the Green Economy Action Programme workshops in Immenstadt (DE), 27 September 2017, Villach (AT), 10 October 2017, Edolo (IT), 25 October 2017 and Grenoble (FR), 14 November 2017.
 - Participation in the workshop “Green economy and Ecological Connectivity” in Immenstadt (DE), 27 September 2017.
 - Presentation of the RSA 6 results and participation in a round table in Domodossola (IT), in cooperation with the Infopoint of the Alpine Convention, 23 May 2017.

Support to the Green Economy Action plan Advisory Board

The PSAC supported the German chair of the Advisory board not only in defining the content of the Action Programme, but also in identifying the most suitable strategies to further steer the drafting process as well as to disseminate the report.

Support to the Working Group “Mountain Forests”, “Sustainable tourism” and to the Platform “Mountain Agriculture”

Besides the continuous assistance to the Working Groups “Mountain Forests”, “Sustainable Tourism” and “Mountain Agriculture”, consisting in organisational and technical support to the Chair for meetings and activities, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the following events linked to the work of the Working Groups:

- Support to the Austrian Presidency in drafting the “Memorandum of the Alpine Regions on the further development of mountain agriculture in the frame of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)”.
- Support to the Austrian Presidency in translating, editing and printing the publication Alpine Signals 8 “Mountain agriculture”, which was developed base on the outputs of the Platform “Mountain Agriculture”.
- Participation in the conference “Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region” in Bad Reichenhall (DE), 23-24 October 2017, organised by the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry and by the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection. During the conference, the Working Group “Mountain Forests” presented its activities; moreover, a meeting of the Working Group took place back to back with the conference.
- Participation in the conference “The silviculture in the alpine forests - green economy and functions of environmental protection”, in Santo Stefano di Cadore (IT), 28 June 2018, organised by the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention with the support of the Chair of the Working Group “Mountain Forests”. A meeting of the Working Group took place back to back with the conference.

Contribution to relevant events and conferences

- Event “Karawanks and the Alpine Convention”, focusing on the topic of Green Economy, Tainach/Tinje (AT), 21 October 2016 and subsequent publication on the topic.
- Participation in and support for the organisation of the Slovenian Alpine Convention day on the topic of Green Economy in the Alps, Bohinj (SI), 19 May 2017.
- Participation in the “Alpine Convention AAA+ workshop” on tourism, Sonthofen (DE), 24 May 2017.
- Participation in and organisational support to the International Conference “The Future of Mountain Agriculture in the Alps”, St. Johann im Pongau (AT), 13-14 September 2017.
- Participation in a panel discussion in the conference “Alpine day of mobility and tourism”, in In Werfenweng (AT), 19 October 2017, organised by the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention with the support from Switzerland.
- Organisation of a workshop on Green economy in the framework of the “Planetary health” conference organised by the Management Center Innsbruck, 22-23 November 2017.
- Participation in the conference “How can tourism contribute to the sustainable development in the alpine region?”, in Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 24 April 2018, organised by the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention. The conference featured several presentations by the members of the Working Group “Sustainable tourism”.
- Video contribution to the conference “Green Economy from the Alps to the Apennine region”, Camerino (IT), 22-23 May 2018.

- Participation in the expert workshop “Sustainable Tourism in the Alps: Who does the job?” in Innsbruck (AT), 5 November 2018, organised by the German Delegation to the Alpine Convention.
- Participation in the mid-term conference of the Alpine Space project ROCKtheALPS in Innsbruck (AT), 10 October 2018.

Priority “Promoting sustainable transport”



Figure 8: visit of the WG Transport to the Mont Blanc Tunnel.

Support to the “Transport” Working Group

The Permanent Secretariat supported the Chair in the preparation of the agenda and minutes of meetings, as well as in the preparation of the proposal for the mandate 2019-2021.

Organisation of the experience exchange on mountain bike- and bicycle networks in the Alps

Together with the City of Innsbruck, an international exchange on the topic of mountain bike- and bicycle networks in

the Alps was organised in Innsbruck (AT) on 27-28 November 2018. Different stakeholders from many Alpine countries were invited and participants from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland attended the workshop.

The event showed a high need to exchange on an international level about the megatrends mountain biking and e-bikes. In particular, the workshop showed how the management of ways and information as well as legal issues can currently lead to conflicts between user groups, regions or countries. Learning from good practices and coordinating between different stakeholders, municipalities, regions and countries can contribute largely to steer the trend into a positive way.

Participation as observer in EUSALP AG4 “To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport”, the EnvALP working group of the Zurich process and the ASTUS Alpine Space project

The Permanent Secretariat participated in the EUSALP AG4 meetings in Innsbruck (AT), 8 November 2016, Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE), 12 February 2017, Trento (IT), 20 June 2017, Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 24 October 2017, Innsbruck (AT), 15 March 2018 and Trento (IT) 19 June 2018. The Permanent Secretariat is also member of a Task Force of AG4 on project assessment methodology and participated in meetings of this task force in Trento (IT) on 1 October 2018 and via Skype on 7 November 2018 and 29-30 January 2019. The Permanent Secretariat attended the three EUSALP Mobility Conferences in Innsbruck (AT), 9 November 2016, Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 25 October 2017 and Trento (IT), 20 June 2018.

The Permanent Secretariat also participated in meetings of the EnvALP working group of the Zurich process in Zurich (CH) on 28 November 2016, 18 October 2017 and 22 January 2018.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat attended the kick-off conference of the ASTUS project in Lyon (FR), 22 February 2017 and its mid-term conference in Werfenweng (AT), 26 June 2018.

We are Alps 2017 & 2018

The participants of the “We are Alps” tour travel exclusively by sustainable transport (public transport, bike, on foot and even by boat...); this brings about first-hand experiences on the possibilities and limits of the alternatives to the car in remote areas. Specific information on the 2017 and 2018 editions can be found in the respective paragraphs.

Contribution to relevant events and conferences

- Participation in the iMONITRAF! Expert workshop in Lucerne (CH), 2 November 2016.
- Presentation at the seminar “Verso una nuova mobilità per le connessioni transalpine” (Towards a new mobility for the transalpine connections), Trento (IT), 17 November 2016.
- Participation in the “Alpine Convention AAA+” workshop on mobility, Aschau im Chiemgau (DE), 27 April 2017.
- Presentation at a Seminar by Club Alpbach Südtirol, Franzensfeste/Fortezza (IT), 9 June 2017.

Priority “Playing a leading role in EUSALP”

On the basis of the respective decisions of the Alpine Conferences of Turin and Grassau, the Alpine Convention plays a substantial and significant role in the EUSALP implementation in all four objectives and in particular in the third objective „Environment and Energy“. The Alpine Convention, represented by the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat, actively participates in the General Assembly and in the Executive Board as Observer. The Permanent Secretariat co-leads Action Group 6 (AG6) together with Carinthia and is project partner of the AlpGov project. Furthermore the Permanent Secretariat supports the Working Group “Macro-regional Strategy for the Alps” (WG MRS).

Support to the Working Group “Macroregional Strategy for the Alps” (MRS) and participation in the exchange workshops between the EUSALP and the Alpine Convention

During the Austrian Presidency period, the Permanent Secretariat supported the WG MRS in its tasks of promoting the exchange of the Alpine Convention with the EUSALP. On the occasion of the five meetings held on 18 November 2016, 26 January 2017, 20 June 2017, 15 November 2017 and 24 April 2018, the Permanent Secretariat regularly updated the WG MRS about the state of affairs of the EUSALP process and the activities of AG6. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat contributed to organising and structuring the information exchange within the Alpine Convention and its bodies on the one hand and between the Alpine Convention and bodies of the EUSALP on the other hand.

Two Exchange Workshops to discuss possible synergies and cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP took place: the first was held on 5-6 October 2017 in Gmunden (AT), the second one on 10-11 September 2018 in Vienna (AT).

Co-lead of EUSALP Action Group 6 “To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources”

AG6, led by the Permanent Secretariat and the Land Carinthia, implemented its work programme supported by the sub-groups “Spatial development and soil conservation”, “Future oriented farming and forestry” and “Integrated and sustainable water management”. During the period under review AG6 held six meetings: 21-22 November 2016, Innsbruck (AT); 8-9 June 2017, Pörschach (AT); 29-30 January 2018, Bolzano/Bozen (IT); 3-4 July 2018, Latschach (AT); 23-24 October 2018, Bolzano/Bozen (IT); and 13-14 March 2019, Villach (AT).

As regards the activities in the field of spatial development and soil conservation, the most important achievement concerned the elaboration of the political Declaration “Sustainable Land Use and Soil Protection”. After the adoption by the members of AG6, a public consultation to collect the feedback of interested institutions and civil society organisations was carried out. The political coordination process led to the support of the Declaration by twenty Alpine Regions and six States. The Permanent Secretariat also published an AG6 study on governance mechanisms in the field of spatial development and soil conservation.

To summarize the activities in the field of future oriented farming and forestry, AG6 supported the preparation and implementation of the project “Next Generation – Mountain

Farming 2030” on the perspectives of young mountain farmers, initiated by the Bavarian EUSALP Presidency 2017.

In the field of integrated and sustainable water management, AG6 adopted a collection of good practices and recommendations on green infrastructure solutions. Moreover, AG6 finalised the report on water demand and supply management in case of droughts. Both documents were developed in close cooperation with the Platform “Water management in the Alps”. In addition, the Permanent Secretariat published an AG6 study on governance mechanisms in the field of water management.

AG6 also made use of the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF) to develop two projects with the involvement of AG6 members: “AlpJobs”, aiming at anticipating future jobs in Alpine remote areas and “CirculAlps”, dealing with the potentials of innovative circular and bio economy value chains in the Alpine timber sector.

The Permanent Secretariat took part in the EUSALP Action Group Forum on 14-15 February 2017 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE) and co-managed a stand at the first EUSALP Annual Forum on 23-24 November 2017 in Munich (DE), where it also organised, together with AG2, a public workshop on bio based value chains. On the occasion of the second EUSALP Annual Forum on 20-21 November 2018 in Innsbruck, the Permanent Secretariat and AG6 were active in multiple ways: a market stand, the organisation of a presentation of the resolutions on soil by the students of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention as well as the co-organisation of two successful workshops. The first one was organised together with the AGs 2, 3 and the Interreg Alpine Space Project YOUrALPS on future visions for the EUSALP regarding economy, education, nature and culture and the second one together with the AGs 2, 7 and 9 on Alpine Forests.

Participation in the EUSALP General Assembly and Executive Board

Based on the decision taken at agenda item B3 of the 58th Permanent Committee the Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat represented, in their capacity as Observers, the Alpine Convention in the meetings of the EUSALP General Assembly and of the EUSALP Executive Board.

At the EUSALP General Assembly on 13 February 2016 in Rottach-Egern (DE), the Secretary General Ambassador Markus Reiterer highlighted the importance of cooperation to achieve the best possible results which are beneficial for both the mountainous and surrounding regions. At the EUSALP General Assembly on 23 November 2017 in Munich (DE) a list of implementation priorities taken from the Action Groups work plans was endorsed. In the Joint Declaration of the EUSALP General Assembly on 20 November 2018 in Innsbruck, the representatives of the States and Regions took note of the AG6 Declaration on sustainable land use and soil protection. In his statement, Secretary General Ambassador Markus Reiterer emphasized that better and more cooperation is needed to tackle the challenges the Alpine Region is currently facing and stated that more progress could have been achieved in strengthening the cooperation between the EUSALP and the Alpine Convention.

The Permanent Secretariat was also active in the EUSALP Executive Board meetings on 14-15 February 2017 in Garmisch (DE), on 3-4 July 2017 in Brussels (BE), on 22 November

2017 in Munich (DE), on 7-8 February 2018 in Innsbruck (AT), on 6-7 July 2018 in Pörschach (AT) and on 24-25 October 2018 in Innsbruck (AT). The most important topics of the EUSALP Executive Board held in Innsbruck concerned the preparation of the second Annual Forum and the non-acceptance of a joint paper on cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the EUSALP elaborated by the Tyrolian EUSALP Presidency, the Alpine Convention Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat and the European Commission.

Participation as partner in the Alpine Space project AlpGov

The Alpine Space project AlpGov aims at supporting the implementation of the governance structures and mechanisms outlined in the EUSALP Action Plan. It involves all EUSALP Action Group leaders as project partners. The Bavarian State Ministry for the environment and consumer protection acts as lead partner.

As co-leader of AG6 the Permanent Secretariat participated in the following meetings of the AlpGov project partners: 16 February 2017, Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE); 26-27 June 2017 and 21 November 2017, Munich (DE); 17-18 April 2018, Innsbruck (AT); 5-6 July 2018, Pörschach (AT); 13-14 December 2018, Trento (IT) and 27 February-1 March 2019 Milan (IT).

In these meetings, the project partners regularly discussed administrative and financial issues, such as the reporting to the EUSALP Executive Board and to the Alpine Space Program, which has to be done twice a year, as well as the state of budget consumption.

The greatest difficulties were encountered in the fields of communication and of knowledge sharing. Due to considerable delays in shaping a communication strategy with key messages, target groups structured objectives and instruments, the activities of the single EUSALP AGs and of the AlpGov project did not receive the desired visibility. This applied also to the features and operability of the platform of knowledge. In the meantime the EUSALP website is established and the platform of knowledge functions to a certain extent, but there are still operational and content related aspects, which need to be clarified.

Since it seemed not realistic to fulfill all tasks by mid-2019 as originally applied for, the project partners expressed the wish to extend AlpGov for 6 months until December 2019. In parallel a follow-up project starting from the beginning of 2020 on should be set up.

Twice a year the AlpGov project partners meet in the format of the Board of Action Group Leaders (BAGL) in common sessions with the EUSALP Executive Board. In doing so, all AG leading institutions ensure horizontal coherence among the nine AGs and serve as interface between the coordination level of the Strategy (EUSALP Executive Board) and the implementation level (AGs).

3 Communicating the Alpine Convention

The Permanent Secretariat is continuously engaging in the promotion and the dissemination of information on the Alpine Convention, with the aim to make the Convention more known and accessible within and outside the Alps. In the last two years, the media presence, be it through the alpcnv.org website, social media, publications or other initiatives and projects, has been strengthened in order to reach a broader public. Significant efforts were invested in the update of the layout of the Alpine Convention website, in order to make it more user-friendly.

Media presence

The dissemination of information and the promotion of the Alpine Convention, its Protocols and its achievements are among the core activities of the Permanent Secretariat. Within the scope of the public relations and in order to spread news between the organisation and the public, the Alpine Convention appears, upon initiative of the Permanent Secretariat, in the print as well as online media via own press releases, thematic press articles, interviews, posts on social media, etc. Since October 2016, over 500 contributions were published through various media channels, be it the Alpine Convention channels or those of its partners. Some events and activities could count on an above-average press attention and thus gained significant media coverage, for example, the “Reading mountains” Festival, the “We are Alps” tours, the Young Academics Award as well as the opening of the new exhibition “The Alps in 25 Maps” in autumn 2018.

Promotional activities and projects, such as the Photo Contest and the exhibitions, were also in the previous years used to the highest possible extent to reach the wider general public. Furthermore, articles drafted by the staff of the Permanent Secretariat were published in various magazines and journals. The communication activities of the Alpine Convention regularly involve the Infopoints, the Observer organisations and other partners from the Alpine region and beyond.

The Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General as well as some team members gave interviews on various occasions promoting the Alpine Convention, its projects and activities.

Website

With the aim of making the Alpine Convention’s website more user-friendly and due to the technical restructuring of the current hosting service, the Permanent Secretariat started examining options for refreshing the homepage in 2017; the activity started in 2018 and will be finished in the first half of 2019. The new “look and feel” of the website will serve as leitmotiv in the design of other visual products, templates and promotional material in order to increase the recognition of the activities in the framework of the Alpine Convention.

Alpine Convention Newsletter

The Alpine Convention newsletter is published quarterly (by the end of March, June, September and December) and includes news highlighting the activities of the Presidency,

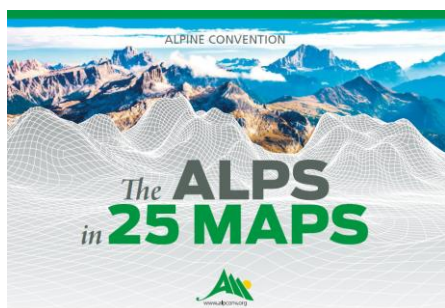
the Permanent Secretariat and the Thematic Working Bodies that have met in the last three months as well as news from Observers and Partners. It concludes with the announcement of upcoming events. The newsletter of the Alpine Convention is produced in English language and distributed digitally via email to all interested parties, i.e. subscribers; moreover, a PDF version is available on the webpage. Subscription is possible on the webpage of the Alpine Convention and is promoted at events in which the Permanent Secretariat is represented, for example with a market/info stand. Between October 2016 and December 2018, twelve editions of the Newsletter were issued – nine regular editions and three special editions dedicated to the Reading Mountains Festival.

Social media

The Permanent Secretariat was active in promoting the Alpine Convention and its activities and projects on social media (specifically, Facebook and Twitter) and could by this means strengthen the cooperation with partners through the cross-promotion of events and initiatives. In autumn 2018, the Alpine Convention's Facebook page yet broke another record, counting 2.000 followers.

Publications

The Permanent Secretariat dedicated also in the last years much attention to publications as a powerful means of spreading knowledge about the Alpine arc, developing them either on its own initiative or in support and with the cooperation of the Presidency, the Thematic Working Bodies or the Contracting parties. Below is a summary of the most relevant publications issued since the XIV Alpine Conference.



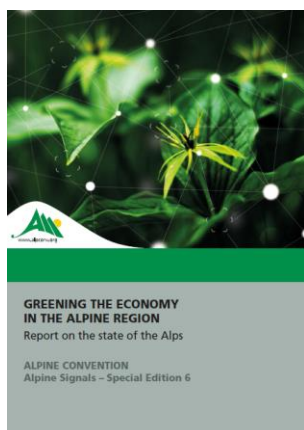
The Alps in 25 maps

A main product of the System of observation and information of the Alps, this publication was produced in close cooperation with Eurac Research. A photo exhibition was produced based on it as well. The publication is currently available in English language.

Flyers on the Multiannual Work Programme

The Permanent Secretariat supported the development and the publication of a series of flyers on the Multiannual Work Programme (MAP). The series, published in all alpine languages and English, includes the MAP itself, the road map and a summarising leaflet.





Flyer “Greening the economy in the Alpine region”

This four-pager, drafted by the Permanent Secretariat in cooperation with the Presidency of the Ad-hoc working group, summarises the main results of the RSA 6 in a concise and clear way and is intended for dissemination to a broader public.

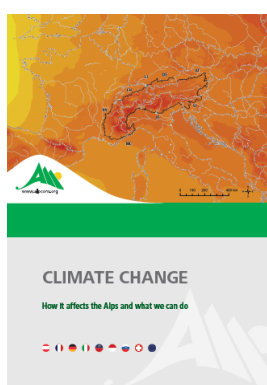
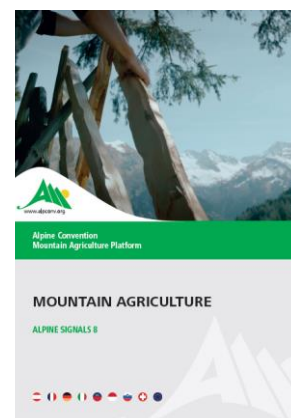


Publications “Guidelines for the implementation of article 11(1) of the Nature Protection Protocol” and of the “Guidelines for the interpretation of article 6(3) of the Tourism Protocol”.

The publications present the work done by the Compliance Committee on the review and interpretation of both articles.

Publication “Mountain agriculture”

Issued in the “Alpine Signals” series, the publication contains the results achieved by the Platform Mountain Agriculture in the last years, including the issues of marketing, quality and labelling and food safety.

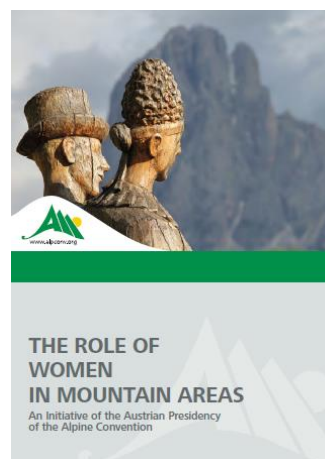


Thematic flyer on climate change.

The thematic flyer on climate change was issued in 2018. It combines information on the impacts of climate change on different sectors in the Alps with some highlights on the need to act and how to do it.

Flyer “ The role of women in Mountain areas”

The flyer brings together the main results of the activities on the topic “women in mountain areas” that took place in the last years in the framework of the Alpine Convention, including the main results as well as testimonials from the conference in Alpbach (AT). The publication is for the moment only available in English language.



Exhibitions

In the period covered by this report, the Permanent Secretariat elaborated two photo exhibitions. The first one, created in 2017, focuses on the topics tackled by the Alpine Convention; it is available in all the four Alpine languages and in English. The second exhibition, developed in summer 2018, is dedicated to and based on the publication “The Alps in 25 Maps”, taking the visitors on a journey through the Alpine area - from its administrative variety to its rich biodiversity, to sustainable energy production in the Alps. This exhibition is available in English; the Permanent Secretariat, thanks to a contribution by the upcoming French Presidency of the Convention, is translating the exhibition into the four alpine languages.



Figure 9: combining art and data – in occasion of the 2nd EUSALP Annual Forum, the exhibition “Alps in 25 maps” was combined with the panels produced in the project “From bag to bag”.

Both exhibitions are modular and can be composed as desired; accompanying handbooks showing the “ideal” set-up for the exhibitions are available. The 2017 photo-exhibition was displayed at the Chamonix Infopoint (FR) and in the framework of the XVIII Edition of the B.I.T.M (Borsa del Turismo montano) in Trento (IT), 20 September-6 October as well as in the framework of the “Planetary Health” event organised by the Management Centre Innsbruck, in Innsbruck (AT), 22-23 November. The exhibition showing the “Alps in 25 Maps” was inaugurated at the European Academy, Eurac Research, Bolzano/Bozen (IT), 17 September 2018. This exhibition was also displayed in the framework of the XIX Edition of B.I.T.M (Borsa del Turismo montano) in Trento (IT), 24 September-5 October 2018. It could also count on much public attention during the 2nd EUSALP Annual Forum on 20-21 November 2018 in Innsbruck (AT), where it was combined with extracts from the project “From Bag to Bag – A Travel through the Alps”, designed and made in cooperation with

students of the Marketing Section of the Management Center of Innsbruck (MCI) in Austria and the Superior Art School of Annecy in France.

International Days

The Permanent Secretariat marked the celebration of several International Days 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 in an accessible manner.

The table below gives an overview of the International Days that were celebrated by the Permanent Secretariat in its communication activities in 2017 and 2018:

International Women Day	8 March
International day of Forests	21 March
World Water Day	22 March
Campaign to Raise Awareness of Mine Action – “Lend your leg”	4 April
International day for Biological Diversity	22 May
World Population Day	11 July
International Youth Day	12 August
International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	13 October
World Food Day	16 October
World Soil Day	5 December
Human Rights Day	10 December
End of the Campaign #16days of action against violence against women	10 December
International Mountain Day	11 December

4 System of Observation and Information on the Alps (SOIA)

In 2017 and 2018, the main activities of the Permanent Secretariat within the System for Observation and Information on the Alps (SOIA) were related to the Reports on the State of the Alps and to the continuous improvement of the Alpine Convention WebGIS platform. Moreover, the development of a database for documents and publications of the Alpine Convention was initiated, and further work to increase the precision of the Alpine Convention perimeter shapefile has been conducted. Additionally, several static maps have been prepared for different reports and publications, including, in particular, the maps for the RSA 7 and a high quality digital elevation map of the Alpine area. Finally, further cooperation regarding the sharing of information and data has been carried out with Alpine and international bodies.

Reports on the State of the Alps

One of the main tasks of the Permanent Secretariat in the framework of the SOIA is the coordination and the dissemination of the Reports on the State of the Alps (RSA). The Permanent Secretariat coordinated the printing and dissemination of the RSA6 on “Greening the economy in the Alps” and, since the beginning of 2017, supported the PLANALP Platform for the activities related to the RSA7 “Natural hazard risk governance”. For more information on these activities, see pages 15 and 22.

WebGIS

During 2017 and 2018, the Alpine Convention WebGIS platform has undergone constant visualization and technical improvements concerning contents, functions and layout, in order to allow a better user experience and a clearer visualisation of the data.

Amongst the most important improvements, the following are worth being mentioned:

- Enabling the correct visualization of raster maps.
- Enabling WMS (Web Map Service), a function that allows users to access georeferenced maps images from their own GIS client.
- Adaptation of the webapp’s behaviour (switching between layers, position of the AC perimeter, display of the info panel etc.).
- Introduction of the “Environment” maps category.
- Correction and harmonization of the metadata.
- Improvement of the “print extent to PDF” function.

Additionally, in the course of 2017, the maps contained in the RSA6 have been adapted to web display and uploaded on the platform: this was the first instance of raster maps being published on the WebGIS, so the Permanent Secretariat had to face several technical issues. All these activities were carried out in close cooperation with EURAC Research, which provides technical assistance to the WebGIS.

Cooperation

In the timeframe covered by this report, several cooperation activities have been carried out to enhance data collection and the sharing of knowledge at Alpine level. The most relevant activities were the following:

- Virtual Alpine Observatory (VAO): the cooperation between the Alpine Convention and the VAO has been aimed at giving greater visibility to the VAO and at supporting its initiatives. The Alpine Convention was also formally invited to become an observer in the VAO.
- European Space Agency and University of Salzburg, Department of Geoinformatics - Z_GIS Salzburg: The Permanent Secretariat gave presentations during the ESA Conference “EO 4 Alps - The Alps from Space” in Innsbruck (AT), 27-29 June 2018 and the “EO4Alps Summer school “Earth observation and geospatial information: supporting a sustainable use of alpine ecosystems and water resources” in Salzburg, 25 June 2018.
- SPARE and AlpES: the cooperation with these Alpine Space projects was aimed at considering the options to give visibility to the data results of the project in the framework of the WebGIS of the Alpine Convention.
- Newly created Earth Observation Portal (GEOSS) of the European Space Agency: evaluation of options for sharing/mirroring the data available.

Moreover, several activities related to data sharing and harmonization were undertaken in the framework of the cooperation with the European Environment Agency. For more details on this, please see the paragraph on cooperation on page 42.

The Alps in 25 Maps

A further contribution to the SOIA was the development of the publication “The Alps in 25 maps”, which tackles relevant Alpine Convention topics through a series of maps (see Paragraph “Publications” on page 31). It is foreseen to integrate some selected maps in the WebGIS.

5 Cooperation

The Permanent Secretariat focused on strengthening cooperation with the international to the local level in order to facilitate the implementation of the Alpine Convention and its knowledge. Thanks to the cooperation with local institutions, two more Infopoints opened in the eastern Alps in Slovenia (Mojstrana and Tolmin) and one in Austria (Dobratsch Nature Park). Moreover, constant contacts with the Observers and civil society organisation were kept and the cooperation with other transnational mountain areas, such as the Carpathians, was strengthened, while new cooperation opportunities emerged with the Pyrenees.

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). Two new infopoints were opened in in Slovenia: Mojstrana and in Tolmin and one in Austria (Dobratsch Nature Park).



Figure 10: map of the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention (not including the Dobratsch NP, still to be inaugurated).

The Infopoint of **Domodossola (IT)** organised two public events to present the new Report on the state of the Alps on “Greening the economy in the Alpine region”, respectively one with more than hundred students of high schools in Domodossola and one open event in the

presence of the main local administrators of the Province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola and the local population. Moreover, the Infopoint Domodossola supported the organisation of a WISO Workshop on prevention and compensation measures for damages by large carnivores (27-28 February and 1 March 2018) including the organisation of an excursion.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Infopoint in Morbegno (IT) was renewed in 2017 until 2020. In 2017, a free patronage was given to the Infopoint in Morbegno for the organisation of a conference on the Architecture in the Alps (Sondrio, 17 March 2017). Constant preparatory contacts for Morbegno as Alpine Town of the Year were kept and the Secretary General is envisaging to attend the inauguration.

In 2017 the Memorandum of Understanding with the Infopoint Grand Paradis - Cogne (IT) was renewed until 2019. In 2017, in the occasion of the "Gran Paradiso Film Festival" (24-29 July 2017), the Infopoint in Cogne organised the screenings of the film "People, Books and Mountains - The Quest for alpine literature". In August 2018 the Memorandum supported the organisation by the Infopoint of the initiative "Giroparchi Nature Trail", a naturalistic trekking in English language, dedicated to kids from 11 to 14 years old.

The cooperation with the Infopoint Chamonix (FR) is ongoing, based on a renewed Memorandum signed in September 2016. The Permanent Secretariat organised a training session for the two main officers in charge of the Chamonix Infopoint in the Innsbruck and Bolzano/Bozen offices on 18-20 October 2016. The Chamonix Infopoint was also the first location to present the photo exhibition of the Alpine Convention, which was hosted from 8 June to 15 July 2017. The RSA6 was also presented at the opening of the exhibition. The exhibition was displayed again in the Infopoint on 7 August 2018 alongside a conference on climate change. The Infopoint is regularly distributing current publications of the Permanent Secretariat.

In 2017 two new Slovenian Infopoints were established – one in Mojstrana (22 February) and one in Tolmin (19 May). Both Infopoints received training at their premises as well as all the necessary promotional materials; moreover, both carried out several events and projects to promote the Alpine Convention. The Infopoints in Tolmin and Mojstrana also participated in the organisation of the We are Alps tour.

The Infopoint in Mojstrana hosted the Alpine Convention photo exhibition in January 2017 and was visited by the Secretary General in July 2017 during his visit in Slovenia. In September 2018 the Infopoint inaugurated an exhibition about Slovenian female mountaineers titled "Female courage", the opening of which was attended by the Deputy Secretary General.

All the Infopoints of the Alpine Convention organised events within the celebration of the IMD event "Reading Mountains". The Permanent Secretariat financially supported these dissemination activities on the basis of specific Memoranda of Understanding.

Already in 2015 and more recently, in December 2018, the Dobratsch Nature Park (AT) has shown interest in becoming an Info Point of the Alpine Convention. The Dobratsch Nature Park as a "protected area in the Carinthian central region" with an office in Villach – the first Alpine town of the year – demonstrates itself as particularly suitable for this purpose. There is engagement to integrate the minimum of two events per year into their annual programmes

(summer- and winter programme). Subsequently a specific Memorandum of Understanding was elaborated and signed in the first months of 2019.

Observers, civil society organisations and associations

The Permanent Secretariat is engaged in maintaining ties to the Observers organisation as well as in supporting them in several activities related to the Alpine Convention. Many Observers actively contribute to the Alpine Convention Newsletter for promoting their initiatives. The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is in constant contact with interested Observers organisations, both through the organisation of regular face – to – face meetings and through phone and email contact. The Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General have constantly participated in the Observers meeting prior to the Permanent Committee organised by the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention. Moreover, the Permanent Secretariat has provided support to several Observers for the organisation of their meetings and the promotion and publicity of their initiatives and projects. Finally, several organisations supported the We Are Alps tours.

The Alpine Convention is also cooperating with civil society associations which have no official Observers status but which carry out actions inspired by and in the spirit of the Alpine Convention.

Many projects by the Observers and relevant civil society organisations have been supported by the Permanent Secretariat, and vice versa. Some examples include:

- Active involvement in the organisation of the AlpWeek in occasion of the XIV Alpine Conference as well as of the “AlpWeek Intermezzo - Tomorrow in the Alps” before the XV. Alpine Conference, in support of the Austrian Presidency and in cooperation with the AlpWeek planning partners (Alliance in the Alps, Alpine Space Programme, Alpine Town of the Year, CAA, CIPRA International and ISCAR, with the support by WWF and the Austrian Alpine Club).
- Active involvement of the Secretariat in the preparation of an alpine-wide climate partnership of local actors by CIPRA International, Alliance in the Alps and Alpine Town of the year, in particular by participating in two workshops in Mäder (AT), 11 July 2017 and Brig-Glis (CH), 15 November 2017.
- Support to the elaboration of the CIPRA Germany “Alpenkonvention AAA+” workshop series and presence in two of the three sessions.
- Support to the project “Timetable in the Alps” by CIPRA Slovenia.
- Support to the project “Knotenpunkt Alpen” by CIPRA Germany.
- Cooperation with ISCAR for the Young Academics Award Jury.

The Permanent Secretariat was also active in the participation in events and assemblies by the single Observers and other relevant civil society organisations, such as, for example:

- Participation in the celebrations for 25 years of Pro MONT-BLANC (Chamonix, FR, 17 September 2016).
- Support to Tolmezzo in its role of Alpine Town of the Year 2017, with participation in the announcement ceremony and press conference on 11 November 2016 as well as

in the inauguration on 28 April 2017. Support to the preparations for Morbegno as upcoming Alpine Town of the Year.

- Participation in the Alliance in the Alps General Assembly on 23 June 2017 in Budoia (IT).
- Participation in the CIPRA International yearly conference (Innsbruck, 29 September 2017); the Permanent Secretariat participated both in the panel discussion and in the workshops and organised a joint reception with CIPRA International.
- Participation in the celebration for the 20 years of the Alpine Town of the Year in Villach (AT), 9-10 November 2017, including participation in the workshop on Green Economy.
- Participation in the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 General assembly of Alparc and Danilo Re memorial trophy.
- Participation in the WWF annual meeting in Innsbruck (AT), 9-10 November 2016.
- Participation in the ForumAlpinum 2018 on 4-6 June 2018 in Breitenwang (AT), organised by ISCAR, which also hosted the Water Conference of the Water Platform of the Alpine Convention, a presentation of the Young Academics Award on the topic of sustainable water management as well as a meeting of Sub-group 3 of EUSALP Action Group 6.
- Participation in the Arge Alp Conference of Heads of Government in Lautrach (DE), 29-30 June 2017 and in Scuol (CH), 29 June 2018.
- Presentations at several meetings of national Alpine clubs, including a presentation at the meeting of the Austrian Alpine Club in Grüntau im Alptal (AT), 13 July 2017 as well as a presentation of the Alpine Convention at the South Tyrolean and Trento Alpine Club in Bressanone/Brixen (IT), 24 November 2018.
- Participation in the opening of four new Bergsteigerdörfer: Schleching and Sachrang (DE), 21 July 2017, Matsch (IT), 23 July 2017, Jezersko (SI), 26 May 2018 and Kreuth (DE), 13 July 2018. A participation in the opening of Lungiarü (IT) was planned, but could eventually not be carried out.
- Support to the initiative Whatsalp, including the dissemination and communication of the initiative and the participation in a meeting on the tour stop in Merano/Meran (IT) in July 2018.

Cooperation with the Alpine Space Programme

The Permanent acts as body representing the Alpine Convention as Observer in the programme Committee of the Alpine Space programme (who is also an Observer to the Convention). In this capacity, in 2017, the Secretariat participated in the Programme Committee meetings in Milano, 22-23 March and Venezia, 11-12 July and, in 2018, in Innsbruck (6 February), and Vienna (30 January, 16-17 April and 27 June). A member of the Permanent Secretariat is also participating in the meetings of the “2020+” Working Group of the Programme. The Deputy Secretary General participated in the panel discussion in the event “Cooperation Alps 2020+Thinking ahead, acting together!” in October 2017 in Salzburg (AT). As co-leader of Action Group 6, the Permanent Secretariat participated in the “Meet

and Match” event organised by the Alpine Space Programme in Milano in March. Finally, the Permanent Secretariat has carried on with its work as Observer in Alpine Space projects already approved in the previous years.

Cooperation with International organisations and other Conventions

United Nations

The years 2017 and 2018 saw three main cooperation domains with the United Nations. The first was related to the issue of women in mountain areas, on which several events and joint projects were developed. Firstly, the Permanent Secretariat, together with the Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, organised in 2017 an event on the topic for the International Mountain Day at the UN premises in New York. In 2018, always in cooperation with the Austrian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, the side event “The role of women in Mountain areas” was organised in the Framework of the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women, whose yearly theme was “Empowering rural women and girls”. Secondly, in the framework of the Regional Academy of the United Nations (RAUN), the Permanent Secretariat, upon invitation by the Carpathian Convention Secretariat hosted at UNEP Vienna, mentored the development of a study on the topic of women farmers in the Alps. The study was presented at a RAUN event at the UN in Vienna.

The second main cooperation event with the UN was the United Nations International Workshop "Global Mountain Safeguard Research" on the topic of “Enhancing Disaster Risk reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Emergency response Preparedness in Global Mountain regions”, organised by the United Nations University (UNU) and Eurac Research. The workshop took place in Bolzano/Bozen on 17-19 October 2018. The Permanent Secretariat participated with a keynote speech, with the moderation of the high level segment and finally through the co-organisation of a Working Group on governance. Further contacts are ongoing for follow-up initiatives.

Finally, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention actively participated in the 23rd and 24th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. For more details on this activity, see the respective section in the chapter dedicated to the priority “Taking action on climate change” of the MAP (page 16).

Carpathian Convention

Regular exchange is in place between the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention. In 2017, the Conference of the Parties of the Carpathian Convention took place in Lillafüred, Hungary. The Permanent Secretariat was present and made an intervention in the final high level segment.

A continuous cooperation is ongoing on the topic of climate change; for instance, the Carpathian Convention intervened in the side event on climate change in mountain areas organised by the Permanent Secretariat and the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention at the UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn.

On the occasion of a round table at the Ukrainian Ministry for Regional Development on 20 February 2018 in Kiev, The Secretary General outlined the experience of the Alpine

Convention in sustainably developing mountain areas. The presentation of governance models for mountain policies implemented in Austria and in France was of particular interest, as the Ukraine is currently developing a new mountain law.

European Environment Agency

The cooperation with the European Environment Agency (EEA) is ongoing, based on a 2017-2018 Work plan drafted in the framework of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation. In this framework, the Permanent Secretariat participated in a workshop of the EIONET Network on June 21 and 22 in Copenhagen, presenting the Alpine Convention activities in the framework of adaptation. Moreover, the Permanent Secretariat regularly contributes to the EEA Climate-ADAPT newsletter, with news on relevant issues and topics from the Alps. The Secretariat was also strictly cooperating with the EEA in the drafting of a regional Alpine factsheet on climate change adaptation initiatives.

Additionally, on 25-26 September 2017 the Permanent Secretariat took part in the international workshop “Environmental monitoring, data management and regional cooperation in mountain regions” organised by the Austrian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in cooperation with the European Topic Center Urban, land and soil systems (see also the paragraph on cooperation in the SOIA chapter on page 36).

Pyrenees climate change observatory (OPCC)

The cooperation between the Alps and the Pyrenees has intensified in the years 2017 and 2018, especially with the Pyrenean Observatory in Climate Change. The Permanent Secretariat was invited to give a speech at the PYRADAPT Colloquium on Climate Change in the Pyrenees (8-11 November 2017, Biarritz, FR) as well as to attend the meeting of the Advisory Board in capacity of external expert.

The Permanent Secretariat is supporting the application by several Pyrenean regions and research institutions for the project MONTCLIMA on the topic of climate and natural hazards in the South Western European mountains, coordinated by the OPCC, as well as for the Horizon 2020 project SAFE-Mountains, coordinated by the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Finally, a representative of the Working Community of the Pyrenees participated in the side event on climate change in mountain areas co-organised by the Permanent Secretariat at the UNFCCC COP 23 in Bonn.

Mountain Partnership

The exchange between the Mountain Partnership and the Permanent Secretariat also continued in the years 2016–2019, mostly through the exchange of information through regular Skype meetings as well as through the mutual promotion of initiatives and events through both organisations’ channels. The Permanent Secretariat also contributed to some editions of the newsletter of the Mountain Partnership. The Permanent Secretariat also participated in the General Assembly of the Mountain Partnership in December 2017 in Rome.

6 Staff of the Permanent Secretariat

From 2016 to April 2019, all project officer and sur-place posts were filled in. In 2018, Ms. Sourbron began her activity as Communication officer, in substitution for the temporary leave of Ms. Ferjančič-Lakota.

Due to the increased personnel efforts linked to the success of the “Reading mountains” initiative, the Permanent Secretariat hired additional support for the peak months of project coordination in the years 2017 and 2018. The costs for this temporary part-time position were covered through voluntary contributions by Germany and Austria.

Several opportunities for internships were offered. In particular, the cooperation with the University della Valle d’Aosta in Italy and the Universities of Ljubljana, Maribor and Primorska in Slovenia were continued and trainees from some of these Universities had the possibility to make an internship at the Permanent Secretariat. Due to the fact that a high amount of internship voluntary applications are received throughout the year, the Permanent Secretariat decided to systematise the process of selection of trainees, issuing each year in autumn a single call for two internship positions.

Particular attention was dedicated to the further training (especially, but not only, linguistic) of the Permanent Secretariat’s team members. Safety and defibrillator trainings, a car safety training and an English language training were offered for the whole Secretariat’s staff. Individual members of the Secretariat’s staff participated then in additional trainings financed through a dedicated fund.

It is noted that 2017 and 2018 marked the ninth and tenth 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).

7 List of selected missions by the Permanent Secretariat

The list includes a selection of missions by the members of the Permanent Secretariat as well as a selection of relevant events in the two host cities of the Permanent Secretariat.

Start	End	Location	Mission/event
17/09/2016	17/09/2016	Chamonix (FR)	25 years celebration ProMONT-BLANC, Espace Mont-Blanc & Alpine Convention
10/10/2016	14/10/2016	Grassau (DE)	62 nd Permanent Committee, XIV Alpine Conference, AlpWeek, Ecological Network Platform meeting
04/11/2016	04/11/2016	Paris (FR)	Working Group Transport
04/11/2016	04/11/2016	Salzburg (AT)	Celebration for the 25 years of the Alpine Convention
09/11/2016	10/11/2016	Innsbruck (AT)	Yearly meeting WWF
15/11/2016	15/11/2016	Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE)	Conference "Energie der Alpen - Energy of the Alps"
15/11/2016	16/11/2016	Innsbruck (AT)	Preparatory meeting YPAC
17/11/2016	17/11/2016	Trento (IT)	Seminar "Towards a new mobility for transalpine connections"
18/11/2016	18/11/2016	Vienna (AT)	Working Group Macroregional Strategy for the Alps
30/11/2016	30/11/2016	Berlin (DE)	Ad hoc expert group on spatial planning
10/01/2017	10/01/2017	Rome (IT)	Meeting with Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention
18/01/2017	19/01/2017	Gmunden (AT)	Staff Retreat with AT Presidency
25/01/2017	25/01/2017	Salzburg (AT)	AG6 Coordination Meeting
26/01/2017	26/01/2017	Vienna (AT)	Working Group Macroregional Strategy for the Alps
26/01/2017	29/01/2017	NP Gesäuse (AT)	Danilo Re
27/01/2017	27/01/2017	Vienna (AT)	Austrian EUSALP Coordination Meeting
30/01/2017	30/01/2017	Vienna (AT)	Meeting Chairs Thematic Working Bodies
06/02/2017	07/02/2017	Venice (IT)	Meeting LIFE DINALPBEAR project
13/02/2017	15/02/2017	Garmisch-Partenkirchen (D)	EUSALP General Assembly, Executive Board, AlpGov Partner meeting
16/02/2017	19/02/2017	Mojstrana (SL)	Training infopoint Mojstrana
21/02/2017	21/02/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Meeting with representatives of the German Parliament
22/02/2017	23/02/2017	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Climate Board
22/02/2017	22/02/2017	Lyon (FR)	Alpine Space project ASTUS kick-off
22/02/2017	22/02/2017	Mojstrana (SL)	Infopoint Mojstrana signing ceremony
01/03/2017	01/03/2017	Rome (IT)	Meeting State Secretary Barbara Degani
08/03/2017	10/03/2017	St. Gallen (CH)	25 th Compliance Committee
15/03/2017	16/03/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	WISO meeting
16/03/2017	17/03/2017	Garmisch-Partenkirchen (DE)	PLANALP
21/03/2017	22/03/2017	Milan (IT)	Meet & Match Alpine Space Programme Forum
22/03/2017	23/03/2017	Milan (IT)	Alpine Space Programme Committee
22/03/2017	22/03/2017	Padova (IT)	Meeting with the Chair of the Mountain Forests Working Group
23/03/2017	24/03/2017	Padova (IT)	Platform Water and AG 6 subgroup on water
28/03/2017	28/03/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	YPAC
29/03/2017	29/03/2017	Salzburg (AT)	AG 6 coordination meeting
04/04/2017	06/04/2017	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	63 rd Permanent Committee
18/04/2017	19/04/2017	Alpbach (AT)	Conference "The role of women in mountain areas"
25/04/2017	25/04/2017	Salzburg (AT)	Workshop Protocol "Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development" CIPRA Austria
27/04/2017	27/04/2017	Aschau i. Chiemgau (DE)	Workshop on mobility for the project Alpenkonvention AAA+
27/04/2017	28/04/2017	Tolmezzo (IT)	Working Group Forests

28/04/2017	28/04/2017	Tolmezzo (IT)	Alpine Town of the Year
30/04/2017	31/04/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Green Economy Advisory Board
04/05/2017	05/05/2017	Trento (IT)	Women 4DRR General Assembly
04/05/2017	05/05/2017	Vienna (AT)	Transport Working Group Meeting
05/05/2017	05/05/2017	Vallarsa (IT)	Seminar "Guidelines on climate change adaptation - topic Forests"
08/05/2017	09/05/2017	Trentino (IT)	Bear-spotting excursion of the Permanent Secretariat
11/05/2017	11/05/2017	Rosenheim (DE)	Presentation of RSA 6
15/05/2017	15/05/2017	Mallnitz (AT)	Meeting Mallnitz, development of a possible competence center
15/05/2017	17/05/2017	Slovenia	Training infopoint Tolmin, infopoint inauguration, Slovenian Alpine Convention day
16/05/2017	18/05/2017	Sölktaier (AT)	Conference "Wolf in the Alpine cultural landscape"
22/05/2017	24/05/2017	Domodossola (IT)	Presentation RSA 6 at Infopoint
23/05/2017	24/05/2017	Sonthofen (DE)	Workshop on Sustainable Tourism
29/05/2017	30/05/2017	Slovenia	YPAC, ministerial meeting
29/05/2017	29/05/2017	Ljubljana (SL)	Kick-Off Meeting Alpine Space project Links4Soils
30/05/2017	30/05/2017	Klagenfurt (AT)	AG 6 Coordination Meeting
01/06/2017	01/06/2017	Brussels (B)	Meeting of the EU Platform on the Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores
02/06/2017	02/06/2017	Schladming (AT)	Preparations We are Alps
07/06/2017	09/06/2017	Pörtschach (AT)	3 rd EUSALP AG6 Meeting
07/06/2017	07/06/2017	Merano (IT)	Preparations We are Alps
09/06/2017	09/06/2017	Franzensfeste (IT)	Brenner Base Tunnel excursion and discussion
13/06/2017	14/06/2017	Vienna (AT)	Platform Mountain Agriculture
19/06/2017	19/06/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Meeting of the President of the Austrian Parliament Ledl-Rossmann
20/06/2017	20/06/2017	Vienna (AT)	Working Group Macroregional Strategy for the Alps
21/06/2017	22/06/2017	Copenhagen (DK)	EIONET Workshop Climate change impacts and adaptation, meeting EEA
21/06/2017	21/06/2017	Trento (IT)	EUSALP AG 4 meeting
21/06/2017	22/06/2017	Grenoble (FR)	Platform ECONET
23/06/2017	24/06/2017	Budoia (IT)	20 th anniversary of Alliance in the Alps
25/06/2017	02/07/2017	Alps (AT, DE, IT, FR, MC)	We are Alps tour
26/06/2017	27/06/2017	Munich (DE)	AlpGov Board of Action group Leaders and PP meeting
29/06/2017	30/06/2017	Lautrach (DE)	Conference of Heads of Government Arge Alp
03/07/2017	03/07/2017	Monaco (MC)	Meeting with Minister Marie-Pierre Gramaglia
03/07/2017	04/07/2017	Brussels (B)	EUSALP Executive Board
04/07/2017	04/07/2017	Paris (FR)	Meeting with French Head of Delegation and Focal Point
04/07/2017	07/07/2017	Slovenia	Visit infopoint Mojstrana and ministerial meetings
05/07/2017	05/07/2017	Vienna (AT)	Meeting core group Alpine Climate Board
10/07/2017	10/07/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Meeting Swiss Head of Delegation Maria Lezzi
11/07/2017	11/07/2017	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	Meeting Mayor Renzo Caramaschi
11/07/2017	11/07/2017	Mäder (AT)	Workshop Climate Partnership of Municipalities
11/07/2017	12/07/2017	Venezia (IT)	Meeting Alpine Space Programme Committee
13/07/2017	13/07/2017	Grünau im Almtal (AT)	Keynote at Austrian Alpine Club
20/07/2017	21/07/2017	Schleching - Sachrang (DE)	Award ceremony "Bergsteigerdörfer"
27/07/2017	27/07/2017	Gardone Riviera (IT)	Presentation report on Italian network of protected areas
29/08/2017	29/08/2017	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	Technical committee "Intelligent use of soil"
07/09/2017	07/09/2017	Schaan (FL)	Preparations 65 th Permanent Committee
13/09/2017	14/09/2017	St. Johann im Pongau (AT)	Conference "The Future of Mountain Agriculture"
14/09/2017	15/09/2017	Ajdovščina (SL)	Platform Water
18/09/2017	18/09/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	"Waldgipfel" Risk Governance EUSALP AG 8

18/09/2017	19/09/2017	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Climate Board
19/09/2017	20/09/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Platform PLANALP
21/09/2017	21/09/2017	Trento (IT)	Opening Photo Exhibition at the International Mountain Tourism Conference
22/09/2017	22/09/2017	Andelsbuch (AT)	Transnational exchange and Workshop "Craftmanship culture in the Alps"
25/09/2017	26/09/2017	Vienna (AT)	International workshop on environmental monitoring, data management and regional cooperation in mountain regions
25/09/2017	26/09/2017	Vaduz (LIE)	Platform WISO
27/09/2017	27/09/2017	Immenstadt (DE)	Green economy workshop
28/09/2017	29/09/2017	Splügen (CH)	Arge Alp Steering Committee
28/09/2017	28/09/2017	Immenstadt (DE)	Green Connect Conference - presentation RSA 6
30/09/2017	30/09/2017	Trento (IT)	International Mountain Tourism Conference
02/10/2017	02/10/2017	Munich (DE)	EUSALP Meeting of Environment Ministers
03/10/2017	05/10/2017	Gmunden (AT)	64 th Permanent Committee
05/10/2017	06/10/2017	Gmunden (AT)	Exchange workshop Alpine Convention - EUSALP
06/10/2017	06/10/2017	Schwaz (AT)	Yearly conference "Netzwerk Zukunftsraum Land"
10/10/2017	12/10/2017	Venezia (IT)	Alpine Space Programme Committee
10/10/2017	13/10/2017	Lillafured (HU)	Carpathian Convention Conference of the Parties
16/10/2017	17/10/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Workshop "Ecological connectivity as a contribution to ensure biodiversity in Austria"
17/10/2017	18/10/2017	Werfenweng (AT)	Conference "Sustainable mobility and tourism"
18/10/2017	18/10/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	Forest summit "Protection.Forest.Climate"
18/10/2017	18/10/2017	Zürich (CH)	Zurich process EnvALP group meeting
18/10/2017	18/10/2017	Werfenweng (AT)	Working Group Sustainable tourism
23/10/2017	24/10/2017	Bad Reichenhall (DE)	Conference "Flood protection through protection forests in the Alpine Region" and Working Group Mountain forests meeting
24/10/2017	25/10/2017	Bozen (IT)	EUSALP AG4 meeting and 2 nd mobility conference
25/10/2017	25/10/2017	Edolo (IT)	Presentation of RSA6 at Workshop on green economy
25/10/2017	25/10/2017	Vienna (AT)	Compliance Committee preparatory meeting
29/10/2017	29/10/2017	Innsbruck (AT)	CIPRA Assembly
08/11/2017	10/11/2017	Biarritz (FR)	PYRADAPT Colloquium on climate change in the Pyrenees
08/11/2017	09/11/2017	Sonthofen (DE)	Preparation Workshop YPAC
08/11/2017	10/11/2017	Sonthofen (DE)	YPAC Preparation Meeting
09/11/2017	10/11/2017	Villach (AT)	General Assembly Alpine Town of the Year
13/11/2017	17/11/2017	Bonn (DE)	UNFCCC COP 23
14/11/2017	15/11/2017	Vienna (AT)	Working Group Macroregional Strategy for the Alps
14/11/2017	14/11/2017	Grenoble (FR)	Green economy workshop
15/11/2017	15/11/2017	Brig-Glis (CH)	Climate Partnership of Municipalities Workshop
15/11/2017	16/11/2017	Valdieri (IT)	Meeting ECONET Platform
21/11/2017	21/11/2017	Berlin (DE)	Kick-off ESPON Project Alps2050
22/11/2017	24/11/2017	München (DE)	EUSALP Executive Board, General Assembly, Annual Conference and AlpGov Meeting
28/11/2017	29/11/2017	Bozen (IT)	Conference "Energy Management in Alpine Hotels"
28/11/2017	29/11/2017	Vienna (AT)	26 th Compliance Committee
01/12/2017	01/12/2017	Paris (FR)	Working Group Transport
04/12/2017	04/12/2017	Salzburg (AT)	Coordination meeting Austrian Presidency
10/12/2017	11/12/2017	New York (US)	"Women in mountain areas" event
11/12/2017	11/12/2017	Rome (IT)	Mountain Partnership General Assembly
12/12/2017	12/12/2017	München (DE)	Workshop "Next Generation", EUSALP AG 6
08/01/2018	08/01/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Climate Board
11/01/2018	11/01/2018	Vienna (AT)	Presentation of thesis "Female Mountain Farmers and

			sustainable development in Austria", UN Regional Academy
16/01/2018	16/01/2018	Vaduz (LIE)	Meeting Minister Dominique Gantenbein and FL delegation
18/01/2018	23/01/2018	Vienna (AT)	Water Platform
19/01/2018	19/01/2018	Rome (IT)	Meeting Italian Delegation
22/01/2018	22/01/2018	Zurich (CH)	Zurich process EnvALP group meeting
25/01/2018	28/01/2018	Berchtesgaden (DE)	Danilo Re
29/01/2018	30/01/2018	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	EUSALP AG 6 Meeting
30/01/2018	30/01/2018	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Space Programme Committee
30/01/2018	31/01/2018	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Climate Board (including core group meeting)
30/01/2018	30/01/2018	Salzburg (AT)	Preparation meeting for the "Climate Days Austria"
05/02/2018	05/02/2018	Bregenzer Wald (AT)	Meeting Werkraum Bregenzer Wald
06/02/2018	06/02/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Alpine Space Programme Committee
08/02/2018	08/02/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Meeting CH Ambassador Haffner
19/02/2018	21/02/2018	Kiev (UA)	Meeting Ukraine Authorities developing a Mountain Policy
20/02/2018	21/02/2018	Vienna (AT)	Mountain Agriculture Platform
27/02/2018	01/03/2018	Domodossola (IT)	Workshop "Prevention of damages by large carnivores" and WISO meeting
13/03/2018	15/03/2018	Vienna (AT)	Informal PC
15/03/2018	16/03/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	EUSALP AG4 meeting
19/03/2018	23/03/2018	Maribor (SL)	YPAC 2018
19/03/2018	19/03/2018	New York (US)	Side-event "The role of Women in Mountain areas" at UN Women conference
21/03/2018	22/03/2018	San Michele all'Adige (TN)	EUSALP AG7
09/04/2018	10/04/2018	Mallnitz (AT)	Retreat with Austrian presidency
11/04/2018	11/04/2018	San Michele all'Adige (TN)	AlpJobs project Meeting
11/04/2018	11/04/2018	Salzburg (AT)	Workshop Transport Protocol CIPRA Austria
16/04/2018	17/04/2018	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Space Programme Committee
20/04/2018	20/04/2018	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Climate Board core group meeting
24/04/2018	24/04/2018	Salzburg (AT)	Austrian Climate Day
24/04/2018	24/04/2018	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	Working Group Sustainable Tourism
24/04/2018	24/04/2018	Vienna (AT)	Working Group Macroregional Strategy for the Alps
25/04/2018	26/04/2018	Sonthofen (DE)	Visit City of Sonthofen
15/05/2018	17/05/2018	Chamonix (FR)	Transport Working Group and Meeting Infopoint
15/05/2018	15/05/2018	Ödensee (AT)	Conference "Conservation of Moorlands in the Alps"
22/05/2018	23/05/2018	Munich (DE)	ESPON Alps 2050 project Steering Committee and Stakeholder Workshop
22/05/2018	23/05/2018	Kiev (UA)	Celebration of 15 years Carpathian Convention
24/05/2018	25/05/2018	Chur (CH)	Steering Committee Arge Alp
29/05/2018	29/05/2018	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	AG6 Subgroup 1 meeting
30/05/2018	30/05/2018	Klausen (IT)	Technical committee "Intelligent use of soil"
04/06/2018	05/06/2018	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Climate Board meeting (including core group meeting)
04/06/2018	05/06/2018	Breitenwang (AT)	Forum Alpinum
06/06/2018	06/06/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Expert workshop on EUSALP Energy Observatory
06/06/2018	07/06/2018	Munich (DE)	Green Economy Advisory Board
07/06/2018	07/06/2018	Breitenwang (AT)	Platform Water
12/06/2018	14/06/2018	Schaan (FL)	65 th Permanent Committee
19/06/2018	20/06/2018	Trento (IT)	EUSALP AG4 meeting and 3 rd mobility conference
25/06/2018	25/06/2018	Salzburg (AT)	EO4Alps Summer School
26/06/2018	26/06/2018	Werfenweng (AT)	ASTUS Alpine Space Project mid-term-conference
27/06/2018	27/06/2018	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Space Programme Committee

27/06/2018	29/06/2018	Santo Stefano di Cadore (IT)	Mountain Forests Working Group meeting
28/06/2018	29/06/2018	Scuol (CH)	Conference of Heads of Government Arge Alp
28/06/2018	01/07/2018	AT, SL, IT	We are Alps tour
02/07/2018	04/07/2018	Berchtesgaden (DE)	ALPBIONET 2030 Alpine Space Project meeting
03/07/2018	04/07/2018	Latschach (AT)	EUSALP AG6 Meeting
05/07/2018	06/07/2018	Pörtschach (AT)	AlpGov Partner Meeting
05/07/2018	06/07/2018	Pörtschach (AT)	EUSALP Executive Board Meeting
09/07/2018	11/07/2018	Drobollach (AT)	27 th Compliance Committee
13/07/2018	13/07/2018	Kreuth (DE)	Ceremony "Bergsteigerdörfer"
22/08/2018	22/08/2018	Cortina d'Ampezzo (IT)	Conference "The role of women in mountain areas"
30/08/2018	30/08/2018	Munich (DE)	Meeting State Minister Marcel Huber
07/09/2018	07/09/2018	Mojstrana (SL)	Opening of the exhibition "Female courage"
10/09/2018	11/09/2018	Vienna (AT)	Exchange workshop Alpine Convention - EUSALP
11/09/2018	11/09/2018	Grenoble (FR)	Meeting of the International Group of the Committee of the Alpine Massif
17/09/2018	17/09/2018	Bolzano (IT)	Opening of exhibition "Alps in 25 maps" at AISRE conference
24/09/2018	24/09/2018	Trento	Opening Photo Exhibition at the International Mountain Tourism Conference
26/09/2018	27/09/2018	Berchtesgaden (DE)	Platform WISO
26/09/2018	27/09/2018	Hinterstoder (AT)	Platform PLANALP
01/10/2018	01/10/2018	Trento (IT)	EUSALP AG4 Task Force meeting
01/10/2018	02/10/2018	Salzburg (AT)	Cooperation Alps 2020+ event
01/10/2018	02/10/2018	Torino (IT)	Water Platform
02/10/2018	02/10/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	EUSALP 2 nd Energy Conference
03/10/2018	03/10/2018	Trento (IT)	EUSALP Annual Forum preparation mtg
04/10/2018	04/10/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	AlpFoodWay mid-term conference
16/10/2018	16/10/2018	Vienna (AT)	Meeting ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning of the AC and the Alps2050 research team
17/10/2018	17/10/2018	Torino (IT)	EUSALP AG 7 meeting
17/10/2018	19/10/2018	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	UNU GLOMOS conference
23/10/2018	24/10/2018	Bolzano/Bozen (IT)	EUSALP AG 6 meeting
31/10/2018	31/10/2018	Rome (IT)	Meeting Italian Delegation
05/11/2018	07/11/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	66 th Permanent Committee
07/11/2018	08/11/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Conference "Make climate visions become reality!"
09/11/2018	09/11/2018	Brussels (B)	Presentation of the Alpine Convention, event "The mountain dimension of cooperation"
19/11/2018	19/11/2018	Salzburg (AT)	Steering Group Bergsteigerdörfer
21/11/2018	21/11/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Keynote at Alpine Space programme Projects final meeting SPARE and AlpES
24/11/2018	24/11/2018	Bressanone/Brixen (IT)	Presentation of the Alpine Convention, South Tyrolean Alpine Club
27/11/2018	28/11/2018	Innsbruck (AT)	Exchange workshop on mountain bikes
04/12/2018	05/12/2018	Paris (FR)	Transport Working Group Meeting and Presidency preparation meetings with sectoral experts
06/12/2018	06/12/2018	Vienna (AT)	Meeting ad-hoc Expert Group on Spatial Planning of the AC and the Alps2050 research team
06/12/2018	06/12/2018	Munich (DE)	Platform ECONET
11/12/2018	12/12/2018	Katowice (PL)	UNFCCC COP 24
11/12/2018	13/12/2018	Berlin (DE)	Green Economy Advisory Board
12/12/2018	12/12/2018	Ljubljana (SL)	Working Group Mountain Forests
13/12/2018	14/12/2018	Trento (IT)	AlpGov Partner Meeting
20/12/2018	20/12/2018	Salzburg (AT)	AG 6 Lead Coordination Meeting
09/01/2019	09/01/2019	Dobbiaco/Toblach (IT)	Meeting Euregio Gustav Mahler Cultural Center
14/01/2019	16/01/2019	Berlin (DE)	Meeting German Delegation

21/01/2019	22/01/2019	Vienna (AT)	Alpine Climate Board (core group and plenary meeting)
24/01/2019	27/01/2019	Les Contamines (FR)	Danilo Re
27/01/2019	28/01/2019	Aix-en-Provence (FR)	Meeting with Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (Vice President Chantal Eymeoud)
06/02/2019	08/02/2019	Vienna (AT)	28 th Compliance Committee
27/02/2019	01/03/2019	Milan (IT)	EUSALP Executive Board and AlpGov Meeting
13/03/2019	14/03/2019	Villach (AT)	EUSALP AG 6 meeting