



Standard model, useful to the Contracting Parties as a basis for periodic reports in accordance with decisions VII / 4 of the Alpine Conference and XI / 5 of the VIII Alpine Conference, for verifying the activities, good practices and initiatives undertaken in scope of the "Population and culture" Declaration

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SECTION I:

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "POPULATION AND CULTURE" DECLARATION OF ALPINE CONVENTION

Introduction

The Alpine Convention has the general objective of ensuring a global policy for the conservation and protection of the Alps and for their sustainable development, taking equally into account the interests of all Alpine countries and their regions, as well as the European Economic Community, and using resources in a responsible and lasting manner, and establishing the principles which must inspire cross-border cooperation between the countries of the Alpine Arc.

To achieve this objective, the Contracting Parties, in accordance with **Article 2 of the Convention**, will take adequate measures in at least twelve specific sectors, including, at the top of the list, that relating to *Population and culture* - "in order to respect, preserve and promote the cultural and social identity of local populations and to ensure their basic vital resources, in particular settlements and economic development compatible with the environment, as well as in order to foster mutual understanding and collaborative relationships among the Alpine and extra-Alpine populations ". (Article 2, paragraph 2 a).

The **VIII Alpine Conference** (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, November 16, 2004), in assigning to the "Population and culture" thematic complex of great importance in the context of the sustainable development of the Alpine space, has **established and decided**, in particular:

- that a political declaration be drawn up on this matter;
- that the declaration is subjected to verification in accordance with the verification mechanism and its procedure, provided for by Decision VII / 4 of the Alpine Conference,
- that after 4 years from the approval of the Declaration, in the light of the experiences gained in its implementation, the opportunity to develop a Protocol "Population and culture" (Decision VIII / 11 of the Alpine Conference) occurs.

The **Declaration "Population and culture" (DPC)**, prepared by a specific working group, was **adopted by the IX Conference of the Alps (Alpbach, 9 November 2006)**.

In adopting the Declaration, the Conference defined this instrument as a "first important contribution to the implementation of the social and cultural sustainability objectives of the Alpine Convention", and is committed, among other things, "to supporting initiatives useful for the population, non-governmental organizations, municipalities and regions can actively participate in the implementation of the social and cultural sustainability objectives of the Alpine Convention "(decision IX / 11 of the Alpine Conference).

Therefore, the Alpine Conference considered it appropriate to adopt a Declaration on the topic "Population and culture" and decided to submit it to verification to assess, after 4 years from its approval, whether it would be appropriate to draw up an implementing Protocol to specifically regulate the implementation of the objectives relating to this sector. It will therefore be up to the 11th Alpine Conference to decide whether to proceed with the drafting of a "Population and Culture" Protocol.

To this end, considering above all the different nature and peculiar structure of the Declaration with respect to the nature and structure of the Implementing Protocols of the Convention, the

Verification Group of the Alpine Convention established during its meeting in Paris on 28-29 April 2008 , to work on the definition of a standardized model as an ad hoc tool for verifying the implementation of the DPC.

LEGAL NATURE, CHARACTER AND PECULIARITY OF THE DECLARATION

The "Population and culture" Declaration, like the declarations of principle, the conclusions of numerous international conferences and many other similar acts, is fully included in that category of so-called instruments. of soft law.

Such acts are usually identified in those semi-normative propositions which, especially in the international field, are an eminently political-economic expression of will which, while essentially governing relations between States, do not have a legally binding nature.

The main characteristics of the acts that can be included in the soft law category are essentially the following:

- absence of legal obligations on the part of the contracting parties;
- exclusion of any responsibility on the part of States that violate the provisions contained therein;
- inability to assert before a court or international court the implementation, implementation or in general compliance, seen as fulfillment, of the agreement (this does not mean that it cannot be indirectly taken into account in the courts);
- lack of a ratification law by the countries involved;
- lack of transposition into the internal law of the adhering countries.

In the absence of a direct binding effect of the Declaration, the observance of the soft law rules contained therein and the verification of their implementation by the Contracting Parties, may not be guaranteed and rests solely on the fact that the person who issued them , coincides with its addressee (self-regulation) and is "authoritative" (expression of a persuasive force, as for example in the case of Ministers).

The latter can be assimilated to the case of the DPC, with an additional peculiarity compared to the normal soft law instruments: in the case of the Declaration, in fact, it is the decision-making body of the Alpine Convention itself, composed and represented by the Ministers of the Environment of all the Contracting Parties, to unanimously decide to submit the implementation of the Declaration to verification.

And precisely in the verification of the actions, good practices and measures undertaken by the Parties, in implementation of the Population and Culture Declaration, lies the characteristic and the peculiarity, from a legal point of view, of the Population Culture Declaration which probably represents an element further distinctive of the Alpine Convention in the panorama of other international treaties that deal, among other things, with the protection of natural and cultural heritage (UNESCO Conventions and Declarations, Council of Europe Conventions and Declarations, etc.).

COMMON ACTIVITIES OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DPC

As can be deduced, one of the most significant passages of the decision of the IX Conference of the Alps with which the DPC was adopted concerns the commitment of the Contracting Parties to seek and support useful initiatives so that the set of actors consisting of Municipalities, Regions, associations governments, and more generally the local population can actively take part in the implementation of this new instrument of the Alpine Convention.

In compliance with this principle, the Standing Committee took note at its 35th session (2-4 May, Lanslebourg, F), of a proposal from Italy, primarily supported by Austria, aimed at fostering transnational and cross-border collaboration. between the Contracting Parties, the Permanent Secretariat, the Observatories, the Presidency of the Alpine Convention, the local authorities, as well as other associations, to promote the implementation of the DPC, in several parts of the Alpine arc, through the organization of a series of activities (conference, thematic seminars, publication in Alpine languages, etc.) which aim to draw the attention of local communities to the aims of this tool.

In particular, this collaboration was aimed at contributing to the achievement of specific objectives such as:

- stimulate the interest of local administrators, stakeholders, and more generally the local population, in the contents of the DPC;
- a positive input to local authorities so that they are inspired by the contents of the Convention in the drafting of their local and regional development programs / strategies,
- allow an exchange of information and a sharing of experiences between the administrators and technicians of the local authorities and associations operating in the area, in particular, in the key sectors of the DPC;
- encourage the creation and / or strengthening of transnational and cross-border collaboration between organizations of local and regional authorities and associations, including non-governmental ones, of the Alpine arc in the development of programs and projects that refer to the contents of the DPC;
- encourage an intensification of collaboration between central governments (eg Ministries) and regions and local authorities in the development of activities aimed at implementing the objectives of the Alpine Convention and the DPC;
- establish a further direct discussion table between the representatives of the Contracting Parties on the more concrete problems affecting the territory, from the point of view of the Alpine population;

The desired results from carrying out these activities are strictly related to the achievement of the aforementioned objectives and to be considered evaluable, in the short and medium term, in terms of:

- an increased knowledge and awareness, among local administrators, stakeholders, and, more generally, among the local population, of the aims of the Alpine Convention and the "Population and culture" declaration;
- an increased knowledge and awareness among the representatives of the central administrations of the dynamics taking place in the area and the expectations of the population in relation to the topics of interest of the DPC;

- exchange of information and sharing of experiences, as well as dissemination of best practices among administrators and technicians of local authorities and associations operating in the Alpine area;
- drafting and dissemination of a final publication, which will be able to maintain attention over time on the topic in question;
- creation of a documentary basis as a contribution to the Contracting Parties in view of the verification of the implementation of the Declaration, by 2010;
- a strengthening of the exchange of information and sharing of experiences, as well as dissemination of best practices among the administrators and technicians of the local authorities and associations operating in the Alpine area;
- launch of new projects and programs of transnational and cross-border collaboration between organizations of local and regional authorities and associations, including non-governmental ones, existing in the Alps that contribute to the implementation of the Declaration.

To date, three main initiatives have been organized and carried out under the aegis of the Alpine Convention and with the support of local authorities and associations, to promote the implementation of the DPC (in Villach (A), in Dobrovo (SL), in Ostana (I, CN)).

In order to contribute to a better awareness of the peculiarities that distinguish the "Population and culture" sector, it is considered useful to summarize the main findings:

- the activities (analyses, studies, and comparisons) carried out within the GDL Popolazione e Cultura in the period 2001-2006, by Contracting Parties, Observers and experts,
- the initiatives that have been jointly undertaken by the Contracting Parties in the framework of this strategy to promote the CPD.

The results of the joint activities of the Contracting Parties - in particular specificity of the sector and emerging thematic priorities, from the point of view of the experts and the public intervening - can be consulted specifically in the Appendix attached to the standardized model.

SECTION II:

QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Questions that need to be answered have a grey background.

If you encounter difficulties in completing the questionnaire, try to answer as best you can. These difficulties can be reported in the "Space for further comments" section.

The answers to the questions must provide a possibly complete picture of the state of implementation of the Population and Culture Declaration, so in various cases, especially for the

affirmative answers, it may be useful to provide a more exhaustive answer that illustrates the measures and initiatives in detail. undertaken, including any regional or municipal specificities.

The formulations used in the questionnaire are based on those of the Population and Culture Declaration. The questions contained in the questionnaire do not in any way modify the obligations of the Contracting Parties under the Alpine Convention and its Protocols.

Information deemed confidential by the Contracting Party must be explicitly defined as such in the replies to the questionnaire.

The questions refer to the Contracting Party that completes the questionnaire and to its territory or to the Alpine area located in its territory, meaning by Alpine area the area of application of the Alpine Convention referred to in art. 1 of the Convention itself.

In the questionnaire, the Contracting Party that completes it is defined as a "Country". For the sake of simplicity, the use of a specific name for the European Community has been dispensed with. For the purposes of the questionnaire, the denomination "Country" also applies to the European Community by analogy.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ORIGIN AND DRAFTING OF THE REPORT

Name of Contracting Party	ITALY
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Indicate the national institution acting as contact:	
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Signature of the person responsible for submitting the report	
Delivery date of the report	

Indicate the participating institutions (eg non-governmental organizations, local authorities, scientific institutes).
Numerous official documents were consulted on the subject of the members of the Coordination Table referred to in the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of 11/15/2012, including all the Regions and Autonomous Provinces of the Alpine arc, UNCEM (Union of Mountain Municipalities), EURAC Research (v.le Druso, 1 - 39100 Bolzano) and CIPRA Italy.

PART 1: GENERAL PART

1. Briefly illustrate what has been done so far and what is planned to support the implementation of the objectives of the P + C Declaration.

(You can also report other general activities related to the P + C Declaration that however go beyond its objectives or activities or programs that promote the goals of the P + C Declaration outside your country.)

The Population and Culture Declaration, signed in 2006 by the member states of the Alpine arc, as a document supporting the principles of the Alpine Convention on some specific issues, focuses on the role of centers within the Alps as "supra-municipal social performance centers , cultural and economic "(Declaration Population and Culture, Chap. V) able to guarantee liveability within the Alps themselves. This means, on the one hand, a reduction in marginality through policies to maintain services and attract people and businesses to guarantee territorial coverage in even less accessible mountain areas. On the other hand, the Declaration supports the strengthening of relations between cities and Alpine and extra-Alpine territories, not according to the logic of dominance-dependence, often still present, but in terms of exchanges and policies of social equity and cooperation.

Italy has strongly promoted initiatives aimed at pursuing the objectives set in the Population and Culture Declaration, sharing the need to preserve the presence of the population in the Alpine region and to maintain the unique characteristics of an anthropized mountain environment such as that alpine.

The culture of living in the mountains is typical of the Alps, which as a mountain territory is a meeting place between different peoples and cultures.

The Alpine identity and the closest territories have also resisted by creating networks of relationships on issues of common interest, a system of relationships uniquely oriented towards the protection of the principles of sustainability of development, connectivity of territories and experiences, attractiveness for businesses: therefore, to the cohesion of the territories, with primary attention to the exercise of the right of citizenship.

Politics should be aware of the appropriate actions that can contribute to improving the living conditions of mountain populations, considering the centrality of three aspects: the economic, the social and the one related to accessibility.

Attention to the mountains today must be understood as a more conscious and sustainable dimension of experiencing the mountains, made up of attention to cultures and traditions but also of balance between the mountain environment, the people who live in the mountains and those who visit them.

It should be noted that a first foundation of the legal significance of the mountain is found in the Italian Constitution (1948) in art. 44 second paragraph: "*The law provides for provisions in favour of mountain areas*"

With respect to this provision, a sentence of the Constitutional Court (sentence 2 February 2018 n.17) clarifies:

"The national interest in favour of the protection and enhancement of mountain territories is immediately justified, both by the physical characteristics of the mountain environment and the anthropogenic factors associated with them (limited size of local communities, territorial

dispersion, isolation) and for the fundamental requirement of maintaining the socio-economic (and environmental) vitality of these areas. The permanence of the population on high ground areas responds to an essential need to protect the territory: to take care of the water heritage, to contain and mediate and "filter" the erosive processes, to prevent landslides and floods. "

In Italy laws, administrative acts and measures have been adopted at state, regional and local levels, aimed at promoting the objectives of the Alpine Convention and the principles of its Protocols.

Furthermore, in Italy we participate in cross-border cooperation networks at the State, Regional and Local levels, stipulate international agreements and adhere to cross-border projects.

Almost half of the national territory is considered mountain and despite being characterized by considerable diversity (geological, climatic, hydrological, ecological, historical, anthropological, social, economic, and institutional), it presents many specificities and common problems that differentiate it from the rest of the country. Therefore, these differences must be properly recognized.

According to art. 117 of the Italian Constitution, legislative power is exercised by the State and the Regions in compliance with the Constitution, as well as with the constraints deriving from the EU legal system and international obligations.

In matters of concurrent legislation¹, the legislative power is vested in the Regions, except for the determination of the fundamental principles, which is reserved to the legislation of the State.

Among the subjects of concurrent legislation we also find those relating to education, territorial governance, enhancement of cultural and environmental assets and promotion and organization of cultural activities; savings banks, rural banks, regional credit companies; regional land and agricultural credit institutions.

The Alpine Convention in Italy was able to inspire most of the principles of national legislation on the environment and sustainable development, not limiting its effectiveness only to the territory included in the scope of the Convention. Furthermore, in participating in other international conventions to which Italy is a contracting party, Italy increasingly brings its experience and the principles developed in the Alpine Convention, of which it is a contracting party.

The Ministerial Declaration on Population and Culture (2006), for the promotion and achievement of which the Italian Delegation has worked for years, recalls the need to preserve the presence of the population in the Alpine region and to preserve the man-made environment.

During the two-year period of the Italian Presidency 2013-2014, the Italian Ministry of the

¹ Concurrent legislation is the legislation governing a certain matter of both state and regional competence, contained in the Constitution, art. 117 "Concurrent legislation matters are those relating to: international relations and relations with the European Union of the Regions; foreign trade; job protection and safety; education, without prejudice to the autonomy of educational institutions and with the exclusion of education and vocational training; professions; scientific and technological research and support for innovation for the productive sectors; health protection; Power supply; sports regulations; civil protection; government of the territory; civil ports and airports; large transport and navigation networks; ordering of communication; national energy production, transport and distribution; complementary and supplementary pension; [harmonization of public budgets (14) and] coordination of public finance and the tax system; enhancement of cultural and environmental assets and promotion and organization of cultural activities; savings banks, rural banks, regional credit companies; regional land and agricultural credit institutions. In matters of concurrent legislation, the legislative power is vested in the Regions, except for the determination of the fundamental principles, which is reserved for the legislation of the State. "

Environment, called during the period to coordinate the implementation of the Treaty, wanted to share the objectives of the Presidency Program with representatives of the national territory from the outset.

In November 2012, the Italian Presidency proposed to regional and local institutions, but also to a significant representation of civil society (associations, foundations, etc.) and the scientific community, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at coordinating and sharing the program, the objectives, and its implementation methods.

The commitment of the Alpine Convention in the matter of population and demography dates back to the start of the activities of the treaty, being the first of the topics listed in paragraph 2 of article 2 of the Framework Convention and being the subject of the Ministerial Declaration "Population and Culture", at the time promoted by Italy. At the same time, Italy has given great emphasis to demographic changes and the labour market, as has been amply demonstrated since 2009, the year in which it began to chair the Demography and Employment Working Group, set up by the 10th Conference of Alps (Evian, France).

This commitment of the Italian Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with all the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding to support the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention in the two-year period 2013-2014, also responds to the strong interest of the Italian Alpine territory, which for decades has dealing with sometimes very evident dynamics of abandonment of the valleys. Convinced that the Alpine population, in the face of the commitment made to safeguard the territory and ecosystem services to ensure quality and continuity, must be enabled to live in the mountains with adequate services and opportunities in a strengthened solidarity with those who live in the plains and in big cities, we wanted to analyse demographic changes starting from the driving forces that move them and spreading replicable good practices.

Subsequently, the Permanent Secretariat has developed a publication², promoted by the Italian Delegation of the Alpine Convention as part of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration, which facilitates the knowledge by the Alpine territorial bodies, especially the Municipalities, of measures and good practices that exemplify how the principles of the Convention can be translated into concrete actions and measures, with the aim of promoting good administrative management and contributing to the adoption of strategic choices for the quality of life. It then reviews principles, management tools and good practices for the administrative choices of Alpine territorial bodies that implement the Convention and present managerial and economic advantages.

To support the implementation of the objectives of the Alpine Convention, many research and dissemination projects have been carried out, some of the most significant and / or recent of which are reported:

ALMCC 2020 Alpine Landscape Meets Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape for a new Alpine tourism

The XV Conference of the Alps (Innsbruck, April 2019) commissioned the Italian Delegation to organize an international conference to highlight the relationship between Alpine tourism and culture. The conference (28-30 September 2020) saw the participation of experts, administrations, and research bodies from all over the Alps, with over 50 speakers and 60 papers. During the conference, the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta presented the project "The Mont Blanc as an outstanding Alpine heritage: first steps towards the UNESCO WHL"

² https://www.alpconv.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/implementation_manual_2013_IT.pdf

promoted by the Italian Delegation through the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. The proceedings of the Conference were published in December 2021.³

Conference and "Camaldoli Manifesto for a new centrality of the Mountain"; The Manifesto was promoted by the Society of Territorialists (www.societadeiterritorialisti.it). The "mountain commission" of the SoT, active since the meeting in Florence on January 29, 2019, coordinated by Giuseppe Dematteis and Alberto Magnaghi, is composed of Fabio Baroni, Luisa Bonesio, Aldo Bonomi, Enrico Ciccozzi, Pietro Clemente, Federica Corrado, Dimitri D'Andrea, Luciano De Bonis, Lidia Decandia, Carlo Alberto Gemignani, Marco Giovagnoli, Claudio Greppi, Giampiero Lombardini, Giancarlo Macchi Janica, Anna Marson, Diego Moreno, Daniela Poli, Rossano Pazzagli, Marco Revelli, Andrea Rossi, Massimo Rovai, Antonella Tarpino, Camilla Traldi.

They collaborated in the organization of the Conference: tsm|step School for the Government of the Territory and the Landscape, Dislivelli, Rete Montagna, SISEF, Legambiente, FAI, Symbola, CIPRA Italia, DIDA Unifi, DIST-PoliTo, Mountain Wilderness, UNCEM, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, Alpine Convention, Unimont - Project Italian Mountain Lab, AASTER, IAM-PoliTo, Eurac Research, AGEI, Archivio Osvaldo Piacentini, Central Scientific Committee CAI - Terre Alte, NEMO, Appennino Charter, Center of Studies Valle Imagna, Foundation Franco Demarchi, Foundation Nuto Revelli, AISRe, IRES Piemonte, SNAI Scientific Committee, Alte Terre Academy, ArIA - Research Center for Inner Areas and Appennini – University of Molise, Union Mountain Municipalities of Casentino/Ecomuseo del Casentino, Ecomuseo delle Alpi Apuane, Alleanza mondiale per il paesaggio terrazzato, Foundation Comelico Dolomiti, Order of Architects of province of Arezzo.

Conference States General of the Mountain, to identify the priorities of intervention that the Regional Council of Friuli-Venezia Giulia will adopt for the 2018-2023 legislature. Tolmezzo, 23-24 November 2018

International Conference "The Green Economy in the Apennine Region". In particular, the experience carried out in the Alpine region in the context of the Alpine Convention is considered fundamental, with the Report "The green economy in the Alpine region", which was presented at the Conference. The goal is to take stock of a model for the green economy in complex areas and to compose, by selecting methodologies and good practices, a framework for the study of a green development strategy in the Apennine region, consistent with local needs, integrated at institutional level and in line with international objectives (mitigation and adaptation to climate change, reduction of land consumption, shift towards organic production, protection of biodiversity, etc.). Camerino 22-23 May 2018

Read the Mountains 2017 "Luigi Amedeo di Savoia Duca degli Abruzzi, explorer and pioneer in modern mountaineering". The initiative was promoted by the Italian Delegation of the Alpine Convention at the Ministry of the Environment, the National Mountain Museum and the CAI National Library, the Abruzzo Regional Group and the Avezzano and Torino sections of the CAI, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and EURAC Research.

Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duke of the Abruzzi (1873-1933) is one of the most important characters in the history of mountaineering and exploration. Born in Madrid, lived for most of his life in Torino, he died in Somalia, in the agricultural colony he created, and to which he had dedicated the last years of his life. Protagonist in his youth of important mountaineering ascents, rope partner of extraordinary characters such as the British Albert F. Mummery and the guide of Courmayeur Emile Rey, Luigi Amedeo is the protagonist of a brilliant career as a

³ [Pubblication – Alpine Landscape Meets Culture \(greeneconomy-ccapp.it\)](http://Pubblication – Alpine Landscape Meets Culture (greeneconomy-ccapp.it))

Naval officer during the Libyan War and the First World War. To make him famous in the world, however, are his exploratory and mountaineering expeditions to Mount Saint Elias (1897), to the North Pole (1899-1900), on the Ruwenzori (Uganda, 1906), in Karakorum and on K2 (1909). Alongside the mountaineering exploits, such as the absolute altitude record, 7498 meters, touched in 1909 on the Bride Peak (Chogolisa), made thanks to the presence of Joseph Pétigax and other mountain guides of Courmayeur, the Duke's expeditions make important contributions to the knowledge of the places visited through cartography, scientific research programs and the extraordinary photographs taken by Vittorio Sella. The introduction by Paolo Angelini, head of the Italian Delegation to the Alpine Convention, was followed by the institutional greetings of the Councilors Annalisa Cipollone and Domenico Di Bernardino representing the Municipality of Avezzano, Giuseppe Di Pangrazio, president of the Regional Council of Abruzzo and Mario Mazzocca, undersecretary to the Presidency of the Regional Council of Abruzzo. 9 and 11 December 2017 – Avezzano and Torino

Budoia Charter on the occasion of the International Thematic Conference of the Association "Alliance in the Alps", on 24 June 2017 the final seminar was held during which it was proposed to the municipalities to sign a commitment in favor of the climate and in particular to take an active part in the adoption of adaptation strategies to climate change. This document took the name of "Charter of Budoia", from the name of the Municipality that hosted the event and of the first Municipality signatory of the same.

The Italian section of the Network of Municipalities "Alliance in the Alps", as part of a collaboration with the Italian Ministry of the Environment and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, has organized a series of seminars, aimed mainly at member municipalities, on the theme of guidelines for local adaptation to climate change.

The Budoia Charter recalls the documents and strategies adopted at international, European and Alpine level. It recognises the importance and potential of voluntary action by all non-state bodies for the effective implementation of climate change adaptation measures and the creation of territorial resilience in mountain contexts.

The Alpine municipalities with the signing of the "Budoia Charter" undertake to implement local measures to adapt to climate change as part of the planning activities of the municipal administration, to implement actions aimed at assessing the potential risks and opportunities of climate change for the municipal territory, to promote public debate and increase the awareness of citizens, residents and visitors about risks and opportunities related to climate change at the local level.

Some of the signatory Italian municipalities have formally made a commitment through administrative resolutions to seek the most appropriate ways to implement specific measures to adapt to climate change in their territory and an institutional dialogue has been launched on some occasions between some municipal administrations and their respective regional governments, such as in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Lombardia.

The signing of the Charter is open to alpine municipalities (members and not of the network of municipalities "Alliance in the Alps").

- **UNFCCC COP-22 Italian Side event: Voluntary tools for local adaptation: the potential of river contracts** The event was held during the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was attended by 197 delegations of Member States, in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 7 to 18 November 2016. The side event underlined the importance of all levels of government working together to achieve internationally agreed and, where possible, even more ambitious goals. In any case, multi-level governance is needed that prioritises these global objectives and can help coordinate actions carried out at different territorial levels and by different stakeholders, using more

structured decision-making mechanisms.

- **The SAPA Alpine Network at the National Conference on Biodiversity Monitoring**

National Conference "Towards a national biodiversity monitoring plan. The manuals of species and habitats of community interest", was proposed as a new opportunity to present the experience of the SAPA Network - System of Italian Alpine Protected Areas. The SAPA network was launched as part of the broader Coordination Table in support of the Italian Delegation in the Alpine Convention and established by a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2012 between the then incoming Italian Presidency and the local authorities interested in contributing to the implementation of the Alpine Convention. Rome 19-20 October 2016

- **International Parks Festival: presentation of the system of Alpine protected areas (SAPA)**

The meeting, dedicated to the presentation of the SAPA Network, was held as part of the International Parks Festival and in collaboration with the Italian Delegation in the Convention of Alpi. In this international context, the 2016-2017 Action Plan of the SAPA Network was presented and deepened, which intends to focus on the issues of sustainable management of the resources of protected areas as a vehicle for the development of a green economy; the study of innovative management tools for protected areas and related financial instruments; the harmonization of indicators and methodologies for monitoring biodiversity and in implementation of the ecological network; the use of common databases and cartographics, the intensification of the exchange of experiences between Italian protected areas and other networks of protected areas, such as the Alpine and Carpathotic networks. Trezzo sull'Adda (MI) May 2016.

- **Event "Destination GreenItaly. Governance models from the Alps to the Mediterranean"**

it was proposed to reflect on the opportunities for organization and sustainable management of Italian tourism. The experience of the Alpine Convention on sustainable tourism, as well as countless examples from other European countries, will help to draw possible horizons for green tourism in Italy. The event is aimed at decision-makers at all political levels, tourism and environmental organizations and associations and all interested sector operators. The expected result is a summary document that allows us to contribute to a process of reorganization and development of Italian tourism based on the principles of sustainability and competitiveness, looking at the governance of the system and the potential of the products in the various regional realities. This document would like to merge into the participatory planning process of the National Tourism Plan of Pietrarsa, offering a small contribution to the definition of some strategic priorities and operational horizons. Villa Celimontana 6-8 July 2016

- **Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention, (YPAC)** was founded by the Innsbruck International School (AT) (Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck) and the Alpine Convention, and the first session took place in 2006 in Innsbruck. Every year the Youth Parliament is hosted by one of the schools participating in the initiative. The Institutes involved are: Akademisches Gymnasium Innsbruck (Austria); Gymnasium Sonthofen (Germany); Karolinen Gymnasium Rosenheim (Germany); Lycée Frison Roche de Chamonix (France); Fachoberschule für Tourismus und Biotechnologie »Marie Curie« Meran (Italy); Liceo G.B. Brocchi - Bassano del Grappa (Italy); Gimnazija in srednja šola Rudolfa Maistra Kamnik (Slovenia); II. gimnazija Maribor (Slovenia); Liechtensteinisches Gymnasium Vaduz (Liechtenstein); Kantonsschule Trogen (Switzerland).

The participation of young representatives of the Carpathians and the Apennines promoted by the Italian delegation in the framework of the "Nuove Leve" project brings together young people aged between 16 and 19 from different regions of the Alpine States, who meet and operate as a real "Parliament" discussing current issues concerning the Alps. The Youth

Parliament aims to provide its considerations on parliamentary structures as well as to address Alpine issues such as soil protection (2018), climate change (2019) or the Sustainable Development Goals (2020). In addition, it operates as a real platform for the exchange of knowledge and the creation of relationships between young people with different cultural backgrounds.

- **New forms of territorial cooperation: Cooperation tools: The case study of the Alpine area** seminar promoted by the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure in collaboration with the Espon Program in order to facilitate and strengthen the participation of national stakeholders in territorial cooperation programs, focusing on tools and strategies for the sustainable development of urban and mountain territories. Rome, March 2016

- **Workshop “Marketing Forests and Water”** promoted by the Ministry of the Environment - Italian Delegation in alpine convention in collaboration with the Working Party of the European Forestry Commission of FAO, has offered a contribution to the international debate, deepening the macroeconomic, economic and financial aspects related to the management of forests and water resources for the production of SE. Rome, March 2016

- **Demographic changes in the Alps: population, employment, education and services. Presentation of the Fifth Report on the State of the Alps.** presentation of the Fifth Report on the State of the Alps on demographic changes in the Alpine arc, drawn up as part of the implementation of the program of the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2013-2014 and recently brought to the press by the Permanent Secretariat. Through the analysis of the demographic changes taking place in the Alps and the main socio-economic phenomena that influence them, the document aims to contribute to the implementation of the Population and Culture Declaration, with which in 2006 the Contracting Parties to the Alpine Convention stressed the need to preserve the presence of the population in the Alpine region and maintain the unique characteristics of an anthropized mountain environment such as the Alpine one. Committee of the Regions - Brussels, February 2016

- **International Mountain Day: Mountain Literature in the Minor Alpine Languages.** an event promoted by the Italian delegation as part of the "Reading the Mountains" initiative of the Alpine Convention that wants to spread and make known mountain literature by emphasizing the importance of enhancing the culture of the "Mountain People", in the awareness of the primary role they play in the protection and sustainable development of the territory, also through the preservation of those traditions also understood as literary traditions (December 2015 FAO -Rome, 11 December 2015)

- **UN FCCC COP-21 italian Side event: Partnering with non-state actors for climate change adaptation: which potential in different world regions?** Among the thematic working tables organized at the Paris Conference alongside COP 21 to deepen the different aspects related to climate change policies, on Wednesday 2 December 2015, the Abruzzo Region and the Ministry of the Environment promoted the table "*Partnering with non-state actors for climate change adaptation: which potential in different world regions?*" dedicated to the initiatives of non-state actors in terms of adaptation to climate change. During the round table, the ongoing activities for local adaptation to climate change at different levels were presented, with interventions by representatives of the European Institutions, the Italian Ministry of the Environment, the Abruzzo Region and the participation of an international panel of experts. Paris December 2015

- **The network for the Mediterranean Mountains, ideas and common projects for the sustainable development of mountainous areas in the Mediterranean region** promoted by the Italian Delegation in alpine convention, at the Ministry of the Environment, in collaboration with UNEP Vienna Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention and Liguria

Region. The aim of the meeting is to strengthen a network of international partnerships and to plan joint actions for sustainable development in the mountain areas of the Mediterranean region, building on the experiences made under the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention for the Development of Cross-Border Mountain Cooperation. Ventimiglia, November 2015,

- **The Mediterranean Mountains: Climate Change, Landscape and Biodiversity** the workshop was born from the collaboration between the Ministry of the Environment, in the function of Italian Delegation in the Alpine Convention, UNEP Vienna -Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, the Bio-Mediterranean Cluster and the European Academy of Bolzano -EURAC, during the EXPO 2015 which was the scene of an interesting meeting between representatives of institutions, university and scientific research bodies and civil society subjects who met in Milano to discuss sustainable development in the mountain areas of the Mediterranean. The workshop "The Mediterranean Mountains: Climate Change, Landscape, Biodiversity", promoted as part of the long-standing collaboration between the Alps and the Carpathians for the promotion of international cooperation between mountain territories, wanted to relaunch the dialogue for the Mediterranean Mountains also in order to capitalize on the work done over the years by other regional and international institutions such as, for example, the World Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). September 2015

- **Mountain Week - EXPO 2015: the events organized by the Italian Delegation as part of the mountain week promoted by the Alpine Convention for EXPO Milano 2015** Born in 2013 on the initiative of the Italian Ministry of the Environment in its capacity as rotating Presidency of the Alpine Convention, it takes place in collaboration with the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention – the two international treaties dedicated to the protection and sustainable development of mountain areas – with the FAO-Mountain Partnership and UNEP-Vienna: the United Nations Environmental Program and with the scientific support of EURAC research and the technical and organizational assistance of Earth Day Italia and other partners. The "Mountain Week" is a schedule of events (conferences, exhibitions, meetings, etc.) dedicated to sustainable development, agriculture, mountain productions around the world, promoted by mountain countries and international organizations that have joined the initiative, which will be held both inside the pavilions of the exhibiting countries and in other areas of the city of Milano, but also in the mountain territories. June 2015

- **The Alpine Convention in Lima to present the Alpine guidelines for local adaptation to Climate Change The twentieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP20 UNFCCC)** was held in Lima, Peru from 1 to 12 December, a fundamental moment for the environmental future of the Planet that saw delegations from over 145 countries gathered in order to identify the conditions and a working document for a common agreement that sets national objectives for the containment of global warming within 2 degrees C. The final document approved by the Conference should lead to the adoption, next year in Paris, of a universal and binding agreement aimed at reducing CO2 emissions but also able to intervene on adaptation measures, according to procedures to be defined. The latter are often more suitable to counteract the local impacts of climate change and strengthen the resilience of some territories such as mountain areas. December 2014

Sarnano Charter: International Conference "The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention: experiences in comparison. The Apennines, a European mountainrange", an event supported by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention as part of its mountain partnership activities, which had the first result of starting a debate on mountain cooperation for the Apennines. The working sessions of the Conference, thanks to the contribution of many experts who have been studying the Apennines from different angles

for decades, have made it possible to put a first step for the recognition of the belonging of the Apennines to a European mountain system by relating it to more famous and international chains such as the Alps and the Carpathians. Sarnano, on 23 and 24 April 2014.

Demographic changes in the Alps: Fifth State Report in the Alps (2014)

The Fifth Report on the State of the Alps on demographic changes in the Alps was drawn up as part of the implementation of the program of the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention 2013-2014 and recently brought to the press by the Permanent Secretariat. By analyzing the demographic changes underway in the Alps and the main socio-economic phenomena that affect them, the document aims to contribute to the implementation of the Population and Culture Declaration. It provides a common knowledge framework, with comparable data, analyzes and recommendations, accompanied by good practices. Following the results of the Working Group of the Convention on Demography and Employment, the report was coordinated by Italy through ISTAT, supported by the Italian Presidency of the Standing Committee and by EURAC Research, which also developed the cartography.

The contents of the report were adopted with formal decision by the Ministers of the countries of the Alpine arc gathered in Turin for the XIII Alpine Conference (November 2014), they also invited the Parties and the Secretariat to commit themselves to disseminating the publication to the stakeholders interested. In this sense, the Brussels meeting was an opportunity to present the publication to the European stakeholders and delegates of local and regional authorities present that day also to attend the Plenary Assembly of the Committee of the Regions. Two very important issues clearly emerge from the report: on the one hand, the need to ensure accessibility to the territory, an issue that has also been strongly taken up in the pillars of the European Strategy for the Alpine Macro Region (EUSALP), and on the other hand that of reflection attentive to the reasons that lead many, especially young people, to leave the mountains in search of better job opportunities and socialization

Report Digital Agenda of the Alps (2014)

The result of the work of the Italian Presidency Task Force (2013-2014) aimed at analyzing the digital divide in the Alps and promoting the development of a Digital Agenda tailored to the needs of the Alpine population. It collects recommendations and examples aimed at harmonizing from the point of view of digital access in mountainous and remote areas, in order to encourage the development of broadband to offer advanced services both in the social field (e.g. telemedicine or distance education), and in the economic field, (eg networks in support of start-ups) so as to encourage the stay or return of the youth population to the mountains.

Population and culture: today's Alps (2015)

A contribution from CIPRA Italy and the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention for sustainable Alpine development.

Starting from a re-reading of the Population and Culture Declaration, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps with reference to its Italian headquarters (CIPRA Italy) together with the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention (Ministry of the Environment), in office since 2012 to 2014, in this volume proposes a restatement of the works carried out in this period with the aim of tracing not only a state of the art of what has been done but above all to give space to a reflection that, today more than ever, needs to focus on the capacities and opportunities for change and development of the mountain through multifaceted gazes that hold together local and global, urban and mountain, tradition and avant-garde.

The volume is divided into two parts. The first part contains a selection of themes around

which an important part of the work carried out by the Ministry of the Environment during the two-year Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention is returned. The second part contains a re-elaboration of the contents of the First Alpine Laboratory for the Development initiated by CIPRA Italy, as a laboratory model for comparison with the Alpine territories, which took place in Oulx in the Susa Valley in September 2014.

Space for any further comments

Supplementary questions

Difficulty in implementing the P + C Declaration

1. Have you encountered or are you still experiencing difficulties in implementing the obligations of the P + C Declaration?			
Yes		No	X
If the answer is yes please provide with concrete examples			

Difficulty completing the questionnaire

2. Did you find it difficult to fill in the questionnaire?			
Yes		No	X
If so, which ones? Do you have suggestions for improvement?			

**PART 2: SPECIAL PART CONCERNING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE
"POPULATION AND CULTURE" DECLARATION OF THE IX
CONFERENCE OF THE ALPS (DECLARATION OF 9.11.2006)**

I. Community awareness and cooperation

Awareness of community and identity

1. Is the common responsibility of the Alpine and extra-Alpine population and of all political-decision-making levels strengthened in preserving the cultural peculiarities of the Alpine living space and in strengthening community awareness and the identity of the resident population?

Yes

X

No

If the answer is yes, please provide with concrete examples

Yes, some examples of what is done at national and regional level for the conservation of cultural peculiarities and for strengthening the community and identity awareness of the Alpine population are reported below.

The Memorandum of Understanding promoted during the two-year period of the Italian Presidency 2013-2014 contributed to the sharing of the Program, the objectives, and the related implementation methods. The Presidency's priorities and objectives were defined in line with the demand expressed by the Alpine area, according to a bottom-up sharing process, adopted for the identification of possible solutions in terms of implementation of the Convention and the two-year program.

During this period, over one hundred scientific and cultural events took place throughout the Italian Alps, some of which have already been reported in the answer to the previous question.

All the Italian regions of the Alpine arc are committed to the adoption of strategies and measures for the conservation of the cultural peculiarities of the various Alpine populations.

The rest of the questionnaire describes numerous initiatives carried out by the Italian Delegation in the Alpine Convention, the references to national and regional legislation and the projects underway at all levels for the development of strategies and tools for the pursuit of the socio-economic well-being of the Alpine population.

Below are some non-exhaustive examples of what is done at the level of education and training for the conservation and cultural and social promotion of Alpine populations.

In the **Lombardia** Region, an example of cultural and social promotion of the Alpine populations is the foundation of the University Centre of Excellence "**University of the Mountain**", an innovative training and research centre, specialized in the study and analysis of the complexities of the mountain territory. which arises from a long process resulting from the collaboration between local authorities (Municipality of Edolo, Consortium of BIM Municipalities of Valle Camonica, Province of Brescia, Union of Municipalities of the Orobic Bresciane Alps, and Mountain Community of Valle Camonica) and the University of Milan.

The Mountain University is in the heart of the Alps, in Valle Camonica, in Edolo in the province of Brescia: a small mountain town with less than 5,000 inhabitants. The degree course of the University of Milan has been active here since 1996, in "Enhancement and protection of the environment and the mountain territory" which over time has been able to gather the

consent and collaboration of the most important bodies and competent bodies on the specifics montane. Also in Edolo, the "Center for Applied Studies for Sustainable Management and Mountain Defense (Ge.S.Di.Mont.)" Of the University of Milan was born in 2006, with the task of coordinating and developing applied scientific research relating to the mountain territory.

In the **Valle d'Aosta** Region, another example is the **Courmayeur Mont Blanc Foundation**, which aims to deepen the current issues of law, society and economy, with an interdisciplinary approach, involving the best experts in a dimension of cultural volunteering. The studies, insights and initiatives have given rise to multi-year research programs which, with a multidisciplinary approach, have progressively favored the growth of an Alpine culture centre, with a network of relationships and collaborations that cover the entire arc. The organized initiatives are over 400, with over 3,500 personalities invited as speakers and an estimated audience participation of around 65,000 people. More than one hundred volumes have been published.

Another example is the "**Trentino School of Management (tsm | adm) Accademia della Montagna**", which carries out training activities for the promotion of culture and the development of the skills of mountain professionals. The actions are aimed at professionals, young people, enthusiasts and pay particular attention to the protection and enhancement of the Alpine territory, social inclusion, and the promotion of mountaineering, skiing and hiking activities.

In the rest of the questionnaire, other initiatives carried out at national and regional level will be dealt with in detail.

Any comments

2. Please tick any measures taken in the following areas to strengthen this shared responsibility.	Yes	No
Support for organizations committed to the transmission of these values	X	
Promotion and further development of partnerships between local and regional authorities in the Alps	X	
Activities aimed at allowing the population to access historical, economic and environmental knowledge of the Alpine living space	X	
Information and training programs on the Alpine Convention and its Protocols	X	
Joint projects	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
As previously pointed out in Italy, numerous events were held in cooperation between public bodies and private entities in the Alps, in a collaborative perspective and with a bottom-up approach for the development of adequate policies and shared solutions.		

Below is an example of activities aimed at allowing the population access to the historical, economic and environmental knowledge of the Alpine living space, in the **Lombardia** Region, which has activated a path of identification, protection and enhancement of the intangible cultural heritage through specific projects aimed at to favour their recognition, disclosure and transmission.

One of the tools adopted is *Intangible Search*, an online inventory of the intangible cultural heritage of the Alpine region between Italy and Switzerland. This inventory was created with the aim of spreading knowledge of the intangible cultural heritage. Created by the Lombardy Region in collaboration with local, national and international partners, it is based on the principles of the UNESCO Convention for the protection of intangible cultural heritage (2003).

The inventory makes accessible and disseminates the knowledge of "living goods", focusing not so much on monuments and handicrafts, but also on oral traditions, languages, narratives, performing arts, technical knowledge, social practices, festive ritual events. The cultural heritage of humanity, in fact, is much more than the monuments and objects that have been preserved over the centuries. The living cultural heritage includes in particular living expressions and traditions handed down from generation to generation, even more so in mountain areas. Through the 2003 Unesco Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the role of the national States and Regions involved, the intangible heritage is recognized as one of the priority themes of the international cooperation strategy.

The "immaterial research" is fed by the Lombardy Region in collaboration with national and international partners, which include local authorities, cultural systems, research organizations and is aimed at collecting and cataloging the main cultural emergencies of the Alpine regions. It is a systematic collection of cultural heritage which, to date, has about 300 documents available. Each document consists of information on the cultural practice presented, accompanied by some primary sources such as photographs or video material. The inventory is continuously updated by the various parties involved in the enhancement of intangible assets. The archive material can be consulted in various ways: by title, by author, by tag, by territory (Lombardy, Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige, Canton Ticino, Canton Grigioni, Canton Valsese), through the map and by "category": the intangible cultural heritage manifests itself through an infinite variety of expressions and forms that can be traced back to five categories: oral traditions and expressions, including language, as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage; the performing arts, such as music, dance and theater; social customs, ritual and festive events; knowledge and practices relating to nature and the universe; knowledge and techniques such as crafts and traditional work.

Every manifestation of the intangible cultural heritage is transformed and thus becomes a living heritage. The heritage of arts, knowledge, practices and knowledge guarantees a sense of identity and continuity to people, groups and communities, helps to understand one's world and to give meaning to one's life. It is an expression of cultural diversity among peoples and a testimony of human creativity.

Alpine and extra-alpine cooperation

3. Are linguistic understanding, dialogue, cooperation, and exchange of knowledge promoted

within the Alps, as well as between the Alpine and extra-Alpine populations as tools for enhancing mutual understanding and respect?			
Yes	X	No	
Give some example cases			
<p>Yes, there are numerous examples of promoting linguistic understanding, cooperation and the exchange of knowledge, both within the Alps and between the Alpine and extra-Alpine populations.</p> <p>As better expressed in the rest of the questionnaire, there are numerous tools for enhancing mutual understanding and respect.</p> <p>During the period of the Italian Presidency (2013-2014), following the International Workshop on Mountain Cooperation (Budoia 6-7 June 2013) which established a dedicated Task Force, various activities took place that strengthened cooperation with other international entities that deal with the sustainable development of mountain territories, in particular the historical collaboration with the Carpathian mountains has been strengthened through a series of activities carried out with UNEP Vienna as secretariat of the Carpathian Convention.</p> <p>The collaboration with UNEP has produced several results, among the most important: the drafting of a joint declaration on opportunities for local adaptation to climate change in mountain areas which was then also presented during the COP20 in Lima, two training sessions for officials Bosnians regarding the biodiversity (CBD) and climate (UNFCCC) negotiations in order to transfer the national policy and negotiation experience to other mountain territories.</p> <p>Further meetings which also saw the expansion of cooperation also to "minor" mountains such as the Apennines (Sarnano) and the Ardennes (Sedan), moreover the diplomatic representatives of the Andean countries (Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru) were invited to take part as observers in the XIII CA, in order to share the know-how gained under the Alpine and Carpathian Convention with other mountain ranges to promote sustainable development policies for the mountains.</p> <p>Below are some examples of cooperation projects both within the Alpine area and between the Alpine and non-Alpine areas.</p> <p>Within the Alps, a first example is part of the Interreg Alpine-Space program, the YOUrALPS project - Educating Youth for the Alps: (re) connecting Youth and Mountain heritage for an inspiring future in the Alps welcomes the challenge of the younger generations to the Alps.</p> <p>Twelve partners from five countries of the Alpine arc worked together to give organicity to the mountain education sector and to incorporate the values and knowledge of the mountains and the Alps in practices and also in training courses. Through exchanges, training courses, workshops and pilot projects, the partners outline an "Alpine School Model".</p> <p>Main results of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A transnational cooperation network dedicated to mountain education based on an online platform and a participatory database. The network will bring together schools, universities, non-formal learning actors and young people, and by enhancing resources, educational offers and promoting contacts. - A comparative report focused on innovative practices and strategies on mountain education in Alpine areas. - An Alpine School Model: a joint international methodological approach based on a charter of values, a brand, shared pedagogical tools and resources adapted to different levels of education. 			

The model will be disseminated to the political actors of the Alpine space through specific recommendations.

Specific objectives of the project

- Strengthen and support the mountain education sector of the Alpine area via the creation of a network of formal and informal education actors. These actors will share knowledge on an online platform dedicated to Mountain Education.
- Provide the younger generations with opportunities to increase their knowledge and sensitivity towards the Alpine natural and cultural heritage. Young students from the partner countries will be involved in the development of the model, actively participating in the project activities and in transalpine workshops. Pupils and students of the pilot schools will benefit from the opportunity to experience the Alpine School Model.
- Support the inclusion of mountain education in the training courses of the school system, promoting a transnational Alpine cultural identity via the structuring and development of a joint educational model: "Alpine school model" tested in the pilot areas.

Another example is the **Friuli Venezia Giulia** Region, which promotes the enhancement and knowledge of the historical and ethnographic intangible heritage of the Region and neighboring areas. (L.R. 16/2014 art.27 quater).

The relative Regulation (123 / PRES) was approved by decree of the President of the Region in implementation of the aforementioned article of law. On February 19, 2021, the regional council with resolution no. 229 approved the Public Notice for the enhancement of the historical and ethnographic heritage of Friuli Venezia Giulia to be realized through events and events, including transnational ones, aimed in particular at the theme of "borders" that vary over the centuries and the repercussions that this entails in the social and cultural life of peoples.

Another example, the event organized during the International Mountain Day in 2015 has already been mentioned: **Mountain Literature in the minor Alpine languages**, an event promoted by the Italian delegation as part of the "Reading the Mountains" initiative of the Alpine Convention. disseminating and making mountain literature known by placing the emphasis on the importance of enhancing the culture of the "Mountain People", in the awareness of the primary role they play in the safeguarding and sustainable development of the territory, also through the conservation of those traditions also understood as literary traditions (December 2015 FAO - Rome, 11 December 2015)

Another example is the **LexALP Information System**, which responds to the need for greater clarity and univocity of the terminology used for supranational communication and cooperation in the Alps expressed in particular by the Alpine Convention.

The project activities envisaged a contrasting comparison between the legal languages used by the states of the Alpine arc, with the subsequent harmonization of the main terms for supranational communication.

The LexALP Information System brings together the results of these activities by making available corpora, accurate and in-depth terminological collections and linguistic tools for four languages (French, Italian, German and Slovenian), six national systems (Austria, France, Germany, Italy) free of charge. , Slovenia and Switzerland) and the supranational legal systems of reference (Alpine Convention, European legislation and international law).

Universities, research institutes and public institutions participating in the LexALP project cover three broad areas of expertise, applied linguistics, law and information technology. Computational terminologists, jurists and linguists residing throughout the Alps collaborate to

<p>achieve common goals.</p> <p>The partners who contributed to the realization of the project are the following:</p> <p>Institute of Specialized Communication and Multilingualism - European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC research), lead partner, Bolzano (I)</p> <p>Department of Regional Affairs and Local Autonomies - Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Rome (I)</p> <p>Directorate for Environmental Research and Development - Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea, Rome (I)</p> <p>Directorate General - Legislative Service - Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Trieste (I)</p> <p>Sprachen & Dolmetscher Institut (SDI), Munich (D)</p> <p>Laboratoire Communication Langagière et Interaction Personne-Système (CLIPS) / Groupe d'Étude pour la Traduction Automatique - Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble 1, Grenoble (F)</p> <p>Groupes de recherche GREMUTS (ILCEA, UFR de Langues) et LIDILEM (UFR de Sciences du langage) - Université Stendhal, Grenoble 3, Grenoble (F)</p> <p>Terminology Section of the Swiss Federal Chancellery, Bern (CH)</p>
Any comments

4. Is sustainable regional development intensified through cooperation and exchange of experiences between the different cultural communities of the Alps and with other mountain areas of the world?			
Yes	X	No	
Give some examples cases			
<p>Collaborative relationships between populations are fostered through the development of cooperation projects at interregional and transnational level.</p> <p>For example, the Italian regions of the Alps participate in Territorial Cooperation Groups (EGTC). The European Group of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) was established with Regulation (EC) no. 1082/2006 and represents an absolute novelty in the implementation of the European regional and cohesion policy.</p> <p>EGTC EUREGIO WITHOUT BORDERS R.L. (FVG-VENETO-CARINZIA) It was created with the declared aim of facilitating and promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation between its members with the exclusive aim of strengthening economic and social cohesion. It is a tool that allows you to increase the specific weight of the Northern Adriatic area and the neighboring Alpine area, within broader community and European dynamics included in the concept of macro-regional strategies.</p> <p>EGTC Reno-Alps (Parc européen / European Park Alpes Maritimes Mercantour) was born from the thirty-year, consolidated and positive collaboration between the transboundary natural parks of the Maritime Alps and national du Mercantour.</p> <p>The Piemonte Region has become a member of the European Group of Reno-Alps Territorial</p>			

Cooperation since 2017 (with a pre-accession already starting from 2015). The presence and strategy of the Piedmont Region within the Reno-Alps EGTC are constantly coordinated with the other regions of the Northwest Logistics system, Liguria and Lombardy, which in the control room, on the proposal of the Piedmont Region, have they also decided to join, to bring common requests.

The main objectives of the Rhine-Alps EGTC can be summarized in 3 main strands:

- 1) improve the visibility of what is the most important transport corridor in Europe;
- 2) exert pressure towards the competent institutions in favor of the construction of the corridor in the shortest possible time and in the best possible way;
- 3) implement a common strategy, also through the implementation of projects that include members of the Rhine-Alps EGTC among its participants.

EGTC GO (Municipality of Gorizia - Municipality of Nova Gorica - Municipality of Šempeter-Vrtojba) The general objective is to promote and support territorial cooperation, extended to all activities related to the regional development of the area in question and to the strengthening of economic cohesion and social among the members in the area of the three municipalities. The EGTC GO is the only innovative tool to proceed in the development path of an advanced cross-border cooperation, which allows to reach the strategic objectives of the three cities.

It was established to identify and address common challenges that can make the territory of the cross-border area stronger. Through a participatory process, which also involved citizens and experts in various sectors such as transport, energy, health, culture and training, urban planning and sport, the strategic plan of the EGTC GO was prepared, based on three pillars: 1. Promotion of heritage tourism and cross-border natural resources;

2. Sharing of health services;

3. Gorizia-Nova Gorica-Šempeter-Vrtojba railway junction.

EGTC EUREGIO TIROLO ALTO ADIGE TRENINO The Euroregion was established in 2011 on the basis of EU Regulation no. 1082 of 5 July 2006 as the second EGTC in Italy (the first in Austria) and as the twenty-first of the European Union in the awareness of the process of European integration but already in 2009 a common office was opened in Bolzano. The EGTC, as a European Group of Territorial Cooperation, has the objective of facilitating and promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional collaboration between its members. It represents a population of about 1.8 million inhabitants on a total area of 26,255 km², made up of the two Provinces with special statute of Bolzano-Alto Adige and Trento as well as the Land member of the Austrian Confederation Tyrol.

Over time, the Euregio Tyrol-Alto Adige-Trentino has increasingly become a crossroads and at the same time a development platform for different cultures, languages, values and mentalities that meet, integrate and enrich each other. The influence of Europe has spread everywhere and the opportunity to embrace the principles and therefore the benefits of cross-border cooperation in a cultural, political and economic sense is grasped with conviction by the population and local institutions. Collaboration across borders between neighboring provinces ensures that surplus value is generated throughout the territory and is strengthened in view of the challenges of economic growth and the globalization process. In practice, the Euregio Tirolo-Alto Adige-Trentino operates on a rich range of activities that affect the lives of its citizens in a more or less direct way in the fields of communication, culture, training and youth, as well as research and development, economy, tourism. up to mobility, health, environment and energy.

To foster mutual understanding and collaborative relationships between Alpine and extra-

Alpine populations, projects within the **Alpine Space transnational cooperation program** (Interreg-Alpine-Space) 2014-2020 must also be considered. There are numerous projects that see the participation of the Italian territories:

SCALE(up)Alps - Improvement of the ecosystem of start-ups in the Alpine space - Partner: Chamber of Commerce of Torino (capofila); Metropolitan City of Torino; Veneto Innovazione.

DesAlps - Development of an ecosystem favorable to the application of innovation strategies based on Design Thinking - Partner: Metropolitan City of Torino; Chamber of Commerce of Padova;

SMART-SPACE - Development of strategies to make manufacturing smart in Alpine areas - Partner: Chamber of Commerce Venezia Rovigo Delta-Lagunare (Lead Partner); AFIL - Associazione Fabbrica Intelligente Lombardia; CSP Innovazione nelle ICT;

AlpSib - Development of new investment models with social impact - Partner: Associazione Next Level; FinPiemonte

IMEAS - Development of multilevel energy models integrated in the Alpine space - Partner: ENEA Vercelli (capofila); Fondazione per l'Ambiente Fenoglio

ASTUS - Development of solutions in the transport sector and spatial planning to reduce the CO2 impacts associated with daily travel in the Alps - Partner: UNCEM Piemonte; Consorzio BIM Piave di Belluno

AlpFoodway - Development model for peripheral areas based on the enhancement of the Alpine gastronomic heritage - Partner: Regione Lombardia; Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta; Comunità Montana Valle Camonica; TSM Trentino School of Management; Associazione Dislivelli (Piemonte)

Links4Soils - Strengthening the links between expertise and governance at various levels and sectors for the development of sustainable soil management strategies - Partner: University of Torino

ASIS - Development and promotion of social innovation in the Alpine space - Partner: City of Torino; Chamber of Commerce of Torino

AlpBioEco - Enhancement of the innovative bioeconomic potentials of organic food and botanical extracts - Partner: Italian Chamber of Commerce of Germany (ITKAM); NOI Techpark Südtirol/Alto Adige; Envipark Spa Torino

trAILS - Development of a common and transferable strategy for the transformation of Alpine industrial landscapes - Partner: University of Verona; Polytechnic of Milano; LAMORO Piemonte

CIRCULAR4.0 - strengthening of digital technologies for the transition to the circular economy - Partner: Veneto Innovazione SPA; Fondazione Torino Wireless; Confindustria Bergamo; CC Venezia Rovigo

HEALPS 2 - use of natural resources for the development of innovative tourism products - Partner: CNR STIIMA; Protected areas of Ossola; MOXOFF SpA

LinkingAlps - promoting the change from an individual transport system to a low-carbon mobility model - Partner: South Tyrolean Transport Structures; ARIA Lombardia; Fondazione LINKS; Metropolitan city of Torino

ALPTREES - sustainable use and management of non-native trees in the Alpine space - Partner: Comune di Trento; LAMORO Langhe Monferrato e Roero - Società consortile a responsabilità limitata Agenzia di sviluppo del territorio;

<p>LUIGI - environmental infrastructure network (GIS) between rural and urban areas for sustainable economic development, based on ecosystem services - Partner: Metropolitan City of Milano; Fondazione Lombardia Ambiente; Città Metropolitana di Torino; EURAC Research.⁴</p> <p>Digital Agenda of the Alps (2014) Infrastructures for Information and Communication Technology (ITC) play an important role in the new society as a means of inclusion and competitiveness for the population, for commercial activities, administration and tourism. To date, broadband connection has therefore become a necessity to avoid the exclusion of a part of the population, this is even more true in remote mountain areas, and therefore overcoming the digital divide in the Alps is considered an important goal by the Alpine Convention.</p> <p>The Alpine Digital Agenda Task Force was set up with the aim of analyzing the digital divide in the Alps and promoting the development of a Digital Agenda tailored to the needs of the Alpine population, in this sense it is implementing a document that analyzes the main issues related to ITC in the Alps and proposes some solutions and best practices.</p> <p>The aim of the study is to encourage the development of broadband in remote and high mountain areas in order to offer advanced services both in the social field, such as telemedicine or distance education services, and in the economic field, for example through the structuring of networks capable of supporting the development of start-ups so as to encourage the stay or return of the youth population to the mountains. The document also proposes to standardize the digital services of the public administration in order to provide innovative and useful services to populations living in isolated areas.</p> <p>The priorities identified in the report form the basis of a proposal for an Alpine Digital Agenda that is proposed to be adopted at the 13th Alpine Conference in Torino.</p>
Any comments

5. Please check with a cross any measures taken in the following areas to promote mutual understanding and respect (question 3) or sustainable regional development (question 4).	Yes	No
Creation or consolidation and development of cross-border and interregional cooperation networks.	X	
Activities aimed at mutual knowledge as well as the exchange of information and sharing of experiences, with respect to specific issues.	X	
Carrying out of events, exhibitions, publications, film productions and research works.	X	
Creation and dissemination of multilingual publications in the languages of the Alps.	X	
Projects in the context of international mountain partnerships.	X	
Intra-alpine, transalpine and international cross-border exchange programs and projects.	X	

⁴ <https://www.regione.piemonte.it/web/temi/fondi-progetti-europei/programmi-progetti-europei/cooperazione-territoriale-europea-piemonte/progetti-cooperazione-transnazionale-spazio-alpino-territorio-piemontese>

Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>Below are some non-exhaustive examples of some initiatives carried out by the Regions of the Italian Alps.</p> <p>Cultural initiatives are carried out in all the Regions of the Italian Alps in order to promote mutual understanding and respect, both within the Regions and Provinces where there are historical linguistic minorities, such as in the Trentino-Alto Adige Region, and in the border areas, such as the Valle d'Aosta and Friuli Venezia Giulia.</p> <p>The Autonomous Province of Trento, as will be seen better below, has included a "territorial" criterion in its system for the protection and enhancement of linguistic minorities, that is, the purposes of protection and promotion of languages and cultures, contained in the legislative acts sectoral, are prosecuted in favour of the Ladin minority residing in the municipalities of the Val di Fassa and the numerically less consistent Mòchena minorities (in the three German-speaking municipalities of the Val dei Mocheni) and Cimbra (in the territory of the municipality of Luserna).</p> <p>For example, as regards the holding of events for the purpose of mutual understanding and respect, the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region supports the organization of events and the management of cultural and educational activities for the purpose of preserving and enhancing culture and traditions. associations of Istria, Rijeka and Dalmatia by the associations of Istrian, Rijeka and Dalmatian refugees based in the regional territory, as well as by the federation of the same promoted, with regard to the role played, also in collaboration with state and regional bodies and institutions. With D. P.reg. n ° 53 d.d. March 31, 2020, the new regulation was issued on the annual financing of activities of regional importance of associations of Istrian, Rijeka and Dalmatian refugees based in the regional territory, and of the federation of the same, in implementation of article 27, paragraph 4, of the regional law 11 August 2014, n. 16 (Regional rules on cultural activities).</p> <p>Furthermore, Nova Gorica and Gorizia were proclaimed European Capital of Culture 2025 on 18 December 2020.</p> <p>Nova Gorica has presented a candidacy which has its strong point in cross-border cooperation with Gorizia to enhance, in the best possible way, a unique cross-border territory.</p> <p>The title presupposes the realization of a cultural program lasting an entire calendar year, endowed with originality and a high-quality level.</p> <p>The deadline for submitting the first cultural program (the so-called bid book) expired on 31 December 2019. The proposals were examined in February 2020 by a jury of independent experts, who pre-selected the applications from Nova Gorica and Gorizia, Ljubljana, Piran and Ptuj. The second bid book of 100 pages was officially delivered on November 24, 2020.</p> <p>Another example regarding the carrying out of research projects that can promote sustainable regional development is the Turin and the Alps project, which starts from a project conceived by the Dislivelli Association to become a Program of the Compagnia di San Paolo declined in an interdisciplinary manner and applied to Piemontese, Valle d'Aosta and Ligurian mountains with the identification of concrete interventions and objectives. An ad hoc call aims to collect research and feasibility studies on innovative operating models, good management practices and territorial planning, experiences of community revitalization and economic, social and cultural</p>		

development in the Alps. The research projects participating in the call will have to propose solutions that promote the relaunch of the economy and the improvement of the quality of life of the inhabitants of the Alps, in particular young and old.

The program also intends to support local authorities and institutions to facilitate access to European funding instruments useful for economic and rural growth in the Alpine areas. In a period of progressive contraction of public resources, in fact, the European sources of funding, in particular for the alpine and rural world, the European LEADER project (Liaison entre Actions de Développement de l'Economie Rurale), are the most interesting and sought-after. Therefore, intervening to strengthen local skills and increase the attractiveness of our Alpine area is considered by the Company as a clear priority in this area as well.

Turin and the Alps assigns a central role to cultural activities, with particular attention to the young target, focusing on the creative potential of the Alpine environment and its ability to be fully contemporary, in the dual profile of an inspiring context (the views on the mountain) and of place of cultural production (the views from the mountain).

In order to strengthen knowledge and sensitivity among those involved in the mountains, a significant commitment to communication is also envisaged, in particular on the web, where subjects, ideas and information will find voice starting from three ways of approaching the mountain: living it, get to know her and establish an open and continuous dialogue with her.

The funded initiatives were carried out in the mountain areas of Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta and Liguria, with the identification of concrete interventions and objectives, through the publication of the following calls:

1. calls for cultural projects in the Alpine territories, which concerned cultural activities, aimed at a young target, focusing attention on the creative potential of the Alpine environment and its ability to be fully contemporary, in the dual profile of an inspiring context (the gazes on the mountain) and of a place of cultural production (the gazes from the mountain);
2. call for applications for applied research projects, which aimed to collect research and feasibility studies on innovative operating models, good management practices and territorial planning, experiences of community revitalization and economic, social and cultural development in the Alps;
3. calls for technical assistance in the elaboration of local development strategies, through these the program was intended to support local bodies and institutions to facilitate access to European funding instruments, useful for the economic and rural growth of the Alpine areas. A priority described in the calls is the intervention to enhance local skills and increase the attractiveness of the Alpine area.

Another example was born between the National Mountain Museum of Turin and the Musée alpin of Chamonix-Mont-Blanc which give life to the **iAlp - Interactive Alpine Museums** project, to enhance and promote a priceless cultural heritage. It was presented in 2017 in Turin, in the prestigious setting of the Hall of Emblems of the National Museum of the mountain "Duca degli Abruzzi", the project sees an ambitious operation that unites the historic Turin CAI museum with the Communauté de Communes de la Vallée de Chamonix-Mont-Blanc and its Musée alpin. The operation, as part of the Alcotra Italy-France 2014-2020 territorial cooperation program, thanks to which the project received a total funding of 2,550,000 euros from the European Union, sees Turin and Chamonix-Mont-Blanc unite and networking with the world: the National Mountain Museum and the Musée Alpin will build a single large digital bank into which their conspicuous cultural heritage will converge.

With this precious synergy, we intend to promote the communication and enhancement of the

cultural resources of the two historic cross-border Alpine institutions, first of all thanks to the introduction of digital technologies and the sharing of operational methodologies, which will allow a more incisive reorganization of the collections and the expansion of museum activities. The digital aspect is perhaps the most innovative, and will allow the two realities to leave their respective physical spaces to dialogue with an even wider audience than the current one, to reach not only professionals and researchers, but also the thousands of enthusiasts of mountain history and culture scattered throughout the two countries and throughout the world.

Another important example is the *PlurAlps* Project, as part of the Interreg Alpine Space Program, with the aim of developing the culture of hospitality.

The project will allow municipalities to better engage in social planning taking into account aspects of cultural diversity and the quality of life of all citizens.

Various subjects within the communities - registry office, social services, companies, associations, religious organizations, cultural and sports structures, etc. - are among the first points of contact for newcomers. They provide initial contact and guidance. Together with the actors and networks at the municipal and regional level, the Pluralps project analyses and verifies how services and hospitality offers can facilitate coexistence in a pluralist society.

Overall, 75 reception and integration projects from all over the Alps were collected by PlurAlps. Of these, 41 entered the Alpine Pluralism Award competition which was first organized in 2018. The other 34 projects were analyzed to identify the following: What social, cultural, economic or political problems do they face? Which target groups do they target? Why are some projects successful while others fail? The project highlights the relevance of cultural heritage to accommodate cultures and projects: culture plays a central role in the discussion of cultural reception, integration and migration, both for newcomers and for locals and institutions. Where people from different cultural backgrounds meet, habits and customs are exchanged, adapted, maintained or even rejected.

Initiatives on intangible and tangible cultural heritage can contribute to achieving social cohesion in an increasingly pluralistic society. Cultural heritage and the arts are useful for overcoming distances in integration, creating images and talking about sensitive topics without using any formal language.

Transparency and participation

6. Is the important role of civil society recognized in the commitment to sustainable development of the Alpine space, is maximum transparency promoted in relations between the public administration and the population, and is the participation of the population in public decisions affecting society encouraged?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

The Italian Constitution does not contain any explicit reference to participatory democracy, and bases its democratic character in Article 1 (in particular in its paragraph 2), which governs the principle of popular sovereignty. This is concretely expressed through the instruments of representative democracy and direct democracy, explicitly provided for in the constitutional text. However, a constitutional link to participatory democracy is identified in art. 3 co. 2 of the Constitution which provides "... (of) the effective participation of all workers in the political, economic and social organization of the country".

Furthermore, art. 118 co. 4 of the Constitution states that "State, Regions, Metropolitan Cities,

Provinces and Municipalities favor the autonomous initiative of citizens, individuals and associates, to carry out activities of general interest, on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity". This is the principle of horizontal subsidiarity that opens the way for collaborative forms between citizens and administrations in the context of the management of tangible and concrete activities, rather than in the development of general regulatory acts.

The Statute of the **Piemonte** Region denotes a strong focus on citizen participation. Already in the preamble it recognizes that "through local authorities, functional autonomies, social, cultural, political and economic formations, citizens' participation in legislative and administrative functions is achieved according to the principle of subsidiarity". In principle, it establishes in particular in art. 2 co. 2 that "the Region recognizes that the participation of citizens in political choices, in the legislative and administrative function and in the control of public authorities is an essential condition for the development of democratic life and for the protection of the rights of equality and freedom of all citizens ". It also includes an entire title, the sixth, specifically dedicated to participating institutions. In addition to the traditional institutions of direct democracy, it also provides for an institution more relevant to the definition of participatory democracy elaborated here, the popular consultation (art. 86).

The Statute of the **Liguria** Region in the list of principles that inspire regional action replicates the principle of horizontal subsidiarity provided for in the Constitution pursuant to art. 118 co. 4 (art. 2, co. 2 point c): "recognizes and supports the autonomous initiative of citizens and social formations for carrying out activities of general interest and applies the principle of subsidiarity as an institutional method of legislative action and administrative and in the relationship with local authorities, communities and functional autonomies ". In addition, it contains an ad hoc garment dedicated to popular participation. This however governs the traditional institutions of direct democracy. Only in principle does it establish, in art. 6, which the Region recognizes and promotes the participation of citizens, residents and organized social entities (paragraph 1).

Among the qualifying elements of the **Lombardia** Region, the Statute recognizes that of participation (art. 2 co. 3). It also dedicates, again in the part on general principles, an entire article to participation (art. 8). This is not limited to identifying the participatory principles that inspire the Region in its action, but goes into more detail by providing in paragraphs 2 and 3, on the one hand, that "the Regional Council and the Executive, within the scope of their respective competences, consult the representatives of interests on regulatory texts and planning acts, with particular regard to the measures that have economic effects "and, on the other, that" the Region promotes participatory processes by enhancing autonomous initiatives, those of organized social subjects and those of skills widespread in the regional community ". This is further specified in art. 36 dedicated to "participation in the legislative procedure". Then there is Title V, entirely dedicated to participation and subsidiarity.

The Statute of the **Veneto** Region also includes among the fundamental principles (art. 5) that of citizen participation. It also dedicates the entire art. 9 to this principle. The co. 1 reads: "The Region promotes participation in the processes of determining their legislative and administrative choices by citizens, social groups, users and associations that pursue the protection of general interests". Art. 22 also regulates the participation of economic and labor organizations in regional regulatory activities.

Another example is the **Autonomous Province of Trento**, which regulates youth policy according to guidelines to promote and enhance the whole territory, develop youth policies together with young adults, dialogue between young people and institutional actors. More specific examples are structured initiatives such as "zone plans" which are based on exchanges and discussions between municipal representatives, NGOs and the wider public.

A recent example of promoting democratic participation throughout the Alps is the Interreg

<p>Alpine-Space GaYA (Governance And Youth in the Alps) project</p> <p>In collaboration with eight partners, the GaYA Alpine Space project aims to increase the quality of democracy in the Alps, while improving the ability of decision makers and policy makers to engage citizens, especially young people as future leaders in local democratic systems.</p> <p>GaYA tests and provides innovative methods and tools for participation and decision making in local communities and will create a common framework. This enables local communities to address the challenges of social cohesion and long-term regional development.</p> <p>GaYA is structured in numerous activities carried out within the time frame of two years (2016-2018). The final goal of the project is to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge regarding the adoption in decision-making processes of innovative tools and methods of democratic participation, among political actors, public officials and young adults.</p>
Any additional comments

7. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields to promote transparency in relations between the public administration and the population or to solicit the participation of the population in public decisions.	Yes	No
Promotion of training and updating of decision-making bodies about participation and mediation	X	
Support for local Agenda 21 processes	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>With regard to the promotion and updating of decision-making bodies on the issue of democratic participation, see the answer to the previous question and the recent adjustments to the regional statutes described above.</p> <p>Today in Italy there are numerous administrations which, by signing the Aalborg Charter and joining the European Sustainable Cities Campaign, are promoting local Agenda 21 processes in their own territory.</p> <p>A decisive impulse in this direction comes from the birth of the National Coordination of Local Agendas 21 in 1999 in Ferrara, recently transformed into an Association. The Association plays a leading role in disseminating, enhancing and monitoring the experiences of local Agenda 21 underway and in promoting partnership and the exchange of information between local authorities. One of the most effective tools available to the Association is the dissemination, to all municipalities, provinces and regions, of the Italian translation of the Newsletter of the European Sustainable Cities Campaign, which contains a section specifically dedicated to our country.</p> <p>Another significant example of participatory processes in Italy are the River Contracts, which are widely applied in the Alpine area. This is the signing of an agreement that allows "to adopt a system of rules in which the criteria of public utility, economic performance, social value,</p>		

environmental sustainability intervene equally in the search for effective solutions for the requalification of a river basin" (definition of the 2nd World Water Forum).

With the promotion of a River Contract it is intended to implement the transition from environmental protection policies to broader landscape-environmental resource management policies, acting in multiple sectors:

- protection and protection of natural environments;
- water protection;
- defense of the soil;
- protection from hydraulic danger;
- protection of natural beauty.

The River Contract (D.Lgs 152/2006) can help build "from below" in an incremental form, starting from specific valley contexts, the transition from sectoral policies to mitigate the hydraulic and polluting danger to integrated policies of ecological regeneration, of social and landscape use of the system fluvial. The River Contracts constitute a particular "family" of participatory processes as they allow the experimentation of inter-scalar or multilevel forms of activation of local actors.

II. Cultural diversity

Tangible and intangible cultural heritage

1. The tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the knowledge handed down are studied, preserved and developed, in particular as regards the forms of landscape structuring and the architectural and historical-artistic heritage, including the traditional working methods used in agricultural, forestry and artisanal production. and industrial?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

Yes, the tangible and intangible heritage of the Alpine populations is being studied and preserved throughout the Italian Alps.

An example is the conservation of a traditional activity that has become a heritage such as that of **transhumance**, i.e. the seasonal movement of livestock in the Alps, in the spring from the valley floors to the high mountain alpine pastures and in the autumn their descent, on foot, as a more economical way. to move livestock but above all as a traditional practice, part of the farmer's "history". The route takes from 10 to 20 days, and is linked to the availability of the lawns, the grassy consistency, the weather and any obstacles on the way (traffic, crossing streams). Today in the Lombardy Region there are still about 60 transhumant sheep farmers: tools, practices, uses and knowledge are an articulated and complex cultural heritage that has its roots in ancient skills and traditions.

This recognition by the institutions makes the traditional practice fundamental for the maintenance of mountain landscapes and the conservation of values.

In 2000, the Association of Lombard Shepherds was born to represent breeders in dialogue with public institutions and promote activities and typical products, such as woolen clothes, salted and spiced meat (bérgna), castrated sheep meat. From here, there are numerous steps forward:

the Parco del Serio Regional Consortium has strengthened its collaboration with transhumants, granting access to the river during difficult periods in which flocks are stationed in the valley; the Parco delle Colline (BS) has experimented with initiatives to reserve grazing areas dedicated to sheep; in numerous livestock fairs (Clusone BG and Rovato BS) awareness raising actions are proposed and in particular in Rovato in 2010, a conference was organized on the theme of transhumance, its problems and future prospects. In 2015, on the initiative of a local action group from Molise, joined by shepherds from numerous other regions where transhumance is still practiced, an action supported by Italy, Austria and Greece was launched to nominate transhumance as a heritage immaterial of humanity to UNESCO recognition.

The custody of the values and awareness of this work often occurs through oral transmission. On the contrary, the transmission of knowledge of traditional practices occurs only through learning in the field. Very often it is an inherited activity within families where children learn by following in the footsteps of their fathers. Some pastors are passionately committed to promoting their image and their work and they do so with new creative ways of expression. There are many moments of strengthening cultural identity, among which the most important is the shearing of the sheep in September, a real festival in which the transhumant shepherd returns to his native village to shear the flocks, helped by his family and countrymen and in which the return of the newly strengthened community is celebrated. Enhancing the role of the shepherd, making transhumance an element of attraction for the area and not just an agricultural practice, was the key innovative element. Promoting close knowledge of the world of transhumants, the experience and development of sustainable tourism offers related to the world of pastoralism are elements of change and strengthening of the heritage.

Another example are the so-called “**terrazzamenti**”. The terraces - called bands or plains - already appear a few meters above sea level, on the outskirts of the coastal villages, to climb hills and mountains, taming and shaping the slopes. The terraces cover 60% of the entire **Liguria** region for over 40,000 km in length.

Dry stone walls, which have recently become part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, play a vital role in the prevention of floods (avalanches in the Alps) and in combating the erosion of the territory by putting a stop to the fragility of the slopes, stemming the expansion of the forest and essentially to prevent hydrogeological instability.

Dry stone walls are the first step to prevent the mountain from falling into the city. In these areas it is necessary to safeguard the territory, first by maintaining the terraces.

In the Western Alps the traditional dry-stone walls are built primarily for the terracing of the slope, thus smoothing the slope of the cultivated areas. In this way the wall follows the level curves, that is, its course is horizontal: walking on it does not go up or down. Depending on whether the terracing was done for a field (now generally a lawn) or for a vineyard, the upper surface is moderately sloped or frankly horizontal.

Another significant example is that of collective properties, which survive in many European locations: neighborhoods, rules, participations, factions are some of the names that distinguish them.

The “**Regola**” is an ancient institution widespread in parts of Veneto and Trentino, particularly in the Dolomites area, in which the original families of the place, owners (by allodio) in an undivided and collective way of the landed assets, are called to directly manage these ownership through the statutory bodies. Currently they fall within the discipline of the regional law.

In Cortina there are the *Regole d'Ampezzo*. Here woods and pastures have been the collective property of the original community for centuries.

The ownership and collective use of forest and pasture resources represented for many centuries the essential source of the means of survival for the Ampezzo population, it also regulated the relationship between man and the environment, allowed a sustainable use of the natural territory of the valley.

This system of ancient origins establishes collective rights to enjoy and manage the territory: the lands cannot be sold or divided: they are a unitary natural, cultural and economic heritage, a jointly owned heritage, to be passed on to children, where conservative use and productive coincide.

A further example of the conservation of territorial peculiarities is that of the “**Maso chiuso**”, which is an agricultural area with housing units characterized by indivisibility. The “Maso chiuso” represents a unit that ensures the livelihoods of a single peasant family. The local commission for closed farms supervises the indivisibility of the property, and any changes to the structure must be authorized by this body. The closed farm law thus avoids the fragmentation of farms in the hereditary succession. The survival of farms in **South Tyrol** is also due to the closed farm law.

On the occasion of International Mountain Day, 11 December 2019, Unesco has registered “**Alpinismo**”(mountaineering) in the List of intangible cultural heritage of humanity. The candidacy was presented by the Alpine Clubs of Italy, France and Switzerland.

A step that at first glance may be surprising, as the list mainly includes traditions and customs that are rare and deserving of protection.

Unesco defines the *alpinismo* as "the art of climbing peaks and rock faces in the high mountains - in all seasons, on rocky or icy terrain". In addition to the necessary technical and intellectual skills, it also highlights the ethical and aesthetic aspects of the mountaineering tradition that has developed in the Alps. This includes the principle of the bond between climbing partners as a symbol of team spirit, as well as mutual help and personal responsibility - but also the duty not to leave traces on the mountain.

There are numerous other examples concerning the Unesco "world heritage" awards, such as the natural site of the **Dolomites**, declared a World Heritage Site since 2009 and which includes nine mountain systems in the Italian Alps, a series of mountain landscapes unique in the world and exceptional natural beauty: Pelmo and Croda da Lago (Belluno); Marmolada (Belluno and Trento); Pale di San Martino, San Lucano, Belluno Dolomites, Vette Feltrine (Belluno, Trento); Friulian and Oltre Piave Dolomites (Pordenone, Udine); Northern Dolomites (Belluno, Bolzano), a mountain group made up of four main areas: the Sesto-Cadini Dolomites, the Braies-Senes-Fanes groups with the Tofane, the Cristallo and the Cadorine Dolomites; Puez - Odle (Bolzano); Sciliar, Catinaccio and Latemar (Trento, Bolzano); Brenta Dolomites (Trento); Bletterbach (Bolzano).

The UNESCO recognition rewards the extraordinary landscape and naturalistic value of the Dolomites, their charm and their beauty. The "Dolomite landscape", in fact, which represents the model of a specific mountain landscape, is characterized by a wide range of colors due to the contrasts between the soft green bands of the woods and meadows and the rocky peaks, extremely varied both in shape and for components: it goes from vertical walls up to 1600 meters high to deep gullies from 500 to 1500 meters. Many Dolomite peaks measure over 3000 meters above sea level and modestly sized glaciers and perennial snowfields are found at relatively low altitudes.

Another example, in 2019, after a process that began in 2008, the site "**The Hills of Prosecco di Conegliano and Valdobbiadene**" was inscribed in the World Heritage List as a cultural landscape, where the work of the winemakers helped to create a unique scenario. The UNESCO

<p>World Heritage Site, is located in Veneto, in a small hilly area in the province of Treviso, where the positive interaction between man and the environment has created a unique cultural landscape.</p> <p>In addition, the candidacy of Mont Blanc as a UNESCO World Heritage Site was presented in Rome, with a joint action by the Municipalities of Courmayeur and Chamonix, for the recognition of the "Roof of Italy" as a "Cultural Landscape".</p>
Any comments

2. Are the support of modern culture guaranteed as well as the protection and development of regional and local traditions in terms of expressive and representative forms (customs, literature, music, dance, theater, forms of communication, etc.)?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give some examples			
<p>Among the fundamental principles of the Italian Constitution is Article 9 which literally states: "The Republic promotes the development of culture and scientific and technical research. It protects the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the nation. "</p> <p>At national and regional level, the legislation provides for the promotion of culture as well as the protection of the historical and artistic heritage and the landscape, which is also part of the cultural heritage of the places.</p> <p>They are reported below in this part II. Cultural diversity of the questionnaire some examples, not exhaustive, of initiatives in the areas of the Italian Alps.</p> <p>The horn of the Alps is counted among the oldest and most unusual instruments of Alpine music. Throughout history, the horn of the Alps has lived in silence, almost exclusively as an instrument for shepherds.</p> <p>For a long time, it was a work tool used by shepherds to communicate from one mountain pasture to another and with people in the valley. This simple hollow wooden instrument spreads harmonious music, whose natural notes arouse in listeners a deep feeling of union with their land. Despite its simplicity, the horn of the Alps is a difficult and "intense" instrument, which transmits feelings of joy, expressing peace and quiet. Having almost entirely lost its original function in the mountains, it has won people's hearts as a musical instrument.</p> <p>But the mountain musical tradition is rich in particular musical instruments, mainly wind or string, not necessarily as simple as a flute or a wooden flute.</p> <p>In the mountains both the terracotta ocarinas were played, but also the piva, or musa, a sort of bagpipe typical of the Piemontese Alps, but not only. And then there is the hurdy-gurdy, the diatonic accordion, the mandolin, the basset, and various ethnic percussions, including some types of hollow pumpkins.</p> <p>Ballroom dances such as waltzes, paris, polkas, mazurkas and folk songs are played with these instruments. From Piemonte to Friuli, passing through the Apennines of Piacenza or Bologna, there are many bands that dedicate themselves with passion and success to the rediscovery of mountain folk music.</p>			

Nowadays there are dozens of folk-dance groups in the Dolomite valleys. In South Tyrol alone there are more than 50.

The traditional music typical of **Trentino**, like the rest of other regions of the Alpine arc, is the mountain song; it is a way of singing and interpreting life events that has always existed; the songs were born in the evening "filò", when, in the absence of television, we met in the evening to chat and spend time in friendship, and were handed down from father to son through the generations. The official birth of mountain song can be fixed in the year 1926, when a group of passionate friends gave birth to the SOSAT Choir, a name later changed to SAT Choir; the pieces, until then with a single voice, were thus readapted and "harmonized" in the classical structure with 4 male voices: the other three "contour" voices were added to the main melody, generally performed by the first tenors, the other three "contour" voices were added: second tenors, baritones and basses. Since 1926 many choirs have followed the initial example of the SAT Choir, to the point that nowadays almost every Trentino community has its own choir, each with its own characteristics and peculiarities.

Even today, ancient customs and traditions are kept alive throughout **South Tyrol**. Peasant, popular or religious customs, handed down for centuries and varying from country to country.

Agriculture still plays an essential role today, which is why the Harvest Festival in South Tyrol is so important. It is celebrated every year in October with a solemn procession, accompanied by the musical band. On this occasion we thank for the good harvest and pray that the following year will be fine.

The patronal festivals take place in a different way. Here South Tyrolean specialties are served, the musicians entertain the dancers and for the rest, fun is also in the foreground. The highlight of these celebrations is the "Kirta Michl", a rag doll dressed in traditional clothing who, perched on top of a tree, watches over the festive hustle and bustle.

In the **Piemonte** Region, the integrated enhancement plan "Susa Valley. Treasures of Alpine Art and Culture" was developed, created as a tool for the management of cultural heritage, thanks to the contribution, support, creativity and planning of bodies and institutions, operators culture and hospitality, it has become an authentic laboratory of culture and innovation, the result of common and shared work, aimed at the local development of the Susa Valley territory.

The enhancement plan deals with multiple activities related to the animation and organization of the system, promotes communication, training, knowledge and research actions, with a view to improving the use of cultural and naturalistic heritage, also raising awareness among operators economic and promoting integration with cultural operators.

The Management Body of the Protected Areas of the Cottian Alps, as manager of the natural parks of the Gran Bosco di Salbertrand, Orsiera Rocciavrè, Laghi di Avigliana and the Colombano Roman Ecomuseum, as well as producer of the Mountain Potato of the Province of Turin, participates actively involved in the activities of the Enhancement Plan, he is a member of the Control Room, and coordinator of the "Culture, Traditions, Food and Wine and Environment" working group. It makes its skills available in the context of training, research and use of the environmental and cultural heritage.

With their own initiatives, the visitor centers and information points spread across the territory promotes and fosters knowledge of the environmental, historical and cultural heritage of the Valley.

For other examples, see the answers to the following questions.

Any comments

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3. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields to study, preserve or develop the tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the knowledge handed down or to ensure the support of modern culture as well as the protection and development of regional and local traditions regarding forms of expression and representative.	Yes	No
Creation and expansion of local documentation centers of cultural and natural material and immaterial heritage and their networking	X	
Conservation and recovery of structures and buildings of historical and architectural value	X	
Offers of professional training for the transmission of historical craft technologies in the Alpine area	X	
Support for innovative forms of work and cultural expression	X	
Information and training programs and projects (courses, competitions, experimental laboratories, etc.) for the transmission of knowledge handed down and traditions	X	
Promotion of the cooperation of private or public museums, training institutes and private entities	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>An example in the Lombardia Region is the MARAÈA project, which in the <i>Camuno</i> dialect means “wonder”, promoted by the “Valle Camonica Cultural District” and participated by various associations and cultural operators in the area. It is a digital archive of the memory of the Valle Camonica, created with the aim of representing the rich intangible cultural heritage of local communities in a coherent, narrative and evocative way. The archive contains characters, faces, stories and traditions of communities, music and documents which, through some reading paths, are brought to the attention of the inhabitants. It is a participatory and constantly evolving process, which always lives on new projects, new reinterpretations, evenings and entertainment events to keep alive and stimulate the memory in the actuality of everyday life. The most recent rediscovery and enhancement projects concern accordion folk music and taverns intended as places of the most ancient rural sociality, traditional dances, ancient collective games.</p> <p>With its various documentation initiatives, the project pursues the fundamental objective of continuing to preserve and represent the intangible heritage of Valle Camonica, in the overall context of the international promotion activities of the Intangible Search initiative of the Lombardia Region. MARAÈA aims above all to solicit participatory activities around the heritage, to root the intervention of custody within the social life of the communities. Local communities are questioned about the practices and knowledge connected to their most intimate nature, such as musical, religious, playful traditions, and those related to rural and mountain life. All the materials produced by this research activity are registered, catalogued, interconnected in categories of reference and made available for consultation in a living</p>		

platform of the images and memory of an entire territory, which is constantly implemented with research, new productions, new findings. of written and visual documents, emblematic of the more recent history of the Valle Camonica.

One of the latest interventions implemented is the initiative "Where has our music gone?", to research the origins of popular music through musical events documented by audio recordings, which can be consulted in the archive. Subsequently MARAÈA worked on the rediscovery and documentation of traditional places of rural sociality, such as taverns, and on the documentation of traditional dances and dances that still persist in some dispersed communities of the Alpine mountains. The digital archive aims to be an innovative - multiform and multimedia - method of territorial narration, of rediscovering cultural identity in the context of highly participatory and interactive tools. Thus, it turns out that the "wonder" for oneself and for one's own history persists strongly in the communities, and waits to be discovered, nurtured and solicited at the gates of contemporaneity.

Another example in the Lombardia region is the *Community Map* in Valle Sabbia, a tool that allows to share aware "gazes" on territory, allows to "give voice" to those who live there, with a view to learning how to take care of it, for today and for tomorrow. The Valle Sabbia Museum System has decided to undertake a process of building a community map with the aim of creating a renewed local identity, through the re-appropriation of places by their inhabitants, in terms of participation and active community.

The initial challenge was the involvement of the citizens of Valle Sabbia in a participatory process consisting of two moments: initially through the compilation of a questionnaire in which they were asked to indicate their "places of the heart", and secondly by the laboratory activities of creation of the Map. There have been numerous "assets" of the material and intangible cultural heritage indicated: from traditions, legends, dialects, buildings and works of historical-artistic-religious importance.

Wide space was dedicated to the shared planning of the mapping process with the support of museum educators, an artist and a writer. Citizens of all ages, single or united in associations, were invited to a first explanatory public meeting. The assets reported have been divided into built heritage, natural heritage and intangible heritage. For some reported heritages it was necessary to collect further information since they were popular knowledge never collected in written form.

The work continued with the creative construction of the map, a real installation on fabric. Thanks to the collaboration with the pupils of the Valle Sabbia schools, the intangible assets were reproduced through images created with various graphic and artistic techniques; A web platform was also prepared in which to bring together the results of the project.

The project has been the collector of some cultural products (books, e-books, research works, oral legends...) published and unpublished, produced by citizens, and will give them location and visibility within the reach of all interested parties. This "public use" of knowledge is an innovative aspect in a valley where knowledge of a village's cultural products usually remains the exclusive prerogative of the citizens of the village itself. The "Community Map" allows the dissemination of cultural heritage among the Municipalities of the Valley and beyond its borders.

Here are some exemplary works of the variety of conservation and recovery of structures and buildings of historical-architectural value.

In the small town of Ostana, in the upper Po valley, in 2015 the **cultural and multifunctional center Lou Pourtoun** was inaugurated in the Miribrart hamlet, the Occitan name of the Sant'Antonio hamlet. The event represented the fulfillment of a path, which lasted almost three

decades, dominated by the idea of a possible redemption from the inexorable socio-economic decline following the demographic abandonment of the second postwar period. The building symbolically embodies the three cornerstones that are guiding the genesis of this new community, namely the support of an idea of living and of conscious and sustainable tourist hospitality, the promotion of Alpine culture and minority languages (starting with the Occitan one) and, finally, the enhancement of mountain architecture and rural and landscape heritage.

Another example is that of the **Forte and Borgo di Bard** complex, which has become the new cultural center of the Western Alps. Thanks to the recovery of the imposing Savoy fortress and some areas connected to it, a project was created that blends innovative spaces and services for culture and high-quality accommodation within a single structure.

The museum spaces have been designed to integrate the historical tradition of the museum with the educational purpose that distinguishes its mission, the innovative vocation of the interpretation center, a place of communication and decoding of the territory it represents and the communicative power of the theme park. with its ability to offer an engaging experience.

Linguistic pluralism

4. Are the necessary framework conditions improved so that linguistic pluralism in the Alps can be protected and promoted, taking into consideration the traditional linguistic and cultural communities?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

The Italian legislation for the protection of linguistic minorities recognizes twelve historical linguistic communities present within the borders of the Italian Republic: Albanian, Catalan, Croatian, French, Franco-Provençal, Friulian, Germanic, Greek, Ladin, Occitan, Sardinian, Slovenian. These groups represent approximately 2.5 million speakers distributed in 1,171 municipalities in 14 regions and are protected by specific national (such as framework **law 482/1999**) and regional laws.

The Italian Republic, since its Constitution, which entered into force on 1 January 1948, establishes, in the "fundamental principles", the right of citizens to their own linguistic identity. Provided by art. 6 of the Constitution, the protection of linguistic minorities in Italy only concerned national minorities until the end of the 90s. The official use of German in Alto Adige and French in Valle d'Aosta was foreseen by international agreements at the end of the Second World War, while that of Slovenian in Trieste and Gorizia (but not of Slovenian dialects in the territory of the province of Udine) it was regulated starting from the Osimo agreements with SRF Yugoslavia (1975).

Article 6 of the Constitution was first fully implemented when **Law 482/1999** "*Rules for the protection of historical linguistic minorities*", of fundamental importance, was approved. The art. 2 of the law recognizes the existence of twelve linguistic minorities defined as "historical", admitting their protection.

Law 482/1999 is part of a regulatory framework and European general guidelines of considerable importance: art. 2 establishes the protection of linguistic communities identified "in harmony with the general principles of European and international organizations" and the principles recalled must refer to the contents of the "Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities" and the "European Charter for Minority Languages", also if the latter

has not yet been ratified.

The effectiveness of the law is aimed above all, in addition to the protection and conservation, to the enhancement of minority languages and consequently the financial interventions are intended for three fundamental and strategic sectors for the very survival of linguistic minorities: the education sector, the offices of the public administration and the mass media.

The regions where the various linguistic minorities are present also have their own specific regulations of varying scope and importance.

In Regions with special autonomy, specific provisions for the protection of linguistic minorities present in the territory are found, in particular, in the Statutes (adopted by constitutional law) of the Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli regions. Venezia Giulia.

Furthermore, as regards the Regions with a special statute, article 18 of law no. 482 of 1999 establishes that the application of the more favorable provisions contained therein is governed by implementing rules of the respective Statutes. The existing protection regulations in the same Regions with a special statute and in the autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano remain valid.

Valle d'Aosta

The **constitutional law of February 26, 1948, n. 4**, "*Special Statute for the Valle d'Aosta*", in article 38 emphasizes the parity between the French and Italian languages, introducing a total bilingualism in the drafting of public documents, with the exception of the drafting in Italian of the provisions of the authority judicial. The same article, with reference to employment in state administrations, establishes that "possibly officials originating in the Region or who know the French language" are employed.

As regards education, article 39 provides that in schools of all levels in the Region a number of hours per week equal to that of the Italian language be dedicated to the teaching of the French language and that for certain subjects the teaching can be taught directly in French. The following article 40 provides that the teaching of the various subjects is governed by the rules and programs in force in the State, with appropriate adaptations to local needs approved and implemented, together with the definition of the subjects that can be taught in French, after hearing the Commissions. mixed also composed of representatives of the Council of the Valley.

With the **constitutional law of 23 September 1993, n. 2**, an article 40-bis was added to the Statute, aimed at providing specific protection to the German-speaking populations of the Municipalities located in the Lys Valley, identified by regional law. These populations have the right to the protection of their linguistic and cultural characteristics and traditions and the teaching of the German language in schools is also guaranteed through appropriate adaptations to local needs.

In implementation of art. 40-bis, the Valle d'Aosta, with regional law n. 47/98, has identified the municipalities of the Lys valley in whose territory German-speaking populations belonging to the Walser community reside and has dictated the fundamental principles which it intends to inspire its action in support of safeguarding the linguistic and cultural characteristics and traditions of these populations.

The regional law of 28 February 2011 then provided that the municipalities of the Lys valley identified by art. 2 of the regional law n. 47/98 may establish, with a resolution of the City Council, to add to the official names of villages, hamlets, localities, buildings those in the local variants, titsch and töitschu.

Trentino Alto-Adige

The **Presidential Decree 31 August 1972, n. 670**, "Approval of the consolidated text of the constitutional laws concerning the special statute for Trentino Alto-Adige", provides for an articulated system of protection of the minorities existing there, in particular German and Ladin, protection expressly included among the principles of national interest that the Region is obliged to comply in the exercise of its legislative competence (Article 4).

The equal rights of citizens of different linguistic groups are solemnly declared in general in art. 2 of the Statute. The latter, to guarantee this equality, provides, alongside the traditional type of control primarily before the Constitutional Court (Articles 97 and 98), a particular form of judicial protection of the same Court. In fact, if a regional law proposal, detrimental to equal rights, is approved despite the opposition of a linguistic group present in the regional council, according to particular procedures provided for therein, the majority of the same group can challenge the law before the Constitutional Court (only case of direct appeal of a minority council to the Constitutional Court).

In addition, there are two regional laws regarding the protection of minorities:

- regional law 24 June 1957, n. 11 (and subsequent amendment pursuant to regional law no. 13 of 9 November 1983), containing "Regulations on the abrogative referendum of regional and provincial laws", which prohibits the proposition of an abrogative referendum for regional laws, or provisions thereof, concerning the protection of a linguistic minority;
- regional law 16 July 1972, n. 15, containing "Rules on popular initiative in the formation of regional and provincial laws", on the basis of which the Presidency of the regional or provincial Council can reject a bill of popular initiative if it is in contrast with the principle of protection of minorities linguistic, rejection that has binding effects, as far as the motivations are concerned, on the possible re-proposal of the project by the promoters.

As for the main rules on the use of language, a first specific guarantee is provided for in the education sector by art. 19, first paragraph, of the Statute. According to this provision, in the province of Bolzano, teaching in nursery, elementary and secondary schools is given in the pupils' mother tongue, Italian or German, by teachers for whom this language is equally the mother tongue. Furthermore, the teaching of German is compulsory in elementary and secondary schools taught in Italian; in the corresponding German language schools the teaching of Italian is compulsory. Pursuant to the second paragraph of the same art. 19 in Ladin towns, the Ladino language is used in nursery schools, taught in elementary schools and used as a teaching tool in schools of all levels.

Alongside the German minority, in fact, the Ladin minority also enjoys particular regulatory protection, provided in general by art. 102 of the Statute and then differentiated according to whether it is the Ladin population residing in the autonomous province of Trento or in that of Bolzano. In accordance with the aforementioned article of the Special Statute, the Ladin populations have the right to enhance their cultural, press and recreational initiatives and activities, as well as to respect the toponymy and traditions of the populations themselves. In the schools of the Municipalities of the provinces of Trento where Ladin is spoken, specific provincial laws guarantee the teaching of the Ladin language and culture.

Furthermore, art. 102 - following the amendment with constitutional law no. 2 of 2001 - within the German-speaking group, makes specific mention of the *Mochena* and *Cimbra* communities residing in the Province of Trento, which are recognized the same rights recognized to the Ladin populations, with guarantee of the teaching of the German language and culture in the schools of Municipalities where Cimbro or Mocheno is spoken.

A second sector in which the guarantee of the use of the language is realized is that relating to the relations of citizens with the public administration and with the judicial authority.

The principle of linguistic proportional representation in the province of Bolzano has the value of a general principle to be respected in large sectors of the province's institutional activity, such as for example the establishment of representative bodies, public employment in the province and municipalities, building assignments cheap and popular.

Furthermore, articles 89 and 111 of the Statute on the roles of the staff of state offices in the province of Bolzano which provide for the so-called "ethnic proportional", that is, the distribution of permanent positions in the workforce for citizens belonging to each of the three linguistic groups, Italian, German and Ladin, in relation to the size of the groups themselves, as shown by the declarations of belonging made in the official population census.

A further guarantee of the representation of linguistic groups is provided by art. 107 of the Statute on the composition of the Joint Commission competent to express an opinion on the decrees implementing the Statute.

Finally, it is recalled that based on art. 19 of the Presidential Decree 1 February 1973, n. 49, the President of the regional council and the provincial council of Bolzano are invited to the meetings of the Council of Ministers when the Council is called to deliberate on matters involving the application of the principle of the protection of German and Ladin linguistic minorities.

Friuli-Venezia Giulia

The special statute of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, approved with **constitutional law no. 1/1963**, article 3, guarantees equal rights and treatment to all citizens, whatever the linguistic group they belong to, with the safeguarding of their respective ethnic and cultural characteristics. The law concerns the Slovenian, Friulian and Ladin minorities of Friuli existing in the Region and limits the protection itself to this general guarantee, which will then be specified by the regional laws.

The law 23 February 2001, n. 38, containing "Regulations for the protection of the Slovenian linguistic minority of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region", provided for the recognition and protection of the rights of Italian citizens belonging to the Slovenian linguistic minority present in the provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine, pursuant to articles 2, 3 and 6 of the Constitution and article 3 of the Special Statute.

In particular, art. 2 of the law n. 38 provides for Adherence to the principles stated in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, made in Strasbourg on 5 November 1992.

In implementation of art. 3 of the law n. 38, the Joint Institutional Committee was established for the problems of the Slovenian minority (Presidential Decree February 27, 2002, no. 65).

With Presidential Decree 12 September 2007 the table of the municipalities of Friuli-Venezia Giulia in which the measures for the protection of the Slovenian minority are applied, pursuant to article 4 of n. 38.

With D.P.C.M. 25 September 2006, n. 288, the regional school commission for education in Slovenian was established, pursuant to article 13, paragraph 3, of law no. 38.

The legislative decree 12 September 2002, n. 223, has implemented the provisions of law no. 482 of 1999, for the protection of the language and culture of the Friulian-speaking populations and of those belonging to the Slovenian and German-speaking minority.

Furthermore, numerous regional laws have intervened to provide active protection of the

Friulian language and cultural heritage and of linguistic minorities. In addition to various laws that deal with the structures, activities and financing of the Slovenian Theater of Trieste, the following can be cited by way of example:

- regional law 22.3.1996, n. 15, "Regulations for the protection and promotion of the Friulian language and culture and establishment of the service for regional and minority languages"
- regional law 16.11.2007, n. 26, "Regional regulations for the protection of the Slovenian linguistic minority";
- regional law 18.12.2007, n. 29, "Regulations for the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Friulian language";
- regional law 17.02.2010, n. 5, "Enhancement of the dialects of Venetian origin spoken in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region" (the dialects of Venetian origin are subject to enhancement in the following expressions: Trieste, Bisiaco, Gradese, Maranese, Muggia, Liventino, Veneto of Istria and Dalmatia, as well as the Veneto of Gorizia, Pordenone and Udine) (16);
- regional law 11.08.2014, n. 16, "Regional rules on cultural activities", which recognizes minority languages and cultures as essential components of the regional community and as an expression of the cultural richness of one's territory (art. 3, paragraph 2).

Article 13 of law no. 482 of 1999 provides that the Regions with ordinary Statute, in the matters of their competence, adapt their legislation to the principles established by the law itself, without prejudice to the regional legislative provisions in force which provide for more favorable conditions for linguistic minorities.

This legislative direction was implemented in the new regional statutes approved following the constitutional law n. 1 of 1999. All the Regions have included among the fundamental principles of their Statutes the protection and enhancement of linguistic and cultural minorities established in their respective territories.

The laws adopted so far include:

- the law of the **Veneto** Region of 23 December 1994, n. 73, "Promotion of the ethnic and linguistic minorities of the Veneto", which provides for the granting of contributions in favor of certain bodies that promote the protection and enhancement of the historical-cultural heritage of the ethnic and linguistic communities historically present in the Region and encourages the establishment of a Regional Institute of Ladin Culture, among the Ladin cultural associations and the local authorities concerned;
- law of the **Liguria** Region of 31 October 2006, n. 33, "Consolidated law on culture", which provides for the promotion of knowledge, conservation and enhancement of the local dialects of the Genoese dialect and of the Ligurian dialect system (art. 2, paragraph 3, lett. D), and art. 17)
- the law of the **Piemonte** Region of 7 April 2009, n. 11, "Enhancement and promotion of knowledge of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Piedmont", as amended by Regional Law no. 20/2016, which contains rules for the enhancement and promotion, within the limits of regional competences, of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Piemonte, as well as that of the Occitan, Franco-Provençal, French and Walser minorities, encouraging their knowledge;
- the law of the **Lombardia** Region of 7 October 2016, n. 25, "Regional policies in cultural matters - Regulatory reorganization", within which measures were dictated for

the enhancement of the multiform expressions of identities, languages and cultural productions in Lombardia, giving the Region the task of supporting the enhancement of cultural identities, historical manifestations, popular and linguistic traditions of Lombard civilizations and communities (art. 26).

Any further comments

5. Are the importance and value of the toponymic heritage of the Alps recognized also in the light of its historical and cultural relevance, and its enhancement?

Yes

No

Give some example cases

Yes, the value and importance of toponymy and its historical-cultural relevance are recognized, Law 482/1999 dedicates articles to Toponymy and to the restoration of the original surnames - Municipalities can adopt toponyms conforming to local traditions and customs, while maintaining the official toponyms (art. 10).

Some regional laws are aimed at facilitating the recovery of local toponymy in minority languages and other, more complex norms provide for the public use of less common languages.

- Piemonte: art. 6 regional law n. 37/1997
- Trentino (Province of Trento): art. 19 regional law 6/2008
- Friuli-Venezia Giulia: regional law n. 15/96

The statute of the **Piemonte** region contains articles aimed at the protection of cultural heritage also in its linguistic expressions (art.7, 1st co. Statute of Piemonte), the protection and enhancement of cultural and religious minorities in respect of diversity (art.7 co ° 2), of the protection and promotion of the original linguistic heritage of the Piemontese community, as well as that of the Occitan, Franco-Provençal and Walser minorities (art. 7 co. 3 °).

In particular, with the l.r. n. 37/1997, the Piemonte region aims to protect and enhance the region's original linguistic heritage, as well as to promote knowledge of it (art. 1 regional law no. 37/97).

In order to promote knowledge of the linguistic heritage and to make the Statute and regional symbols known in an adequate way, the region establishes the "Piedmont festival", which occurs on May 22, the anniversary of the promulgation of the Regional Statute (May 22, 1971) and art. 3 favors:

- teaching and learning;
- journalistic and radio-television information;
- artistic creation;
- the edition and dissemination of books and publications;
- the organization of specific sections in the public libraries of local authorities

or of local interest;

- research;
- carrying out activities and meetings aimed at promoting the use and knowledge of the original

regional linguistic heritage. For example, in the Autonomous Province of Trento , Law 7/2004 modified numerous provisions of the provincial legislation on toponymy, extending the particular discipline provided in favour of the linguistic minority to the German-speaking Mochena and Cimbrian minorities present in the province of Trento the particular discipline envisaged in favour of the Ladin linguistic minority by the Provincial Law no. 16. In this way the three minority communities, in matters of toponymy, are now united by a uniform legislation. Furthermore, in provincial law no. 6/2008 dedicates ample space to the protection of linguistic minorities through toponymy: it is a complete and effective text of law aimed at safeguarding local toponyms.
Any further comments

6. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, by means of which you have improved the framework conditions necessary for the protection and promotion of linguistic pluralism in the Alps (question 4) or with which you have recognized the importance and value of toponymic heritage and you have enhanced it (question 5).	Yes	No
Targeted promotion of the languages of the Alps, in particular local languages, including dialects, in school activities	X	
Professional training and updating of teachers	X	
Supply of the necessary didactic tools	X	
Promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, as well as the linguistic integration of migrants.	X	
Establishment of partnerships between schools from different language regions	X	
Cultural events, in particular musical, literary and / or theatrical events in local languages, language courses, print media and electronic media.	X	
Projects for the development and acquisition of knowledge of the area through the study and use of toponymy	X	
Development, in the municipalities or minor centers, of explanatory signs of the main or most significant toponyms of a specific area.	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
In order to respond to the constitutionally guaranteed right of protection of historical linguistic minorities and in application of the relevant state and regional regulations, the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia favours the planning capacity of schools in the context of projects aimed at enhancing the rich linguistic mosaic and cultural present in the regional territory. The funding of this educational activity, which is foreseen in the "Plan of interventions for the		

development of the educational offer of educational institutions" for 2020/2021, is intended to promote the projects of individual educational institutions relating to the teaching and enhancement of languages and cultures of historical linguistic minorities in the reference territories: Slovenian, German and Friulian, also with regard to the recognized linguistic variants (Sauran, Timavese and Sappadine varieties as regards the German language; variants of the Natisone, Torre and Val Canale as regards the Slovenian language).

For projects concerning the Slovenian and German languages, the intervention is intended for kindergartens, primary and lower secondary schools located in the area of settlement of the relative minority. On the other hand, as regards the projects relating to the use of the Friulian language, the recipients of the intervention are the lower secondary schools, located in the area of the Friulian minority, as the teaching of Friulian is included within of the overall curriculum of kindergartens and primary schools, for pupils whose families have opted for this option at the time of enrollment.

The projects, in addition to supporting the knowledge of the historical and cultural heritage of the reference area, are aimed at improving linguistic and grammatical skills in the various minority languages.

The intervention must be consistent with the objectives and contents of the thematic areas identified by the Plan, and more precisely with that concerning "The historical, anthropological, linguistic and environmental knowledge of Friuli Venezia Giulia".

The protection and enhancement of local minority linguistic communities is one of the founding reasons for the special autonomy enjoyed by **Trentino**.

Unlike what happens in Alto Adige / Südtirol (where a system based on the declaration of ethnic belonging was chosen, according to a "personalistic" principle), the **Autonomous Province of Trento** has included in its own legal system for the protection and enhancement of linguistic minorities a "territorial" criterion. In other words, the aims of protection and promotion of languages and cultures, contained in the sectoral legislative acts, are pursued in favor of the Ladin minority residing in the municipalities of the Val di Fassa and of the numerically less consistent minorities of Mòchena (in the three German-speaking municipalities of the Val dei Mocheni) and Cimbra (in the territory of the municipality of Luserna).

In fact, in accordance with the rationale then adopted by the national Parliament in the drafting of Law no. 482 "Regulations on the protection of historical linguistic minorities", the Legislative Decree of 16 December 1993, no. 592 as well as the provincial law of 30 August 1999, no. 4 (law repealed by art. 37 of the L.P. 19 June 2008, no. 6) have precisely indicated the territorial areas corresponding to the areas of historical settlement of the Trentino minority communities.

As regards the promotion of linguistic diversity, the project "**Liminal - Linguistic Minorities in the Alps: Ethnicity, Languages and Demographic Processes**" (2013-2014), led by the University of Torino, investigated the socio-anthropological and linguistic situation of Alpine minority communities, wondering what is the link between the enhancement of the minority linguistic heritage of the Italian Alps and the repopulation that many Alpine places are experiencing.

The Italian Alps have a wide range of so-called minority languages, because they are part of the historical-cultural repertoire of local communities, protected by the State following Law 482 of 1999 "Rules for the protection of historical linguistic minorities" which in the reference territory it includes four main cultural languages (French, Italian, German and Slovenian) and a series of "linguistic continuations" such as: French; Occitan / Provençal; Franco-Provençal; Italian and Gallo-Italian dialects; German and High German dialects; Romansh, Ladin, Friulian;

Slovenian.

The results of the research were collected in a volume edited by Valentina Porcelain, an anthropologist from Turin, and by Federica Diémoz, linguist at the Swiss University of Neuchâtel entitled "Minorities in change. Ethnicity, languages and demographic processes in the Italian Alpine valleys".

Although the contributions come from scholars of different backgrounds, from linguistic to anthropological, and the research territories extend along the entire Alpine arc - whose geo-cultural regions often have remarkable specificities - the common denominator that allowed the collection of different experiences was the attempt to answer the question initially cited.

In many cases, from Alpine Provençal to Slovenian via Walser or Ladin, the number of speakers defined in the volume as "autochthonous" are decreasing due to age; however, that of minority languages is not a heritage destined to be treated in the past. In fact, various promotion and enhancement initiatives are increasingly appearing on the Alpine cultural scene that make the language one of the vitality factors and which above all tend to increasingly involve the "new inhabitants", i.e. those who move to the Alpine territories for various reasons.

A large literature, as evidenced by numerous research conducted in recent years and cited in the volume, has now highlighted a phenomenon of return to the High Lands. They therefore also position themselves as the "neo-speakers", helping to shape the systems of identity representation and therefore, also affecting the transmission of an "Alpine culture".

It is no coincidence that, as for various aspects of cultural heritage, also for the linguistic repertoire we can and should speak of a new form of transmission, not only more vertical and intra-family but oblique and extra-family.

An important role is played by the education system, which allows the teaching of minority languages, and the numerous initiatives to encourage the learning of languages by the world of associations, also aimed at adults.

Where, then, the linguistic communities still have a good number of "indigenous" speakers, it is clear that the various cultural activities related to minority affiliation contribute to a large extent to self-representation on the public stage.

The picture becomes even more complex if we look at the relationships between institutions and communities: the normalization and nominalization of languages and dialects in the various regions have involved a very extensive and debated work on the part of the various regional cultural institutes, while the increasing interest of the European Union and of realities such as UNESCO has raised awareness and invested with new meanings being members of minority communities.

Creative artistic production

7. Is the support of artistic production guaranteed in all its forms of expression and of the treatment of specific themes of the Alps?

Yes

X

No

Give some examples.

There are numerous examples of protection and enhancement of Alpine artistic production, characterized by the craftsmanship of native materials such as wood and stone, but also by other forms of artistic expression. Here are some examples.

Woodworking is a widespread activity throughout the Alps: in the long winter period the

mountaineers lived substantially isolated, and furthermore agricultural work and livestock did not occupy their days as during the summer months. There was therefore the possibility of dedicating oneself to the creation of everyday objects for the home and tools and instruments for agricultural work and for the processing of milk, now no longer in use but which still demonstrate their essential functionality and manual skills. trying to enrich the poor material with decorations, carvings or simple signs and symbols.

In some areas of the Alpine arc, woodworking took on characteristics of a high artistic level: even in the **Alta Val di Susa** woodworking found ideal conditions to spread and still today offers testimony in the Melezet School. In various churches and chapels of the Alta Val di Susa there are numerous wooden works signed or attributable to local sculptors and carvers, some of which were created by exponents of real dynasties of artisans-artists originating from the Melezet district, active from the 16th to XVIII century.

Ceramic workshops, painting and sculpture ateliers, wood carving and painting schools, workshops for the creation of art objects but also the production of special papers, book restoration and creation and painting of fantasy miniatures: the Susa Valley has much to offer to the wonder of the art enthusiast visitor.

Swiss pine - or stone pine, lime, walnut and maple are just some of the woods used in **Valle Camonica** in the centuries-old artistic and artisan tradition of carving, which has given life to sublime monuments: not only the baroque altars of the churches of the Upper Camonica Valley, but also the imposing Via Crucis of Cervero, the work of Beniamino Simoni.

Around the wood carving, schools and artisan workshops of the highest level have sprung up in Valle Camonica; that of the Ramus of Edolo was exemplary and produced in 1600 a true "theater of wonders" with altars, frontals, tabernacles and colonnades overflowing with figures and ornaments. "The great Camunian carpentry" as Giovanni Testori called it, was committed to building, on the borders of the territories that could be prey to the Protestant Reformation, the magical setting of the golden light that illuminates the truth of the Catholic faith.

This important artistic and artisan tradition reaches up to the present day, with the artisan shops of Ponte di Legno and Alta Valle Camonica, which document the continuity with a grandiose past, and at the same time the inexhaustible strength of craftsmanship, to be revived.

The typical crafts of the **Val d'Ossola** are historically linked to the resources of this area nestled in the Lepontine Alps: wood, stone, precious metals.

There are numerous artisan companies that still today in Val d'Ossola deal with the processing of wood, which is turned or sculpted by the skilled hands of local artists: if the famous wooden Pinocchio's are the symbol of the nearby Valle Strona, near the Lake Orta, worthy of note are also the Ossola productions that refer to the tools of common use of ancient times. There are now few wood masters, some of whom, as happens in the Valle Vigezzo every year, are teachers of popular courses in which this important art is handed down.

In the Ossola Valley, small ateliers also produce artistic stained-glass windows for churches and places of worship, as well as special work on glass and wrought iron.

In Ossola there are also the ceramics: in the nineteenth century, inside the furnace of Premia, in the Antigorio Valley, the clay extracted from the Alfenza river was worked to create majolica inspired by the works of the ancient *cunardesi* and *campionesi* potters. Taking up that tradition, today, the Ceramics of the Ossola Valley are produced by a small artisan company and appreciated for their unique style, characterized by a baroque-style cartouche and blooms adorned with blue and brown.

The Ossola Valley was, especially between the 18th and 19th centuries, a land of gold: there

were several mining mines active in the Ossola valleys, especially in the Anzasca Valley, from which the precious metal was extracted and subsequently worked in the mills mercury.

Even today, although the mines are no longer operational (one of which, the Guia Gold Mine, at the gates of Macugnaga in the Anzasca Valley, can be visited as the only mine-museum in Italy), there are still active artisan workshops that make finely jewels. worked with chisel and modano. The most representative of these is certainly the Ossola faith, a reproduction of the 18th century, decorated with edelweiss, mountain flowers and ears of wheat.

In the **Valle d'Ampezzo**, the offer is rich and attractive: from the artistic processing of wood for furniture, to the production of objects in iron, copper, brass and glass; from the production of tiled stoves to the creation of decorative objects embellished with inlay and mosaic techniques; from the delightful filigree jewels to the production of handicrafts made with arnica, edelweiss and native plants, up to the jewels deriving from the deciduous deer antlers.

Filigree is an ancient processing technique that used a silver thread with the diameter of a hair to produce objects of the highest quality.

The *Tarkashi* is a woodworking technique introduced in Cortina d'Ampezzo around 1881 by John Coddington, fresh from a trip to India. It consists of an inlay made with filigree and metal threads embedded in the wood. Over time, the artisans have renewed and refined their creations, without ever renouncing tradition.

The glass craftsmanship over the years has evolved and specialized in different techniques including leaded glass, glass-fusion and painting. The glass working techniques allow to create objects for the table, original lamps, paintings, and many other objects of fine workmanship.

In the blacksmith shops, however, you can admire original creations in wrought iron, brass, copper, and steel. In the processing of handicrafts, they combine iron with other materials such as wood, ceramic, glass, and fabric to create modern and classic collections.

Through the processing of wood and horn, unique artifacts are created, according to the ancient methods of craftsmanship of wood, using local materials and using techniques handed down from generation to generation. There are countless shapes and materials in which the expertise of the artisans of the Ampezzo area is expressed, precious custodians of the knowledge linked to ancient crafts.

The processing of the horn allows the creation of objects, furnishing accessories and jewelry obtained from the processing of deciduous deer antlers.

In an era in which the speed of transformations leads to the dispersion or distortion of tradition, the protection of the territory that has characterized Cortina for centuries, together with the strong presence of tourists, have not only guaranteed the preservation of craftsmanship, but have favoured the achievement of very high-quality standards.

Any further comments

8. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields in support of artistic production and the treatment of specific themes of the Alps.	Yes	No
Organization of exhibitions and events of an artistic nature	X	
Publication of competition notices for the creation of brands, logos, "corporate	X	

design" for local administrations, companies and Alpine businesses		
Carrying out of courses and art workshops on specifically alpine themes	X	
Projects and initiatives for the artistic use of local raw materials from the Alpine space	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>Regarding the organization of courses and art workshops on specifically alpine themes, in the Lombardia Region, a course was launched to enhance Alpine practices and rites at the Design School of the <i>Politecnico di Milano</i>, which established a course in Exhibition Design Studio. The teaching aims to enhance the identity cultural heritage of the Alpine mountains, focusing on the conception of design solutions capable of representing its deeper meaning, through exhibition tools, such as set-ups and temporary exhibitions.</p> <p>In 2017, fifty students from different countries participated in the course, devising two types of design solutions to enhance some Alpine practices and rituals.</p> <p><i>sharing cultural heritage through new design models:</i></p> <p>The first project was carried out in an open landscape, the second in the urban context of Piazza Città di Lombardia, in the center of Milan. Both showed how the cultural heritage of mountain regions can be shared with city dwellers by designing new examples of cultural experience, thus contributing to the rapprochement between rural and urban areas.</p> <p>The experience aimed to enhance the cultural heritage of the mountains, for which new models of cultural representation have been imagined: experiential exhibition, design works representing alpine practices and rites exhibited in widespread museums and temporary installations in mountain areas. Students created audio and video material for urban audiences to promote rural and mountain heritage. In particular, the design exercise was applied by referring to real territories and the tangible and intangible distinctive elements of these places (typical foods, traditions, rituals, clothes, ...), touching various aspects of the cultural heritage represented in a contemporary way.</p> <p><i>the enhancement of rural cultural heritage for city dwellers:</i></p> <p>The course aims to stimulate students' "cultural creativity", inviting them to depict Alpine identity in forms of experiential design, made of technique, art and interpretation.</p> <p>The challenge is to convert the peculiar characteristics of local culture into design representations, reproducing and reinterpreting the signs of mountain cultural identity through the theoretical foundations of semiotics. In this way, "cultural design" can become an interesting experiential marketing tool, aimed at promoting the values of mountain culture among people and encouraging the birth of new initiatives to enhance the cultural heritage.</p> <p>At the end of the course, a digital archive of models and reproductions of Alpine practices, traditions and rituals was prepared, which local stakeholders can use as a starting point to activate projects in their territories.</p> <p>The experience is significant because it is an example of how, thanks to inventiveness and creativity, it is possible to represent the Alpine identity in an innovative way even to those who do not live it directly. The innovation lies in the approach and methodology, as well as in the</p>		

results that become tools. It involves young designers in the reinterpretation of cultural heritage and in opening up to dialogue between the different forms of expression.

Another example is that of a pole for art and crafts in the mountains of the **Camonica Valley**: it is *Ca 'Mon - Community Center for Mountain Art and Crafts*, whose idea was developed in the context of project The reason in the hands of the artist Stefano Boccalini (Milan, 1963), winner of the eighth edition of the Italian Council call, a program in support of Italian contemporary art in the world promoted by the Directorate General for Contemporary Creativity of the then MiBACT (Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and for Tourism).

Regarding projects and initiatives aimed at using local raw materials in the artistic field, in addition to the examples given in the previous answer, another example is in **Valtellina** and **Valchiavenna**, where soapstone or "green stone of Chiavenna", an archaic art characterized by a strong link with the territory and its traditions. It is a material with a glorious past much loved and sought after in every corner of the world both for cooking and for preserving food.

In recent decades, the traditional processing of soapstone has been oriented towards artisanal production, so much so that some craftsmen have begun to decorate it with hand-engraved designs or to sculpt it to obtain highly appreciated ornamental objects. In 2012, the Geographical Collective Mark (MCG) was established for the "Soapstone of Valtellina and Valchiavenna" in order to guarantee the nature, quality and origin of certain products or services.

III. Living space, quality of life and equal opportunities

Conditions and settlement structures

1. Are existing settlement structures maintained and modernized on the basis of the principle of sustainability and taking into account territorial specificities?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

The rural building heritage, which was little considered until a few decades ago, today assumes a particular importance in the light of the principles of sustainability and taking into account the specificities of each territory and is re-evaluated through the initiative of public and private bodies that see many times employments of personal capital and voluntary labor.

The Law 6 October 2017, n. 158 "*Measures for the support and enhancement of small municipalities, as well as provisions for the redevelopment and recovery of the historic centers of the same municipalities*" was born with the objectives of promoting the economic, social, environmental and cultural development of Italian municipalities with no more than 5 thousand inhabitants; Protect its natural, rural, historical, cultural and architectural heritage; Ensuring essential services, counteracting depopulation and encouraging tourism.

The central point of the law is the establishment of the Fund for the development of small municipalities which has an endowment of 100 million euros (10 million for 2017 and 15 million for the years from 2018 to 2023). Furthermore, for the years 2017 and 2018, the resources that the law 208 of 2015 allocated to the restructuring of roads of particular historical and cultural value capable of attracting tourist flows that use modes of transport with low environmental impact converge into the Fund. In particular, Law 208 has allocated one million euros for each of the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The small municipalities that are potential beneficiaries of the Fund are those with a population

of less than 5 thousand inhabitants (in Italy there are 5,699 according to the Istat census of 2011) and in particular those which among them are particularly fragile. The law intends to give priority to municipalities located in areas affected by hydrogeological instability phenomena, which are conditions of economic backwardness, subject to depopulation, characterized by inadequate social services or falling within national or regional parks or protected areas.

An example of rebirth is that of **Bourcet**, a complex of villages located in the municipality of Roure in **Val Chisone**, is one of the examples of heritage composed not only of buildings but also of typical cultures and knowledge. Potatoes are grown here, of which about 20 tons are produced each year, marketed in Italy and abroad, and there are numerous agricultural projects for the future, including planting vines, thanks to the support of the Enological Institute of the Aosta Valley, and recover the terraces, which are part of the typical landscape, with the production of small fruits.

A certain ferment was also seen on the institutional level, for example a few years ago the **Uncem Piemonte** call for "*Recovery and revaluation of houses and mountain villages in Piemonte*" was published, aimed at businesses and local authorities. The intent is to connect public and private, stimulating those professionals with traditional know-how relating to rural construction, to establish processes of economic and social revitalization of mountain areas.

In December 2011, the last phase of Measure 322, Action B (implementation of organic "integrated intervention programs" aimed at the recovery and development of a limited number of mountain villages) of the Rural Development Plan 2007- 2013 of the Piedmont Region which led, after a rather complex process, to finance 34 villages on the basis of projects presented by the Municipalities in which they are located. The measure, which provides for an allocation of 40 million euros, meets those good practices that aim at the structural recovery of buildings and look at the field of renewable energy with an eye to the development of new local activities that know how to combine traditional knowledge and innovation.

Among these virtuous municipalities there is **Ostana**, an Occitan town located in the **Alta Valle del Po**, and the development of the hamlet of Sant'Antonio (Miribrart). The township, which has numerous abandoned buildings, is a demonstration of how the trend towards depopulation can be reversed by investing in existing assets. About twenty private individuals have already purchased many of the properties where new works will find space, with the possibility of exploiting broadband, and innovative forms of accommodation, alongside the recovery of traditional know-how, such as the officinal transformation of plants and the dairy business. . There will also be a building used as a recreational centre where to carry out educational and cultural activities, often the social bonds of the communities.

Old and new become categories that also interpenetrate in many examples of recovery that go beyond the simple museumization of the sites: villages that become laboratories for the new generations who, even from very far away, come to the Alps to learn some building skills rereading them in a dynamic way. This is the case of the medieval village of **Ghesc**, in the municipality of Montecrestese in **Val d'Ossola**, where the Canova association, responsible for the protection and enhancement of Ossola stone architecture, has been conducting for some years internships with students of American and Canadian universities who also touch on environmental recovery.

While a book of restoration projects was produced with the Polytechnic of Milano with the use of local materials - serizzo, beola, marble and stone - and the 3D laser scanner analysis started. As every year, the International Meeting of Canova Architects was also held for 2012 (from 21 to 25 June). In this valley, if some buildings are still in a state of ruin, others have already been recovered and the proximity of many hamlets to the working basin of the city of Domodossola bodes well for the future of these settlements.

Among the initiatives for the management and enhancement of assets in the high lands is the **FAI** (Italian Environment Fund) "**Progetto Alpe. Italy over 1,000 meters**", the first organic project for the restoration, enhancement and management of assets in the highlands and inland areas of Italy: from the Alps to the Apennines to the Nebrodi, the Madonie, the Gennargentu, along the ridge of the country.

The FAI project is a development strategy, at least ten years old, which aims to acquire a series of representative assets of the Italian world of the Alps. The intervention on the Heritage is based on the restoration of architecture and landscapes, but also of life and production practices, investigated and restored according to local history and traditions in a key of contemporary sustainability.

Starting from the assets already owned and managed, the Foundation launched in 2019 three further acquisitions of assets located in the Alps: the Torino Vecchio refuge at Punta Hellbronner on Mont Blanc in Courmayeur (AO), in partnership with the CAI - Italian Alpine Club of Turin; the Walser Daverio huts in Val d'Otro in Alagna Valsesia (VC), in collaboration with the Alagnese Union and the Municipality; the Sylvenoire mountain pasture in Cogne (AO), in synergy with the Municipality of Cogne and the Gran Paradiso National Park.

The "Alpe Project" is also a campaign aimed at raising awareness and educating present and future generations on the need to safeguard and promote the material and immaterial value of landscape and cultural contexts that are suffering today, rediscovering and reactivating the activities and cultural heritage typical of mountain.

Any further comments

2. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have contributed to the maintenance and modernization of existing settlement structures on the basis of the principle of sustainability and taking into account territorial specificities.	Yes	No
Acceptance of the principles of sustainability for the design and construction of buildings	X	
Training and refresher programs, relating to the themes of sustainable building, intended for building sector technicians and the authorities in charge	X	
Events and initiatives aimed at the public to inform and raise awareness on the issues of sustainable construction and the sustainable use of resources	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
Among the events and initiatives aimed at the public to inform and raise awareness on the issues of sustainable construction and the sustainable use of resources, we should mention the Alpine Arch Architects association , founded on April 20, 2016, which was created with the aim of creating synergies among the participants and to coordinate the initiatives related to cultural and professional themes with a relevant Alpine character.		

The association acts with the awareness that the similarities of the geographical characteristics of the Alpine mountains have always determined and still determine similar problems and needs. The purpose of the review "*Architettura Arco Alpino*" is to select and make known the architectural works created in the Alpine context, which stand out for the quality of the individual artefacts and for their relationship with the landscape, favouring the comparison between the different realities that characterize the Alps.

Another initiative of the association is "*Across the Alps*", a photographic story of contemporary mountains, in particular that dimension of small secondary valleys not yet, or no longer, frequented by seasonal tourism. Valleys inhabited by permanent communities who live in the area on a daily basis and whose challenge is to increase services and their quality, with the tenacity of those who have remained.

To read and interpret the different landscapes that make up the Alpine arc, thanks to the work of the Urban Reports collective, the AAA association tries to investigate the uses and consequent transformations of the Alpine landscapes. It is not just a question of taking into consideration some particularly virtuous examples. , but to read the "normal" methods of use and exploitation of the territories that testify to the dialectical and evolutionary relationship between man and the environment in which he lives.

Sustainable construction represents one of the fundamental axes of the territorial governance and development policies of **Trentino**. The attention paid by the Provincial Urban Plan to sustainability finds in the construction sector, with particular reference to the use of wood, a relevant operational area within which environmental, energy and landscape issues converge, quality and healthiness of homes, as well as of economic interest for an expanding market less affected by the crisis in the construction industry.

The wooden construction has a very ancient history. In Northern and Central Europe, wood has been the main building material for millennia. Despite widespread prejudices in favor of masonry constructions, wooden construction has constantly evolved and today new design approaches and new processing technologies make it a leading sector of the construction industry and craftsmanship.

The characteristics of wood make it a unique and increasingly appreciated material, not only for its structural qualities, which make it particularly useful in the construction of anti-seismic buildings but also for the formal and chromatic ones that have allowed many contemporary designers to translate into reality innovative architectures, which combine the charm of form with a high level of living comfort, reduced energy consumption and low environmental impact.

The conscious use of wood in construction can be a relevant factor of competitiveness for the entire system, primarily for companies and professionals who are engaged in the design of new buildings, as well as in the recovery and redevelopment of the existing building stock. Trentino today can establish itself as a laboratory for wooden construction through the enhancement of the Forest-Wood-Energy supply chain combined with attention to the themes of the territory, the landscape and the environment. Innovation in Alpine architecture, also through the use of wood, can offer solutions to enhance the landscape and local identities of mountain areas.

The course "Alpine landscape, natural resources, wooden construction" was born from the work carried out by the Control Room of the Forest-Wood-Energy supply chain, which through a survey of the existing training offer, highlighted the importance of developing initiatives capable of integrating the process of sustainable building development through the use of wood with the themes of the landscape, the territory and the environment.

Within the general purpose of enhancing the wood supply chain, from the certified production phase to use in construction, the course aims to provide general knowledge and technical skills

relating to the opportunities for using wood. wood in construction and building redevelopment.

In the initial part, the elements for a knowledge of the socio-economic history of Alpine settlement practices will be given with the aim of contextualizing the use of stone and wood in the construction tradition of the Alps and in particular of Trentino. In the core of the course, various technical aspects of the design and construction of wooden buildings will be addressed.

The final part will be dedicated to an overview of contemporary experiences, both in the field of conservative restoration and redevelopment of historic buildings, and in that of innovation and design and construction experimentation, with particular attention to some cases considered significant for the use of wood in ecological-sustainable Alpine construction.

The initiative was designed with the collaboration of ARCA-Architettura Comfort Ambiente and AGATN - Association of Young Architects of the Province of Trento

Another example is the "**Building in the Alps - Lowtech**" Project, through analysis, good practice and local skills in energy saving, aims to find "Lowtech" solutions suitable for increasing energy efficiency during all phases of the life cycle of a building, make them ecologically and economically sensible while maintaining the same performance, practicability and comfort of use.

Energy efficiency is guaranteed through laborious and complex measures and processes on the envelope and through numerous technical systems. Often, the high expectations for measures taken regarding CO2 emissions, energy savings, ecological footprint and maintenance costs are not met. At the same time, the complexity of the "building" system increases and this requires ever greater specialization by SMEs in the sector, designers and users of the building.

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The knowledge gained will be transmitted to stakeholders, the population and the relevant SMEs in the sector to promote efficient, economical and high-quality construction, suitable for the Alpine space.

Project partner

- South Tyrolean Energy Agency - CasaClima
- IDM Südtirol - Alto Adige
- EURAC Research - Institute for Renewable Energy
- ITG Salzburg
- KBF Kompetenzzentrum Bauforschung GmbH Salzburg
- FH Salzburg
- Holzcluster Salzburg - Salzburg

Project duration: January 2017 - July 2019

Objectives of the project

- Promotion of economic, quality, energy efficient and sustainable buildings suitable for the Alpine arc

- Development of simple technical solutions for residential buildings
- Optimization of the useful life of the building
- Strengthening of supply chains through the transfer of know-how
- Development of quality and promotion and implementation models

Essential services of general and basic interest

3. Is the decentralized provision of essential services of general and basic interest maintained, guaranteed and developed?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

Essential services of basic general interest are guaranteed in various ways in all regions of the Italian Alps, both through national and regional strategies and through cooperation projects.

The **National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI)**, included in the National Reform Plan and in the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement, affects over 60% of the Italian national territory and about 22% of its population. The goal is to slow down the depopulation of the same, less and less manned and cared for by active local communities, recovering and enhancing the present potential and triggering paths of balanced development through the creation of new income opportunities and accessibility to essential services. such as local public transport, education and health and social services to the inhabitants.

The National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) - from 2013 to today - has had very important merits:

a. In the first place, it has managed to catalyze an extensive attention in institutions, agencies, academies and also in public opinion on itself and on the territories towards which it has directed its action.

b. Secondly, it has made a formidable contribution to organizing the needs of the territories in the form of articulated and mature strategies, capable of mobilizing the attention and participation of local actors and of starting / strengthening interesting institutional cooperation processes. It has allowed us to overcome the historical logic of welfare towards some more peripheral territories and has made it possible to equip ourselves with a "strategy", with a vision and a perspective of intervention that goes beyond individual projects and also to the drainage of individual projects within the framework of community planning.

c. The National Strategy for Inner Areas is a Strategy for the whole country.

d. The Strategy, in the 72 Italian pilot areas, united - at least in its intentions - the decision-making and planning will of the area (thanks to the concertation between public bodies, companies, third sector, universities, local communities) to driving "from above" and of direction by sociologists, economists, jurists.

Other examples of cooperation projects involving Alpine regions:

The '**MisMi**' project (*Integrated model of health for an inclusive mountain*) was developed in **Valle d'Aosta**, which aims to encourage the development of social and health services to combat the depopulation of mountain and rural areas. The project is developed within the Interreg V-A Italy-France 'Alcotra' Program. The leading body is the Local Health Authority of the Valle d'Aosta while in Aosta, as the leading body of the Area Plan, project partner, it coordinates the Common action called 'Wp3-Proximity services for social and health networks' with the aim of "Making the territories more responsive to the needs and requests of their

inhabitants, preventing discomfort and strengthening social cohesion and inclusion".

The actors of the MisMi project are community animators and family and community nurses who will work in the districts of Morgex and Aosta. Other partners: the Mario Boella Higher Institute, the Institut Formation Recherche Medicine de Montagne (Ifremmont), the Center Hospitalier Intercommunal Albertville-Moutiers, the Center Intercommunal Action Sociale Versant d'Aime and the Ehpad Bozel.

Another example in **Piemonte** is the "**Coeur Solidaire**" project of which the Metropolitan City of Torino is the leader, tackles the difficult issue of defining and providing services to the population in mountain areas.

The goal is to encourage the development of health and social services to combat the depopulation of mountain and rural areas. That is, those territories, often "sloping", difficult to reach, progressively marked by depopulation and the fragility of an increasingly elderly population, scattered in the various villages far from many essential services.

The "Coeur Solidaire" project is part of the more comprehensive PITER project (Integrated Territorial Program of INTERREG ALCOTRA programming) "Coeur des Alpes" which, in addition to trying to tackle situations of fragility (elderly, young and disabled in particular), aims to reactivate the potential of these territories to get them out of their marginality and make them attractive, so that they become a place where people feel they can go back to building their own lives.

It involves the Pinerolo area and the Susa valleys in Italy and the Maurienne and Briançonnese areas in France. Cross-border collaboration and cooperation represents an added value since it allows the exchange, strengthening and extension of existing good practices, in a logic of integration and sustainability.

The Municipalities of this Franco-Italian territory are part of the Alte Valli Conference (CHAV) which since 2007 has been dealing with the integrated development of this portion of the cross-border area.

The inter-municipal structures of Pinerolese, Val Sangone and Valle Susa, Grand Briançonnais and Maurienne constitute the Alte Valli Conference, a cross-border association between public bodies that have long started a collaboration path using since the beginning of the '90 tools made available by the first INTERREG programming.

With the launch of the PITER "Coeur des Alpes" integrated territorial project, a new planning season for sustainable and inclusive development has therefore started, within which the "Coeur Solidaire" project plays a strategic role in improving accessibility to services in marginal and mountainous areas and make the destination in the "Heart of the Alps" more interesting for families and tourists.

To make the social and socio-health facilities in these areas more accessible, we will focus on strengthening the services for the domicile of fragile people (elderly, disabled, sick) by creating the figure of the community social animator who will act as a "bridge" between social centers and people who live isolated in the villages.

We will enhance "shared places" (libraries, municipal offices, residences for the elderly ...) that become a meeting point for everyone, we will work on social mobility to create alternatives (on-call transport) to local public transport, where this is not able to provide adequate service.

In addition, all those principals (proximity counter or Maisons des services au public in France) that improve citizens' access to public institutions will be strengthened.

Another example, the **INTESI** project, *Integrated territorial strategies for Services of General*

Interest, funded by the Alpine Space program 2014-2020, intends to overcome the sectoral approach for the provision of these services, promoting better coordination and inclusion in integrated territorial strategies.

The design and provision of services of general interest (SGI) are a prerequisite for the high quality of the territory and the quality of life in the Alps. Various authorities and service providers at different levels are responsible for the provision by SGI. Until now they are applied in a strictly sectorial approach, which leads to isolated solutions and does not allow synergies between the different service providers.

With proposals for the horizontal and vertical coordination of SGIs and the application of integrated territorial strategies, INTESI tries to overcome this sectoral approach. With the coordination of SAB (Swiss Group for Mountain Regions) the Alpine Space INTESI project follows the aim of analyzing the feasibility of providing SGI through an integrated territorial approach in ten test areas (TA) in five Alpine countries (Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland and France).

In it the focal topics concern SGI of telecommunication, transport, energy, basic necessities, health, social assistance and education.

In a transnational study among the ten test areas, the Institute for Regional Development establishes the regional profiles to compare the SGIs currently applied according to their availability (GIS maps), accessibility (spatial statistics) and the quality of services (workshops and interviews) of SGI strategies. Based on spatial conditions, demographic conditions and stakeholder expectations, future challenges are deduced, as well as needs and potential for cooperation and integration in order to optimize SGIs.

Finally, the INTESI Think Tank, composed of SGI service providers, authorities and other interested parties, with its in-depth knowledge will enhance the project's recommendations regarding SGIs. This Input constitutes an important contribution for the EUSALP working group "digital connection and availability of public services".

The study gave rise to recommendations for integrating the provision of Services of General Interest into territorial strategies.

Another example is the **SPHERA** project, *Spatial Planning and Health Systems: enhancing territorial governance in Alpine Space*. The objective is to improve territorial governance within the Alpine space in relation to the strategic dimensions of health and spatial planning, with particular attention to those issues that contribute to "inclusive growth" such as, for example, access to services of general interest, demographic change, social inclusiveness and quality of life.

The project aims to contribute to the development of policies with the aim of:

- Trace and exploit the experience and results of some projects selected from those financed by the 2007-2013 Alpine Space program in terms of transnational needs, policy development, institutional responsibilities, and skills.
- Enhance and capitalize the main results achieved by these projects through dissemination activities involving the main actors at the level of policy definition
- Identify the needs, challenges, opportunities, and threats relating to the area under examination and the topics covered
- Contribute to the definition of the new financing program for the Alpine space

The study gave rise to recommendations for integrating the provision of Services of General Interest into territorial strategies.

Any further comments

4. Please tick any measures you have taken in the following fields by which you have contributed to maintaining, securing, and developing the decentralized provision of essential services of general and basic interest.	Yes	No
Measures aimed at facilitating a better territorial distribution of essential services	X	
Maintenance on site of services, thanks to the multifunctional use of existing structures	X	
Restoration and enhancement of the public transport offer	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>In addition to what has already been pointed out in the previous answer regarding the maintenance and development of essential services of general and basic interest, we can cite here some examples of restoring and enhancing the public transport offer. The following are, by way of non-exhaustive example, some initiatives in which Italy took part:</p> <p>Meeting "Cooperation tools: The case study of the Alpine area", Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Sala del Parlamentino, 2.03.2016;</p> <p>National conference of the P4 project "ESPON on the Road" and presentation of the book "ESPON Italian evidence in changing Europe", ESPON Project, Parliament of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Rome 21.05.2014</p> <p>'Road transport safety in the Alps and risk management with reference to natural hazards: challenges, best practices and possible long-term solutions' Saint Vincent, 2013</p> <p>"Report on Urban Mobility in the Alps", Transport Working Group of the Alpine Convention, Alpine Urban Mobility subgroup, Ed. Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea, 2010, Angelini P. (preface and RPE)</p> <p>For example, in Friuli Venezia Giulia the introduction and development of new transport systems that make it possible to relieve the pressure of our motorways are directly connected with the need to improve the characteristics of life and the quality of the environment around us, as well as and with the aim of making the entrepreneurial reality operating in the regional territory more competitive from an economic point of view. Regional law 23 February 2018, n. 8 "Interventions for the promotion of new safe and widespread cycling".</p> <p>It is a system law that, in the context of policies for sustainable mobility, in environmental and health terms, promotes urban and extra-urban cycling and the creation of a system of cycling throughout the territory, with the aim of increasing use of the bicycle as a means of transport.</p> <p>Another example on the topic of mobility is the ICARUS project, acronym for <i>Intermodal Connections in Adriatic-Ionian Region to Upgrowth Seamless solutions for passenger</i>, is funded by the Interreg V-A Italy - Croatia CBC () program and aims to promote intermodal connections in the Adriatic region. -Ionic. Indeed, it intends to stimulate a change of mentality in mobility based on the concept of "Mobility as a Service", where the individual needs of users are at the center of transport services. In fact, the project partners will implement pilot activities</p>		

and case studies by offering solutions such as harmonization of timetables, car / bike sharing, ICT solutions for a greater flow of information, integrated and multimodal payment systems, dynamic travel planning and intermodal services. cross-border. The pilot activities will take place in the regions of Emilia - Romagna, Abruzzo, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Primorsko-Goranska, Istarska, Sibensko-Kninska and Splitsko-Dalmatinska.

Another project is **EMOTIONWay**, acronym of *Eco & soft MObility Through Innovative and Optimized network of cross-border Natural and cultural Ways*, has as its main objective the conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage through the creation of a cross-border network of cycle paths. and walk.

The project, approved and funded under the 2nd call for standard projects of the CT Interreg V-A Italy-Austria 2014-2020 Program, is implemented within Priority Axis 2 (Nature and Culture) and is closely linked to the Objective Specific 4 (making the natural and cultural heritage a lever for the sustainable and more balanced development of the territory) as it contributes to the enhancement of cultural and natural sites. It is also consistent with the EU 2020 Strategy, as it contributes to reducing emissions by developing new intermodal models and increasing the employment rate by supporting the creation of new businesses for sustainable heritage tourism.

In particular, pursuing the objective of creating a cross-border network of cycle paths and paths by improving their connection through the bike-bus bike-train intermodality, it envisages the activation of new cross-border local public transport services and, once the missing links have been identified, pilot interventions of intermodal bike-bus and bike-train connection to create the Eastern Alps Cycling Network.

Another project is **BIKE NAT**, approved as part of the Interreg V-A Italy-Austria 2014-2020 Territorial Cooperation Program, Priority Axis 2 - "Nature and culture", Specific Objective 4.2 - "Protection, conservation and soft enhancement of natural heritage and cultural common "has as its objective the promotion, conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage through the identification and application of targeted measures of an intermodal, infrastructural and promotional nature, providing positive results both in terms of cross-border environmental impact and tourist enhancement.

The initiative contribute to enhancing the cross-border territory through specific tourism promotion actions, improving accessibility to places of tourist and cultural interest, thanks to the implementation of pilot projects dedicated to the elimination of architectural barriers along the Alpe Adria - CAAR cycle path and the " launch of new intermodal and "bike friendly" services.

In South Tyrol the "**Green Mobility**" project was born from the idea of developing South Tyrol as a model region for sustainable Alpine mobility and deals with all forms of sustainable transport and their coordination; in addition, it paves the way for innovations and new projects. In addition to ensuring a good urban public transport system, sustainable mobility must be developed so that South Tyrol maintains a high quality of life, increases its tourist attractiveness, stimulates economic competitiveness and contributes to mobilizing new technological and cheap. To achieve these objectives, Green Mobility focuses above all on electric and intermodal mobility, and on mobility by bike. In fact, there are many measures designed to expand and link together the various forms of sustainable mobility (urban public transport, cycling or walking). Car Pooling and Car Sharing projects are also part of this program.

Local public transport, timetables, travel tickets, mobile cards, cable cars and railways are also part of sustainable mobility.

As part of the INTERREG Italy-Switzerland 2014-2020 program, the *TVA-The Green Train of the Alps* project, engine of ecological mobility between Ossola and Valais, should be mentioned.

The project aims to increase the effectiveness and usability of Local Public Transport (TPL) services, with an orientation towards eco-sustainable solutions. The territorial impact will result in a reduction in private, commuter and tourist vehicular traffic, both on the Simplon axis and on the supply lines. The indirect effects will be the reduction of congestion and road accidents, the improvement of air quality, as well as the increase in the attractiveness of the area, also due to the introduction of forms of soft mobility. The duration and sustainability over time of the project's outputs and results will be guaranteed by the nature of the project itself, as a system innovation initiative, which aims at defining stable innovative models and processes.

School education, professional training and updating, adult education

5. Is an adequate supply of school education, training and professional updating, as well as appropriate adult training programs, maintained and developed, at the local and regional level, taking into account the specifically alpine aspects in all training-educational areas?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases.

Yes, it has been extensively described above that education, training and professional updating are considered essential in all regions of the Alpine arc.

The Ministry of Education, University Research is entrusted with the management of the funding plan relating to the protection and enhancement of **minority languages**. Every year before the start of school activities, with a special circular, the criteria for the implementation of national and local projects in the field of the study of languages and cultural traditions belonging to historical linguistic minorities are made known to schools, pursuant to art . 5 of Law 482 and the methods for implementing its monitoring.

Also at the national level, the **Law on small municipalities** contains a specific reference to rural and mountain areas, the law provides

- the preparation of an education plan, for the connection of the school complexes located in these areas, the computerization and progressive digitization of educational and administrative activities

- the inclusion, within the General Transport and Logistics Plan and in the Long-term Planning Documents, of specific actions for the improvement of infrastructural networks, coordination between public and private services, aimed at connecting the municipalities of rural areas and montane, and between these and the provincial and regional capital municipalities.

The Regions also move along this line, for example **Friuli Venezia Giulia** elaborates the "*Guidelines for the dimensioning of the school network and the planning of the training offer*", within which some principles are declined such as equality for all citizens to access the various training opportunities, the harmonization of the personal growth needs with the needs and strategies of socio-economic development, respecting the history and culture of the reference territory, but above all the need to contain the depopulation in progress in some territories of the region. To this end, lower numerical parameters are still envisaged for mountain areas as regards the establishment of school autonomy (400 pupils compared to the minimum 600 units) and the maintenance of school complexes (e.g. 20 children in kindergarten compared to 30) and establishing as a preference criterion for the start of a new course of study that it is not activated in the provincial capitals. The existence of school autonomy with fewer than 400 students must

be motivated by a low population density of the reference area or by the existence of particular conditions of isolation (for example, the presence of poor connections with public transport).

Another example is the “**Fondazione Montagna Sicura**” which since 2008 has been registered in the public register of accredited Bodies of the Autonomous Region of **Valle d'Aosta** for two reference training macro-types:

- continuous and permanent training (= training interventions aimed at developing the skills of all people of working age, employed and not, with a view to developing human capital throughout their life - life long learning);
- higher education (= training interventions aimed at finalizing the contents of the training processes to the specific needs of companies, training professional figures capable of responding to the needs of the labor market).

As an accredited training center on the topics of the alpine environment, natural hazards, safety and mountain medicine, the Foundation operates on 5 levels:

Education in the school environment: From field education ateliers for primary schools, to excellent internships for high schools, up to university-post-university level, with individual courses of high professional training for young undergraduates / doctoral students focused on research and technological innovation.

Professional training: From training courses with the attribution of training credits for professionals, to specialized training on mountain medicine (in collaboration with the USL mountain medicine clinic), up to the formulation of educational courses for tour operators.

Awareness and education interventions: Workshops / training days (aimed at children, teenagers, adults, residents and tourists), creation of educational tools, information activities on glaciers, permafrost and climate change.

International training: Master on natural hazards in the alpine environment, Summer school / winter school, international campuses for university students.

Another example is the **CAI Scuola** (Italian Alpine Club) project, which was developed through various documents in agreement with the Ministry of Education, University and Research; a global project that from the training of teachers on purely environmental issues then leads to the involvement of young people in experiences of gradual discovery and progressive knowledge.

Dozens of national training courses for teachers of primary and secondary schools have been held in places of environmental value in all regions of Italy, with training experiences on environmental education issues, physical activities, safety education and protection of the mountain environment. A special space is also dedicated to the collection of projects developed by teachers of different orders and inspired by outdoor education.

At the same time, thanks to the volunteers of the CAI sections, activities with classes and groups of students intensified, mainly on the themes of discovery and knowledge of the environment, with particular attention to the correct approach to the world of the mountains, without however neglect safety and accident prevention education; an empathic and cognitive approach to gain awareness of the value of the natural environment and awareness of a collective heritage to be protected.

Many other initiatives then derive from projects developed with the Ministry of the Environment, with the Regions, with the Park Authorities and other cultural or environmental associations.

Any further comments

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6. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have contributed to maintaining and developing an adequate supply of school education, training and professional development, as well as appropriate adult training programs.	Yes	No
Availability of an adequate supply of educational institutions, including related teaching tools and relevant technologies	X	
Offer of courses in the field of adult education	X	
Promotion of school partnerships	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>In the Alpine regions there are numerous public and private educational institutions and training bodies.</p> <p>An important example is EURAC Research, as a center of excellence for research and post-graduate training in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano, also on issues of the Alpine environment and regional development. There is also a research institute on mountain genetics. The Education & Training institute deals with training. It proposes an annual program of seminars and intensive courses focused in particular on the topics dealt with by the institutes of the research center. These initiatives are aimed at specific targets such as the partners of the South Tyrolean scientific network, the public administration, the South Tyrolean Health Authority and managers of companies and organizations in the private, public and non-profit sectors. The strengths of all training activities are the always innovative and updated contents and a strong orientation to practice.</p> <p>Another example is the Upad Foundation, an institution that has been organizing initiatives, conferences, projects and courses in Bolzano and in the Alto Adige area for many years.</p> <p>The primary objective of the Upad Foundation is to encourage the growth and retraining of young people, adults and the elderly, to enhance the groups at risk of marginalization by creating adequate responses to the different needs expressed by the territory also through a widespread presence (over 20 locations in the Province of Bolzano).</p> <p>The training offer is multiple and embraces the most varied disciplines.</p> <p>To the cultural sectors traditionally treated by the agency, such as literature, art, history, archeology, psychology, geography, new areas of study have been added in recent years, such as the line of interpersonal communication and tools to make it more effective, than Italian and foreign cinema, computer courses, some permanent schools (creative writing, shiatsu, philosophy, art, naturopathy, wellness), professional training courses and managerial skills development especially for the Third Sector.</p> <p>Since October 2012, the Spazio Famiglia service has been active in the suitably equipped premises of the Upad Foundation. It is a space open to all and aimed at welcoming parents and / or preschool children, with the aim of improving the reconciliation between family and work.</p> <p>Today the Upad Foundation has more than 10,000 members, with 23 branch offices in the</p>		

province of Bolzano.

Recreational offer

7. Is a diversified cultural offer maintained and, where possible, an adequate recreational offer for the local population throughout the year?

Yes

No

Give some example cases.

The cultural element is recognized by the Italian Constitution which expressly states it in Article 9:

«The Republic promotes the development of culture and scientific and technical research. It protects the landscape and the historical and artistic heritage of the nation ».

These words - together with those on health in Article 32 - express not only the crystalline awareness of the need for a healthy environment, necessary for the community to live and develop happily, but even before they underline the cardinal link that exists between a consolidated public practice of culture and our social, economic and ecological safeguard.

Following the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government has issued various measures aimed at limiting its effects and supporting the cultural sector in the recovery.

Among these there is a direct financing instrument and investment support, with credit guarantee, promoted by Federculture from the very first moments of the lockdown, materialized with the Legislative Decree 34/2020 "Relaunch Decree", which in article 184 established the "Fund for Culture": "[...] A fund with an endowment of 50 million euros for the year 2020 has been set up in the forecast of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism. the promotion of investments and the support of other interventions for the protection, conservation, restoration, use, enhancement and digitization of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. By decree of the Minister for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism, in agreement with the Minister of Economy and Finance, the operating conditions and conditions of the fund are established. [...]"

In implementation of Article 184 of Legislative Decree 34/2020, the interministerial decree no. 546 of 27 November 2020 which in Article 1 established: "[...] c.1. This decree, in implementation of article 184 of the decree-law of 19 May 2020, no. 34, defines the methods and conditions of operation of the fund (hereinafter, "Fund for culture"), established in the forecast of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism (hereinafter, "MiBACT") , with a budget of 50 million euros for the year 2020; c.2. The resources referred to in paragraph 1 are divided as follows: a) 30 million euros for the promotion of investments and to support other interventions for the protection, conservation, restoration, use, enhancement and digitization of the material cultural heritage and immaterial; b) 20 million euros to finance a guarantee fund for the granting of interest rate grants and loans for interventions to safeguard and enhance the cultural heritage. [...]"

All the regions of the Alps are committed to promoting the growth of the cultural offer.

For example, the **Autonomous Province of Trento** intervenes through economic subsidies in support of cultural projects of provincial importance, compliant with the aims and principles expressed in the guidelines for the cultural policies of the Province.

The calls are published in the Official Bulletin of the Region and in the media and define the characteristics of the project, the requirements for the admissibility of the project, the methods

of evaluation and implementation of the project.

Qualified cultural entities can apply, pursuant to art. 16 of the provincial law on cultural activities.

Another example in the context of the EGCT-GO, along the **Isonzo** river, five macro types of tourist offers can be identified:

- Sports activities related to the Soča river. This offer is mainly developed in the Upper Soča area with rafting, kayaking, canyoning activities and extends southwards to the GECT GO area with the kayaking sports center and the network of cycle paths that connect the various attraction poles. in the cultural, gastronomic and hospitality sectors. The integration of the cycle network with the railway network and other public transport modes constitute an interesting development opportunity for the area.
- The places of the Great War are a specificity of the area. The paths of peace that extend throughout the territory offer links to various museums, monuments, cemeteries, ruins and open-air museums. The tragic events of the Great War, which left strong marks on the territory and in the memory of the population, have become part of the local identity.
- In the cultural field there are numerous entertainment events, festivals, concerts, exhibitions, fairs and competitions ... Tolmin offers the widest range of summer music festivals, while the EGTC area hosts the gastronomic event "Gusti di frontiera ", the largest festival in the area by number of visitors.
- Seaside tourism: The coastal area offers a wide choice of cultural and natural attractions.

Any further comments

8. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have contributed to maintaining a diversified cultural offer and, as far as possible, an adequate recreational offer for the local population throughout the year.	Yes	No
Availability of adequate offers and recreational facilities that take particular account of the needs and demands of the population and regional specificities	X	
Greater support for local cultural and sports associations	X	
Construction, maintenance and renovation of facilities for cultural and sporting activities as long as the conditions of social and environmental compatibility exist	X	
Promotion of cultural and sporting activities for young people	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
The initiatives that enhance the cultural, social and artistic heritage of the Italian mountains are		

truly numerous. Film and literary festivals, exhibitions and guided visits to places of greatest interest, events dedicated to agri-food products or an in-depth study of the most topical issues animate the entire Alpine territory, enriching and pleasantly enlivening it.

The natural stage of these events is the landscape, an undisputed protagonist not only for its aesthetic quality but also, obviously, for its intimate connection to the life of the inhabitants, thus proud to be able to show it to guests and visitors in transit. A landscape therefore recognized by local communities as a primary asset, a collective heritage to be defended and transformed into the planning heart of positive social cohesion, in the mature awareness of its being a sign and testimony of the very culture of places.

For the organizers of these events, the concept of landscape goes beyond the idea of natural beauty to insert itself into the broader vision of a shared social space, a place in which the creativity and the deepest qualities of those who live there develop historically, by stratifying themselves. Countries, communities and nature thus become an inseparable whole, underlining the deep bond that binds resident populations to the habitats in which they live their everyday life.

The impact of this widespread heritage, therefore, is not only economic but also social and environmental. In this sense, culture has a fundamental role in the enrichment process of a country: its being able to perform a protective function makes it a capital to be safeguarded and at the same time to be invested; “One of the most powerful assets a place can boast of”. Culture is also an important educational tool, capable of shedding light on the most hidden aspects of the relationship between human beings and the environment; an extraordinary sphere of action, charged with a multiplicity of essential tasks to give full meaning to our living.

The so-called *Cultural Routes*, for example, are landscape enhancement projects that guarantee citizens the lively maintenance of the relationship and dialogue with their places of belonging. Roads that are transformed into genetic codes reproducing knowledge, to be fed through the protection of the landscape, an indispensable common good, context and active container of the historical-cultural itineraries offered to tourists.

The environmental cultural heritage - in this context - are still determining factors in averting threatening phenomena of abandonment and depopulation of the high lands. A category capable of recomposing the dichotomy between urban planning and landscape, connecting both to the archaeological, historical and artistic heritage of the nation.

Numerous cultural events related to cinema take place throughout the Alps, in particular the film festivals dedicated to the mountains:

The **Trento Film Festival**, founded in 1952, is the first and oldest film festival in the world dedicated to the mountains, exploration and adventure. In recent years, alongside these issues, there has been a growing interest in environmental, cultural and current issues that have made the rich program of the Festival more varied and stimulating.

For more than sixty years the festival has presented itself as a workshop of visions and reflections on the high lands of the planet and on little-known territories, casting in particular an all-round look, through cinema, literature and the arts, on the world of the mountains, mountaineering, exploration and its protagonists.

The International Competition that assigns the prestigious Golden and Silver Gentians, together with the collateral sections, offers the best recent works, of all kinds and lengths, which have as protagonists or background the mountains and extreme regions of the world, telling the more fascinating stories of the relationship between man and nature, promoting knowledge and defense of the territories, deepening ties with peoples and cultures, celebrating large and small

mountaineering enterprises and alpine sports in general.

In recent editions, the Festival has come to present over one hundred films, often in national previews, during ten intense days of screenings.

Every year the Trento Film Festival organizes a spring edition in Trento and an autumn edition in Bolzano. But its activity continues all year round with *Trento Film Festival 365*.

On the occasion of the film festival, the Festival offers a rich program of events, exhibitions, cultural meetings, organizing the international review of mountain publishing "*MontagnaLibri*" in the Trento and Bolzano editions.

The festival, with all its contents, is an initiative from which multiple proposals can "germinate" according to the needs gradually found.

Another example is the **Gran Paradiso Film Festival**, an international festival dedicated to naturalistic cinema and one of the most important cinematographic events in the Autonomous Region of the Aosta Valley. The Festival aims to contribute to the dissemination of naturalistic cinema, to deepen the knowledge of the natural heritage, to develop a sensitivity of full respect for the environment and takes place in the evocative setting of the Gran Paradiso National Park, established in 1922 to protect the ibex. And it is precisely within the majestic mountain scenery of the Park that a Festival dedicated to Nature has found its ideal location, aimed at stimulating creativity and the search for a quality cultural offer.

Another event is "**Orobic Film Festival ... from the mountains of Lombardia to the high lands of the world**", International Festival of mountain documentaries and feature films, a film competition dedicated to the mountains.

The Festival aims to promote the mountain environments of Italy and the whole planet, or the so-called Highlands of the World, for a better knowledge of the environment, the territory, its history, its culture, its countries and of the people who live it.

Another example is the **Lessinia Film Festival** which is, in Italy, the only international film competition exclusively dedicated to short films, documentaries, feature films and animated films about life, history and traditions in the mountains. Born in 1995, on the initiative of the Curatorium Cimbricum Veronese association, as a videographic review dedicated to the Veronese mountains, the Film Festival has gradually expanded its interest to the mountains all over the world, excluding by regulation the works dedicated to sport and mountaineering. .

The film program is accompanied by special events, retrospectives, international guests, exhibitions, meetings, debates, concerts and other initiatives on the theme of life, history and traditions in the mountains. The theme of the Lessinia Film Festival is: life, history and tradition in the mountains.

Another event is the **Nuovi Mondi festival**, the smallest mountain film festival in the world. The festival was born from an idea of the Kosmoki cultural association and the Municipality of Valloriate.

The Nuovi Mondi intends to place itself on the Piemontese and Italian scene as an international event dedicated to the mountains that takes place in the mountains.

The goal is to know how to talk about the mountains, bringing guests and the public to experience it, seeking the fundamental collaboration of an entire valley and an entire territory such as that of the Terre del Monviso.

Born as a Film Festival, today it is a cultural project of territorial activation and promotion.

Communication and information

9. Is a plurality of media maintained and promoted as an essential tool for safeguarding the cultural peculiarities of the Alps?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
Give some example cases.			
<p>In accordance with <u>Law 482/99</u>, specific conditions for the promotion of languages and cultures protected by the same law are envisaged for the protection of linguistic minorities. Articles 12-14 are dedicated to the <i>public broadcasting service and support for publishing</i></p> <p>In the agreement between the Ministry of Communications and RAI (Italian Radio and Television), and in the related service contract, specific conditions are envisaged for promoting and disseminating the languages and cultures protected by means of mass communications. The regions can also enter into conventions with RAI and agreements with local broadcasters to carry out, as part of regional radio and television programming, broadcasts intended for linguistic minorities (Article 12).</p> <p>Regions, Provinces and Municipalities may have, on the basis of their financial resources, provisions for publishing, for the press and for private radio and television broadcasters that use the protected languages; the same subjects can also pay loans to associations that aim to safeguard linguistic minorities (Article 14).</p> <p>A plurality of media is guaranteed at the state and regional level and newspapers are present in all regions of the Alpine arc (eg <i>L'Adige, Alto Adige, Trentino</i>, local editions of <i>Corriere della Sera</i>) radio (eg <i>Radio Dolomiti, RadioNBC-Alpinotizie, AlpiRadio</i>) TV (<i>TrentinoTV, L'Alpino-weekly television, ReteBiella</i>), as well as numerous websites for information and cultural promotion.</p>			
Any further comments			

10. Is the access of the population of the Alps to modern means and technologies of communication easier?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
Give some example cases.			
<p>The Ministry for technological innovation and digital transition favors the dissemination of digital services, dealing with innovation and proposing new technologies in the productive fabric.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Ultra Broadband - "Towards the Gigabit Society", aims to bring connectivity to 1 Gbps throughout the country by 2026 and encourage the development of fixed and mobile telecommunications infrastructures, as indicated from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) and in advance of the European targets set for 2030.</p> <p>Approved on 25 May 2021 by the Interministerial Committee for Digital Transition (CiTD), the document defines the actions necessary to achieve the digital transformation objectives indicated by the European Commission in 2016 (the so-called "Gigabit Society") and in 2021 (so-called Digital Compass).</p> <p>The Strategy, in addition to completing the Coverage Plan for the so-called white areas and the</p>			

Voucher Plan with measures to support the demand for connectivity, provides for five new public intervention plans to cover the geographical areas in which the offer of digital infrastructures and services at very high speed by market participants is absent or insufficient. The Plans are dedicated to the population as a whole (such as the Italy 1 Giga and Italy 5G Plan) but also to specific sectors, such as schools, with the "Connected Schools" Plan, and health facilities, with the " Connected Health ").

Infrastructures for Information and Communication Technology (ITC) play an important role in the new society as a means of inclusion and competitiveness for the population, for commercial activities, administration and tourism. To date, broadband connection has therefore become a necessity to avoid the exclusion of a part of the population, this is even more true in remote mountain areas and this is why overcoming the digital divide in the Alps is considered an important goal by the Alpine Convention.

The **Task Force Digital Alpine Agenda** was set up with the aim of analyzing the digital divide in the Alps and promoting the development of a Digital Agenda tailored to the needs of the Alpine population, in this sense it has developed a document that analyzes the main issues related to ITC in the Alps and proposed some solutions and best practices.

The aim of the study was to encourage the development of broadband in remote and high mountain areas in order to offer advanced services both in the social field, such as telemedicine or distance education services, and in the economic field, for example. through the structuring of networks capable of supporting the development of start-ups to encourage the stay or return of the youth population to the mountains. The document also proposes to standardize the digital services of the public administration to provide innovative and useful services to populations living in isolated areas.

The priorities identified in the report form the basis of the Alpine Digital Agenda adopted at the 13th Alpine Conference in Turin. With the proposal of an Alpine Digital Agenda, we intend to pursue the objectives set by the European Digital Agenda, with an approach that favors a harmonious development of the Alpine macro-region by increasing competitiveness and social inclusion, enhancing the peculiarities and excellence of its territory. . The actions that the working table of the Italian presidency wanted to bring to the attention of the other member countries are:

- Breaking down the digital divide in Alpine areas by taking actions to stimulate digital competitiveness and promote social inclusion
- Implement broadband in remote areas to encourage the emergence of commercial and innovative activities
- Structuring networks capable of encouraging the development of innovative start-ups by slowing down the migration of the young population to urban centers
- Promote distance learning activities for compulsory schools and secondary education.
- Encourage actions aimed at higher education and literacy of the adult / elderly population.
- Supporting policies aimed at the development of tele-health to meet the aging of the population and the monitoring of chronic diseases
- Standardize the digital services of the public administration in order to provide innovative and useful services to populations living in isolated areas.

The result of the work of the Task Force of the Italian Presidency (2013-2014) aimed at analyzing the digital divide in the Alps and promoting the development of a Digital Agenda calibrated on the needs of the Alpine population collects recommendations and examples aimed

at harmonizing from the point of view of access to digital in mountain and remote areas, with the aim of encouraging the development of broadband to offer advanced services both in the social field (e.g. telemedicine or distance education), and in the economic field, (e.g. networks in support of start-ups up) so as to encourage the stay or return of the youth population to the mountains.

Between 2010 and 2013 the European project ItaliaSvizzera (Interreg IV A) **V.E.T.T.A.** (*Enhancement of the experiences of cross-border tourism products of medium and high altitudes*) made it possible to bring broadband connectivity to 56 Lombard alpine refuges, located in the cross-border territories of the provinces of Como, Lecco and Sondrio. An activity carried out by ERSAF (Regional Agency for Agricultural and Forestry Services) and by the Directorate General for Sports and Youth Policies of the Lombardy Region, in collaboration with CAI Lombardia, with the aim of improving, promoting and stimulating tourism offer system at medium and high altitudes.

Any further comments

11. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, by means of which you have contributed to maintaining and promoting the plurality of the media for the purpose of safeguarding the cultural peculiarities of the Alpine arc (question 9) or facilitating the access of the population of the arc Alpine to modern means and technologies of communication.	Yes	No
Availability of means of communication even in the most remote areas of the regions thanks to public suppliers	X	
Promotion of communication and information in regional languages	X	
Creation of the framework conditions for an offer of print media in regional languages	X	
Promotion of information on Alpine living space issues	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
In addition to what has already been pointed out in response to the previous questions (9-10), for example regarding the promotion of information in regional languages, in Friuli-Venezia Giulia RAN FRIUL, a channel closely linked to the territory, broadcasts programs in Friulian language, documentaries on the territory, self-productions and more. The channel also offers 360-degree entertainment with an important space for local information.		

Community life

12. Are mutual understanding and dialogue supported in the daily life of the various communities in the Alpine arc?

Yes	X	No	
Give some example cases.			
<p>Local communities are sensitive to the issue of diversity and pursue solutions capable of responding to local needs and challenges. Inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and inter-municipal cooperation promotes understanding and dialogue between the communities of the Alpine arc and allows you to come into contact with new realities and experiences of integration defined by the different governance models and regulatory contexts of each country in the Alpine region. In addition to what has already been emphasized (part 2 - I), further examples are given below of how mutual understanding and dialogue in the daily life of the different Alpine communities are supported.</p> <p>To promote social cohesion and the attractiveness of the territory, the transnational cooperation programs of the European Union are valuable tools for regional development. The practice-oriented approach facilitates the involvement of citizens and civil society. The cooperation structures, especially the Interreg-Alpine Space Program in the current programming period, make it possible to design and use services of general interest capable of contributing to a common standard of services of a comparable quality level in a mountain area. characterized by densely populated regional cities, depopulated valleys, rural / remote areas, varying levels of innovative capacity and density of social networks as well as funding opportunities.</p> <p>Through initiatives such as the PlurAlps project, the exchange and cooperation activities between regions and municipalities of the Alpine arc have produced tailor-made solutions for the challenges of local integration, have promoted the debut of the Alpine Pluralism Award and the sharing of good practices, have highlighted the capacities of municipalities in social planning, and gave rise to a series of recommendations for decision-making bodies (White Paper). At the same time, a consolidation of local and regional networks has emerged and ample space has been given to local initiatives on a small scale. PlurAlps has made it possible to develop and test services and practices in the field of hospitality that take into account the quality of life of all citizens. The initiatives are collected in an Innovation toolbox.</p>			
Any further comments			

13. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have helped to support mutual understanding and dialogue in the daily life of the various communities in the Alps.	Yes	No
Maintenance and promotion of meeting places	X	
Promotion of collaboration and exchange projects	X	
Enhancement of voluntary and mutual aid actions	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		

In addition to what has already been said in response to the previous questions (part 2-I), in the Italian Alps there are numerous actions undertaken to support mutual understanding and dialogue in the daily life of the various communities in the Alps, through voluntary associations, and foundations that have been operating for years in the territories and the promotion of collaboration and exchange projects at all levels.

For example, in **Valle d'Aosta**, the *Fondation Grand Paradis* brings together and represents the various stakeholders of the valleys of Cogne, Valsavarenche and Rhêmes, the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta, the Gran Paradiso National Park Authority, the Municipalities and the Mountain community.

Its mission is to create an integrated naturalistic and cultural offer in the Gran Paradiso area, involving all stakeholders, working concretely in the management of sites of cultural interest and landscape assets. It deals with the promotion and coordination of visitors to the Gran Paradiso National Park, a botanical garden and a castle.

It promotes sustainable development, respect for the environment, the enhancement of culture and tradition by supporting them with an innovative and research spirit. Finally, it organizes events of an artistic and cultural nature, with an eye to the younger generations.

Another example in **Lombardia**, the *Alpes association* promotes and carries out events that look at the territory as a set of cultural and geographical themes of interdisciplinary scope, involving professionals from different sectors and multiple operational fields. A wide-ranging vision, open, shared and attentive to the numerous manifestations and ways of living in the Alpine realities.

Invited by the Trentino School of Management to form the working group that led to the creation of the *Montagne in Rete* portal, *Alpes* contributed to delineating its boundaries, actively participating in the identification and examination of the different realities to which the initial call should be addressed.

Alpes also brings together some of the most authoritative writers of landscape and walking, including Luciano Bolzoni - who is also one of the founders - Davide Sapienza, Franco Michieli, Tiziano Fratus, Roberto Mantovani and Riccardo Carnovalini. It follows their activity and artistic production by organizing events, trekking, conferences, seminars and author's walks, specially designed to discover and experience the Alpine landscape, as well as the urban one, in a different and often unexpected way.

The cultural workshop also supports study, teaching and training activities with particular attention to mountain architecture: presentations, conferences and moments of study enrich a lively and in-depth cultural calendar, through collaborations with universities and professional associations of the main Alpine cities. It also supports specific projects, effectively taking care of the creative and promotional part.

Another example is the *Association Amici della Val Codera ONLUS*, based in Codera, which has been involved for 35 years in the protection and environmentally friendly promotion of the Codera valley. The valley is located in the Rhaetian Alps, is carved out of granite and is still wild and intact, despite climate changes having led to the erosion of the soil and rock. The main objective of the association's activities is the protection and enhancement of the environmental and cultural heritage of the valley (a typical example of Alpine civilization) for the benefit of the residents and of a cultural and environmental tourism that knows how to appreciate the particular attractions of the place. The activities take place above all in the surroundings of the

village of Codera, reachable only on foot with a 2-hour walk from the valley floor.

Another example in **Piemonte**, the *Amico Parco association* was founded in 1999 by a group of "loyalists" of the Parco delle Alpi Marittime, who in 2008, to meet the new needs, formed a voluntary association by enrolling in the provincial register. Subsequently, Amico Parco joined the regional register as a voluntary organization (ODV) in the section "Protection and enhancement of the environment".

The purposes are:

- Promote volunteering understood as personal, spontaneous and free participation in the solidarity actions undertaken by the Association to pursue its aims.
- Implement, develop, encourage and promote activities and initiatives aimed at the protection and enhancement of nature and the environment in all its landscape, cultural and social aspects, with particular reference to the territories of the Protected Areas of the Maritime Alps.

Another example, the *Kosmoki association* organizes cultural and artistic projects of international scope. Its associates, always keeping the power of the image at the center of their interests and objectives, generate events that challenge the potential of the territories by building bridges between different but communicating realities.

Of this nature is the small jewel of cultural tourist entertainment that takes place between Valloriate and Paraloup, two small mountain villages both part of the Mountain Community of Valle Stura.

An initiative that explores new identities, new worlds, declining the legacy transmitted by the mountain "civilization of doing" in a 2.0 key: the one that does not surrender to a destiny of abandonment and marginality already written but that grasps the limit to decide to go beyond it in view of the unknown.

With respect to the maintenance and promotion of meeting places, in the small town of **Ostana**, in the upper Po valley, in 2015 the cultural and multifunctional center *Lou Pourtoun* was inaugurated in the *Miribrart* hamlet, the Occitan name of the *Sant'Antonio* hamlet. The event represented the fulfillment of a path, which lasted almost three decades, dominated by the idea of a possible redemption from the inexorable socio-economic decline following the demographic abandonment of the second postwar period. From this point of view, the relevance of the new structure is twofold: on the one hand, it will be the "house" where all the activities of public life will be concentrated, destined to become the beating heart of the rebirth of the entire village made possible with the contribution of the Rural Development Plans 2007-2013, for the Measure "Renewal of Alpine Villages" of the Piedmont Region and with the contribution of the municipality itself and private individuals. On the other hand, the building symbolically embodies the three cornerstones that are guiding the genesis of this new community, namely the support of an idea of living and of conscious and sustainable tourist hospitality, the promotion of Alpine culture and languages. minorities (starting with Occitan) and, finally, the enhancement of mountain architecture and rural and landscape heritage.

IV. Economic space

Regional development

1. Is a specific regional policy implemented, which allows for balanced, diversified and endogenous territorial development, through the sustainable use of local potentials and through the use of new technologies that are both eco-sustainable and socio-compatible?			
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	
Give some example cases.			
<p>The regional development policy of the European Union is specifically aimed at ensuring that the competitiveness objectives are achieved by all regional territories, also and above all by those with economic and social imbalances and is co-financed by Community and national funds from, respectively, from the European budget for cohesion policy (European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and Cohesion Fund) and national (Fund for underutilized areas, now replaced by the Fund for development and cohesion (FSC).</p> <p>Regional development policy is implemented through the action of European and state co-financed Programs / Interventions.</p> <p>The Alps are primarily a vital and economic space for the local population and present significant internal differentiations: highly developed areas alternate with economically weak areas; alongside agglomerations in the main valleys with very high settlement densities, we find other areas seriously threatened by the exodus.</p> <p>The Italian Alpine region is a diverse mosaic of local economies. The local economies of the Alpine region specialize in different types of production: “industrial districts” of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), “industrial clusters” of large enterprises and services, “cities” and “tourist resorts”.</p> <p>The Alpine area includes metropolitan centers with very high economic development and contrasted with mountainous areas in a situation of socio-economic difficulty and in an advanced phase of aging and abandonment. In this complex area, Local Action Groups (LAGs) have been operating for thirty years now, organizations made up of public and private entities that promote and implement local development strategies in their areas of competence which, due to their activities and management characteristics, present the specific elements of " LEADER / CLLD approach attributable to the creation of a new local governance from below, the implementation of networks between operators and stakeholders and the integrated use of financial resources relating to different funds.</p> <p>By acting as spokespersons for the territory, the LAGs bring the needs of the population to the attention of local institutions and on the basis of this information define development interventions aimed at overcoming the marginalization of mountain areas due above all to their territorial configuration and at the same time promoting their significant role in local development strategies.</p> <p>Actions for the protection and enhancement of the environment, landscape and minor urban centers, development of sustainable tourism, support for the start-up of local agricultural businesses, enhancement of typical local products, improvement of the quality of life are just some of the interventions that characterize the strategies of local development defined by the LAGs in the Alpine area focused on promoting the economy of their territories to counter the</p>			

exodus of the population and economic activities.

In 2015, the **Alpine Arc LAG Network** was established. In specific terms, the Network is intended as a tool aimed at encouraging collaboration between the territories of the Italian and cross-border LAGs and aimed at identifying a shared methodology aimed at strengthening participatory planning of local development in the Alpine areas.

There are currently 23 LAG members (2 from Bolzano, 1 from Friuli-Venezia Giulia, 1 from Lombardy, 14 from Piedmont and 5 from Veneto).

Among the national interventions is the **National Strategy for Internal Areas (SNAI)**, included in the National Reform Plan and in the 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement, involving over 60% of the Italian national territory and about 22% of its population. The goal is to slow down the depopulation of the same, less and less manned and cared for by active local communities, recovering and enhancing the present potential and triggering paths of balanced development through the creation of new income opportunities and accessibility to essential services. such as local public transport, education and health and social services to the inhabitants. It therefore represents a development action for areas far from large agglomeration and service centers but nevertheless equipped with resources that are lacking in central areas and with a strong potential for attraction. These are municipalities or associations of peripheral or outermost municipalities, whose periphery has been calculated on the basis of the distance traveled by car from the service offering centers.

The LAGs, as subjects responsible for Participatory Local Development Strategies (Leader / CLLD) also operate within some SNAI Strategies and ETC Programs, helping to strengthen the integration of local actors, giving life to new governance models for the processes of economic and social growth. With reference to the SNAI, where the LAGs are involved in the technical drafting of the strategies, these have had a strong acceleration and a greater sharing of objectives and expected results among the local stakeholders thanks to the synergies activated between SNAI, PSR and PSL in the project areas (Forum Leader, 2021).

As for the ETC Programs, the greatest benefits obtained from the participation of the LAGs can be grouped into three broad categories: economic, social, local governance. From an economic point of view, participation in cooperation projects has allowed operators and the territory to position themselves in a much broader economic context, thanks to the achievement of appropriate "critical masses" and the support of actions to improve the quality of the offer. From a social point of view, the importance of enhancing the "rurality" and its considerable resources was stimulated and a strong renewal of territorial identity was encouraged. Finally, the synergy and the exchange promoted between the operators (companies, associations and institutions) of the area of competence has allowed to consolidate the birth of a culture of cooperation.

The role of the LAGs in the construction and implementation of development paths is fundamental, especially in these territories; in fact, they represent the link between the public and private sectors which allows, through the method of participation, not only the implementation of interventions appropriate to the needs of the area but also to promote aggregation and a sense of belonging to a rugged territory but rich in potential. With a view to optimizing efforts for the enhancement of mountain areas, promoting greater synergy between the EUSALP macro-strategy and the local strategies of the LAGs present in this area is not only an opportunity, but an almost obligatory step: interventions effective but also integration between different tools and subjects, in fact, will have to proceed in parallel to provide an efficient response to the development of the mountain area.

Any further comments

2. Mark with a cross the measures adopted in the following fields, through which you have implemented a specific regional policy that allows a balanced, diversified and endogenous territorial development, through the sustainable use of local potentials and through the use of new technologies that are at the same time environmentally friendly and partner compatible.	Yes	No
Specific measures, aimed at the economic strengthening of mountain areas in all sectoral policies	X	
Strengthening of initiatives aimed at favoring the development of tourism activities compatible with social, cultural and environmental specificities	X	
Promotion of a regional policy geared to the specific needs of mountain areas	X	
Economic promotion programs for young people	X	
Promotion of regional development aimed at greater cooperation between the sectors of agriculture, forestry, trade and tourism as well as other economic sectors	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>The general objective envisaged by the Tourism Protocol, which the Contracting Parties undertake to pursue, is to contribute, within the framework of the current institutional system, to a sustainable development of the Alpine area thanks to tourism that protects the environment, through specific measures and recommendations that take into account the interests of the local population and tourists. More concretely, the Protocol intends, among other things, to encourage projects, initiatives, development programs, sectoral plans that provide for the collaboration of various local subjects across all institutional and administrative levels. The red thread of this dynamic should be that of research and experimentation of a balanced relationship between forms of intensive and extensive tourism and a tourist enhancement that is not detrimental to the landscapes, ecosystems and cultural and social values of which the Alps are bearers. from ancient times.</p> <p>Italy represents an interesting laboratory on this issue and it is necessary to build an overall picture that helps to highlight the key elements of these new and interesting responses to changes in development models so that effective policies can be built. In particular, Italy worked on the "Cortina Charter", a declaration accompanied by a series of criteria and practices to ensure the sustainability of major winter sporting events. This context requires careful consideration of the impact on sustainability and the tourism development strategies to be developed for the Italian Alps.</p> <p>An in-depth knowledge of current and future tourism trends can be useful for building a vision of mountain tourism in the country, which can also be shared beyond national borders and fuel a broader international debate. Many experts and institutions are working on a vision of sustainability of the tourism sector consistent with global and regional trends and with the</p>		

United Nations SDGs to which governments at different levels have committed themselves.

Here are some non-exhaustive examples of what is done in the field of sustainable tourism in the regions of the Italian Alps.

An example is the **Tu.S.Alp** project coordinated by Cipra Italia on behalf of the Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and in agreement with the Ministry of the Environment, on the theme of tourism sustainability in a green economy framework.

The goal is to take stock of sustainable tourism practices, not intended as experiences in themselves, but rather as an element that integrates and is integrated into a complex economic system that enhances local resources with a view to respect and re -production of the territory itself.

Another example is the **Healps 2** project aims to foster the recognition of the Alpine space as a place of health promotion on a global level for the sustainable development of Alpine regions.

The main objective is to identify a recognized model for the sustainable exploitation of Alpine natural resources linked to health tourism.

The approach is twofold: on the one hand the scientific-mathematical research will lay the foundations for the development of tools for tourist destinations, on the other the peculiarities of the different territories and bodies involved, such as NGOs, Protected Areas, private stakeholders, will be included in the model, to increase the effectiveness and concrete usefulness of the proposed solutions.

By operating in this way, it will be possible to develop implementation tools aimed at the sustainable use and conservation of Alpine natural resources.

That of the Ossola Protected Areas is one of the pilot areas of the project, where the practical utility of the innovative model developed and its ability to accommodate the needs of local stakeholders will be verified in the field. A territory suitable for health tourism due to its conformation and the natural resources of its protected areas, the Ossola Valley will be able to draw from HEALPS2 knowledge, exchanges of experiences and useful tools to develop its own health-oriented tourist offer and to effectively characterize itself as destination for those who, through the holiday, try to improve their psychophysical well-being.

An example in the context of the circular economy is the European project **AlpLinkBioEco**, how to enhance innovative supply chains in the circular bioeconomy. The project was born as part of the EUSALP Alpine macro-regional strategy with the aim of developing inter-regional proposals for the enhancement of innovative supply chains operating in the circular bioeconomy sector. AlpLinkBioEco, of which Fraunhofer Italia, HIT - Hub Innovazione Trentino and CSALP - Centro Studi Alpino are partners, has worked over the three years on the issues of the bioeconomy and the circular economy, considered a driving force for competitiveness, bearers of added value for businesses and fundamental building blocks for achieving the objectives of the European Green Deal and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. To support the transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to a bio-based economy, an interactive database, the Value Chain Generator, was developed during the project, mapping dozens of sectoral associations and hundreds of companies and subsequently developing new value chains and opportunities for industrial symbiosis at local, national and transnational level. Furthermore, thanks to the collection of inputs from political and industrial stakeholders of the European regions involved, a shared action plan (Masterplan) was defined to stimulate the development of the bioeconomy in the Alpine Space.

Economic sectors

3. Are economic chains being strengthened and developed to promote local and regional products and services?			
Yes	X	No	
Give some example cases			
<p>Yes, for example in the context of enhancing food production and consumption practices in the Alps.</p> <p>Food heritage is an element of strong identity in rural mountain communities, which goes beyond single products and includes "productive landscapes", traditional knowledge, production techniques, but also consumption habits and rituals, as well as transmission of ancient wisdom.</p> <p>In many rural areas, factors such as depopulation, population aging, migration, climate change, globalization, industrialization and the concentration of agriculture and food production in lowland areas are putting a strain on the the continuation of traditional practices with the risk of making the food heritage disappear.</p> <p>This could cause, in addition to the loss of an important element of cultural diversity, also the loss of biodiversity, impoverishing the communities of interesting knowledge that often form the basis for the development of resilience practices, or for the birth of alternative models and more sustainable local development.</p> <p>For example, the Interreg Alpine Space AlpFoodway project intends to provide a contribution to sustainable development policies based on the conservation and enhancement, including economic, of the cultural heritage linked to food in peripheral mountain areas. This will be achieved by testing new community-centered bottom-up participatory approaches aimed at commercial enhancement of intangible cultural heritage, and will be supported by the development of synergies between agriculture, food production, tourism and culture.</p> <p>The project will develop interesting tools and outputs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an inventory of the Alpine heritage (www.intangiblesearch.eu) and some tools aimed at promoting the mapping and safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage; - specific models to encourage interaction with the markets by counteracting the phenomena of excessive marketing and loss of authenticity; - recognition of collective intellectual property rights, dedicated to food heritage chains and measures to prevent and reduce the risk of illegal exploitation and cultural and economic embezzlement by third parties. - an alpine network between representatives of local communities, heritage communities and decision-makers to encourage discussion on the theme of enhancing the intangible food cultural heritage. <p>AlpFoodway would also like to contribute to the international debate on ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) started after the 2003 ICH UNESCO Convention and explore the possibility of launching a World Heritage candidacy for Alpine food culture, involving all Alpine countries.</p> <p>The project partners are: CREPA - Center régional d'études des populations alpines (CH), Lombardy Region (IT), Valle d'Aosta Autonomous Region (IT), Comunità Montana di Valle Camonica (IT), Trentino School of Management (IT), Gradient Association (IT), Kedge Business School (FR), Syndicat Mixte du Parc naturel régional du Massif des Bauges (FR), Northern Primorska Regional Development Agency (SLO), Upper Gorenjska Regional</p>			

Development Agency (SLO), Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Art (SLO), Department of Strategic Management, Marketing and Tourism of the University of Innsbruck (AT), Higher School of Applied Sciences of Munich (DE).

Alpine areas in the last decades of the twentieth century witnessed a process of depopulation, the effects of which on the environment caused by the abandonment of agro-pastoral practices have extended beyond the local dimension, changing the characteristics of the landscape and cultural traditions and transforming these areas in marginal lands.

For some years, however, in the entire Alpine arc there have been various realities that are trying to **reintroduce different types of historically documented crops**: for example, rye, the mountain cereal par excellence which, although not originally from the Alps, was indispensable and fundamental for the food and for everyday life until the 50s of the last century. Its recovery, which is both economic, cultural and touristic, plays a significant role in the interaction, collaboration and exchanges between local communities and acts as a link between tradition and contemporaneity.

Furthermore, in the Alps there is an extremely peculiar dairy production reality, that of the Province of **Sondrio**, linked to the exclusive production of a cheese that can be matured for up to ten years and where, often, the milk is processed hot as soon as it is milked directly on the spot. This province has the largest number of active and productive processing laboratories for raw milk (bovine and goat's milk), located in the mountain pastures, in the Lombardia Region, equal to over 150 plants.

With regard to the economic sectors, those of the **forest-wood** sector should be mentioned.

Various initiatives are underway in the states of the Alpine region to activate the potential of the wood product and fully exploit its ecological advantages. The certifications of origin presented here guarantee sustainable forestry and transport reduced to a minimum, such as those that characterize the use of regional wood.

The *Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme* represents the inhabitants of the Val di Fiemme and plays a leading role in the protection of the precious local wood. It also administers the state property of the area, such as pastures and woods. Its sustainable and comprehensive management allows the precious forest heritage to continue to grow.

The consortium *Il Legno di Fiemme* was founded to ensure and guarantee the origin of the wood grown and processed in Val di Fiemme as a quality product.

The "*Wood of the Province of Turin*" (LPT) standard ensures the local origin and processing of wood products. The companies that adhere to the stamp mainly use wood from the forests of the province of Turin. To ensure this, the control system in use is also used for the PEFC certification. The 10 participating companies worked over 300,000 quintals of wood in 2018, 75% of which was generated from forests in the province of Torino.

Another important example concerns the **Friuli-Venezia Giulia** region, which has launched a series of actions for planning the management of forest resources and the marketing of timber.

The main objective of these actions is to develop the entire forestry sector by providing all those who work there with up-to-date, modern and effective tools.

At the end of the 1990s, an organic and articulated instrument was launched, the "Forest-Wood Sector" program, financed with European funds and having the following objectives:

- enhancement of local forest resources;
- possibility of having homogeneous data for forest planning at local and regional level;
- respond to the lack of coordination and information of individual public and private

interventions;

- increase in transparency of the wood market and reduction of uncertainty factors in the prices and quantities of wood offered and requested;
- consolidation of forestry companies which represent the weakest but irreplaceable link within the supply chain;
- evolution of the entire wood sector from a technological and production point of view to bring it to average European levels.

To meet these needs, the program envisages the construction of a regional Observatory and a Regional Wood Exchange.

The *Wood Observatory*, financed and managed by the Central Management of Agricultural, Natural and Forest Resources, is the tool designed to photograph the situation in the sector, structure the information in special archives and formulate operational development models.

The *Wood Exchange*, managed by the *Legno Servizi* cooperative company of Tolmezzo (UD) made up of the main economic subjects of the forest-wood sector, public and private forest owners, forest utilization companies, wood processing companies), was designed and built to coordinate the actions of production activities within the supply chain, with particular regard to commercial aspects; it also becomes the main vehicle for the distribution and updating of data and information collected by the Observatory along the supply chain.

Any further comments

4. Please check with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have contributed to strengthening and developing economic supply chains to promote local and regional products and services.	Yes	No
Development and consolidation of brands, quality standards, and regional systems for the quality certification of Alpine products and services	X	
Support for the marketing of local and regional products	X	
Promotion of ongoing training initiatives in the sector	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>In addition to what has already been pointed out above (economic sectors), an example in the Italian Alpine regions is the establishment of agri-food supply chains which plays a very important role in the promotion of local and regional products, also through the development and consolidation of brands, standards of quality and regional systems for product quality certification and support for their marketing.</p> <p>The mountain area can boast a prominent place in the production of excellence, using Community tools such as the quality marks D.O.P, I.G.T, S.G.T, the optional indication "Mountain product" and the "Slow Food Presidium" recognition.</p> <p>An example of enhancement is that of the Ecomuseums, which among the various initiatives carry on the enhancement of the agri-food products of the reference territories and, with these,</p>		

the producers, the economic activities and the communities.

Whether it is direct support to production chains or activities aimed instead at the promotion and enhancement of specific products, these actions are based on a qualitative and integrated vision of agriculture and the processes of transformation of quality and excellence food, which we could also define, according to Slow Food's perspective, "good, clean and fair".

The production practices understood in this way preserve and are the result of a series of relationships and deep ties that refer to the local knowledge of the communities, to ancient ways of producing and working, to traditions and ways of living and interpreting the territory and making landscape. Working on these products means working on local identity, on territorial cohesion, on the construction or strengthening of synergies and bonds without forgetting, in all this, the visitors who can find one more reason to approach these territories, discovering the pleasure of taste agricultural products in the places of production and, with them, the culture, knowledge and experiences contained.

The discovery, the enhancement, the story of these practices, very often, becomes an opportunity for the Ecomuseums to carry out landscape and citizenship education initiatives, strengthening the link with the living space, especially of the youngest.

The projects of the Ecomuseums dedicated to food and landscape, strengthening the bond between communities and their living spaces, represent a concrete possibility to avoid depopulation and enhance the quality and excellence of flavors, places, knowledge, skills, representing an antidote to 'approval.

Employment

5. Are there framework conditions of reference for a sufficient and attractive supply of jobs, and, in appropriate cases, of mixed forms of income?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

In Italy, Active employment policies are all the initiatives introduced by national and local institutions to promote employment and job placement.

The main point of access to information on employment policies at the local level is represented by the Employment Centers, where the user can go for a first reception interview, to take advantage of all the services and active policy measures. (training and professional orientation, job accompaniment, internship promotion, etc.) and to obtain information on employment opportunities at national and community level and on training courses aimed at job placement or reintegration.

The employment services, as well as by the Employment Centers, are also provided by other subjects, such as: employment agencies; state and equal secondary schools; universities, public and private; Municipalities and Chambers of Commerce; the comparatively most representative employers 'and workers' associations at national level; charities, bilateral bodies and non-profit associations which have as their object the protection of work, assistance and promotion of entrepreneurial activities, the design and provision of training and alternation courses and the

protection of disability; the Website Managers.

With the entry into force of Legislative Decree no. 150/2015, the National Agency for Active Labor Policies (ANPAL) was established, which is responsible for coordinating and directing active policy services and measures, in close collaboration with the Regions.

In the regional legislation, an example is Friuli-Venezia Giulia and the Regional Law of 15 October 2020, n. 17 "Regional provisions on labor". Amendments to the regional law 9 August 2005, n. 18 (Regional rules for employment, protection and quality of work) and the regional law 21 July 2017, n. 27 (Rules on training and guidance in learning).

Furthermore, the main measures at national and regional level in terms of work and employment are described in detail on the institutional page of the FVG Region:

Favouring Employment - Integrated plan of employment and work policies

Integrated Employment and Labour Policy Plan consists of two projects: Youth Guarantee (for young people up to 29 years of age), Employability Project (for the unemployed or suspended from work).

Contributions to Highly Specialized Young People - FVG Talents - Regional provisions on support for the permanence, return and attraction of highly specialized young professionals.

Incentives for Hiring:

Permanent employment - Contributions for permanent employment with an employment contract and for work placement in cooperatives as working members of the unemployed.

Fixed-term hiring - Contributions for hiring with a fixed-term employment contract.

Stabilization of precarious workers - Contributions for the transformation of precarious employment contracts into permanent employment contracts.

Incentives for Self-Entrepreneurship:

POR FESR 2014–2020 Support for new entrepreneurial realities - Non-repayable grants for aspiring entrepreneurs and new businesses for the year 2018.

Another example is the **Valle d'Aosta** Region, whose particular territorial morphology cannot fail to condition its socio-economic structure. It is, in fact, a high mountain region, considering that the average altitude exceeds 2100 meters above sea level, with only one fifth of the total area usable for normal agricultural and industrial use, since the rest of the territory is located above 1500 meters above sea level and therefore, in general, it can be used only for forestry-pastoral practices and for activities aimed at the tourist exploitation of the mountain.

The commitment of the Alpine Convention in the matter of population and demography dates back to the start of the activities of the treaty, being the first of the topics listed in paragraph 2 of article 2 of the Framework Convention and being the subject of the Ministerial Declaration "Population and Culture", at the time promoted by Italy. At the same time, Italy has given great emphasis to demographic changes and the labor market, as has been amply demonstrated since 2009, the year in which it began to chair the Demography and Employment Working Group, set up by the 10th Conference of Alps (Evian, France). The activities and documents produced by this working group, as well as the frequent opportunities for discussion with the public and with stakeholders, laid the foundations for the drafting of the Report on the State of the Alps. (RSA 5)

The Alpine region is an area on average rich, with a good employment rate and population growth, albeit with profound territorial inhomogeneities. Accessibility, quality and variety of the tourist and accommodation offer, the degree of seasonality and concentration, the level of

conservation and the ways of enhancing the landscape-environmental heritage and the historical-cultural heritage that represent the main tourist attractions.

The Milano Cortina 2026 Foundation and Confindustria Servizi have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that will lead the country towards the next Olympics with the aim of stimulating companies to get involved to fully exploit the enormous potential offered, in terms of marketing and visibility, from the competition. A survey, recently conducted by the Department of Economics and Business Sciences of the University of Padova among the companies associated with Assosport (National Association of manufacturers of sporting goods), showed that half of the companies called to respond to the survey are active for more than 50% of the actions in which it is possible to decline the commitment with a view to "social and environmental sustainability" with virtuous practices implemented throughout the production chain that range from reducing emissions to reducing the use of chemicals, passing for the containment of waste.

In recent years, mountain tourism has seen a diversification of the offer, in fact, in addition to winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, freestyle, through the purchase of the sky pass it is possible to take advantage of the refuges where you can eat as in the best restaurants, of welcoming hotels with thermal pools and spas. The offer is rich and includes museums, markets, concerts and cultural events. Tourism is an economic activity capable of generating growth and employment, it can also diversify the job offer and contribute to attractiveness.

Any further comments

6. Mark with a cross the measures taken in the following fields, through which you have created framework conditions for a sufficient and attractive supply of jobs, and, in appropriate cases, mixed forms of income.	Yes	No
Promotion of sustainable public / private investments for the development of activities aimed at creating jobs, in particular, for highly qualified personnel	X	
Promotion of framework conditions for the achievement of adequate income	X	
Improvement of social protection, in particular, for seasonal workers	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>With regard to the promotion of sustainable public and private investments for the development of activities aimed at creating jobs, in this particular case for self-employment, it is worth mentioning the Memorandum of Understanding between Incubator 2i3T and Banca Alpi Marittime aimed at promoting and support the birth and development of new entrepreneurial activities and initiatives in the start-up phase within the territory to encourage employment growth.</p> <p>The agreement will allow the two bodies to integrate numerous strategic activities for the development of entrepreneurship and innovation, including implementing common training</p>		

courses, promoting networking that supports the creation of partnerships between SMEs, start-ups and entrepreneurial projects, promoting a matching of professionalism and skills between future companies and animate the coworking spaces of the BamLab and the 2i3T Incubator through common initiatives, enhancing the most promising start-ups and facilitating their access to credit. Even the agreement itself has innovative contents as it is not limited - as usually happens Even the agreement itself has innovative contents as it is not limited - as usually happens in agreements between banks and incubators - to define banking conditions that facilitate the start-up's entry into the market but provides for a series of structured common actions, which will common tangible and intangible assets and best practices of each entity to generate a new collaborative model in favor of the territory.

The actors of the agreement

- The *Business Incubator of the University of Torino 2i3T* is the Business Incubator of the University of Torino, and is one of the leading Italian university incubators. It promotes cultural exchange between the academic world and the socio-economic context, favoring the dissemination of entrepreneurial culture within the University and at the same time promoting technology and knowledge transfer among companies for the economic enhancement of scientific research results. . 2i3T favors the birth of innovative companies with growth potential founded both by university researchers and by third parties, support services to start their own entrepreneurial activity, access to a network of entrepreneurs, managers and investors and also providing them with spaces equipped to the start of activities.

The agreement with Banca Alpi Marittime is fully part of the institutional mission of 2i3T, which provides for the promotion of the skills of the incubated projects and start-ups as a growth factor for the territory and the associated economic and social fabric.

- *Banca Alpi Marittime - Credito Cooperativo di Carrù* is a joint stock cooperative company founded in 1899 with headquarters in the Municipality of Carrù. Today the Bank has 21 branches, covers a geographical area made up of 95 Municipalities in Piedmont and Liguria and has almost 14,000 shareholders and over 200 employees. It carries out a series of projects aimed at encouraging the attraction of companies in sectors with particularly favorable scenarios, such as the digital sector and new technologies, the development of entrepreneurship, the creation of value and work for the younger generations, the creation of opportunities for the birth and relaunch of economic activities, favoring investments for development projects on new products and services, new markets, innovation and research and internationalization.

Sharing values and ethics with some young digital natives, he gave birth to the coworking - entrepreneurial accelerator BAMLab, whose purpose is to offer an optimal 'habitat' to potential entrepreneurs and neo-entrepreneurs for the development of the idea of innovative business, especially digital and high tech that offer high-tech services.

V. Role of cities and rural areas

Relationship between cities and neighboring areas

1. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have helped to recognize the importance of intra-Alpine cities, especially as		
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regards their function as centers of supra-municipal social, cultural and economic performance, in interaction with their neighboring areas.	Yes	No
Initiatives aimed at strengthening awareness among the inhabitants of urban centers and rural areas for a common responsibility - also of future generations - towards the cultural and natural heritage	X	
Collaboration initiatives between cities and between neighboring cities and municipalities in the framework of the mutual exchange of experiences and supra-municipal development projects at national and transnational level that pursue environmental, productive and settlement objectives in accordance with the Alpine Convention	X	
Didactic and informative initiatives aimed at the prevention and resolution of conflicts deriving from land use	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
<p>The mountain is a predominantly rural area and as such depends on the services, knowledge and skills, on the entrepreneurial, financial and institutional resources offered by the cities on which it gravitates. But the wealth and well-being of these cities in turn depend to varying degrees on exchanges with their mountain hinterlands. While it is clear that the mountain cannot do without the city, until recently it seemed that the city could prosper without taking on the problems of the mountain, even going so far as to aggravate them in some cases.</p> <p>The Strategic Plan of the Metropolitan City of Torino aims to overcome the asymmetries between high lands and urban areas, develop a common vision on the future of communities together with the institutional realities, the economic and social actors of the territory, the training and knowledge system, attracting the resources necessary to launch experimental growth models and to enhance the mountain in ecosystem, economic, tourism, sports and social terms.</p> <p>The Permanent Table for the mountains goes in this direction, to share an agenda of priorities and create a strong partnership.</p> <p>The Table is configured as a functional tool for the implementation, monitoring and updating of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan aimed at structuring a development strategy for the mountains, transversal to the five planning platforms envisaged therein.</p> <p>With regard to the interactions between Alpine cities and neighboring rural areas, in particular with regard to the initiatives aimed at strengthening awareness among the inhabitants of urban centers and rural areas for a common responsibility towards the cultural and natural heritage, the project LUIGI - Linking Urban and Inner-Alpine Green Infrastructures - approved for the fourth INTERREG VB call of the Alpine Space Program. It brings together 14 partners in 6 Alpine countries, working together on future-oriented solutions to improve ecosystem services and green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Recognizing the pressures on Alpine ecosystems and the services they provide to larger areas outside mountain regions, the project aims to strengthen the link between mountain ecosystems and urban centers at the foot of the Alps, based on sound economic and social exchanges.</p>		

The project aims to recognize and enhance the joint benefits deriving from a GI network between mountain / rural and urban areas, as well as their potential for sustainable economic development, based on natural capital and ecosystem services that contribute to ensuring a better quality of life and better urbanization environments to people living in urban centers.

Based on solid experience in ESS, GI and city networks, the project aims to:

- a) raise awareness among policy makers about Alpine ecosystems, GIs and the services they provide to urban areas;
- b) identify and evaluate the economic, environmental and social benefits provided by the Alpine ESD through geographical indications to urban centers and metropolitan areas;
- c) develop business models to exploit the market potential of conservation and improvement of rural ESS / GIs and mobilize financial resources (e.g. through public-private partnerships) to support them;
- d) transnational sharing of knowledge on alpine / rural ecosystems / GIs and effective techniques for their maintenance and improvement;
- e) provide tools to meet the demand and supply of Alpine ESS in regional, metropolitan and urban markets.

The results are achieved by carrying out tests and implementing actions in pilot regions in 6 Alpine countries, where different GIs connecting urban to mountain / rural areas are addressed, also considering identity and cultural values.

LUIGI aims to implement the EUSALP Political Declaration of Alpine States and Regions on "Alpine GIs" (2017) which calls for the creation of transnational pilot projects concerning GIs relevant to the EU.

LUIGI also aligns itself with the thematic actions of the Green Economy Action Plan of the Alpine Convention, adopted by the XV Alpine Conference (2019)

Relations between alpine and extra-alpine cities

2. Are relations created and expanded between cities in the Alpine arc and extra-Alpine cities and metropolises, in order to ensure links and exchange of information between the Alpine population and extra-Alpine economic, scientific and cultural centers?

Yes	X	No	
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Give some example cases

As already pointed out previously, in Italy, relations between the territories of the Alpine arc and those outside the Alps are promoted and encouraged, starting with national legislation and European planning for territorial cohesion.

The sharing of good practices between Alpine and extra-Alpine cities favors the development of new projects between them and between cities and rural areas.

The aforementioned example of the Metropolitan City of Turin has among its tasks that of identifying specific, general or specific problems, on which it is essential to find a shared solution between the various administrative levels or to orient the strategies of the Plan, defining an agenda of priorities and to activate horizontal and / or vertical cooperation initiatives aimed at optimizing resources and projects and activating new ones

The Permanent Table for the Mountain is composed of a representative for each of the following entities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mountain unions - Homogeneous areas in western Canavese, Eporediese, Pinerolese, Valli di Susa and Sangone, Ciriacese and Valli di Lanzo (spokesperson Z.O. or representatives of the mountain areas of the Z.O.) - UNCEM Piemontese Delegation - LAG Escartons and Waldensian Valleys - LAG Valleys of Lanzo Ceronda and Casternone - LAG Valli del Canavese <p>The Table can then vary its composition according to the characteristics of the work session in progress, based on the decisions that will be taken by the Table itself, involving in its work, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - other public, private or public / private territorial organizations: eg. socio-welfare consortia, park authorities, public agencies for the promotion or management of local development; - representatives of the research groups on the dynamics of mountain development: the Dislivelli Association, the Santagata Association, IRES, the University and Polytechnic; - representatives of trade organizations and workers; - representatives of associations, volunteers, the third sector; - other significant stakeholders at the local or supra-local level. <p>An interdepartmental working group has been set up within the organization to facilitate the strategic connection between the various internal structures in favor of the mountains, provide the table with updated information regarding the progress of the various plan actions, ensure the necessary technical consultation between the Mountain Table and the structures of the Authority to develop solutions to the critical issues examined or to update the Plan strategies.</p>
Any further comments

3. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have contributed to creating and expanding relationships between cities in the Alpine arc and extra-Alpine cities and metropolises.	Yes	No
Agreements on a voluntary basis between Alpine territorial bodies and institutions outside the Alps	X	
Programs focused on specific themes for the exchange and visits of students, female students and young people in the context of partnerships between Alpine and extra-Alpine cities	X	
Partnerships between intra-Alpine and extra-Alpine cities and municipalities aimed at exchanging information and presenting best practices	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		

With regard to the partnerships aimed at exchanging information and best practices, two significant experiences have been identified: the experience gained in the Valle d'Aosta Region, where, on the one hand, the Aosta Strategic Plan was created which gives a to the future of the city strictly in relation to the surrounding territory of the plaine, and, on the other hand, a sort of Strategic Plan at regional level was created directly inserted in the "Regional Strategic Framework", a document included in the 2014-2020 Regional Development Policy .

The second experience concerns that of the Strategic Plan of the Municipalities of the Upper Canavese (Piemonte Region): Carema, Settimo Vittone, Nomaglio, Borgofranco d'Ivrea, Lessolo, Andrate, Chiaverano, Montalto Dora. It is a strategic plan that intends to build a different and alternative development starting from the characteristic elements of the landscape: the terraces. This Plan is in dialogue and integration with larger area plans, such as the area and regional ones. The analyzes carried out on these two experiences have revealed that the construction paths of strategic plans go in the direction of dialogue and provide strategic indications for the construction of visions for the future. In particular, the first experience highlights a path of re-composition of the parts (mountain and city) within a horizontal integration process that requires a supra-local legitimation, in the second experience, however, it is rather a vertical process of deepening where the parts (mountain and city) cannot but necessarily hold themselves together through a dialogue, which finds concreteness even within plans of a larger scale as in a game of Chinese boxes, thus opening to a continuous and close confrontation with the metropolitan reality.

Role of rural areas

4. Mark with a cross any measures taken in the following fields, through which you have helped to recognize the importance of Alpine rural areas as natural, economic and cultural places with characteristics of multiplicity, heterogeneity and independence, and to promote integrated strategies appropriate to their potential	Yes	No
Guarantee and support of cooperation and exchange of experiences between rural areas	X	
Development of political strategies for exploiting endogenous potentials and synergies as well as creative regional environments	X	
Guarantee of equal access to infrastructures and information and knowledge tools in order to strengthen rural areas in the context of competition between localities	X	
Other		
If you have placed a cross under "Other", indicate the relative measures.		
Give some example cases.		
Mountain territories have continuously developed strategies to adapt and cope with social and economic crises and difficult environmental and climatic conditions. Mountain rural communities are characterized by a long tradition of self-government, cooperation and rural autonomy. Over time, Alpine territories have developed the ability to adapt to fragile conditions, to cope with difficult living conditions and to provide sustainable solutions for the		

management of natural resources and to initiate collective actions to improve the well-being of the community (Maino et al., 2018). However, not all mountains are homogeneous. Some parts of the Alps, in fact, can be considered "fragile areas" due to their morphological characteristics and their social weaknesses and are currently facing socio-economic and demographic challenges such as the "brain drain", the aging of the population and loss of share capital (Cerea and Marcantoni, 2016). These issues require a different kind of solutions than the strategies adopted so far.

The "internal areas" project of the Ministry for Territorial Cohesion identifies these areas on the basis of traditional criteria of socio-economic disadvantage, but at the same time recognizes that they also have considerable potential for demographic and economic development based on little or bad contextual resources used. The development and redevelopment of these spaces is therefore included among the priorities of national territorial policies, since, in addition to ensuring substantial equality of rights for those who already live there, it can favor a better geographical distribution of the population and economic activities, contributing so in a relevant way to the national wealth and together with the safeguarding and enhancement of a huge natural and cultural heritage. Finally, it can respond to the growing demand for settlement quality that today is directed in preference to "slow territories" and thus become the laboratory of new ways of living (Lanzani 2005).

The Alpine area includes metropolitan centers with very high economic development and contrasted with mountainous areas in a situation of socio-economic difficulty and in an advanced phase of aging and abandonment. In this complex area the Local Action Groups (LAGs) have been operating for thirty years now. By acting as spokespersons for the territory, the LAGs bring the needs of the population to the attention of local institutions and on the basis of this information define development interventions aimed at overcome the marginalization of mountain areas due above all to their territorial configuration and at the same time promote their significant role in local development strategies. Actions for the protection and enhancement of the environment, landscape and minor urban centers, development of sustainable tourism, support for the start-up of local agricultural businesses, enhancement of typical local products, improvement of the quality of life are just some of the interventions that characterize the strategies of local development defined by the LAGs in the Alpine area focused on promoting the economy of their territories to counter the exodus of the population and economic activities.

As for the Alpine Convention area, 144 LAGs operate on it and the LEADER territory covers a good 80% of the surface, affects 71% of the Municipalities and involves about 61% of the population. Also in this case, the weight of LEADER on the entire territory of the Convention including, therefore, also the non-EU countries remains significant: the LEADER, in fact, covers 69% of the area concerned, 63% of the Municipalities and involves 52% of the population.

Territorial cooperation is a central element of European integration, to which it brings added value in various forms, helping to ensure that borders do not become barriers, bringing Europeans closer to each other, favoring the solution of common problems such as those concerning well-founded growth. on innovation, the environment and climate change, working with the involvement of national, regional and local actors, facilitating the sharing of good practices and encouraging strategic collaboration to achieve joint objectives. In the last ten years there has been a growing interest on the part of the European Commission in territorial policies aimed at fostering cooperation between Member States. This interest is motivated by the awareness that the impact of the results achieved with cooperation interventions takes on greater importance if shared between territories and subjects belonging to different Member States. Cooperation projects, in fact, in favoring the comparison between different realities and

experiences, if on the one hand they allow the transfer of new organizational models and good operating practices through the exchange of information and skills, the creation of networks and the joint implementation of common products, services and structures, on the other hand they produce a strong cultural impact both on the methodology of implementation of these projects and on human capital, generating an evident growth of the participants and therefore of the territories.

Annex

Summary of the relevant legal regulations (on a national and possibly regional / provincial level, not on a municipal level)

Italian Constitution (1948)

Statute of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region

Statute of the Liguria region

Statute of the Lombardia region

Statute of Piemonte

Statute of Trentino-Alto Adige and Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano

Statute of the Veneto region

Statute of Valle d'Aosta region

Legislative Decree 3 April 2006, n. 152 *Environmental regulations.*

Law 15 December 1999, n. 482 *Rules on the protection of historical linguistic minorities*

DPCM September 24, 2020 *National Strategy for Internal Areas (SNAI).*

LAW 6 October 2017, n. 158 *Measures for the support and enhancement of small municipalities, as well as provisions for the redevelopment and recovery of the historic centers of the same municipalities*