

**MANDATE OF THE  
Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)  
FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2024  
(BETWEEN THE XVII AND XVIII MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE  
CONFERENCE)**

### 1. Introductory remarks

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed solution approach

The number and extent of natural disasters are increasing and with them, the damages caused. One of the most important challenges in this context is climate change, which has a strong impact on the conditions of natural hazards. However, the development of a new risk culture also integrates the realisation that there are technical and economic limits to protection against natural hazards. Protection against natural hazards is a crosscutting issue and requires innovative solutions and mechanisms, especially to support local and regional actors in finding sustainable prevention strategies across national borders and to better prepare the population for the consequences of future disasters.

The exchange, transfer and pilot implementation of these innovative and effective tools and mechanisms within the Alpine region is imperative for a successful risk management.

### 2. Objectives

Description of the objectives to be achieved until the XVIII Alpine Conference

Essentially, nature cannot be controlled, managed or even optimised. The only thing that can be improved is the way humans deal with hazards. PLANALP will identify best practice examples for successful risk communication from all alpine countries addressing people living in areas affected by natural hazards. In this mandate, it is an aim of PLANALP to form partnerships between the member countries within the Working Group for a transfer of best practice examples between the alpine countries and to implement them in pilot initiatives. PLANALP will elaborate basic criteria to assess the success of the knowledge transfer and pilot implementation. The results will set an important benchmark for international and cross-border exchange on the use and applicability of communication instruments in the fields of natural hazards and adaptation to climate change.

### 3. Planned outputs

Description of the planned outputs, with reference to the objectives

- Collection of best practices on successful risk communication addressing people living in areas affected by natural hazards;
- Approximately 3 partnerships (duos, trios) for the transfer of selected best practices to convey expert knowledge in communication of natural hazards and climate change adaptation;
- Basic criteria to assess the success of the knowledge transfer and implementation;
- Pilot implementation of selected best practice examples in another alpine country;
- Assessment of the implementation process.

#### 4. Work plan

Outline of the foreseen timetable (meetings and other activities, main milestones scheduled)

Meeting Spring 2023: Collection of best practices & country reports  
 Meeting Autumn 2023: Selection of examples and building of partnerships & country reports  
 Meeting Spring 2024: Development of basic assessment criteria & country reports  
 Meeting Summer 2024: Compilation of status quo of project implementation & country reports  
 Continuation of implementation during the next mandate 2025-2026 (concrete results of pilot implementation and assessment).

#### 5. Cooperation

Description of the planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

PLANALP will cooperate with relevant stakeholders for the best practices that will be transferred in the framework of the partnerships:

- Alpine Climate Board; to align the envisaged process and the pilot implementation initiatives with the Climate Action Plan 2.0.
- Soil Protection Working Group; to exploit synergies in the implementation of climate change adaptation and land use prevention objectives.
- National administrations; depending on their role in the selected best practice examples, involvement of e.g. communication divisions of the national administrations for the implementation.
- Local and regional stakeholders; support of the implementation of the communication initiatives in pilot regions/municipalities.
- EUSALP AG8 (back-to-back meetings are very rewarding and should be pursued); profit from the experience and knowledge and country reports.
- FAO/EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds; to promote sustainable development in mountain watersheds and the rational utilization of soil and water resources.

- IUFRO/Unit 8.03.00 - Natural Hazards and Risk Management; to explore new concepts, models and tools for improving natural and urban forest resilience.

## 6. Communication

Description of the communication goals, targets and respective planned measures

The new mandate is focused on collecting, selecting and transferring successful communication examples of expert knowledge from one alpine country to another one. The goal is to learn from each other and improve the communication between PLANALP and the affected public. Besides implementing these communication activities, PLANALP members ensure to:

- Enhance the online presentation of the group on the homepage of the Alpine Convention
- Cooperate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for the dissemination of information through its website and social media channels.
- Promote efforts to contribute actively in conferences and expert meetings and present the work of the WG
- A harmonized communication of the key results of the studies from the past years and the updated presentation of the products in all Alpine countries.

## 7. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Description of how the proposed objectives and activities shall contribute to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (biodiversity and ecosystems / climate action / quality of life / interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs of the aforementioned areas)

PLANALP is especially contributing to the priority areas climate action and quality of life by focussing on the mitigation of natural risks and climate change adaptation, thus providing a living space also for future generations.

## 8. Chair

The Chair will be held by Austria.