The "We are Alps" tour

is an initiative of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention to promote specific alpine topics while using sustainable means of transport. The 2016 edition of the tour focuses on Green Economy, an important topic for the Alps and one that is currently being addressed by experts and policy-makers in preparation of our 6th Report on the State of the Alps. It was also discussed by Alpine youth at this year’s meeting of the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention.

With the "We are Alps" tour we are spreading the messages of the Alpine Convention, an international treaty for the sustainable development and protection of the Alps, signed by the 8 Alpine Countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland) as well as the European Union.

Markus Reiterer
Secretary General of the Alpine Convention

We would like to sincerely thank all our partners in this project:
**3RD JULY**

**Villach > Lesce > Bohinj**

**Protecting & moving**

On a visit to Dobratsch Nature Park, we will talk about “re-naturing” a former ski resort and promoting local herbal and fruit produce. We will then cross into Slovenia and meet an innovative entrepreneur converting normal cars into electric ones. His team will drive us to Bohinj where the Triglav National Park is situated.

**Bohinj > Tolmin**

**Intermodal mobility**

On this day we will put the handbook on public transportation in the Slovenian Alpine region on the table. To broaden the picture, we will also learn from the Permanent Secretariat about the new EU Strategy for the Alpine region.

**Why & How Green Alps**

Green economy refers to “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive” (UNEP, 2015). The Alps offer a positive framework with a high potential for economic initiatives based on natural resources and present, at the same time, sensitive ecosystems that need to be protected. Green economy is therefore particularly relevant for the Alps. When preparing the tour we selected projects and locations that highlight many different aspects of green economy in the Alps. Along the journey we will get to know initiatives on energy efficiency in lighting and building, renewable energy production, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem services and natural capital-based economy, and overall economic development as the basis for a good quality life in the Alps – at least as much of it as is possible in a week’s time!