

**REPORT OF THE
PLATFORM “WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE ALPS”
on the 2016-2019 mandate**

1. Overview of 2016-2019 mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Brief summary of the main activities according to the 2016-2019 mandate or relevant decision of the Alpine Conference

Co-Presidency: Italy (Paolo Angelini) and Slovenia (Luka Stravs)

According to the mandate assigned to the Platform, the main topics of work have been:

- Focus 1 - How to face drought periods in the Alpine Region: from the analysis of climate data (rain/snow patterns and scenarios) to the strategic planning: an expert hearing at the beginning of the mandate and an exchange of experiences and good practices, particularly in terms of the impacts of the 2015 drought are planned. A conference is planned in order to stimulate the exchange and the dissemination of the good practices and to raise the awareness on this specific issue.
- Focus 2 - Follow up on the guidelines on small hydropower: evaluation and further recommendations: a public workshop is planned to be organized on the topic if deemed necessary.
- Among the main outputs, the proceedings of the conference on drought/water scarcity (Focus 1) will be drafted and spread together with an evaluation report on guidelines on small hydropower (Focus 2). On Focus 1 an expert hearing and a public conference (VII conference “Water in the Alps) will be organized. A public workshop on Focus 2 is planned to be organized if necessary in 2018.

2. Meetings

Summary of the meetings

The Platform has met 5 times:

- in Padova (Italy), on March 23rd-24th 2017, back-to-back with a workshop and a meeting of EUSALP AG6-subgroup “integrated and sustainable water management”;
- in Ajdovščina (Slovenia), on September 14th-15th 2017, back-to-back with an expert workshop on droughts organized by the Platform;
- in Vienna (Austria), on January 22nd-23rd 2018, back-to-back with a second expert workshop on droughts organized by the Platform;
- in Breitenwang (Austria), from June 5th to 7th 2018, on the occasion of the Forum Alpinum and the 7th Alpine Water Conference, as well as of a meeting of the EUSALP AG6 subgroup on “integrated and sustainable water management”;
- in Torino (Italy), on October 1st-2nd 2018.

The meetings in Ajdovščina and Torino have included excursions, respectively an on-field visit in Slovenia and the active participation of Platform’s experts to an Italian river contract’s basin assembly.

3. Activities carried out

Report on activities carried out (including meetings, conferences)

Along with the 5 meetings already mentioned here above, the Platform has deserved a great attention to raising awareness on the issues dealt with, thus promoting expert workshops public events on the topics (side-by-side with the internal meetings).

Public events organized by the Platform are:

- the first expert workshop “Drought Risk Management in the Alps”, held in Ajdovščina (Slovenia) on September 14th 2017;
- the second expert workshop on “Drought Risk Management in the Alps”, held in Vienna (Austria) on January 23rd 2018;
- the 7th Alpine Water Conference “Water in the Alps – Management of hydrological extremes and sustainable hydropower use”, organized in Breitenwang (Austria) on June 5th 2018, in the context of the Forum Alpinum, and which has opened a public debate on the topics of drought management, sustainable hydropower and green infrastructures for integrated water management (the latter in cooperation with EUSALP AG6).

4. Results and outputs

Description of main results and outputs achieved

The Platform has produced:

- a report on drought risk management based on national surveys and then including lessons learned, key messages and main outputs of the two workshops held on the topic and of the Alpine Water Conference;
- an evaluation report on the diffusion and on the implementation of the AC common guidelines on small hydropower, including an overview on the national legislation on the topic.

The Water Platform has contributed to the Forum Alpinum, whose proceedings have been published by ISCAR.

5. Cooperation

Description of cooperation initiatives and activities with other Alpine Convention Thematic Working Bodies and other relevant bodies and processes (e.g. EUSALP)

The Platform has participated in the coordination meetings with other working groups and platforms, namely on the occasions of the “Workshop of the Chairs of Working Groups and Platforms” held in Vienna on January 30th-31st 2017 and of the two “Exchange Meetings Alpine Convention-EUSALP” held respectively in Gmunden (AT) on October 5th-6th 2017 and Vienna on September 10th-11th 2018.

The Platform has also joined expert hearing “Building green infrastructures for an integrated and sustainable water management” organized on March 23rd 2017 in Padua by EUSALP AG6-subgroup on “integrated and sustainable water management”; the two expert groups have also improved their coordination in a joint meeting on March 24th.

The members of the Water Platform have also been informed of AG6’s report on “green infrastructures” and invited to comment it; the groups has also exchanged relevant information on the topic of drought management.

6. Attachments

List of the documents attached to the report

- Report “Facing droughts in the Alpine region: Experiences, approaches and common challenges”;
- Evaluation report “Application of the Common Guidelines for the use of Small Hydropower in the Alpine region”.