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Alpine Space

New Opportunities for Greening our Territories

Torino | Italy | 22 June 2022

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What does the programme do?

- It triggers and supports cooperation projects across borders and facilitate joint trans-national solutions

- It contributes to strategic discussions in the Alpine space

- It contributes to the goals of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), the implementation of the Territorial Agenda 2030 and the work of the Alpine Convention

The area of the programme

The main numbers

- 7 partner States
  - member States: Italy, Austria, France, Germany, Slovenia
  - non-EU States: Switzerland, Liechtenstein

- 42 regions (NUTS II)
- Programme area of 510.000 km^2
- About 88.000.000 inhabitants

The target groups

- National, regional or local public authorities
- Higher education and research institutions
- Schools/education and training centres
- National, regional or local development agencies
- Interest group including NGOs and citizen's associations
- Sectoral agencies
- Enterprises, in particular SMEs
- Infrastructure and public service providers
- Business support organization, including chambers of commerce, networks and clusters
- Social organisations

The Priorities of the programme

- Climate resilient and green Alpine region (P1)

- Carbon neutral and resource sensitive Alpine region (P2)

- Innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region (P3)

- Cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region (P4)

P1 - Specific objective SO 1.1

Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account eco-system based approaches

The capacity of the alpine region to adapt to the unexpected effects of climate change will be strenghthened. Innovative projects will foster risk prevention and disaster resilience in a comprehensive and sustainable way. Solutions inspired and supported by nature in particular offer great potentials. All key players, together with citizens, are called upon for a necessary shift to integrated and participatory approaches at a transnational, regional and local level.

P1 - Specific objective SO 1.2

Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green/blue infrastructures, including in urban areas, and reducing all form of pollution

To protect the alpine biodiversity and traditional alpine landscape, the programme will focus on the development of green and blue multifunctional infrastructure as well as tackle the concrete effects of climate change on biodiversity. GBI offer integrated solutions to protect biodiversity and support the sustainable valorisation of ecosystem services such as air quality. The extraordinary diversity of habitats of the alpine region can only be safeguarded thanks to inclusive approaches and requires joint actions on an alpine scale.

P2 - Specific objective SO 2.1

Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emission

The European Union aims at becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Innovative steps will therefore go beyond efficiency and foster energy sufficiency: using less energy to perform the same tasks or services. Renewable energy sources must be more used within the alpine region. The programme will contribute to a shift to post-carbon and sufficiency-oriented solutions in the building & housing sector, soft mobility & transport as well as for integrative land-use policies & spatial planning.

P2 - Specific objective SO 2.2

Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

Connecting circular economy approaches with bio-economy and other green economy concepts holds great potential to foster the reduction of the overall material use, both in urban and rural areas. The programme will support the development of concepts regarding regional material cycles in sector such as construction and housing, energy, alpine tourism or mobility. The awareness of consumers, stakeholders and citizens will be strengthened to support the transformation to more eco-sufficiency.

P3 - Specific objective SO 3.1

Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

The innovation potential of alpine players will be fostered in relevant fields such as services of general interest, sustainable tourism, social innovation, mobility or the reduction of innovation disparities between regions. A better transnational cooperation of organisations from research, innovation, academia, private and public sectors as well as the civil society is essential for regions to overcome barriers to innovation and the uptake of advanced technologies. Innovative solutions will also include a "green" character of activities, impacts of projects as well as methods and practices of project management.

P3 - Specific objective SO 3.2

Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities

New digital tools hold great potential to increase the resilience of alpine regions to demographic and geographical remoteness challenges. They will also help to reach the ambition of a climate resilient, carbon neutral and inclusive alpine region. In a secure and privacy-friendly framework, digital solutions can pave the way for a more open, inclusive and participative society based on cooperation between different stakeholders such as authorities, citizens and businesses.

The related types of action (SO 1.1)

Promote climate change adaptation-measures focusing on the inter-relations between the natural, economic and societal systems by...

- Developing solutions and pilots to strengthen the preparedness and adaptive capacity of the alpine society, economy and nature to cope with the impacts of climate change

(SO 1.1)

- Organising solutions and pilot actions to bridge the gap between climate research and practical implementation and to integrate new research results into the adaptation practice at different levels and for different types of territories

- Supporting information exchange and knowledge transfer at a transnational/regional/local level to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to raise awareness among experts, policy makers and citizens

Promote risk prevention and disaster resilience by...

- Setting-up of preventive, integrative and strategic planning measures in the fields of spatial planning and risk management through the joint development of solutions; disaster monitoring, warning and response systems for all kind of natural hazards and fostering nature based solutions

(SO 1.1)

- Developing solutions and pilot activities for different types of territories in highly affected and exposed regions as well as exposed main communications axes and human settlements

- Improving skills and competences for policy makers and stakeholders to make better use of digitalization in the field of risk prevention, risk management and climate change adaptation

- Developing integrated and participatory concepts and implementing pilot projects in risk management as well as communication measures aiming at raising awareness and preparedness among policy makers and citizens

- Developing solutions and pilot activities to set up coordination structures for the sustainable management of multifunctional protective forests and the establishment of nature based solutions, taking into account green and blue infrastructure

The related types of action (SO 1.2)

Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure by…

- Implementing pilot projects that support multifunctional green and blue infrastructure-networks, nature based solutions and innovative planning methodologies in order to strengthen alpine biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Developing transnational solutions and implementing pilot projects on sustainable land use management, climate-friendly settlement development, soil protection and the sustainable valorisation of natural and cultural heritage, including cultural landscapes to reduce biotope fragmentation

(SO 1.2)

- Supporting transnational cooperation, knowledge-exchange and reinforced research on the concrete impacts of climate change on alpine biodiversity and the impacts of mitigation and adaptation measures

- Developing integrated solutions and pilot activities to cope with the impacts of energy management, hydro power, and energy grids on ecosystems and biodiversity

The related types of action (SO 2.1)

Promote energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by...

- Supporting innovative solutions as well as concrete pilot actions that foster sufficiency-oriented post-carbon lifestyles as well as cross- sectoral approaches for different types of territories

- Improving skills and competences for policy makers, stakeholders and energy communities to support the transition from efficiency to sufficiency and post-carbon oriented approaches

- Supporting solutions, good practices and R&D activities focussing on the transition from energy efficiency to sufficiency-oriented approaches; support the transition towards a post carbon economy and society

(SO 2.1)

- Developing cooperative and sustainable solutions to improve energy poverty policies concerning adequate and healthy heating, cooling, lighting and energy-to-power-appliances to enhance social inclusion

- Supporting knowledge transfer, pilot activities and communication measures in order to raise awareness among different policy levels and the citizens/consumers

The related types of action (SO 2.2)

Promote the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy by...

- Setting-up circular/green/bio-economy-solutions to facilitate the development and implementation of circular and green economy-approaches among different actors

- Exchanging good practices and implementing pilot activities supporting inter-regional approaches to promote bio-economy, the use of indigenous biological and regional products and that support waste reduction

- Developing and implementing "transnational value chain"-solutions based on regional assets and resources, competences and needs

- Improving skills and competences of stakeholders at policy levels and in the business sectors to pave the way towards the implementation of circular, green economy and bioeconomy approaches

- Supporting solutions and pilot activities dealing with communication, capacity building, political framing approaches and awareness raising for stakeholders at different policy levels as well as citizens/consumers

- Developing solutions and pilot activities supporting the development of clusters specialized in circular and green economy as well as circular bio-economy that foster research, innovation, implementation and cooperation

The related types of action (SO 3.1)

Developing or testing joint solutions and joint actions to support innovation, involving policy-level actors and having an inclusive character in the following areas

- Shaping an innovation ecosystem that builds on the natural and the cultural heritage of the area (supporting the development of sustainable and innovative value chains that go beyond mainstream approaches)
- Fostering the innovation capacities, addressing innovation gaps on a transnational level in non-urban areas, reinforcing urban-rural as well as rural-rural-linkages

(SO 3.1)

- Supporting clusters and innovation hubs-cooperation as well as transnational value chains relevant for regional smart specialisation strategies, focusing particularly on urban-rural links

- Supporting experimental models and "green" start-ups to better address innovation topics, involving greening practices building upon the natural and cultural heritage

- Testing ideas for transnational innovation activities and entrepreneurship with a view to reducing territorial imbalances in all sectors

(SO 3.1)

- Promoting application of social innovation to services of general interest, improve mobility with advanced technologies, health and medical innovations, sustainable tourism with particular consideration of approaches such as co-creation and living labs

- Support the development and adaptation of business models, products, services, and processes that strengthen the resilience and adaptation of businesses to climate change in urban and rural areas

(SO 3.1)

Testing and implementing transnational networking activities, networking tools, advisory services and exchange platforms to:

- Foster social and process innovation based on the natural and cultural heritage
- Connect regional innovation ecosystems

Supporting the coordination between innovation activities and policies and other policy domains of highest relevance

The related types of action (SO 3.2)

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Developing or supporting pilot projects or activities as well as joint solutions to support reaping the benefits of digitalisation in different fields to bring about socially and environmentally sustainable change, for example:

- Developing and testing solutions that better address the response to sustainable development efforts, and to contribute to solutions for climate resilience, resource sensitivity, green and carbon neutrality

(SO 3.2)

- Developing and testing solutions to support flexible services of general interest provision with regards to e-health/smart health, e-government and telemedicine

- Developing and testing solutions to support e-learning, new working structures to provide more attractive living possibilities in remote areas

- Developing and testing solutions to support business development opportunities, product and service development

(SO 3.2)

- Contributing to elaboration and implementation of smart villages and smart cities concepts

- Implementing pilot projects or other activities to accompany SMEs and associations in their digital transformation

(SO 3.2)

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Supporting coordination between digitalisation activities and policies and other policy domains of highest relevance and in response to sustainable development efforts, demographic trends and increase in well-being:

- Developing and testing solutions and policies to mitigate digitalisation-related security risks such as cyber security, privacy, data-protection
- Developing and testing solutions and policies to closing the digital divide between regions

(SO 3.2)

Implement activities to facilitate networking activities, networking tools, advisory services and exchange platforms to increase territorial cohesion and social inclusion by:

- Setting up or supporting transnational network and platforms for sharing exchange of good practices and knowledge with regards to policy solutions
- Setting up or supporting Digital Innovation Hubs

Developing common data collection, indicators and monitoring systems harmonized across borders, ensure the update and sustainability of data collection and monitoring systems

The budget

- Budget of 107.000.000 euro (ERDF), total 142.700.000 euro

- Co-financing rate: 75% ERDF, 25% National (or private)

- Estimation to finance around 100 new projects

Budget allocation

- P1 - Climate resilient and green AR:
42.200.000 euro ERDF (total 56.200.000)

- P2 - Carbon neutral and resource sensitive AR:
30.200.000 euro ERDF (total 40.200.000)

- P3 - Innovation & digitalisation supporting a green AR:
23.100.000 euro ERDF (total 30.800.000)

- P4 - Cooperatively managed and developed AR:
11.500.000 euro ERDF (total 15.400.000)

Types of project

- **Classic projects**
  - Total financial size between 1 and 3 million EUR
  - Duration between 24 and 36 months
  - Between 7 and 12 partners from at least 4 different countries

- **Small-scale projects**
  - Total financial size between 250.000 and 750.000 EUR
  - Duration between 12 and 18 months
  - Between 3 and 6 partners from at least 3 different countries

Calls of proposal

- **Classic projects**: regular calls are launched in average every 12-18 months. A higher frequency may be followed in the first years. Terms of reference are defined and published for each single call considering possible thematic focuses. They are organized following a two-step application procedure.

- **Small-scale projects**: the application procedure is simple and quick to manage as it follows a one-step procedure. The projects can be submitted on an ongoing basis with two cut-off dates per year. Decision rounds are fixed and communicated well in advance.

Thank you!

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