



AlpGov 2 - Newsletter n°02 - October 2020

AlpGov 2 - enhancing the governance mechanisms of the european strategy for the alpine region

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Autumn review for EUSALP

In recent times, some EUSALP member states and regions have faced a new wave of the COVID-19 health crisis. Lockdown measures are being implemented as the days go by, and this may be the time to take stock of the latest events that took place on the French territory, co-organised by action groups. A total of five events were held, each of them bringing together more than a hundred people in person, in compliance with sanitary regulations:

- from 3 to 4 September in Aix-les-Bains: the Mountain Forests and Climate Change conference (AG2)
- from 23 to 25 September in Barcelonnette: Meetings of pastoralists (AG6)
- from 30 September to 1 October in Chamonix: the climate, risks, energies conference (AG9)
- from 5 to 6 October in Grenoble: the Smart Villages conference (AG5)
- 8 October: the Euro-alpine meeting of pastoralism, as a part of the Film Festival "Pastoralism and Great Spaces" 2020 (AG6)



Mountain Forests and Climate Change

The first day of 3 September was structured around two plenary sessions in the morning and thematic workshops in the afternoon. More than 90 participants contributed to the exchanges, and made recommendations for the 2021-2027 European funding period. On 4 September, field visits were organised by the *Communes forestières* of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes in the Bauges and Chartreuse National Parks to try to address the following issues:

- How to strengthen the resilience of the timber sector in the mountains?
- What new links should be invented between society and mountain forests?



Meetings of pastoralists

These 35th Meetings, organised within the framework of EUSALP, was held from 23 to 25 September in the Ubaye Valley, in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, in partnership with CERPAM and *La Maison de la Transhumance*. Throughout the Meetings, the participants discovered the material products of pastoralism and its intangible heritage such as transhumance. This event was an opportunity to unveil the project for a cross-border hiking trail between Italy and France: *La Routo*.

This itinerary, based on the ancient transhumance routes, enables hikers to appreciate the pastoral environment: agriculture, gastronomy, touristic, tourist, craft, and cultural heritage. A range of outdoor clothing made from Arles merino wool, which will be available for sale in spring 2021, was presented at an inauguration evening.



Climate, risks, energies

Two days were devoted to the theme Climate, risks and energies:

What are the stakes, what assets for the Alpine territories in post-crisis management?

To answer these questions, experts, elected representatives and technicians highlighted the experience of the Alpine territories. These territories are particularly vulnerable due to their extreme geo-sociological characteristics, which have always been able to develop strategies for natural risk management, energy strategies and today a necessary adaptation to climate change.

Excursions were organised the next day, in the presence of the French Secretary of State for biodiversity, Bérangère Abba. This was an opportunity for the participants to create links, discuss, exchange but also to become familiar with issues specific to mountain territories: territories "of excellence" that have acquired experience in managing issues at the crossroads between climate, risks and energies.





Smart Villages

This event as well as the field visits highlighted a series of initiatives and pilot projects on the emerging theme of Connected Villages and their contribution to the development of public services in rural and mountain areas. Territorial approaches where the digital transition is in line with the challenge of ecological transition and the attractiveness of territories were presented.

A common definition of the concept of smart villages was debated and agreed upon: services that respond to a need, in a collective approach, and that rely on digital resources. A long-term approach and vision is needed for the Alpine territories, both in terms of the integration of infrastructures within society and landscape, and in the deployment of uses in the daily life of the inhabitants.



Euro-alpine meeting of pastoralism

This event echoed the first pastoral meetings; it was organised in Grenoble within the framework of the International Festival "Pastoralism and Large Spaces" and was devoted to the transitions of pastoral livestock farming in the face of the changes underway and to come in the Alpine region.

Several themes were addressed in a series of workshops:

- Food sovereignty, a new challenge for the valorisation of pastoral products
- Pastoralism, a range of solutions to adapt to climate change
- Metropolises and pastoral areas, confrontation and complementarity



All the events received wide political and media coverage, and we would like to thank the European public who attended both in person and via video-conference. You will soon be able to find all the photos and exchanges by event on [our website](#), with an original article.



Focus Project- A-RING- Alpine Research and INnovation Capacity Governance- ENG

For more information:

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/a-ring/en/home>



In the framework of the EU co-funded project via Interreg Alpine Space A-RING, the EUSALP Action Group 1 – To Develop an Effective Research & Innovation ecosystem, is working to promote joint research on topics of specific Alpine importance through the establishment of a blueprint for a Research & Innovation agenda, while facilitating the embedding of R&I activities into the policy cycle at the regional level with the setup of a unique S3 lab.

A-RING, led by the University of Milan – UNIMONT, sees the collaboration of 11 partners from 6 EUSALP Countries representing the triple-helix system (Universities, Business, Public Authorities) with the participation of AG1 members such as the Lombardy Region – DG Research, Innovation and Universities and the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

A-RING seeks the collaboration and participation of all EUSALP's stakeholders in the debate. For this reason, different Alpine transnational live learning on S3 strategies will be organised in the upcoming year in order to aid the discussion on current and future R&I strategies and their importance in the Alpine Region.

EUSALP

Past and upcoming events :

28 October 2020: Work Package Leaders meeting

6 November 2020: Project steering group – PSG - meeting

3 November 2020: Online webinar- AG4 - Alternative fuels and energy transition in transport

9 and 10 November 2020: Borders Forum, proposed by the European Commission

10 November 2020: Online conference of the Interreg project Smart Villages: "Policies needed for a smart transition of rural areas"

25 November 2020: Executive Board and Board of Action Group Leaders meetings

10 December 2020 : Annual Forum of EUSALP, in a lighter version, due to the health context, with a meeting of the General Assembly and thematic webinars, in videoconference

Early 2021: *Awaiting postponement dates.* Event on Alpine and mountain biodiversity (co-organised with the Alpine Convention), in Marseille, as part of the IUCN World Conservation Congress

For more information:

Websites: <http://www.alpine-space.eu> (AlpGov project) and www.alpine-region.eu (EUSALP)

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