

investing in your future



Portrait of the Alpine Space Programme

European Territorial Cooperation 2007 – 2013



The programme is co-funded
by the European Regional
Development Fund

What is...

the Alpine Space Programme?

The Alpine Space Programme is the EU transnational cooperation programme for the Alps. Partners from the seven Alpine countries work together to promote regional development in a sustainable way. During the period 2007-2013, the programme is investing € 130 million in impact-oriented projects. These focus on competitiveness and attractiveness, accessibility and connectivity, environment and risk prevention.



What is the **budget** and what are the co-funding rates?

The programme is jointly financed by the Member States taking part in the activities, by the non-Member States Switzerland and Liechtenstein and by the European Union, through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The overall programme budget, provided by the national and EU funds, amounts to almost € 130,000,000 for the period 2007-2013. Projects are co-funded by the ERDF up to a rate of 76%.

Who can be the **beneficiaries**?

Depending on the field of activity, several types of actors located in the Alpine Space are entitled to apply for co-funding under this programme:

- public authorities, administrations and development agencies at local, regional and national level;
- education and training centres, as well as scientific and technological research units;
- organisations representing enterprises and especially SMEs;
- chambers of commerce and industry;
- public services and transport providers;
- agencies and NGOs in the field of natural and cultural resources and renewable energy management.

National funding

+ **ERDF**

€ 130,000,000

What are the thematic fields of cooperation?

The Alpine Space Programme 2007-2013 identifies **3** thematic fields of cooperation, called priorities.

Priority 1 | Competitiveness and Attractiveness



The Alps are a well-developed polycentric region characterised by a diversified economy with strong links to the territory. Low internal innovation capacities of SMEs, urban sprawl and depopulation, however, reduce its competitiveness and attractiveness. Actions under this priority should aim at stimulating and strengthening innovation as well as reducing territorial disparities. Thus, the programme supports projects addressing issues such as technology transfer between research centres and SMEs, or enhancement of small and medium sized towns - all with the aim of positioning the Alpine Space as an attractive place to work, live and invest in.

Priority 2 | Accessibility and Connectivity



The Alpine region is both a dynamic economic centre and a transit area in a sensitive environment. At the same time, it faces natural constraints as regards accessibility and connectivity. The initiatives under this priority are to improve the quality of transport of passengers and goods while mitigating the negative effects of traffic. Moreover, sustainable solutions are to be found to help the local population to be better connected to wider networks. Therefore, the programme promotes joint actions supporting integrated planning of transport and mobility, or innovative ICT-based public services for citizens and business in order to improve accessibility and connectivity in the cooperation area in a sustainable way.

Priority 3 | Environment and Risk Prevention



The richness of natural and cultural assets across the Alpine Space constitutes an important resource in terms of living conditions and for the economy and therefore requires protection, management and enhancement. Climate change is affecting the Alps earlier and more severely than the rest of Europe. Coping with the effects of climate change and its related impacts on settlement, infrastructure, cultural heritage and human life are a major challenge for the cooperation area. The operations under this priority should focus on the management and safeguarding of environmental resources and cultural heritage as well as on natural and technological hazards. In doing so the cooperation area may take advantage of its natural and cultural environment while preventing and mitigating risks.

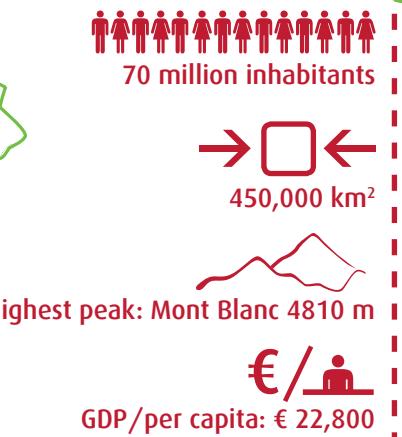
The Alpine Space

The Alpine Space Programme cooperation area is one of the most diverse regions at the heart of the European Union. It comprises the Alpine core area in the geographical sense, the surrounding foothills and lowlands of the “peri-Alpine belt”, a small part of the Mediterranean coastal area including the Adriatic and parts of the great river valleys of Danube, Po, Adige, Rhône and Rhine.

Moreover, it represents an attractive working and living space for 70 million inhabitants, covering a surface of 450,000 km² and comprising some of the most important European metropolitan areas. The Alpine Space is also a major contact zone, where different European cultures and languages (German, Latin and Slavic) meet.

The participating countries and eligible regions according to the NUTS II classification are:

- **Austria (whole country)**
- **France: Alsace, Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes**
- **Germany: districts of Upper Bavaria and Swabia (in Bavaria), Tübingen and Freiburg (in Baden-Württemberg)**
- **Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto**
- **Liechtenstein (whole country)**
- **Slovenia (whole country)**
- **Switzerland (whole country)**





From the first idea to project application:

How to take part in the Alpine Space Programme?

Support is provided to potential project applicants from the definition of the idea to the submission of the project application. Documents such as the *Operational Programme* and the *Programme Implementation Handbook*, which are available on the programme website www.alpine-space.eu provide guidance throughout this phase. We strongly recommend you read these documents through carefully in order to ensure an application is of high quality.

How to generate a project? Start with an idea...

Project ideas can be sent at any time to the Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS) by using the online submission and search tool on the programme website. Upon request, project ideas can be published online.

Informal feedback on the compliance of an idea with the programme objectives can be provided by the Alpine Space Contact Points (ACPs).

When and how to apply?

Calls for project proposals will be put out throughout the programme's lifetime (2007-2013). Information on calls and all necessary guidance to assist applicants is available on the programme website. For each call, *Terms of Reference (ToR)* specifying formal requirements and expectations by the programme are published and applicants are asked to take these into account when submitting project proposals. Generally, a two-step application procedure applies.

→ Step 1: Expression of Interest

Applicants are firstly asked to submit an *Expression of Interest (EoI)* outlining the objectives, activities, results, budget and partnership of the foreseen project. Information days organised in each partner state provide information and support. Shortlisted project proposals are invited to proceed to the next step.

→ Step 2: Project application

Shortlisted applicants can download the *Application Package* from the programme website, containing the *Application Form* and all relevant documents. We strongly recommend you get in contact with programme bodies to ensure that all relevant information is received for a successful application. The JTS organises a transnational applicant seminar for potential Lead Partners during the application period.

How are projects selected?

On the basis of a technical assessment and recommendations made by the JTS and the ACPs, project proposals are selected by the Programme Committee, a body composed of national and regional representatives of the participating countries.

Among various selection criteria, the following are of particular importance:

→ Guiding Principles

Projects are expected to take an integrated, mountain-oriented and innovation-oriented approach. They should also promote sustainability and equal opportunities. Projects should be of high relevance for all partner states and make an impact on the entire or large parts of the programme area.

→ The Partnership

The partnership needs to be composed of participants representing at least three different partner states. It should involve actors with a relevant role and specific know-how and competence in the policy field addressed, able to provide appropriate contributions and reach political commitment.

→ Objectives

Projects should enhance endogenous development potential in the cooperation area and capitalise on existing knowledge in the light of the programme's core thematic fields. The objectives should be consistent with the positioning of the project in its policy context and be clear, transnational, stimulating and ambitious, but achievable. All partners have about 3 years of cooperation to strive for and meet their common objective(s).

→ Actions

To reach the set objective(s), an action plan following a clear methodology should be defined and carried out jointly by the partners. Actions and activities should be geared to creating outputs and results of transnational relevance.

→ Results

As fruit of long lasting cooperation, projects are expected to deliver innovative and forceful results that are visible. Targeted communication is essential to viability. For lasting impact, project results should be both transferred to the policy level and strategically disseminated to raise awareness and know-how of the relevant actors at the European and local levels as well as among the general public.

Where to find further information and assistance?

The **Joint Technical Secretariat (JTS)** provides technical support to project applicants at trans-national level and monitors progress made by approved projects during the implementation phase.

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An **Alpine Space Contact Point** in each partner state provides information about the programme and support for potential applicants and project partners.

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Imprint

Editor

Joint Technical Secretariat
Landesamt für Umwelt, München
Germany

Layout

www.punktschmiede.de

Printer

panta rhein c.m.

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