About us

## ↳ What is Interreg?

Interreg is one of the key instruments of the European Union (EU) supporting cooperation across borders through project funding. Its aim is to jointly tackle common challenges and find shared solutions in fields such as, environment, sustainable energy, research and more.

Interreg is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and has three types of programmes:

* Cross-border cooperation programmes focus on the cooperation in regions located on either side of a EU border.
* Transnational cooperation programmes aim to promote better cooperation and regional development within the Union by a joint approach to tackle common issues. They support a wide range of project investment related to innovation, environment, accessibility, telecommunications, urban development etc. There are 15 Interreg transnational programmes, among which the Interreg Alpine Space.
* Interregional programmes focus on the exchange of experience between local and regional actors across Europe with the aim of reducing disparities between regions.

If you would like to find out more about Interreg, please visit: [Interreg - The portal to all Interreg programmes](https://interreg.eu/) or have a look at the KEEP.EU database, where you can find information about all the Interreg projects, partner organisations and programmes: [Territorial Cooperation projects, partners and programmes with European Union countries (keep.eu)](https://keep.eu/)

## ↳ What is the Interreg Alpine Space programme?

### ↳ Our mission

The Interreg Alpine Space programme is a European cooperation programme for the Alpine region.

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| **Why are we here?**  We are at the forefront of the transition to a unique, carbon neutral and climate resilient European territory: the Alpine region.  **What do we do?**  Through innovative and pioneering ideas, we foster the integration of sustainable economic development, societal wellbeing and the preservation of its outstanding nature.  We support cooperation projects across borders and facilitate joint transnational solutions.  **How do we do it?**  We bring together stakeholders from different areas, sectors and levels and create benefit for the citizens in the Alpine region. |

The Interreg Alpine Space programme finances cooperation projects across the borders of seven Alpine countries. It tackles common challenges and improve the quality of life of the 80 million inhabitants of the Alpine region. The programme addresses public authorities on national, regional and local level, institutions of higher education, as well as enterprises, business support organisations, NGOs and associations.

###### **W**e enable solutions for transnational challenges

We are supporting projects, which are developing **transnational solutions for transnational challenges** of the Alpine region:

* By fostering cooperation between the organisations that can tackle these challenges
* By co-financing cooperation projects to up to 75% via the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The Interreg Alpine Space programme is an Interreg programme. Interreg is a key instrument of the European Union (EU) Cohesion Policy. It is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as well as national contributions from its seven Partner States. For 2021-2027, the programme has a budget of € 107 million ERDF.

###### We are a long-term partner

The first transnational EU cooperation programme for the Alps was launched in 2000, under the name [Interreg IIIB Alpine Space Programme](http://www.alpine-space.org/2000-2006/index-2.html). Its fourth edition, the Interreg Alpine Space programme 2021-2027, was launched in 2021. With a rising number of project partners in each period, the Interreg Alpine Space programme is now a key player ensuring cooperation between Alpine states and regions.

🡪 20+ years of European cooperation in the Alps

🡪 179 projects co-financed since 2000

🡪 2086 participations in projects since 2000

🡪 42 NUTS 2 regions

###### We are an inspirer

Every seven years, the Interreg Alpine Space programme redefines its objectives, based on the needs of the Alpine region as well as on the policy goals of the European Union. The projects financed by the programme must contribute to the achievements of these objectives.

For the period 2021-2027, these priorities are:

* Climate resilient and green Alpine region
* Carbon neutral and resource sensitive Alpine region
* Innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region
* Cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region

Learn more about our priorities here (link to For Applicants – Programme priorities)

Do you have a project idea? Are you looking for partners and financing to tackle a challenge of the Alpine region? If you would like to get involved in the Interreg Alpine Space programme, we invite you to:

* read carefully the cooperation programme
* learn more about our application procedure (link to For applicants)
* explore the results achieved by previous projects (link to output library)

Contact the joint secretariat or the Alpine contact point in your country for more information (link to Contacts)

### ↳ Cooperation area

The cooperation area of the Interreg Alpine Space programme covers the Alps and their surrounding lowlands. This diverse area at the heart of the European Union represents an attractive region to work and live in, for 70 million inhabitants, covering a surface of 390.000 km². It spreads across the borders of seven countries that share geographical and environmental characteristics and challenges.

These states differ considerably in terms of culture and economy. This cultural and natural wealth and heritage, at the crossroads between European cultures and languages (Germanic, Roman and Slavic) made of the Alps a popular touristic destination. It is also very diverse in terms of economic. The Interreg Alpine Space programme area covers some of the most important European metropolitan areas as well as remote rural areas, which explains its diversity in terms of economic activities and demographic situations.

The Alpine region is affected by issues related to its mountainous environment and diverse culture (accessibility, a rich and sensitive biodiversity and environment, economic disparities) but also by global trends such as climate change, globalisation, and digitalisation. These challenges call for cooperation and joint solutions to rethink our economies, societies, and development strategies.

MAP

The programme area for the Alpine Space Programme 2021-2027 comprises the following territories:

Austria: the whole territory

France - NUTS 2: Alsace, Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Rhône-Alpes

Germany – NUTS 2: Oberbayern, Niederbayern, Oberpfalz, Oberfranken, Mittelfranken, Unterfranken, Schwaben; Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Freiburg, Tübingen

Italy – NUTS 2: Lombardia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano / Bozen, Valle d'Aosta / Vallée d'Aoste, Piemonte, Liguria

Liechtenstein: the whole territory

Slovenia: the whole territory

Switzerland: the whole territory.

### ↳ Management

(Organisation chart)

Programme committee (PC)Current chair: Switzerland (2021)

Consisting of representatives of all Partner States (national and regional level) and representatives of the European Commission. Relevant Alpine organisations have advisory capacity (the Alpine Convention and other transnationally-relevant non-governmental bodies (NGOs)). Decisions are taken by unanimous consensus. Every year another country chairs the Programme committee.

🡪 Meets at least once a year to assume tasks related to the monitoring of the programme implementation 🡪 Selects projects for co-funding  
🡪 Reviews and approves the annual implementation processes and final report(s)  
🡪 Adopts the terms of reference and the roadmap of each call for project proposals

Managing authority (MA)Salzburg, Austria

Appointed by the Partner States it is represented by the Land of Salzburg (Austria). The ‘Department for economy, tourism and municipalities, Sub-department regional development and EU regional policy’ holds the Managing Authority.

🡪 Bears the overall responsibility of managing and implementing the Cooperation Programme  
🡪 Interface between the European Commission, participating states and regions, and programme bodies  
🡪 Oversees the contractual arrangements for programme and project implementation

Certifying authority (CA)Salzburg, Austria

Also appointed by the partner states, the Certifying authority is represented by the same unit as the Managing authority. Nevertheless, there must be a clear separation of the tasks.

🡪 Draws-up and submits certified statements of expenditure and applications for payment to the European Commission  
🡪 Monitors commitments and payments of ERDF funds   
🡪 Maintains accounting records of expenditure declared to the Commission  
🡪 Receives payments made by the Commission and distributing them to the projects' lead partners

Audit authority (AA)Vienna, Austria

Performed by the Federal Chancellery of Austria, Department IV/3 Financial Control of the ERDF. Assisted by a group of auditors. These auditors are representatives of each Member State.

🡪 Audits to verify the functioning of the management and control system of the Cooperation Programme   
🡪 Random audits on projects to verify the declared expenditures

Joint secretariat (JS)Salzburg, Austria

It consists of an international team, often representing the involved Alpine countries. It is the main contact point for the public and for people who want to get involved (together with the Alpine Space contact points on the national level).

🡪 provides expertise and assistance to the Managing Authority and the Programme Committee  
🡪 where appropriate, to the audit authority in carrying out their respective duties  
🡪 day-to-day implementation of the programme, like…

- development of a communication strategy and public relations  
- cooperation with Alpine Space contact points  
- coordination of project evaluation processes  
- capitalisation on project results

Alpine Space contact points (ACP)In every Alpine Space country

Each Partner State has a contact point, usually hosted within a regional institution. It provides a link between the transnational and national/regional level.

🡪 First contact person for project applicants and partners in their countries  
🡪 Raising awareness and spreading information about the programme on a national and regional level  
🡪 Supporting the Joint Secretariat and the Managing Authority in the fulfilment of their tasks

National coordinators (NC)In every Alpine Space country

Each Partner State of the programme is represented by one national coordinator who is a member of the national delegation of the Programme Committee.

🡪 Ensuring a continuous coordination of Partner States   
🡪 Preparing decisions for the Programme Committee  
🡪 Informing and involving their regional stakeholders in the programme implementation

Transnational task forces (TF)No head office

Transnational task forces are established if there is the need to deal with a specific topic. The members vary according to which topic needs to be tackled.

🡪 Dealing with specific thematic and strategic fields  
🡪 Working on issues of environmentally sustainable development  
🡪 Mainly when preparing calls for project proposals

## ↳ Our European and macroregional framework

### ↳ Cohesion policy

Interreg is part of the EU regional policy, the main investment priority of the European Union. It targets all regions and cities in the European Union in order to support job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improve citizens’ quality of life. This is we also call it the cohesion policy.

In order to reach these goals and address the diverse development needs in all EU regions, € 392 billion – almost a third of the total EU budget has been set aside for Cohesion Policy for 2021-2027 (source: ec.europa.eu). The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is the part of this budget used to invest in the social and economic development of all EU regions and cities. The ERDF aims to strengthen economic, social and territorial cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. In 2021-2027, it will enable investments in a smarter, greener, more connected and more social Europe that is closer to its citizens.

The projects financed in the regions and cities contribute to many EU policy objectives, such as the European Green Deal. The EU Cohesion Policy helps EU countries, regions, local governments and cities to implement large investments that contribute to the European Green Deal. They must devote at least **30%** of what they receive from the European Regional Development Fund to these priorities. In addition, **37%** of the Cohesion Fund will contribute specifically to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

To learn more:

* Short video introduction to the EU Cohesion policy 2021-2027: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXhYOBO8ZdM>
* European Commission: [Inforegio - EU Regional Policy - Regional Policy - European Commission (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_fr.cfm)
* EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027: [Cohesion Policy 2021-2027 - Regional Policy - European Commission (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/2021_2027/)
* Seventh Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion: [Seventh Report on Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion - Regional Policy - European Commission (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/information/cohesion-report/)
* European Green Deal: [A European Green Deal | European Commission (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en)
* Territorial Agenda: [Territorial Agenda 2030 | A future for all places](https://territorialagenda.eu/)

### ↳ EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine area. Created in 2015, it is based on a joint initiative of seven Alpine states (Austria, France, Italy, Germany, Slovenia, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) and 48 regions and regions. It aims at strengthening cooperation to address common challenges of the Alpine region in a more effective way.

The Interreg Alpine Space programme contributes to the goals of EUSALP.

For further information on EUSALP please check the EUSALP website: [EUSALP | Homepage (alpine-region.eu)](https://www.alpine-region.eu/)

To find out more about macro-regional strategies, have a look at the Inforegio website: [Macro-Regional Strategies - Regional Policy - European Commission (europa.eu)](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/)

### ↳ Alpine organisations

The Alpine region has an old tradition of cooperation across borders, and a number of organisations are active at different levels to preserve its nature and culture or improve its public policies. The Interreg Alpine Space programme consults and cooperates with these organisations for the sustainable development of the Alps.

The [Alpine Convention](https://www.alpconv.org/en/) is an international treaty between Alpine countries and the EU for the protection of the Alpine natural environment. The Interreg Alpine Space programme is an observer to the Convention.

The [International Commission for the Protection of the Alps](http://www.cipra.org/en?set_language=en) (CIPRA) is a non-governmental organisation gathering 100 local and regional organisations in seven countries. CIPRA promotes sustainable development and works to protect the Alps. It promoted the creation of the Alpine Convention and is one of the official observer organisations of the Alpine Convention.

The Community Network [Alliance in the Alps](http://alpenallianz.org/en/about-us) is an association of local authorities and regions from seven Alpine states. Based on the targets set by the Alpine Convention, its members and their citizens work for an preserved nature, a healthy economy and a good coexistence in the Alps.

The [Alpine Network of Protected Areas](http://www.alparc.org/) (ALPARC) is an association of protected areas. Its aim is the concrete implementation of the article "Nature Conservation and Landscape Management" of the Alpine Convention.

The [Alpine Town of the Year Association](http://www.alpenstaedte.org/en/the-alpine-town-of-the-year-association?set_language=en) is an association of Alpine towns that have been awarded the title of “Alpine Town of the Year”. The title is awarded by an international Jury to an Alpine town for its particular commitment to the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

The [Club Arc Alpin](https://www.club-arc-alpin.eu/) (CAA) is the umbrella organization of the major mountain sports associations in the Alpine arc. It represents their common interests in the fields of mountaineering, nature protection and alpine spatial planning on an international level, particularly in the organs of the Alpine Convention.

The [International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps](http://www.iscar-alpineresearch.org/) (ISCAR) promotes international cooperation in Alpine research. It is an official observer of the Alpine Convention and provides research and scientific expertise to its official bodies.

The [EU Strategy for the Alpine Region](https://www.alpine-region.eu/) (EUSALP) is a macro-regional strategy for the Alpine area. It aims at strengthening cooperation to address common challenges of the Alpine region in a more effective way. For more information on the relationship between the EUSALP and the Interreg Alpine Space programme, visit this page [link].

## ↳ Download center

### About the programme

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| **Cooperation programme  2021-2027**  The main document, where you can find information about objectives and priorities. | **Flyer 2021-2027**  The flyer gives a short overview about what we do. | **#MadewithAlpineSpace  Brochure**  Discover the ten reasons for transnational cooperation in the Alps |

### About the projects

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| **List of operations**  A list of all co-financed projects of this period with a brief description and key data. | **Alpine cooperation stories**  A brochure about our cooperation with EUSALP. You can find information how our projects are supporting their strategy. |  |

### Annual implementation report

For every year, the Interreg Alpine Space programme reports its physical and financial progress to the European Commission. The ‘Citizen summary’ is a short and reader-friendly version that sums up the report for interested European citizens.

### Programme evaluations

To secure the programme’s effectiveness, efficiency and impact there is an evaluation strategy. The evaluation plan sets out the framework for the evaluations and their proper planning and implementation.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Find out more about the potential environmental impact of our programme.