Special Edition
Results of the 1st call for project proposals

NewsLetter

JUL 2008 ISSUE 03

EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL COOPERATION
Alpine SPACE

Dear Readers,

The last months were very intense for both – applicants and evaluators of the 1st call for project proposals. Today, with this Newsletters' special edition, it is with great satisfaction that we can present the first European Territorial Cooperation projects of the Alpine Space!

The team of the Joint Technical Secretariat
from left to right: Antonia Leitz, Paquita Rombouts, Luca Palazzo, Lorraine Brindel, Anuška Štoka, Thomas Fleury, Magali Kirchgesser, Gianluca Ferreri

We would like to express our congratulation to all successful project consortiums! We wish you all the best for a fascinating and smooth transnational team work and project implementation!

We also want to particularly thank all further project promoters for their interest and their great efforts during this 1st application round!

We hope that you will keep in touch with the programme. The next call for project proposals is straight ahead and foreseen to be opened this autumn. The Task Force in charge of the preparation of the second call will meet in September in Vienna to develop Terms of Reference and a time table. At this occasion a critical analysis on the application procedure will be carried out internally. The programme bodies are confident that with this exercise a fine tuning for even more precise guidance and application documents for the second call, will be achieved.

Although many promising projects have been approved in the first round, key topics are still uncovered. Many new challenges must be tackled in the near future! You see, there are good reasons for being part in the next application round!

On the following pages the project portraits will give you a picture of the approved project portfolio. Naturally more details are our outlined in the "running projects" section of the website **www.alpine-space.eu.** This section will be regularly updated with semi-annual reports on the projects' progress and produced results. In addition, each project will launch its individual project website soon.

We hope you will enjoy reading this Newsletter. We wish you a nice chill out during summer break!

Antonia Leitz and Thomas Fleury
Team Coordinators of the JTS

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

Summary on the 1st call

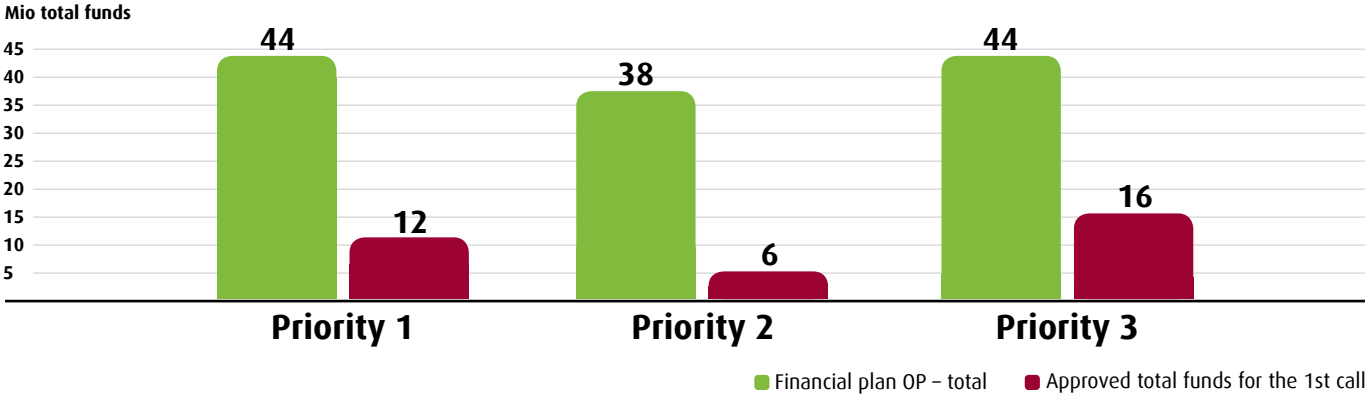
The 1st call in figures

The 1st call for project proposals is the starting point for twelve pioneer projects on board of the Alpine Space Programme. The following table provides an overview on the approved projects:

Priority	Project name	Number of partners	Total project budget in €
Priority 1	AlpEnergy	10	2.220.000,00
Priority 1	ALPS Bio Cluster	8	1.862.505,00
Priority 1	CAPACities	10	2.741.420,00
Priority 1	ClimAlpTour	17	2.806.500,00
Priority 1	INNOCITÉ	7	2.222.000,00
Total priority 1		52	11.852.425,00
Priority 2	ACCESS	9	2.478.845,00
Priority 2	CO2-NeuTrAlp	15	3.369.851,00
Total priority 2		24	5.848.696,00
Priority 3	AdaptAlp	16	2.870.635,00
Priority 3	Alp-Water-Scarce	17	3.990.903,00
Priority 3	CLISP	14	2.522.990,00
Priority 3	ECONNECT	16	3.198.240,00
Priority 3	PermaNET	14	3.303.468,00
Total priority 3		77	15.886.236,00
Total		**153**	**33.587.357,00**

A total amount of around 33,6 Mio € (thereof 24,1 Mio € ERDF) has been committed to the projects of the 1st call. Five projects have been approved under priority 1 with a total commitment of 11,9 Mio €. Two of the new projects are tackling priority 2 with a total budget of 5,8 Mio €. An amount of 15,9 Mio € will be dedicated to five projects dealing with topics of priority 3.

The graph below illustrates the exhaustion per priority for the 1st call.



While priority 3 reached already valuable exhaustion, priority 1 and especially priority 2 still have strong potentials for the upcoming calls.

The thematic focus of approved projects

The newly approved projects are dealing with various and challenging topics. The brief summaries in the second part of this newsletter introduce the key topics of the newcomers in more detail (see page 5).

One core subject of the newly approved projects is the impact of climate change – the main focus of four projects:
AdaptAlp concentrates on risk management, risk assessment and hazard mapping and aims to set up Alpine wide adaptation measures especially on the regional level.
PermaNET deals with specific hazards resulting on the climate change's impacts on permafrost.
CLISP develops planning strategies for policy and administration to prevent increasing climate change-related spatial conflicts, vulnerability, damages and costs.
ClimAlpTour analyses the impacts of climate change on Alpine tourism and proposes individual adaptation strategies.

The topic of renewable energies has been picked up by two projects:
AlpEnergy concentrates on endogenous renewable energy sources and on promotion instruments for a sustainable energy supply.
CO2-NeuTrAlp aims to foster alternative propulsion technologies for transport on the basis of renewable energies.

Two projects are dealing with territorial development in the Alps:
CAPACities' main emphasis is to foster a polycentric development by promoting the potential of little Alpine towns.
On the other hand, ***INNOCITÉ*** concentrates on improving competitiveness of small-medium cities under the influence of Alpine great urban centers.

The ***ACCESS*** project is dedicated to improve accessibility of public services of general interest in sparsely populated mountain areas.

ECONNECT is dealing with biodiversity and the ecological connectivity in the Alps.

The project ***Alp-Water-Scarce*** will generate an early warning system on water scarcity in the Alps.

The project ***ALPS Bio Cluster*** will establish a transnational cluster network and boost joint economic development.

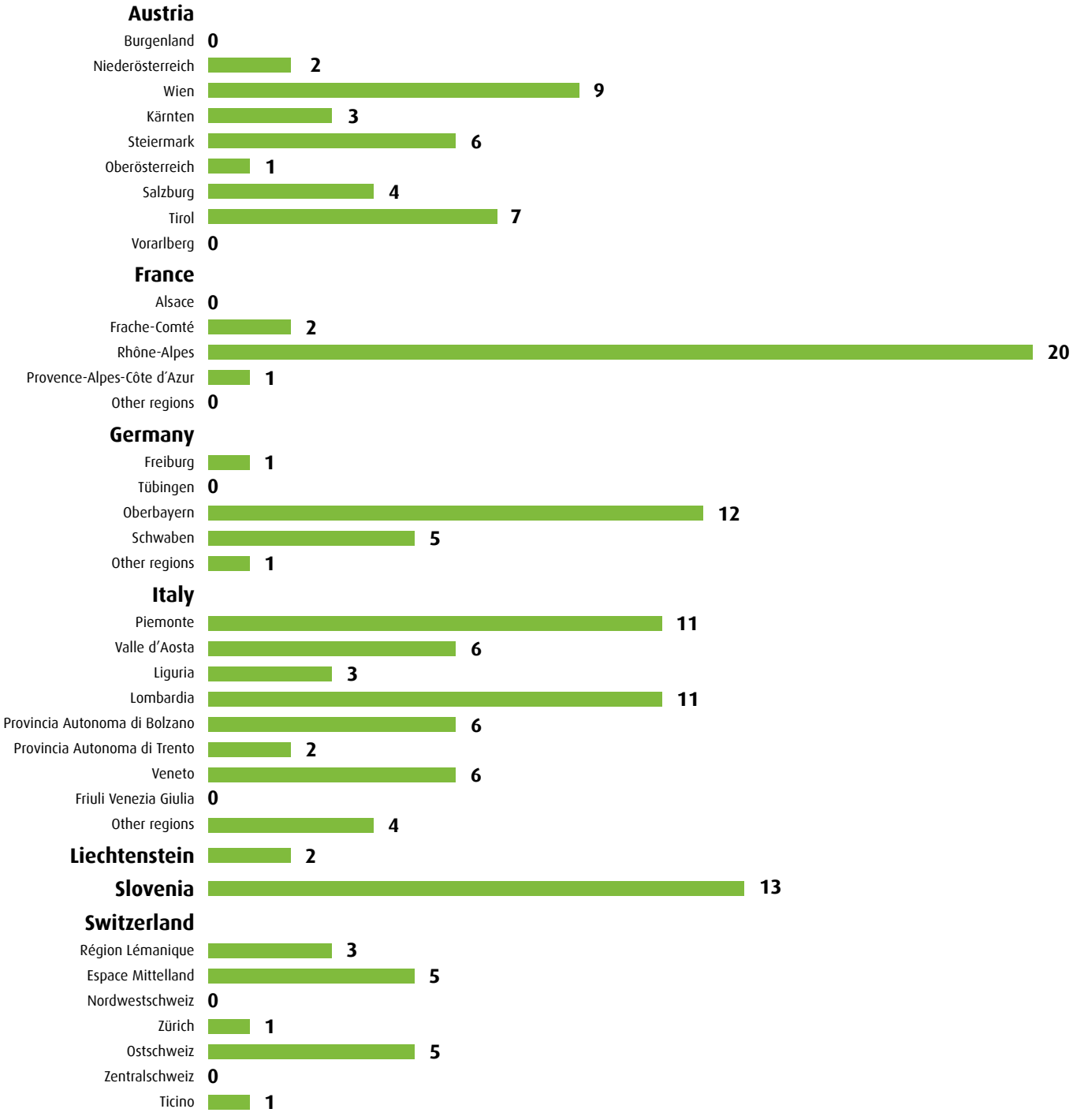
Curious?

The next chapter (see page 5) includes portraits of all new Alpine Space projects!

Where are the project partners located?

The Alpine Space Programme welcomes 153 new project partners from all participating countries. The following overview illustrates the origin of project partners on NUTS II basis.

Partners per region



Total partners 153

Presentation of approved projects

Priority 1
Competitiveness and Attractiveness

AlpEnergy
Virtual Power Systems as an Instrument to Promote Transnational Cooperation and Sustainable Energy Supply in the Alpine Space

→ At present, the Alpine Space is characterised by strong territorial discrepancies with regard to (conventional) energy supply. Rich endogenous renewable energy sources (RES) like hydropower, solar and wind energy, wood and other biomass exist throughout the Alpine Space. But equal access to their use is even more restricted because the use and the need to balance electricity production requires a strong electric grid and its – often unacceptable – extension or strengthening if the rate of RES is to be increased.

Virtual Power Systems (VPS) offer an alternative by using ICT-technology for intelligent combinations of RES, load management and storage. A prerequisite are innovative ways of co-operation among utilities, independent power producers and consumers. VPS have a high potential to trigger new knowledge-based and competitive economic activities. ***AlpEnergy*** will explore this potential and sensitise political and business decision makers.

Lead partner: Allgäuer Überlandwerk GmbH, Kempten, Germany
Project partners: 9 partners from France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland

ALPS Bio Cluster
TransAlpine Bio Cluster

→ The ***ALPS Bio Cluster*** will establish a transnational cluster network in the biotech and medtech sector by involving actors from six Alpine regions in research, training and industry, especially small and medium-sized companies, in order to boost joint economic development by reaching a critical mass of key players. The envisaged transnational cluster builds on strong regional cluster structures and will improve innovation capabilities and deepen collaboration. This will be reached by implementing two thematic and sustainable networks: one on "autonomy and healthcare" and one on "new diagnosis and therapies" with the two cross-sectoral approaches of linking green and red biotech with environmental health on one side and on bridging ICT and medical devices with healthcare at home on the other side. A "healthy life at home in the Alps in a natural environment worth to be preserved" will be promoted through marketing of the Alpine brand.

Lead partner: ADEBAG for the Rhône-Alpes Bio Cluster, Grenoble, France
Project partners: 7 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland

CAPACities

Competitiveness Actions and Policies for Alpine Cities

→ The Alpine Space is characterised by medium and small towns. They represent the territorial capital of this area for richness in natural resources, landscape quality and historical importance but they are also a weakness for economic development due to their isolation, depopulation and difficulty in connections and facilities supply.

The project ***CAPACities*** aims at promoting the potential of little Alpine towns through an integrated and transnational approach by innovative urban policies and actions, and by creating alliances with the neighbouring MEGAs and stronger territories. The project aspires to promote a new approach to territorial governance sharing a view capable to integrate different issues (multifunctional urban uses, environment and culture, tourism) in spatial development strategies. The project will create operative tools and specific gender policies (women, youth and aged people) to promote innovative urban activities, pursuing the Lisbon strategy applied at local territorial level.

Lead partner: Lombardy Region, General Directorate Territory and Urban Planning, Milano, Italy

Project partners: 9 partners from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland

ClimAlpTour

Climate Change and its Impact on Tourism in the Alpine Space

→ The project aims at dealing with the internationally recognised issue of the effects of climate change on Alpine tourism, with reference both to winter tourism and sports and to Alpine all-seasons tourism. The issue of providing appropriate strategies to ensure a balanced development of Alpine tourism, the preparation of appropriate adaptation policies at the national, regional and local level and the assessment of the economic and social effects of climate change on tourism was a central issue in several studies. Alpine tourism needs to be rethought and both public institutions and private stakeholders have to meet the challenge of a new idea of tourism which goes beyond the traditional vision of winter sports and other typical Alpine tourism activities. This project addresses the need to provide both a sound knowledge of the different aspects of the impact of climate change on Alpine tourism and concrete adaptation strategies to apply in selected areas.

Lead partner: Region of Veneto, Directorate for Forest and Mountain Economy, Venezia, Italy

Project partners: 16 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland

INNOCITÉ

How to Improve Competitiveness of Small- Medium Cities under the Influence of Alpine Great Urban Centers

→ In the Alpine Space, metropolisation has given birth to changes in the urban system and in the urban-rural relationships: the dichotomy between small settlements of Alpine towns, villages and hamlets which are influenced by important Metropolitan Growth Areas (e.g. Lyon, Milan, Munich, Vienna, Trieste and other big towns) can be solved through the challenging role played by high-potential small and medium-sized Alpine cities and by the catching and attracting areas around them. ***INNOCITÉ*** proposes itself as an empowering tool-kit for key players (politics, local & regional authorities, urban planning agencies, Chambers of Commerce, Craft Chambers, SMEs, Trade Office and Tourist information etc.) which desire to find a complementary positioning towards big Alpine cities and their surrounding rural areas. ***INNOCITÉ*** will run seven pilot cases in order to compare practices and results in the various experimentation areas to make it possible to develop an exemplary Alpine Space approach as regards the positioning of a metropolitan peripheral town-centre.

Lead partner: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Lyon, Department of Commerce, Services for the Individual and Tourism, Lyon, France

Project partners: 6 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia

Priority 2

Accessibility and Connectivity

ACCESS

Improving Accessibility of Services of General Interest – Organisational Innovations in Rural Mountain Areas

→ The maintenance of a spatially and socially equal accessibility to services of general interest (SGI) is a core issue to the functionality of mountain areas. However, the ongoing territorial concentration of SGI leads to a vicious circle of further deterioration in the quality of provision which in turn causes a decreasing demand of the existing services. The withdrawal of SGI has many negative consequences for the affected regions of which a reduced functionality, competitiveness and a higher amount of motorised mobility are the most pertinent. The ***ACCESS*** project therefore aims at improving the accessibility to SGI in sparsely populated, mountain areas. This will be done mainly by finding new forms of organisation of SGI, using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and fostering demand oriented, integrated mobility systems. To achieve these ambitious goals, ***ACCESS*** builds on a transnational approach and on participatory methodologies to assess the specific demands of stakeholders on different levels.

Lead partner: Swiss Center for Mountain Regions (SAB)

Project partners: 8 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Germany

CO2-NeuTrAlp

CO2-Neutral Transport for the Alpine Space

→ Alternative propulsion technologies for transport on the basis of renewable energies (RE) shall be implemented by local users of the Alpine Space:

1) A variety of solutions will be applied in regions with differing resource potentials;
2) Technical solutions will be harmonised in order to set international standards;
3) Transnational exchange of know-how will be promoted for the competitiveness of the Alpine Space.

Through the use of new technologies of propulsion based on renewable energies, the region will promote the independency from energy imports, create jobs in rural areas and promote the dynamics and competitiveness of Alpine SMEs. In partnership with experts from research and private business public authorities and transport companies will be enabled to test in pilot projects different available propulsion technologies in varying local applications. Those solutions will be analysed according to applicability, cost efficiency, local environmental footprint, ecological and economical effects.

Lead partner: B.A.U.M. Consult GmbH Munich, Germany
Project partners: 14 partners from Austria, France, Germany and Italy

Priority 3
Environment and Risk Prevention

AdaptAlp

Adaptation to Climate Change in the Alpine Space

→ Climate change is to a large extent constituted of increasing temperatures and changed precipitation patterns. Any change of these critical factors has implications on the frequency and extent of natural hazards. The uncertainties and the increase of natural hazards due to the impacts of climate change require concerted management in the Alpine Space. ***AdaptAlp*** will improve information on impacts of climate change especially on regional level (e.g. high resolution modeling, design events) and evaluate different methods of risk assessment, hazard mapping and risk management in the Alpine Space. The activities concentrate on the identification of best methods and the transfer of best practice experiences into adaptation measures in model regions. Risk reduction by raising the awareness of local stakeholders is a further issue in ***AdaptAlp***. The know-how generated in ***AdaptAlp*** will be synthesised and integrated into practice of technical authorities. Recommendations will be given to policy makers and local stakeholders.

Lead partner: Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, Unit for Climate Protection, Munich, Germany
Project partners: 15 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland

Alp-Water-Scarce

Water Management Strategies against Water Scarcity in the Alps

→ The main challenges of this project are to create local Early Warning Systems against Water Scarcity in the Alps based on sound and perennial monitoring and modeling and anchored strongly and actively within a Stakeholder Forum linked across comparative and contrasting regions across the Alps. The Early Warning System is based on the linkage and improvement of field monitoring and assemblage of qualitative and quantitative data derived from anthropogenic water use in selected pilot regions in France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland. The aims are to implement water management at the short term (annual) scale as well as the long term (future scenarios) scale based on modeling under climate change and anthropogenic scenarios. Future water shortages should be prognosed and prevented by innovative measures of mitigation and adaptation. Awareness raising and stakeholder interaction will form an important part of problem identification, participation in the project, dissemination of results and implementation of new approaches.

Lead partner: The Mountain Institute, University of Savoy, France
Project partners: 16 partners from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland

CLISP

Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space

→ Climate change impacts, especially growing risks from natural hazards, increasingly threaten settlements, infrastructure, lives and future development in the Alpine Space. ***CLISP*** aims at preventing increasing climate change-related spatial conflicts, vulnerability, damages and costs by providing "climate proof" spatial planning solutions as a substantial basis for future sustainable territorial development in the Alps. As climate change adaptation and mitigation is a novel field for spatial planning policy and administration, ***CLISP*** is a strategic pilot project. Its main pillars are assessment of the vulnerability of Alpine regions/municipalities to climate-change related risks, evaluation of the "climate change fitness" of current spatial planning systems and intense risk communication and governance in model regions. Finally the project aims at building the basis for the elaboration of "climate proof" spatial planning strategies for the Alpine Space and the Alpine countries and providing practical support for sustainable development decisions on regional / local level.

Lead partner: Federal Environment Agency Austria, Department of Environmental Impact Assessment and Climate Change, Wien, Austria
Project partners: 13 partners from Austria, Germany, Italy and Slovenia

ECONNECT

Improving Ecological Connectivity in the Alps

ECONNECT aims at the enhancement of ecological connectivity in the Alpine Space. Protection of biodiversity and natural heritage – a central necessity to cope with the challenges of climate change – requires an integrated approach which beyond protected areas considers high biodiversity areas and corridors as linking elements of an Alpine ecological network. International umbrella organisations linked to the Alpine Convention, scientific institutions and local implementation partners have joined forces to demonstrate needs and options for action and develop innovative instruments for ecological connectivity. Pilot applications involving different stakeholders result in long-term implementation. To overcome legal and administrative constraints policy recommendations are presented ensuring effective cross-border cooperation and procedural harmonisation. Knowledge transfer and dissemination are guaranteed by the widely ramified structure of partners and the strategic use of networks.

Lead partner: University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna; Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology, Wien, Austria
Project partners: 15 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein and Switzerland

PermaNET

Permafrost Long-term Monitoring Network

Permafrost is highly sensitive to climatic changes. Permafrost degradation and related natural hazards affect traffic routes, tourism areas, settlements and infrastructures. The main problem is a lacking strategy for the consideration of these newly observed specific impacts of climate change in risk prevention and territorial development. With the joint development of a common strategy for dealing with permafrost and related hazards under changing climatic conditions and the creation of an Alpine-wide monitoring network the project aims at preventing natural hazards, at contributing to sustainable territorial development and at the implementation of good governance practices. Outputs are an Alpine-wide permafrost monitoring network, a permafrost map for the entire Alpine Space and guidelines for the consideration of permafrost in risk and water resources management. The project arises the awareness of decision-makers and responsible authorities to this topic and provides Alpine-wide decision bases and strategies.

Lead partner: Autonomous Province of Bolzano - South Tyrol, Office for Geology and Building Materials Testing; Italy
Project partners: 13 partners from Austria, France, Germany and Italy

More details on the project partnerships and their activities are available in the running projects section on the programme website!

www.alpine-space.eu/the-projects/running-projects

News from the JTS

Stefano Aloise

Dear colleagues, dear partners, dear readers,

I left the Secretariat at the beginning of June for new professional adventures. It has been a very enriching experience to work within such a stimulating environment as the Alpine Space Programme and a pleasure to collaborate with each of you in several occasions.

I wish you all the best for new challenging projects striving for a successful cooperation and a better life in the Alpine regions.

Yours, Stefano Aloise

Luca Palazzo

Hi, my name is Luca and I am the new Project Officer at the JTS in Rosenheim.
Since 2001 I have been dealing with international projects and especially INTERREG programs. I completed my studies in Rome attending a master's degree on international cooperation and project design with a special focus on EU funds and I have gained valuable experiences working for international institutions as well as national and local authorities.
As you might know, I already joined the Alpine Space Programme in 2006 as Italian National Contact Point in the Italian Ministry for Infrastructure. I am very proud to support the JTS team since May 2008 both in the day-to-day management of the programme and in the development of innovative approaches to transnational cooperation, which have already been presented by the European Commission in different occasions as best practice examples!

I am looking forward to work with you!

Gianluca Ferreri

Hello everybody!

My name is Gianluca Ferreri, I started to work at the JTS in November 2007 as a trainee and I am very glad to continue this wonderful experience as a Junior Project Officer.

I will do my best to serve the programme, and first of all, the projects!

I look forward to meet you soon and I am sure we will all have a good working and human experience!

Where to find further information?

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