

Dear Readers,

The Alpine Space Programme seems to be an attractive and interesting offer for cooperation projects. This could at least be considered from the high number of applications in the so far two calls – approximately 200. And the number of approved projects is high as well: 25 projects are in the programme's portfolio, more than 55% of the programme funds have been committed to projects and more than 300 project partners in the Alpine space regions are busily implementing their work packages. One could consider it as an overall success for the visibility of the programme and the attractiveness of its funding possibilities. The approval of the last 13 projects in June has widened the scope of the programme considerably.

This interesting and wide portfolio means also a mandate for the programme – a mandate to support the projects and to reflect on the programme's strategy. In its meeting in June the Programme Committee critically reflected on a number of questions regarding efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of project results: "How can we make sure that the projects really contribute to the objectives of the programme? Should we steer the projects to help them achieve the objectives of the programme better? How can we guarantee that results will be used in future? Which measures can be taken to ensure that the programme gains visibility in the regions through the projects? Finally: is the strategy pursued by the programme still effective or should there be a shift towards a stronger "lead" of the programme?"

A task force was mandated to discuss these questions in detail and to elaborate an action plan. The task force had its first meeting recently and has developed a range of ideas how the programme could still be improved in some aspects. One strand of ideas deals with a better link of the projects to the

programme's objectives. To name just a few: A stronger support for the projects that were selected in the first step of the application process could help them to better understand the recommendations of the task force when elaborating the application forms in the second step.

Another line of action will directly address the projects and support them in networking, cooperation and exchange activities within the programme and with other European programmes. Workshops, seminars, platforms and similar activities shall increase the visibility of the projects and foster synergy effects leading to a value gain for them. As first concrete outcome a conference dealing with climate change and energy efficiency can be announced for early spring 2010.

This process of strategic alignment is also intended to strengthen the strategic approach of the programme and prepare for discussions in the framework of the future territorial cohesion policy.

To all newly approved projects I wish a good start and a fruitful cooperation!



Christian Salletmaier

*Head of the Managing Authority,
Land Salzburg*

Third Programme Committee meeting



The Alpine Space Programme Committee

On 9th and 10th June 2009, the Programme Committee (PC) met in Milan to undertake the 2nd call project selection. 13 out of 19 project proposals submitted in April 2009 were approved. The programme congratulates the approved project partnerships and welcomes them in the programme family.

Next steps?

The Lead partners of the newly approved projects participated to a seminar on 8th July 2009 in Munich. They were informed about reporting procedures as well as about financial and legal issues and communication obligations and will circulate this technical information to their project partners.

The approved projects will organise their kick off conference in autumn 2009. In case these conferences are open for the public, they will be announced in the programme event calendar on the programme website.



Christina Bauer, Christian Salletmaier (MA), Rosella Rusca (PC Chair)

What do the new projects focus on?

On the following pages you will find some detailed information about the new projects. If you would like to follow their implementation, simply visit the running project section on our website (www.alpine-space.eu/the-projects/running-projects) which will be updated with status reports, project outcomes and interim results.

- programme state of the art -

- Number of calls launched: **2**
- Number of approved projects: **25**
- Number of project partners: **316**
- Total available programme budget (2007-2013): **130** Mio EURO
- Current commitment of ERDF funds: **55%**

Thematic focus of approved projects

The approved projects of the 2nd call are addressing various and challenging topics summarised in the overview below. In the second part of this newsletter the newcomers are described in more detail (page 6 ff).

One ambition of the newly approved projects is to **strengthen SMEs**. **AlpHouse** and **ENERBUILD** both focus on knowledge transfer and competence development especially as regards energy efficiency and renewable energies in the building sector.

COMUNIS and **DEMOCHANGE** are both dealing with **territorial development**. **DEMOCHANGE** aims to adapt spatial planning and regional development to the demographic change, while **COMUNIS** will set up a strategy for commercial location development against the background of a inter-municipal and inter-territorial cooperation.

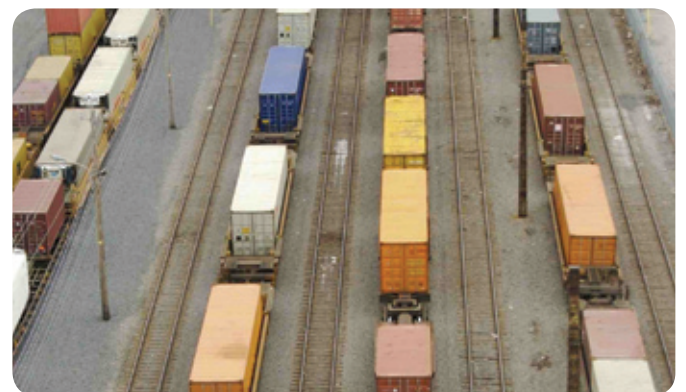
The topic of **modal shift** has been picked up by two new projects: **iMONiTRAF!** will establish a longlasting political network of Alpine regions to support innovative transport measures. **TRANSITECTS** aims to increase accessibility and functionality of transnational rail services for the logistic market by optimising the use of the rail infrastructure.

Knowledge transfer and **integrated planning** in the transport sector is as well in focus: **PARAMOUNT** plans to build up risk management strategies for infrastructure protection and thus to react on climate change impacts on Alpine transport infrastructure. **AlpCheck 2** intends to provide innovative transport planning tools and evaluation methodologies with the development of the "Transport Decision Support System (TDSS)".

The **ALIAS** project is dedicated to improve **accessibility of public health care services** by shaping a "virtual hospital" for sharing medical information and providing telemedicine services, both to Alpine citizens and tourists.




Two projects are dealing with the **Alpine forests**: **ALPF FIRS** aims at creating an Alpine network on forest fire impact mitigation with a shared warning system, while **MANFRED** intends to set up management strategies to adapt Alpine Space forests to climate change risks.

The **resource water** is also tackled in different ways: **SILMAS** concentrates on lake management and will develop efficient tools for reaching goals of the frame directives (Water and Natura 2000) and the Alpine Convention. **SHARE** is working on the issue of hydropower and foresees to develop, test and promote a decision support system to merge on an unprejudiced base, river ecosystems and hydropower requirements.



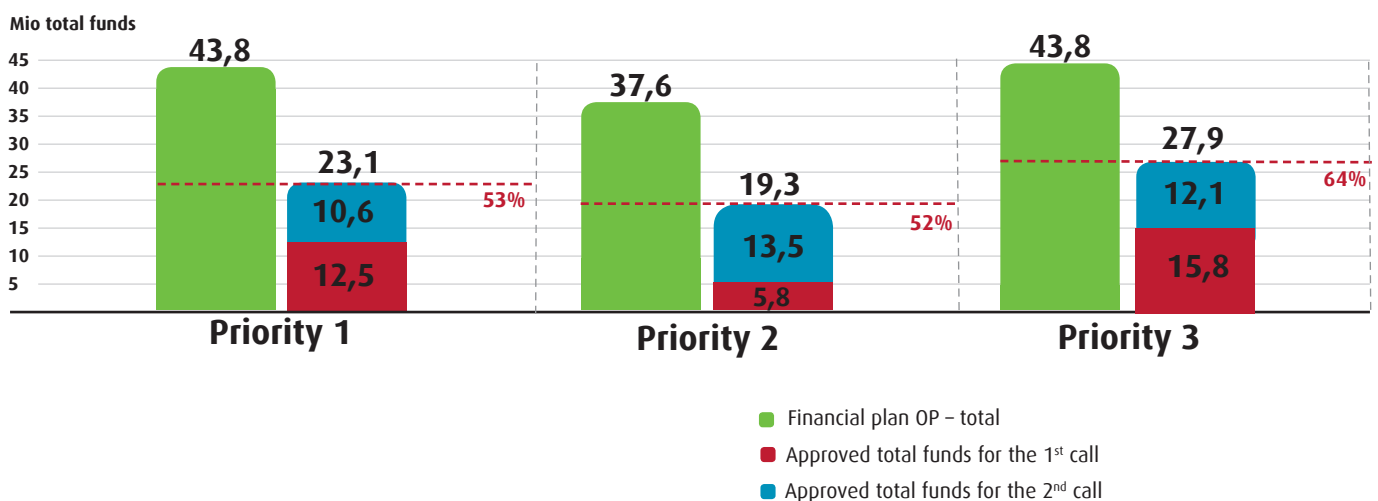
The 2nd call in figures

With the 2nd call for project proposals, 13 projects were taken 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	AlpHouse	10	2.741.299
Priority 1	COMUNIS	11	2.110.663
Priority 1	DEMOCHANGE	13	2.819.000
Priority 1	ENERBUILD	13	2.961.502
 Total priority 1		47	10.632.464
Priority 2	ALIAS	10	2.700.000
Priority 2	AlpCheck 2	10	3.151.500
Priority 2	iMONITRAF!	10	1.734.768
Priority 2	PARAmount	13	2.745.490
Priority 2	TRANSITECTS	16	3.209.375
 Total priority 2		59	13.541.133
Priority 3	ALP FFIRS	14	2.868.160
Priority 3	MANFRED	15	3.323.700
Priority 3	SHARE	13	2.700.000
Priority 3	SILMAS	15	3.260.993
 Total priority 3		57	12.152.853
Total		163	36.326.450

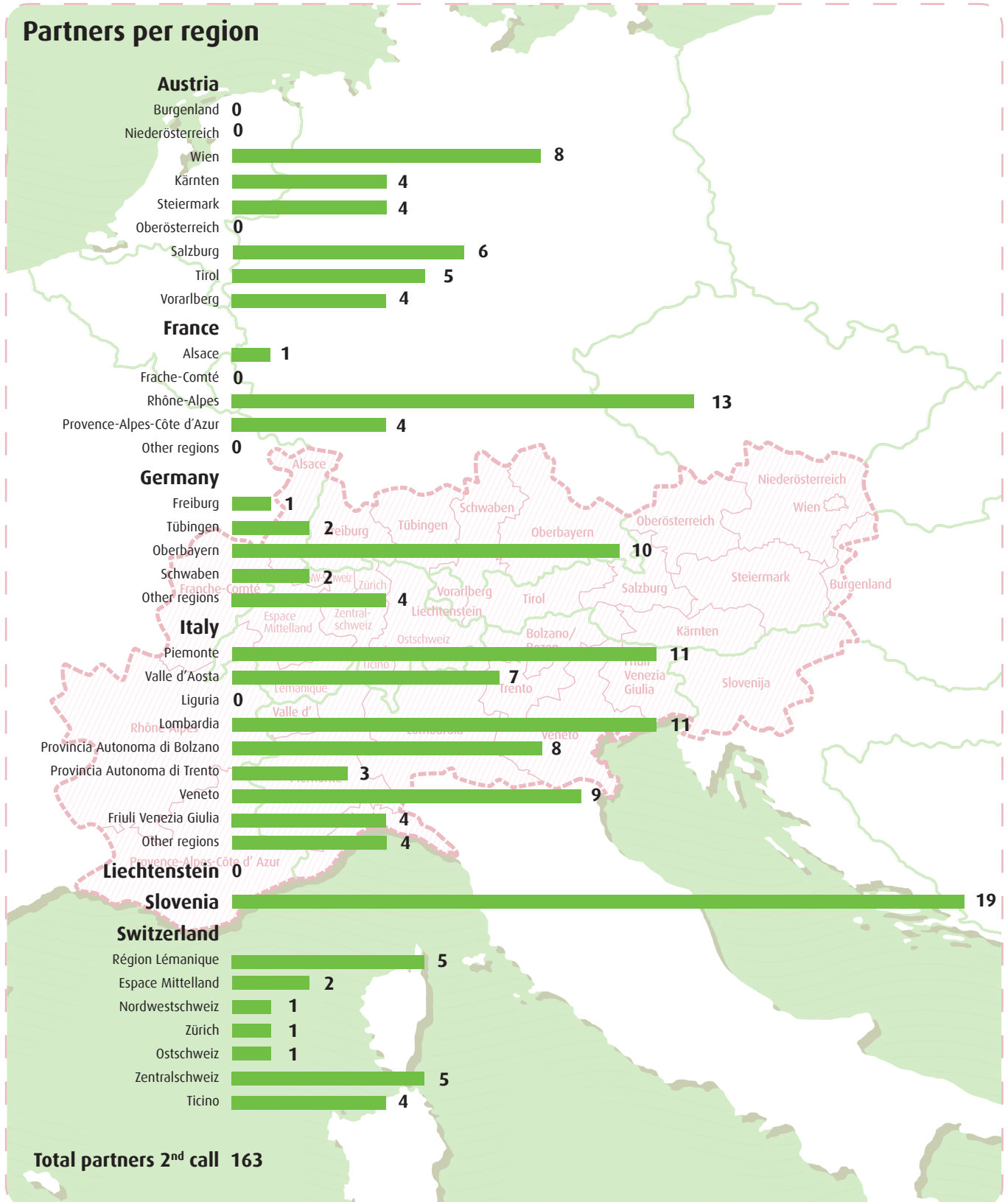
A total amount of around 36,3 Mio € (thereof 26,1Mio € ERDF) has been committed to the projects of the 2nd call. Four projects have been approved under priority 1 with a total commitment of 10,6 Mio €. Five of the new projects are tackling priority 2 with a total budget of 13,5 Mio €. An amount of 12,1 Mio € will be dedicated to four projects dealing with topics of priority 3.

The graph below illustrates the exhaustion of the total programme budget per priority after the 1st and 2nd call.



Where are the new project partners located?

The Alpine Space Programme welcomes 163 new project partners! The following overview illustrates the origin of project partners on NUTS II basis.





Priority 1 Competitiveness and Attractiveness

AlpHouse

Alpine building culture and ecology. Competence development of local craft companies in the area of energy-efficient renovation of traditional alpine old buildings and settlements



→ The project **AlpHouse** strives to enhance the competitiveness of regional SMEs by providing them with the knowledge, skills and tools for top-quality renovations of Alpine old buildings. These shall meet the highest standards of energy efficiency and at the same time preserve the regional characteristics and the endogenous wisdom of Alpine architecture. To this end, **AlpHouse** will develop and implement a comprehensive program of qualification modules and a web based information platform, both based on an analysis of the currently available knowledge on energy technology and regional Alpine architecture. The project addresses the target groups craft enterprises, architects/planners and policy makers. There is a special focus on practical instruction (e.g. on pilot construction sites), on tools for decision makers and on high visibility to the public. In result the rate and quality of renovations shall be raised, thereby increasing the attractiveness of the Alpine Space.

Project partnership: 10 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Handwerkskammer für München und Oberbayern (Chamber of Trade and Crafts for Munich and Upper Bavaria), Germany

COMUNIS

Inter-municipal cooperation for Strategic Steering of SME-oriented Location Development in the Alpine Space



→ In the Alps, the strategies of commercial development on the municipal level have been to react to single cases in the short term. A coordinated and concerted strategy using the regional and local potentials is missing. **COMUNIS** aims at developing a well-defined integrative and cooperative strategy for Commercial Location Development (CLD) and enhancing inter-municipal and intra-territorial cooperation to overcome individualistic attempts of problems solution on the level of single municipalities. **COMUNIS** will provide broadly adaptable guidelines to apply this strategy and practical instruments for the assessment of the local and regional demand for and the steering of commercial development with particular focus on diversification and efficiency of economic activities, environmental and social concerns, human and cultural capital. Furthermore the project will result in a transnational knowledge management and establish sustainable structures for managing CLD in the pilot regions.

Project partnership: 11 partners from from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** HES-SO Valais, Institut Economie et Tourisme (University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland Valais, Institute Economics and Tourism), Switzerland

DEMOCHANGE

Demographic change in the Alps: adaptation strategies to spatial planning and regional development



→ Demographic change is a main driving force all over Europe. The population within most mountain regions of the Alpine Space already today differs from the surrounding metropolitans. Beside the general trend of the aging of the Europeans there exist additional Alpine specific factors of regional different influence: migration (in – out), commuting (rural to urban areas) settlement and housing (costs - quality), change of regional demand for public services (e.g. transport, health-care, education) or the change of consumer behavior in key economies (e.g. nutrition, tourism).

DEMOCHANGE provides general adaptation strategies for Alpine regions to their spatial plans and regional development programs. Thirteen partners will elaborate concrete strategies in ten model regions and implement them by pilot actions. The regional achieved results will be merged to general strategies and disseminated by an exchange network.

Project partnership: 13 partners from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften - FH München, Fakultät für Tourismus (Munich University of Applied Sciences - Faculty of Tourism), Germany

ENERBUILD

ENERGY Efficiency and Renewable Energies in the BUILDing Sector



→ The project **ENERBUILD** is focused on strengthening SMEs in the building sector because of their great importance as employers in Alpine valleys. New developments and changes concerning building techniques of energy saving and producing buildings (ESAP buildings) require cross-sectoral networks and collaborations of SMEs. Because of the increasing complexity in this field there is the need for customers, especially public builders, to have a better basis for decision-making. The key topics of the project are:

1. Providing latest technical know-how for craftsmen and architects;
2. Developing tools for public builders which serve as decision guidance;
3. Providing customers with innovative financing tools concerning the energy production of buildings.

All in all the craftsmen will be supported in this period of change and the demand for ecological building will be raised. To reach these objectives the PPs form transnational expert groups and their results are implemented in pilot actions.

Project partnership: 13 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Region-entwicklung Vorarlberg (Regional Development Vorarlberg), Austria



ALIAS

Alpine Hospitals Networking for Improved Access to Telemedicine Services



→ The project **ALIAS** addresses medical services and information inadequacy to ensure Health Care provisions in Alpine Space where telemedicine services are not widely exploited and linguistic barriers represent an obstacle. The Alpine Space's touristic vocation during some periods of the year makes its Health Care structures "periodically" inadequate to face a widened request of services supply. On the other hand, a major receptivity of those structures during the rest of the year is unnecessary due to the low density of Alpine local residents.

ALIAS addresses the programme objective aimed at securing fair access to Health Care public services and related communication infrastructure within the programming area. The project is aimed at linking together a number of Alpine Space hospitals enabling the creation of a network shaping the **ALIAS** Virtual Hospital for sharing medical information, adopting telemedicine service and exchanging best clinical practices, to improve the efficiency of hospitals.

Project partnership: 10 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Regione Lombardia - Direzione Generale Sanità (Lombardy Region - General Directorate for Health), Italy

AlpCheck 2

Alpine Mobility Check - Step 2



→ Putting down its roots into the road traced by the strategic call of the previous programming period and its project, **AlpCheck 2** aims at creating a road transport model covering the whole Alpine area that supports the public decision makers by providing free on line access to a vast set of traffic data: actual data and simulated data concerning a set of future scenarios will be interactively accessible. Environmental data (atmospheric and noise emissions, money value of impacts) will also be available. Innovative technologies, solutions and methodologies will be elaborated, tested and evaluated as well. The project has a strong transnational character both for exploiting synergies with other projects and for seeking the necessary institutional support. An innovative transport planning tool, new evaluation methodologies and new technologies will be delivered to the Alpine Community, which are expected to contribute to improve competitiveness and quality of life of Alpine territories.

Project partnership: 10 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia **Lead Partner:** Regione del Veneto - Giunta Regionale (Veneto Region), Italy

iMONiTRAF!

Implementation of MONITRAF (Monitoring of road traffic related effects in the Alpine Space and common measures)



→ The strong increase of total transalpine traffic and its further growth is a heavy strain for Alpine regions. Effective measures are necessary for enabling a sustainable development. **iMONiTRAF!**'s objectives are to develop common strategies for transalpine traffic and to put them into action. A long-lasting political network shall be established, which serves as common voice of the Alpine regions and which is recognised on regional, national and EU level. It pushes innovative measures for more sustainable regional development. **iMONiTRAF!** will develop a broad political network to find common strategies. Evaluation instruments are developed, regional indicators are interpreted to assess effects of Alpine traffic. Innovative measures for modal shift improvements are assessed. Three Transport Forums discuss common strategies and develop political statements. To support implementation, a decision-making aid is edited and a web-GIS system to visualise past trends and effects of measures is built.

Project partnership: 10 partners from Austria, France, Italy and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Zentralschweizer Regierungskonferenz der Kantone Luzern, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Zug (Central Switzerland Government Conference of the cantons Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Zug), Switzerland

PARAMount

imProved Accessibility: Reliability and security of Alpine transport infrastructure related to mountainous hazards in a changing climate

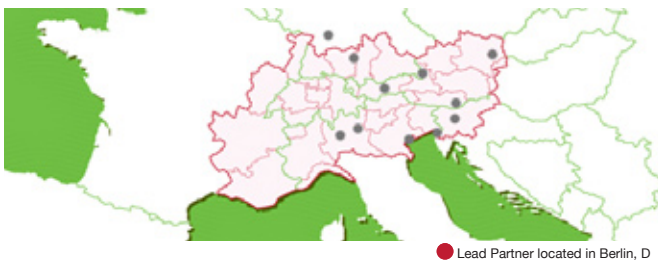


→ Transport security and accessibility are essential for a balanced and sustainable development of the Alpine Space. Due to current climatic trends, the vulnerability of transport infrastructure to natural hazards has increased. But the specific threats to transport infrastructure have not yet been tackled in a systematic joint effort. Therefore the goal of **PARAMount** is to improve risk management strategies for infrastructure protection by the adaptation of existing tools and practices to these special requirements. The project consortium is of cross-sectoral character: key actors from transport and natural hazards management are integrated as project partners and observers. Long-term practical implementation will be assured by the establishment of regional risk dialogue. This will improve risk awareness, quality of decisions and positive impacts of **PARAMount** measures.

Project partnership: 13 partners from Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, Sektion Forst (Federal Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Forestry Section), Austria

TRANSITECTS

Transalpine Transport Architects



→ In **TRANSITECTS** public institutions design common transnational intermodal solutions for freight transport in the Alpine Space. In the partnership different interests (economy, environment and transport) are integrated which is of crucial importance for a sustainable solution. The main aim of the project is to make the rail network more attractive and hence to foster its accessibility and functionality for the logistic market. The focus lies on developing innovative transnational rail services, on optimizing the use of existing rail infrastructure and on improving the accessibility of inland terminals. One innovative approach of the project is that it doesn't stop on the borders of the Alpine Space as the traffic does neither. By cooperating closely with other European initiatives it creates synergies and leverage effects that have positive impacts on the Alpine Space and beyond. With these joint activities the project contributes to both, mitigation of negative effects of freight transport and promotion of the accessibility by rail.

Project partnership: 16 partners from Austria, Germany, Italy and Slovenia **Lead Partner:** Deutscher Verband für Wohnungswesen, Städtebau und Raumordnung e.V. (German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development), Berlin; Germany



Priority 3 Environment and Risk Prevention

ALPF FIRS

Alpine Forest Fire waRning System



→ The project **ALPF FIRS** aims to improve forest fire prevention in the Alpine Space with the creation of a shared warning system based on weather condition affecting fire potential. The main goal is the development of a decision support tool for actors involved in forest fire prevention and suppression, consisting in a daily fire danger level assessment and forecast to identify critical periods in advance of their potential occurrence. Major target is the univocal European Forest Fire Danger Scale definition and common danger level interpretation with resulting preparedness plans and operational procedures. Mutual aid in vigilance and extinction procedures will be defined. An Alpine network on forest fire impact mitigation will be assembled reflecting common political strategy in prevention management, also in relation to climate change affecting fire potential. The project allows modulation and coordination of alerting process and means dislocation in different countries as well as mutual aid protocol adoption.

Project partnership: 14 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale del Piemonte - Area delle attività regionali per l'indirizzo e il coordinamento in materia di previsione e monitoraggio ambientale (Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Piedmont - Environmental Forecasting and Monitoring Dept.), Italy

MANFRED

Management strategies to adapt Alpine Space forests to climate change risks



→ With the climate change, the ecological conditions for forests in the Alpine Space are fundamentally changing – with unknown effects on the forests' essential protective, ecological, economical and social functions. Under different climate and land-use change scenarios only an adaptive management can provide the conservation of the natural heritage and the multiple functions. **MANFRED** bridges the gap between research and practical forest management and seeks to

- collect knowledge with regard to climate change effects on 4 main topics: forest growth and land use changes, hazards & stressors, best practices to face extreme events protection forests;
- identify hot spots with concrete need for action on the regional & local level;
- develop management strategies able to adapt to changing environmental conditions;
- contribute to the implementation of suggested adapted management strategies in cooperation with political decision makers in 4 transnational case study regions.

Project partnership: 15 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland **Lead Partner:** Forstliche Versuchs- und Forschungsanstalt Baden-Württemberg (Forest Research Institute of Baden-Wuerttemberg), Germany

SHARE

Sustainable Hydropower in Alpine Rivers Ecosystems



→ Hydropower is the most important renewable resource for electricity production in the Alpine areas: it has advantages for the global CO₂ balance but creates serious environmental impacts. RES-e Directives require a renewable electricity enhance but, at the same time, the Water Framework Directive obliges Member States to reach or maintain a water bodies “good” ecological status, intrinsically limiting the hydropower exploitation. Administrators daily face an increasing demand of water abstraction but lack reliable tools to rigorously evaluate their effects on mountain rivers and the social and economical outputs on longer time scale. The **SHARE** project intends to develop, test and promote a decision support system to merge on an unprejudiced base, river ecosystems and hydropower requirements. This approach will be led using existing scientific tools, adjustable to transnational, national and local normative and carried on by permanent panel of administrators and stakeholders.

Project partnership: 13 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia **Lead Partner:** Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell’Ambiente della Valle d’Aosta (Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Aosta Valley), Italy

SILMAS

Sustainable Instruments for Lakes Management in the Alpine Space



→ Natural and artificial lakes are a main characteristic of the Alpine Space and belong, with their catchment areas, to the European heritage. During last decades, authorities in charge of lakes management worked to preserve and restore this heritage and its natural resources. They now have to anticipate climate change impacts. **SILMAS**, by exchanging good practices and testing new methods, will supply its 15 partners with efficient tools for reaching goals of the frame directives (Water and Natura 2000) and the Alpine Convention:

- creation of a virtual laboratory, to define current ecological state of the lakes and anticipate changes due to climatic and biological dynamics,
- assessment of existing governance tools dealing with regulation of land/resources and conflicts solving, then testing decision-making instruments in different lakes sites,
- production of information and education tools for sustainable lakes management and uses, dedicated to decision makers, stakeholders and the young public.

Project partnership: 15 partners from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia **Lead Partner:** Region Rhône-Alpes, France

Alpine Space Programme at German infoday

On 15th July 2009, a (German) information day on various funding programmes on regional, national and European level will take place in the "Landesamt für Umwelt", the new JTS location in Munich. At this occasion, the Alpine Space Programme as well as the CLISP project will be presented to the audience. Moreover, the staff of the JTS will provide further information at one of the information stands. Please find more information in our event calendar on www.alpine-space.eu

Investing in your future

Thomas Fleury will be on paternity leave from July 17th to September 21st 2009. During this time, please address the other officers of the JTS for any communication/question you may have. Thank you!



Hélène Fleury

Two open positions in the JTS

The Alpine Space Programme is recruiting a "Communication Officer" for the JTS. Moreover, it is looking for a trainee to support the JTS in its public relations and promotion activities of the programme.

More information on both positions is available at www.alpine-space.eu.

National newsletters

The German, Italian, French and Swiss ACPs published newsletters with detailed information on projects approved in the second call.

The newsletters can be downloaded from the "national information" section on the website www.alpine-space.eu.



Where to find further information?

Joint Technical Secretariat
Alpine Space Programme

Landesamt für Umwelt
Lazarettstr. 67
80636 München
Germany

Tel.: +49 89 9214 1800
Fax: +49 89 9214 1820

jts@alpine-space.eu

Visit the programme website
www.alpine-space.eu