

EU Strategy for the Alpine region

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Developing the EU strategy for the Alpine region (EUSALP)

December 2013: Invitation from Council that the Commission develops in cooperation with Member States, an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

2014: on-line consultation and Stakeholders Conferences on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (Milano, December 2014)

28 July 2015: The Commission adopted a Communication and an Action Plan on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

End of 2015: Council conclusions endorsing the EUSALP

25-26 January 2016: Launch conference – starting implementation phase (Brdo Joint Statement)

Challenges requiring joint action in the Alpine region

Shared challenges require better coordination and cooperation between countries/regions concerned :

Demographic trends (ageing, low population density and migration)

Vulnerability to impact of climate change: effects on environment, biodiversity and living conditions of the inhabitants

Energy challenge (managing and meeting energy demand)

High degree of seasonality in some touristic areas

Disparities between different areas

Focus of the EUSALP

Involves

- 7 countries (EU and non-EU): Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland.
 - 48 regions
- covers a population of 70 million citizens.

Unlock potential of the Alpine region and endorse joint cross-border actions to tackle challenges and use opportunities.

Based on existing cooperation structures in the Alpine region

Build on experiences of previous macro-regional strategies

Better use of possibilities within existing legal framework

Mobilisation of available EU/ESI Funds (EAFRD) and national funds

Policy areas and action plan

Covers the following thematic policy areas:

- (1) economic growth and innovation
- (2) mobility and connectivity
- (3) environment and energy.

An action plan accompanying the Communication will be implemented:

- 1. fair access to job opportunities, building on the high competitiveness of the Region;
- 2. sustainable internal and external accessibility;
- 3. a more inclusive environmental framework and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future.

And a cross-cutting objective, building:

- 4. a sound macro-regional governance model for the Region to improve cooperation and the coordination of action.

Within each objective, a number of actions have been identified. These support EU policy objectives, including those with a territorial dimension.

Implementation

- Leadership and ownership over the EUSALP: National and regional authorities bear the ownership and leadership for its implementation. The Commission has worked together with stakeholders to develop it, and after its adoption Commission cooperate with national authorities and follow up of the implementation.
- The complementarity of ESI Funds in the 2014-2020 period brings a huge potential for developing the region, whether related to social, economic or environmental challenges.
- The Commission encourages Member States and regions to ensure that the Alpine Strategy is properly embedded in EU regional policy 2014-2020 programmes, as well as other relevant EU, regional and national policy frameworks.
- The CAP as a whole offers a wide range of tools to support the sustainable development of the Alpine region. Based on the concrete needs identified by the Member States and regions, the national or regional rural development programmes can accommodate the aims of the strategy and contribute to improving the economic, environmental and social development in the region.

Link: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/alpine/

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!