

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



EUSALP Presidency Report 2016 – Republic of Slovenia





5 EU Member States: Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia

2 non EU Member States: Switzerland and Liechtenstein

48 Regions:

Austria (Burgenland, Kärnten, Niederösterreich, Oberösterreich, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol, Vorarlberg, Wien)

France (Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Rhône-Alpes)

Germany (Bayern, Baden-Württemberg)

Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto)

Switzerland (Aargau, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Freiburg, Genf, Glarus, Graubünden, Jura, Luzern, Neuenburg, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, St.Gallen, Tessin, Thurgau, Uri, Waadt, Wallis, Zug, Zürich).

TIMELINE

December 2013: Request from the European Council to prepare EUSALP

July 2015: Adoption of the EUSALP Communication and Action Plan COM (2015) 366 final

November 2015: Endorsement by the General Affairs Council

Slovenian Presidency (2016)

25/26 January 2016: Launch Conference in Brdo, Slovenia

25 January 2016: Constitutive meeting of the General Assembly

26 January 2016: Steering Committee Meeting together with AGLs

February-April 2016: Initial round of meetings of the Action Groups

April 2016: Constitutive Executive Board Meeting, Brussels

June 2016: AGLs Initial meeting

23 September – 1 October 2016: Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week, Koper, Izola, Slovenia

26 September 2016 – Second Executive Board Meeting, Koper, Slovenia

16/17 November 2016: EUSALP Presidency TRIO meeting, Dolenjske toplice, Slovenia

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

To promote sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Alpine Region through growth and jobs creation, by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity while at the same time preserving the environment and ensuring healthy and balanced ecosystems.

Objectives	Actions
1. Fair access to job opportunities, building on the high competitiveness of the Region	1 - To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem 2 - To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors 3 - To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in these strategic sectors
2. Sustainable internal and external accessibility to all	4 - To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passengers and freight transport 5 - To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services
3. A more inclusive environmental framework for all and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future	6 - To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources 7 - To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory 8 - To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention 9 - To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy
4. A sound macro-regional governance model for the Region (to improve cooperation and the coordination of action)	

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

The **General Assembly** is the highest decision making body; it gathers the high-level political representatives of States and Regions involved in the Strategy, the European Commission, and the Alpine Convention as observer.

The **Executive Board** oversees the implementation of the EUSALP and provides strategic guidance with respect to management and implementation of the EUSALP and its Action Plan. It is formed by representatives of States and Regions including representatives from the European Commission, the Alpine Convention and the Alpine Space Transnational Programme as observers.

The core of the implementation level is the **Action Groups**. The Action Groups are the drivers of day-to-day implementation. Their role, capacities, resources and engagement is a key element to the success of the Strategy.

The **Trio Presidency** assures the continuity of activities and smooth handover of the EUSALP chairmanship; it is composed by the current, incoming and outgoing presidency.

EUSALP Presidency Report 2016 – Republic of Slovenia

“EUSALP Presidency Report 2016 – Republic of Slovenia”

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Introduction to the booklet

Dear Reader,

this brochure is a short overview of the first year of the life of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).

Early childhood is a very sensitive period, creating the basis for later, building resilience to negative influences from outside, but also revealing the talents and potential to be stimulated and further developed in years to come. EUSALP is the youngest of the EU macroregional strategies, and is privileged in benefiting from the experience of older institutions, but with its own unique character, dynamics, potential and beauty.

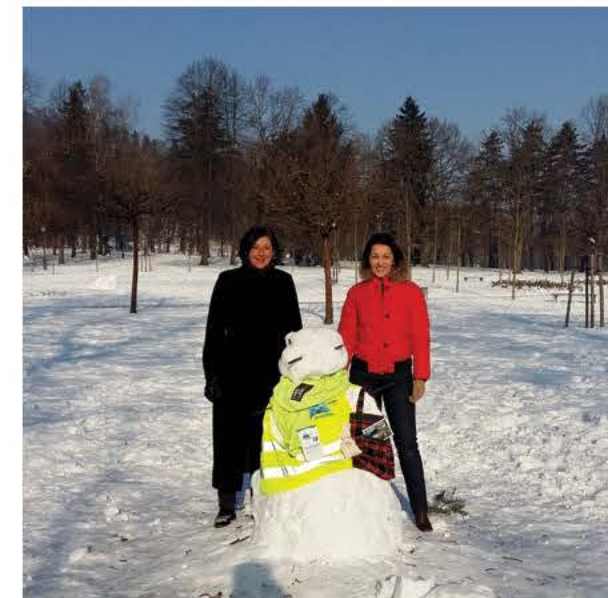
With this brochure, we present the most important milestones and achievements of the first year of the EUSALP presidency. Slovenia is well satisfied with its achievements in 2016, having achieved all the presidency's goals. Implementating EUSALP means hard and dedicated work, but is also inspiring and enriching.



The Republic of Slovenia was entrusted with the EUSALP presidency in October 2015, before the official approval of EUSALP by the General Affairs Council (November 2015) and the European Council (June 2016) and even before the setting up of the EUSALP General Assembly (January 2016). This put Slovenia in a pioneering role to set up the whole EUSALP governance structure, although not all political decisions had been adopted, and to assure the requisite conditions for the structure to be operational. Equipped with experience from two other macroregional strategies in which Slovenia - the Strategy for the Danube Region and the Strategy for Adriatic Ionian Region - we knew we needed to assure the highest political support first.

The main objective of the launch conference (January 2016) was twofold:

1. To bring together as many high political representatives from all the EUSALP states, regions and EU institutions and build a broad political consensus on the strategic orientation for implementing EUSALP;
2. To demonstrate to the interested public and stakeholders, including partners from Slovenia, the true potential of the EUSALP.



All members of the Slovenian EUSALP Presidency Team

To our satisfaction, both objectives were met. Members of General Assembly created the necessary framework for governance and launch of Action Groups; broad participation in the conference created the necessary visibility, but also high expectations for results.

Sufficient political support allowed the smooth setting of the coordination structure – the Executive Board and the implementation structure - the nine Action Groups, including early approval of the AlpGov implementation support project. Coordination among partners started immediately, resulting already in September in a major public event presenting common activities focused on ecological connectivity and simultaneously already demonstrating synergies in the wider region.

High political ownership of EUSALP's implementation in Slovenia demonstrated by the active involvement of the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other political actors from all levels of governance helped to give the implementation of EUSALP the maximum impetus. By the end of 2016, we could already evaluate the first implementation results and draw the first conclusions and make recommendations for improving EUSALP governance. The recommendations were widely presented and promoted at the EU level and introduced to the 2017 EUSALP presidency at the Presidency Trio meeting. The first race is finished, but the competition is still on!

We wish all success to Bavaria in 2017!

Let's set EUSALP in motion!



EUSALP Presidency Support

START

Launch Conference of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

EUSALP was launched on January 25th, 2016 at Brdo, Slovenia, with a conference that brought together over 700 participants from all EUSALP states and regions, including numerous representatives of EU institutions, civil society, business, non-governmental organisations, interested stakeholders and the media.

Themes such as Diverse in Unity of EUSALP, Alpine Leadership, Partnership with Stakeholders, Building and Increasing knowledge, Smart Networks, Cooperation for Green Opportunities and Challenges, Governance & Lessons Learned were presented and discussed, immediately building also on experience from EUSDR and EUSAIR.

The aim of the macro-regional strategy is to mobilise new projects and initiatives, creating a sense of common responsibility. They provide regional building blocks for EU-wide policy, marshalling national approaches into more coherent EU-level implementation.

The aim of EUSALP is to enhance cooperation and investment to the benefit of all parties involved: states, regions, civil society stakeholders and European citizens. It is intended to increase the attractiveness of the Alpine region in Europe, taking better advantage of its assets and seizing opportunities for innovative and sustainable development in a European context.

During the workshops and exhibition, practical examples of Alpine projects, project ideas and cooperation potential were discussed and presented, which improved EUSALP's visibility and contributed to networking among EUSALP stakeholders. A sound basis was laid for implementing EUSALP.



More than 700 participants gathered at the launch event of EUSALP, discussing issues and challenges also at the cocktail reception. January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia

25 January 2016, MONDAY

Moderator: Igor Evgen Bergant, journalist

9:00 – 11:00

Registration and Welcome Coffee

Plenary Session “Diverse in Unity of EUSALP”, Grandis Hall, EN, SI, FR, DE, IT

Host: Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia

11:00 – 12:30

Speakers:

- Corina Crețu, EU Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy
- Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport
- Alenka Smerkolj, Minister without portfolio responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion of Slovenia
- Harlem Désir, Minister of State for European affairs, France
- Michael Linhart, Secretary General at the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Austria
- Benedetto Della Vedova, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy
- Georges Martin, Deputy State Secretary of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation
- Joachim Bleicker, Director for Relations with European Union Member States, German Federal Foreign Office
- Martin Frick, Director of the Office for Foreign Affairs – Lichtenstein

Press Conference, Grandis Hall, EN, SI, FR, DE, IT

Chair: Marjana Prvinšek Bokal, Head of PR Office, MFA Slovenia

12:30 – 13:00

Speakers:

- Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Slovenia
- Corina Crețu, EU Commissioner for Regional Policy
- Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport

12:30 – 14:30

Networking Lunch

13:00

Family Photo, Brdo Castle

13:05 – 14:30

General Assembly Meeting, Brdo Castle (in camera/closed session)
(photo/video opportunity prior to the meeting)

14:30 – 15:00

Projection of videos on European Territorial Cooperation

Panel “Alpine Leadership”, Grandis Hall, EN, SI, FR, DE, IT

Chair: Lena Andersson-Pench, Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

15:00 – 16:30

Speakers:

- Beate Merk, State Minister for European Affairs and International Relations, Bavaria, Germany
- Roberto Maroni, President of Lombardia Region, Italy
- Günther Platter, Governor of Tyrol, Austria
- Norman Gobbi, President of the Ticino Government
- Mercedes Bresso, Member of the European Parliament
- Herwig van Staa, Member of the Committee of the Regions

16:30 – 17:00

Coffee Break / Interview Possibilities with Commissioner, EC Interview room (TBC)

Panel “Partnership with Stakeholders”, Grandis Hall, EN, SI, FR, DE, IT

Chair: Charlina Vitcheva, Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

17:00 – 18:30

Speakers:

- Tjaša Ficko, Deputy Mayor of Ljubljana, Ljubljana EU Green Capital 2016
- Iliana Iotova, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur of the “Cohesion policy in the mountainous regions”
- Andrej Zorko, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee
- Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention
- Andreas Pichler, Deputy Director Cipra International
- Georges Elzière, French Federation of Mountain Clubs (FFCAM)
- Uroš Brežan, Mayor of Tolmin – Alpine town of the year 2016, Slovenia

18:30 – 19:30

Cocktail Reception

26 January 2016, TUESDAY

08:30 – 09:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

Parallel Panels – round 1 , EN

Grandis Hall

Panel 1: Building and increasing knowledge

Policy area 1: Economic growth and Innovation

Chair: Giacomo Mattinó, Head of Unit Europe Network and Internationalisation of SMEs, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Speakers:

- Aleš Gnamuš, Joint Research Center, Seville
- Anna Giorgi, Lombardy, Action Group Leader 1 – “Alpine RTD ecosystem”
- Susanne Ast, Baden Württemberg and representative of Rhone-Alpes, Action Group Leader 2 – “increase potential of economic sectors”
- Boglarka Etelka Fenyvesi Kis, Trento, Action Group Leader 3 – “improve the economic and social environment of economic operators”
- Alberto Ribolla, President Confindustria Lombardia
- Tomaž Rodič, SPACE, SI
- Gregor Starc, Planica Institute of Sports, Slovenia – “healthy lifestyle”

Rapporteur: Jean Marc Venineaux, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00

Parallel Panels – round 2 , EN

Grandis Hall

Panel 3: Cooperation for green opportunities and for challenges - Policy area 3: Environment and Energy

Chair: Marco Onida, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission Commission

Speakers:

- Katarina Brus Grgas, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission
- Wolfger Mayrhofer, Alpine Convention and Helmut Serro, Carinthia, Action Group Leader 6 – “to preserve and valorise natural resources”
- Tina Trampuš, Institute for nature conservation, Slovenia and Michaela Künzl, Bavaria, Action Group Leader 7 “ecological connectivity”
- Ronja Wolter-Krautblatter, Bavaria and Maria Patek, Austria, Action Group Leader 8 – “risk management and climate change”
- Ulrich Santa, South-Tyrol, Action Group Leader 9 – “efficiency and renewable energy”
- Mitja Bricelj, TSG3 “Environment” EUSAIR, Ministry of environment, Republic of Slovenia

Rapporteur: Frithjof Ehm, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Heros Hall

Panel 1: Smart networks

Policy area 1: Connectivity and Mobility

Chair: Herald Ruijters, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission

Speakers:

- Marco Ponti, University of Milano, Italy
- Ewald Moser, EGTG Tyrol - South Tyrol – Trentino, Action Group Leader 4 “inter-modality and interoperability freight and passengers”
- Franc Žepič, EUSDR PAC 1b, Ministry of infrastructure, Republic of Slovenia – “Rail, road and air”
- Robert Henkel, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- Giorgio Consol, Valle d'Aosta, Action Group Leader 5 “To e-connect people and promote accessibility to public services”
- Enzo Smrekar, President of Ski Association Slovenia

Rapporteur: Florian Mast, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Heros Hall

Panel 4: Governance & Lessons Learned

Chair: Andrea Mairate, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers:

- Dorothee Allain-Dupre, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Anders Bergström, EUSBR horizontal action coordinator “capacity and multilevel governance”
- Irena Lukač, EUSDR – Priority area coordinator governance; Centre of Excellence of Finances, Slovenia
- Vicente Rodriguez Saez, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Erlends Calabuig, Euranet, European Radio Network

Rapporteur: Filomena Carvalho, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

13:15 – 13:45 **Reporting on the panel sessions by DG REGIO and conclusions by Andreja Jerina, National Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Slovenia, and Lena Andersson-Pench, Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission**
Grandis Hall, EN

13:45 – 15:00 **Networking lunch**



High political support for the EUSALP was demonstrated at the plenary session: Alenka Smerkolj, Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion of Slovenia, Corina Cretu, EU Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy, Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Violeta Bulc, EU Commissioner for Transport, and many other senior political guests. January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia

FOREWORD BY CORINA CRETU, EU COMMISSIONER FOR REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY

Europe is at a crossroads. The financial and economic crisis has sharpened our minds: we must think more deeply on how best we use EU and national financing to promote sustainable growth and jobs. But we should not underestimate the impact of rising populism which endangers our fundamental values in Europe. Against it, we must preserve and even reinforce trust, cooperation and solidarity between our countries.



The macro-regional approach can provide a boost to closer integration as a solution to increasingly transnational problems. It has produced so far recognised results in other macro-regions. It optimises the impact of existing funds and ensures a 'joined-up' thinking between and across different sectors, regions and countries sharing a functional area.

We need to find better joint solutions to our common problems: the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region will promote joint actions and intensified networks in the fields of research and innovation, business development, mobility, environment, energy and much more.

This launch Conference is the opportunity to present the work done and challenges lying ahead. We need to consider together how the Strategy can contribute to build a more competitive, but also a more cohesive and integrated Europe.

We need to establish the Strategy's links with the 2014-2020 programmes, to make sure our EU budget and programmes can make it a success.

Building the future of the Alpine Region is our common challenge. We are all part of it.

Let us take this opportunity in order to be actively involved in shaping the future of the Alpine region!

ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA KARL ERJAVEC

Dear Participant,

Slovenia's location at the junction of the Alps, the Dinaric Alps and the Mediterranean allows it to participate in three of the four existing macro-regional strategies of the EU: for the Alpine, Danube, and Adriatic and Ionian regions. For thousands of years, Slovenia's territory has been the meeting point of different cultural influences and traditions. Economic connections and historical links with the broader region represent an advantage and an opportunity for the country.

In macro-regional strategies, Slovenia participates as a whole; state institutions and local communities alike engage in them. A comprehensive approach encompassing different stakeholders is a guarantee of positive cooperation and direct contacts between the local and national levels, contributing to focused action, efficiency, and results.

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region will bring added value to the Alpine Convention, building on its established structure and extensive know-how and experience. The Strategy marks a stepping-stone on the way to the all-round development, growth and prosperity of the participants.

The cooperation between Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland, their regions, local communities, international institutions, civil society and non-governmental organisations may unlock limitless potential for each participating country or region and the Alpine area as a whole by facilitating further development, innovation, sustainable mobility, growth, and prosperity. The most promising European economic region, the Alpine area also has the responsibility to respond to the current challenges and issues facing Europe and the world – many of the solutions and answers will depend on its ability to cooperate closely.

I am honoured and proud that Slovenia was the first to be entrusted with chairing the Alpine macro-region in 2016 and with organising, together with the European Commission, a launch conference bringing together all the decisive actors that can contribute to a better life for us all. In our common endeavours to this end, we will build on lessons learned, synergies and close cooperation, which is open to everyone in the Alpine region. We have our differences, but together we are able to achieve a lot. In doing so, it is important that we follow the leading principle of the plenary session of the launch conference, in which foreign ministers and EU commissioners will participate – 'Diverse in unity of EUSALP'.



Karl Erjavec, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia at the official opening of the Launch Conference of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. 25 January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia

Macroregional strategies build on existing structures and knowledge. The launch conference was an excellent opportunity to present key players and stakeholders from Slovenia, including through the exhibition.

Exhibitors



Alpine Convention

<http://www.alpconv.org/en/convention/default.html>



Bled Strategic Forum

<http://www.bledstrategicforum.org/>



Center of Excellence in Finance

<http://www.ccf-see.org/>



Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia

<http://www.ozs.si/ozseng/>



City of Ljubljana



City of Ljubljana

<http://www.ljubljana.si/en/municipality/>



Elan Inventa d.o.o.

<http://www.elan-inventa.com/en/Home>



EUSALP

<http://www.alpine-region.eu/>



Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation

Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation

<http://www.zrsvn.si/en/>



Interreg Alpine Space Programme

<http://www.alpine-space.eu/>



Slovenian Tourist Board

<http://www.slovenia.info/>



Slovenian Business and Research Association

<http://www.sbra.be/en/about-us>



Eleven Slovenian exhibitors presented themselves during the 2-day event. Brdo, January 2016, Slovenia (Ljubljana - European Green Capital 2016)



The EUSALP Info Point offered participants at the event a lot of useful information about EUSALP, January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia



Folk group from Tolmin "Razor" presented some typical dances from Tolmin and its vicinity, January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia (Tolmin - Alpine Town of the Year 2016)



Municipality of Tolmin

<http://www.tolmin.si/>



Slovenian Centre of Excellence for Space Sciences and Technologies

<http://www.space.si/en/about/>



Zavod za šport Republike Slovenije Planica

<http://www.zsrs-planica.si/>

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION



Constitutive session of the EUSALP General Assembly, 25 January 2016, Brdo

Overall, EUSALP political steering and decision-making is entrusted to the General Assembly - the high level political representation of states and regions involved in the strategy.

The EUSALP General Assembly met at its first, constitutive, session at Brdo on January 25, 2016, demonstrating political ownership and leadership of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, at both national and regional level.

Almost 40 members of the General Assembly gathered for the first time, including the highest representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament and Alpine Convention, and "took the opportunity to build up an effective multi-level governance system, fully respecting the institutional architecture of the participating states and regions and their respective competences", as stated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Slovenia, Karl Erjavec, the host and chair of the General Assembly during the 2016.



Michael Linhart, Austrian Secretary General for Foreign Affairs at the EUSALP General Assembly meeting. January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia

As members of the General Assembly, national and regional politicians agreed on the establishment of this highly important political body of the EU Strategy of the Alpine Region. They confirmed their overall responsibilities and role, mainly focusing on laying down the general political guidelines for the Strategy.



EUSALP General Assembly gathers for the first time. January 2016, Brdo, Slovenia

By meeting on a regular basis, holding ministerial meetings, involving the European Commission for strategic coordination, the Alpine Convention in its advisory role and other important stakeholders, the General Assembly has created an important political tool, unique among other EU macroregional strategies.

As co-chair of the General Assembly, Commissioner Crețu pointed out: “We need to consider together how the Strategy can contribute to building a more competitive, but also a more cohesive and integrated Europe.”

Brdo General Assembly agreed inter alia to:

- be responsible for laying down the general political guidelines for the Strategy;
- meet on a regular basis, probably once a year;
- take decisions by consensus, with one vote for each national delegation and
- possibly meet also in an extended format open to all relevant stakeholders, such as at the Annual Forum and
- the European Commission should continue to act as a facilitator and coordinator and
- the Alpine Convention should participate in an advisory role.

The General Assembly’s strategic orientation was elaborated and adopted in **Brdo Joint Statement**, in which political leaders acknowledge the validity of the principle of multilevel governance of the three interrelated levels (i) political leadership and ownership, (ii) coordination and (iii) implementation.

The Executive Board was mandated to supervise and coordinate the translation of the objectives and priorities laid down in the Strategy into concrete actions and to regularly report to the General Assembly on how this work is proceeding.

Action groups were recognised as a prerequisite for effectively implementing the actions of the Strategy and the proposed leadership of the Action Groups were endorsed. The General Assembly congratulated Slovenia on taking over the first presidency of the Strategy in 2016 and on the successful organisation of the EUSALP launch conference at Brdo. The General Assembly also agreed to entrust the next presidency in 2017 to Bavaria.

BRDO JOINT STATEMENT ON THE EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION (EUSALP)

Brdo, 25 January 2016

We, representatives of the National and Regional Governments of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland,

BASED on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning a European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region¹ and the accompanying Action Plan;

GUIDED by the Council conclusions² on the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region of 27 November 2015;

RECALLING the potential of macro-regional strategies as an integrated framework relating to Member States and Regions, including non-EU countries, as well as to international organisations and the civil society in the same geographical area in order to address common challenges, to benefit from strengthened cooperation, to contribute to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives, particularly the promotion of growth and jobs;

CONVINCED that macro-regional strategies are an instrument aimed at the optimal use of existing financial resources, better coordination among existing institutions and improved implementation of existing legislation;

BEING AWARE that the Strategy will affect around 80 million people living in 48 regions in seven States, of which five are EU Member States and two are non-EU countries.

NOTING that the Alpine Region comprises some of the most dynamic European regions and should build on its high competitiveness and enhance existing opportunities;

CONVINCED that the active cooperation of all interested international, national, regional and local organisations and communities in areas where actions of mutual benefit can be identified are synergy-oriented, promoting concrete achievements and value-added results;

AGREEING that, to ensure adequate visibility, communication and awareness raising about the Strategy’s objectives and desired results, the involvement of all actors in their different roles is required; ARE SATISFIED with the efficient implementation of the European Council Conclusions of 19–20 December 2013 and the progress made in the preparation, public consultation and endorsement of the Strategy and its Action Plan;

EXPRESS sincere thanks to the European Commission for its continuous support during all preparatory phases of the EUSALP and for its commitment to continue working side-by-side with the Participating States and Regions as well as international organisations and civil society in the Alpine Region during the implementation phase and for ensuring that the Strategy is taken into account in relevant EU policy initiatives and programmes;

ACKNOWLEDGE the validity of the principle of multilevel governance of the macro regional strategy outlined in the Commission Report³ and in accordance with the Grenoble Political resolution⁴ and Milan Declaration⁵ involving three interrelated levels: (i) political leadership and ownership (ii) coordination and (iii) implementation;

UNDERLINE that governance is a shared process and that the implementation of the Strategy relies on a collective effort on the part of the participating actors in their different roles in the implementation of the Strategy;

INVITE the European Commission to retain the coordinating role for the Strategy and establish synergies among existing EU Macro-regional strategies and EU Programmes, especially those directly managed by the Commission.

WE

• COMMIT TO ENSURING the necessary political ownership and leadership demonstrated through the EUSALP General Assembly strategic orientation. We agree to continue the exchange started at Brdo today, to sustain momentum and whenever required, support at the political level;

• AGREE that fully-fledged ownership in the participating States and Regions requires an active commitment by all relevant line ministers and regional bodies; in this respect, the key implementers of the Strategy (notably national coordinators and action group leaders) will be duly empowered and the conditions established for them to undertake their tasks;

• COMMIT to implementing the EUSALP and invite international, national, regional and local actors as well as stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of the EUSALP objectives. With the support of the European Commission, the partners involved should identify ways to ensure closer coordination with existing activities and programmes in the area.

• APPRECIATE and PRAISE the valuable work carried out by the Steering Committee members and ENCOURAGE them to continue their efficient and dedicated work as Executive Board members;

• MANDATE the Executive Board to supervise and coordinate the translation of the objectives and priorities laid down in the Strategy into concrete actions, and to regularly report to the General Assembly on how this work is proceeding. The Executive Board is also mandated to report on possible proposals emanating from the Action Groups regarding possible revisions of the priorities laid down in the Strategy;

• CONFIRM that the Action Groups are a prerequisite for effectively implementing the actions of the Strategy and therefore ENDORSE the proposed leadership of the Action Groups;

• ENCOURAGE the Action Groups to use the existing networks in the Alpine Region and capitalise on the results achieved by cooperative projects in the Alpine region;

• EMPHASISE the need for the appointed Action Group Leaders to ensure the strategic coordination of all relevant actors; to effectively cooperate with sectorial ministries in all levels; to actively involve stakeholders from the Alpine Region, including parliaments, regional governments and civil society, and to make the best use of the national, cross-border and Transnational EU Programmes, including for governance and implementation support.

ACKNOWLEDGE that the Strategy builds on long experience of many cooperative structures already operating in the areas such as the Alpine Convention, the Alpine Space INTERREG Programme and other ad hoc structures, and on the lessons from the existing macro regional strategies;

REGISTER with satisfaction that in Slovenia three EU macro-regional strategies meet: the Danube, the Adriatic Ionian and the Alpine macro-region, and ENTRUST Slovenia with the EUSALP presidency in 2016.

EXPRESS willingness to cooperate on the smooth commencement of the implementation of the Strategy, beginning with a successful launch event at Brdo.

³ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions concerning the governance of macro-regional strategies – 20.05.2014 - COM(2014) 284 final
⁴ Political resolution towards a European Union Strategy for the Alpine region of 18 October 2013
⁵ Milan Declaration of the Alpine States and Regions of 1 December 2014

¹ COM (2015) 366 final
² 14613/15

GOVERNANCE

The crucial element of governance is part of the implementation of any macro-regional strategy coordination. It ensures greater dialogue and cooperation across all decision-making levels and sectors within each country, as well as between participating states and regions to reduce fragmentation, improve the realisation of actions and encourage the effective participation of all relevant actors. It also requires the capacity to exchange information and detect policy gaps when they arise.

The General Assembly's strategic guidelines laid the basis for establishing coordination both at the national and macroregional levels.

At the national level, national coordinators were appointed and mandated. They represent three members of the Executive Board per participating country which has a decision-making capacity. General Assembly members committed to ensuring the necessary conditions for national coordination and functioning of action groups.

The Executive Board adopted its own rules of procedure and on this basis also framework rules of procedure for the functioning of action groups.

The Executive Board also decided that Objective Coordination is to be performed by action groups/ action groups leaders cooperation such as action group leaders' board meetings.



Last EUSALP Steering Group meeting. Brdo January 2016



Second Executive Board meeting. Koper 2016



Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Mr. Miro Cerar at the second Executive Board meeting, Koper September 2016

IMPLEMENTATION

After setting up all of the nine Action Groups and following the initial round of their meetings, a second major event, focused on discussing common challenges and actions, open to the interested public and stakeholders of the wider Alpine, Danube and Adriatic Ionian region was held in September on the Slovenian coast.

Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week, 23 September–1 October 2016, Koper, Izola

Between September 23 and October 1 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia in cooperation with the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation and numerous local and regional actors held Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week. The main objective of the Week was to build synergy in the area of connectivity, with a focus on the ecological connectivity of the wider Danube, Adriatic Ionian and Alpine region.

The event brought together representatives of all three interrelated governance levels, each of them searching also for mutual benefit.

Slovenia is located at the junction of the Alps, Pannonian Plain, Dinaric Range and the Mediterranean. Its geographical position as well as its rich natural and cultural heritage provide numerous opportunities and pose challenges which are common and disregard borders.

With the knowledge and experience gained in the Danube, Adriatic and Ionian, and Alpine macroregions, Slovenia is able to create synergies between strategies and contents, and establish connections which contribute to knowledge and innovations, sustainable mobility, and the growth and prosperity of the people living in these regions.

After the successful EUSALP Launch Conference and the constitutive session of the EUSALP General Assembly in January 2016 at Brdo, the Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week is the second in a series of events organised by Slovenia during its chairmanship of EUSALP. From 23 September to 1 October 2016, the Slovenian Coast will be the venue for numerous events with the linking theme of environmental connectivity and the meeting place of various stakeholders co-creating our common space in the region. Meetings, talks, exchanges of views and experience as well as varied presentations help raise the awareness that every individual, institution and organisation can contribute to a better and more meaningful life in harmony with nature; only together can we change our way of thinking and acting, and make a leap forward.

You are invited to join us.

*Andreja Jerina, MSc
National Coordinator for EU Macroregional Strategies
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Slovenia*

This time, the Mediterranean Coast Week is dedicated to connectivity, for we believe that only successful integration can lead to comprehensive nature conservation. In the series of this year's events we are connecting the governmental and non-governmental sectors, managers of protected areas and local communities, planners and implementers of conservation measures, and project partners. We draw attention to the advantages of integral spatial planning, particularly on the sea, the habitat that knows no borders. Since January this year, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation has led, in cooperation with the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, one of the action groups of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. The group is dedicated to establishing ecological connectivity in the whole territory of EUSALP which, however, demands strengthening of connections among people. We wish that this year's events that are to take place on the Slovenian coast will also contribute to improved cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations and experts and the public, also for the nature conservation purposes.

*Darj Krajčič, PhD
Director of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (AGL7)*

Izola is a lively Mediterranean town known for its warmth, hospitality and modesty of its residents. One of the most important economic activities in Izola, as well as in other Istrian seaside towns today, is tourism. But Izola has a soul which derives from preserving an old fishing mentality and this is what distinguishes it from other nearby towns. Picturesque countryside with many valleys and long hills offers gourmet delights with a wonderful view on the Gulf of Trieste, Italian coast and Alps. Those viewpoints can be magical as well during winter.

Izola is a multicultural town where Italian community and institutional bilingualism have a great effect on the territory and make us even more connected to our neighbour Italy. Beside Italians, people from other parts of Adriatic-Ionian, Alp and Danube region live in Izola. This is why our efforts for implementation of structures, such as Facility point for Adriatic-Ionian region, should be understood as an opportunity for integration and as a search of new mutual development opportunities that will assure new green and blue jobs and furthermore, new mutual projects for an even better enforcement of synergies in the region.

You are more than welcome to get to know our town with its Slovenian fishing and gourmet tradition.

Igor Kolenc, MSc
Mayor of the Municipality of Izola

The implementation level is an essential one, as it is based mainly on the results of joint actions and projects at the macro-regional level so that better, and informed, decisions can be made at the political level to improve the efficiency of the policies concerned and to attain the objectives of the strategy.

For implementation to succeed, awareness and recognition of the efforts and endeavours of the implementation structure at the political level is crucial, and also adds to its visibility.

The opening address of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia at Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week and his participation in the second meeting of the Executive Board demonstrated the political leadership of EUSALP.

ADDRESS BY PRIME MINISTER DR MIROSLAV CERAR AT THE OPENING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST AND EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear guests,

let me begin by extending a warm welcome to all here in Koper, in Slovenia, where the Alps meet the sea.

I am very pleased that numerous Slovenian institutions joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organising the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week, and in particular with such a large turnout. After the very successful launch conference of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) hosted in January in Brdo, this is the second major event under Slovenian chairmanship of EUSALP.

Slovenia is situated at the junction of the Alps, the Dinarides, the Mediterranean and the Pannonian basin, which means that we cannot address Alpine challenges without considering the challenges of the wider context with its specific geographical, historical, and cultural features as well as economic and political ties.

The Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week and the related events – involving all levels of governance, from local to international, as well as stakeholders from the wider society – will demonstrate how every individual, institution or organisation plays a part in building a better life, recognising that it is only by joining forces that we can change our way of thinking and acting, and ensure the necessary breakthroughs.

I am very happy that Slovenian engagement in three out of four EU macro-regional strategies further strengthened the coordination between our Government and its institutions, which is reflected also in the Agenda for the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week. And, even more importantly, this engagement further enhanced the coordinated ties between countries of the wider region, the Danube, the Adriatic and the Alpine regions. It is no coincidence, then, that the main topic of this year's event is connectivity.



Prime Minister Miroslav Cerar at the official opening of the Mediterranean coast and EU macro-regional strategies week. 26 September 2016, Koper, Slovenia

The event connects 40 years of experience in integrated sea management within the Barcelona Convention with new ideas of the EU's youngest macro-regional strategy – the EUSALP. It connects the old and experienced with the new and fresh to address the same goal – the well-being for all.

Beside meetings of various management structures of the Alpine and the Adriatic-Ionian strategy, three expert conferences will take place on ecological connectivity, and a round table on the role of parliaments, regional initiatives and civil society in establishing closer cooperation to co-shape a common future for the wider region. Additionally, a series of events will address the wider public, such as the Slovenian-Slovakian exhibition using an innovative approach to showcase the differences and similarities between the two countries chairing two EU strategies. Throughout the week, film projections will aim to raise awareness about our dependence on nature, and protected areas will open their doors to the public. I am particularly glad that many of these events also made space for the young, the new generations that will take over our heritage and its management in the years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Slovenia can be considered one of the hotspots of biodiversity in Europe. By the number of species by square kilometre it is an absolute champion of the old continent, and by other biodiversity indicators it is even one of the richest countries in the world. Although Slovenia covers only 0.004% of the World's surface it provides a habitat to more than 2% of known terrestrial animal species.

In Slovenia, experts have so far registered around 24,000 species of which more than a quarter are endemic animal species. In the past 50 year, however, the rate of change in biodiversity caused by human activity is unprecedented in history. The current ecological footprint of Slovenians is 2.4 times above our territory's capacity. By consequence, all of us need to adopt a more responsible lifestyle.

Today, the world is changing as never before, and not always in the most desirable way. Numerous events and processes have changed the political, security and geostrategic situation of the region, Europe and beyond. The financial and economic crisis was followed by a security crisis; we are facing the challenges of dealing with migrations, particularly in Slovenia and the wider region.

These broad and complex political issues force us all into decisive action, requiring our firm commitment and a sincere desire to seek long-term solutions – and above all good communication and coordinated action. Special importance must be attached to regular dialogue in the wider region, but also at the national, regional and local levels.

We have our differences, but together we can achieve a great deal. And, if here in Slovenia, between the Alps, the Adriatic Sea and the Danube we are able to coexist with around 24,000 species, I firmly believe that together, we can also find a solution for our own, human species.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hereby declare the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week 2016 officially open wishing you fruitful discussions and an abundance of creative energy in your joint efforts.

Official opening gathered all representatives of multilevel governance.



Prime Minister Miroslav Cerar at the official opening of the event. September 2016, Koper



Prime Minister Miroslav Cerar, ministers and mayors at the opening



Minister for Development and European Cohesion Policy Alenka Smerkolj

Teden sredozemske obale in makroregionalnih strategij | Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week

23.9.2016 - 1.10.2016

Dan/ Day	Datum/Date Ura/Hour	Dogodek	Event	Kraj	Location	Jezik / Language
Pe Fr	23.9.					
	9:00-17:00	* Delavnica TSG3 EUSAR - Obala, morje in modra ekonomija	BUSAR TSG3 Workshop - Coast, Sea and Blue Economy	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana in Koper, Naravni rezervat Škocjanski zaton	Izola, Municipality meeting room and Koper, Škocjanški zaton Nature Reserve	eng
Po Mo	26.9.					
	13:00-14:00	Odprtje Teda sredozemske obale in makroregionalnih strategij, pozdravni na govor predsednika Vlade Republike Slovenije Mira Cerarja	Opening of the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week, opening address by Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Mira Cerar	Koper, Središče Rotunda	Koper, Centre Rotunda	slo/eng
	14:00-17:00	* Sestanek izvršilnega odbora BUSALP, 1. del	BUSALP Executive Board meeting, 1. part	Koper, Središče Rotunda	Koper, Centre Rotunda	eng
	14:00-19:00	* Sestanek EUSALP akcijske skupine 7 - Ekološka povezanost, 1. del	BUSALPAG7 Meeting - Ecological Connectivity, 1. part	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

To Tu	27.9.					
	9:00-13:00	* Sestanek izvršilnega odbora BUSALP, 2. del	BUSALP Executive Board meeting, 2. part	Koper, Središče Rotunda	Koper, Centre Rotunda	eng
	9:00-13:00	* Sestanek EUSALP akcijske skupine 7 - Ekološka povezanost, 2. del	BUSALPAG7 Meeting - Ecological Connectivity, 2. part	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng
	14:00-18:00	* Sestanek projektnih partnerjev AlpGov, 1. del	AlpGov project partners Meeting, 1. part	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-14:00	* Sestanek projektnih partnerjev AlpGov, 2. del	AlpGov project partners Meeting, 2. part	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng
	9:00-13:00	Projekcija filma »Plastik Fantastik« in pogovor z avtorjem filma Robi Urošem	Cinema screening »Plastik Fantastik« and talk with the author Robi Uroš	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 1: Parlamenti in makroregionalne strategije, uvod predstavnika Državnega zbora Republike Slovenije Milana Brgleza	Roundtable 1: Parliaments and macroregional strategies, introduction by President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 2: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 2: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 3: Parlamenti in makroregionalne strategije, uvod predstavnika Državnega zbora Republike Slovenije Milana Brgleza	Roundtable 3: Parliaments and macroregional strategies, introduction by President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 4: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 4: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 5: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 5: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 6: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 6: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 7: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 7: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 8: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 8: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 9: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 9: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 10: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 10: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

Sr We	28.9.					
	9:00-13:00	Okrogla miza 11: Povezovanje obkrožja Gorenjske, Srednje in Južne Slovenije	Roundtable 11: Connecting the regions of Upper, Middle and Lower Slovenia	Izola, občinska sejna dvorana	Izola, Municipality meeting room	eng

More than 25 events offered different basis, presentations and connected stakeholders under umbrella of "ecological connectivity", Koper, Izola, September 2016

Pe Fr	30.9.	MAKROREGIONALNO POVEZOVANJE / MACROREGIONAL CONNECTIVITY	Strunjan, Hotel Laguna	Strunjan Marine Park, Hotel Laguna	do
	9:00-16:30	Konferenca o povezovanju makroregij in zavzemnih območij - 2. dan	Macrorregional and Protected Areas Connectivity Conference - 2. Day		
	9:00-17:00	Povezovanje regionalnih in lokalnih skupnosti - 1. dan	Regional approach and cooperation - 1. Day		
	13:00	Projekcija filma »To vas spremlja« in pogovor z avtorjem filma	Cinema screening »To vas spremlja« and talk with the author		
So Sa	1.10.	DAN ODPRTIH VRAT / OPEN DAY	Open day		

* Sestanke BUSALP, EUSALP in AlpGov/On the table BUSALP, EUSALP and AlpGov meeting structure

SPREMLJAJOČI DOGODKI / SIDE EVENTS

Dan/ Day	Datum/Date Ura/Hour	Dogodek	Event	Kraj	Location	Jezik / Language
17.9.		Gista obala 2016: čistilna akcija na območju slovenskih obalnih občin (Zbor ob 10:00)	Clean Coast 2016 (Start at 10:00)	Strunjan (zborno mesto)	Strunjan (meeting place)	
23. - 30.9.		Razstava »Constructive Alps 2015« - Mednarodna arhitekturna nagrada za trajnostno prenovu in gradnjo v Alpah	Exhibition »Constructive Alps 2015« - International architectural award for sustainable renewal and building in the Alps	Izola, Kulturni dom	Izola, Culture Centre	
23. - 30.9.		Razstava »Delfini v slovenskem morju«	Exhibition »Dolphins in Slovenian waters«	Izola, Art kino Odeon	Izola, Art cinema Odeon	
23.9. - 30.10.		Razstava na prostem »Alpe, kot jih vidijo ptice« (Otvoritev 25.9. ob 18:00)	Open Air Exhibition »The Alps, as Bird's Eye-View« (Opening, 25.9. at 18:00)	Izola, Trg Etbina Kristiana 1	Izola, Trg Etbina Kristiana 1	
23.9. - 3.10.		Razstava o morskih daljinah »Nevidne vezi«	Exhibition on Distant Mussels »Invisible Links«	Koper, Središče Rotunda	Koper, Centre Rotunda	
26.9. - 7.10.		Razstava »Slovensko-slovaška dimenzija« (Otvoritev 28.9. ob 18:00)	Exhibition »The Slovenian-Slovak Dimension« (Opening, 28.9. at 18:00)	Strunjan	Strunjan	
27. - 28.9.		Zgodbe iz Podmorja v Rečlandiji - ustvarjalne delavnice in animacija za otroke (za zaključene skupine)	DeepSea Stories in Rečlandiji - Creative Workshop and Animation for Children (closed groups)	Strunjan, Hotel Laguna	Strunjan, Hotel Laguna	
29.9., 18:00		Predstavitveni poštini znamk - morski sesalci in Krajinski park Strunjan	Philately event: presentation of postal stamps - Marine Mammals and Strunjan Nature Park	Strunjan, Hotel Laguna	Strunjan, Hotel Laguna	



Exhibition: The Alps - A Bird's Eye-View was seen by many passers-by in Izola

Special attention was dedicated to media and communications.



Media briefing, Koper, 26 September 2016, Slovenia



Press conference for media. Koper, 26 September 2016, Slovenia

Event was used to promote possible synergies, too.



A presentation of the cultural, historical and current similarities and differences of two countries - the Slovak Republic on the occasion of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Slovenia on the 25th anniversary of its declaration of the Independence. 26 September 2016. Koper, Slovenia



Slov/Slov Dimension Exhibition – differences and similarities between two EU Macroregional Strategies Presidencies – Slovakia-EUSDR – Slovenia-EUSALP



Opening of EUSAIR Adriatic Facility Point Office in Izola



EUSAIR Thematic Steering Group 3 – Environment Quality Coordinator in building EUSAIR – EUSALP synergies

STAKEHOLDERS

Parliaments represent citizens and advocate their interests, at the EU, national and regional level. Through their active engagement and as platforms for broad public discussion, they can, within the scope of their powers, substantially contribute to the implementation of macroregional strategies.

Genuine macroregional actors are interested stakeholders at all levels: local, regional, national and international.

Active and permanent stakeholder involvement is a prerequisite for successfully implementing macroregional strategies. This was demonstrated and reconfirmed during the Stakeholders' Roundtables in Škocjanski zatok in September 2016.

Parliaments and macroregional strategies

The roundtable titled »Parliaments and Macroregional Strategies« will focus on the important role played by national parliaments, regional parliaments and the European Parliament in promoting and providing support to the implementation of EU macroregional strategies. Slovenia lies at a crossroads of as many as three macroregional strategies and we therefore see significant added value in their interconnection and in the creation of synergies between them. EU macroregional strategies have been developed with an aim to establish closer cooperation between countries and regions which has been bringing benefit to millions of citizens in various areas of their life and work, while their successful implementation depends, inter alia, on political leadership and accountability. Parliaments represent our citizens and advocate their interests. Through active engagement and as a platform for broad public discussion, they can, within the scope of their powers, substantially contribute to the implementation of macroregional strategies by increasing their visibility, widely informing the interested public, involving key players, and converging the policies at national, regional and local levels. Hence, we should strive to strengthen the involvement of parliaments in the implementation of EU macroregional strategies and the promotion of synergies, as well as seek ways and means for cooperation between parliamentarians in this particular area.

Introduction: Milan Brglez, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Moderator: Andreja Jerina, National Coordinator for EU Macroregional Strategies

Part 1: Parliamentary involvement in EU macroregional strategies – past experience and future prospects

EU macroregional strategies represent a new platform for closer integration as well as an opportunity for a joint response to the numerous challenges requiring coordinated and decisive solutions. Thanks to a different, innovative and multi-level approach, they promote the development and progress of the regions, while an important role in achieving their objectives can indeed be played by active involvement of parliaments.

Dimitrios Kammenos, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Economic Affairs House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH

Lodovico Sonago, Senator, CEI Parliamentary Dimension

Franc Trček, Deputy of the National Assembly, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure, Environment and Spatial Planning, member of the Committee on EU Affairs, member of the National Assembly's delegation to the CEI Parliamentary Dimension Strategies



Roundtable 1: Parliaments and macroregional strategies



Many stakeholders followed the discussion of the panelists

Part 2 : Political leadership of macroregional strategies – the role of parliaments

Political leadership, accountability, and cooperation between countries/regions and the European Union are crucial for a successful implementation of the EU macroregional strategies. Within the scope of their powers, parliaments can contribute to enhancing accountability, effectively integrating stakeholders at all levels, and increasing public awareness while closely involving the civil society, young people in particular.”

Branislav Rajić, poslanec Državnega zbora, podpredsednik Odbora za zunanjo politiko/ Deputy of the National Assembly, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy

Franc Bogovič, poslanec Evropskega parlamenta/Member of the European Parliament

Igor Šoltes, poslanec Evropskega parlamenta/Member of the European Parliament

Martina Fridl, Mladinski parlament Alpske konvencije/Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention

Complementarity Works

EU macro-regional strategies constitute a new paradigm of multi levelled and multifaceted cooperation. Institutions and civil society are getting engaged in a new, overarching and wider perspective, whereby the established regional initiatives are in position to connect and complement the regional framework to the integral potential

Introduction: Alenka Košir, Head of Department for Enlargement and South-Eastern Europe

Moderator: Bojan Bertoncelj, Ambassador, Department for Enlargement and South-Eastern Europe

Gazmend Turdiu, Deputy RCC Secretary General

Fabio Pigliapoco, Secretary General, Permanent Secretariat of Adriatic-Ionian Initiative

Ugo Poli, CEI Project Manager, by appointment of CEI Alternate Secretary General

Mladen Kraljić, University of Maribor

Milan Bufon, Faculty for Humanities, University of Primorska

Gábor Schneider, Civil Society and Danube Participation Day

Mitja Meršol, International Media Centre



Roundtable 2: Complementarity Works



Roundtable 2: Complementarity Works

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MILAN BRGLEZ

Distinguished parliament representatives, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

In the modern world, we are increasingly faced with big and complex global challenges that have no boundaries and compel us to provide transnational answers. I firmly believe that such can only be found through persistent, consistent and continuous collaboration, mutual understanding and mutual respect. Here, the European Union and its Member States also have to play their part, so I agree with the words of the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker who, in his recent address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, said that “we should be aware that the world is watching us” and that “we need our words to be followed by joint action, otherwise, they will be just that: words”.



Due to its specific geographical location at the junction of the Alps, the Pannonian Basin, the Dinarides and the Mediterranean, Slovenia has an exceptional opportunity to contribute its share to the efforts made for the progress and well-being of our citizens and the people who live in the wider region. In this respect, I am grateful that the National Assembly has been given the opportunity to actively participate in the creation of one of the events of the rich Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week, which is taking place along the Slovenian coast, hospitably providing us with venue for the meetings and debates with various relevant stakeholders with whom we contribute to life in our region. Parliaments as the representatives of all the citizens can play an important role by ensuring visibility, raising awareness among the general public, promoting the collaboration of competent agents, and integrating local, regional, national and European policies. As the President of the National Assembly, I therefore recognise an excellent opportunity for parliaments to participate effectively at all levels in implementing EU macro-regional strategies, which are an innovative EU instrument for exercising the principles of the economic, social and territorial cohesion of countries in the same region. At the same time, it is an opportunity to achieve our common goals: development, progress and better quality of life.

I am glad that this year's Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week is dedicated to integration and better collaboration, and that it unites decision-makers, the civil society, professional circles and other relevant agents in one single place. Only if all the competent stakeholders efficiently and systematically integrate and operate at all levels, we can achieve inclusive and above all sustainable solutions. Therefore, it is crucial to be aware that we are greatly responsible for our living environment and our descendants because it is only in this way that we will be able to honestly look them in the eye today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am proud that this year Slovenia is the first to assume the chairmanship of the newly established EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP), the fourth consecutive EU macro-region. After the successful Launch Conference and the constitutive session of the EUSALP General Assembly, which took place in January 2016 at Brdo pri Kranju, the Mediterranean Coast and EU Macro-regional Strategies Week is the second in a series of events organised by Slovenia during its chairmanship of the youngest macro-region.

Our country has a special position in relation to European macro-regions given that it is the only EU Member State which actively collaborates in three out of four macro-regional strategies – the Danube, the Adriatic-Ionian and the Alpine one. This week's events thus offer us the opportunity to share the knowledge and experience that we have already acquired in two macro-regions in the newly established one. Given the transnational nature of these initiatives, it is extremely important that the synergistic effects be produced not only at transnational level but also at transregional level, based on the intensive and guided networking of all the agents involved.

EU macro-regional strategies are definitely a new bridge of territorial cooperation that connects the territories of different countries and regions which have managed to identify their common key characteristics from which to form coordinated answers to numerous macro-regional challenges and opportunities. Using their innovative multilevel approach, they bring new assets and benefits to millions of citizens in different areas of their life and work. It should also be pointed out that macro-regional strategies have been designed as highly inclusive, thus reaching beyond European Union membership. In this regard, they are an additional element to the strengthening of the European integration project, especially important for the Western Balkans countries where the Europeanisation processes not only have to be maintained but also fostered and reinforced. The importance of a macro-regional approach is thus evident in light of the current debates on the future of the European Union and the strengthening of our commitment to European values. This is why good governance and effective implementation

thereof should be in everybody's interest.

At the same time, however, we need to be aware that the latter is not self-evident. The macro-regional strategies management frameworks are complex and involve a large number of stakeholders, so it is crucial to maintain not only their short-term, but also their long-term motivation and commitment to collaboration. I therefore welcome the fact that numerous concrete projects have been developed within the macro-regions, sometimes exceeding the frameworks of the macro-strategies themselves. Because of this, we have to be aware that macro-regions as such will sometimes function just as platforms on which the added value of this type of regional governance will be created. On the other hand, it is precisely their complexity and ramifications that compel decision-makers at all levels to offer constant and sufficient support to maintain and stimulate cooperation in different fields, within different policies and at different levels.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is for this reason that the full attention of today's round table is focused on the role of parliaments and the search for new ways to include and involve parliamentarians in supporting and promoting the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies. I am pleased to say that the National Assembly and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia have cooperated successfully in this area, but I wish for this cooperation to be even stronger in the future. At the joint session of the Committee on Foreign Policy and the Committee on EU Affairs held in May last year, the representatives of the legislative and executive branches comprehensively addressed the issues of EU macro-regional strategies for the first time. Moreover, the two cooperating committees adopted the decision for the Government to prepare annual reports on the progress of Slovenia's involvement in the relevant macro-regional strategies. We thus established a system that enables deputies to contribute directly to raising public awareness of the importance of macro-regional cooperation, and play an active part in its substantive guidelines by making proposals and recommendations.

Slovenia has been actively involved in EU macro-regional strategies since 2009, and to date it has managed to set up the necessary implementation structure and ensure the conditions for the financial resources, presumably available before the end of 2016, aimed at supporting the implementation system. I am glad that by creating a so-called stakeholder platform we have given special consideration to the exchange of information and communication with the public concerned. This is particularly important in light of the Commission's 2014 Report concerning the governance of macro-regional strategies which stresses political leadership and a sense of ownership, and calls for the strengthening of the involvement of stakeholders, including parliaments and civil society. The National Assembly also strives for greater cooperation with the civil society sector and other parliaments, and will continue to do so in the future. Parliamentary diplomacy, strengthened in the National Assembly over the recent years, is an excellent tool used to communicate with partner decision-makers from individual macro-regional countries as well as the European Parliament. I therefore wish these communication channels to be even stronger in the future as parliaments will thus be able, within their competence, to ensure the visibility and promotion of the multi-stakeholder macro-regional approach.

As parliamentarians we need to be aware of the responsibility that we bear as the directly elected representatives of our citizens. Our task is to function as a link that conducts a dialogue with the governmental side on the one hand and the civil society sphere on the other, while at the same time we have to enable the creation of a suitable communication network between all of our interlocutors. Given the experience acquired so far, I firmly believe that the parliamentary dimension of macro-regional strategies is a space that enables parliaments to be directly and fully involved in the creation of a public sphere based on participatory democracy.

It is my hope and wish that Slovenia, as the first country to chair the newly established Alpine macro-region, will manage to achieve the set goals in terms of integrating all the participating stakeholders, and transferring all the examples of good practices into the operations of other European macro-regions. I will also continue my efforts, to the best of my ability and within my competence, towards ensuring that this processes pay due regard to the parliamentary dimension. In this respect, I wish Bavaria, the next country taking over the EUSALP chairmanship in January 2017, great success and I appeal to it to organise a dedicated meeting for the representatives of regional and national parliaments of the EUSALP members.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, please allow me to wish you successful and constructive work at today's round table and good cooperation in the future.

Thank you for your attention.

Organization of the event brought together numerous actors under the same EUSALP MFA umbrella.



AlpGov meeting, Izola September 2016



AG 7 meeting, Izola September 2016

Mediterranean Coast and EU Macroregional Strategies Week significantly added to EUSAIR's visibility and recognition, as it addressed more than 1000 participants from wider Danube, Adriatic Ionian and Alpine region at the 25 events of the Week. With the active involvement of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, the Minister for Development and EU Cohesion Policy, stakeholders' roundtables chaired by the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and attended by MEPs, CEI, AII, RCC secretaries-general and numerous representatives of civil society and by meetings of different EUSALP governance structures, the adopted conclusions and recommendations were widely supported.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST AND EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK

Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week was the second in a series of public events organised by Slovenia during its presidency of EUSALP in 2016.

During its presidency Slovenia emphasised the synergy and interconnection among existing macro regions demonstrating that experience gained in one macro region can be transferred to another and – if necessary – be adapted, supplemented or upgraded. Macro regions Slovenia participates in (Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine macro region) are not competitors, but rather fellow travellers. This is why Slovenia is a spill over point, the point from where good practices and ideas from one macro region are transferred to the other and by this creating necessary critical mass for action – also on political level. This way we complement each other and grow together as a whole.



From 23rd September to 1st October 2016 the Slovenian Coast was the meeting place of numerous and various stakeholders co-creating our common space in the region and contributing to better future. More than 1000 participants from wider region met during different events and exchanged knowledge, experiences and ideas and connected themselves through various networks. The event brought together representatives of multi-level governance with representatives of civil society and interested partners.

Macro regional cooperation is high on agenda of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. In his opening remarks the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Miro Cerar stressed the need for good communication and coordinated action. Special importance must be attached to regular dialogue in the wider region, but also at the national, regional and local levels. PM Cerar reaffirmed strong commitment for political leadership and ownership over all 3 macroregional strategies Slovenia is involved in.

Actions require resources; common actions require coordinated approach and streamlining of resources stressed Minister for Development and European Cohesion Policy Alenka Smerkolj. In Slovenia, being part of three out of four EU macroregional strategies we cannot think of development differently but in a macro regional context.

Meetings of governance structures of the Alpine and the Adriatic-Ionian strategy were upgraded with several experts conferences on ecological connectivity and stakeholders round table chaired by the President of the National Assembly of Republic of Slovenia Milan Brglez on the role of parliaments, regional initiatives and civil society in macroregional cooperation.

Common endeavours in 2016 resulted in the EUSALP governance structure at all 3 levels (i) political, (ii) coordination and (iii) implementation to be set up and running already in the first 6 months after the official launch of the Strategy in January in Slovenia (Brdo). As Presidency Slovenia would like to present 4 recommendations to the decision making level; to EU institutions, to regional and national political level and through EUSALP governance structure also to the next General Assembly in February in Bavaria:

Proposal no 1^o:

EU macroregional strategies are not an integral part of the EU budget implementation mechanism in systemic manner. The “embedding process” launched by the EC based on possibilities offered in ESIF common provisions and adopted by EU funds ministers of EUSDR and EUSAIR may, where relevant, assure funding also for macro-regional project, but not necessarily.

Green Infrastructure is an issue which needs better coordination in funding in general and could influence also ESIF and other funds. As this is something new which is not yet tackled by anybody else in the EUSALP territory on a wider scale where we can change policy considerably and create new partnerships, the EUSALP territory could become a test area in Europe in that respect. New proposed solutions might also affect future European Funding.

Proposal no 2^o:

Macro-regions have a key role to play in a more democratic rebirth of the EU and to overcome the current crisis, both internally and in its external relations.

As “functional areas”, macro-regional strategies are better placed to intercept the needs and demands of their citizens, as the closest to the territories, to the local populations and their entities and cultural diversities. They represent the true wealth of Europe in a positive contribution to the peaceful coexistence of peoples in their uniqueness.

The EUSALP is a unique opportunity in the panorama of the tools available to Member States and Regions to become a test area in Europe for a “network democracy” – a laboratory for the future Europe by an in-depth involvement of civil society in form of a “**Stakeholder Conference**,” bringing on regular basis the representatives of the most significant social categories and non-governmental organisations together with the multi-level governance structure.

Macroregional strategies are bringing EU policies closer to EU citizens; they mean more and stronger EU. This particular value added of MRS should be recognised also when discussing conditions and purposes for post 2020 multi annual financial framework.

Proposal no 3^o:

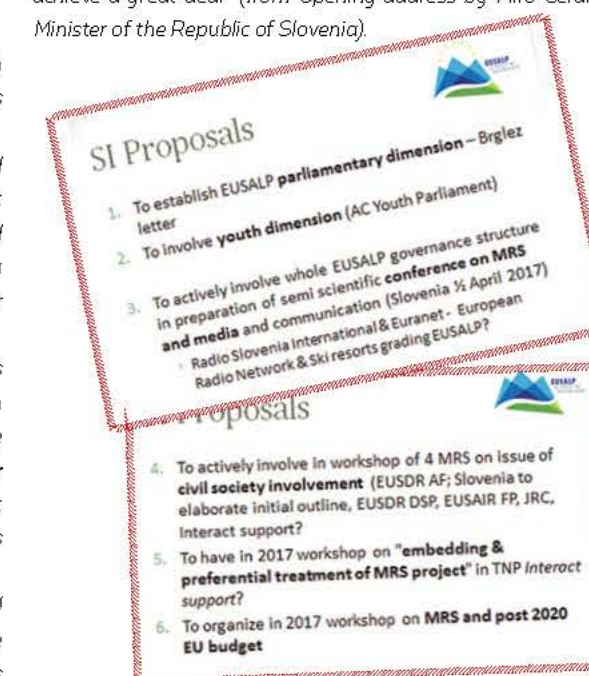
Taking into consideration the crucial role the parliaments, be it European, national or regional play in decision making as legislators, the **EUSALP parliamentary dimension** should be created too, building on good practise of Adriatic Ionian and Danube parliamentary dimension and also CEI parliamentary dimension. In doing so **youth interested in politics and parliamentary democracy**, such as Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention should sit around the same table, too.

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|---|---|
| 6 | Discussed during the 2 nd EUSALP EB meeting |
| 7 | Discussed during the 2 nd EUSALP EB meeting |
| 8 | Proposal presented during the Stakeholders roundtable (29.9.2016) by President of National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia |
| 9 | Stakeholders roundtable (29.9.2016) |

Proposal no 4^o:

Without proactive communication no effort is really seen from the outside, from the stakeholders. A proposal to create a single horizontal pillar for all macroregional strategies and regional cooperation initiatives was presented, and this is “**media/communication**” pillar that would help in creating sufficient visibility to our joint endeavours and understanding and the support for the change of our way of thinking and acting.

“Today, the world is changing as never before, and not always in the most desirable way. Numerous events and processes have changed the political, security and geostrategic situation of the region, Europe and beyond. These broad and complex political issues force us all into decisive action, requiring our firm commitment and a sincere desire to seek long-term solutions – and above all good communication and coordinated action. We have our differences, but together we can achieve a great deal” (from Opening address by Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia).



To further promote EUSALP, the conclusions/recommendations and guidelines for better EUSALP implementation were presented at:

- EUSAIR Governing Board meeting in Athens, October 2016
- European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, October 2016
- AlpWeek in Grassau, October 2016
- Festiva della diplomazia in Rome, October 2016
- EUSDR Annual Forum in Bratislava, November 2016
- EUSALP Trio Presidency meeting in Dolenjske Toplice, November 2016
- and shared within the EUSALP governance structure and EU institutions.

TRIO PRESIDENCY MEETING, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2016, DOLENJSKE TOPLICE

The Trio Presidency assures the continuity of activities and smooth hand-over of the EUSALP chairmanship; it is composed by the current, incoming and outgoing presidency.

Representatives of Slovenia, Bavaria and Tyrol met for the first time, together with representatives of the European Commission, in Dolenjske toplice, on 16 and 17 November 2016.



Trio Presidency Meeting, 16 and 17 November 2016



During the visit to Base 20/Baza 20, 16 November 2016

In the informal, friendly and open discussion the current (Slovenia) and incoming (Bavaria) presidency, together with the EC and expected presidency in 2018 (Tyrol) exchanged views on the results achieved in 2016 and discussed proposals for improving governance in the next year. Agreement on future steps was coordinated with the Bavarian presidency plans for 2017.

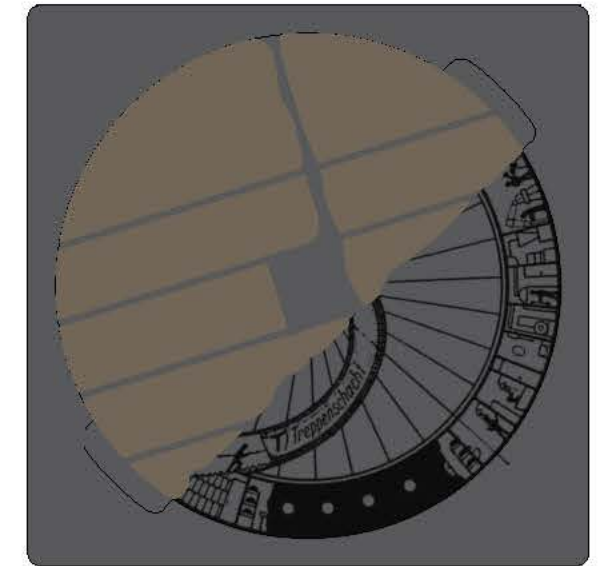
The Trio Presidency meeting proved a valuable tool for assuring the necessary stability over a multiannual period, and contributed to improved coordination and governance.



FINISH - EUSALP PRESIDENCY ROTATING SYMBOL

The wheel – an unprecedented invention

The first people looking up into the sky in awe could not have imagined that the future millennia of inventions and discoveries would help man travel there too. Although it was the needs of individuals and entire societies that brought about numerous inventions, these were even more often a result of man's curiosity and creativity along with his desire to put the new and the unknown to the test. The greatest leap in evolution occurred with the domestication of plants and animals which, in turn, allowed for permanent settlement. The superfluous food also meant having extra time which could be dedicated to new creative activities. Some discoveries occurred by chance, i.e. by observing natural processes and during practical work and, moreover, simultaneously on different continents, with others being spread out with experiences and usability. The invention of the wheel is certainly one of the most important novelties that radically affected the development of mankind.



Allegedly, the first wheels were used by potters in the region of the Fertile Crescent, the same region where agriculture originated, as well. The invention of the wheel and axle in the 4th millennium B.C. caused a revolution in the field of the transport of goods and people. And it is precisely in the Alpine region that the world's oldest wheels and axles have been found in the wet environments where pile dwellers made their settlements. North and South of the Alps, from Eastern France, Switzerland, South Germany, Austria, Northern Italy to Slovenia, approximately one thousand such settlements exist. In 2011, the World Heritage Committee included the serial nomination Prehistoric pile dwellings around the Alps in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The unique universal value helps us understand more about prehistoric pile dwelling cultures, which existed in the area for over 4,500 years. The need for precious raw materials spurred these people to travel across all of Europe. The 5,200-year-old wooden wheel and axle comes from the Stare gmajne site near Vrhnika and was most likely part of a two-wheel wagon towed by cattle. It is constructed out of two ash slabs held together by four oak wedges. It is 72 cm in diameter. The axle is made out of a single piece of oak and is 124 cm long. The find is one of the most important for the world's cultural heritage, based not only on its age, but also its technological sophistication.



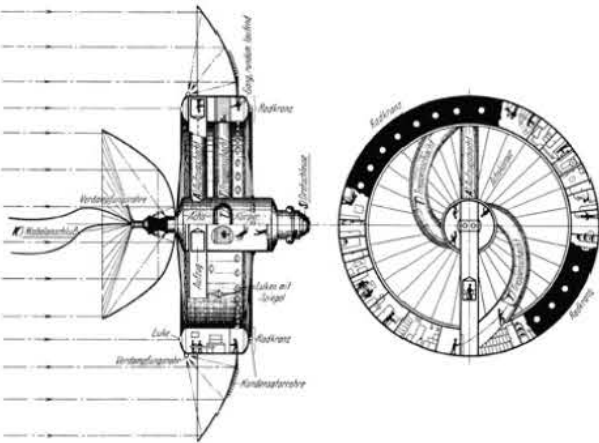
Photo: Matevž Paternoster, MGML

These days, space is not the impenetrably mysterious enigma it once was, and the time when we take to the stars is drawing ever closer. Herman Potočnik - Noordung (1892-1929), engineer of space technologies, almost three decades before the first man-made object was launched into space, designed a space architecture, a three-part geostationary satellite comprising a solar power plant, an observatory and a wheel for the living quarters. The habitation wheel, which spins and thus uses centrifugal force to create artificial gravity, is the best and simplest solution for a prolonged stay of a human being in zero gravity.

...“However, the purpose of the present considerations is not an attempt to convince anyone that we will be able tomorrow to travel to other celestial bodies. It is only an attempt to show that travelling into outer space should no longer be viewed as something impossible for humans but presents a problem that really can be solved by technical work. The overwhelming greatness of the goal should make all the roadblocks still standing in its way appear insignificant.”

Herman Potočnik - Noordung, *Das Problem der Befahrung des Weltraums – Der Raketenmotor* (The Problem of Space Travel - The Rocket Motor). Berlin, 1929.

The Museum and Galleries of Ljubljana



Drawing: Herman Potočnik - Noordung

Actions	Action Group Leaders	Action Group Representatives
<p>Action 1: To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem</p> <p>Action 2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors</p> <p>Action 3: To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in strategic sectors</p>	<p>Lombardy</p>  <p>Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Baden-Württemberg</p>  <p>Trento</p> 	<p>Anna Giorgi (anna.giorgi@unimi.it)</p> <p>Dr. Susanne Ast (susanne.ast@mfw.bwl.de)</p> <p>Hélène Loiseau (HLOISEAU@rhoneralpes.fr)</p> <p>François Trusson (ftrusson@rhoneralpes.fr)</p> <p>Boglarka Fenyvesi-Kiss</p> <p>(boglarka.fenyvesi-kiss@provincia.tn.it)</p>
<p>Action 4: To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport</p> <p>Action 5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services</p>	<p>EGTC: EUREGIO Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino</p>  <p>Valle d'Aosta and Groupement suisse pour les régions de montagne (SAB)</p> 	<p>Ewald Moser (ewald.moser@tirol.gv.at)</p> <p>Giorgio Consol (g.consol@regione.vda.it)</p> <p>Remo Chuc (r.chuc@regione.vda.it)</p> <p>Thomas Egger (thomas.egger@sab.ch)</p>
<p>Action 6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources</p> <p>Action 7: To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory</p> <p>Action 8: To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention</p> <p>Action 9: To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy</p>	<p>Alpine Convention and Carinthia</p>  <p>Bavaria and Slovenia</p>  <p>Austria and Bavaria</p>  <p>South Tyrol</p> 	<p>Wolfgang Mayrhofer</p> <p>(Wolfgang.Mayrhofer@alpcnv.org)</p> <p>Helmut Serro (helmut.serro@ktn.gv.at)</p> <p>Michaela Künzl</p> <p>(Michaela.Kuenzl@stmu.v.bayern.de)</p> <p>Tina Trampus (tina.trampus@zrs.vn.si)</p> <p>Christian Wanger</p> <p>(christian.wanger@stmu.v.bayern.de)</p> <p>Maria Patek (Maria.PATEK@bm.fuw.gv.at)</p> <p>Ulrich Santa</p> <p>(ulrich.santa@klimahausagentur.it)</p> <p>(energy.eusalp@klimahausagentur.it)</p>

