



Work Plan 2020 - 2022

Action Group 8 – Risk governance

Interreg
Alpine Space

AlpGov



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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall objective of Action Group (AG) 8 is to improve and enhance governance mechanisms in the fields of natural hazard risk management and climate change adaptation, including the interface of these two fields. Therefore, AG 8 concentrates on the following tasks in the implementation of the EUSALP strategy:

- 1) Implementing a shared risk governance policy regarding alpine natural hazards, evaluating the results of the survey on risk governance mechanisms. Analyzing management systems with consideration of the connection between metropolitan and Alpine areas, and the exploration of the management of residual risk along all relevant sectors in the EUSALP region. One important implementation measure is the Natural Hazard Check for Municipalities that is shared between AG8 members.
- 2) Paving the ground for shared climate change adaptation governance policies, including stocktaking, mapping and comparing adaptation governance systems as well as surveying the status of horizontal integration of climate change adaptation in priority sector policies to enhance policy mainstreaming in the Alpine region. One key activity in this area is, in cross-sectorial cooperation with other AGs, the design of a study on climate-resilience in spatial planning. Another important work has been the White Paper on Forest Fires in the Alps. Its recommendations are currently reviewed and will be discussed on national and regional levels.
- 3) Advancing and maintaining the Climate Adaptation Platform for the Alps (CAPA) and integrating crosscutting knowledge about thematic interfaces of climate change adaptation and natural hazard management.
- 4) Strengthening communication and awareness raising activities for natural hazards, climate change adaptation in the Alpine region and related risks. Based on a 2019 workshop, a comprehensive study on natural hazard communication tools and a state-of-the-art natural hazard model will be developed as best practice.
- 5) Collaborating on embedding the EUSALP and AG8 priorities in potential funding schemes to pave the ground for shared governance policies in the context of risk management and climate change adaptation.

II. TARGETS, COMPOSITION AND WORKING PRINCIPLES

1. Mission statement of the Action Group

Action Group 8 aims at finding sustainable and effective policy and management solutions in the areas of both climate change adaptation and natural hazard risk management. The overall objective is to improve and enhance tailored governance mechanisms for promoting sustainable development of the Alpine region. This encompasses stocktaking of relevant actors and interests as well as mapping, analyzing and comparing governance structures and processes in the policy fields of risk/hazard management and climate adaptation. This enables Action Group 8 to identify good practice solutions for tackling challenges ahead and, subsequently, to promote, develop and implement local, regional and transnational pilots and projects.

Moreover, Action Group 8 aims at improving risk governance and adaptation governance mechanisms in the EUSALP region by enhancing, valorizing and leveraging the existing cooperation structures and by better coordinating policies and actions among stakeholders, levels, sectors and countries. This includes contributing to closer alignment and better coordination of the policies, instruments, actors and processes between (disaster) risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

2. Composition and Sub-Groups

<u>Name of AG member</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Barbiero Roberto	IT: Trento
Bertrand Catherine	FR: Université de Franche-Comté
Bieri Daniel	CH: Geotest
Calmet Catherine	FR: Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire
Ceriani Massimo	IT: Lombardy, Geological Office
Chesnel Nicolas	Joint Secretariat
Chiara Jacopo	IT: Piemonte
Courtray Vincent	FR: Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Sea
D'Alpaos Luigi	IT: Veneto
Eberli Josef	CH: Bundesamt für Umwelt
Egner Jan-Philipp	DE: Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten
Einhorn Benjamin	FR: PARN
Federspiel Markus	AT: Tiroler Landesregierung, Austria
Français Jean-Charles	FR: L'agence nationale de la cohésion des territoires
Fellendorf Ansgar	AT: Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus
Gallmetzer Willigis	IT: Südtiroler Landesverwaltung
Galvagni Alessandro	Autonomous Province of Trento
Heil Kilian	AT: Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus
Innerkofler Marcel	AT: Tiroler Landesregierung
Jachs Siegfried	AT: Federal Ministry of the Interior
Kottek Markus	AT: Amt der Kärntner Landesregierung
Lexer Wolfgang	AT: Umweltbundesamt Österreich
Lindenmaier Andreas	DE: Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz

Luciani Giacomo	DG REGIO, European Commission
Morin Samuel	FR: Snow Research Center
Nadler Luise	DE: Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten
Palavioux Guillaume	FR: Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire
Papež Jože	SI: Hidrotenik Vodnogospodarsko podjetje
Petitta Marcello	IT: Delegate for the Italian Ministry for Environment
Pichler Andreas	AT: Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus
Rieger, Wolfgang	DE: Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt
Rudolf-Miklau Florian	AT: Bundesministerium für Landwirtschaft, Regionen und Tourismus
Schärpf Carolin	CH: Bundesamt für Umwelt
Schulz Veronika	Club Arc Alpin
Summer Heike	LI: Office of Environment
Tokar Domen	SI: Ministrstvo za obrambo (Ministry of Defence)
Tschavoll Gebhard	WWF
Van-Vlaenderen Rodolphe	FR: Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire
Wanger Christian	DE: Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Umwelt und Verbraucherschutz
Weingraber Felix	AT: Amt der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung
Wolter-Krautblatter Ronja	DE: Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt
Zardi Dino	IT: Università di Trento

AG8 has members from all Alpine states and many regions. The members work in public administration, national and regional agencies, research and science and civil society. The backgrounds vary and include civil protection, natural hazard management, sustainable development and climate change adaptation. Accordingly, the interest and involvement stems from different angles, while complementing each other.

3. Involvement of the stakeholders

EUSALP AG8 and its members collaborate with several stakeholders on a national, regional, and local level. First, the group works together with other international groups and networks on cross-sectorial issues. There exists close coordination with the Alpine Convention, especially the working group on natural hazards PLANALP, the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (WPMMW), the We4DRR network and relevant transboundary projects, such as the PLACARD Network on climate change adaptation. The goal is to work on horizontal integration of common topics and issues and use synergies, i.e. in event and project planning. Next, the EUSALP AG8 actively includes the input and expertise of research institutions, universities, civil society organisations and national / regional agencies and authorities in its work. Examples include the input from universities and i.e. the Environment Agency for reports, studies and other thematic work. Lastly, an important stakeholder are policymakers on local, regional, national and international level. Municipalities have a special role, because they represent the most important implementing entities of risk governance and natural hazard management. EUSALP AG8 members regularly consult with municipal decision-makers, including from civil society.

III. FIELDS OF ACTIVITY 2020-2022

As mentioned, the objective of AG 8 is to improve and enhance governance mechanisms in the fields of natural hazard risk management and climate change adaptation. There are several strategic issue areas, as well as specific topics, that are addressed in the period 2020- 2022.

Specific issue areas, the AG 8 works on via i.e. technical contributions, expertise exchange, studies, projects, cross border initiatives and workshops include:

- The natural hazard check for municipalities: The tool, developed by AG8, helps municipalities and local actors to reflect on their resilience to climate-related risks and concrete measures and actions for adaptation. The check was further developed in Austria and will now be transferred to Bavaria and other Alpine regions.
- Climate change adaptation platform for the Alps (CAPA): The platform collects existing best-practice, knowledge, experiences and projects on climate change adaptation in the Alpine region. CAPA is i) significant for Alpine territories from local to transnational scale ii) for political decision makers, public administration, municipalities, entrepreneurs, researchers and experts iii) comprehensive in thematic scope and types of knowledge iv) quality-checked and commented by experts
- Climate-resilient spatial planning: To increase the resilience against climate-related risks, such as heat, drought, extreme weather events and natural hazards, it is crucial to assess spatial planning and its tools. IN a comprehensive study, AG8 will assess with relevant stakeholders and other AGs the possibilities and necessities of climate-resilient spatial planning.
- Risk communication study and natural hazard model: Awareness raising with the public, and especially young people, has been a focus of AG8 in the last years. Until 2022, the AG publishes a comprehensive study on best-practices and instruments of risk and natural hazard communication. Moreover, a state of the art natural hazard model is developed.
- Interreg project on public awareness raising and knowledge transfer on flood management: The Bay-Aut Interreg project “Hochwasserwissen” (floods knowledge) focusses on developing practicable tools for knowledge transfer between key stakeholders, especially fire brigades, public institutions and youth, with regards to the origin and management of floods.
- Workshops and synergies with other platforms, such as PLANALP and EFC WPMWW: There exists a close collaboration on issues of common interest, such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and natural hazard management with other relevant working groups and fora. For instance, AG8 collaborated with the FAO EFC WPMWW to organize a large international conference on protective forests. Until 2022, a further strengthening with the Working Party on issues of nature-based solutions and protective functions of forests is planned.
- Implementation of White paper on forest fires in the Alps: The AG8 white paper lays an important foundation for forest fire policy and management in the Alpine region. The AG organizes workshops with experts from all countries and regions to discuss the results, review recommendations and plan the next steps. The exchange of experiences and practices is key in fostering the resilience and adaptation of the forests in the Alpine region.

- AG8 contributes to the capacity building process in the EUSALP Learning Environment in a few ways.
- Climate Change Adaptation Platform for the Alps: The platform collects, shares, and processes projects, studies, experiences and knowledge on adaptation to climate change in the Alpine region. All relevant stakeholders may access, add to and edit the platform, thus co-generating and strengthening capacities.
- Horizontal coordination: AG8 facilitates the exchange between potential project stakeholders on different levels (local, regional, national, institutional). It fosters the thematic exchange, i.e. between municipalities and regions, and brings together actors from policy, administration, science and advocacy.
- Institutional and structural support: AG8 enables Alpine territorial projects in the thematic areas of natural hazard risk management and CCA. It brings together relevant actors from all Alpine states and regions. A few Interreg projects have been closely coordinated with AG8, thereby strengthening project management capacities.
- The AG contributes to the implementation and design of the presidency's programme.
- The Co-Leads of AG8 welcome the ambitious and comprehensive programme, which unfortunately could not progress as planned.
- The AG8 is ready to support upcoming conferences and workshops on topics related to the group, such as risk governance, natural hazard management, and climate change adaptation. In the 2020 programme, there have been two relevant events planned in Chamonix on risk management and on protective forests in Aix-les-Bains. The AG cooperates with the presidency in the design and hopes to further strengthen the relationship and exchange with the organisers.
- The AG8 supports communication activities of the presidency with updates from the group's work, visual materials, reporting and other relevant information.
- The AG8 members and co-leads actively participate at the EUSALP Annual Fora.

IV. CONTRIBUTION OF THE AG TO THE ALPINE GREEN DEAL

1. Strategic sectoral implementation initiative

Awareness raising with the public, and especially young people, has been a focus of AG8 in the last years. The overall aim is to sensitize people for natural hazards in order to reduce damage potential in the future. The strategic sectoral implementation initiative of AG8 will be a comprehensive study on best-practices and instruments of risk and natural hazard communication, especially physical models in the Alpine region. After taking stock, an evaluation will be conducted, leading to recommendations for an up-to-date natural hazard model. The study results and building plans will be shared between AG8 members and can be consequently applied for communication activities with civil society (e.g. public events related to water issues) in each Alpine Region. Municipalities and policymakers on local and regional level have a special role, because they represent the most important implementing entities of risk governance and natural hazard management. During the EUSALP Road Show we will further promote the results. The study and prototype-model will be available in 2021.

2. Participation to cross-sectoral strategic initiatives

Following the AlpGov2 project partner meeting in May 2020, AG8 decided to actively participate in the Strategic Priority Policy Area "Spatial Planning". As cross-sectoral

strategic implementation initiative, the co-leads propose a comprehensive and integrated study on climate-resilient spatial planning. The issue has gained momentum and affects several thematic Action Groups.

The aim of the comprehensive study on climate resilient spatial planning in the Alpine region is to assess and further develop the adaptation capacity and strengthen the resilience of spatial planning, including the linkage with ecosystem functions of i.e. forests, in the EUSALP area (7 states and 48 regions). One of the project's purposes is to develop new dynamic spatial planning tools and concepts that take climate change, its effects on forests and other ecosystems, and new climate-related risks into account. The study builds on existing results of Interreg projects, refers to the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 and closely cooperates with national stakeholders. The inclusion of EUSALP stakeholders is central for developing the study and generating tangible results.

Activities:

- Desk research to define the framework conditions and environmental/climatic factors for climate-friendly spatial planning in the macro-regional territory.
- Identify the need for action in spatial planning and describe its instrumental implementation. What possibilities are there in the Alpine countries?
- Analyse and compare spatial planning instruments with added value for the macro-region.
- Outputs:
 - Comparison and description of spatial planning instruments to derive recommendations for sustainable actions towards improved climate-resilience.
 - Evaluation of how adaptable and dynamic spatial planning is with regards to climate scenarios, and discussion of consequences for the Alpine territory.
 - Identification of future framework conditions in the macro-region under a constantly changing climate, that will essentially influence spatial planning.
 - Using the forest, its multiple functions and the effects of climate change on them as an example of climate-resilient spatial planning and its instruments.
- Impacts:
 - The topic is tangible for possible target groups in the alpine area and reliable criteria/indicators are developed. They are shared with the relevant stakeholders on local, regional and national levels.
 - Increased preparedness for spatial planning in a changing climate with possible cross-border synergies
 - Contributions by AGs: all identified AGs can contribute by cross-checking the recommendations and identifying how adaptable and dynamic spatial planning is under the presented criteria in their thematic focus. They are actively involved by the contracted partner organisation for developing the study and recommendations.
 - According to the COWI Study there exist different indicators to measure the progress and implementation of a Macroregional Strategy. The indicators include i) Macroeconomic indicators ii) Macro-regional integration indicators iii) Competitiveness indicators and iv) Political, institutional and governance indicators. The cross-sectorial strategic implementation initiative feeds into several indicators, as identified in the COWI Model. It relates to the intensity of cooperation, integration and exchange among the countries and regions, the political state and capacity to effectively pursue interventions on the economic, social as well as territorial cohesion and lastly to the knowledge and capacity exchange.
 - Particularly relevant indicators include transnational cooperation; climate change adaptation; river status; accessibility potential; forestry in the Alps; political, institutional and governance indicators; and diversity of land cover.

- The study and recommendations will go in depth to analyse spatial planning instruments and climate-resilience. Some indicators, for instance on forestry (share of wooded area) do not capture the complexity of relevant issues, for instance on protective functions and ecosystem services of forests. Nevertheless, the cross-sectorial implementation initiative intends to feed into positive developments of the indicators, as proposed by COWI.

3. Mobilization of strategic target groups

It is important to take into account the differing and heterogeneous institutional settings in the Alpine region. The national states vary in population and territorial size, the federal structures are not the same and the administrative build-ups are different. The diversity of the Alpine region is, amongst others, also recognized and appreciated in the EUSALP strategy.

Hence, there is no uniform way to translate results of AG8 into policy processes and recommendations. Experience has shown the importance to include all AG8 members in the co-creation of policy briefs, projects and documents to benefit from each other.

The final documents, best-practices and recommendations are shared between the Alpine countries and regions. Accompanying workshops inform and involve relevant policy stakeholders. A good example is the creation of the White Paper on Forest Fires in the Alps. AG8 members either themselves actively participated in creating the benchmarks on forest fire policy, or nominated experts in their countries and regions. The final white paper will be discussed in an Alpine-wide workshop and nationally by relevant decision-makers. The different experiences and approaches of actors feed into reflection processes and peer-to-peer activities.

Moreover, the results of AG8 are discussed in other relevant fora on national and international levels. The feedback loops are important to reflect on the scope and practicality of the outputs. The mentioned White Paper, for instance, was presented at a workshop on forest fires hosted by the OECD.

An important peer-to-peer activity is the above-mentioned natural hazard check for municipalities. The project was created during AlpGov1 and then further developed by the Environment Agency Austria. The check, which increases the awareness and capacity of municipalities to assess and react to natural hazards and climate risks, has been tested and further improved in more than 10 municipalities in Austria. A colleague from the Alpine region of Bavaria participated in the last check and the project will be tried and transferred to Bavaria in 2020.

Another replication activity is the issue of natural hazard and risk communication with the public, and especially youth. After the AG8 natural hazard model workshop in 2019, in AlpGov2 a comprehensive study assesses the communication tools and instruments. Moreover, a new up-to-date natural hazard model will be created and building plans shared between AG8 members.

The several studies, papers and documents – they can be viewed on the website of AG8 – include common indicators, policy recommendations and best practices. They are shared between AG8 members and their networks and feed into policy processes and administrative practices accordingly.

Lastly, the AG8 actively participates at the Annual Fora and other relevant EUSALP events. The members share the results and outcomes on these occasions with a wider audience.

V. CONTRIBUTION OF THE AG TO THE RECOVERY OF THE ALPINE ECONOMIES AND SOCIETIES AFTER CORONAVIRUS BREAKDOWN

The members and network of AG8 hold knowledge and expertise about extreme events and natural hazard planning. The plans and experiences about resilience to these extreme events and risks may feed into strengthening the contingency plans for health crisis. For instance, the closure of valleys and municipalities may also happen after a natural disaster, such as landslide or avalanche.

The Alpine region has experienced temporal quarantine measures and health-related restrictions. The AG8 members stand ready to assist in strengthening the resilience and preparedness to a pandemic, i.e. by sharing experiences of natural disaster management.

AG8 plans no specific activities to contribute to the relaunch of the economy after the peak of Covid-19 related restrictions is reached.

VI. COMMUNICATION

1. Dissemination and communication activities

The AG8 and its members make use of several communication tools and channels. The central platform is the EUSALP website, where the main outcomes of the AG and information are presented and shared. Moreover, the AG8 collaborates with stakeholders on the local, regional and national level. In this regard, it is present at several national and international events. In the last year, this included for instance a FAO conference in Innsbruck, the scientific forum ExtremA in Vienna and Alpine Space projects.

Another important communication platform is the Climate Change Adaptation Platform (CAPA), as described previously. Moreover, the AG8 participates at EUSALP (presidency) events, conferences, workshops and the EUSALP Road Show. Dissemination material includes policy briefs, studies, flyers and visual material such as movie clips. An important communication instrument will be the natural hazard model developed within the AlpGov2 project.

2. Events

The AG hosts two regular AG8 meetings per year. The next meetings include May 2020 in the virtual space, October 2020 in France and spring 2021 in Bavaria. The 1,5 day meetings include project meetings, general exchange and an excursion. Moreover, the AG8 will co-host one of the stops of the EUSALP Road Show. Members also actively participate at the Annual Forums and other EUSALP (presidency) events, conferences and workshops.

As mentioned, AG8 plans a cross-border natural hazard check in Bavaria, where all members are invited. Lastly, the AG8 hosts an Alpine-wide event to discuss the outcomes and recommendations of the White Paper on Forest Fires in the Alps.

Due to the current travel restrictions, many events are postponed or held virtually.

3. Road Show

EUSALP general: It is important that all EUSALP AGs are represented at each roadshow-stop. Therefore, material about the EUSALP topics and the five strategic policy areas could be useful to the hosting PP for the presentation of EUSALP. Our expectation is to bring the Strategy and its rationale as a whole closer to citizens. AG8 suggests an interactive roadshow-program, attracting citizens.

Policy dialogue: Public expert discussion about Natural Hazard Risk Governance or the Natural Hazard Check. Presence of a Minister and Mayors, making it possible for citizens to talk to decision makers.

EUSALP concrete: The topic of the stop could be “risk communication”. Based on former efforts in the workshop for natural hazard models and risk communication tools, AG8 develops a communication tool in AlpGov 2 (prototype of a natural hazard model), that may be presented at the Road Show stop along with other communication material.

(Cultural) program: Movie (-dinner) with a film about natural hazards in the alpine space, Alpine food, or excursion to an interesting natural hazard management site.

