



**EUSALP** EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

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## ACTION GROUP 8

Risk Governance

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# WORK PLAN

2026-2028

## Executive Summary

Action Group 8 (AG8) aims at improving and enhancing policies and management strategies in the areas of climate change adaptation and risk management. The 2026-2028 Work Plan of AG8 is closely aligned with the strategic directions set out in the Action Plan, particularly those relating to Action 8. Building on the thematic priorities already defined, it ensures continuity with the work carried out in the previous Work Plan period 2023-2025.

Action Group 8 serves as a focal point for the exchange of knowledge and experience, enabling the development of common approaches to challenges in the field of climate change adaptation and risk management. Furthermore, a specific focus of the new Work Plan will be the leverage of the knowledge base, outputs and transnational Policy Recommendations developed within AG8 and through key projects such as X-Risk-CC, ADAPTNOW, Mosaic, and associated projects.

In addition, AG8 will collaborate with the Interreg Alpine Space Project BeCo – Beyond Conflicts on targeted approaches to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, fostering widely accepted and sustainable Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and climate change adaptation (CCA) measures, provided that the project receives funding.

## 1. Focus and Scope of the Action Group

Action Group 8 aims to further develop and implement risk management strategies related to natural hazards, while addressing emerging challenges posed by climate change and global warming.

The overarching goal is to foster sustainable, strategic, and climate-resilient development throughout the Alpine region through shared approaches – with the Action Group serving as a central hub for exchanging knowledge and experience.

## 2. Key Tangible Achievements 2023-2025

The key achievements during the last period 2023 – 2025 are:

- Policy level:
  - Policy recommendations on Enhancing vertical governance of CCA in the alpine space, through mandatory mainstreaming, multi-level coordination, and criteria-driven funding
  - Policy recommendations on Adapting to natural hazards in the Alps: Strengthening risk governance, risk culture, and climate-resilient land use
  - Expertise and policy Enquête on 3 July 2025, in Graz: 50 years hazard zone maps
  - Further development, enhancement and integration of the risk governance networks of the Alpine states (e.g. EUSALP, PLANALP/Alpine Convention and INTERPRAEVENT)
- Technical level:
  - Workshop on 13 June 2024 during the international conference [INTERPRAEVENT 2024](#) in Vienna: The role of Nature-based Solutions
  - Working paper on Nature-based Solutions – Implementation: Status, Challenges and Benefits
  - [Climate adaptation platform for the Alps \(CAPA\)](#): Roadmap for further deployment, user needs survey, further development and new entries
  - Joint Workshop of EUSALP AG8 and ADAPTNOW project on 7 November 2024, in Bolzano: Drivers and interests in developing CCA strategies and measures
  - Joint Workshop of EUSALP AG8 and X-Risk-CC project on 5 June 2025, online: How to prepare for future risks from increasing extreme weather events in Alpine regions?
  - Collaboration during AG8 meetings with Interreg projects like X-RISK-CC, ADAPTNOW, Mosaic, CommonAir, Forest EcoValue
  - Contribution to the initiative for the establishment of a transnational “peoples network” in risk governance (in cooperation with the international research society INTERPRAEVENT)
- Youth Level:
  - Representative of the EUSALP Youth Council at the joint ADAPTNOW-EUSALP Workshop on policy recommendation on 7 November 2024 and the AG8 meeting on 14-15 May 2025 in Munich for input on the AG8 activities
  - Engagement in AG8 online and in-presence meetings
  - Involvement of the EUSALP Youth Council for the development of the policy recommendations on CCA

During the next period, AG8 will continue its work on the CAPA platform, the collaboration with ASP projects working on AG8-related topics, and involvement of the EUSALP Youth Council in the activities of AG8, as these actions have demonstrated clear added value and effectiveness during the previous workplan period.

### 3. Priorities 2026-2028

The 2026-2028 Work Plan of AG8 is closely aligned with the strategic directions set out in the Action Plan, based on the three main topics defined in the Action Plan:

- **Strengthening transnational cooperation in developing hazard and risk assessment methodologies and building on existing cooperation:** The Alpine Region is highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as avalanches, floods (including flash floods), heavy rainfall, and landslides, with growing concerns around permafrost instability and large-scale river basin floods. Climate change increases both frequency and severity of these events, making improvements in disaster risk reduction and policy preparedness crucial not only for mountain areas but also for lowland and cross-border regions. Effective adaptation requires coordinated action and the development of risk assessment methods aligned with EU frameworks, particularly focusing on extreme, multi-hazard, and cascading events under climate change.
- **Pooling research activities on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Alpine region:** The impacts of climate change – linked to terrain instability, floods, glacier dynamics, and biodiversity loss – pose significant challenges for the Alpine Region. Numerous Alpine research institutions are studying these effects and exploring climate change adaptation and risk mitigation strategies. To maximize impact, coordinated research, knowledge exchange, and technology transfer are needed. Nature-based solutions, such as forests, wetlands, green corridors, and the wildland-urban interface, should be central to integrated climate and disaster risk management efforts.
- **Analysing the socio-economic consequences of climate-related natural disasters and establishing good risk governance:** Climate-related hazards threaten socio-economic development and settlement safety in the Alps. Expanding human settlements in hazard-prone areas, limited space, and more frequent extreme events heighten risks to people and infrastructure. Effective risk governance instruments and processes are essential to balance land use, raise awareness, address regional disparities, and manage conflicting interests in adaptation and mitigation. This includes enhancing societal resilience, local risk knowledge, and preparedness.

#### 3.1. Key Activities 2026-2028

Main topics	Key activities
Strengthening of transnational cooperation processes and transalpine pooling of research activities	Continuing implementation of prioritized work steps of the <b>CAPA</b> roadmap, expansion of the knowledge database, and strengthening the outreach
Pooling research activities on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Alpine region	Promoting and supporting the utilization of selected outputs and/or uptake of selected transnational policy recommendations developed during the last work period by key associated projects, through the <b>2027 AG8 Conference on natural hazard management and climate change adaptation in the Alps</b> , in collaboration with potential other AG's and the YC
Strengthening of transnational cooperation processes and transalpine pooling of research activities	Promoting and supporting the utilization of selected outputs and/or uptake of selected transnational policy recommendations developed during the last work period by key associated projects through a <b>study on natural hazard management and climate change adaptation</b> and possibly related to a mission of the Action Plan (if defined in time)
Strengthening of transnational cooperation processes in advancing future-oriented hazard and risk assessment methodologies and coordinated	Collaboration with international projects working on AG8-relevant topics and the Alpine Convention (PLANALP, ACB), including 1-2 <b>knowledge transfer</b>

research, knowledge exchange, and technology transfer	<b>meetings</b> per year with interesting projects to present and exchange ideas or findings.
Analysing the socio-economic consequences of climate-related natural disasters and establishing good risk governance	Working in collaboration with the <b>Interreg AS Project BeCo - Beyond Conflicts (if funded)</b> on targeted approaches to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, fostering widely accepted and sustainable NbS and CCA measures. Working in collaboration with the <b>KLISOV project (if funded)</b> on social acceptance of climate change adaptation and <b>AlpsFuturePaths (if funded)</b>

### 3.2. Missions

AG8's contribution to the EUSALP Missions will be defined based on the Missions approved by the General Assembly, starting from 2026

## 4. Communication

The AG8 and its members make use of a portfolio of communication tools and channels. The central platforms of communication are the EUSALP website and the CAPA portal, where the main outcomes of the AG and information are presented and shared. AG8 co-leader (EURAC) will supervise the communication of activities and actively participating in capacity-building and training initiatives organized by the EUSALP Secretariat on communication. In addition, the AG8 members use their institutional communication infrastructures, networks, and the networks of partner organisations to distribute information and results. Moreover, AG8 will be present at relevant national and international events, including EUSALP events, conferences, and workshops.

### 4.1. Dissemination and Communication Activities

<b>EUSALP website and social media channels</b>
A communication strategy will be framed with the new TSS communication officer and YC. Since AG8 has no social media accounts and no dedicated resources, news will be disseminated through EUSALP calendar, EUSALP website and social media accounts with the help of TSS and YC. AG8 will employ the CAPA portal as infrastructure for the provision and transfer of knowledge resources generated by associated projects and flagship initiatives.
<b>External dissemination (Interreg ASP and/or external communication channels)</b>
The AG8 members use their institutional communication infrastructures, networks, and the networks of partner organisations to distribute information and results. Moreover, AG8 will be present at relevant national and international events to present the work of AG8 and EUSALP.
<b>Dissemination of results to policymakers</b>
AG8 will organise a Conference in 2027 with the potential collaboration of other AG's and YC. Members of AG8 are expected to play a key role in disseminating results to relevant policymakers at various territorial levels. The group includes policymakers among its members, while others have strong institutional links with regional and local administrations. AG8 members will therefore contribute actively to ensuring that the results are communicated effectively to policymakers within their respective territories.
<b>Success Stories</b>
AG8 will provide text and graphics for the success stories and support TSS in their creation.

## 4.2. Events and Research

- 2027 AG8 Conference on a topic to be defined, linked to natural hazard management (NHM) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in the Alps
- Research study on a topic to be defined, linked to NHM, CCA and possibly to a mission of the Action Plan (if defined in time)
- Presenting AG8 activities and results at International Conferences such as INTERPRAEVENT 2028, ECCA 2027, and Macro-regional and Sea basin Strategies Days
- Collaboration with the Alpine Convention (Alpine Climate Board and Natural Hazard Working Group), ASP (Alpine Space Programme) projects KLISOV (if funded), BeCo – Beyond Conflicts (if funded), AlpsFuturePaths (if funded), and others related to AG8 topics
- Publication on a framework for conflict assessment and evaluation linked to NbS and CCA (if project BeCo will be funded)

## 5. Work Plan Outputs and Results

### 5.1. Monitoring Indicators

#### Project/Activities

Name	Pillar	Action	Topic	Goal	Activities	Start Date	End Date
AG8 Conference on NHM and CCA in the Alps	3	AG8	Pooling research activities on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Alpine region	Promoting and supporting utilization of selected outputs and/or transnational policy recommendations developed during the last work period by key associated projects through the 2027 AG8 Alpine Conference with the collaboration of other AG's and YC	Determination of a specific topic, organisation of the conference and dissemination of the outcomes	June 2026	Nov 2027
AG8 study on NHM and CCA	3	AG8	Strengthening transnational cooperation in developing hazard and risk assessment methodologies and building on existing cooperation	Promoting and supporting utilization of selected outputs and/or transnational policy recommendations developed during the last work period by key associated projects through a study to improve risk and CCA governance	Determination of the topic and content, elaboration of study, dissemination of study results	Oct 2026	Dec 2027

CAPA - Climate Adaption Platform for the Alps	3	AG8	Pooling research activities on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Alpine region	Operation, maintenance and further development of CAPA as the Alpine knowledge hub on CCA and risk governance	Implementation of prioritized work steps of the CAPA roadmap, expansion of the knowledge database, and strengthening the outreach	Jan 2020	Dec 2028
Collaboration with international projects and Alpine Convention	3	AG8	Strengthening transnational cooperation in developing hazard and risk assessment methodologies and building on existing cooperation	Creating networks and promote knowledge exchange and transfer between AG8 and international projects working on AG8-relevant topics as well as the relevant working groups of the Alpine Convention	Knowledge transfer meetings with AG8-relevant projects as well as the relevant working groups of the Alpine Convention to present and exchange ideas and findings	Jan 2026	Dec 2028
INTERREG Alpine Space Project: BeCo - Beyond Conflicts (if funded)	3	AG8	Analysing the socio-economic consequences of climate-related natural disasters and establishing good risk governance	Working in collaboration with the Interreg AS Project BeCo - Beyond Conflicts on targeted approaches to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, fostering widely accepted and sustainable NbS and CCA measures	Identification of actor-specific responsibilities and the effective use of conflict resolution tools based on best-case examples, framework for conflict assessment and validation	June 2026	May 2029

#### Indicators

Name	Pillar	Action	Topic	Indicator	Type of Unit	Unit	Target Value
AG8 Conference on NHM and CCA in the Alps	3	AG8	Pooling research activities on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Alpine region	a) Events, Forums; b) Newsletters, Social Media campaigns, Storytelling; c) Dedicated Website	N° of participants/ stakeholders / recipients	conference participants	50

AG8 study on NHM and CCA	3	AG8	Strengthening transnational cooperation in developing hazard and risk assessment methodologies and building on existing cooperation	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/Case studies c) Knowledge networks/ Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/conferences"	N° of studies/ surveys/ mapping	study	1
CAPA	3	AG8	Pooling research activities on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Alpine region	a) Information/ knowledge platform b) Digital exchange platform c) Structure for information/ knowledge sharing	N° and types of users	number of new knowledge items inserted into the database	60
Collaboration with international projects and Alpine Convention	3	AG8	Strengthening transnational cooperation in developing hazard and risk assessment methodologies and building on existing cooperation	a) Transnational networks & working groups Joint proposal & project development b) Common methodologies adopted c) Alignment & coordination measures applied d) Thematic Cooperation platforms set up	N° and type of projects/net works	number of knowledge transfer meetings	3

INTERREG Alpine Space Project: BeCo - Beyond Conflicts	3	AG8	Analysing the socio-economic consequences of climate-related natural disasters and establishing good risk governance	a) Studies, surveys, mapping, data collection b) Good practices/ Case studies c) Knowledge networks/ Think tanks / d) Observatories e) Thematic workshops/ conferences"	N° of workshops/ conferences	Joint workshops with AS project BeCo and AG8	2
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## 5.2. Work Plan Outputs

Project/Activity	Expected Outputs
AG8 Conference on NHM and CCA in the Alps	Organising the conference and publish the presentations and outcomes (conference proceedings)
AG8 Study on NHM and CCA	Elaboration of study and dissemination of study results
CAPA	New and relevant knowledge resources uploaded and shared, user-friendliness enhanced, visibility and community of users and external content contributors expanded
Collaboration with international projects and the Alpine Convention	At least 1 knowledge transfer meeting per year with AG8-relevant projects to present and exchange ideas or findings
AS Project BeCo - Beyond Conflicts	Identification of actor-specific responsibilities and the effective use of conflict resolution tools based on best-case examples, framework for conflict assessment and validation

## 5.3. Action Group Results

Project/Activity	Expected Results
AG8 Conference on NHM and CCA in the Alps	Promoting and supporting utilization of selected outputs and/or uptake of selected transnational policy recommendations developed during the last work period by key associated projects and promoting knowledge exchange among alpine stakeholders working in the field of CCA and DRR, foster collaboration with other AGs and YC, discussion on latest development and innovation, define future pathways
AG8 study on NHM and CCA	Better exploit 2023-2025 AG8 policy recommendations, and delve into one topic to improve risk and CCA governance
CAPA	Operation, maintenance and further development of CAPA as the Alpine knowledge hub on CCA and risk governance
Collaboration with international projects and the Alpine Convention	Creating networks and promote knowledge exchange and transfer between AG8 and international projects working on AG8-relevant topics as well as the working groups of the Alpine Convention

AS Project BeCo- Beyond Conflicts	Determine the most effective combinations of tools to manage conflicts during NbS or CCA implementation
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## 6. Action Group's Organisation and Targets

### 6.1. Composition and Organisation

Action Group Co-Leaders	
AUSTRIA	ITALY
<b>Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management</b> (Section III/4 – Austrian Torrent and Avalanche Control, Protective Forest Policy and Forest Fire Prevention)	<b>Eurac Research</b> (Center for Climate Change and Transformation)
Number of Appointed Members	
41	
Represented Countries	Represented Institutions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Austria <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> France <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Germany <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Italy <input type="checkbox"/> Liechtenstein <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slovenia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Switzerland	National public authorities and agencies, regional public authorities, higher education and research, sectoral agency
Observers	
higher education and research, sectoral agency, international organisation under inter-national law, National public authorities, regional public authorities,	

#### Organisation of Work

AG8 holds two meetings per year, usually one in person and one online, to discuss joint activities, align on content, organise activities, and update the Monitoring Matrix. The Co-Leaders of AG8 are responsible for the coordination and organisation of the structure and activities of the Action Group.

All AG8 members commit themselves to contribute to the activities of the Action Group. To fulfil the Work Plan, sub-groups (so called task forces) on specific topics may be established. Task forces consist of selected AG8 members who are responsible for the elaboration of this specific topic and presentation and discussion during an AG8 meeting with the entire group. Each task force has a lead. The task force lead is responsible for the coordination and progress of the specific topic. Any member can take over the role of a task force leader. At the elaboration of this Work Plan there is only one task force in place: the task force on CAPA.

### 6.2. Involvement of the Stakeholders

To support the work and improve the results, AG8 collaborates with different stakeholders, such as experts from other disciplines, if necessary, actors from national to local level and international networks. The goal is to work on horizontal integration of common topics and issues, to use synergies and expertise and to include other perspectives and inputs.

The following table gives an overview of the different stakeholders and the types of involvement.

Stakeholder	Type of involvement
Local, regional and national public authorities	Knowledge and experiences sharing, involvement in policy recommendations, planning and organisation of AG8 events; involvement on specific topics and activities (e.g., collection of good practises, needs assessment)
Universities and research organisations	Consultation, knowledge sharing, involvement as technical experts in AG8 events
Non-governmental organisations	Weighing in the perspective of civil society, fostering societal negotiation processes, promoting training with first-responders, dissemination of results to people/local communities
International organisations	Cooperation in activities, sharing and dissemination of results
Networks	Sharing and dissemination of results, participation of AG8 in conferences and events

Local, regional and national public stakeholders are institutions and authorities of the respective member countries that work in the field of risk management or climate change adaptation or are important for the implementation. They have different areas of expertise and responsibilities. Universities and research organisations include academic and non-academic scientific institutions present in the AG8 member countries as well as the International Research Society INTERPRAEVENT, which deals with topics closely linked to AG8. International organisations include the Alpine Convention, especially the Working Group on Natural Hazards (PLANALP) and the Alpine Climate Board (ACB), the European Topic Centre Climate Adaptation (EEA ETC/CA), the Interest Group Climate Change Adaptation of the Network of European Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA IG CCA), the OECD Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation (TFCCA), UNDRR Regional Office Europe and Central Asia. AG8 will engage with existing networks on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation such as the European Network We4DRR (women exchange for disaster risk reduction), national Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction under the UNDRR, the Disaster Competence Network Austria (DCNA) and others, for the dissemination of results and AG8 activities and events.

### 6.3. The Role of the Youth Council

AG8 will invite interested representatives/members of the Youth Council to its meetings to present them the purpose and activities of AG8 and include them in AG8 activities. The members of the YC will be actively involved in the definition of a communication strategy, and in the organisation of the 2027 AG8 Alpine Conference.

#### Abbreviations

ACB	Alpine Climate Board of the Alpine Convention
ASP	Alpine space programme
CCA	Climate change adaptation
NbS	Nature-based solutions
NHM	Natural hazard management
PLANALP	Natural hazard working group of the Alpine Convention