European cooperation in 2020 and beyond

2020 has been a peculiar year and one to remember in many ways. COVID-19 disrupted our lives but also provided us with a new perspective on the surrounding world. The European cooperation showed that joint action is key to tackle the greatest crisis the European Union has ever faced. The diversity and territorial relevance of Interreg Alpine Space projects made it possible to engage all the stakeholders in the management and implementation of the programme. The programme’s efforts to continue the programming for the new period 2021-2027 has proven to be a very valuable instrument ever since. To celebrate the 30 years of Interreg in 2020, the Interreg Alpine Space programme was represented in the Interreg story map and the Interreg Tellus campaign, in which European leaders shared their perspective on Interreg cooperation.

Celebrating 30 years of Interreg

During the last three decades, Interreg has helped to tackle common European challenges and has proven to be a very valuable instrument ever since. To celebrate the 30 years of Interreg in 2020, the Interreg Alpine Space programme was represented in the Interreg story map and the Interreg Tellus campaign, in which European leaders shared their perspective on Interreg cooperation.

Changing the Alpine Space for the better

Interreg Alpine Space projects tackled the pandemic’s effects. The year strongly demonstrated the importance of cooperation across borders and therefore encouraged us to continue the programming for the new period 2021-2027 at full speed!

Promoting project results: Final campaign & Output library

The Interreg Alpine Space programme 2014-20 has funded 64 transnational cooperation projects, of which 36 are still running at the end of 2020. By the end of the year, a total sum of €72,9 mio. has been paid to the projects.

Projects in the spotlight

(PlaAlp) was featured in the publication “Interreg responses to migration challenges”. It was one of 18 Interreg-financed projects that successfully tackled migration challenges and demonstrated the great value of pluralistic societies. ATLASS and ALPES were featured on the ‘TV news channel Euronews’. The video report showed how European Cohesion Policy projects improve the quality of life across the EU, for instance by restoring historical buildings (ATLASS) and protecting the services provided by natural ecosystems (ALPES). On 15 October, we organized the workshop “Let’s Make Green Europe Happen” as part of the EU Week of Citizens. In 2020, seven projects ended and changed the programme area for seven new projects.

Cooperation with EUSALP

Also in 2020, the programme actively contributed to the work of EUSALP’s Executive Board, Action Groups and to the EUSALP Annual Forum. Interreg Alpine Space projects focused on Freight, Freight and Climate-Change, on Smart Villages and on Climate, Risks, Ecosystem. As part of the EU Week of Citizens, we organized the workshop “Let’s Make Green Europe Happen” as part of the EU Week of Citizens. The Alpine Space projects GREENCYCLE, CaSCo and AlPinnoCT took the opportunity and shared their experiences and results for a greener Europe.

Read more about us and our projects on www.alpine-space.eu

Citizen Summary

2020, a year to remember

Both the accelerating climate crisis and the impacts of the pandemic will drive decisions around future programmes. Climate action and smart governance are of utmost importance to the citizens, and public consultations in spring and summer, a greener and smarter programme is in the making!