

# 2020, a year to remember

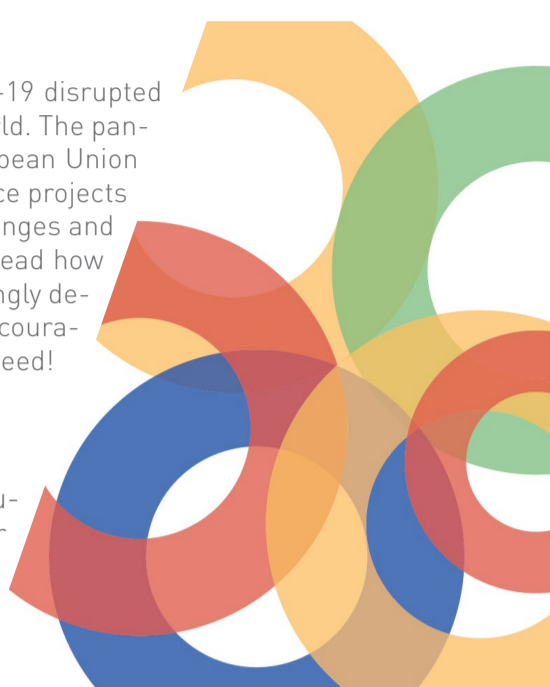
## Citizen Summary

### 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 pandemic 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 them all the more opportune to provide solutions to the various challenges and to contribute to the mitigation of COVID-19 consequences. **Click here** and read how 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!

### 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 Talks campaign**, in which European leaders shared their perspective on Interreg cooperation.



30 years together: Interreg anniversary logo

### Shaping the future: Interreg Alpine Space programme 2021-2027

Both the accelerating climate crisis and the impacts of the pandemic call for decisive action and a future programme that is even more sustainable, resilient and innovative. Thanks to more than 500 inputs received during **stakeholders'** and **public consultations** in spring and summer, a greener and smarter programme is in the making.



### Changing the Alpine Space for the better

Interreg Alpine Space projects continued improving the quality of life for Alpine citizens. In 2020, seven projects ended and changed the programme area for the better:

**CaSCo** unveiled the potential of low carbon timber products through improvements in public procurement practices. +++ **GREENCYCLE** introduced a circular economy system to the Alpine Space to achieve low-carbon targets. +++ **SMART-SPACE** strengthened the innovation capacity of manufacturing SMEs by using digital technologies. +++ **AlpInnoCT** tackled the main challenges in freight trafficking and raised the combined transport efficiency and productivity. +++ **Des-Alps** developed tools to increase the use of design thinking in supporting SME's innovation. +++ **CARE4TECH** transformed the Alpine Space research, tech- and innovation scene into a stable EU leading knowledge area and built cross-sectoral alliances for smart living. +++ **Links4Soils** developed a common framework to promote and foster sustainable management of Alpine soils.

### 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, involving more than 600 project partners. **Links4Soils** was one of the projects promoted in the final campaign, disseminating valuable knowledge on Alpine soils across the Alps.



Discover how **Links4Soils** helps make the soil protection dream come true.



Explore the **output library** and get to know an ever-growing collection of project's achievements!



### Projects in the spotlight

**PlurAlps** 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. **ATLAS** 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 (**ATLAS**) 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 Regions and Cities. The Alpine Space projects **GREENCYCLE**, **CaSCo** and **AlpBioEco** took the opportunity and shared their experiences and results for a greener Europe.

### 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 provided key inputs at EUSALP events on **Mountain Forests and Climate Change**, on **Smart Villages** and on **Climate, Risks, Energies**. Have a look at the **Alpine Cooperation Stories** and find out more about the important collaboration of Alpine stakeholders, who jointly work for a sustainable development and protection of the Alpine region.

Read more about us and our projects on [www.alpine-space.eu](http://www.alpine-space.eu)