

Interreg Alpine Space 2021-2027

1 Interreg Programme (IP) adopted by the European Commission on 5 May 2022 INTERREG ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME 2021-2027 2 CCI 2021TC16RFTN001 Title (Interreg VI-B) Alpine Space Version 1.1 First year 2021 Last year 2027 Eligible from 01-Jan-2021 Eligible until 31-Dec-2029 EC decision number C(2022) 2881 final EC decision date 05-May- 2022 NUTS regions covered by the programme SI03 - Vzhodna Slovenija SI04 - Zahodna Slovenija CH01 - Région lémanique CH02 - Espace Mittelland CH03 - Nordwestschweiz CH04 - Zürich CH05 - Ostschweiz CH06 - Zentralschweiz CH07 - Ticino FRC2 - Franche-Comté FRF1 - Alsace FRK2 - Rhône-Alpes FRL0 - Provence-Alpes- ITC1 - Piemonte ITC2 - ITC3 - Liguria ITC4 - Lombardia ITH1 - Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen ITH2 - Provincia Autonoma di Trento ITH3 - Veneto ITH4 - Friuli-Venezia Giulia LI00 - Liechtenstein AT12 - Niederösterreich AT13 - Wien AT21 - Kärnten AT22 - Steiermark AT31 - Oberösterreich AT32 - Salzburg AT33 - Tirol 3 AT34 - Vorarlberg DE11 - Stuttgart DE12 - Karlsruhe DE13 - Freiburg DE14 - Tübingen DE21 - Oberbayern DE22 - Niederbayern DE23 - Oberpfalz DE24 - Oberfranken DE25 - Mittelfranken DE26 - Unterfranken DE27 - Schwaben AT11 - Burgenland Strand Strand B: TN Transnational Cooperation Programme (ETC) CCI 2021TC16RFTN001 Title (Interreg VI-B) Alpine Space 4 Table of content 1. Joint programme strategy: main development challenges and policy responses 7

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7.1.1. Programme area Reference: point (a) of Article 17(3), point (a) of Article 17(9) 1 The programme area for the Alpine Space Programme 2021-2027 comprises the following territories: Austria: the whole territory France - NUTS 2: Alsace, Franche-Comté, Provence-Alpes-Alpes Germany NUTS 2: Oberbayern, Niederbayern, Oberpfalz, Oberfranken, Mittelfranken, Unterfranken, Schwaben; Stuttgart, Karlsruhe, Freiburg, Tübingen Italy NUTS 2: Lombardia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano / Bozen, Valle d'Aosta / Vallée d'Aoste, Piemonte, Liguria Liechtenstein: the whole territory Slovenia: the whole territory Switzerland: the whole territory. In 2015 the Alpine States and Regions gave themselves a common strategy: the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP). In order to enable the involvement of relevant partners from the entire EUSALP area in the development of the Alpine Region, the perimeter of the Alpine Space programme 2021-2027 shall be aligned to the perimeter of EUSALP. This is meant to strengthen the coherence between programme and strategy goals and to support the path towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient territory. The focus of activities and interventions on the functional and geographic specificities of the Alps and peri-alpine areas will be maintained. The programme continues to play a key role in implementing the strategy and facilitating transnational cooperation in the area. Through transnational cooperation, the Alpine Region is striving for joint solutions and exchange in this regard. 1 Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund. Available here. 8 1.2. Joint programme strategy: Summary of main joint challenges, taking into account economic, social and territorial disparities as well as inequalities, joint investment needs and complementary and synergies with other funding programmes and instruments, lessons-learned from past experience and macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies where the programme area as a whole or partially is covered by one or more strategies Reference: point (b) of Article 17(3), point (b) of Article 17(9) Introduction The COVID-19 pandemic, present at the time of programming, makes it more difficult than usually to assess current data and derive valid future COVID-19-pandemic) and the best possible estimation of future developments, also against the background and the inclusion of longer-lasting megatrends. The Alpine Space Programme area consists of both: metropolises of global importance as well as remote rural areas. It spreads across the borders of seven countries. The Alpine states share the geographical and environmental characteristics and challenges of the Alpine region. However, these states differ considerably in terms of their economy and culture. Cultural differences contribute to the wealth of the Alpine heritage. They are embraced and celebrated in the macro-regional, cross-border and transnational dimensions and complement the natural heritage making the Alpine region a particularly attractive destination for tourists. The long history of cooperation as well as the establishment of the Alps as a popular touristic destination is an evidence of cultural and natural wealth and heritage. Alpine regions are very heterogeneous. This heterogeneity is further intensified by economic and demographic disparities. On the one hand, there are disparities between larger areas as a whole, such as northern and southern Alps, eastern and western Alps. On the other hand, there are disparities between different territorial types such as rural, peri-urban, and urban areas, alpine and peri-alpine areas, or finer socio-economic typologies such as Alpine metropolises, Alpine cities, stable or growing rural areas, declining and shrinking rural areas and tourism areas. Alpine economies are also characterised by different specialisations and economic activities. The Alpine region is affected not only by issues inherent to its mountainous character, environment and its diverse culture but also by external forces linked to developments at a wider geographical scale. The former, such as remoteness, accessibility, rich and susceptible biodiversity and environment, economic disparities but also cooperation history are well-known in the region. The latter are emerging developments and mega trends, such as climate change, globalisation, and digitalisation. They pose new opportunities and challenges and impact	

already existing ones. Both 9 already established and relatively new challenges closely interact with each other and have social, economic, and environmental consequences. Of particular note is climate change which is a long-term issue that greatly affects society and economy. Climate change and digitalisation together pave the way towards the next phase of globalisation. Climate change is a global trend with highly relevant but often uncertain impacts on territories, environment, human health, and economy. Mountainous regions, such as the inner Alpine regions, are more affected by climate change than lowlands. Environmental challenges and the phenomenon of climate change pose the most pressing problems on a global scale. Similar to other parts of the world, they impact already existing economic, demographic, and social characteristics and disparities in the Alpine region. This phenomenon challenges us to jointly rethink our economies, societies, and development strategies. Digitalisation is a global and far-reaching technology-driven transition that has been changing life, work structures, businesses, provision of services of general interest (SGIs), mobility, as well as social interaction. This phenomenon offers a considerable range of opportunities in the Alpine region that can be exploited, but possible negative effects (e.g. on CO2-reduction) carefully have to be assessed and weighted up towards the overall goal of CO2-neutrality. Other relevant trends include urbanisation, demographic change, societal change; focus on knowledge-based economy, and increasing energy consumption. A comprehensive and place-based approach is needed to address the range of these issues. A more comprehensive and place-based approach to these environmental, economic, and social challenges can be offered by transnational cooperation at different governance levels in the entire Alpine region. In tackling these challenges, it is necessary to acknowledge the underlying and long-term environmental and climate change-related developments as opportunities for a shift to sustainable economies and societies. The Alpine Space Programme aims to exploit these opportunities and fully embrace this innovative and trail-blazing approach which will require commitment and cooperation. Having that in mind the content of the programme is based on the applicable European Commission's regulations, as well as on overarching strategies such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Green Deal as well as on overarching objectives, to achieve a just and green Europe and the New Leipzig Charter. -2027 therefore states the following: Why are we here? We are at the forefront of the transition to a unique, carbon neutral and climate resilient European territory: the Alpine region. What do we do? 10 Through innovative and pioneering ideas, we foster the integration of sustainable economic development, societal wellbeing and the preservation of its outstanding nature. We support cooperation projects across borders and facilitate joint trans-national solutions. How do we do it? We bring together stakeholders from different areas, sectors and levels and create benefit for the citizens in the Alpine region. Summary of main joint challenges, opportunities, and relevant territorial, social, and economic disparities Environment, biodiversity and climate change, energy The Alpine region is a biodiversity hotspot and its territory is more susceptible to climate change. The Alps are the second largest biodiversity reservoir in Europe after the Mediterranean Sea and one of the most important water towers of Europe. With almost 4500 vascular plants, the Alps represent one of the largest biodiversity centres in Europe as about 500 of these species are endemic. These resources are widely used creating strong competition for land and water for various purposes. Alpine biodiversity and ecological connectivity has been under pressure for many decades especially since the second half of the 20th century. Intensive exploitation of natural resources and the use of land for various purposes like settlements, transport, energy, and touristic infrastructure as well as for agriculture and forestry have caused high losses in biodiversity and the fragmentation of ecosystems in the Alpine area. In addition, the rich natural heritage of the Alpine region is more and more endangered. Climate change is a new threat for Alpine biodiversity. As a result of its rich biodiversity across its different territories (mountainous regions, forelands, the Alpine region has a high potential for Green Infrastructures (GIs). However, the Alpine region is also among regions with the lowest contribution of protected areas to the total area of potential GI. An obstacle to potential multi-functionality of GIs is the presence of bare rock on the surface. This results in low values for most ecosystem services. For example, in Austria there is a large network of protected areas; however, they have a low capacity to provide ecosystem services. In Slovenia and part of France there is the highest capacity for multi-functionality for policies. Notwithstanding this, there are possibilities for improvement in better integrating ecosystem services and green infrastructures. At the same time, urbanised areas play an important role by using ecosystem services. In particular high demand is given for water, leisure supply (including second homes), tourism (demand), but also clean air and ecological benefits. This requires a particular focus on the use of GIs and ecosystem areas in the urban territories of the Alpine region. In the last decades the Alpine countries together with trans-Alpine organisations and networks have taken high efforts to protect natural hot spots and biodiversity as well as to build up ecological networks in the Alps through numerous activities. It is necessary to continue these efforts in the face of continued environmental threats.

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