



WELL-GOVERNED

The Alpine Space programme is an Interreg European transnational cooperation programme involving seven countries (AT, CH, DE, FR, IT, LI, SI). It co-finances projects to make the region more innovative, develop low carbon solutions, valorize the cultural and natural heritage, and improve transnational governance. With this **project brief** the Alpine Space Interreg volunteer introduces highlights from projects of the priority 4: Well-governed Alpine Space. More at: www.alpine-space.eu

In the Alpine Space more and more are the young people that are leaving their home town in search of a better way to shape their own future. GaYA project partners are determined to tackle this pressing issue by providing decision-makers with *innovative democratic methods* and new approaches that focus on **enhancing the involvement of young people in regional governance**. Moving from the belief that the implementation of these innovative forms of governance can be the pathway to a more sustainable and legitimate decision-making, the partnership has conducted a *comparative analysis* of democratic innovation within the Alpine Space. It explored the current state of play of democratic innovation in the programme area and mapped empirical trends by collecting good practice examples of and statements on participatory democracy. Indeed, to the project



partners spreading good practice examples of youth participation is as important as providing municipalities with tools and methods to foster it. In this regard, the partnership has recently launched the GaYA Film Contest, a way for the young participants to showcase their achievements as committed members of their community contributing to raise awareness on youth involvement. At the moment, the project partners' activity is focused on the 12 pilot regions where workshops are held, aiming at developing and implementing local action plans based on the "youth participation canvas". Based on these experiences, the

project partners will create and provide municipalities with a toolkit and policy recommendations on how to improve integration of young people in governance.

Climate change is a big challenge the Alpine Space is currently facing. Given that many of these changes have already been set in motion, *adaptation* is highly necessary as a policy response. The issue is that national adaptation strategies and action plans are struggling with manifold barriers to their implementation, many of which are connected to governance challenges. In particular on regional and local levels, adaptation has hardly entered political agendas.

The **GoApply** project is actively tackling the issue by contributing to the *implementation of climate change adaptation strategies and action plans* through the facilitation of mul-

ti-level and transnational governance. The project provides policy makers from the seven Alpine countries with the unique opportunity to learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses and from the diversity in national approaches to climate adaptation.



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EUSALP is an EU macro-regional strategy based on a joint initiative of Alpine states and regions. It sets the strategic framework for cooperation in the Alpine region, supporting the alignment of relevant policy instruments. The core of the implementation level is represented and organised in nine Action Groups (AGs). The **AlpGov** project serves as a tool to support the **implementation of the macroregional strategy** and for the development of new and shared transnational governance models.

The project empowers EUSALP AGs to involve relevant fields of expertise and society encouraging a *joint approach to the strategy's*

implementation. In the occasion of events such as the EUSALP AG Forum in February 2017, synergies and opportunities for cooperation between AG and Alpine Space projects dealing with similar issues were sought. In order to ensure a long-lasting exchange of knowledge and experiences, a Board of Action Group Leaders (AGL) has already been established. Setting the course for new cooperation models that can be transferred to policy level and guiding a governance innovation process are indeed ultimate aims of the project.



This **project brief** has been written in December 2017 by Kelly Kocks, volunteer at the Alpine Space programme, in the framework of the Interreg volunteer youth initiative (IVY). More about IVY: www.interregyouth.com

