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Transnational experience from the European Alps – EUSALP and PLANALP

Mainstreaming and enhancing coherence of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation

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AC – Alpine Convention

- International treaty between the 7 Alpine countries and the EU
- Sustainable development and protection of the Alps
- Efforts required at various levels:
  - National
  - Regional
  - Local (most important)

https://www.alpconv.org/

AC – Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)

- **Working Group**
  - Between 16 and 20 members with no more than two representatives (national and/or regional) per contracting party
  - Involvement of external experts if necessary
  - Biannual meetings for implementation of PLANALP's mandate
    - discuss concepts for an integrated reduction of natural hazards
    - intensify the cross-border exchange of experiences
    - identify "good practices" and their implementation and transferability in subsequent actions

AC – Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)

- **Aims**
  - Generating synergies, strengthening and enhancing cooperation and collaboration with other thematically relevant platforms of the Alpine Convention
  - Continue to act as a network of high-level experts
  - Evaluation of concepts for integrated risk management in the protection against natural hazards

AC – Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)

- **Activities**
  - Knowledge transfer and exchange of natural disaster risk reduction practices within the Alpine region
  - Identify nature-based solutions (NBS) for the reduction of risks and prevention of major disasters related to natural hazards in the Alpine Region
  - taking into account the principles of biodiversity, sustainability and climate adaptation
  - Intensify the cross-border exchange of experience

AC – Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)

- **Recommendations**
  - Prepare for emergency intervention
  - Review the climate change fitness of existing structural protection measures
  - Set up and optimise long-term monitoring and warning
  - Anticipate and deal with new risks
  - Adapt hazard and risk mapping to changing climate

EUSALP – EU Strategy for the Alpine Region

EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
www.alpine-region.eu

- 80 Million People
- 7 Countries
- 48 Regions
- Mountains and plains addressing together common challenges and opportunities

https://www.alpine-region.eu/

EUSALP – Action Group 8

"To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention"

- **Topics**
  - Natural hazards (floods, torrents, avalanches)
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Risk governance

EUSALP – Action Group 8

- **Action Group**
  - Co-Leadership between Bavaria & Austria
  - Approximately 25 members
  - Involvement of external experts if necessary
  - Biannual meetings to implement specific objectives
    - Improving risk and adaptation governance mechanisms
    - Identification of good practice solutions in tackling the challenges ahead

EUSALP – Action Group 8

- **Policy recommendations regarding**
  - risk governance (link)
  - forest fires (link)
  - cases of overload and residual risk (link)
  - mainstreaming DRR and CCA (link)

EUSALP AG8 – Mainstreaming DRR and CCA

- **study on governance of climate adaptation in the countries of the Alpine macro region**
  - strengthening the coherence of DRR & CCA was elaborated by collecting good practice examples of different governance elements
  - already several approaches to strengthen the coherence of DRR and CCA
  - “Mainstreaming means to consider and address risks related to the fields of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in processes of policy-making, planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring” (IFRC, 2013)

Full report:
https://www.alpine-region.eu/results/mainstreaming-cca-and-drr-alpine-macro-region

EUSALP AG8 – Mainstreaming DRR and CCA

- **Best Practise Example from Austria:**
  - „KLAR! Climate Change Adaptation Model Regions for Austria“
    - 44 regions with more than 900.000 inhabitants all over Austria
    - Strengthen the implementation of the National Adaptation Strategy at the local level
    - Raise awareness for climate change and climate change adaptation in regions and municipalities

https://klar-anpassungsregionen.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/FactSheet_en_AP_CM_FINAL.pdf

EUSALP AG8 – Forest Fires in the Alps

- Current **state of knowledge** on forest fires, prevention strategies and best practice examples
- Identify processes, legal bases and major challenges in **forest fire prevention**, **suppression** and **land restoration** after forest fires in the Alpine region
- Explore **main driving factors** for fire ignition, analyze bottlenecks and shortcomings in fire suppression activities
- Propose options for an **integrated fire management** in the future

EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
www.alpine-region.eu

FOREST FIRES IN THE ALPS

State of knowledge, future challenges and options for an integrated fire management

White Paper for policy makers

Final version | 13 February, 2020 | Vienna

80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions, mountains and plains addressing together common challenges and opportunities

Interreg Alpine Space

The project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

https://www.alpine-region.eu/results/forest-fires-alps-state-knowledge-and-further-challenges

EUSALP AG8 – Forest Fires in the Alps

EUSALP EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION
www.alpine-region.eu

3. Options for an integrated fire management

3.1. Proposed IFM framework

Several **Integrated Fire Management (IFM)** approaches have been suggested aiming to achieve healthier forest ecosystems, communities that are less at risk from fire, and more cost-effective fire suppression strategies. The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** has proposed voluntary **Fire Management Guidelines** for authorities and stakeholder groups. These guidelines recommend that fire management should be an integral part of a coherent and balanced policy applied not only to forests but also to other land-uses in the landscape.

Drivers

Climate change
- Changed precipitation pattern
- Longer drought periods
- More heatwaves
- Dry lightning strikes

Socioeconomic changes
- Increased recreational activities
- Extensive use of natural resources
- Rural abandonment
- Traditional fires

New policies
- Maintain biodiversity
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable development
- Open forests to new users

FOREST FIRES

Impacts

Destruction of protection forests | Natural hazards | Loss of natural resources | Soil erosion | High costs for firefighting and post-fire measures | Endangered Wildland-Urban-Interface | Air pollution and carbon release

Elements of integrated fire management

Prevention measures
- Improve early warning systems
- Increase resistance and resilience of forests
- Anticipate effects of natural hazards
- Improve forest fire management planning
- Foster awareness-raising

Suppression measures
- Knowledge on forest infrastructure
- Promote deployment of specialized action forces
- Adapted firefighting techniques
- Quick and efficient air support
- Use of technical fires

Post-fire management
- Restore the forest cover
- Minimize risks of fire effects and natural hazards
- Continuous monitoring of burnt sites
- Investigate fire behavior
- Establish case studies

Knowledge transfer and exchange

Establish a multi-stakeholder approach | Transnational trainings of fire brigades and action forces | Continue forest fire research | International workshops | Address negative effects of rural abandonment | Joint terminology

Figure 17: Drivers and impacts of forest fires and elements of an integrated fire management for the Alpine region.

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80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions, mountains and plains addressing together common challenges and opportunities

Interreg Alpine Space

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Proposed solutions as a framework for an integrated forest fire management in the Alpine region:

1. Design and implement short- and long-term **prevention measures**
2. Adapt **suppression measures** to the specific conditions of the Alpine region
3. Improve the **understanding** and measures on post-fire management
4. Support **knowledge transfer** and exchange of **experiences**

EUSALP – Action Group 8

"To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention"

- **Added Value**
  - "AG8 brings together regional stakeholders with national and international partners."
  - "The partnership manages to root its topics at the EU level."

Time for questions!

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