



**LOW CARBON**

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 2: Low-Carbon Alpine Space. More at: [www.alpine-space.eu](http://www.alpine-space.eu)

**“Energy is consumed by people rather than by buildings”.** The philosophy of **THE4BEES** is crystal clear: the first step towards a low carbon society is *a change in people’s everyday behaviour*. To achieve this important aim, THE4BEES moves to raise awareness of target energy users – from students to social workers to hikers – through the use of innovative IT tools (bar camps, digital storytelling,

infographics) so as to maximize the dissemination of good practices. In different partner regions meetings have been held in schools, social houses, offices and even mountain huts, where students, employees and hikers had the chance to consolidate their knowledge on energy efficiency and low carbon footprint and will soon experiment first-hand the IT tools purposely design-

ned to encourage behavioural changes. Once awareness has been built and past initiatives and co-creation activities analysed, THE4BEES project outputs will have an essential role: they are aimed at serving as the basis for policy improvement in the field.

The project **PEACE\_Alps** is focused on the implementation of Sustainable Energy Action Plans at local level in the whole Alpine Space area. The project proceeds using a bottom-up approach to identify local administrations’ needs in energy management, energy refurbishment of buildings and public light and local adaptation to climate change. The idea is that, by identifying and gathering common needs, it is possible to create economies of scale and provide centralized solutions at regional level exploiting the benefits of a transnatio-



nal approach. A video tool has already been realised in order to explain the process and widely share it with stakeholders.



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The results and experience gained will then be spread out in the Alpine Space with an effective engagement campaign of new regions interested in developing the same approach and with policy recommendation at EU level.

Shifting the attention from energy to mobility and transport, the project partners of **e-MOTICON** join their forces to **tackle the issue of a low and inhomogeneous availability of electric mobility (e-mobility) in the Alpine Space**, a future-oriented transport method essential for the creation of a low carbon society. The project partners believe the main problem lies in the low interoperability of electric charging stations (E-CS) and they studied the status of e-mobility and E-CS. By the end of first semester 2017, about 10.535 publicly acces-

sible E-CS were available in Alpine region, counting more than 250.800 e-vehicles (EV), with an average of 24 EVs per E-CS. Even though the policy reference (EU Directive 2014/94/EU) establishes common standards for the infrastructure interoperability, in the Alpine Space different E-CS operators and persistent incompatibility among the networks are the main reasons why EV drivers feel they cannot use their EVs to the full potential and cross-border trips



look sometimes impossible.

To come close to a solution, e-MOTICON partners have been working on the definition of strategic actions and rules on infrastructure access, minimum infrastructure installation, and a supra-regional mapping tool. Public Administrations play a fundamental role in the process towards improved e-mobility. They are thus consequently involved and connected to users in a *transnational community* in view of facilitating and promoting the exchange of useful know-how for an *effecti-*

*ve planning of recharging networks*. Secondly, the project's "white book" will present the e-MOTICON Strategy and provide regional action plans for regulating and managing E-CS planning in the Alpine Space.

**Households' car dependence in rural Alpine areas** is the issue project partners of **ASTUS** focus their attention on. Low population density and the isolation from transport networks are the two main reasons why families are bound to the car as their daily means of transport. In order to *reduce these carbon emissions with a long term perspective*, the project partners aim to support local authorities in identifying and adopting *long term alternative mobility solutions* for inhabitants with a twofold focus: on transport and spatial planning levers. A first exchange of experiences and approaches to tackle the issue by representatives of the five pilot regions in the project was essential in highlighting the need for an *integrated approach*, which takes both focuses into account, in order to reach long term solutions.

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](http://www.interregyouth.com)

