



ALPINE
TOWN OF
THE YEAR

Final Report

CLIMATE ACTION IN ALPINE TOWNS



FACT BOX

Project duration	End of 2020 until end of 2022
Project lead	Alpine Town of the Year Association
Partners	Anancy, Belluno, Brig-Glis, Chambéry, Idrija, Sonthofen, Tolmin, Trento
Support	Pilot action of the Territorial Agenda 2030 – supported within the framework of the international monitoring group by Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Austria, Slovenia, the European Commission and the Alpine Convention.
Funding	Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE as part of the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Convention
Links	Project website: www.alpinetowns.org/climate-action-in-alpine-towns (de, en, fr, it, sl) Report “Alpine Towns”: www.alpinetowns.alpconv.org/pilot-action Territorial Agenda 2030: www.territorialagenda.eu/pilot-actions/climate-action-in-alpine-towns

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In the project “Climate Action in Alpine Towns”, eight Alpine towns implemented climate measures in spatial planning and with the active participation of citizens from the beginning of 2021 to the end of 2022.

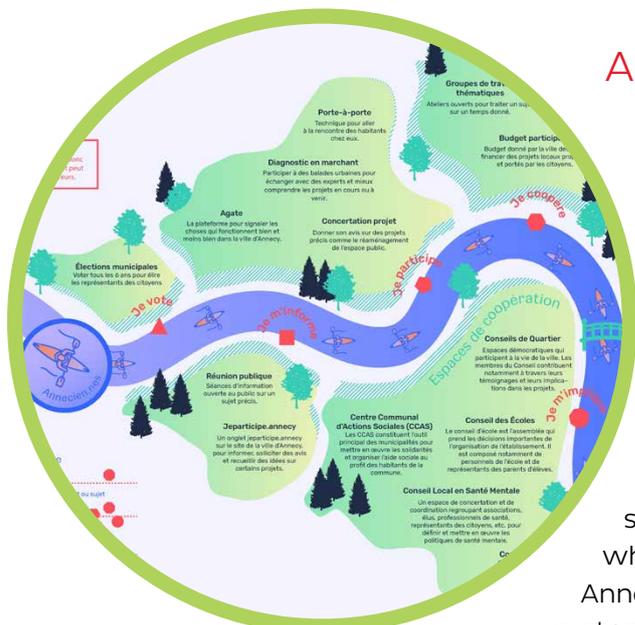
The project was implemented within the framework of the Swiss Presidency of the Alpine Convention and the Territorial Agenda 2030. The latter aims to reduce inequalities and environmental risks and to improve governance in spatial development. In this way, sustainable development is linked to climate concerns and local knowledge is consistently used – through the development of ideas “from below” and through the participation of citizens.

The project “Climate Action in Alpine Towns” illustrates the effectiveness of low-threshold climate measures in municipalities – with Alpine towns as pioneers. The eight Alpine towns participating in the project tried to address their citizens’ concerns about climate change and develop creative solutions. The towns were in constant exchange to learn from each other.



ACTIVITIES OF THE PARTNERS

ANNECY/FR



The French town of Annecy used its participation in the project as an opportunity to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to actively involve citizens. In numerous workshops, a scheme was developed that shows in an easily understandable way how and where residents can get involved in the city's processes and decisions. Among other things, there is an online platform (jeparticipe.annecy.fr) with projects that are open for participation. There is also a "Budget participatif" where citizens propose projects that receive financial support. In addition, the app "Agate" has been developed, which makes a lot of practical information of the Greater Annecy area available. In the long run, the new governance system should allow for a more effective and qualitative participation of citizens in planning strategies.

BELLUNO/IT

Belluno dedicated itself to the climate-friendly redesign of public spaces, especially schools, as part of the pilot project. Through close cooperation with pupils, they were sensitised to topics such as green spaces and climate protection and were allowed to lend a hand themselves in implementing the measures in workshops. They built birdhouses, planted vegetable beds and observed the work of bees. In autumn, the project was concluded with a video and the distribution of seeds and the collected ideas to other schools and the city administration so that a green – or rather colourful – infrastructure spreads in Belluno.



” The project widened the circle of people committed to biodiversity in Belluno – young generation, parents, grandparents – and strengthened our awareness of being part of a network of cities with similar challenges and potentials.

Fabio Copiatti, Town of Belluno/IT



BRIG-GLIS/CH

Brig-Glis, together with the population, carried out four targeted climate measures to raise awareness of climate change in the municipality. At the pop-up piazza, plants created a pleasant microclimate on the town square and the seating invited people to linger. In addition, temperature measurements were taken at six locations. The results show where action is needed to prevent the city from overheating with targeted measures. In addition, the heat hotspot Weri-Platz was wetted and transformed into an attractive oasis. The water for this comes from the nearby canal and is fed via the overpressure. In autumn, the media library showed the exhibition “An Heiligen Wassern” (On Sacred Waters), which documents the unique construction of the Suonen in the Valais, historical water pipes.



CHAMBÉRY/FR

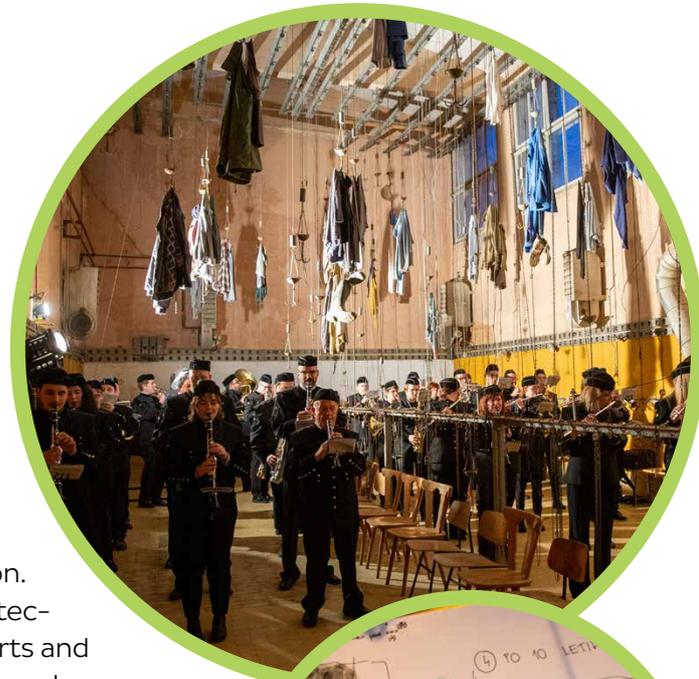
Chambéry focused on the greening and unsealing of the city, embedded into a participatory implementation strategy. Citizens were called upon to submit suggestions on which places throughout the city should become greener. Around 70 suggestions were submitted, which are presented on a map. The city administration is examining these for feasibility and some of them are already being implemented. In May 2021, the “Week of Nature in the City” also took place: at more than 50 different events, interested people could get information at lectures and guided tours, build nesting or flower boxes and design land art projects, get to know the climate fresco or learn more about composting. Another focus was on the topic of water, where the population could also contribute their opinions and suggestions.



IDRIJA/SL

The town of Idrija is surrounded by forests, but there are few green spaces or parks in the town centre. The municipality used its participation in the project “Climate Action in Alpine Towns” to bring more nature into the centre. The focus was on a vacant mine site of the “Kajzer Park”. A working group examined the condition and developed guidelines and ideas for the revitalisation of the site. Kajzer Park is to become a centre that promotes creativity and enables active togetherness. Not only for the people from Idrija, but also the surrounding communities.

A central concern was the involvement of the population. There were various workshops with experts from architecture, biology, design and landscape architecture. Concerts and exhibitions in Kajzer Park also made the place accessible and tangible. As part of the project, the city also developed a “green” handbook that will be used as a basis for further projects.



”

We have been able to build a network of like-minded people who understand the importance of green spaces in the city. Local representatives now come to talk about their greening plans, employees make plans for the maintenance of urban trees and local businesses propose and support greening projects. I think we have made a difference.

Katja Martinčič, Urban planner in Idrija/SL

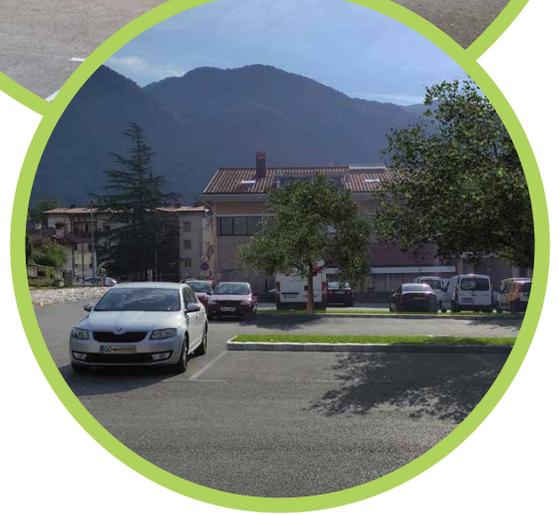


SONTHOFEN/DE

The cycling town of Sonthofen in Germany wants to encourage more people to switch from car to bike and thereby save emissions. However, one central point hindered the transition to a low-carbon mobility concept: the pedestrian zone which didn't cope with the increasing new mobility. Pedestrians and cyclists who use the narrow streets came into conflict. With the support of Germany, the Institute for Environmental Planning and Spatial Development implemented a conflict analysis of the traffic. In the newly founded “Netzwerk fahrRAD”, a citizens' council, suitable measures were discussed with the town administration.

TOLMIN/SL

Tolmin decided to make their centre greener as part of Climate Action in Alpine Towns. A hotspot – in the truest sense of the word – is a large, asphalted car park, which was greened with trees in autumn 2022. The town also implemented publicity measures and involved the population with accompanying workshops and events. In addition, a brochure was published illustrating the planting of trees in the town area. Because trees are not only an aesthetic element, they also have ecological functions, they provide shade, oxygen, air conditioning, air filters, noise reduction and habitat.



TRENTO/IT

For the town of Trento, brownfield sites hold previously untapped potential for heat reduction. As part of the project “Climate Action in Alpine Towns”, an undeveloped area in the Canova district was greened and is to be transformed into an urban forest. The central goal was to involve and sensitise the population, especially young people and socially disadvantaged groups. In participatory processes, the project team worked together with the population on the design and greening of the approximately 4500 square metre area. In meetings with the town council and representatives of relevant offices, they were informed and sensitised to the issues. In addition, six public events were held: Together with schoolchildren, the surface temperature was measured with the help of drones in order to identify heat islands, there were joint walks and planting activities as well as an informative workshop in which scientific aspects were explained. About three hundred people took part in the activities, and about 30 people were involved in the project team.



” The project triggered the transformation of a forgotten uncultivated land into a forest planted and lived in by the community. It was moving to be with so many unknown people from the neighborhood and from different parts of the town.
Giovanna Ulrici, Town of Trento/IT

COMMUNICATION

Media work & Articles

Δ 02.12.2021: Press release (de, it, fr, sl) [Alpenstädte - Aktiv für das Klima](#)

Δ 25.01.2022: Article (de, it, fr, sl) [Aktiv für das Klima](#)

Δ 08.09.2022: Article (de, it, fr, sl) [Austausch an der AlpenWoche in Brig-Glis](#)

Δ 19.12.2022: Article (de, it, fr, sl) [Wirkungsvolle Klima-Maßnahmen](#)

Media reports [Collection]

Δ 30.01.2021: Corriere delle Alpi | [Città alpine in rete per progetti sul clima](#)

Δ 27.11.2021: Nau.ch | [Brig-Glis plant den Erhalt und Pflege der Wasserläufe](#)

Δ 3.12.2021: Ekodezela | [Idrija in Tolmin med pionirji podnebni ukrepov](#)

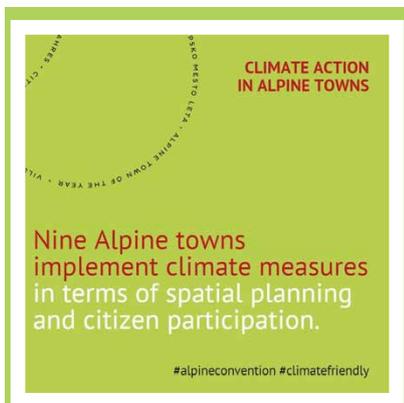
Δ 14.06.2022: Amico del Popolo | [«Atelier Urbain Climate Action in Alpine Towns»](#)

Δ 23.3.2022: Belluno Press | [Belluno, ambiente e scuole](#)

Δ 02.09.2022: Walliser Bote | [Mehr Wasser und Pflanzen: Brig-Glis nimmt es mit dem Klimawandel auf](#)

Social Media

Various postings on Instagram and Facebook



As part of the project “Climate Action in Alpine Towns”, nine towns from our network are implementing climate measures in the field of spatial planning and citizen participation. All nine participating Alpine Towns are addressing their citizens’ concerns about the climate crisis and developing creative solutions together. #climateaction



The AlpWeek in early September 2022 in our member town Brig-Glis/CH had a lot to offer: interactive workshops, interesting keynotes, heated debates and many opportunities to exchange and network with like-minded people from the Alpine region. #alpweek2022



In the webinar “Towns get climate active” on 7 December, Alpine Towns told what low-threshold climate measures they have launched. Experiences from other climate change adaptation initiatives complemented the programme. #webinar #climatechange



EVENTS

Internal Events

Δ 19 January 2021: Kick-Off with Territorial Agenda 2030

Δ 29 January 2021: Kick-Off with partner towns

Δ Reporting at all general assemblies of the association between 2021 and 2023

Δ and ongoing bilateral exchanges.

AlpWeek 2022

The AlpWeek in early September 2022 in our member town Brig-Glis/CH had a lot to offer: interactive workshops, interesting keynotes, heated debates and many opportunities for exchange and networking in the Alpine region. The Alpine Town of the Year Association, in cooperation with our member town Brig-Glis and Rolf Weingartner, organised a workshop on the integration of water in the centres of Alpine towns with various technical inputs as part of the Climate Action in Alpine Towns project. In the second part of the workshop, the participants walked through the town with Monika Holzegger, Executive Director of the Alpine Town of the Year Association Brig-Glis, to see the practical implementation of climate measures, exchange experiences and deepen the discussion on the topic of water in towns.

Review (de, it, fr, sl): www.alpenstaedte.org/austausch-an-der-alpenwoche-in-brig-glis

Webinar “Climate action in Alpine towns – How to?”

The webinar took place in the form of an online workshop on 18 June 2021. The aim was to inspire small and medium-sized cities with good examples of climate action in urban planning and to identify solutions to common challenges. Participants discussed how to identify challenges, how to take first steps and how to communicate with stakeholders.

Webinar “Towns get climate active”

To conclude the project, we organised a public, full-day webinar on 7 December 2022, translated in five languages. The eight partner towns presented their implemented climate measures and reported on their next steps. Experiences from other climate change adaptation initiatives, such as the sponge city concept or the model regions for climate change adaptation complemented the programme.

A follow-up report and the presentations can be found online (de, it, fr, sl): www.alpinetowns.org/effective-climate-measures/



Project Presentations

Δ 30 November 2021: Input at partner event in Trento “Resilienza attraverso misure per un buon clima nelle Città Alpine” (Resilience by means of measures for a good climate in alpine towns)

Δ 9 March 2022: Project presentation at the 74th Standing Committee of the Alpine Convention

Δ 9 November 2022: Online presentation of the IX Report on the State of the Alps

Δ 24 November 2022: Project presentation at the Eusalp Forum in Trento



CONCLUDING CONSIDERATIONS

The projects in each of the eight partner towns illustrated the impact that even small local actions can have on climate change. Together with their populations, the eight Alpine Towns are thus taking a pioneering role in effective climate-friendly spatial planning.

In particular, “Climate Action in Alpine Towns” offered the opportunity to

- Δ deepen a valuable exchange at Alpine level,

- Δ start concrete implementation measures and involve the population,

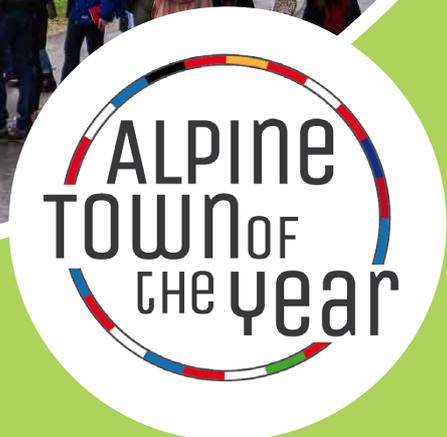
- Δ to provide first-hand inspiration and knowledge to other members of the association and beyond,

- Δ cooperation in the respective twin towns between different departments (youth, social, environmental, green space, spatial planning), to find synergies and to engage in new paths,

- Δ to make the Alpine Convention tangible on a local level on the one hand and to be visible as a pilot action of the Territorial Agenda on the European level on the other hand

- Δ and to make a tangible contribution to all three priorities of the Multi-Annual Work Programme of the Alpine Convention 2023-2030.

We, the Alpine Town of the Year Association, would like to thank the Federal Office for Spatial Development ARE for making this project possible and for the constructive cooperation during the project period. We are very pleased that this bouquet of activities in all eight partner towns led to new ideas and showed the many different project participants their diverse possibilities for action to make their town more liveable, greener and more climate-adapted.



IMPRINT

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