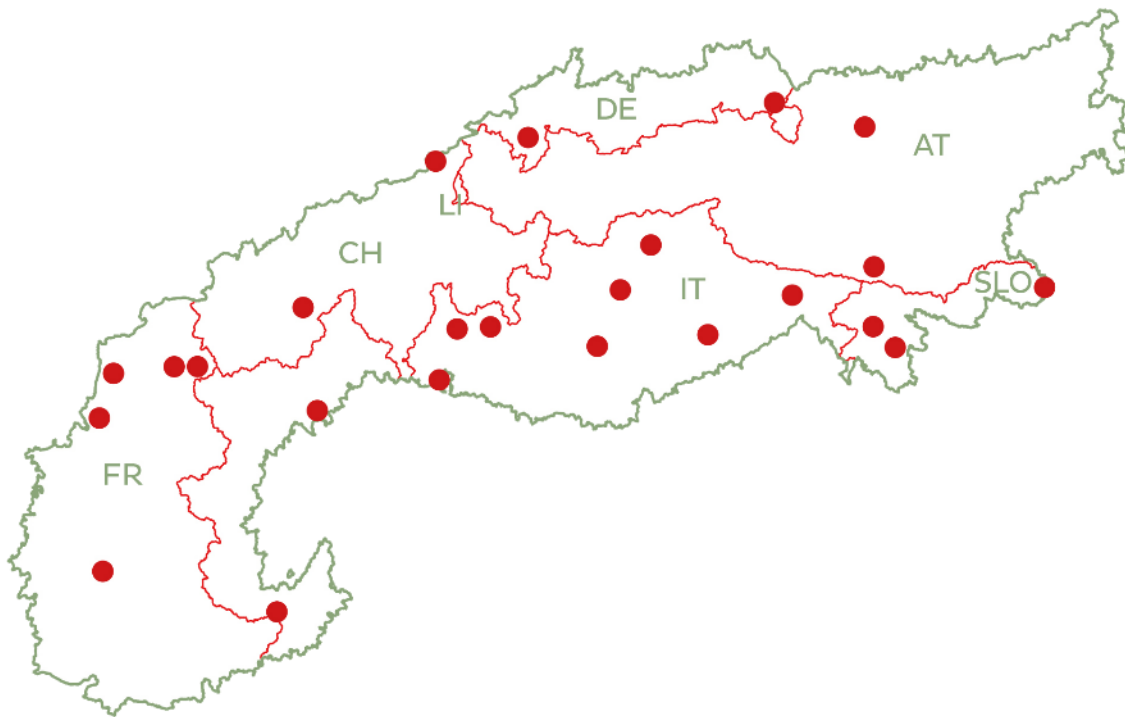




Manual

Information – Experiences – Guidelines



Alpine Town of the Year Association – Verein Alpenstadt des Jahres e.V. – Ville des Alpes de l'Année – Città alpina dell'Anno – Alpsko mesto leta

»Alpine Town of the Year« Association

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1. Background

The Alpine Town of the Year Association is an association of Alpine towns that have been awarded with the title of 'Alpine Town of the Year'. The title commends an Alpine town for its particular commitment to the implementation of the Alpine Convention and is awarded by an international Jury.

The association's activities are organised around three poles:

- ▲ Support for each city holding the title 'Alpine Town of the Year' for: project development, organisation of its annual programme as selected town, information and training on the objectives of the Alpine Convention.
- ▲ To promote the exchange of information and experiences between the 'Alpine Towns of the Year'.
- ▲ To develop and coordinate projects enabling experimentation in member cities and cooperation between cities and with other key partners in the Alpine space.

The principal concern of the Alpine Convention is to combine measures for nature conservation in the Alpine region with sustainable, future-oriented development of the regions themselves. Nature and culture, ecology and economy collide head on, and it is the stated principal objective of the 'Alpine Town of the Year' Association to communicate this idea to the population at large. While the Alps are still clearly rural in terms of surface area, the population – and with it the economy – is already predominantly urban. Given that around two thirds of the population in the Alps live in urbanised regions, which in turn represent around 40% of the total Alpine area, Alpine towns play a key role in filling the Alpine Convention with life.

2. Objectives

To strengthen awareness of the Alps

The Alpine Town of the Year is part of the Alps and therefore has a share in this precious living, cultural and natural environment in the heart of Europe. The Alpine Town of the Year assumes a special responsibility for the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage, and endeavours to ensure that it is developed in a sustainable way.

To involve the population

The activities and events organised as part of the Alpine Town of the Year are public. All interested persons and associations (from trade and industry, art and ecology) can and should take part with their own projects. Children and adolescents are to be given special scope as they should be allowed to develop and articulate their needs and interests as adults of the future.

To consolidate ties with the region

Towns are bridges: firstly to neighbouring regions and secondly to more distant areas beyond the Alpine region itself. The Alpine Town of the Year reflects its functions and



interactions with the regions in question. It seeks genuine opportunities for a 'new partnership' between the urban and the rural.

To shape the future sustainably

The Alpine Town of the Year acknowledges the principles of the Alpine Convention, its concept for sustainable development in the Alpine region. The Alpine Town of the Year undertakes to take real and innovative steps towards implementation in as many of the twelve areas of the Alpine Convention (cfr. chapter 10) (e.g. energy, transport, culture, protection of nature, etc.) as possible, and to see them through.

To develop co-operation

The Alpine Town of the Year develops and nurtures close contacts with other towns in the Alps to exchange experience and draw up common interests as alpine towns.

3. Organisation

Members

Towns that have been nominated by the association as holders of the title 'Alpine Town of the Year' can be accepted as voting members. They are represented by the mayor or his/her deputy. Each town appoints a consultant who is responsible for the realisation of the projects.

The members of the Alpine Town of the Year Association undertake to actively participate and take part in the annual General Assembly. The General Assembly elects the board and the members of the jury. It formally confirms the award of the title 'Alpine Town of the Year' and decides on the association's annual work programme.

Towns as well as natural and legal persons or associations under private or public law that are committed to the aims of the association and make a regular contribution can become supporting members.

Board

The Executive Board consists of up to seven people. The Executive Board is made up of the first chairperson, his/her deputy (2nd chairperson) and the assessors. The Executive Board is elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years. The Executive Board conducts the day-to-day business of the organisation and makes decisions in place of the General Assembly in the case of business that cannot be postponed. The legal representatives of the Association are the 1st Chairperson and the 2nd Chairperson.

[These are the current members of the Board](#)

Jury

The General Assembly of the Alpine Town of the Year Association elects a jury consisting of three representatives from various expert organisations active throughout the Alps.

The jury proposes the next 'Alpine Town of the Year' from the Alpine Towns that have entered the competition. In addition, the jury reviews the annual programme of the selected



'Alpine Town of the Year' and advises the town on content-related issues. The respective 'Alpine Town of the Year' submits a final report on its activities and projects to the jury at the end of the Alpine Town year.

[The jury is currently made up of these representatives](#)

Executive office

The Executive office is responsible for the implementation of the resolutions of the General Assembly and takes care of the day-to-day business of the association.

[Components can be found here](#)

4. Contracts

The Alpine Towns of the Year have joined together to form the Alpine Town of the Year Association – Ville des Alpes de l'Année – Città Alpina dell'Anno – Alpsko mesto leta. Their activities cover the entire Alpine region. New holders of the title 'Alpine Town of the Year' join the Alpine Town of the Year Association. The rights and obligations of the members as well as the organs and their tasks are defined in the [statutes](#). Members are required to pay a contribution, which is determined by the General Assembly in a contribution regulation. The Alpine Town of the Year Association concludes a cooperation agreement with the new title holder. This contract regulates the association's services, such as counselling and administrative support for the current 'Alpine Town of the Year', as well as the obligations of the title holder.

5. Candidacy

Applications are open to any town in the Alpine region that is willing to prove that ecology and economy – rather than being mutually exclusive – can complement each other sensibly and in a way that sets the trend for the future. The title commends an Alpine town for its particular commitment to the implementation of the Alpine Convention (cfr. chapter 10). The Alpine Town of the Year Association has formulated five objectives (cfr. chapter 2) designed to guide future Alpine Towns of the Year in their choice of projects and events.

[The application form can be downloaded from the website](#)

6. Title holders „Alpine Town of the Year’

Click on the town to find out more:

- ▲ [Cuneo | IT, 2024](#)
- ▲ [Passy | FR, 2022](#)
- ▲ [Biella | IT, 2021](#)
- ▲ [Morbegno | IT, 2019](#)
- ▲ [Brixen-Bressanone | IT, 2018](#)
- ▲ [Tolmezzo | IT, 2017](#)



- ▲ [Tolmin | SL, 2016](#)
- ▲ [Chamonix-Mont-Blanc | FR, 2015](#)
- ▲ [Lecco | IT, 2013](#)
- ▲ [Annecy | FR, 2012](#)
- ▲ [Idrija | SL, 2011](#)
- ▲ [Bad Aussee | AT, 2010](#)
- ▲ [Bolzano-Bozen | IT, 2009](#)
- ▲ [Brig-Glis | CH, 2008](#)
- ▲ [Sondrio | IT, 2007](#)
- ▲ [Chambéry | FR, 2006](#)
- ▲ [Trento | I, 2004](#)
- ▲ [Sonthofen | DE, 2005](#)
- ▲ [Herisau | CH, 2003](#)
- ▲ [Gap | FR, 2002](#)
- ▲ [Bad Reichenhall | DE, 2001](#)
- ▲ [Maribor | SL, 2000](#)
- ▲ [Belluno | IT, 1999](#)
- ▲ [Villach | AT, 1997](#)

Currently (November 2023) 18 towns are active members of the association.

7. Implementation measures in Alpine Towns

Topics

These topics are based on the protocols and declarations of the Alpine Convention and other topics relevant to Alpine towns.

Spatial planning and sustainable development



Idrija: Renovation of Idrija Miners Houses

In 2018, the conversion baton was handed over to two NGOs (Idrija 2020 and Prostoroz), with whom the municipality of Idrija cooperates in the further search for revitalization possibilities. The PIRH (Renovation of Idrija Miners Houses) project dealt with mining houses as a unique architectural type and an important part of the historical cultural landscape of Slovenia's oldest mining town up to the 20th century. A team of young architects and cultural enthusiasts from Prostoroz and Idrija analysed the status quo of the existing buildings. They counted, mapped and analyzed them, drew up a catalogue of renovation measures for house owners and drew up a plan for renovation and modernization using the example of the Trnovec house (owned by the municipality of Idrija).

[More information](#)

Tolmin: Bača valley

In Tolmin, within the project "Tour des villes" a cultural association dealt with the future of the Bača valley (Baška Grapa). In the centre of Podbrdo, extensive road repair and renovation measures were planned. The municipality participated in this EUR 3 million project by restoring pavements and street lamps and connecting buildings to the Podbrdo sewage



treatment plant. The works were scheduled for the second half of 2019. The Podbrdo Municipality has also received funding for the construction of a footpath between the centre and the station/playground. The first section of Baška Grapa's main road, damaged by the avalanche, is currently being renovated. Projects to reconstruct critical road sections between the villages of Klavže and Koritnica were also in preparation. The work is planned to be carried out in the coming years. In Kneža a car park has been built, which can also be used for open-air events.

[More information](#) (en)

Tolmezzo: Caserma Cantore

Tolmezzo invited numerous local associations to think together about the future of the barracks "Caserma Cantore", a research institution (Fondazione Nordest) has been commissioned to carry out a feasibility study of the conversion including citizens' ideas. Four subject areas were identified: Culture and history (museum of the region's handicrafts), school and training (space for new forms of teaching), sport & leisure and a platform for services (tourism, customs, local industry, technology and new forms of work) with respective premises for business activities. At the end of 2018, the barracks area was fully owned by the municipality. With a grant of 500,000 euros from the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, valuable frescoes from Palazzo Linussio have been restored. In spring 2019 the roof of Palazzo Linussio was going to be renovated.

[More information](#) (en)

Mountain farming

Passy: Municipal kitchen

The Frioland kitchen, which is managed by the municipality since the beginning of January, serves 900 meals to the children and senior citizens of Passy with the ambition of offering quality food by favouring local producers and short circuits. A catering committee for the children has been set up to involve them in the thinking process and the choice of food.

[Video](#) & [more information](#) (fr)



Nature protection and landscape conservation

Villach: Naturpark Dobratsch

In 1997, Villach was honoured with the title '1st Alpine Town of the Year'. In the course of this 'celebratory year' initial considerations were given to the protection of drinking water. The Dobratsch river is the drinking water supply for the town of Villach and the market town of Bad Bleiberg. Between 1999 and 2001, a submission concept for the Dobratsch as Carinthia's first nature park was developed in many working groups under the leadership of the Villach Regional Co-operation and with a large number of volunteers.

The Dobratsch Nature Park was decreed by the Province of Carinthia in September 2002.

[Website of the nature park](#)



Mountain forests

(not yet available)





Tourism

Passy: Respect of natural spaces thanks to a quality tourist offer

July 8-10, starting from the Plateau d'Assy, the Trail du Tour des Fiz, will inaugurate a new edition closer to the inhabitants: a beautiful eco-responsible event, at the heart of the natural heritage site.

In Plaine Joux, a chairlift will be used in all four seasons in 2023. At the same time, the Inventive Mountain Tourism Department of University of Savoie Mont Blanc, is mobilized to propose, from the Plateau d'Assy to Plaine Joux, a responsible and creative tourist offer based on respect for the environment and using soft mobility. [Watch video](#)



Energy

Passy: Energy savings and air quality

How do we contribute to improving air quality and reducing energy consumption? The municipality communicates the achievements obtained (in kWh, CO2 and fine particles) by the energy renovation works undertaken and the development of soft mobility. Since June, inhabitants can participate by communicating their individual actions to collectively evaluate the impact in favour of improved air quality.

The energy consumption of municipal buildings will be openly communicated to all. A discussion will be held on behaviours and best practices to optimize the buildings' energy performance.



Climate plan Brixen-Bressanone

The climate plan (Klimaplan) is part of the guideline framework of the Bressanone 2020 master plan; it outlines possible implementation procedures, particularly in the energy sector. As part of a strategic vision projected for the year 2020, the plan contains the measures already initiated or implemented by the city of Bressanone/Brixen to save energy, increase energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy sources.

[More information](#)

Brig-Glis: Energy city Label Gold

The label, awarded by an independent commission of the "Trägerverein Energiestadt", recognises Swiss municipalities of all sizes for selected energy-related measures that have been implemented or are planned. In doing so, the Energy City also commits itself to a clear objective in its energy policy and to a binding implementation programme with an annual performance review. The standards for awarding the "Energy City" label are continuously adapted to the latest technical and energy policy findings. The activities of the municipalities of Brig-Glis are continuously monitored by an energy policy consultant on site and reviewed every three years with a re-audit. The last audit took place in September 2020 and Brig-Glis has now received the highest European award, the "Gold" award.

[More information](#) (de)



Soil conservation

Tolmin: Citizens for a greener town

The Slovenian town of Tolmin decided to make its centre greener as their contribution to the 'Climate Action in Alpine Towns' pilot. One hotspot – in the truest sense of the word – is a large, asphalted car park which was interspersed with trees in autumn 2022.

The city also implemented communication measures and involved the population with accompanying workshops and events: for example, the screening of a documentary followed by a discussion in which additional interesting facts about climate change were presented. This was followed up by an exhibition and further workshops. In addition, a new book corner offers publications on the topics of urban green spaces and climate change in general. A brochure illustrating the effects of planting trees in the urban area was also published. It shows the benefits beyond the aesthetic aspects: they have ecological functions, they provide shade, oxygen, cooling, air filter and noise reduction.

[Video](#)



Transport

Cycling City (Radstadt) Sonthofen

In 2016, the Sonthofen town council decided to make "cycling" a key topic and to make the Alpine town even more bicycle-friendly. The vision for the future is to establish and live Sonthofen as a "Cycling City" (Radstadt) in all areas. They have developed a cycling concept and offer a wide range of services and activities for cyclists.

[More information](#) (de)



Sondrio: Bikesharing & more

The town of Sondrio installed near the railway station the GoBike Sondrio, where they offer bikesharing with selfservice for short-term use within the town and nearby villages. They also offer bike racks, lockups and lockers as well as bike and smartphone charging stations.

Population & Culture

Biella: Arcipelago – Festival della Creatività Sostenibile

The Arcipelago festival is dedicated to creativity and sustainability. Creativity, because Biella's textile industry has always had a great tradition that combines functionality, technology and inventiveness. Sustainability, because the relationship with the earth and water is the basis of the past and present of Biella's textile industry. In various locations around the region, space and attention are given to Unesco themes.

[More information](#) (it)



Reading Mountains Festival

"Reading Mountains" was first launched to celebrate International Mountain Day in 2015. The idea is to initiate events dedicated to mountains and literature in various places around the Alps on International Mountain Day, declared by the United Nations and celebrated on 11 December every year. The Reading Mountains Festival encourages the celebration of cultural differences and similarities in the Alps and, at the same time, connects mountains and culture.



Partners organising various events in the scope of the festival are provided with posters, bookmarks, and stickers that they can use for the promotion of their event(s). Alpine Towns of the Year are invited to take part and organize an event within the “Reading mountains” festival.

[More information](#)

Brixen-Bressanone: Water Light Festival

Water is omnipresent in Brixen-Bressanone. People are proud of this valuable resource. Every year in May, the Water Light Festival takes place in the town and the surrounding area. To mark this water festival, artists from near and far create installations of light at the various water locations in the town and provide a poignant insight into the extensive world of water.

[More information](#)

Climate Change

Passy: Climate Wednesdays

Because the climate is at the heart of the environmental transition and the commitment of the municipality of Passy they organised a series of conferences and workshops on the theme of climate change and its impact on the Mont Blanc region. For “Les Mercredis du Climat” – the Climate Wednesdays – a number of researchers and local players have been invited to speak on these subjects, like glaciers, agriculture or climate communication.

[More information](#) (fr) & [Video](#)



See also measures from the project “[Climate Action in Alpine Towns](#)”

Water management

Hotspots in Brig-Glis

The Swiss town installed temperature measuring stations at six locations. The results are intended to show where action is needed to prevent the city from overheating with targeted measures. There is also a wetting system at the Weri-Platz next to the shady trees to create a pleasant microclimate to combat the summer heat.

Within the project “Climate Action in Alpine Towns” Brig-Glis created a “PopUpPiazza” in the town square, which is a popular meeting and event location, but not suitable for permanent greening. The plants of the PopUpPiazza created a pleasant microclimate there and the seating invited people to linger.

[More information](#)



Biodiversity

Belluno: raising awareness in schools

Belluno dedicated itself to the climate-friendly redesign of public spaces, especially schools, as part of the pilot project. Through close cooperation with students, they were sensitised to topics such as green spaces and climate protection and were allowed to lend a hand in implementing the measures themselves. In workshops, they learned valuable





knowledge about seeds, they planted vegetable beds, built bird houses and experienced the work of bees live. In addition, they visited the Serravella Ethnographic Museum on International Bee Day.

[More information](#)

See also measures from the project "[UrbaBio](#)"

Air quality

Passy: air quality and energy

Through the free collaborative platform "Air Attitude", dedicated to sharing initiatives and proposed by ATMO, the municipality is listing its actions, as well as those of Passy's residents, to highlight its impact on the climate, air quality and energy.

[More information](#) (fr)



Cross-cutting topics

Biella: International Conference on ecosystem services

In its Alpine Town Year 2021, Biella, together with CIPRA International and CIPRA Italy, organised an international conference entitled "Nature & Society in Balance - Ecosystem Services between City, Country & Mountain". Participants heard presentations on the importance of ecosystem services, the significance of natural capital for the Alpine region and discussions on a new balance for the relationship between city and mountain. Informative excursions and a ceremony for the Alpine Town of the Year 2021 rounded off the programme.

[More information](#) (de, fr, it, sl)

Sonthofen & Villach: Fairtrade towns

"Fairtrade Town" is a label awarded by a recognised fair trade certification body and promotes fair trade certified goods within the framework of fair trade. The Alpine Towns Sonthofen and Villach were awarded this label, which makes them two of over 2,200 Fairtrade Towns worldwide. The award is because many people in schools, churches, catering and retail as well as in the town council and town administration are committed to more justice in world trade.

[More information](#) (en)

Villach: Edible town (Essbare Stadt)

The "Edible Town" is a concept in which urban spaces are used to grow food that can be harvested and used by residents. This means that vegetables, fruit and herbs are grown in the city in public parks, on green strips or in community gardens. This makes the city greener and more liveable and encourages people to engage in healthy eating and sustainable cultivation. It also promotes community, as people come together to garden and socialise. In Villach, there are exciting "Edible Town" projects that enrich the cityscape and protect the environment.

[More information](#) (de)



Idrija: Library of items

The project group from Idrija has set up a 'library of items' where citizens can borrow things; the annual fee is 20 euros, there is a price list for the individual items. The young people have made an exhibition in the main square of the town to inform the citizens. There are 28 members at the moment, but the aim is to increase the number.

Tomaž Venčelj, mayor from Idrija, is happy that the youth centre in his town is functioning so well. It is located in a building owned by the town. Another part of the building is a hostel with 70 beds. There are many other activities going on in the youth centre, they are very active also in participating in different projects. There are 1-2 staff members who do a great job. The municipality tries to support them, also financially.

Youth participation

GaYA – Governance and Youth in the Alps

Pilot Alpine Towns: Brig-Glis, Idrija, Chambéry, Sonthofen

[More information](#)

[Video of the project](#)

[Video from Brig-Glis for the contest](#)



Waste

Tolmin

Within the project Alps2030 the project group from Tolmin grammar school organised a variety of activities, like a workshop where they made bags out of old shirts or a landscape cleaning campaign. They participated in a workshop of the energy association, which was about renewable energy resources and built small hydrogen-powered vehicles themselves. The focus of the implementation was on the redesign of the library in the grammar school: architecture students from the University of Ljubljana submitted plans, and now the space is being implemented using the most natural materials possible.



Events

Green events

There are different guides for green events – for example from the [Alpine Convention](#).

Within the project Alps2030 young people from Liechtenstein also formulated a [green event guide](#).



Invitations and collaborations

Member towns of the association also invite other towns regularly to participate in their events, like markets, festivals etc. E.g. the book festival (BergBuchBrig) in Brig-Glis invited the towns Passy and Trento to take part. Other invitations came from the “Alpenfestival Sonthofen”, the Slikrovi Festival in Idrija, markets in in Brixen-Bressanone or “Il Filo dei Sapori” in Tolmezzo. There was also a concert of Idrija’s Miners Brass band and the Tetras Lyre orchestra from Chambéry ([video](#)).



Projects of the Association

The Alpine Towns of the Year take real and innovative steps towards implementation in as many of the twelve areas of the Alpine Convention (e.g. energy, transport, culture, protection of nature, etc.) as possible, and to see them through. If you are looking for (international) partners to implement your projects or develop your project ideas further, please contact the executive office.

- ▲ [Climate Action in Alpine Towns](#)
- ▲ [Alps 2030](#)
- ▲ [UrbaBio](#)
- ▲ [Tour des villes](#)
- ▲ [LOCAL – Low Carbon Alpine Lifestyle](#)
- ▲ [youTurn](#)
- ▲ [GaYA – Governance and youth in the Alps](#)
- ▲ [Youth Alpine Express](#)
- ▲ [YSAM – Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities](#)
- ▲ [Photo competition](#)
- ▲ [recharge.green](#)
- ▲ [ALPSTAR](#)

8. Contacts

The executive office has a pool of speakers and experts on various topics. Feel free to contact: office@alpenstaedte.org

9. Communication

Public relations work in the Alpine Town of the Year

The current Alpine Town of the Year, with the support of the executive office, usually carries out a wide range of measures to publicise its activities among the population, in the region and also internationally.

These can include:

Corporate Design

- ▲ Creation of an Alpine Town logo based on the association's logo
- ▲ Use of the logo on printed and electronic media (e.g. website, town stationery and envelopes, brochures, press kits, stickers) of the town and the partners involved in the Alpine Town Year

Products

- ▲ Creation of flyers, event calendars and posters, some in several languages
- ▲ Creation of publications (e.g. conference proceedings as a result of events in co-operation with science, associations, institutions etc.)



- ▲ Creation of a dedicated (possibly multilingual) website
- ▲ Advertising on the town buses and other public transport
- ▲ Creation of eco-friendly merchandise like organic T-shirts, bags etc.

Media relation

- ▲ Establishment of a press office or instructing the towns communication department
- ▲ Distribution of press releases
- ▲ Organisation of press conferences and press events
- ▲ Radio and television reports

Social Media

- ▲ Share news on Social Media channels
- ▲ Mention/tag the association @alpinetown_oftheyear (Instagram) or @Alpinetownoftheyear (Facebook)
- ▲ Send photos / news to the executive office to share, if you do not have a social media presence

Other measures

- ▲ Appointment of an Alpine Town ambassador in the city (well-known personality who supports and publicly represents the objectives of the Alpine Town)
- ▲ Information texts about the Alpine Town on the towns website and on other websites (e.g. of the region, tourism office, etc.)
- ▲ Participation in trade fairs
- ▲ Ensuring a long-term presence of the Alpine Town idea beyond the year (e.g. naming a public square or street, displaying an information plaque, etc.)
- ▲ Introduction of the Alpine Town idea to committees/institutions in the region
- ▲ Use and share the [video on the association](#)

Public relations work and support by the executive office

The executive office ensures communication between the members of the association and with the outside world, particularly at international level. The channels and formats for this are:

- ▲ The website www.alpinetowns.org in German, French, Italian, Slovenian and partly in English, which is regularly updated and offers all the information, current news etc.
- ▲ Current activities and news are sent out sporadically in a newsletter to members and interested subscribers
- ▲ Press releases in up to four languages on the occasion of the proclamation of the next Alpine Town of the Year and other activities (like projects, big events etc.) are dispatched to several thousand media addresses in all Alpine countries
- ▲ Inputs about the association, its members and activities are given at universities, colleges
- ▲ Participation and representation in political bodies like the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, working group
- ▲ Participation and input to the Report on the State of the Alps



Examples



Biella used this digital and printed banner for events and upcycled the material afterwards.



T-Shirts for the ceremony in Tolmezzo © Fabrice Gallina



Sign for a planted tree in Villach, celebrating 20 years of the Association.



Roll-Up-Banner in Passy



10. Alpine Convention

The central concern of the Alpine Convention is to link measures for the protection of the Alpine region with the sustainable, forward-looking development of the regions. It is of central importance that the Alpine Convention is filled with concrete content, especially in the Alpine towns, as around two thirds of the Alpine population live in urbanised regions, but these only account for around 40% of the total Alpine area. In terms of surface area, the Alps are therefore still clearly a rural area. However, the population – and therefore the economy – is already predominantly urbanised. Nature and culture, ecology and economy collide here. The declared main objective of the 'Alpine Town' idea is to make the general public aware of this.

The Alpine Convention is a treaty under international law between Germany, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and the European Union. It was signed in 1991. The aim of the treaty is the protection of the Alps and sustainable development, taking into account the interests of protection and utilisation.

Protocols & Declarations

Implementing protocols in twelve areas are planned to specify the framework convention:

- Population and culture
- Spatial planning and sustainable development
- Air pollution control
- soil protection
- Water balance
- Nature conservation and landscape management
- Mountain agriculture
- Mountain forest
- Tourism and leisure
- Transport and traffic
- Energy management
- Waste management

Further information on the Alpine Convention at www.alpconv.org

Multi-Annual Work Programme

Through the Alpine Conference's Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAP), the Contracting Parties, together with the Observers, express their conviction that the challenges the Alpine region is facing – inter alia climatic, cultural and demographic changes – require a cooperative approach that transgresses national borders.

The aim of the Multi-Annual Work Programme is to define the context for cooperating on common measures over an extended period. These ambitions are reflected in the choice of areas of emphasis as selected and defined within a six years' timeframe.

The Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAP) sets out a vision for the Alps as a pioneer region for sustainable living.

[Find the MAPs from the last years here](#)



Report on the State of the Alps

The Report on the State of the Alps offers periodical information on ecological, economical, and social development in the Alpine space. It provides a database on the future of the Alps for people in the world of politics, management, media or science. Furthermore, this standard work gives important yard sticks in terms of formulating adapted strategies.

Representatives of the Alpine countries, numerous networks and institutions of the Alpine Convention, the Permanent Secretariat as well as scientists and experts work together for the elaboration of these reports. Data are assessed, verified, and compared with the information provided by the Contracting Parties, and trends are analysed in order to identify the challenges of the future at an early stage.

The 9th Report on the State of the Alps was focusing on Alpine towns. Find out more on <https://alpinetowns.alpconv.org/>

[Find the other reports here.](#)

Infopoints

The Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention wants to promote the knowledge and the implementation of the Alpine Convention in areas more remote from the regions where the Secretariat's offices or the responsible ministries are located. The strong link between these Infopoints and the territory they act in facilitates the implementation of the Alpine Convention's objectives by involving inhabitants, administrations, tourists, institutions and also a range of private and public organisations. Their role is therefore larger than a simple information transmitter; the Infopoints act as the main connection between the Alpine Convention and the territory.

The member towns Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, Morbegno, Bozen-Bolzano, Tolmin and Villach have Infopoints. The staff there has been trained and they are ready to spread this knowledge to the regions with the help of promotional materials provided by the Permanent Secretariat.

[More information](#)

ATLAS

The Atlas of the Alpine Convention is an exciting tool. There are maps on all kinds of topics like demographic maps, tourism, transport, water, etc. Data from the Reports on the State of the Alps goes into it and also from the other projects or contracting parties is collected and presented cartographically. Scientific findings can be used for policy making. And with the help of the existing data, one can also create one's own maps.

[Map of the Alpine Town of the Year Association](#)