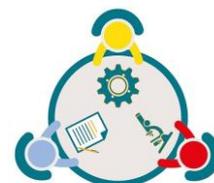


# A-RING – ALPINE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITY GOVERNANCE

NEWSLETTER 1, APRIL 2021



## A-RING, AN INTRODUCTION BY LP REPRESENTATIVE GIUSEPPE DE LUCA



Dear Readers, with the first edition of [A-RING](#) newsletter we are pleased to introduce you to this Interreg Alpine Space project and its partners. Today three A-RING project partners are presenting themselves, sharing the most relevant details of their institutions, their role in the project and main activities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the newsletter is dedicated to an update on what has been achieved within the first two work packages of the project; and a highlight of past and upcoming event. Finally, you will find a few details about the partnership, the website and social media.

The Covid-19 pandemic forced the project, that was for a great part devoted to the sharing of experiences and on boosting cooperation and participations across the Region, to change its methodologies, so to adapt -as so many of us had- to an exclusively online execution. This created some delays in Work Packages 1 and 2, that caused the postponement and reconfiguration of many interactions. Nonetheless, the project has been progressing steadily. We are now happy to present you some deliverables from work packages 1 and 2. All project partners have been engaging with public authorities, businesses and academia for the last two years in order to develop the three outputs of the project:

- **Blueprint for Alpine Region Research and Innovation Agenda:** a strategic document aiming at defining a shared Research and Innovation (R&I) approach in the Alps;
- **Policy Briefs:** a roadmap with recommendations for policy makers to develop shared S3 strategies;
- **Alpine R&I Chart:** an action plan to foster transnational cooperation among academia and business sector representatives, to strengthen Alpine Region Research and Innovation.

The overall aim of the project is to **strengthen the R&I triple helix in the Alpine Region (AR)**, and to overcome the lack of a transnational approach and a shared vision on Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3/RIS3). A-RING will foster alignment between different R&I policy initiatives and institutional frameworks to effectively address societal challenges and improve the uptake of strengths and assets in the Alps.

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della  
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## SECTION 1 - PROJECT PARTNERS PRESENTATIONS

- **UNIVERSITY OF MILAN (UMIL)**

In 2006, based on the need to conduct applied research focusing on mountain specific challenges, the “**Center of Applied Studies for the Sustainable Management and Protection of Mountain Areas (GeSDiMont)**” was established. GeSDiMont is an organization composed by **8 Departments of Unimi** – the University of Milan – that promotes, coordinates and develops scientific and applied research activities regarding **mountain areas in general, with a particular emphasis on environment, agriculture and forestry**.

The “Ge.S.Di.Mont” Research Center active at the UNIMONT hub (Edolo, Italy) has the objective of promoting and experimenting **methodological and operational innovation** specific to the characteristics, complexities and needs of mountain areas; and to start activities of **joint research and technology transfer** on strategic issues **for the development of mountain regions**.

As **lead partner**, UMIL will ensure the smooth management of the project and the correct implementation of all PPs' activities with respect to timeline/budget. It will coordinate also the internal and external communication of the project, ensuring that all target groups and observers are involved in the project activities and can benefit from its outputs.

- **UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES KEMPTEN**

**Hochschule Kempten University of Applied Science (HKe)** is a higher education institution training in fields of engineering, business administration and tourism management, computer science and multimedia and social and health studies. A key feature of Kempten University is the broad and in-depth qualifications it offers with selected foundation degree programmes and a particular focus on practice and international aspects. In all the above-named fields' professors and research staff carry out research and development projects. These are centrally organized in the research centre “Forschungszentrum Allgäu” and the research areas **Mobility, Energy, Production and Social Innovation**. The cross-sectional competencies in the areas of information and communication technology (ICT) and artificial intelligence (AI) each reinforce the subject-specific expertise from the university's various faculties.

During the project, HKe takes over the group lead of the work package 3 “**Alpine Region based R&I**” dealing with the implementation of Seed Labs. In these labs, representatives from academia and business sector will work together and generate new ideas in the field of alpine research and innovation, whilst generating recommendations for public authorities.

- **UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA (FACULTY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)**

**University of Ljubljana (UL)** is the largest and highest quality Slovenian scientific and research organization. The UL ranks among top 3 % of the most prominent universities in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings) and among the top 600 research universities (Shanghai ARWU).

In A-RING project, UL FPA will be involved in consultation with SHs on strategic **topics** for **R&I in AR** with regional workshop in WPT1. It will support **PAs collaboration** in WPT2 and will be involved in creation of network model between Academia/SMEs,enterprises in Seed Lab.

UL FPA has **strong links** with the major **stakeholders** (public & private sector, citizens), is in the position to comprehensively analyse the innovation needs of the relevant social stakeholders, and thus contribute to a significant social impact of the project. With its interdisciplinary competences in the field of public administration and strong relationships with key stakeholders can carry out a preliminary analysis of the situation and challenges in the field of national research and innovation policies in Slovenia and the EU. Its cooperation can subsequently contribute to a wide range of topics within socio-economic and administrative areas.

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 POLYMERIS  
Polo in compresione del carbonio, gestione di materiali

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## SECTION 2 - FIRST RESULTS ON THE PATH FOR A SHARED ALPINE R&I APPROACH

### IDENTIFICATION OF A SHARED R&I PATH

During work package 1 (WPT1), initially led by the Ministry of Education Science and Sport of Slovenia, and from October 2020 by University of Milan, A-RING partners have engaged in an extensive consultation process with representatives of the triple helix, Action Group 1 of EUSALP and EC-JRC.

Data gathering and analysis highlighted that, indeed, the Alpine Region share **important R&I topics**: Digitalisation and **digital transformation**, including topics such as transformation of production and artificial intelligence; **Sustainability**, with special focus on circular economy, renewable energy and clean production; **Smart Mobility**.

To strengthen the cooperation efforts, several improvements are needed with particular regard to: communication, financing, simplification of procedures and setting up safe cooperation environments.

**Blueprint for Alpine Region Research and Innovation Shared Agenda** will be the ultimate output for WPT1, collecting and capitalising on the meetings, workshops and laboratories that involved all relevant stakeholders engaged in R&I processes and studied in all the three work packages.

If you want to learn more about this project's results, three deliverables have been completed and are publicly available:

- [Alpine dialogues & interaction toolbox](#): this toolbox aims at collecting useful techniques to organize transnational events fostering shared innovation processes;
- [S3/RIS Policy report](#): the report identifies the topics that can be used for interregional cooperation in Alpine regions starting from the current EU Strategy;
- [Transnational report on R&I](#): this document highlights the current and future R&I topics of interest in the Alpine Space.

### CO-CREATION PROCESS WITH ACADEMIA AND SMES

Public Authorities (PAs) are at the core of Work Package 2 (WPT2), led by Lombardy Region, which main aim is to develop a joint transnational approach for national, regional and local PAs that is able to consolidate research results into R&I policies supporting Smart Specialisation.

The **Alpine S3 Lab** methodology has been tested in three regions. Three tools have been developed to support the laboratories: Alpine Transnational Live Learning Sessions; Policy Pilot Live Scenarios; S3 Implementation Webinars. Moreover, a set of keywords and discussion topics have been identified for the implementation of the labs. The wish of the consortium is that the **Alpine S3 Lab becomes a tool** that Eusalp's Action Group 1 adopts and makes available **for all the 48 Alpine Regions to foster cooperation between PAs on different levels and stakeholders**.

The laboratories will be further tested and the resulting recommendations will be collected in the **Policy Briefs**, the final output of WPT2, which will consist in a collection of recommendations for a synergic and complementary collaboration to boost the development of Alpine Region's small and medium enterprises.

One deliverable has already been produced under this work package:

- [Alpine S3 Lab setup](#): this activity consists in setting-up a safe-space for PAs to work together on topics related to their RIS3.

With evidence-based S3, WPT2 will anticipate and fast-track regulations focused on shared topics of Alpine Region importance necessary to promote a joint S3 approach to generate overall benefits for entire Alpine community.

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## SECTION 3 – A-RING EVENTS

### ➤ Update on A-RING last event, held on 22.04.2021:

Held in partnership between the University of Milan and Confindustria Belluno Dolomiti, the first Matchmaking-Parley and Seed-Lab took place on Zoom. The main objective was to discuss on the most relevant topics for S3 in the Alpine regions and to launch a creative process to generate **innovative ideas for goods and services in the Alps**.

Despite the limits of online networking and exchanges, a few participants were particularly engaged and contributed in the creative process with a great number of ideas that have been freely added and collected on an interactive board. The topic that received the highest attention was that of Artificial Intelligence (AI), since its applications are flexible and can address many different issues. In particular, it has been stressed the usefulness of AI in creating systems for monitoring extreme weather events and their impact on mobility and infrastructures to the benefit of the public administrations, enterprises, research centres and citizens.

### ➤ In May 2021 there will be the following events:

- Matchmaking parley and Seed Lab Exchange Visit (FRANCE);
- Matchmaking parley (AUSTRIA);

### ➤ In June 2021 there will be the following events:

- Seed Lab Exchange Visit (AUSTRIA);
- Matchmaking parley and Seed Lab Exchange Visit (SLOVENIA)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT PROJECT WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

**A-RING website:** <https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/a-ring/en/home>

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/in/a-ring-interreg-alpine-space-49836a1b8](http://www.linkedin.com/in/a-ring-interreg-alpine-space-49836a1b8)

**Twitter:** [@RingAlpine](https://twitter.com/RingAlpine)

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Polo in soropredelovalni sistem za proizvodnjo, distribucijo in odpadke

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### TAKE A LOOK TO THE A-RING PARTNERHISP AND PROJECT DETAILS

Project partners	Country
University of Milan	Italy
Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences	Austria
Ministry of Education, Science and Sport	Slovenia
University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Public Administration)	Slovenia
University of Applied Sciences Kempten	Germany
Hochschule Konstanz University of Applied Sciences	Germany
Regionalmanagement Burgenland GmbH	Austria
Industrial enterprises Association of Belluno Province	Italy
Lombardy Region	Italy
Polymeris, French innovation cluster for plastics and composites industry	France
USI Università della Svizzera Italiana	Switzerland

#### PROJECT DETAILS

##### Funding

**Total eligible budget:** 1.350.583 EUR

**ERDF co-financing:** 1.147.996 EUR

##### Lead Partner

University of Milan – UNIMONT CRC GeSDiMont

**Project Manager** Giuseppe De Luca

E-mail: [giuseppe.deluca@unimi.it](mailto:giuseppe.deluca@unimi.it)

**University of Milan (UMIL)**

##### Duration

**Project start date:** 01/10/2019

**Project end date:** 31/03/2022

##### Communication support

**ALOT s.r.l.**

**Project Manager:** Dario Pone

E-mail: [Dario.pone@alot.it](mailto:Dario.pone@alot.it)

[www.alot.it](http://www.alot.it)

#### PRIVACY UPDATE - GENERAL PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

We are updating our mailing list in accordance with the new data protection regulations which come into force on 25 May 2018 in compliance with the A-RING website legal notice (link legal notice e-mopoli). Please note that we have never given our list to anyone, marketing operator or other, and that the data in our possession may contain only name, organization, e-mail address and sometimes also phone number, used only to address updates to you regarding information and news and / or events and invitations. If you want to stay in touch with us and be updated on various initiatives, you do not need to do anything, but if you do not want to receive our information, you can send an e-mail reply simply indicating "no thanks" in the subject, and your e-mail address will be deleted from our mailing list. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation and we cordially greet you. This publication only reflects the author's views and that the programme authorities are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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Polo in collaborazione con consorzio, università e imprese

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