

**MANDATE OF THE  
Natural Hazards Working Group (PLANALP)  
FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026  
(BETWEEN THE XVIII AND XIX MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE  
CONFERENCE)**

**1. Introductory remarks**

Importance of the issues selected and relevance of the proposed way to tackle them, including reference to the Alpine Convention and its Protocols and further strategic documents

Climate change and land consumption are leading to an increase in the risk of losses and damages from natural hazards. The fragile and densely populated Alpine region is severely affected by these risks. The protection from extreme events caused by natural hazards has technical and economic limits. Reducing the risks to an acceptable level is essential and can only be achieved together with all involved parties. The basic prerequisite is the public awareness and knowledge about natural hazards, which requires successful and effective risk communication tools.

In its previous mandate, the Working Group initiated the exchange and transfer of innovative and effective tools in the field of communication of natural hazards to strengthen the risk management within the member countries. In the period 2025-2026, these transfers will be completed and assessed.

**2. Planned topics and activities**

**Topic No. 1: Pilot implementation of communication tools**

Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference (knowledge sharing, policy setting etc.)

During the last mandate (2023-2024), PLANALP has compiled a collection of best practices of successful risk communication tools from all member countries. In a next step five partnerships between the countries were set up to transfer selected examples to other countries in form of pilot projects.

In this mandate phase (2025-2026), the countries will proceed with the implementation process. During implementation, the partner countries will work closely together to improve and further develop the tools and adapt them to the specific legal and societal conditions in each country.

Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)

*Description*

*Tentative timeline*

a. Natural hazard model from Bavaria transferred to Austria

Until mid-2026

b. Educational trail from Austria and flood information website from Bavaria transferred to South Tyrol	Until mid-2026
c. Forest and vegetation fire prevention campaign from France transferred to Austria	Until mid-2026
d. Risk communication activities in schools from Slovenia & South Tyrol transferred to Bavaria	Until mid-2026
e. Civil protection and schools programme from South Tyrol transferred to Slovenia	Until mid-2026
Expected outputs (statement, report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
- Different outputs depending on the communication tool like physical models, informational websites, open-air exhibition, educational material	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	
The communication tools will be used permanently.	

<b>Topic No. 2: Assessment of pilot projects</b>	
Topic outline and objective until the XIX Alpine Conference	
The Working Group started in the previous mandate to design a process to evaluate the success of the different pilot projects. The identification of basic assessment criteria and elaboration of an assessment sheet will be finalised, and they will be used in an evaluation campaign. Especially the process of transferring and implementing each tool will be assessed. Depending on the respective pilot project, the impact on the target group will be evaluated as well.	
Envisaged activities (desk research, collection of good practices, workshop etc.)	
<i>Description</i>	<i>Tentative timeline</i>
a. Finalising the assessment sheets	Until Q3 2025
b. Carrying out the assessment	Until end of 2026
Expected outputs (report, brochure, exhibition etc.)	
- Assessment report	
Potential follow-up after the XIX Alpine Conference	

The report will help to better assess whether the activities of the Working Group are successful or whether the working method needs to be adapted in the future. Furthermore, the results of the mandate will set an important benchmark for international and cross-border exchange on the use and applicability of communication instruments in the fields of natural hazards and climate adaptation.

### 3. TWB meetings schedule

Tentative dates and settings of meetings (month or quarter, online/in presence)

Meeting Q2 2025: online or in presence  
Meeting Q3/Q4 2025: online or in presence  
Meeting Q2 2026: online or in presence  
Meeting Q3 2026: online or in presence

### 4. Cooperation

Planned cooperation with other Alpine Convention bodies and further relevant partners and processes, and the expected benefits

PLANALP will cooperate with the relevant stakeholders in order to transfer, implement and assess the communication tools and will support the Permanent Secretariat and the Presidency with their activities:

- National administrations; depending on their role in the selected best practice examples, involvement of e.g. communication divisions of the national administrations for the implementation.
- Local and regional stakeholders; support of the implementation of the communication initiatives in pilot regions/municipalities.
- EUSALP AG8 (back-to-back meetings are very rewarding and should be pursued); mutual profit from the experience and knowledge of members.
- Presidency; support of the Italian presidency with the Report on the State of the Alps dedicated to glaciers, on the topics related to PLANALP (e.g. glacier melting and permafrost thawing).
- Alpine Climate Board; support of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0, especially for the implementation pathway IP\_NH3 "Support measures to enhance individual risk precaution".

### 5. Communication

Communication objectives, targets and respective planned measures

The implementation of the pilot projects not only improves risk communication within the member countries, but also supports publicity and knowledge transfer of PLANALP and the Alpine Convention. Besides these activities, PLANALP members ensure to:

- Enhance the online-presentation of the group on the website of the Alpine Convention

- Cooperate with the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention for the dissemination of information through its website and social media channels.
- Promote efforts to contribute actively in conferences and expert meetings and present the work of the working group.

## 6. Link to the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2023-2030 of the Alpine Conference

Contribution of the activities to some or all of the priority areas of the MAP 2023-2030 (interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs with the specific objectives below)

**MAP Priority area 1 – Biodiversity and ecosystems:** *Contribute to the achievement of the European and international objectives to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in the Alps; Strengthen the Alpine Convention's own biodiversity and ecosystem-related activities and integrate the topic into the work of all its bodies*

By emphasising nature-based solutions, PLANALP contributes to this priority area of the MAP.

**MAP Priority area 2 – Climate action:** *Implement the Climate Action Plan 2.0 on the way to reach climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps by 2050; Pursue cross-sectoral activities and look for cooperation beyond the environmental and climate sector*

PLANALP cooperates with the ACB to support the process of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan 2.0 regarding the natural hazard pathways.

**MAP Priority area 3 – Quality of life:** *Further the Alpine Convention's knowledge on the quality of life of people in the Alps, acknowledging and respecting territorial and individual differences; Promote the inclusion of quality-of-life measures in public policy-making processes at all territorial levels*

PLANALP contributes to the quality of life by mitigating the risks of natural hazards to ensure that the alpine region remains liveable for future generations.

## 7. Chair

The Chair will be held by Germany.