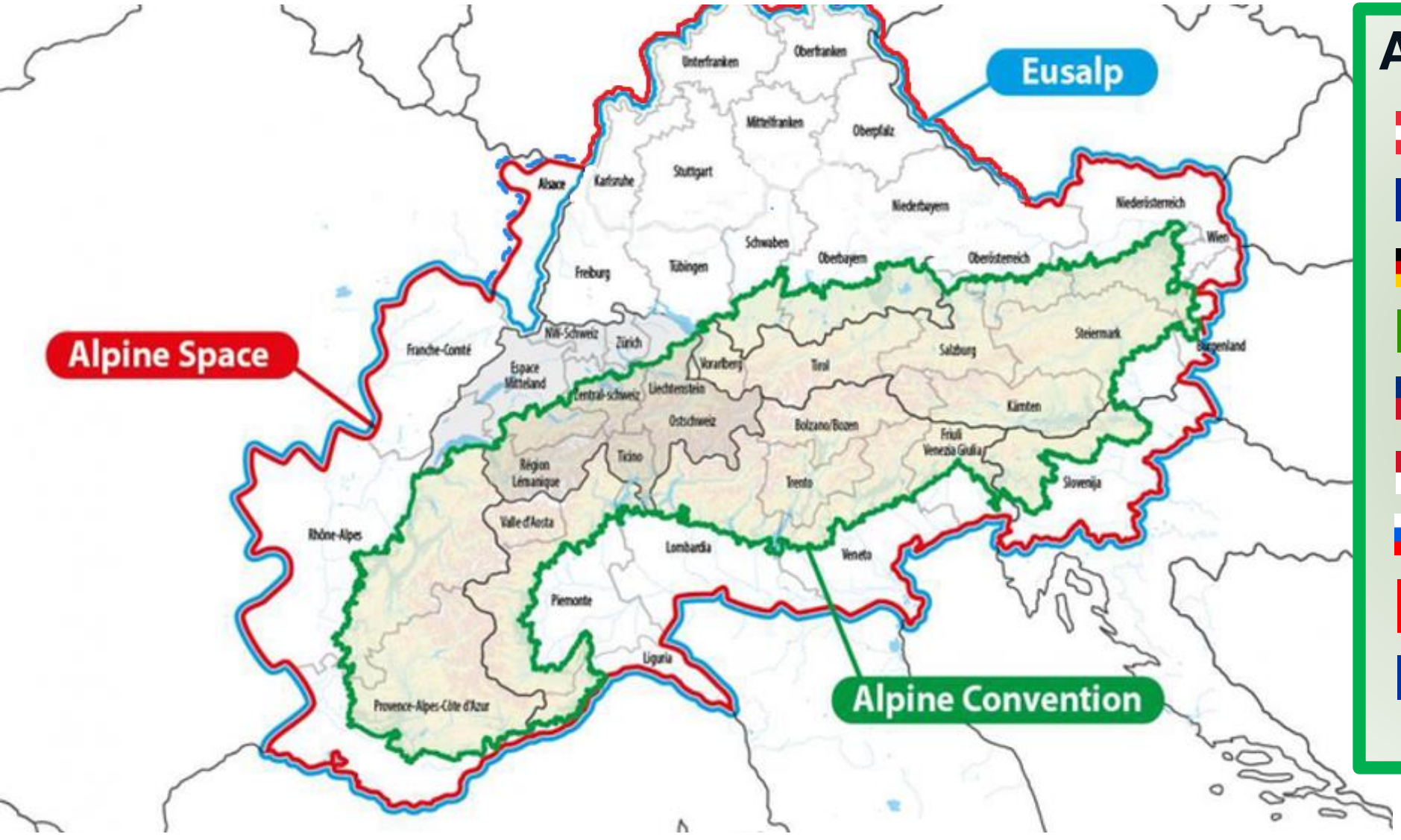
Who we are - The Alpine Convention



AC Signatories:

- Austria
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Liechtenstein
- Monaco
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- and the European Union

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Generation Renewal: insights from a dedicated questionnaire from the Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry Working Group (MAMF) of the Alpine Convention

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Valerio Comple and Claire de Kermadec (Alp Conv)

XIV European Mountain CONVENTION
30 June to 2 July 2026 - Sallanches

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Questionnaire on Generation Renewal

Initiative from the MAMF WG of the Alpine Convention

Four sections

- 📍 **Current situation -** Key challenges & Regional context
- 🐑 **Mountain pastoralism -** Specific opportunities & constraints
- 💡 **Policies & good practices -** Existing measures & Recommendations
- 🤝 **Future collaboration -** Interest in contributing to the Alpine Convention activities

Responses from *Italy, France, Slovenia, Germany, Switzerland and Austria*

Key Take Aways

Generational renewal: a systemic transition, not simply a succession issue

Although priorities differ across countries:

- **France:** farm transferability
- **Germany:** administrative and structural barriers
- **Slovenia:** land mobility and structural weaknesses
- **Italy:** territorial disparities and quality of life
- **Switzerland:** succession support and advisory services
- **Austria:** family succession, financial burden of farm transfer, gender equality and childcare, preservation of alpine pastures.

Common conclusion

Successful generational renewal requires mountain farming and forestry systems that are:

- 💰 **Economically viable**
- 👥 **Socially attractive**
- 🌄 **Territorially sustainable**

=> Policy implication: Integrated governance and long-term investment are needed, rather than isolated measures focused only on attracting young farmers.

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Some more details...

Farm succession

Key message: Structural conditions matter more than demographic trends; succession is a long-term process.

Country	Overview
France	Transferable farms; succession contact points.
Germany	Administrative burden; non-family entry challenge.
Italy	Emphasises knowledge transfer and preparation of the next generation.
Slovenia	Knowledge transfer programmes.
Switzerland	Strong farm handover advisory services.
Austria	Financial burden of farm transfer, intergenerational conflicts

Examples of initiatives

- France: contact points
- Italy: external succession pilot
- Switzerland: Hofübergabe platform

Policy implication

Support advisory services, mentoring and early succession planning.

Access to land

Key message: Access to land is the main structural bottleneck

Country	Overview
France	Issue linked to farm transferability.
Germany	High land prices and limited availability
Italy	Regional disparities.
Slovenia	Fragmentation and low land mobility.
Switzerland	Facilitate transfers beyond family.
Austria	fragmented ownership and complex property transfer

Examples of initiatives

- Italy: external succession
- Switzerland: transfer platform
- Slovenia: support for small farms

Policy implication

Improve land governance and facilitate transfers.

Economic viability

Key message: Profitable farms are more likely to be transferred.

Country	Overview
France	Viability drives transferability.
Germany	High costs and secondary employment.
Italy	Remote farms depend on off-farm income.
Slovenia	High investment, modest returns.
Switzerland	Viability remains essential.
Austria	Hight investment, limited profitability

Examples of initiatives

- France: GAECs
- Italy: young farmer support
- Germany: Bergbauernprogramm

Policy implication

Strengthen diversification and value-added production.

Quality of life

Key message: Living conditions increasingly determine career choices.

Country	Overview
France	Collective farming improves work-life balance.
Germany	Bureaucracy and multiple jobs reduce quality of life
Italy	Need services and better lifestyle.
Slovenia	Less emphasis on social measures but recognises rural challenges
Switzerland	Advisory services help families navigate transition.
Austria	Childcare, living conditions, generation renewal is also a social and gender issue

Examples of initiatives

- France: GAEC
- Italy/Austria: women and youth support
- Switzerland: advisory services

Policy implication

Improve rural services, infrastructure and attractiveness of mountain areas.

Mountain-specific constraints

Key message: Mountain farming and forestry requires tailored solutions because natural constraints reinforce structural challenges.

Country	Overview
France	Climate pressure affects production
Germany	Steep terrain leads to higher production costs.
Italy	Remoteness limits services and economic opportunities
Slovenia	CAP mountain measures are essential
Switzerland	Livestock protection adds new constraints
Austria	Abandonment of Alpine Pastures even if essential for ecosystem services

Examples of initiatives

- Slovenia: mountain support
- Italy: LIFE & Interreg
- Germany: mountain programme

Policy implication

Tailor support to mountain conditions.

Pastoralism

Key message: Generational renewal in pastoralism is even more constrained by structural, economic and territorial challenges.

Country	Overview
Austria	Ageing farming population and labour shortages in alpine grazing systems.
France	Difficult working conditions and increasing pressure from predation.
Germany	High labour requirements and limited profitability.
Italy	Depopulation and remoteness undermine pastoral systems
Slovenia	Small-scale mountain farms are vulnerable
Switzerland	High production costs and livestock protection remain major challenges.

Examples of initiatives

- Mountain support measures under the CAP
- Training and advisory services for pastoral farmers
- Local initiatives promoting pastoral products and transhumance

Policy implication

- Strengthen the economic viability, professional attractiveness and territorial resilience of mountain pastoralism through integrated support measures.

Integrated policies

Key message: Generational renewal requires coordinated sectoral policies.

Country	Overview
France	Promotes a systemic approach linking multiple policy areas.
Germany	Prioritises reducing administrative complexity.
Italy	Combines agricultural and territorial development measures
Slovenia	Integrates finance, knowledge and income support.
Switzerland	Focuses on maintaining vibrant rural territories
Austria	Combine CAP support with rural infrastructure, education and social policies

Examples of initiatives

- Combination of advisory, finance, training and territorial measures

Policy implication

Align agriculture, forestry, education, land-use and rural development policies.

Three tables – Three key questions

🚜 Table 1 – Can mountain farming be an attractive profession?

Focus: Attractiveness of Farming as a viable profession (Economic incentives & barriers, Career opportunities)

🌱 Table 2 – Can I enter farming?

Focus: Access to mountain farming (Land, Finance, Succession, Support for new entrants)

🏔️ Table 3 – Can I build a life in mountain areas?

Focus: Territorial attractiveness (Quality of life, Vibrant communities, Territorial opportunities)

=> Together, these three dimensions shape successful generational renewal

Discussion Framework

Each table will address the same three questions:

✅ **1. What already works? Good practices,** Successful initiatives, Inspiring examples

💡 **2. What should change? Policy recommendations,** CAP and sectoral policies, National and regional actions, Local governance

📊 **3. What do we still need to know? Knowledge and data needs,** Missing evidence, Data gaps, Future research priorities

🎯 **Expected output:** A concise set of good practices, policy recommendations and knowledge needs for each of the three themes.

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THE ALPINE CONVENTION IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TREATY FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A CROSS-BORDER MOUNTAINOUS REGION

italian presidency 2025 - 2026
alpine convention
Together we can!

Thank you!

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