

# Digital Alps Conference 2024

## Concept note

**Venue:** InnoRenew CoE, Livade 6a  
6310 Izola, Slovenia  
**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### 1. Background

The Digital Alps Conference is a major event of the Macro regional strategy for the Alpine area EUSALP. The event is promoted by Action group 5 with the aim to bring together all initiatives and projects dealing with digitalization in the Alps and to unleash the potentials of digitalization.

The first Digital Alps Conference was held in May 2021 and brought together more than 200 participants from all over Europe. In 2022 the Friuli Venezia Giulia region hosted the second edition in Trieste and with the support of the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano as EUSALP Italian Presidency. The third Digital Alps Conference was held at Skyway Mont Blanc in Courmayeur (Italy), presenting both plenary sessions and thematic workshops with participation of regional institutions and European Parliament (see additional information on <https://digitalalps.eu/>).

The Digital Alps Conference 2024 will be an official event in the calendar of the EUSALP Slovenian Presidency and part of the Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2024, dealing with the main topics of digitalization and exploring the contribution of digital technologies to the Cross-cutting Priority 1 “Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps”.

### 2. Aims

The aims of the fourth edition of the Digital Alps Conference are to:

- bring the topic of digitalization to the forefront of policy making;

- discuss on how to unleash the potentials of digitalization for remote areas;
- strengthen the cooperation between urban and rural areas thanks to the potentials of digitalization;
- anticipate the future digital trends that are relevant for the Alpine area;
- bring together key stakeholders and networks in the alpine area dealing with digitalization;

In particular, the 2024 edition will develop the main topics related to the EUSALP CCP 1 on Digitalization of the Alps:

- create synergies between European Strategies for a conscious digital transition of mountain and rural communities;
- analyse the relevance of data in the Alpine area (water, forests, energy, etc) and new opportunities provided by AI;
- counteract the brain drain and encourage the settlement of highly qualified people in mountain areas;
- highlight the opportunities provided by remote working;
- take full advantages for local communities from Smart villages approach and the Alpine network of Smart villages and Smart Regions (the “Smart Alps” network).

### **3. Target public and participants**

The Digital Alps Conference is an event organized by AG5 of EUSALP. It is organized every year in a different alpine country. This will allow to get in touch with more key stakeholders and to increase the visibility. In the year 2023, the Conference was organized with the support of AG1, AG3 and AG9 of EUSALP in Courmayeur (Italy).

Target public for the Digital Alps Conference are:

- representatives from EUSALP and the Alpine Space Programme
- representative from public authorities and service providers dealing with digitalization
- representatives from existing networks dealing with digitalization in the Alpine area (BCO Network, S3 Strategies, Smart Alps Network, ...) and key stakeholders
- general public interested in digitalization

#### 4. Draft Program

The conference programme is under definition.

Since the Digital Alps Conference is an itinerant event, this year it will be an official event in the calendar of the EUSALP Slovenian Presidency and part of the Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2024.

The following is a draft programme.

##### 18<sup>th</sup> September, 15:00 – 18:30 (Digital Alps Conference, only for registered participants)

Location: InnoRenew CoE, Livade 6a, 6310 Izola, Slovenia  
 Main audience: Decision makers  
 Main language for presentations: English

Timing	Topic	Intervention by
15:00	Opening and introduction into the Conference and welcome addresses	Carlo Vigna - Leader of AG5 Milan Bogatič - Mayor of Izola EUSALP Slovenian Presidency (TBD)
15:15	Keynote speech on the relevance of the digital transformation of rural and mountain territories	Dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh - Slovenian Minister for Digital Transformation
15:35	Keynote speech on AI perspectives for mountain and rural areas from EU Commission	Andrea Halmos - EC DG DIGIT (TBC)
15:55	Introduction to parallel workshops	Mitija Ruzzier - Moderator of the event
16:00	Coffee Break	
16:15	Workshops in parallel	
	Opportunities for digital transformation of rural territories: the role of macro-regional strategies	Moderated by: Peter Niederer - SAB Speakers: Esa Kokkonen - The Baltic Institute of Finland Denis Goja - Padna Local Community Marina Balaic - Green Point & DIH Agrifood Darja Kukovic - ITC Cluster

	The potentials of Dataspace & Artificial Intelligence in the Alpine area	<p>Moderated by: Elisa Morganti - HIT Foundation, Mario Pichler - SCCH</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Mohammed Kussai Shahin - Trentino Digitale</p> <p>Matteo Gerosa - Bruno Kessler Foundation</p> <p>Christian Micheloni - University of Udine</p> <p>Clemens Gruber - Upper Austrian Government</p> <p>Gianmarco Piola - Piemonte Innova Foundation</p> <p>Chiara Cortiana - EUSALP Youth Council</p>
	New ways of work to encourage the settlement of youth in mountain areas	<p>Moderated by: Annalisa Cevasco, ANCI Liguria</p> <p>Speakers: Cassiano Luminati - Polo Poschiavo</p> <p>Lionel Croissant - Institute of Advanced Studies in Education and Training</p> <p>Luca Daprà - BASIS</p> <p>Martine Chaligné - AFRAT</p> <p>Sandra Pasaricek - EUSALP Youth Council</p>
17:45	Plenary session: Wrap-up of the workshops in parallel	Moderator of the event and workshops moderator
18:15	Conclusions and way ahead	Carlo Vigna, Leader of AG5
18:30	End of the Conference	

## 5. Logistical aspects

The Digital Alps Conference is a public event within the Mediterranean Coast and Macro-Regional Strategies Week 2024. Participation is free of charge but [registration](#) is required.

The Conference will be held in English with translation services for plenary sessions if required.