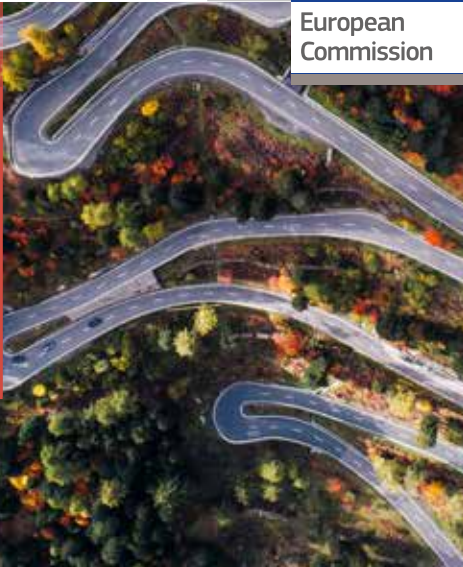




European
Commission



HOW THE EU HELPS MOUNTAIN AREAS

Europe's mountain communities can be remote and difficult to reach, creating challenges such as limited access to resources, services and markets. Balancing tourism and environmental protection can also be difficult. EU support can help turn these hurdles into opportunities to create jobs, boost local economies and improve lives. The EU-funded ALPINNOCT project is one such example.

Eco-friendlier freight transport to protect the Alps

An EU-funded project is striving to protect the Alps from pollution linked to increased truck traffic by promoting a road-to-rail shift for the transportation of goods. The aim is to cut congestion, exhaust and noise that can harm both sensitive mountain ecosystems and local residents.

The Alps, rich in biodiversity, have historically been important transit routes. However, over the past decades, mountain highways and passes in countries such as Austria, Germany and Italy have seen a surge in trucks transporting goods from one part of Europe to another. This causes considerable air and noise pollution, threatening the habitats and health of both animals and humans.

The EU-funded **Alpine Innovation for Combined Transport (ALPINNOCT)** project – involving 15 partners from Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland – attempts to tackle this problem by promoting the greater use of freight trains to minimise the time goods spend on mountain roads.

The project will achieve this by improving the efficiency of so-called combined transport, or CT, boosting cooperation within existing networks and developing innovative approaches to foster a more widespread shift from road to rail.



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'ALPINNOCT's end goal is to protect the environment while still getting goods to their destination as quickly and efficiently as possible using low-carbon transportation.'

On the right track

ALPINNOCT's end goal is to protect the environment while still getting goods to their destination as quickly and efficiently as possible using low-carbon transportation.

With project partners ranging from regional governments and transport ministries to freight agents, research institutes and NGOs, ALPINNOCT places particular emphasis on applying industry know-how and stakeholder participation to improve combined transport.

The project also provides a platform for Alpine-wide dialogue on combined transport, fostering communication and an exchange of opinions by bringing together all stakeholders and target groups.

To facilitate concrete action, ALPINNOCT deliverables include recommendations and guidelines on combined transport, as well as a toolbox – in the form of a handbook – complete with steps to implement the project's findings that could be useful for policymakers.



ALPINNOCT

Project full name: Alpine Innovation for Combined Transport (ALPINNOCT)

Sectors: Transport, Environment

Project website: <https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/alpinnoct/en/home>

Total cost: EUR 3 088 271

EU CONTRIBUTION: EUR 2 548 531

Fund: European Regional Development Fund

PROGRAMME: Interreg Alpine Space

Project start/end: 2016 to 2019

