

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002506/25
to the Commission
Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
(23 June 2025)

Subject: Education on legal awareness and protecting the land in the cross-border Alpine environment

The municipality of Borgo San Dalmazzo (Cuneo), located in a mountainous area near the French border and affected by extreme weather events like Storm Alex, has launched an initiative to create the ‘Cittadella a protezione del territorio delle Alpi Marittime’ (‘Citadel for the protection of the land in the Maritime Alps’). The aim is to host facilities for civil protection teams and the AIB volunteer corps ⁽¹⁾.

At the same time, the municipality plans to run educational projects to promote legal awareness and active citizenship, aimed particularly at young people, through interinstitutional partnerships, including at cross-border level.

In the light of the above, can the Commission please answer the following:

1. Are there any EU programmes and/or structural funds that can support local initiatives to promote legal awareness and active citizenship in mountain communities?
2. Is there any funding for integrated projects for preventing hydrogeological instability, managing natural risks and enhancing natural capital in cross-border areas such as the Maritime Alps?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2025)

Local communities or local actors can submit proposals for addressing various environmental and climate issues to several funds and programmes tailored to provide support. A guide to help applicants to choose the most suitable programme for financially supporting their proposals is available online ⁽¹⁾.

The EU programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) ⁽²⁾ provides financial support for projects that address various environmental and climate issues and related risks.

LIFE projects are awarded following annual calls for proposals ⁽³⁾, open to all types of beneficiaries (i.e. public and private entities, business and non-governmental organisations, research, cities and local authorities). LIFE projects have a bottom-up approach and are developed in close collaboration with local communities.

A project addressing hydrogeological instability, managing natural risks and enhancing natural capital in cross-border areas across Member States, as well as sharing knowledge and best practices in these areas can be eligible for funding.

The Commission has proposed to continue providing for funding for such LIFE actions also under its proposals for a new Multiannual Financial Framework ⁽⁴⁾ of 16 July 2025.

Interreg programmes ⁽⁵⁾ support cooperation projects and partnerships in cross border areas that cover also risk prevention and management with joint investments in capacities, knowledge, methodologies for more climate resilient territories, including in mountain areas.

Raising population awareness, with particular attention to local communities and young people, is also promoted. Programmes France-Italy (ALCOTRA) ⁽⁶⁾ and Alpine Space ⁽⁷⁾ both cover the Province of Cuneo.

These operations can also be supported from the Cohesion policy Structural Funds ⁽⁸⁾, notably the European Regional Development Fund pursues a specific objective of sustainable water management ⁽⁹⁾.

¹ ¹Corpo Volontari Antincendi Boschivi (‘Forest Fire Volunteer Corps’).

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/cba047ab-b6a6-11ef-91ed-01aa75ed71a1>.

⁽²⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁽³⁾ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/life-calls-proposals-2025_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://interreg.eu/>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.interreg-alcotra.eu/fr/presentation-du-programme#:~:text=Interreg%20ALCOTRA%20est%20un%20programme%20financ%C3%A9%20par%20l%E2%80%99Union,la%20coh%C3%A9sion%20entre%20r%C3%A9gions%20frontali%C3%A8res%20fran%C3%A7aises%20et%20italiennes>.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://www.alpine-space.eu/>.

⁽⁸⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/31-01-2023-eu-cohesion-policy-european-structural-and-investment-funds-supported-smes-employment-of-millions-of-people-and-clean-energy-production_en.

⁽⁹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en.

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme ⁽¹⁰⁾ helps people make their voices heard and increase inclusion and democratic participation.

Through calls for proposals under the ‘Citizens’ engagement and participation’ strand, projects that encourage exchanges among citizens and other stakeholders on the EU and its policies, including environment and climate related policies, are financed.

Examples of activities that could be supported include: organising public debates; using online platforms or social media campaigns to engage citizens in discussions; developing educational materials or toolkits to engage citizens; facilitating exchanges between citizens from different EU countries.

The Erasmus+ Programme ⁽¹¹⁾ supports the green transition as a horizontal priority. This includes cooperation projects promoting awareness, understanding and positive action on sustainability or the climate crisis, in schools and other learning settings, as well as active citizenship.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme/citizens-equality-rights-and-values-programme-overview_en.

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>.