



Alp-Water-Scarce – Water Management Strategies Against Water Scarcity in the Alps

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Alp-Water-Scarce is a European project on Water Management Strategies against Water Scarcity in the Alps funded by the Alpine Space programme as part of the "European Territorial Cooperation" scheme. The main challenges of this project are to create local Early Warning Systems against Water Scarcity in the Alps. This system will be based on sound, long-term monitoring and modeling and anchored strongly and actively within a Stakeholder Interaction Forum linked across comparative and contrasting regions across the Alps. The Early Warning System is based on the linkage and improvement of field monitoring and assemblage of qualitative and quantitative data derived both from natural water reservoirs as well as from anthropogenic water use in 28 selected pilot regions selected in France, Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland. These range across different altitudinal and climatological zones, from humid to semi-arid and include inner alpine dry valleys as well as pre-alpine regions. Both groundwater and surface water systems will be considered in addition to a wide range of regimes from glaciated, snow-fed to karstic. The objectives are to improve water management at the short term (annual scale) and long term (using future scenarios) based on modelling and application of climate change and anthropogenic scenarios. Innovative measures of mitigation and adaptation should predict and prevent future water shortages. Awareness raising and stakeholder interaction will form an important part of problem identification, participation in the project, dissemination of results and implementation of new approaches.

Alp-Water-Scarce started in October 2008 for a total period of 3 years and has a global budget of approx. 4 Mill. €. It has 17 project partners including 4 Austrian, 2 Swiss, 3 French, 5 Italian, and 3 Slovenian from local governments, provinces, federal institutes and offices, universities, regional agencies, alpine societies, geological surveys, and chambers of agriculture and forestry. The Lead Partner is the Mountain Institute in Savoy, Rhone-Alpes, France.