

Future-Ready Alps: Digital Transformation, Resilient Infrastructure and Public-Value in Data and AI in Dialogue with the European Commission

'Pitchers and Respondents'

Future-Ready Alps: Digital Transformation, Resilient Infrastructure and Public-Value in Data and AI in Dialogue with the European Commission

Session 3: Public Value in data and AI

Alison Hunter, Moderator of the conference

Mario Pichler, Software Competence Center Hagenberg (SCCH), AG5 Focal point on Data&AI

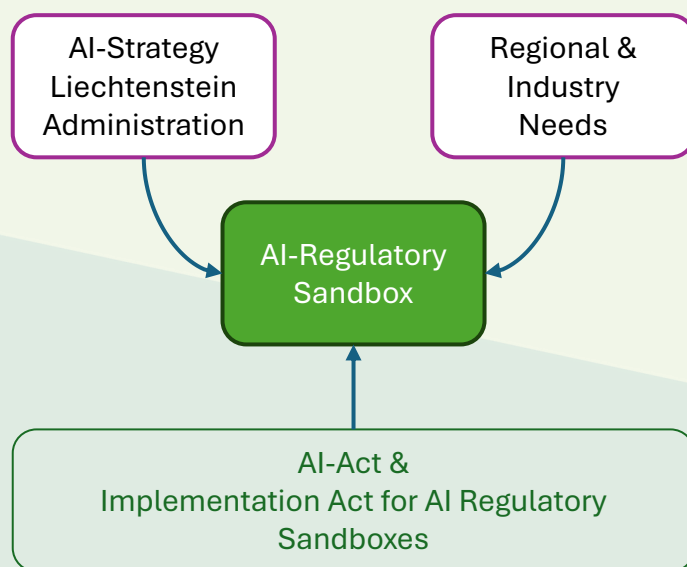
Kevin Boesch, Principality of Liechtenstein, AI Sandboxes

Gianmarco Piola, Piemonte Innova Foundation, Alive project

Niklas Rakowski, EU AI Office DG CNECT

How can data and AI generate public value in Alpine regions while ensuring accessibility, trust, and cross-border usability?

AI (Regulatory) Learning in Liechtenstein



AI-Regulatory Sandbox in Liechtenstein

Establish a regulatory Sandbox in Liechtenstein to foster regulatory learning and clear guidance.

Achieved Milestones & Open Challenges

Release of the AI-strategy for the National Administration of Liechtenstein with core pillars: People, Governance, Organization and Infrastructure.

Quantitative and qualitative study on the needs of the industry. Main hurdles identified: Regulatory requirements, access to data, and talent.

Clear Guidance and Building Blocks

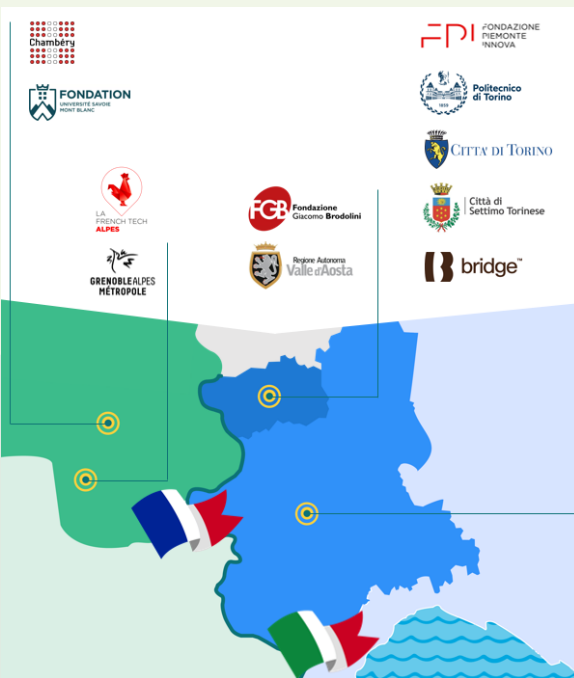
Artefacts (forms, template reports, systems) developed by the EU/EEA help to make sandboxes comparable across the single market.

Connecting Industry Needs with EUSALP Work Packages

Regulatory requirements in AI-Sandboxes, data access through data spaces (C3), Talent development with AI-hackathons and youth involvement (C1)



ALIVE – Alpine LIVIng lab innovation via AI Experimentation



Project Overview

ALIVE will deploy a cross-border, diffuse Living Lab across the ALCOTRA area – Turin, Chambéry and Valle d'Aosta, with Grenoble as observer – turning AI into a concrete lever for skills, entrepreneurship and smart specialization for SMEs and public administrations. Cities act as innovation drivers, and businesses access the Lab through a progressive Digital Passport funnel (orientation → qualified services → real-context experimentation), with solutions tested in both urban and rural/mountain settings.

Expected result

180-200 SMEs expected to engage directly, with 40 businesses accessing qualified services and 12 early-stage startups accelerated across the four nodes; 6 Proof of Concepts expected to be acquired by public administrations; a shared ethical trust framework aligned with the AI Act and GDPR tested simultaneously across Italian and French institutional contexts.

Challenges to face

Turin's challenge concerns climate transition and urban decarbonization. Valle d'Aosta focuses on sustainable tourism and climate resilience in a mountain context. Chambéry is activating an experimentation environment within local public services for the adoption of AI solutions.

Policy Recommendations

(1) making a cross-border diffuse living lab as a permanent infrastructure for territorial innovation, based on cooperation between cities, research centers and businesses; (2) developing AI-related skills and supporting SME access to innovation; (3) fostering the development, adoption and transfer of AI technologies through pilot projects carried out in real and diversified territorial contexts; (4) structuring collaboration models among urban, rural and mountain territories that ensure a balanced diffusion of innovation.

Point of Contact with AG5

- C.1. Mobilizing young people (Alpine AI Challenge) → multi-territory startup acceleration pathway
- C.2. Inclusive public digital services → AI solutions tested in the pilot services of Chambéry and Valle d'Aosta
- C.3. Dataspaces, digital twin and AI for alpine economic development → cross-border Living Lab as the operational evolution of the Joint Study AG2-AG5
- B.1. Digital infrastructure roadmap (indirect contribution) → urban-rural linkages approach between Italian and French nodes, with Mountain Testing in Valle d'Aosta
- D.1-4. Digital Alps Conference, policy and capacity building → ALIVE operational model as a methodological reference, trust framework and transferable PA toolkit

