

BEYOND BORDERS :

Climate, Cooperation and Action



*Concrete projects to tackle
the challenges of climate change*



Interreg



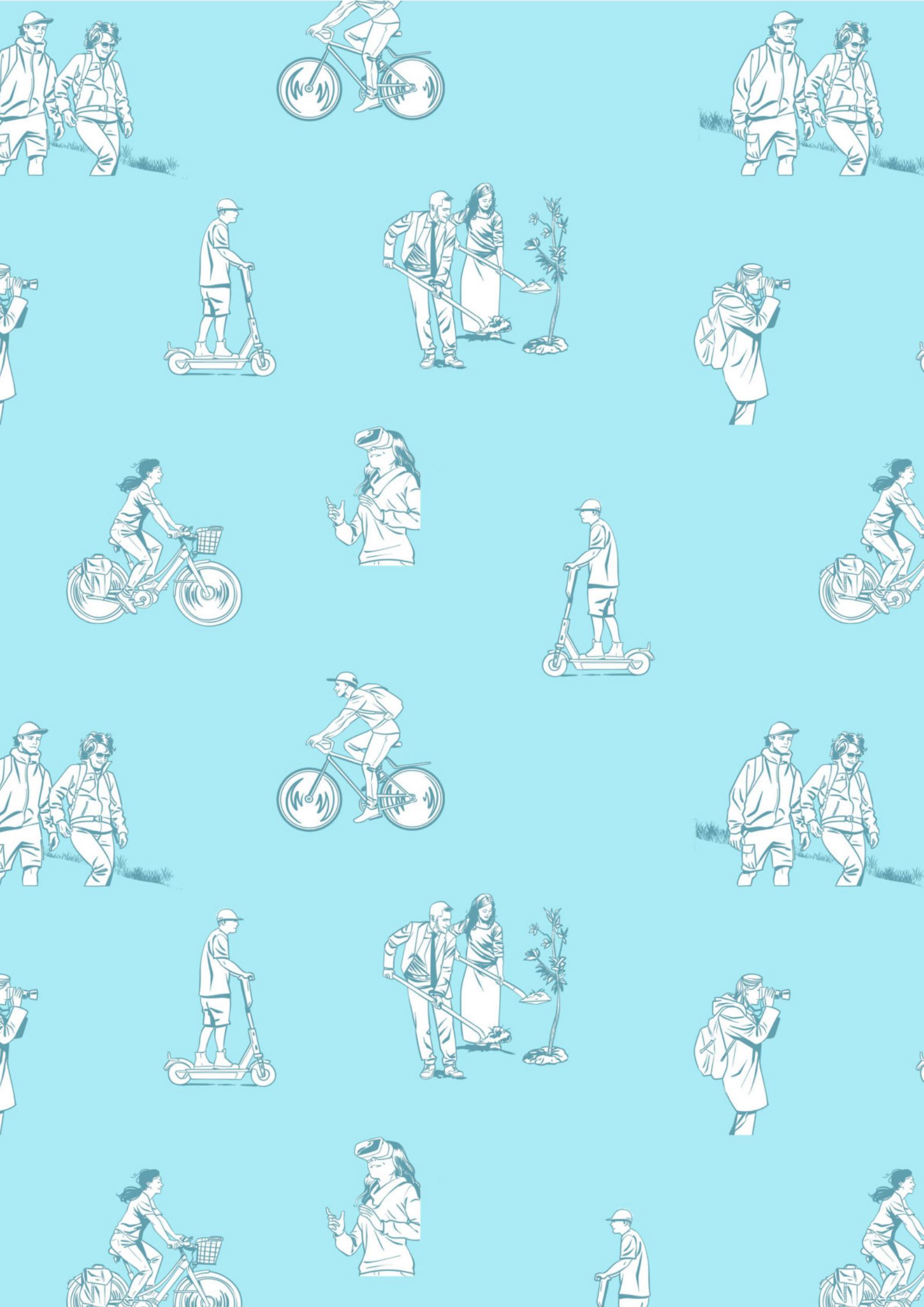
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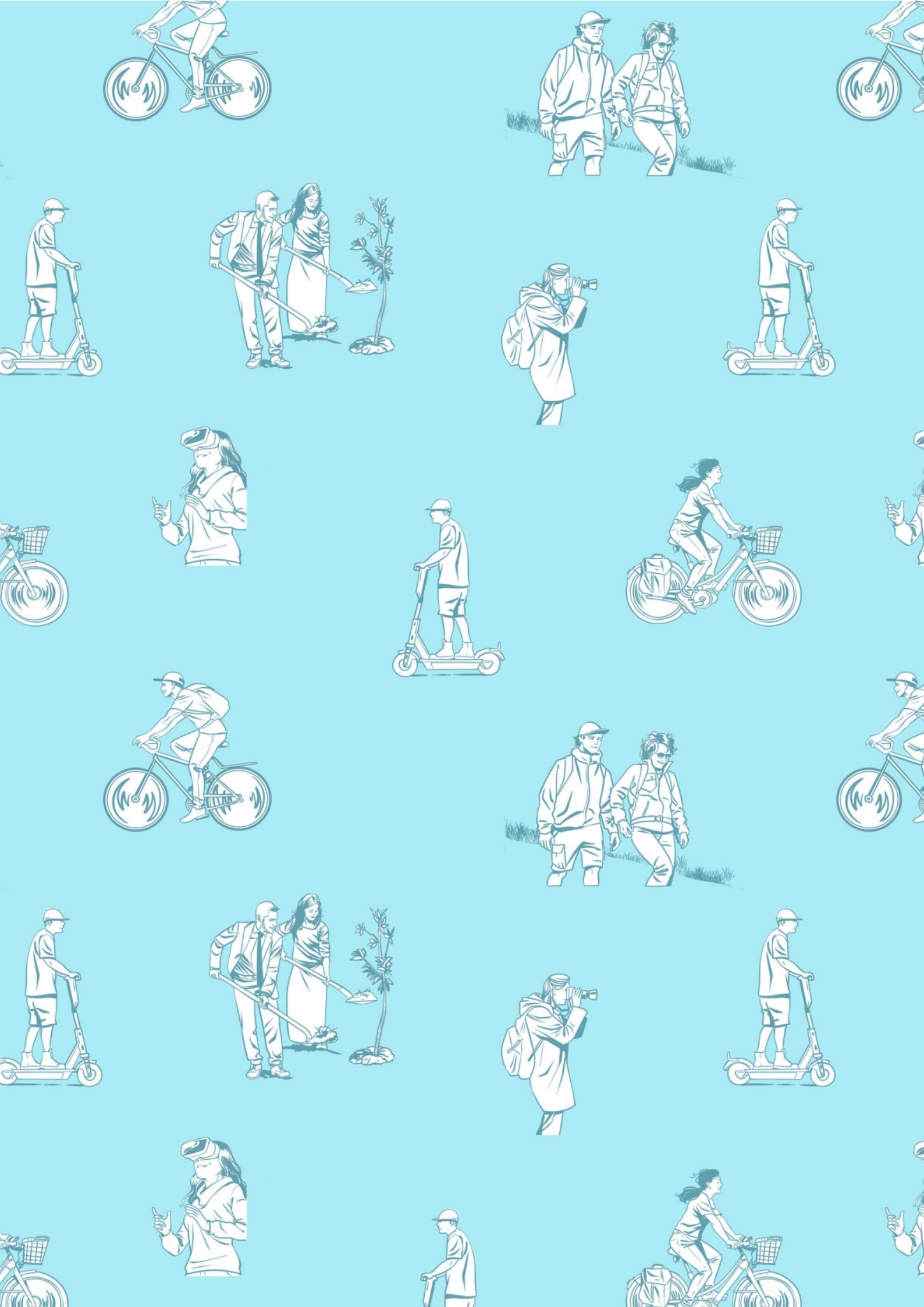
France – Italia ALCOTRA



La Région
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Autorité de gestion / Autorità di gestione
ALCOTRA 2021-2027

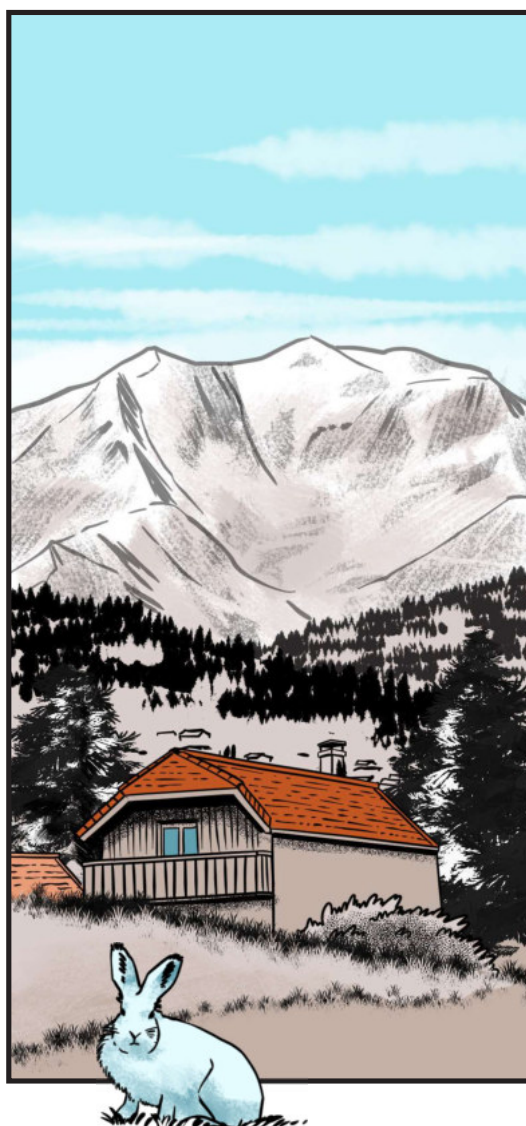




BEYOND BORDERS :

Climate, Cooperation and Action

*Concrete projects to tackle
the challenges of climate change*



Original design



Edito

Concrete projects to tackle the challenges of climate change

Climate change is no longer a distant threat – it is already shaping our landscapes, transforming the seasons, and disrupting our daily lives. But in the face of these challenges, solutions are emerging, driven by those who are taking action for a more sustainable future.

Imagined by the Youth Council of the Interreg ALCOTRA programme, this comic book takes you on a journey into the heart of the Franco-Italian cross-border region, where men and women are experimenting, innovating, and developing concrete responses to climate challenges.

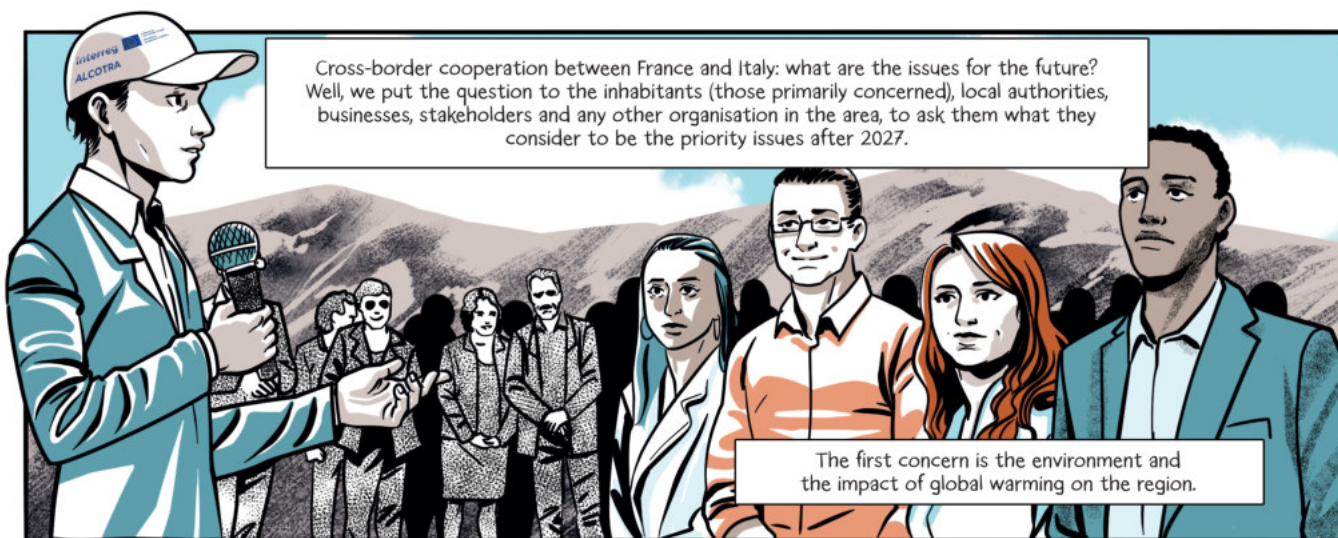
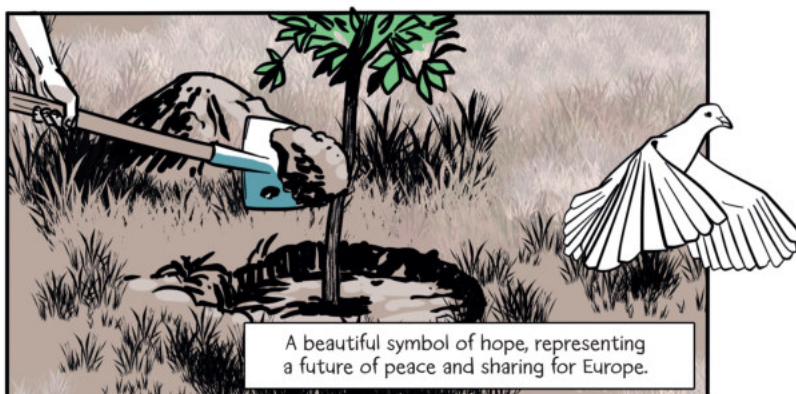
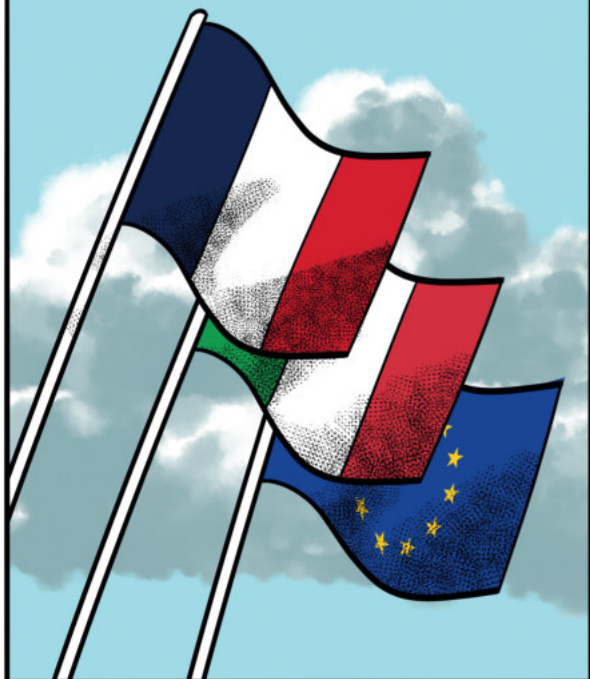
We, the members of the France-Italy ALCOTRA Youth Council, set out to meet them. Across the cross-border territory, we discovered inspiring projects funded by the programme. In these pages, you will recognise us by our ALCOTRA-coloured caps and beanies. Through our eyes, you will explore initiatives that demonstrate the strength of cooperation between our two countries – proof that together, we can build a more resilient future.

Our message is simple: in the face of climate challenges, solutions do exist. We hope this comic book will inspire you as much as it has motivated us. Because we build the future together.

Enjoy your journey!

The Youth Council of the ALCOTRA programme

For over 30 years, we have been building cooperation between France and Italy through European cross-border programmes such as ALCOTRA, Crossborder Cooperation Latin Alps



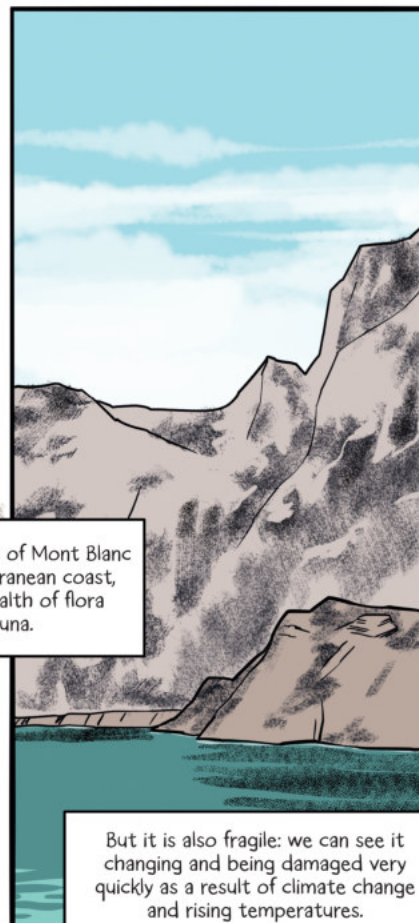
What we all have in common is a love of our region, because that's where we grew up.



Both unique and varied, its iconic landscapes are familiar to all.

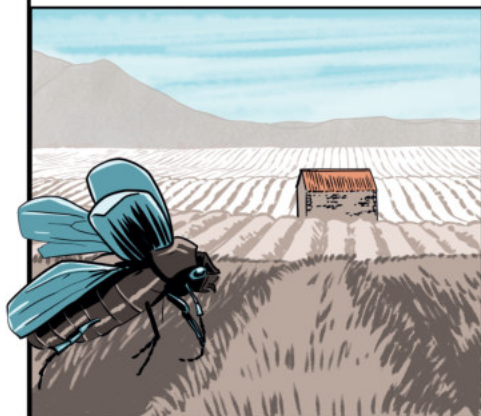


From the glaciers of Mont Blanc to the Mediterranean coast, home to a wealth of flora and fauna.



But it is also fragile: we can see it changing and being damaged very quickly as a result of climate change and rising temperatures.

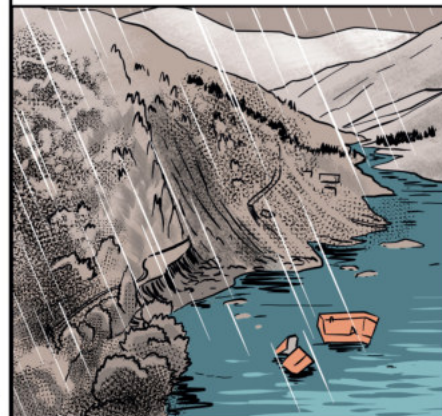
With the heat waves, lavender is threatened by the proliferation of insect pests.



In the mountains, the decline in snow cover at higher altitudes has an impact on tourism, but also on the water reserves available in summer.



On the coast, extreme weather events are on the increase.

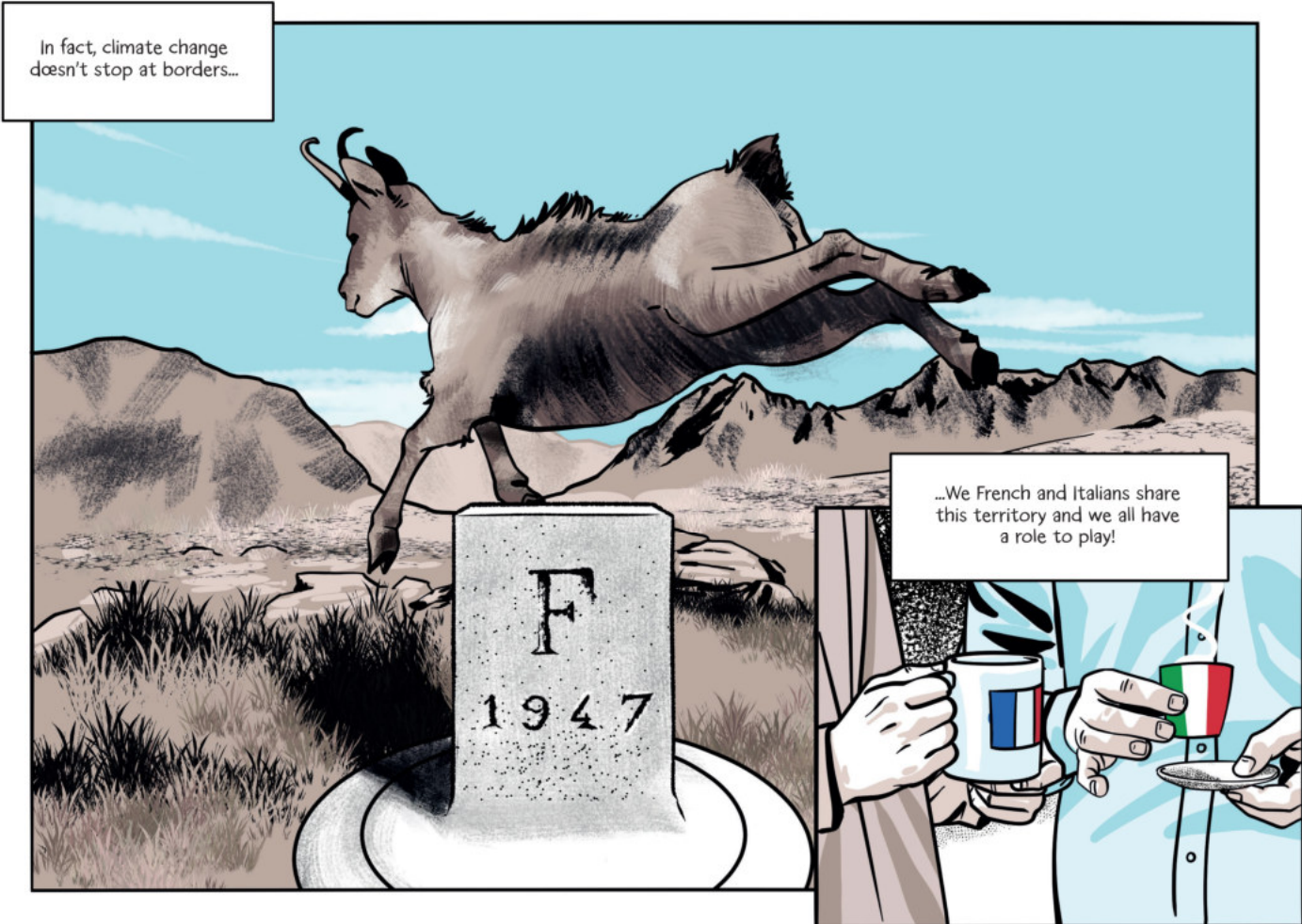
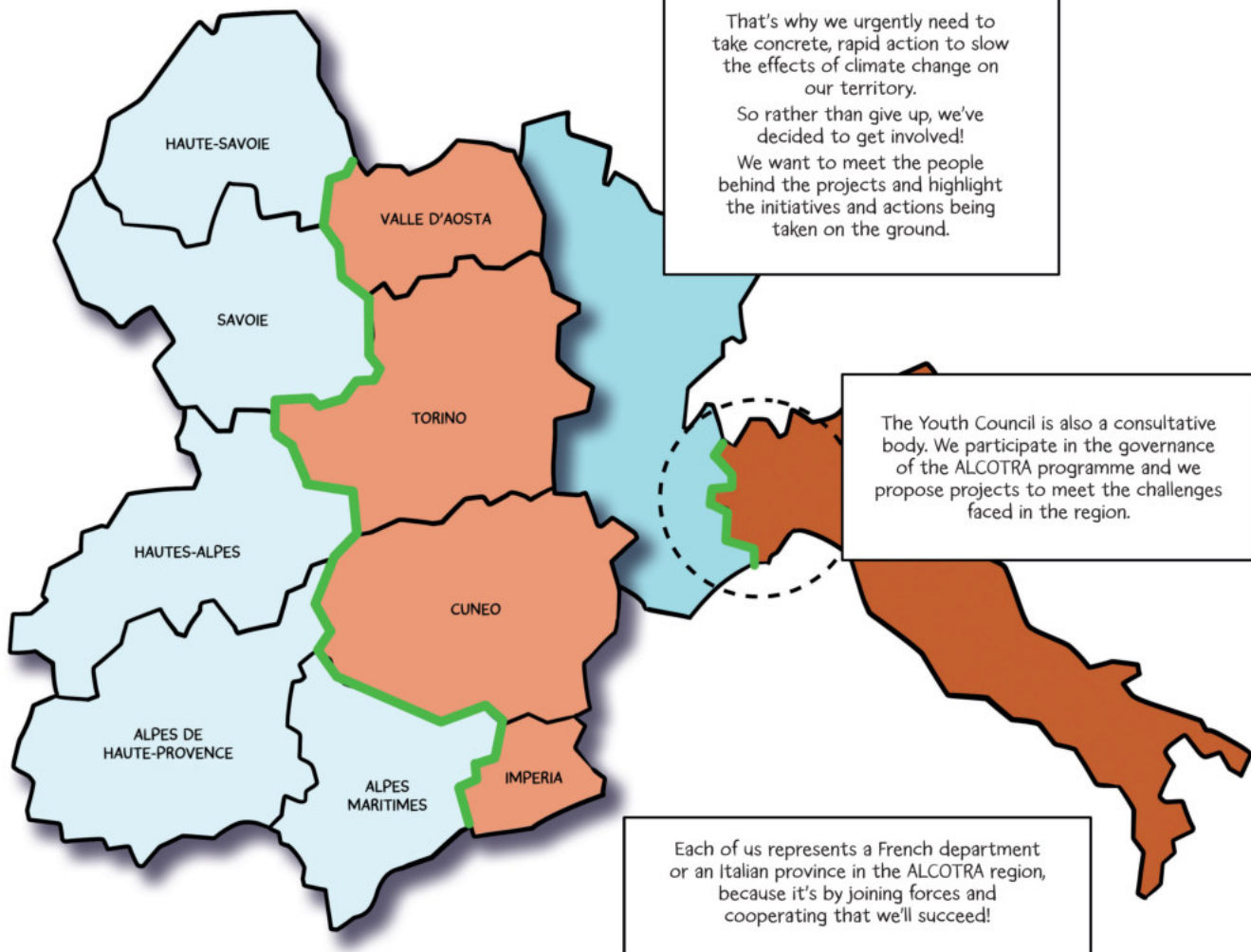


In mountainous areas, however, the walls are increasingly unstable.

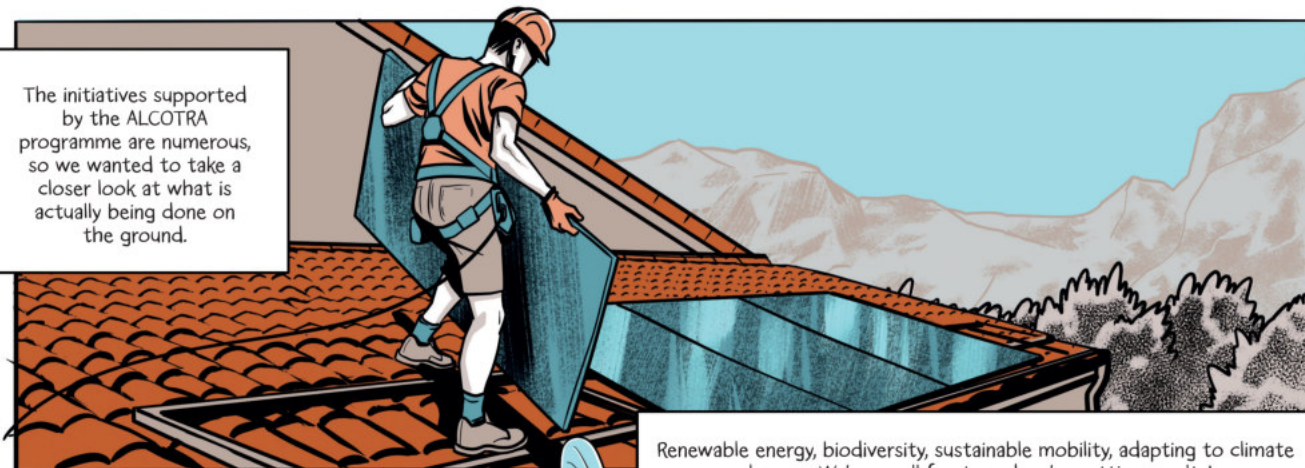


Finally, some animal and plant species are threatened with extinction.

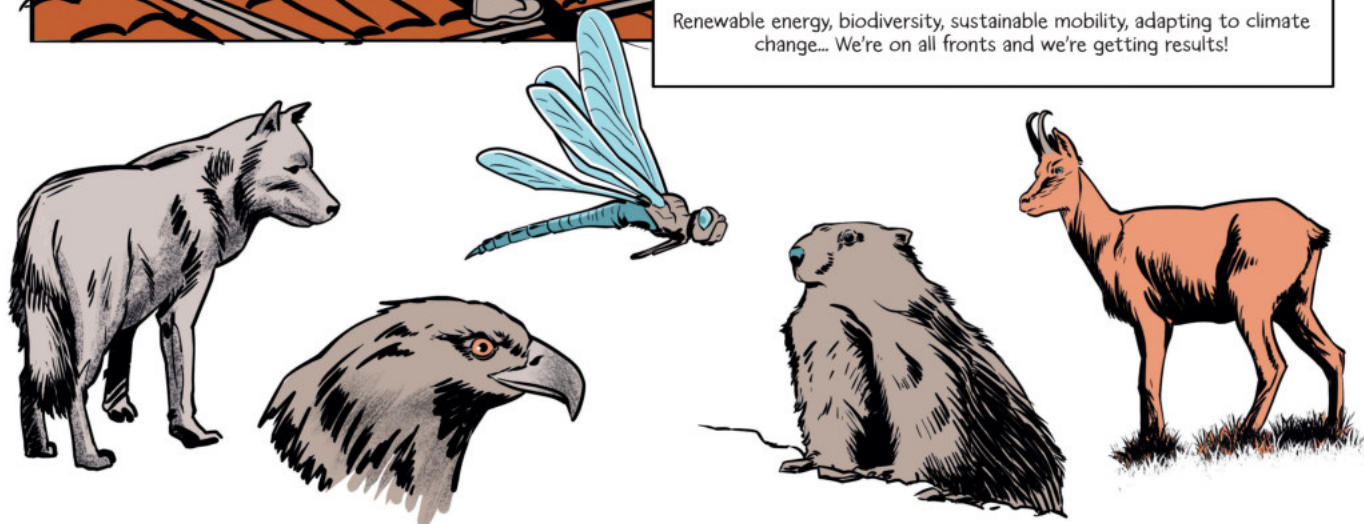




The initiatives supported by the ALCOTRA programme are numerous, so we wanted to take a closer look at what is actually being done on the ground.



Renewable energy, biodiversity, sustainable mobility, adapting to climate change... We're on all fronts and we're getting results!



Some projects are even branded with the Youth Label, awarded by the Youth Council to projects that respond to the challenges of new generations.

We want to meet the project leaders because we believe in the power of the collective: it's by creating links and showing what we can do on the ground that we'll be able to change things!





01- AdaPT Mont-Blanc

We begin our journey with the **AdaPT Mont-Blanc** project, run by the Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta, in partnership with the Communauté de Communes Vallée de Chamonix Mont-Blanc.

These 3 regions, at the foot of Mont-Blanc, share the same observation: climate change is undeniably underway, and Mont-Blanc is particularly exposed to its consequences...

For example, the Mer de Glace glacier retreated significantly from 1850...

...to 2020.

The first step was to capitalise on this knowledge with the Espace Mont-Blanc Climate Report, which describes different climate scenarios specific to our region.

Greening at high altitude

Return of fauna and flora

From melting glaciers to changes in flora and fauna, the scientific bodies involved in the project, including CNRS in France and ARPA and FMS in Italy, have studied everything in detail.

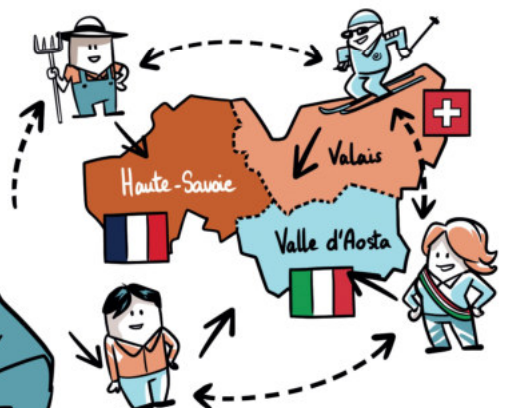
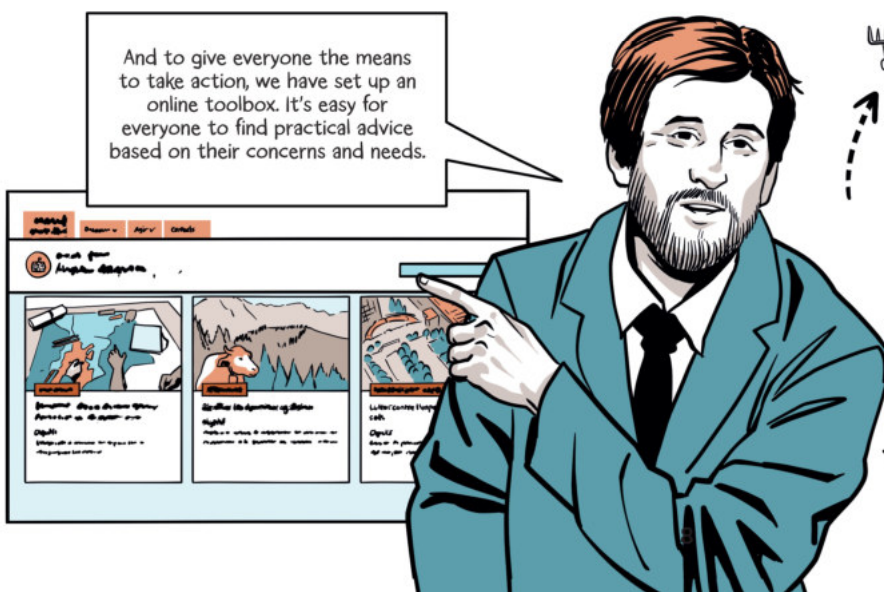
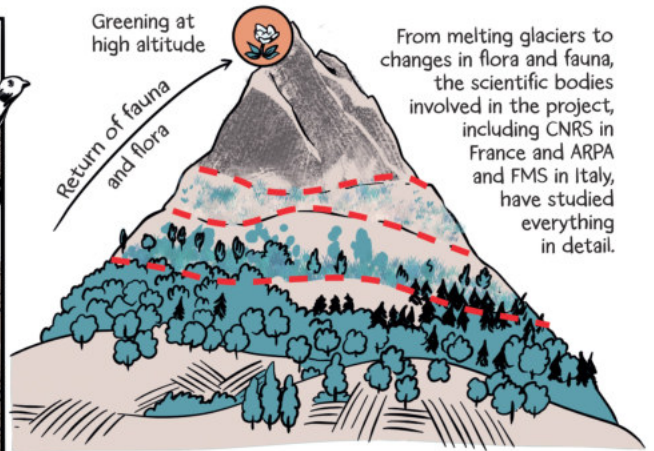
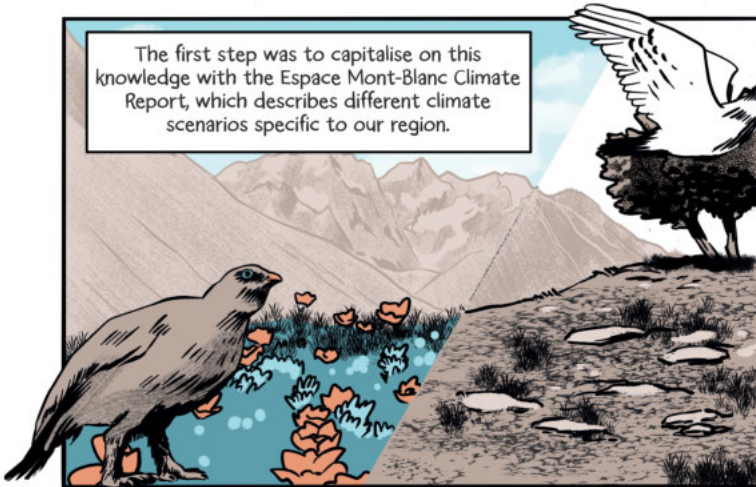
And the 2nd step was to share all this knowledge, right?

Exactly! Numerous local events have been organised.

Such as our 'World Cafés' to raise awareness among all local players: elected representatives, professionals and citizens.

And to give everyone the means to take action, we have set up an online toolbox. It's easy for everyone to find practical advice based on their concerns and needs.

The project is now over, but it has created a real dynamic for cross-border collaboration that has no end in sight!



02- Mission Carb 0

The **Mission Carb 0** project started in October 2023. It is supported by the Nice Côte d'Azur, Savoie, Cuneo and Torino Chambers of Commerce.

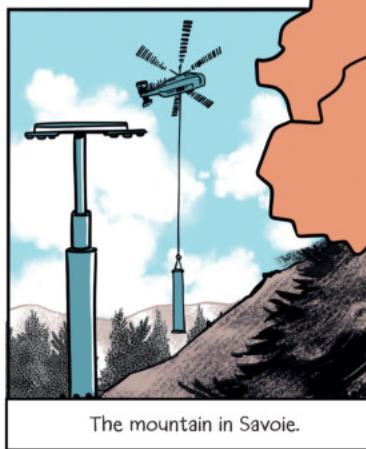
Decarbonisation programmes designed to help companies reduce their greenhouse gas emissions are mainly aimed at large industrial companies. However, the Alpin cross-border industrial fabric is made up more of very small network and SMEs.

Our goal is to help these companies identify their emissions by providing a simplified, free and fully supported carbon diagnosis.

We plan to support 80 companies in four sectors: mechatronics in Torino.



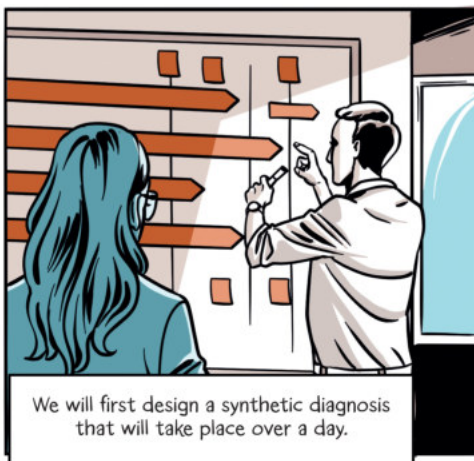
The agri-food industry in Cuneo.



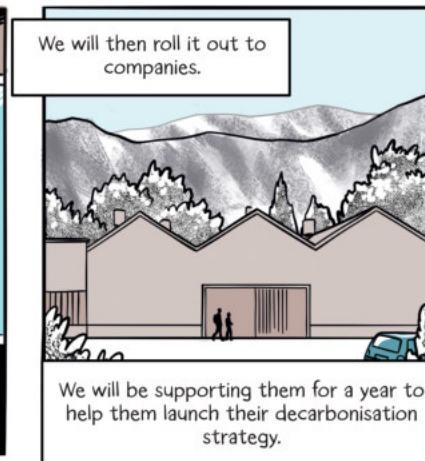
The mountain in Savoie.



And finally, perfume and cosmetics in Grasse.



We will first design a synthetic diagnosis that will take place over a day.



We will then roll it out to companies.

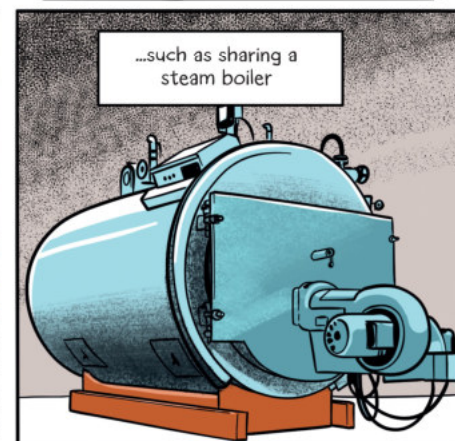
We will be supporting them for a year to help them launch their decarbonisation strategy.



Do you have any examples of proposed accompaniments?



We are planning to organise awareness-raising workshops for companies in the same sector to help them implement solutions...



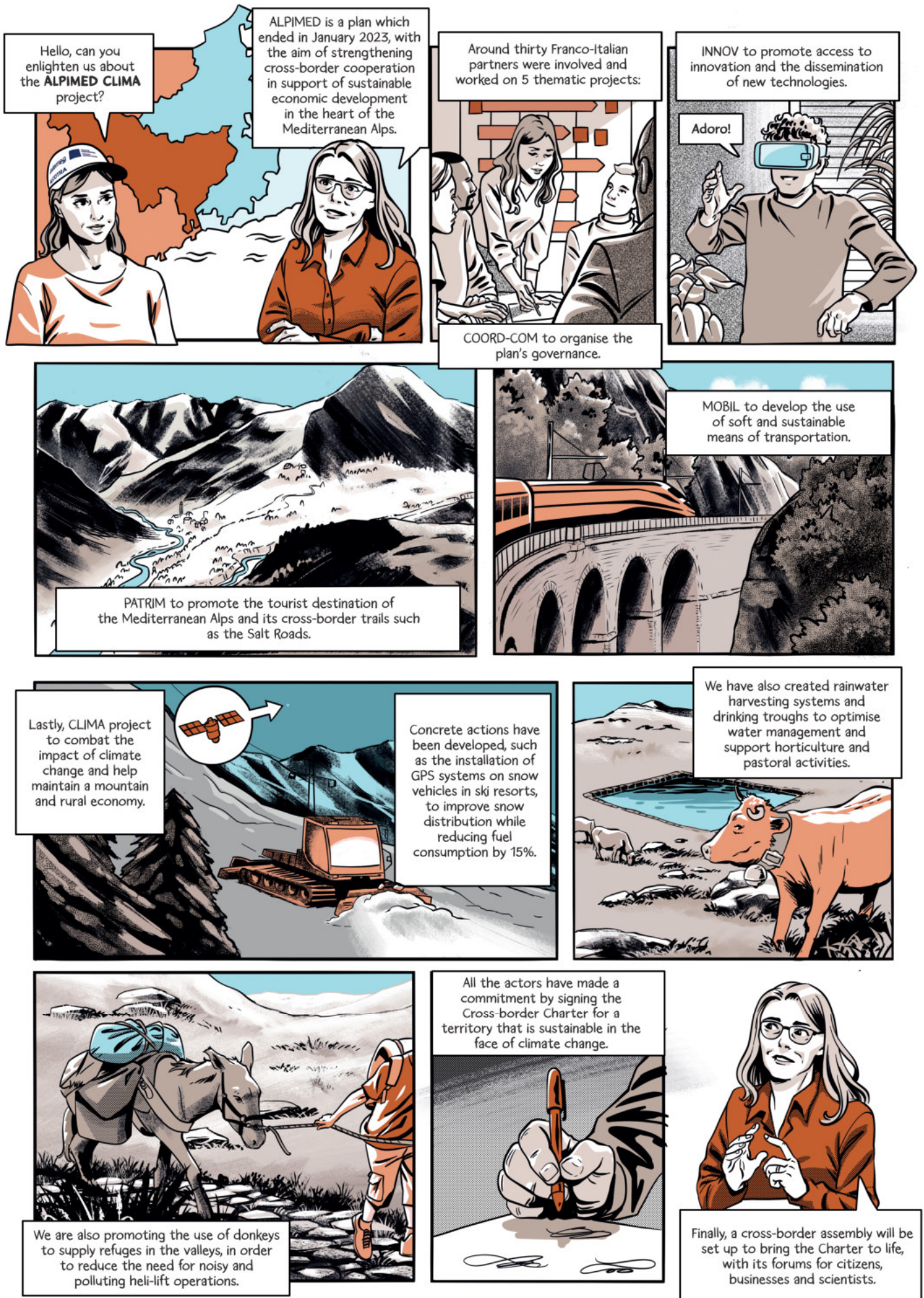
...such as sharing a steam boiler



At the end of the project, the knowledge acquired will be capitalised on a web platform.

This will enable other companies to identify their own decarbonisation levers.

03- ALPIMED CLIMA

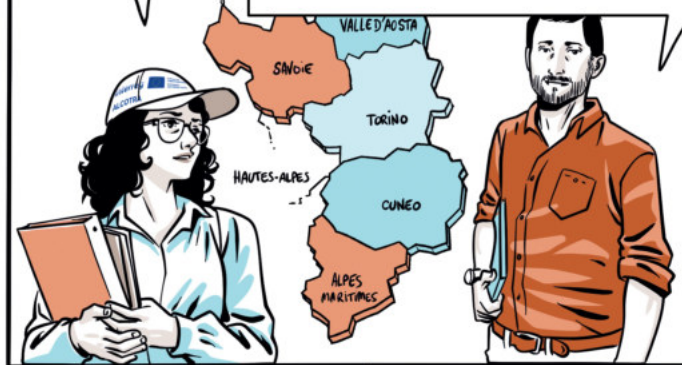


04- RECROSSES

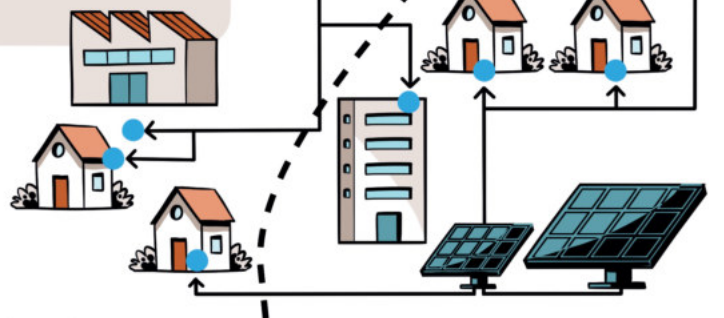
Good morning, can you tell us more about the **RECROSSES** project?

RECROSSES is the result of a Franco-Italian partnership between Environment Park (Torino), the CCI Nice Côte d'Azur, the Regione Piemonte, the Association Savoyarde pour le Développement des Énergies Renouvelables, the Association des Centrales Villageoises and the Finanziaria Regionale Valle d'Aosta.

The aim of this project is to contribute to the decarbonisation of the cross-border territory by encouraging the creation of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) between France and Italy.



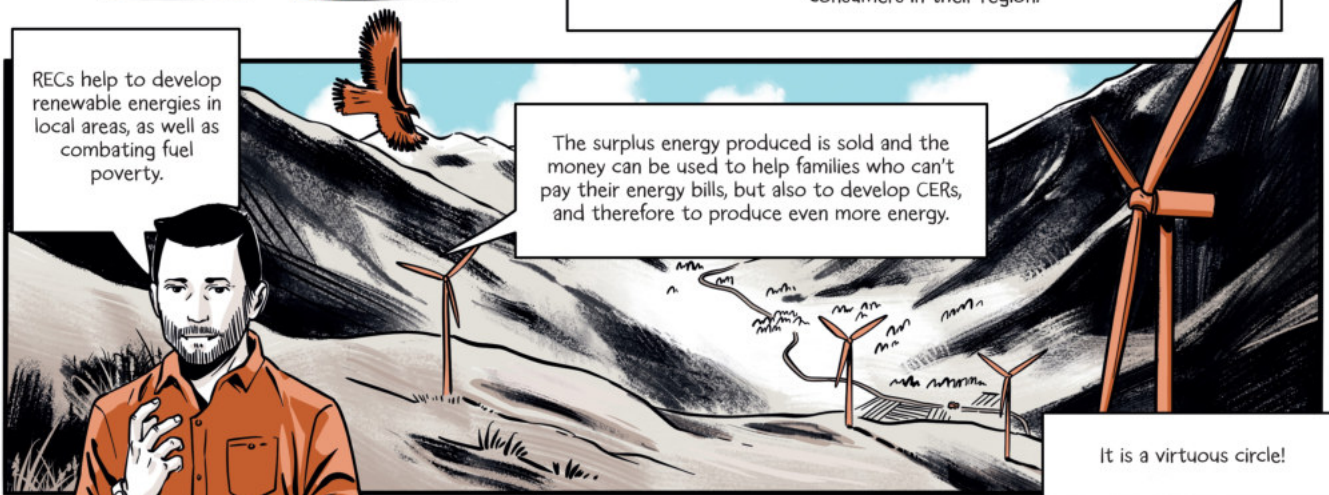
What are RECs?



A REC is an association of small producers (citizens, businesses, associations, local public bodies, etc.) who share the energy they produce using renewable resources (photovoltaic, hydroelectric, wind) with other consumers in their region.

RECs help to develop renewable energies in local areas, as well as combating fuel poverty.

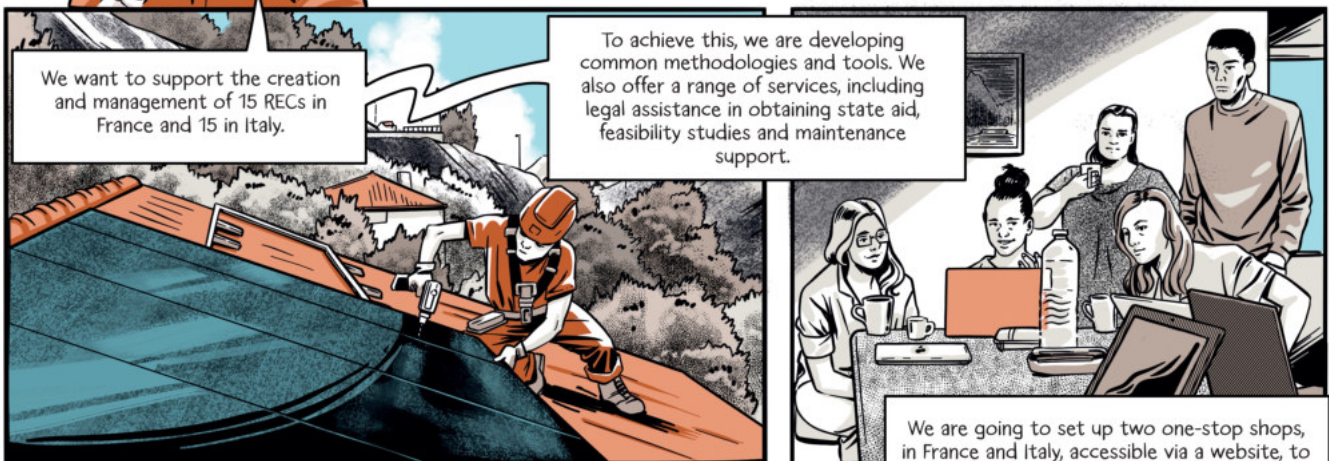
The surplus energy produced is sold and the money can be used to help families who can't pay their energy bills, but also to develop CERs, and therefore to produce even more energy.



It is a virtuous circle!

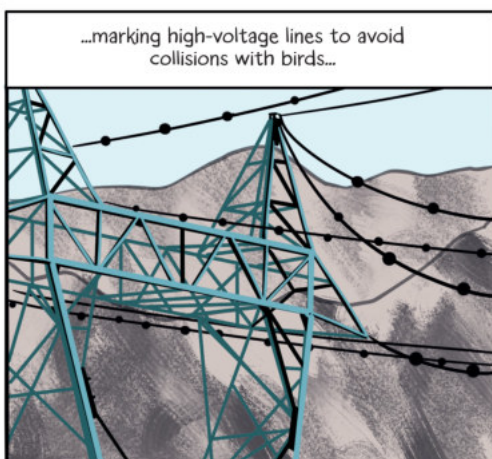
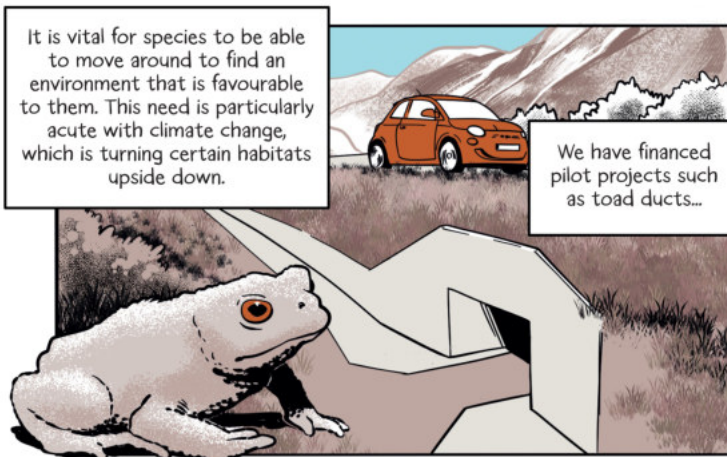
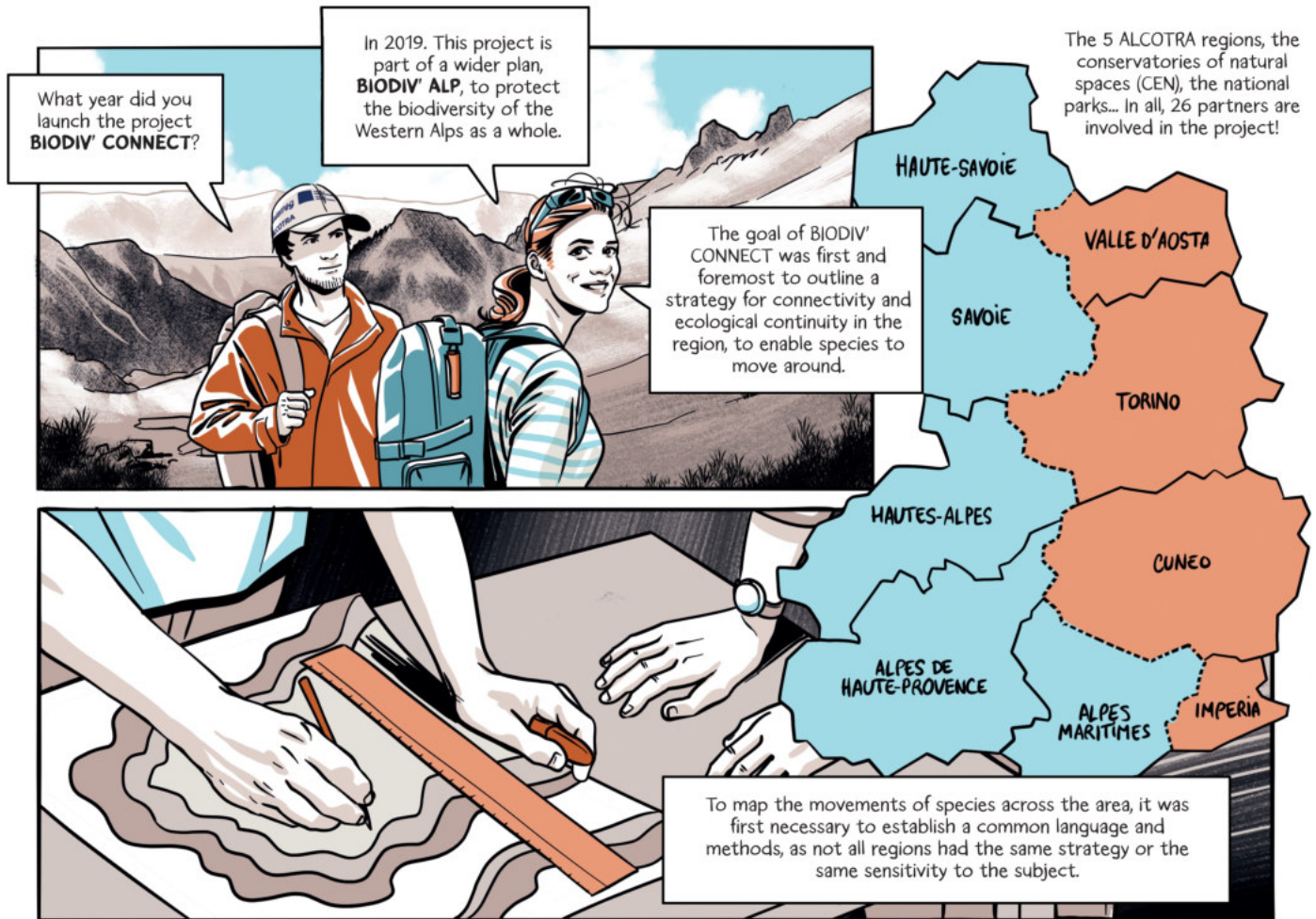
We want to support the creation and management of 15 RECs in France and 15 in Italy.

To achieve this, we are developing common methodologies and tools. We also offer a range of services, including legal assistance in obtaining state aid, feasibility studies and maintenance support.



We are going to set up two one-stop shops, in France and Italy, accessible via a website, to help all those interested in setting up RECs.

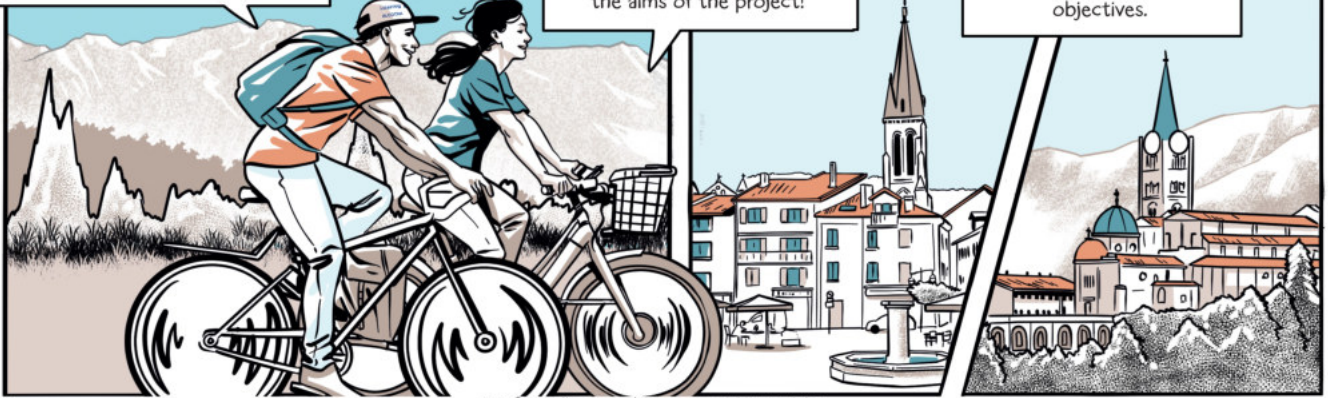
05- BIODIV' CONNECT



M.U.S.I.C. is a poetic name!
What does the project consist of?

The name comes from Mobilité Urbaine Sûre, Intelligente et Consciente*, which sums up the aims of the project!

The project is supported by the towns of Gap and Pinerolo and has three main objectives.

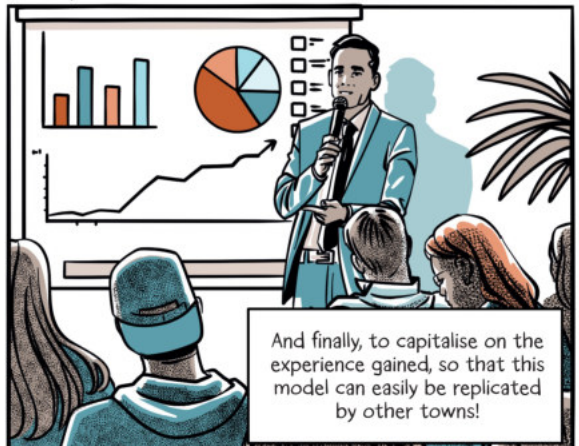


* Safe, Intelligent and Conscious Urban Mobility

Firstly, to raise young people's awareness of sustainable mobility.



Secondly, to develop the infrastructure needed to travel using soft modes of transport: bicycles, scooters or simply walking!



And finally, to capitalise on the experience gained, so that this model can easily be replicated by other towns!

We have set up a number of awareness-raising initiatives, such as workshops to teach people how to maintain and repair their bikes.



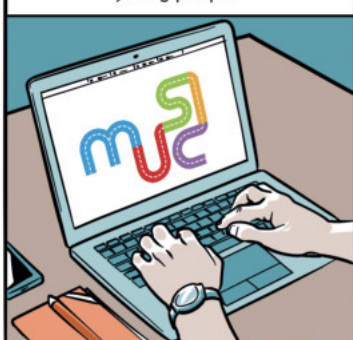
School exchanges between the two towns.



Or online participative conferences with mobility experts, scientists and psychologists to help change habits.



The project was carried out in 2 phases. During M.U.S.I.C. 1, we developed the infrastructure and raised awareness among young people.



For M.U.S.I.C. 2, we have focused on capitalisation, while continuing the initiatives of M.U.S.I.C. 1.



And to round off the project, we organised a big flash mob...

In bocca al lupo!



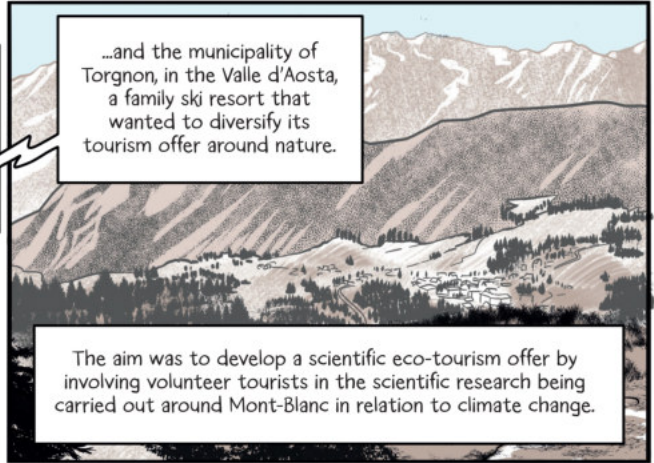
...at the start of the Tour de France 2024 in Pinerolo!

What did the **TourScience Plus** project entail?



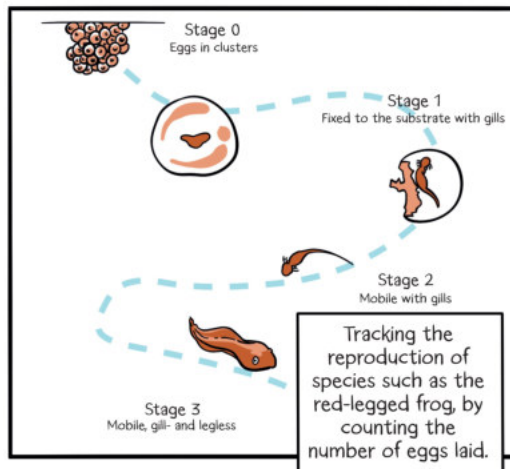
This project, which came to an end in May 2023, brought together CREA Mont-Blanc, an association for scientific research and the dissemination of knowledge in alpine ecology...

...and the municipality of Torgnon, in the Valle d'Aosta, a family ski resort that wanted to diversify its tourism offer around nature.

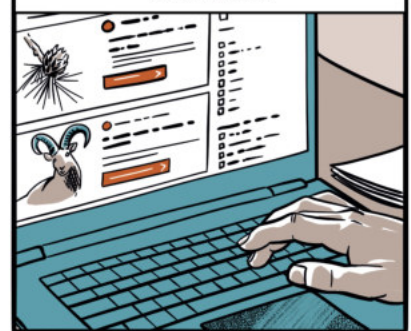


The aim was to develop a scientific eco-tourism offer by involving volunteer tourists in the scientific research being carried out around Mont-Blanc in relation to climate change.

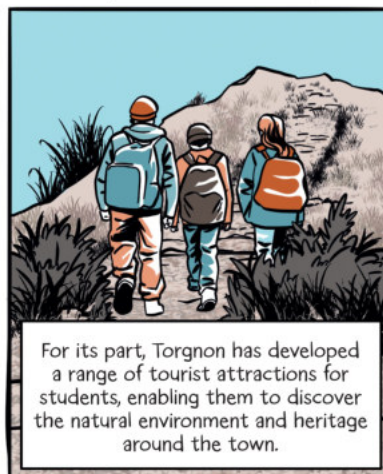
The project draws on CREA's experience in participatory science, which offers citizens the chance to carry out naturalist protocols on the ground.



They can then enter their data on the SPOT platform, developed as part of the project. They are also guided step-by-step through their observations.

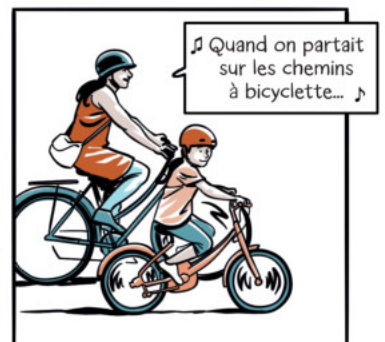


CREA has designed the 'Climate Science in Chamonix' trips for students who want to visit this iconic destination, while taking part in studies on the functioning of Alpine ecosystems.

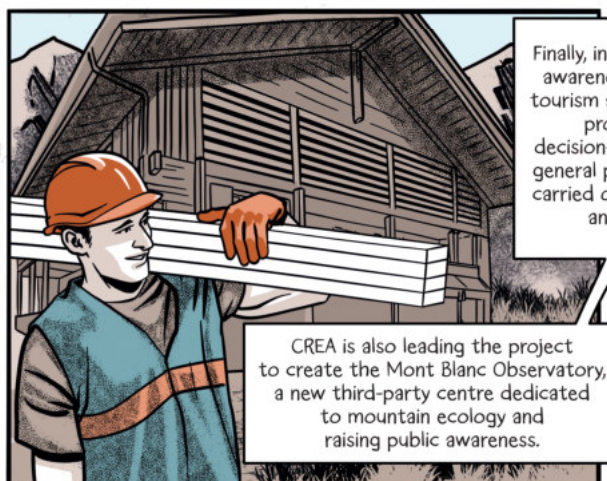


For its part, Torgnon has developed a range of tourist attractions for students, enabling them to discover the natural environment and heritage around the town.

Paths and observation points of scientific interest have been created to allow visitors to explore the area by foot or by bike.



The Geotrek Torgnon mobile application, developed as part of this project, enables visitors to plan their itineraries.



CREA is also leading the project to create the Mont Blanc Observatory, a new third-party centre dedicated to mountain ecology and raising public awareness.

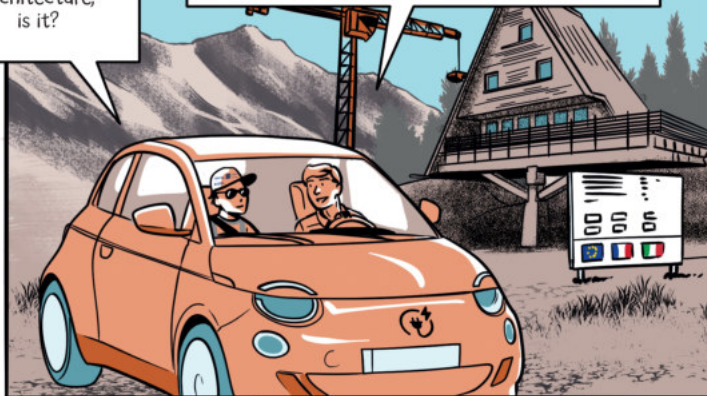
Finally, initiatives to raise awareness of scientific tourism among mountain professionals, decision-makers and the general public have been carried out in the region and beyond!



The **HABIT.A** project is related to architecture, is it?

Indeed! The goal was to rethink the architecture of buildings in the Southern Alps in the light of climate change.

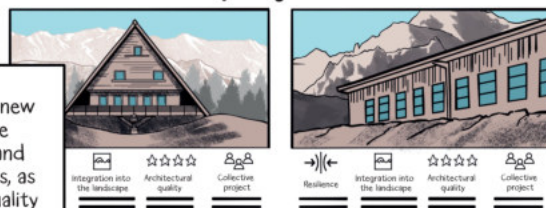
This Franco-Italian project, completed at the end of 2020, was supported by the Order of Architects, Planners, Landscapers and Conservators of the Provincia di Cuneo and the Order of Architects Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.



The goal was initially to develop tools for assessing the sustainability of buildings

A working group developed new indicators to measure the sustainability, adaptability and climate resilience of buildings, as well as their architectural quality and integration into the landscape

10 projects



Ten model buildings in the Southern Alps were selected, which fulfil some or all of the quality criteria identified by the working group and can serve as a source of inspiration.



Resilience



Integration into the landscape



Architectural quality

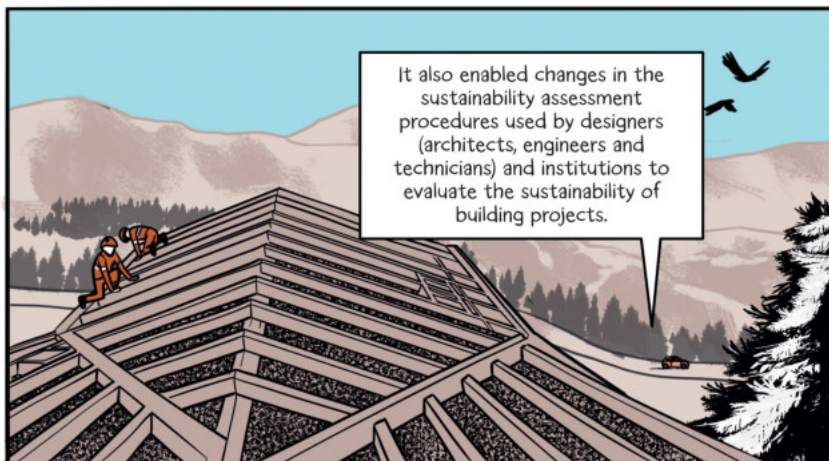


Collective project

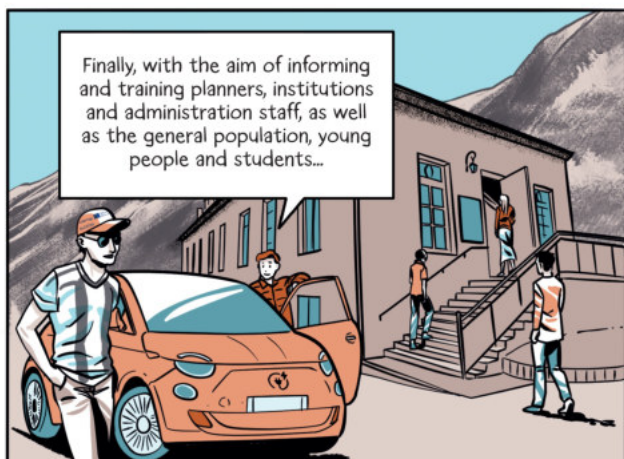
The project brought together technical experts in the quality and the integration of buildings in the landscape and technical experts in materials, who do not usually work together, and allowed them to compare practices between France and Italy.



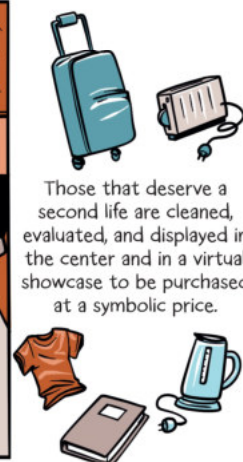
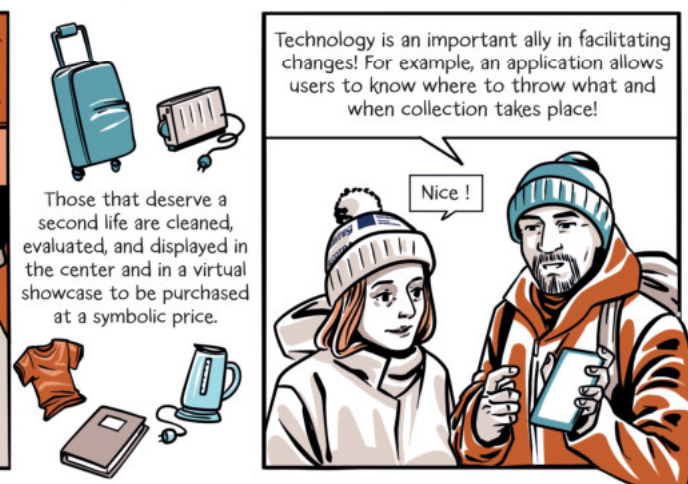
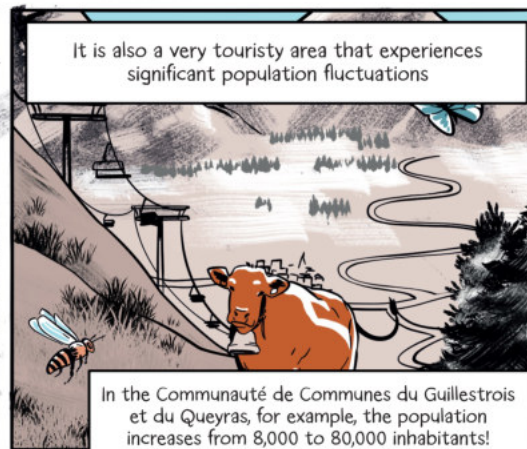
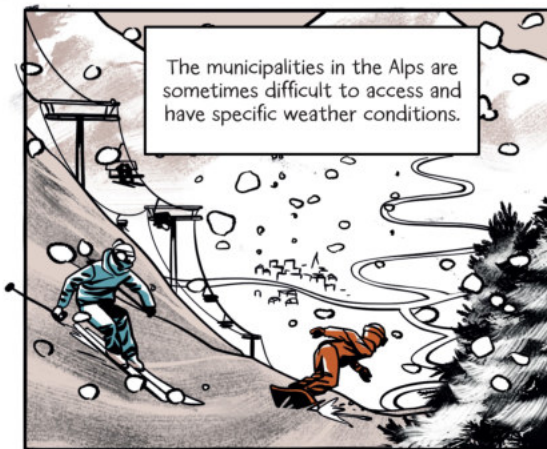
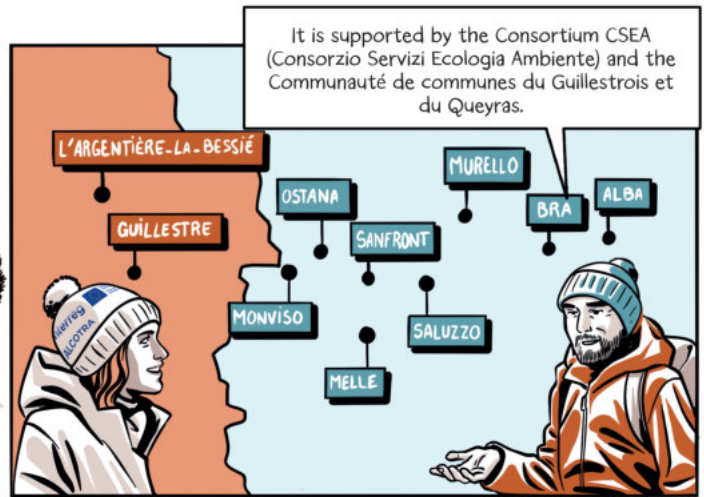
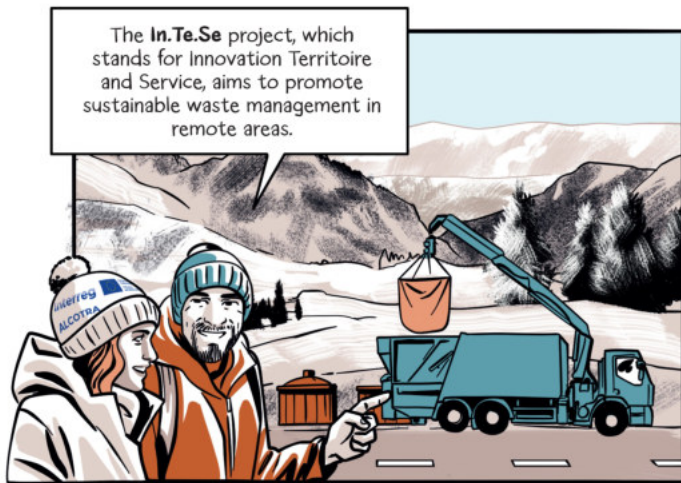
It also enabled changes in the sustainability assessment procedures used by designers (architects, engineers and technicians) and institutions to evaluate the sustainability of building projects.



Finally, with the aim of informing and training planners, institutions and administration staff, as well as the general population, young people and students...



...conferences, seminars and exhibitions on the subject of architectural and landscape quality in the context of climate change were organised, both in Italy and France.



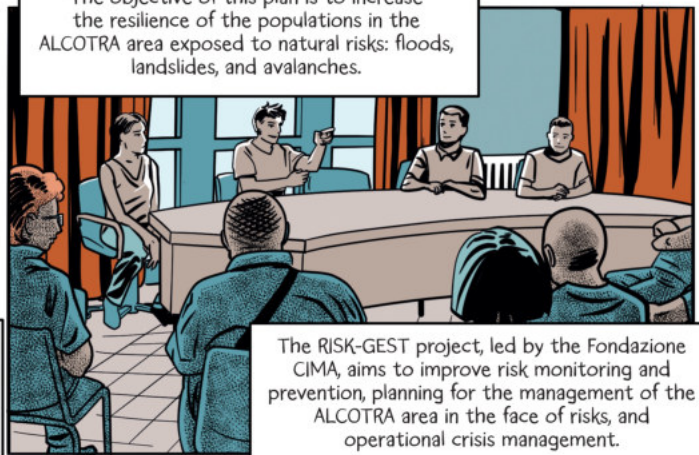
10- RISK-GEST

The **RISK-GEST** project is related to risk management in the ALCOTRA area, right?



Exactly! It is part of a larger project: the PITEM RISK (Integrated Thematic Plan 'Resilience, Information, Awareness and Communication to Citizens'), coordinated by the Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta.

The objective of this plan is to increase the resilience of the populations in the ALCOTRA area exposed to natural risks: floods, landslides, and avalanches.



The RISK-GEST project, led by the Fondazione CIMA, aims to improve risk monitoring and prevention, planning for the management of the ALCOTRA area in the face of risks, and operational crisis management.



It aims to facilitate dialogue among risk management stakeholders: alert services, regions, departments, cities, metropolitan communities, firefighters, and citizens.

It has allowed the realization of numerous projects, including:

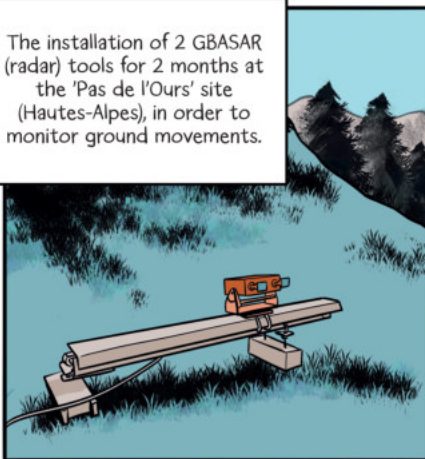


The redesign of the RiskPACA tool, which allows for visualizing maps of natural risks in the Sud - Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur and Piemonte regions.

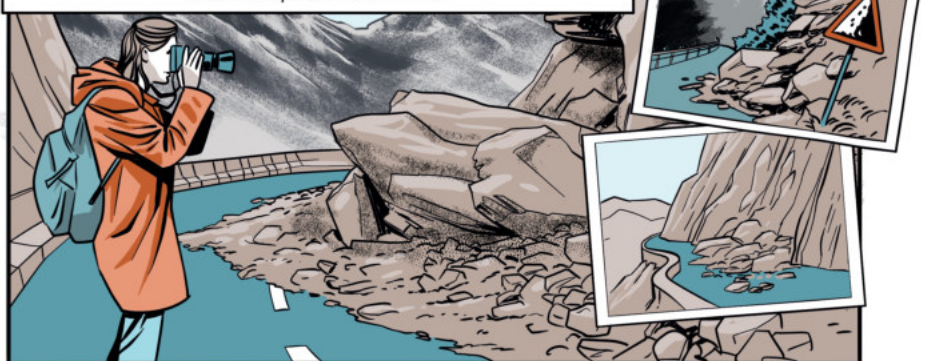


The inventory of landslide models existing in France and Italy, with the goal of developing common methods and tools for monitoring, alerting, and preventing.

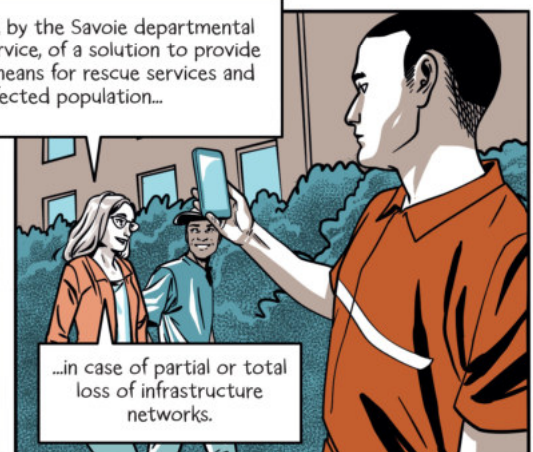
The installation of 2 GBASAR (radar) tools for 2 months at the 'Pas de l'Ours' site (Hautes-Alpes), in order to monitor ground movements.



The capitalization within an online platform of photos of ground movements in the Départements de la Savoie et de la Haute-Savoie, aiming to assess the evolution of phenomena and developments over time.



And the creation, by the Savoie departmental fire and rescue service, of a solution to provide communication means for rescue services and the affected population...



...in case of partial or total loss of infrastructure networks.



The production of a series of interviews titled 'Guardians of Memory,' where residents of the municipality of Gressoney-Saint-Jean (Valle d'Aosta) share their memories about avalanches they have experienced.

Your projects have received the label «ALCOTRA Youth» awarded by the Youth Council can you tell us more?



Our **ESCAPE** project «Scientific Escapade to Build a More Ecological Future» combines the cities of Chambéry and Torino, the Galerie Eurêka, l'Xké? Il laboratorio della curiosità, the council Savoie Mont-Blanc and UNCEM.

We raise awareness among young people between 11 and 15 years old about the challenges of ecological transition and global warming in the cross-border alpine area.

To launch the project, we organized in March 2024 a day of meeting in Bardonecchia with a hundred young middle school and high school students, French and Italian.



The objectives? Learn their level of knowledge, collect their feelings...

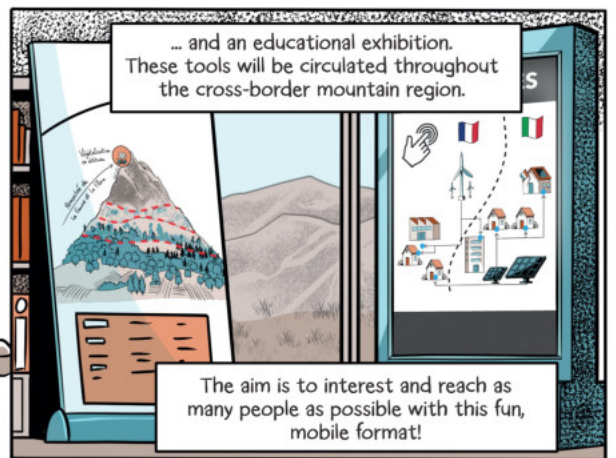


... and co-build educational and fun tools to inform on these topics!

In the end, this project will result in the creation of 2 escape games...



... and an educational exhibition. These tools will be circulated throughout the cross-border mountain region.



The aim is to interest and reach as many people as possible with this fun, mobile format!

Maybe we'll get to work together during our **Respiration Jeunesse** holidays!



Our project is supported by the Département de la Savoie, the Ligues de l'Enseignement/Fédérations des Œuvres Laïques de la Savoie et de la Haute-Savoie, the Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta and the Fondazione Montagna Sicura.

In response to the health crisis, we wanted young people to get out of their homes and back into nature.

To achieve this, we have renovated group accommodation centres such as the Lionel Terray chalet in Courchevel. There's also a digital section, with esports and virtual reality... A first in France!



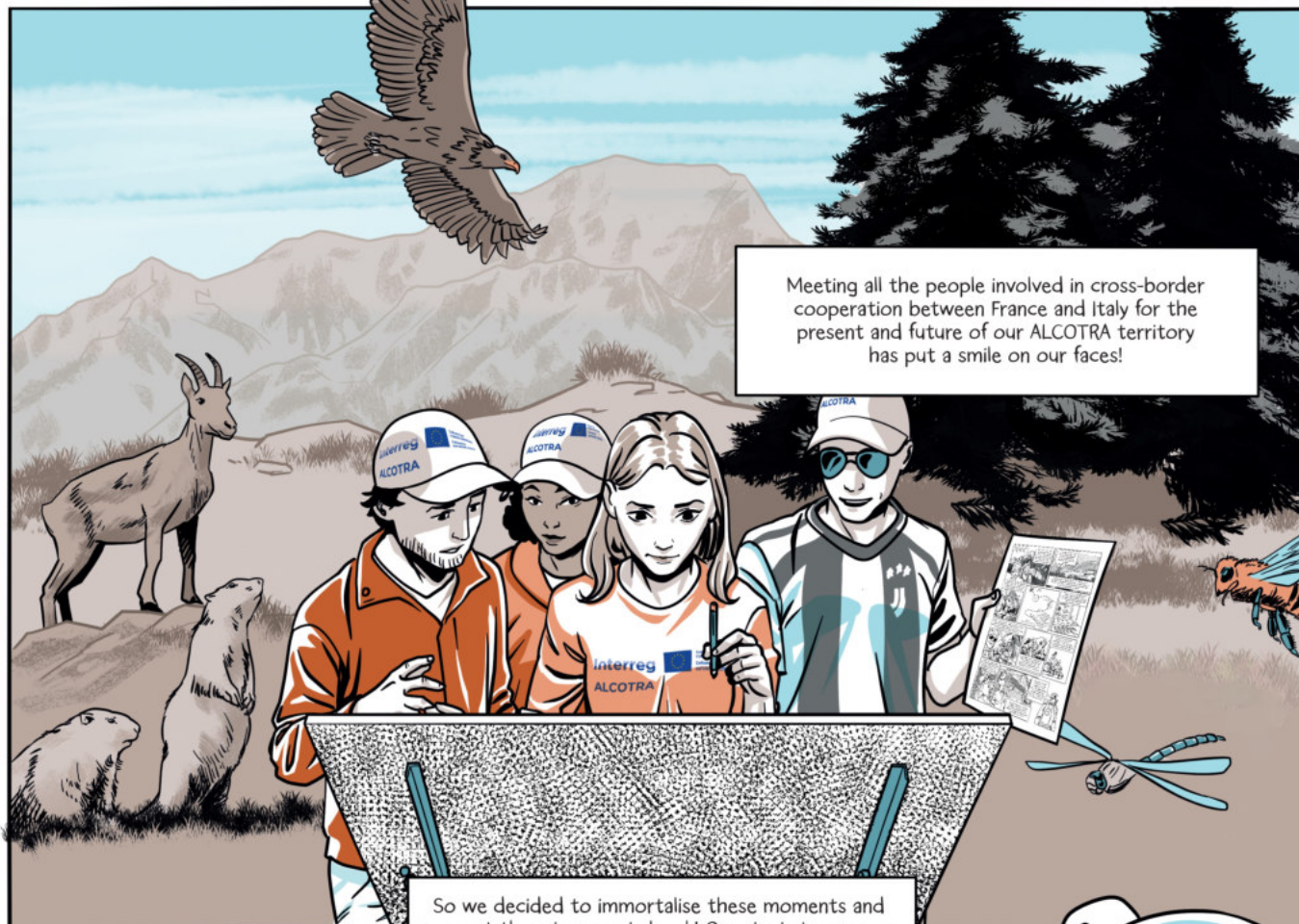
We have put together a range of events to coincide with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, educational trails to discover mountain professions and sports, and cross-border immersive trails lasting around ten days.

These stays were an opportunity for the young people to meet up and share convivial moments, like cooking a big meal together!

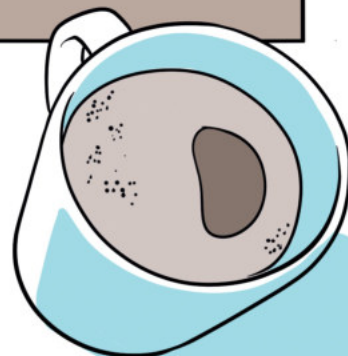


It was also an opportunity for them to collect their views and put them to good use through a podcast, for example!

Conclusion



So we decided to immortalise these moments and recount them in a comic book! Our aim is to pass on our hope to young people.

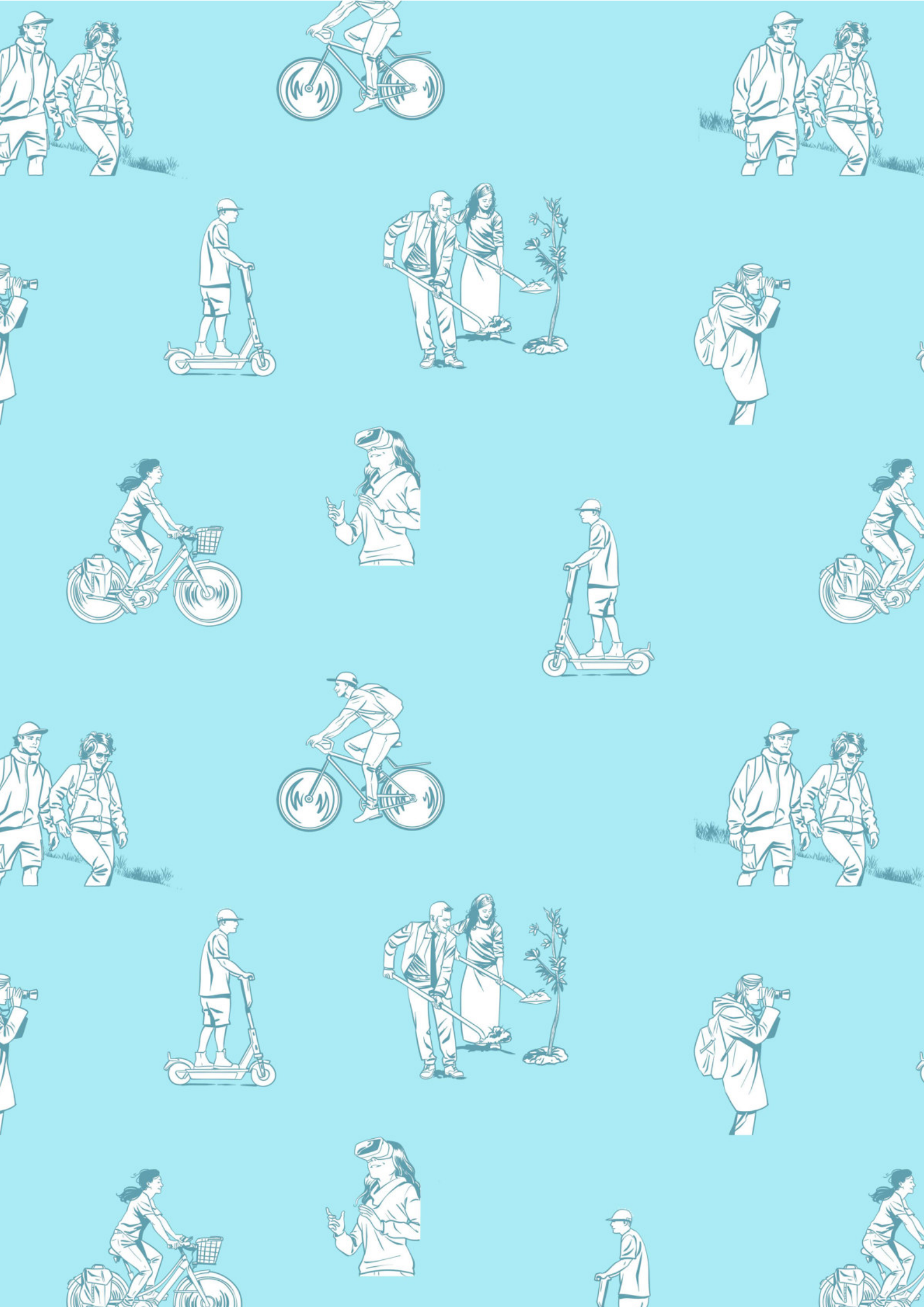


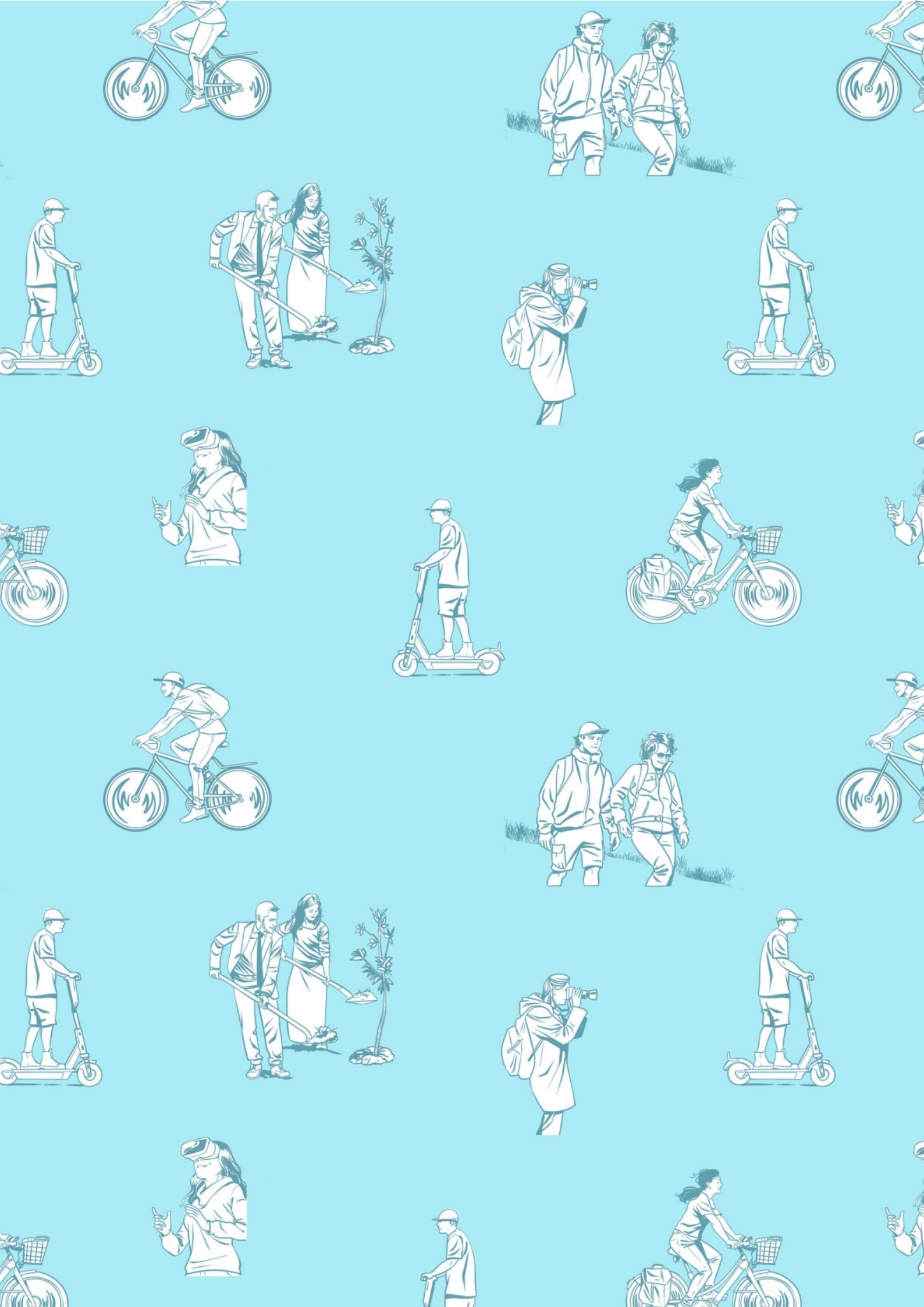
We want to encourage everyone to get involved in building and publicising positive, concrete initiatives in the cross-border area. We, the young people of ALCOTRA, want to cooperate actively to face future challenges together!

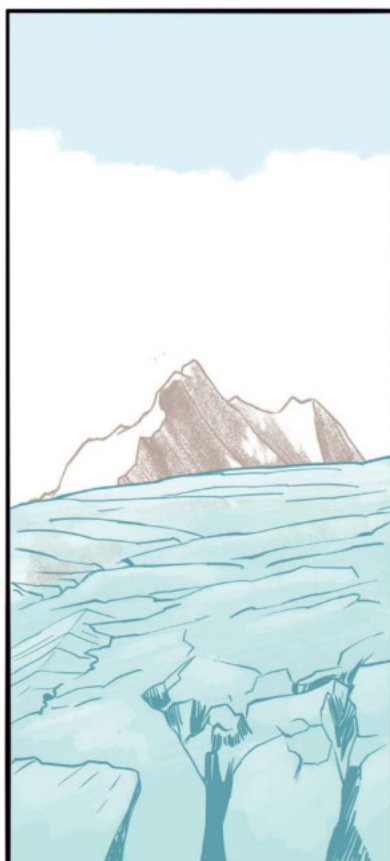


THE END

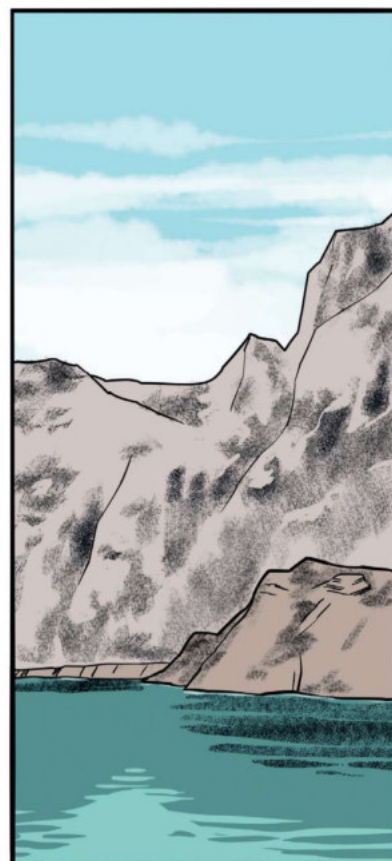








*Embark on the discovery
of concrete projects
to tackle the challenges
of climate change.*



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