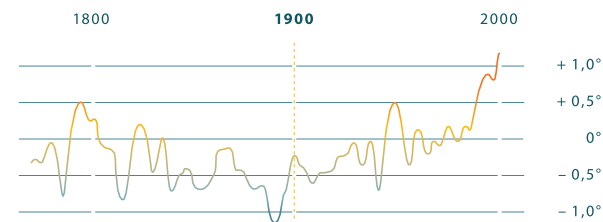


MISSION

Addressing demanding scientific, interdisciplinary and social challenges in the fields of **climate change and economic development in the Alpine region**:

- **How do ecosystems respond** to the two basic trends:
 - a) climate change and
 - b) social and economic development?
- **What are the scientific processes** behind the observed changes?
- **How to calibrate** / optimize / standardize monitoring tools and methodological approaches in order to improve the prediction of changes?
- **Which information** need to be communicated in which way to society, economy and administrative bodies?

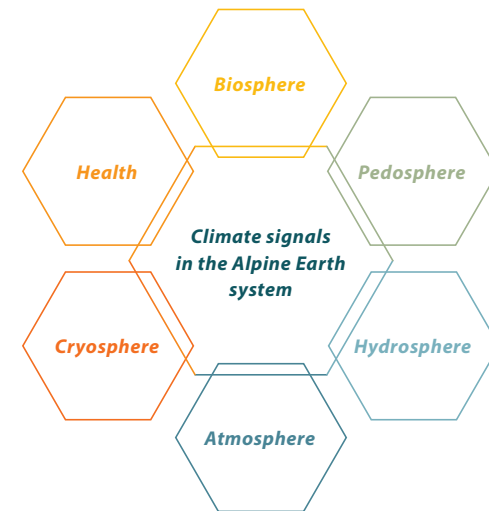


The Alps have warmed up by about +2° C since 1900: nearly twice as much as the global warming trend.

OBJECTIVE

Contributing to a better understanding of environmental processes in the Alpine region, VAO supports decision makers by balancing economic, social and environmental interests in a sustainable way. VAO is part of the European Alpine Convention as well as the Alpine Strategy of the EU.

The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Alpine Convention (AlpCon) are official VAO observers as well as the International Space Science Institute (ISSI).



VISION

- **Setting new standards** in terms of developing new instrumentation (open hardware) in cooperation with industries
- **Providing information** products and data analysis tools tailored to the scientists needs (computing on demand)
- **Scheduling measurement procedures** harmonised between various measurement sites and customised to a specific application (operating on demand)
- **Archiving and delivering data** (and meta data) as well as value added information adjusted to specific requirements (data on demand)
- **Delivering services** addressing especially but not exclusively public needs (service on demand)

Motto
Scientific **cooperation – joining forces** and resources to **avoid duplication** of work

Goal
Establishment and further development of high altitude research institutions that address **pressing scientific and social issues**

Concepts
Data, computing, operating and service **on demand**



Slovakia



Austria



Switzerland



France





Italy



Slovenia



Czech Republic



Georgia



Norway



Germany



Armenia

Bulgaria

VAO RESEARCH STATIONS

- *Environmental Research Station Schneefernerhaus* DE, 2 650 m
- *Schauinsland Observatory* DE, 1 284 m
- *Hohenpeißenberg Observatory* DE, 975 m
- *Observatoire de Haute-Provence* FR, 650 m
- *Station Alpine Joseph Fourier* FR, 2 058 m
- *Vallot Observatory* FR, 4 362 m
- *Sentinel Alpine Observatory* IT, 2 260 m
- *Eurac LT(S)ER* IT, 2 700 m
- *Sonnblick Observatory* AT, 3 106 m
- *Open-Air-Lab Kitzsteinhorn* AT, 3 203 m
- *High Altitude Research Station Jungfrauoch* CH, 3 580 m
- *High Altitude Research Station Gornergrat* CH, 3 135 m
- *Otlica Observatory* SI, 945 m

Associated stations

- *Abastumani Astrophysical Observatory* GE, 1 700 m
- *Alomar Observatory* NO, 380 m
- *BEO Musala* BG, 2 925 m
- *Observatory Panska Ves* CZ, 315 m
- *Aragats Space-Environmental Center* AM, 2 000 m / 3 200 m
- *Observatory Lomnický štít* SK, 2 632 m

CONTACT

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Bulgaria: C. Angelov BEO Moussala / France: F. Delbart / Georgia: G. Didebulidze
Italy: Eurac / Norway: S. Jaax / Austria: L. Rasser ZAMG / Switzerland: N. Trauffer
Slovenia: S. Stanic / Czech Republic: J. Simunek / Germany: M. Neumann
Armenia: A. Chilingarian / Slovakia: Marek Šeregi

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OBSERVE, UNDERSTAND, FORECAST, ACT

Network of European High Altitude Research Stations
based in the Alps and similar mountain regions