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“Recognition is a very big part of this competition!”

On 6 November 2008 CIPRA rewarded the seven best measures to have been submitted for the cc.alps competition. The Municipality of Mäder/A was one of the main prize winners. Serena Rauzi of the cc.alps Team met the Mayor of Mäder, Rainer Siegele, to talk about this success.



As Mayor of the Municipality of Mäder, Rainer Siegele received the prize worth €20,000.

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The ECO secondary school in Mäder has been a prime example of eco-friendly construction methods since 1997.

© Municipality of Mäder

Rainer Siegele, CIPRA’s cc.alps competition has poured €20,000 into the coffers of the Municipality of Mäder. For you as the Municipality’s mayor, was the money the main incentive for taking part in the competition?

A €20,000 prize is always an incentive for taking part in a competition. However, the recognition was also a very big part of this competition since it helps to implement other new projects within the community. So the boost we got from CIPRA through an award recognised throughout the Alps was at least as important as the money itself. What’s very important to us is who is behind the prize.

You have been Mayor of the Municipality of Mäder since 1993. When you took up office, did you generate the momentum for a sustainable approach to climate change at the municipal level?

Mäder began charting its own course in 1973 with the planting of hedgerow trees. Then there was a pause under my predecessor; after 1993, we set about pursuing the course set by my predecessor.

Can you give me a couple of examples of how climate protection is put into practice in the Municipality of Mäder?

With the exception of the fire station we have renovated all our buildings in keeping with the state of the art.

Rainer Siegele is the Mayor of the Municipality of Mäder:

- Federal province: Vorarlberg/Austria
- 3,600 inhabitants
- 1992: Joins the Climate Alliance. The Climate Alliance objective of cutting CO₂ emissions by half by 2010 has already been achieved.
- 1997: Building of the eco secondary school – a low-energy building with ecologically optimised building materials and components
- European Energy Award in Gold: Mäder has implemented 84% of the objectives and activities, putting it first in the ranking of more than 300 participating municipalities.
- 2008: Winner of the main prize in the cc.alps competition organised by CIPRA

For more information go to:
<http://www.cipra.org/en/cc.alps/competition/winners> (de/en/fr/it/sl)
 and www.maeder.at (de)

We decided that any buildings we build in the future will be in keeping with the passive house standard and that we will only use the best available technology for any renovation projects. So if for example we have a broken window, the official responsible no longer has to check how much triple glazing costs compared with double glazing. He will only check to see whether it is possible to install triple glazing. Our first priority is to reduce energy consumption; the second is to use renewable forms of energy or solar energy to cover that energy consumption whenever possible. That's why woodchip and pellet heating systems have been installed at our cultural centre. And of course all the buildings are equipped with solar power installations. We installed a photovoltaic system at the eco secondary school, and since 1 May 2008 we have been using electricity that comes exclusively from renewable forms of energy in Vorarlberg.

What were the biggest difficulties you had to overcome?

Every project has its difficulties. It's all about presenting projects in such a way that everyone understands them. What we haven't quite achieved just yet is transferring the exemplary role played by the Municipality to the population in general so that it, too, follows suit on a much broader scale.

What will the Municipality of Mäder now do with the prize money?

We have a few ideas. On the one hand we want to promote local public transport. We're thinking of a competition where every ticket also allows you to take part in a prize draw. We also want to strengthen non-motorised private transport. Here, too, people would get a ticket for a prize draw every time they make a journey by bicycle. We also intend to make a stand with regard to the renovation and refurbishment of old buildings. Our aim for 2009 is to win over at least ten owners of old buildings in Mäder and convince them to renovate their property from an energy point of view.

And what would your advice be to any mayor who follows in your footsteps?

I would advise him to come up with a good concept and try to get as many people on board as possible.

So we know what we're doing when it comes to climate protection

On 6 November 2008 the seven best measures were rewarded as part of the autumn seminar of the *Hausbau- und Energiemesse* [housing construction and energy trade fair] in Bern/CH. They act as role models for other projects and activities relating to climate protection. The popular Swiss weather expert Thomas Bucheli and CIPRA President Dominik Siegrist presented the awards to the winners.

The climate is changing, also in the Alps – and what are people doing? How are they coping with this major challenge? What are the municipalities and regions doing? Are the measures being taken today genuinely sustainable? CIPRA is searching for the answers to all these questions, and these award-winning projects are helping to find them.



The seven winners in Bern received their prizes from CIPRA President Dominik Siegrist and the popular Swiss weather expert Thomas Bucheli.
 © CIPRA International

Three entries to the competition from Germany and Austria each received €20,000 for services that were exemplary across the Alps. Four projects from France, Italy, Switzerland and Slovenia with a particularly sizeable potential in their own country each received €10,000.

The three winning projects were judged to be particularly exemplary; they included the moorland restoration project by the German environmental organisation *Bund Naturschutz Bayern* and the activities of the municipalities of Wildpoldsried/D and Mäder/A in the areas of renewable energy, energy savings and timber construction. The Jury was most impressed by their comprehensive strategies and

activities, which not only dealt with individual technical measures but also took account of the regional situation as a whole, involving the local population and making it aware of the issues. Switzerland's IG Bus Alpin and STMElectronics from Grenoble/F were rewarded with prize money worth €10,000 for their mobility strategies. KlimaHaus in Bolzano/I, the agency specialising in low-energy homes, and the Snovik spa resort in the region of Kamnik/SI were commended for their pioneering role in the area of energy efficiency and energy savings in their respective countries. The activities of all these prize winners highlighted future-orientated and sustainable approaches that are certain to play a key role as the cc.alps Project continues along its way.

More information on the prize winners and the finalists and also on all the projects submitted can be found at www.cipra.org/cc.alps/competition (de/fr/it/si).

Research: The knowledge base is slowly taking shape

The cc.alps team is hard at work compiling the Project's knowledge base. The 160 contributions submitted for the competition have been complemented with around 300 climate response measures throughout the alpine region, all of which have been researched by the national offices. Currently the focus of the research work is on labels, standards measures and statutory outline conditions, the compilation of which is designed to provide an overview of activities across the Alps. The knowledge base will be used to draw up eleven theme-based feature dossiers designed to provide the key players in the alpine region with concrete information and findings on how to take sustainable action on behalf of the climate. The first four dossiers are to be published in spring 2009 and will feature the topics of energy, house building, nature conservation and energy self-sufficient regions.

cc.alps wants to get young people involved



Just by involving the youth, it will be possible to counter climate change in a sustainable and a long term way.

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The cc.alps team believes that a sustainable and lasting approach to climate change is possible only if young people get involved. That's why cc.alps has drawn up a workshop in March aimed at key representatives of environmental education organisations. It has many different objectives: from establishing the foundations for setting up an alpine-wide network of environmental education institutions to enabling the exchange of experience of good practice, gathering ideas for joint activities, and concluding potential partnerships for future activities as part of cc.alps.

For more information: info@cipra.de

Taking a closer look at climate response measures

The NATUR Congress 4/09 is being held in Basel/CH on 19 February 2009. Under the motto "The Nature of Energy – The Energy of Nature" it plans to address the key issue of how nature can act as an energy supplier without such a use either affecting or destroying it.

As part of the Congress, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) aims to focus on climate response measures by organising a discussion panel entitled "Taking a Closer Look at Climate Response Measures and Their Sustainability in the Alps". The emphasis will be on the sustainability of adaptation and mitigation strategies for climate change. CIPRA will also be showcasing the initial results of the Project "cc.alps – climate change: thinking one step further!". The workshop is to be rounded off with case studies and a hosted discussion.

Programme and registration: <http://www.natur.ch/kongress> (de/fr).

Cool heads in the hothouse – Acting with Awareness in the Face of Climate Change

What are we doing to mitigate climate change? We wrap up glaciers; we trade in CO₂ certificates; we increase the use of hydropower... but do we know what impact our actions are having on society, the economy and the environment?

The international conference entitled "Cool Heads in the Hothouse! – Acting with Awareness in the Face of Climate Change" being held in Bolzano/I from 2 to 3 April aims to provide answers to these questions. Bolzano in South Tyrol is an appropriate backdrop for looking at measures relating to climate change. Indeed it is the Alpine Town of the Year 2009 and plans to launch a climate pact in order to be

climate-neutral within ten years. CIPRA for its part is seizing the opportunity to showcase the initial results of its climate project entitled “cc.alps – climate change: thinking one step further”. The conference is aimed at broadening the wealth of expertise and is to be complemented by field trips to exemplary projects in the environs of Bolzano. Key players in the Alps are given the opportunity to meet for discussions and define strategic objectives for climate protection. The conference is aimed at representatives of political parties and local authorities, entrepreneurs and interested laymen and women. Details of the conference programme are to be published shortly.

For more information on climate events and interesting publications, go to www.cipra.org/cc.alps (de/en/fr/it/sl)

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cc.alps in a nutshell

The Project “cc.alps – climate change: thinking one step further!” is organised by CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, and financed by MAVA Foundation for Nature. Through the Project, CIPRA is helping to ensure that climate response measures in the Alpine region are in harmony with the principle of sustainable development.

Term: February 2008 to June 2009 - Hwww.cipra.org/cc.alpsH