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### cc.alps concentrates on raising awareness during the second half of 2009!

The Swiss MAVA Foundation for Nature is making further funding available to the CIPRA cc.alps Project in the second half of 2009. The focus will be on presenting and communicating the results from the research phase. One particularly important aspect will be the publication of a series of brochures (compacts) on individual themes to add to CIPRA’s range of theme-based dossiers. Another important aspect will be the communication of the findings by means of articles in relevant publications and participation at external events: in early summer the project was presented at various conferences in Ljubljana/SL, Eastbourne/GB, Vienna/A, Klagenfurt/A, Berlin/D, Bruck/Leitha/A and Grenoble/F. Further national and international appearances are planned for this autumn. The climate change summit in Copenhagen in December of this year will also be an important opportunity to put across CIPRA’s concerns about climate change and sustainable climate measures: the Alps should and can become climate neutral! There are enough excellent examples from various regions of the Alps to show us: where there’s a will, there’s a way.

[A cool head in conversation: Norbert Lantschner, Director of the ClimateHouse Agency in Bolzano/I](#)

#### “The cleanest energy is the energy I don’t need”

**The ClimateHouse Agency in Bolzano has won one of the seven prizes of the CIPRA’s cc.alps Competition for its energy saving initiatives. We spoke to its Director, Norbert Lantschner at our “Cool Heads in the Hothouse” conference.**

*Interview: Stefan Arlanch, CIPRA International. The complete interview on video is available in German at: <http://www.cipra.org/de/climalp/lantschner>.*

#### Mr Norbert Lantschner, what is the purpose of ClimateHouse?

With ClimateHouse we are trying to put our guiding principle, i.e. “the cleanest energy is the energy I don’t need” into practice. If you consider that almost half the world’s energy consumption is channelled through buildings, what this area of work needs to look like. Our first priority is to modernise buildings to



© Left: CIPRA International / Right: LudwigThalheimer

Left: Norbert Lantschner, Director of the ClimateHouse Agency in Bolzano. Right: Former Post Office building Bolzano/I. This is the first publicly refurbished “passive house” (ClimateHouse Gold) in Italy. The original building dates back to 1954.

make them more energy efficient; we need to design different buildings. And so we have a tremendous task ahead of us in the coming years, to improve the energy efficiency of these buildings, particularly those built in the post-war years.

**The ClimateHouse building certification stands for energy savings, a high degree of comfortable living and active climate protection:**

- Country: South Tyrol/Italy
- From 2002 to 2008 over 1,000 buildings have been certified to the ClimateHouse Standard.
- The ClimateHouses built or renovated in South Tyrol save 6,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. This is equivalent to 3 million litres of heating oil.
- The three columns of Climate House: awareness raising, education, counselling.
- Modern and careful planning according to the ClimateHouse Standard can reduce the use of building cooling systems especially in southern latitudes.
- The annual energy savings may even be as much as an average monthly salary for individual families.
- 2008: Prize winner of the CIPRA cc.alps competition.

Further info under:

<http://www.cipra.org/de/cc.alps/wettbewerb/klimahaus> (de/fr/it/sl) and <http://www.cipra.org/competition-cc.alps/khcommunication> (de)

**What were the biggest challenges faced by ClimateHouse?**

The ClimateHouse concept developed from the idea of closing the gap between a high level of knowledge and available technologies and a low level of action. ClimateHouse's challenge was to bridge this divide. We have tried to get all the players round the table: the planners, the craftsmen, the construction companies, the public authorities and of the course the people who have to live in the houses. And we have managed to get things done in just a short time, because the individual person is now placed firmly at the centre. That is, a person who builds or modernises a house needs to be given all the support available to achieve a high standard of quality: a high degree of living comfort, minimum consumption and of course, protection of the environment and climate.

**As a winner of CIPRA's cc.alps competition ClimateHouse received €10,000. What is ClimateHouse going to do with the prize money?**

We want to use the prize money to pass on our wealth of experience to others. For example, in Slovenia we are helping to realise a project based on our core energy saving concepts. Because if we want to overcome this climate crisis, we need to act globally. We need to win over as many players as possible to participate actively in this process.

**How do you see the opportunities for passing on knowledge and experience within Italy itself?**

We already have projects under way in Friuli-Venezia Giulia. And projects based on the ClimateHouse concept have recently been started in Sondrio/I. Italy is currently lagging behind in the EU as far as the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy dependency is concerned. This means that there is tremendous scope for modernising buildings and building new ones. In some Italian

regions there are already projects which are about to start this process with ClimateHouse.

**Finally: Where do you see the future of construction?**

The first step will be to maximise energy efficiency. The second will be to design ecologically compatible buildings. It's not just designing a building that requires little or no energy that counts, but also how I go about it. The third step is therefore establishing where this house will be built. Because there is little sense in building a zero-energy house halfway up a mountain, if its residents then have to use big four-wheel drives every day to get to work. In the Alpine region we have the particular issue of how to approach the extremely scant resource of space. And even then we will need to think about how we can permit this development in the Alpine region, where tourism is in many places the main source of income. What am I going to do about these tourist facilities which put considerable pressure on space?

**Exemplary Climate Response Measures**

A great deal is being done in the Alps as a response to climate change. The cc.alps team has selected 34 projects, initiatives and activities which are not just good for the climate, but also for society, the environment and the economy. CIPRA recommends: read about it, emulate it, pass it on and do even better.

The good practice climate measures were selected from the pool of all the measures which were submitted for the cc.alps competition or researched by CIPRA in the various Alpine countries. You can read about these measures at [www.cipra.org/cc.alps](http://www.cipra.org/cc.alps) (de/fr/it/sl). But not all the results of the measures taken have been favourable. In the cc.alps compacts, which will appear by the end of this year, the climate response measures will be examined critically and assessed.

## Knowledge in a compact and understandable form

Cool heads and well considered strategies are required in these times of heated debate about climate measures. cc.alps is making a contribution to an informed debate on this subject with a series of compacts. The most important results of the cc.alps research and evaluation of climate measures in the Alpine area will be presented in detail in these digital publications which will be accessible to everyone. The first compacts on energy, housing and nature conservancy will be available for download in German and English at the end of summer on [www.cipra.org/cc.alp](http://www.cipra.org/cc.alp), other languages will follow. The next compacts will be on natural disasters, energy self-sufficient regions, tourism, regional development, transport, agriculture, forestry and water and are expected to be ready by the end of the year.

## Melting glaciers on your local mountain – what now?



Possible solutions will be discussed in Crans Montana/CH on the basis of actual examples.

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On 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2009 cc.alps is organising an international conference on the impact of melting glaciers on communities in collaboration with CIPRA Switzerland and the Swiss Foundation for Landscape Preservation in Crans Montana/CH.

Mountain peaks covered by glaciers are defining elements: the glaciers are important as a defining symbol of the Alps, but also as a reference to home and a means of identity for the Alpine dwellers. The dwindling ice masses are also a clear sign of global climate change. For the glacier communities they are also an important economic factor. Their melting has particular effects on the risk of natural disasters, water management and tourism. This conference will highlight the challenges faced by the glacier communities due to climate change, discuss how the

communities might respond and point out possible future impacts of the climate measures that the communities want to implement now.

Following a plenary session covering a number of actual examples, the participants will have the opportunity to discuss the issues in more detail in smaller working groups. Site visits will be arranged to illustrate the problems being discussed.

For programme and registration please visit: [www.cipra.org/cc.alps](http://www.cipra.org/cc.alps) (de, fr, it)

Further information about events and interesting publications can be found at [www.cipra.org/cc.alps](http://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..

H[www.cipra.org/cc.alps](http://www.cipra.org/cc.alps)