

FUTURE IN THE ALPS

PROJECT NEWSLETTER 6

June 2006



alpKnowhow knowledge base

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Alpine Enterprise Network

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Film premiere and new public initiatives in South Tyrol

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► The film "The Self-administered Referendum on the Future of Mobility in the Puster Valley" premiered in Bruneck/I on 18 March as part of a citizens' evening. The Initiative for Greater Democracy and the Pro Puster Valley Platform used the €25,000 prize money from the Future in the Alps competition to finance the film's production.

News of the Future in the Alps Project Team

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Schedule

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ALPKNOWHOW KNOWLEDGE BASE

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The main products from the knowledge gathering and processing activities resulting from many months of work by some 40 experts from all the Alpine countries in alpKnowhow are now available online. The work reports reflect the current level of knowledge for the six topic areas addressed by Future in the Alps. The experts' statements are supported by references to the main publications and to the experience gained from exemplary projects in all the Alpine countries. Each topic concludes with a series of recommendations by the experts for scientific and practical applications.

A synthesis report summarises the results and conclusions from all six topics and formulates the keynote messages from the research phase.

All the examples of successful projects and the publications can be filtered on the web site according to country and topic. Each project and publication is described

Zukunft in den Alpen
Avenir dans les Alpes
Futuro nelle Alpi
Prihodnost v Alpah
Future in the Alps



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The Future in the Alps Project is organised by CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, in cooperation with the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation. Through the Project CIPRA is contributing to sustain the alpine region and to the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

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and evaluated in detail. Detailed information and background documentation can also be downloaded in many cases.

The background information provided by CIPRA also includes documents on the criteria used to select the knowledge for Future in the Alps, the outline conditions and scenarios, a project-related glossary as well as a compilation of questions that are still outstanding (appendices to the synthesis report).

The alpKnowhow project phase not only generated the results that can now be viewed and downloaded from the web site, but also contributed towards establishing new contacts among the experts. They were able to broaden their personal networks and lay the foundations for long-term co-operation projects. A number of obstacles had to be overcome before the topics raised by Future in the Alps could be processed in small international teams put together by CIPRA. The experts surmounted language and cultural barriers, co-ordinated the work methodology and found ways of organising the teamwork as efficiently as possible. All three two-day meetings were crucial in this respect since they allowed all the team members to get together and exchange their views. It is hoped that the new contacts that have now been established will be as long-lasting as the knowledge acquired in alpKnowhow.

In the alpService project phase the Project Team will now focus on implementing and communicating the acquired knowledge. The next Project Newsletter will report at length on this particular phase.

ALPINE ENTERPRISE NETWORK TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES

Ten partners from all the alpine countries have set themselves the aim of establishing an alpine-wide network of small and medium-sized businesses as part of the NENA Project and promote sustainability-oriented enterprises. The NENA project stands for Network Enterprise Alps – Enhancing sustainable development, competitiveness and innovation through SME and cluster co-operation; it was approved at the end of February with a budget of €2.38 million from the EU Interreg IIIB Programme, and is to run until February 2008. The idea of an alpine-wide network of enterprises came about as part of the Future in the Alps project.

For more information: <http://competition.cipra.org/en/press/nena>, <http://nena.telesis.at/> (en)

News from the award winners of the Future in the Alps competition:

FILM PREMIERE AND NEW PUBLIC INITIATIVES IN SOUTH TYROL

The film *Die Selbstverwaltete Pustertaler Volksbefragung zur Verkehrszukunft* [The Self-administered Referendum on the Future of Mobility in the Puster Valley] premiered in Bruneck/I on 18 March as part of a citizens' evening. The Initiative for Greater Democracy and the Pro Puster Valley Platform used the €25,000 prize money from the Future in the Alps competition to finance the film's production. They received the Award for the topic "New Forms of Decision Making". The 35-minute documentary is to be shown in conjunction with discussion events in the communities that took part in the referendum. It provides answers to the following questions, among others: How did the idea of a self-administered referendum come about? Was it worth the effort? What did it achieve? What happens next? What needs to be done so that referenda such as these have a binding effect?

A second self-administered referendum is now being set up in Merano, South Tyrol, based on the Puster Valley model. There too, citizens are eager to know (and to show their political representatives) what sort of future people have in mind for their mobility issues; the initiative has been prompted by a tunnel project. The referendum, which will involve four communities, is to take place this year.

The award-winning organisations are looking to improve and publicise instruments of direct democracy. Planned measures include a vote across the province for improved direct democracy legislation, a collection of signatures, and a public initiative on a reorientation of traffic policy in South Tyrol.

Information: Stephan Lausch, Co-ordinator of the Initiative for More Democracy info@dirdemdi.org

NEWS OF THE FUTURE IN THE ALPS PROJECT TEAM

There are personnel changes afoot in the Future in the Alps Project Team. Michel Revaz left the team at the end of March when he resigned his position with the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA). Karin Hindenlang of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) is also to take up a new challenge and will be leaving Future in the Alps at the end of June. Johannes Heeb from seecon gmbh is to join the team to help with the alpService project phase. He was already a member of the team of experts for Project Issue 1 on Regional Value Added. Giuseppe Falbo is to boost the Project Team at CIPRA International as of mid-June.

SCHEDULE (for full details see www.cipra.org/future)

Seminar on Networking as a Factor of Success; 17-18.8.2006, Gantrisch Region, Bern/CH; further education in forests and landscapes in co-operation with CIPRA/Future in the Alps among others; language: German

15.09.2006 **Closing date for applications for the DYNALP² Project of the Network of Communities "Alliance in the Alps"** (implementation of the Future in the Alps findings in communities and regions)

About "Future in the Alps"

The Future in the Alps Project is organised by CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, and financed by the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation. Future in the Alps, a broad-based knowledge management project, is aimed at promoting sustainable development in the alpine region. Its aim is to get people, businesses and institutions to network in order to exchange and implement know-how and information, and as a result create new incentives for sustainable development in the Alps. The Project is a contribution by CIPRA to the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

Future in the Alps is a networking instrument and promotes new and existing initiatives aimed at achieving a harmonious balance between nature conservation, the needs of the population and economic objectives. Practical experience and the latest research findings are collated, evaluated and processed for further application (alpKnowhow). alpService makes the results available to a multitude of players. Sustainable pilot projects that apply this knowledge are in turn supported and monitored in alpPerformance.

The following six topics are to be addressed in Future in the Alps: Regional Value Added, Governance Capacity, Protected Areas, Mobility, New Forms of Decision Making, Policies and Instruments.

Project term: July 2004 to December 2007 - www.cipra.org/future