

Future in the Alps

Project newsletter

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www.cipra.org/future



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New impulses and ideas: International workshop series of CIPRA

While conurbations in the Alps continue to grow unchecked, disadvantaged regions are increasingly sidelined. But rather than add to the general lamenting, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) is inviting regional players to pass on their knowledge and allow others to benefit from their experience.



What is the secret behind the success of Polo Poschiavo, which has turned a remote alpine village into a centre for Information and Communication Technology (ICT)? How can provisions for elementary requirements in mountain areas be maintained and developed further? And what can we learn from successful projects on traffic and visitor management in protected areas? CIPRA is aiming to provide answers to these and other topical questions at its international workshop series entitled “Disseminating knowledge – networking people”.

From October 2006 until the end of 2007 the programme will include twelve workshops held at different venues in each of the alpine countries. Simultaneous interpreting will be available at most of the workshops, which are to be staged together with partner institutions as part of CIPRA's Future in the Alps Project.

Regional players attending the workshops will have an opportunity to learn from the positive experiences of others and transfer that experience to their own fields, thereby ensuring that they do not have to keep reinventing the wheel. The programme offers a mix of specialist contributions from speakers from different countries and excursions to successful examples on site. In discussions and group sessions, participants will have the possibility of a direct exchange of experience and an opportunity to establish new contacts.

The topics range from nature conservation to mobility, the exchange of know-how with mountain regions of Eastern Europe, and social issues. They are the

result of an intensive knowledge search carried out as part of the Future in the Alps Project. Experts cut through a jungle of information to filter out the data best suited to address the major challenges in the Alps. All this information is featured on the Project's homepage as successful examples, lists of key

publications and summary reports. Selected results from the research are to be presented at the workshops.

Information on the planned workshops can be found at www.cipra.org/future.

International workshop series on “Getting the Knowledge Across – Networking People” gets underway in Hindelang

Future in the Alps’ international series of workshops successfully got underway at Hindelang in the Allgäu on 16 and 17 October 2006. Around 40 people including members of the regional authorities and business, tourism and agriculture representatives attended the workshop entitled “Allgäu/Tannheimer Tal Nature Park – An Opportunity for the Region?” The workshop was organised by CIPRA Germany.

It revolved around the question as to whether and under what circumstances a project such as the “Allgäu / Tannheimer Tal Nature Park” is in keeping with a trend supported by the regional population. The theme was addressed as part of presentations on successful examples of projects (the Biosphere Reserves of Grosses Walsertal and Entlebuch as well as the Sölk­täler Nature Park), an excursion to the Pfronten area, discussion groups, and personal conversations during the social programme and its culinary highlights. Even if the participants were unable to reach a conclusive answer to the question, the workshop did provide an opportunity for them to make valuable contributions towards a more in-depth discussion of sustainable development in the region.



A visit to the successful Heu Vital project in Pfronten

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From peripheral geographic location to virtual centre: ICT in a rural-alpine region

The second workshop in Future in the Alps’ international series of workshops is to be held in Poschiavo in southern Switzerland on 30 November and 1 December. The theme of the event is “From peripheral geographic location to virtual centre: ICT in a rural-alpine region” and is being organised by Polo Poschiavo.



Computer courses are a matter of course in Poschiavo

© Cassiano Luminati

Its objective is to use real examples from different countries to illustrate how

- ICT (information and communication technologies) can represent an opportunity for peripheral regions (Valposchiavo, Bergell);
- ICT has been integrated into the everyday lives of the local population; and
- physical and psychological boundaries can be overcome through the intelligent, localised use of new technologies.

The workshop is to be held in Italian and German, with simultaneous interpreting provided. Parts of the workshop will be video-streamed and retrievable from the internet. The workshop is aimed at politicians from the region, at project managers, key players, journalists and anyone from the Grisons region (CH), Sondrio Province (I), the Ticino (CH) and Lombardy (I) with an interest in the subject.

Information: Cassiano Luminati info@polo-poschiavo.ch

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

New publication on Gentle Mobility

The photo book entitled “Wundermittel Werfenweng. Sanft Mobil auf neuen Wegen” on the resort of Werfenweng (A) is in production and is to be launched at the end of November.

The idea for the book of photographs came from a wish to motivate more people for the concept of Gentle Mobility. The book describes how Gentle Mobility works and how it applies to visitors, and how the people of Werfenweng have reacted to this new form of mobility. It looks at the people behind the idea, and asks why it has found such fertile soil in the resort of Werfenweng. The book is dedicated to all the visitors who now come to Werfenweng without their car.



The publication was made possible by the main prize in CIPRA's Future in the Alps competition and by co-funding from Austria's Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

To order: Werfenweng Tourist Office, tourismusverband@werfenweng.org

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

Great deal of interest in children's events by Kempodium

The Kempodium in Kempten (D) provides an infrastructure for a wide audience to experiment with handicrafts and social activities. The Centre used the prize money won at the Future in the Alps competition to expand its children's summer holiday programme. There has been a great deal of interest in the programme on offer. The positive results have also led to greater demand for the children's courses in the autumn term holidays. Thanks to the prize money the Kempodium has been able to establish its expertise as an organiser of children's activities in the Kempten area.

In October the Kempodium was awarded the "Explorer" STRATUM certificate by the environmental foundation Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt for its environmental education facilities.

Information: <http://www.kempodium.de> (de)



Children's workshops are just part of the extensive programme on offer from the Kempodium

© Kempodium

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

Referendum on road traffic and initiative for more democracy in South Tyrol

In 2005 the Self-administered Referendum on the Future of Mobility in the Puster Valley won a prize as part of CIPRA's Future in the Alps competition. The project has certainly made waves.



A new referendum is intended to help relieve Merano of its burden of traffic

© Komitee selbstverwaltete Volksbefragung Pustertal

In the Burggrafenamt (I) district administration a committee of promoters is now also conducting a self-administered referendum on the future of mobility. The referendum is on measures to relieve the burden of road traffic on the town of Merano and ways to improve the way in which rural areas are linked up. The public opinion poll is designed to inform the population about a road construction project by the government of the province and provide an opportunity to compare it with two other projects proposed by the Merano Mobility Initiative. Citizens are also to be made aware of the responsibility they have in connection with their choice of transport means. While the referendum is non-binding, it does allow the population to state their preference for one of several options.

On October 1 the Members' Meeting of the Initiative for More Democracy in Bolzano voted to implement a public initiative on "Improved Direct Democracy Legislation". The Bill, which comes to the vote in 2009, will considerably improve citizens' democratic rights. If the proposed legislation is adopted, it would result in the improved applicability of direct democracy rights by reducing hurdles, removing obstacles, allowing for more differentiated opportunities for co-determination, and providing the opportunity to participate on an equal footing with political representatives.

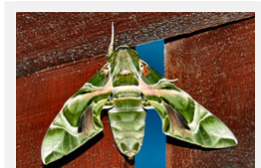
Information: <http://www.dirdemdi.org> (de/it), <http://www.imm.bz.it/> (de/it)

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

www.hellenot.com: Now in five languages

The project "The Plight with Light", a winner of CIPRA's Future in the Alps competition has used its prize money to translate its homepage www.hellenot.com into three of the main languages of the Alps, i.e. French, Italian and Slovenian, and into English. The aim is to help spread information on the subject of light pollution in the Alpine region and beyond. Each country is invited to add its own specific information to the web site. The multilingual homepage went online in June.

There are also plans to re-issue the brochure on the subject of light pollution in those languages, too.



Many moth species die because of inappropriate street lighting

© www.hellenot.com

Postponed: Special issue of the CIPRA information bulletin on Future in the Alps

We had planned to publish a special issue of the CIPRA information bulletin in October on Future in the Alps' results and findings so far. For a number of reasons we have now decided to postpone the special issue to the first quarter of 2007. An in-house CIPRA workshop in early December is to examine the political relevance of the reports obtained from alpKnow-how. The results of the workshop will be included in the articles for the CIPRA information bulletin.

Next schedule of the workshop series „Future in the Alps“(for full details see www.cipra.org/future)

Knowledge transfer towards mountain regions in Eastern Europe; 22.-23.1.07, Budapest (Hungary); Partners: Lebensministerium (A), Österreichische Gesellschaft für Umwelt und Technik (A), Regional Environmental Center (Budapest); Language: en

Regional planning, management and networking; 25.-26.1.07, Salzburg (A); Partners: LEADER+, Regionalmanagement Austria, Österreichisches Institut für Erwachsenenbildung; Languages: de, en

The Future of the Provision for Elementary Requirements in Mountain Areas. Risks and Opportunities.; 28.2.-1.3.07, Villach (A); Partners: Kärntner Landesregierung, Interreg project PUSEMOR, CIPRA Österreich; Languages: de, fr, it, sl, en

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