

Future in the Alps

Project newsletter

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International Workshop series „Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People“

The future of provision for elementary requirements in the Alpine region: challenges – opportunities – examples of successes

The fourth workshop in the international series of workshops “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People” was held in Warmbad-Villach (A) on February 28 and May 1.



More than 100 people from Austria, Italy, France and Germany took part in the workshop.

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The problems that arise as a result of the thinning-out of the population in peripheral areas provided the starting point for the event: they include the closure and/or relocation of grocer's shops, post offices, police stations, kindergartens and schools. Young people and anyone with better levels of education are tending to move away. So an adequate offer of services to provide for elementary requirements is a prerequisite for quality of life and economic power in rural areas, and for governance capacity. Such are the findings not just of the partners in the PUSEMOR Team, but also of experts from the Future in the Alps project.

The event revolved around examples of good practice of CIPRA's Future in the Alps Project and the 25 PUSEMOR pilot projects from all the participating Alpine and mountain regions. Day 1 of

the workshop comprised two general inputs and several project presentations as well as a project exhibition. Day 2 consisted of a half-day field trip for the inauguration of the first i-Service point in a Carinthian municipality. It was followed by workshops in small groups and a concluding plenary session.

The event was attended by more than 100 participants, with around 60 from Austria, 25 from Italy, 10 from France and Germany respectively, and 5 from Slovenia. Prominent politicians were also present in the person of two members of the provincial government. There was also a strong media presence at the press conference and the field trip, with radio and TV items broadcast by ORF Carinthia.

International Workshop series „Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People“

The forestry sector in regional policy

Around 50 experts, mostly from the forestry sector, took part in the two-day workshop on regional policy held in Brig/CH on 29 and 30 March. The event, which was held in French and German as part of the series of workshops entitled “Getting Knowledge Across – Networking People”, was attended by participants from France, Germany and Switzerland.

The event began with an introduction to the basics of regional policy and a presentation of the Future in the Alps Project. Light relief came in the form of a field trip to the Pfyng-Finges Nature Park to illustrate successful regional development, which was scheduled during the late afternoon. On Day 2 examples of regional policy from France (Region Rhône Alpes) and the Valais were presented and discussed in small groups. One important finding to emerge from the workshop was the fact that the forestry sector should work much more closely with other sectors such as tourism and agriculture in regional policy, and that it should conduct targeted, more intensive and above all more professional PR work. It was felt that there was a great need, but also a great opportunity, for the forestry sector to become more involved in regional policy. Key factors for the success of regional development projects include the appropriate platforms for good networking among the participating agents, prominent leaders with personality and staying power, and innovative project ideas.

The sunny weather, combined with the successful Valais setting with wine tasting and a delicious raclette, not only provided the perfect framework, but also served to promote the networking among the participants, who took home not just the know-how and new incentives and ideas, but also lots of interesting new contacts.



The networking among participants was helped along by the exchange of know-how, the field trip and the fine weather

© Further education in forests and landscapes

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

Budoia: Lots of interest in (and enthusiasm for) the organic canteen



The children prepared the fruits in the school laboratory, which was set up thanks to the Award from Future in the Alps.

© Budoia

In spite of the difficulties Budoia is pushing ahead with the school canteen project, driven by the enthusiasm of parents, teachers and children. Thanks to the prize money from the Future in the Alps competition it has been possible to continue promoting the Project among the families and maintaining the education on nutrition among the schoolchildren.

The children who eat at the canteen attend the kindergarten and the primary school, and consume a total of 180 meals a day. The canteen’s services are also used by around 10 teachers and a number of municipal employees. A total of 22,000 meals are prepared during each school year. The Project’s profile has been greatly raised by feedback from the Prize and the launch of the “purchasing syndicate” for families. *Report*, one of the best news programmes on Italy’s national station RAI 3, reported on Budoia,

the canteen and the purchasing syndicate as part of its “Good News” item.

GasPedemontana, the recently launched purchasing syndicate for families, has given added momentum to the Project. It receives fruit and vegetables directly from local producers as well as olive oil, Parmesan cheese, pasta, flour and citrus fruits directly from other Italian producers. The canteen is run by a village co-operative which employs a chef, two staff and a dinner lady. This represents an important contribution towards job creation and developing the local economy.

There is no doubt that the management of the school canteen in Budoia is unusual (one of the reasons it was rewarded with the Prize in the first place). This has however also resulted in a number of uncertainties regarding the correct bureaucratic procedures. In the agreements between the association and the municipality certain details have already been altered, and new management possibilities for the next three years are to be evaluated over the next few months. This is designed to simplify the everyday management without abandoning the values on which the initiative was founded. These difficulties are to be resolved thanks to the DYNALP² Project, which has just been launched.

DYNALP²: Visions and actions to ensure young people remain in their mountain communities

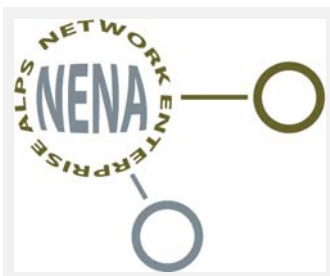
The DYNALP² workshop series is now underway in Slovenia. In Bovec the first workshop on 30 and 31 March dealt with solutions on how to prevent youth exodus. At first glance it might seem as if this issue affects only certain Alpine valleys, but the answers put forward can be of interest in many ways to politicians and regional players in the communities.

The introductory paper with its mix of philosophy and experience from the *Steinbacher Weg* showed that preventing such an exodus calls for a judicious blend of creativity and rigour. One of the small steps necessary includes ensuring that the village is seen as a biotope that has to be reconditioned so that people can go on living there or live there once again. How this can be achieved in practice was presented using project examples collated as part of the Future in the Alps and PUSEMOR projects <http://www.pusemor.net>. Certain regions such as the valleys of Poschiavo/CH are looking in particular at the possibilities of new technologies. The Trenta Valley, the destination of the field trip, is reaping the fruits of another procedure, namely the successful co-operation with the Triglav National Park. In particular it resulted in the construction of a visitor centre, which now plays an important role in the Trenta Valley. A field report from Italy's Val Torre, where resignation is making it difficult to come up with optimistic prospects with regard to exodus, illustrates just how topical the workshop topic is.

The debate highlighted the reasons for the exodus as well as measures which sustainable development in particular would make possible. While Alpine communities need the same opportunities as towns and cities, they must also be self-motivated and have clearly defined objectives and ideals.

DYNALP² is a project by the Alliance in the Alps local authority network in which the findings gained from the Future in the Alps project are applied at the municipal level.

From idea to implementation: the NENA workshop series



As part of the Interreg IIIB Project NENA (<http://www.nena-network.net>) CIPRA International is organising a series of workshops to bring together businesses and their relevant umbrella organisations. These workshops give entrepreneurs and umbrella organisations the opportunity to gain an overview of the existing interest and the potential benefits of co-operation ventures in areas such as timber, energy efficiency and renewable energies. In addition to the topics mentioned above, the workshops are also to discuss the establishment of an alpine-wide network of innovation and sustainability-orientated companies. The first workshop in Chur/CH and

Vorarlberg/A on 11 and 12 May will be aimed at businesses and umbrella organisations in the timber industry and its value-added chain. The second workshop will be held in Grenoble on 28 and 29 June and focus on the financing of renewable energies (and solar energy in particular).

Special issue of CIPRA Info and Memorandum on the Future in the Alps

The special issue of CIPRA Info on the results and findings so far from the Future in the Alps Project was published in March. It summarises the wealth of knowledge gained from the plans, policies and instruments and projects in place in the Alps, and makes that knowledge available in abstract form to anyone interested in the subject.

The Schaan Memorandum, for its part, sets out CIPRA's political demands for each topic relating to Future in the Alps. The Future in the Alps Project was able to show for instance that social and economic prosperity does not depend solely on how accessible a region is, and as a consequence CIPRA is calling for the promotion of models of economic success that do not require hard development measures and to push ahead with research into the factors that make such models a success.

Both CIPRA Info and Memorandum can be downloaded from www.cipra.org.

New look for www.cipra.org/future

The Future in the Alps website was given a makeover in the spring and has been incorporated into the CIPRA portal. This means that the information on Future in the Alps is now more user-friendly and more easily accessible. The site is regularly updated with news and events. A list of links with references to the homepages of institutions, organisations and projects working on behalf of sustainable development has been put online. The programmes, lectures and presentations from the individual workshops of the

series entitled “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People” will gradually be made available for download. Documentation on the workshops in Bad Hindelang/D and Admont/A are already online. The organisers of the workshop held in Budapest in late January (Cooperative Decision-making and Conflict Management in Public Planning and Environment) has published a conference book and it is now available under: <http://www.cipra.org/en/future-in-the-alps/downloads/workshop-series-disseminating-knowledge-networking-people/070122eDocumentationWorkshopBudapest.pdf>

Also a documentation pack about the workshop held in Villach/A (The Future of Provision for Elementary Requirements in the Alpine Region: Challenges – Opportunities – Examples of Success) will soon be ready and available for downloading from www.cipra.org/future.

The knowledge database is currently being updated with news from the best-practice projects. Every week one project will be selected from the list of current projects and featured on the homepage as the Project of the Week.

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

Die Qualität des Natur- und Kulturrums: Wie die der Tourismus einen Mehrwert für die Berggemeinden schaffen kann.; 31.5.-1.6.07, Chiavenna (I); Partners:CIPRA Italia, WWF Italia, Languages: it, de.

Management alpiner Schutzgebiete – Chance für die regionale Entwicklung?; 13.-14.6.07, Klagenfurt (A); Partner: CIPRA Österreich; Languages; de, it, sl

Welche Partizipation brauchen raum- und umweltbezogene Projekte?; 6.-7.9.07, Switzerland; Partner: SANU; Languages: de, fr.

Next dates for the DYNALP² workshop series (for full details see www.alpenallianz.org/dynalp)

Gestione della mobilità turistica in montagna; 14.-15.06.07, Bardonecchia (I), Languages: it, fr

Stations de ski et développement durable : outils et perspectives d'action ; 28.-29.9.07, Pays des Ecrins, Languages: de, fr, it.

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