

# Future in the Alps

## Project newsletter

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[www.cipra.org/future](http://www.cipra.org/future)



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### Future in the Alps comes to a close



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**Future in the Alps was officially terminated last December. That makes it time to look back at the work done and the results and successes achieved in the course of the three and a half years of the project and also to look forward into the future after Future in the Alps.**

As the core team of Future in the Alps, we would like to make use of this last Newsletter to take stock and present the various products and results of the project. At the same time we would like to take our leave of you, the people who have worked with us and participated in our events, and also of the MAVA Foundation. We do so in the firm conviction that we have achieved something and generated many useful inputs for sustainable development in the Alps.

### Where's the know-how? Now we know!

At the beginning of the project there was the general conviction that the know-how was there and some good examples, too, but those who stood to benefit from them did not know where to find them. Forty experts from the Alps spent the first year collecting the available know-how on six main topics. Right from the start the focus was placed on those subjects that are of central importance for the future of the Alps: regional value-added, governance capacity, protected areas and biodiversity, mobility, forms of decision making, and policies and instruments. As the result of their work the experts were able to present 160 successful examples plus 240 excerpts from the literature as a theoretical basis. Six reports were written in English to explain the results plus a final report designed to place the topics in a new shared context. In order to make this knowledge available to all as input for new activities and good projects, a dedicated website was created at [www.cipra.org/future](http://www.cipra.org/future). The site offers free access to the data base with the projects and bibliographical references, news and information on events, and useful documents for downloading.

As a further meaningful product of this more theoretical phase of the project, CIPRA employed the research results to formulate its demands of policy-makers and administrators in the “Schaan Memorandum for the Future in the Alps”.

Collaboration between experts from the various countries of the Alps generated new contacts and networks at the level of the individual actors, and their countries and disciplines so that people who did not know one another before are now actively collaborating on new projects. Johannes Heeb, Wolfgang Pfefferkorn and Luis Fidschuster, for example, are working for Netzwerkstelle Wissensmanagement Regionalentwicklung Schweiz (Swiss Network Office for Knowledge Management in Regional Development) – a co-operation that would not have been possible without Future in the Alps!



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## The challenge: disseminating knowledge

Establishing the knowledge base was an important first step. It formed the foundation for the transfer of knowledge in the central phase of Future in the Alps. Numerous activities were launched with the objective of communicating the know-how collected to as many actors as possible throughout the region of the Alps.

### The competition



The total value of the awards made was 150,000 euros.

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Five hundred and seventy projects, activities and initiatives were entered for the Future in the Alps competition in the hope of winning one of the 25,000 euro prizes. Eight projects were selected to receive an award, with prize-money totalling 150,000 euros. The keen response to the competition showed that there is no shortage of good ideas for sustainable development in the Alps, and that there is a trend that needs to be supported and reinforced.

### The international workshops

From October 2006 to April 2008 a series of thirteen international workshops were organised, with one to three workshops held in every country of the Alps with simultaneous translation in at least two languages. That gave some 800 people an opportunity to share their knowledge and learn from others and make new contacts.

**Workshop documents are on-line in the respective languages of each Workshop available:** <http://www.cipra.org/en/future-in-the-alps/downloads>



Visits to successful projects were a part of all the workshops.

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### We Alps! People shaping the Future



CIPRA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Alpine Report is the most important product of Future in the Alps. The examples of best practice, the final reports on the six topics, and data for the whole of the Alps formed the basis for the fifteen exposés, the seven background reports and the data supplement. The book tells of people with a commitment to solutions, people who are creative, innovative and successful. “It is a positive book about the new heroes of the mountains ...,” says the “Süddeutsche Zeitung”. The texts, photographs and design are the result of co-operation between CIPRA and the professionals of the German Zeitspiegel agency.

### ALPS KNOW HOW – the CD

The content generated in the framework of Future in the Alps was also used to produce a CD offering a full range of teaching materials. The CD includes tutorials in English on the six main subjects of the project plus backgrounders compiled by a team of international experts. There is also a collection of materials for further work in the form of pdf files in various languages. The CD is an effective teaching tool offering a wide overview of the central topics confronting the Alps. It will be soon available for use by research workers and students, for university and college courses, and for continuous education programmes in the field of sustainable development in the Alps.

## Maintaining a public presence

Throughout the project, a strong public presence was maintained in order to reach out to as many people in the Alps as possible. In particular, CIPRA produced a number of publications such as the 3rd Alpine Report, CIPRA Info Special no. 82 and the proceedings of two international CIPRA conferences, namely "Alpine Town, Alpine Country" and "Climate – Change – Alps". External publications during the project period included six books and volumes of conference proceedings with chapters devoted to the project and its results as well as about forty articles published throughout the Alpine region in journals and on various websites. Future in the Alps was regularly represented at relevant events; members of the core team and groups of experts made presentations and distributed project literature at about forty conferences. Some forty websites of relevance for sustainable development and the Alps offered links to our project website. CIPRA announced all project milestones in the form of press releases in five languages.



The conference on climate change in Bad Hindelang, September 2006.  
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## Global knowledge transfer



The global knowledge transfer group from Asian mountain regions.  
© CIPRA International

Future in the Alps organised a further training programme in collaboration with the Inwent development organisation. Twenty-five individuals from Asian mountain regions made use of the opportunity to access the know-how and experience available in the Alps for subsequent transfer and application in their respective countries on completion of the twelve-month course.

Global knowledge transfer was also the objective of two workshops held in Budapest and the Ukraine, in which a main focus was placed on the findings of Future in the Alps.

## Implementing knowledge, supporting communities, building networks

The objective of Future in the Alps was not just to collect and communicate know-how, but also to promote utilisation of that know-how. The winners of the competition were given continuous support, and measures were taken to ensure that the prize money was put to the agreed use.

Future in the Alps also generated two major independent projects that address the topics and findings of the project: DYNALP<sup>2</sup>, a support programme for local authorities, and NENA, an Interreg project for the development of a network of companies.

### DYNALP<sup>2</sup>: in support of sustainable development in the municipalities of the Alps

The objective of DYNALP<sup>2</sup>, which runs from April 2006 to June 2009, is to support local authorities wishing to implement sustainable projects in the framework of the six main topics of Future in the Alps. A total of 36 projects have been co-financed with a total of about 500,000 euros. DYNALP<sup>2</sup> activities also include thematic workshops, which start with a brief theoretical introduction and enable representatives of the Alpine communities to learn from the experiences of others and see the results for themselves during the accompanying excursions. The discussions also give them an opportunity to assess the applicability of what they hear and see to their own communities. The events and offers of project funding have met with a keen response and generated widespread participation among the Alpine communities.

DYNALP<sup>2</sup> is run by the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities and funded by the Swiss MAVA Foundation for Nature.

Info: <http://www.alpenallianz.org/en/projects/dynalp2> (en, de, fr, it, sl)



The Alchemilla women's project funded through DYNALP<sup>2</sup> brings value added to the region.

Info:  
<http://www.alpenallianz.org/de/projekte/dynalp2/gfoerderte-projekte/404>

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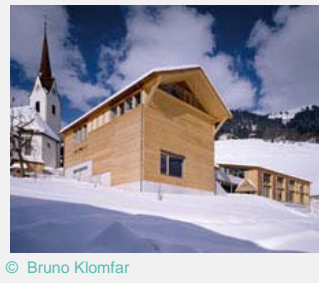
### NENA: the creation of an enterprise network

January 2008 saw the official foundation of the NENA enterprise network. The membership comprises companies and industry federations with a focus on innovation and sustainability. The idea for the network was developed in the framework of Future in the Alps in recognition of the fact that sustainable development can only be successfully implemented with the participation of trade and industry. NENA offers companies an opportunity to look beyond their respective national borders. The network is seen as an effective way of supporting the efforts of trade and industry for more sustainability and allow en-

terprises and their umbrella organisations to exchange experiences and to share knowledge as well as to carry out long term co-operation on specific topics and projects within the Alps. Furthermore NENA helps alpine enterprises to raise their innovation potential and their competitiveness, and to increase the contribution of alpine enterprises their umbrella organisations to sustainable development in the Alps.

Infos: <http://www.nena-network.net/> (en)

### A practical example



© Bruno Klomfar

One of the prize-winners in the Future in the Alps competition and also a NENA project partner is Qualitätsgemeinschaft Holzbau-Kunst Vorarlberg (Quality Control in Wood Construction in Vorarlberg). The Future in the Alps award and involvement in the NENA project have stimulated further progress in the field of wood construction in the Austrian region of Vorarlberg. The Vorarlberg Wood Construction Prize, which combines aspects of architecture, craftsmanship and ecology, has been modified to take account of the energy balance, passive house construction and healthy living as additional criteria for the award. The project has enabled the Vorarlberg to further consolidate its position as a model region for wood construction.

International workshop series: “Disseminating knowledge – networking people”

### Collaboration in regional development

The last workshop in the series “Disseminating knowledge – networking people” is being held in St. Gall/CH on 3 April 2008 on the subject of “Collaboration in regional development”.

Things are happening in the regions. Numerous factors are influencing regional development, and many of the present determinants of regional policy are now in a state of change. This has consequences for various policy fields. One of the keys to sustainable regional development is interdisciplinary cooperation. That offers meaningful opportunities for forestry in particular. On the basis of the inputs and results of the previous seminar held in Brig in March 2007, specific examples and instruments for interdisciplinary co-operation will be presented and discussed at this year’s workshop. The examples will be taken from Switzerland and other countries. In the framework of CIPRA’s Future in the Alps project and the Swiss research programme on Landscapes and Living Spaces in the Alps, numerous examples have been analysed, findings made and instruments developed. This knowledge pool will be tapped at the St. Gall seminar.

The event, which is in French and German, is targeted at actors in the field of forestry policy and other policy fields with a focus on the Alpine and rural space as well as at the relevant authorities and associations.

Infos: <http://www.cipra.org/zukunft> (de, fr)

### AlpWeek: Innovation and the Alps – yesterday, today, tomorrow

11 - 14 June 2008 are the dates of one of this year’s most important events in the Alps, involving no fewer than five major networks of the Alpine region (CIPRA, Alpine Network of Protected Areas, Alliance in the Alps, Iscar and Club Arc Alpin). The subject of the conference is innovation in the Alps, including a review of the past, analysis of the present and outlook on the future.

This international conference is a key item on the calendar of events for anyone who has been involved in Future in the Alps, participated in the workshops, received inputs from the results of the project or simply followed the progress made.

The agenda includes many topics that relate to Future in the Alps. In the previous century, the Alpine region clearly demonstrated its powers of innovation and today, too, the Alps can make a valuable contribution to an innovative and sustainable future and pass on the knowledge gained. Among other things, the conference will focus on the role of innovation in the development of the economy and of social and cultural aspects for mountain regions, on strategic innovation in response to climate change, and on the challenge of bridging the gap between town and country. Other subjects to be addressed include mobility, networking and knowledge management for the Alps as a living space.

Infos: <http://www.alpweek.org> (de, en, fr, it, sl)



## Seeing old friends, making new contacts

The conference will also provide a last opportunity to meet many of the people who have participated in Future in the Alps. The Future in the Alps project team is inviting attendees to an aperitif at a session that will include a presentation of the results, a slide show of the main activities and events, a few short concluding speeches, and an exhibition of the final products of Future in the Alps. But the main focus will be on the attendees themselves, who will have an opportunity to meet old friends and make new contacts!

## Climate protection: are we doing the right thing?



Are the measures taken for climate protection and adaptation really sustainable?

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Future in the Alps was a success! But CIPRA is moving on and, with fresh energy and new competence, is this time addressing one very important and equally complex topic. The climate is changing. That is a fact, and measures are now being taken in the Alps to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. But are these measures sustainable? Or could they have negative consequences for the environment, or for the economy or society?

The consequences of the response to climate change are the subject of CIPRA's new project. The MAVA Foundation for Nature Protection has approved a budget of 1.8 million Swiss francs for eighteen months. In that period, four experts on climate change will collect and process the

knowledge needed to address the topic. In addition, successful project organisers are called upon to participate in a competition. The results will form the basis of preparation for knowledge transfer and the choice of pilot regions where the know-how can be incorporated into sustainable projects. The actual knowledge transfer process and implementation in the pilot regions will form the second two and a half year phase of the project.

The new project will enable CIPRA to go a step further and show that not everything that looks sustainable is sustainable.

## THANK YOU!

We should like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to and supported the Future in the Alps project. We are especially grateful to the MAVA Foundation for the generous funding. Our thanks also go to CIPRA's national contact points, which have played an important role in terms of awareness building in the various countries. We should also like to thank the experts who assembled the knowledge base, the reflection team who provided external monitoring and support for the project with their constructive criticism. We are grateful to all our partners who made it possible to hold the successful series of workshops and to all the actors who have proved that sustainable development in the Alps is possible. Finally, we wish to say thank you to all our readers for the interest they have shown in the project.

### Facts and figures

Project period: 3.5 years

Budget: Euros 2.4 million

Competition: EUR 150,000, 8 prize-winners

13 international workshops

THE book: "We Alps! People shaping the Future"

The CD: ALPS KNOW HOW – a Curriculum for Sustainable Development in the Alps

Approx. 40 articles in journals throughout the Alpine region

Website links and a regular presence at events

DYNALP2: Exchange and implementation of ideas by the members of "Alliance in the Alps"

Establishment of the NENA network

### About "Future in the Alps"

The Future in the Alps Project was 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, was aimed at promoting sustainable development in the alpine region. Its aim was 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 was a contribution by CIPRA to the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

Future in the Alps was a networking instrument and promoted 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 were collated, evaluated and processed for further application (alpKnowhow). alpService made the results available to a multitude of players. Sustainable pilot projects that apply this knowledge were in turn supported and monitored in alpPerformance.

The following six topics were 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](http://www.cipra.org/future)