

Future in the Alps

Project newsletter

August 2007, Nr. 10/2007
www.cipra.org/future



Page 1: New technologies give a boost to local culture and tradition

Page 2: Transport and visitor management in mountain areas

Page 2: Rural-urban co-operation: A challenge for the Alpine region

Page 2: Services for people living in rural mountain areas

Page 3: What's new on www.cipra.org/future

Page 3: Workshop in the Ukraine and international further education programme

Page 3: CIPRA's 3rd Alpine Report presents the shapers of the future

Page 4: DYNALP² supports the implementation of projects

Page 4: NENA: getting together, exchanging views and setting up an enterprise network

Page 4: Forthcoming dates for Future in the Alps and DYNALP²

International workshop series "Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People"

New technologies give a boost to local culture and tradition

CIPRA successfully pursued its international workshop series on "Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People" with numerous events in May and June.



Thanks to new technologies remote mountain regions are able – and keen – to open a window on the world

© www.iibernina.ch

On May 10 and 11 the Grisons Municipality of Poschiavo/CH played host to the workshop entitled "From Peripheral Geographic Location to Virtual Centre: ICT in a Rural-alpine Region".

Remote regions such as the valleys of Puschlav (Valposchiavo) and Bergell in Switzerland or the Italian province of Sondrio are not prepared to make do with their remote location. And thanks to new technologies they are able to open a window on the world. This was made quite clear by the presentations at the start of the workshop, which looked at the objectives of a project for a technology centre in Sondrio and the successes and prospects of the Polo Poschiavo and Punto Bregaglia technology centres. The first part of the workshop therefore focused on the potential afforded by technological innovations. The field trip in the

Valposchiavo was devoted to synergies between tradition and innovation. It illustrated the commitment of the Polo Poschiavo to supporting projects aimed at boosting local produce, culture and history with the aid of new technologies.

Day 2 was given over to an exchange of experience. It featured presentations of the experience gained with the Talent Exchange and the *Holzbaupunkt* network in Vorarlberg/A. The small Italian municipality of Budoia showcased the success of its organic canteen initiative.

40 participants from Switzerland, Italy and Austria took part in the workshop, including representatives of local authorities and from the neighbouring town of Sondrio. The meals they enjoyed together helped to foster the encounters and exchanges between the participants. A number of media from Switzerland also reported extensively on the event.

The Workshop documents are soon to be posted online at www.cipra.org/future ("Downloads").

International workshop series “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People”

Transport and visitor management in mountain areas

On May 10 and 11 CIPRA International and CIPRA Slovenia organised a workshop on the topic of “Transport and Visitor Management in Mountain Areas”. It became clear already with the first contributions that there are no straightforward answers when it comes to the relationship between transport development and regional development. There are areas of the Alps which do well economically despite being difficult to access. Conversely there are regions which despite their easy accessibility are being sidelined economically. And whenever tourism is one of the main economic factors in the Alps, ecological and social sustainability must also be taken into account.

Successful examples of good practice were presented at the workshop, including the management of visitor flows at the Logarska Dolina Nature Park in Slovenia, transport management at Italy’s Adamello Brenta Nature Park, and mountain road management in Austria’s Dobratsch Nature Park. These projects have succeeded in reducing private motorised traffic using targeted measures, shuttle buses and charges. During the field trip the forty and more participants were able to see two key aspects of visitor flow management at the Triglav National Park: the Vrata Valley and the Planica Valley. Later on, they explored the topic at length in working groups using concrete examples.

Some of the main conclusions reached at the workshop included measures such as charging fees, talking to all the parties involved in a project and involving them in the decision-making process, and gaining the acceptance of local residents through quick successes with implementation.

The Workshop documents are soon to be posted online at www.cipra.org/future (“Downloads”).

International workshop series “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People”

Rural-urban co-operation: A challenge for the Alpine region

The eighth workshop in the series on “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People” was held in Autrans on June 4 and 5 and focused on the subject of regional concepts and rural-urban co-operation. The organisers, CIPRA France and the further education organisation *Association de Formation des Ruraux aux Activités du Tourisme*, provided an opportunity for an exchange of views on the shift in relations between rural and urban areas. The discussions among the seventy participants, who included association representatives, technicians, local councillors and scientists, were preceded by the presentation of three concrete projects. Land use, mobility, agriculture, tourism and services were highlighted as the key spheres of action for the implementation of sustainable relations between town and country.



Projects which seek to bring town and country closer together always involve a large number of players.

© CIPRA France

The topic was illustrated by two field trips. The large number of players involved was underscored during the visit to leisure facilities and the guest reception at the Vercors Regional Nature Park. During the second field trip a farming couple talked about its experiences in developing local produce and setting up an agricultural consumer association. The round-table at the end of the event made clear that the initiatives, methods and tools available to enable a rapprochement between urban and rural areas were still too little known or insufficiently developed. The workshop demonstrated that the rural-urban issue mirrors virtually all the great challenges faced by the Alpine region in the future.

The Workshop documents are soon to be posted online at www.cipra.org/future (“Downloads”).

International workshop series “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People”

Services for people living in rural mountain areas



Cross-municipality libraries add to the wealth of the cultural offer in remote mountain areas

© PaysA3V

The next workshop is dedicated to the topic of innovation, community use and participation relating to services for people living rural mountain areas. Remote and sparsely populated mountain areas in particular are suffering from the fact that the range of services on offer locally is deteriorating. The workshop features creative and innovative solutions in the areas of transport, child care, health and employment. The workshop is to be held at Saint André les Alpes/F on October 4 and 5. The workshop languages are French and Italian.

Programme and registration form: <http://www.cipra.org/fr/avenir-dans-les-alpes> (fr)

What's new on www.cipra.org/future

Brig, Klagenfurt and Chiavenna: Workshop documentation is now online

The workshop on "The Forestry Sector in Regional Policy – Options for Sustainable Development in the Alpine Region" organised by the Further Education in Forestry and Landscape jointly with CIPRA was held in Brig/CH on March 28 and 29. From 31 May to 1 June CIPRA Italy and the WWF Italy organised the workshop on "The Quality of the Natural and Cultural Environment: How Tourism Can Create an Added Value for Mountain Communities" in Chiavenna/I. On June 13 and 14 the workshop on "Management of Alpine Protected Areas – An Opportunity for Regional Development?" took place in Klagenfurt/A. It was organised by CIPRA Austria in co-operation with Klagenfurt University.

The documentation complete with the presentations by all the speakers is now available for downloading from the Future in the Alps web site at <http://www.cipra.org/de/zukunft-in-den-alpen/downloads/workshopreihe> for all three events.

Completion of the synthesis report on the findings of alpKnowhow

The synthesis report on the findings from the alpKnowhow research phase of Future in the Alps has now been complemented with two appendices and is available online (Knowledge Database navigation item). In the Glossary the keywords relating to the six topic areas addressed by Future in the Alps have been translated into the four main languages of the Alps. Open research questions have been added as a second appendix. These are questions which arose during the project preparations or as part of the work by the team of experts. CIPRA now wants to encourage the scientific community to develop new projects in these areas.

Global know-how transfer: Workshop in the Ukraine and international further education programme

One of the aims of Future in the Alps is to make the findings gained from the project available to mountain regions beyond the Alps, too. To this end, CIPRA, together with the international organisation Green Dossier, held a workshop in the Ukraine from 31 May to 2 June on solving conflicts in protected areas. At the workshop, the participants from six regions of the Ukraine (representatives from protected areas, NGOs, governmental environment institutes and the UN development programme) shared their experience in the area of conflict resolution, analysed the causes of conflicts, and drew up potential solutions with the help of the experience gained from the Alps.



Participants from six regions of the Ukraine analysed causes of conflict and drew up possible solutions with the help of the experience gained in the Alps.

© Michael Jungmeier

Future in the Alps also implements the global transfer of know-how with an international further education programme, which CIPRA is organising together with the development organisation InWent. The further education programme is designed to contribute towards sustainable development in the mountain regions of Central Asia. A group of 25 people from Tajikistan, Nepal, Pakistan and China is already taking part in a four-month German course in Germany. The course on "Planning and Management of Sustainable Regional Development in Mountain Regions" is scheduled to begin in September. It will last one year and be held in German. The programme ends with a six-month transfer phase in the country of origin. Contents from Future in the Alps are to be incorporated into the course syllabus.

CIPRA's 3rd Alpine Report presents the shapers of the future

In its 3rd Alpine Report, to be published in autumn 2007, CIPRA is making the results of Future in the Alps available to a broad public.

The book, which is in two parts, talks about the people who are shaping the future in the Alps. The first part of the book describes fifteen exemplary, trendsetting projects and initiatives from throughout the Alpine region which act as a role model and show how economic activity and living in harmony with nature can function. The second part provides the scientific background to these examples of good practice, examines them in depth, and puts them into an overall Alpine context.

CIPRA will also be publishing a CD with teaching and learning materials in the autumn as part of Future in the Alps. The CD is intended for universities and other education establishments, with the aim of conveying first and foremost the results of alpKnowhow.

DYNALP² supports the implementation of projects

The closing date for submitting projects seeking co-funding as part of DYNALP² expired on June 29. DYNALP² is a project launched by the *Alliance in the Alps* network of municipalities in 2006 and it is being financed by the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation. Communities from throughout the Alpine region which are members of the network of communities were able to submit applications for projects that address the six topic areas of Future in the Alps. 40 candidatures were received, with 15 to 20 expected to receive approval for co-financing. The majority of the applications came from Switzerland and Austria, and most of the project ideas focused on the issues of protected areas and mobility. An international jury of experts from throughout the Alpine region is to decide on the choice of projects on September 14.

For more information on DYNALP²: <http://dynamlp.alpenallianz.org>

NENA: getting together, exchanging views and setting up an enterprise network



Exchanges despite the language barrier
© CIPRA International

Through its NENA Project, CIPRA International is pursuing the goal of setting up a network of innovative and sustainable enterprises in the Alpine region. To strengthen this Alpine-wide network and plan future action programmes together, a large-scale event is to be held in Bregenz/A from 26 to 28 September.

CIPRA has already organised two international NENA workshops. On May 11 and 12 around twenty participants discussed value-added chains involving timber, and also eco-friendly construction. On June 28 and 29 around 80 participants met in Grenoble/F for an exchange of views on topics such as "Financing Renewable Energies" and "Large-scale Photovoltaic Power Plants" following a co-operation venture between CIPRA International, RhôneAlpénergie

Environnement and the Grenoble Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The two workshops proved that other people often encounter similar problems and that processes that are considered unrealistic may already have been successfully implemented elsewhere. The participants were also able to establish contacts which will enable future co-operation ventures.

More information on the Bregenz event can be found at <http://www.nena-network.net> (en). The NENA Project is funded through the EU's INTERREG IIIB programme.

Forthcoming dates for Future in the Alps and DYNALP² (for details see www.cipra.org/zukunft and www.alpenallianz.org/dynamlp)

Welche Partizipation brauchen raum- und umweltbezogene Projekte?; 6.-7.12.07, Siders/CH; Partner: SANU; languages: de, fr. (Zukunft in den Alpen)

Stations de ski et développement durable : outils et perspectives d'action, 28.-29.9.07, Pays des Ecrins, languages: de, fr, it. (DYNALP²)

Regionale Wertschöpfung und Sozialkapital: Nachhaltigkeit wie aus dem Bilderbuch, 18.-20.10.07, Schruns/A, languages de, fr, it, sl (DYNALP²)

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