

FUTURE IN THE ALPS

PROJECT NEWSLETTER 4

October 2005



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The gathering of "Alpine knowledge" is now in full swing Page 2

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€160,000 IN PRIZE MONEY FOR SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS IN THE ALPINE REGION

On 22 September eight outstanding projects aimed at sustainable development in the Alpine region were awarded prizes worth a total of €160,000 as the winners of the Future in the Alps Competition. The main prizes in the six competition categories were endowed with prize money of €25,000 each. CIPRA also awarded two special prizes worth €5,000 each. The Future in the Alps Competition was aimed at publicising and networking innovative schemes which had already been implemented.

The awards ceremony took place at CIPRA's annual conference in Brig/CH. At the official ceremony Luc Hoffmann, founder of the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation, which financed the Future in the Alps project, had motivating words to say to the prize winners and the other players involved in Future in the Alps. The Competition served to highlight the diversity of ideas that had been implemented in the Alpine region. The big challenge now lies ahead, namely networking these motivated players and promoting the exchange of information and experience. "And Future in the Alps is the ideal platform for achieving that," said Luc Hoffmann.

The prize winners in the six competition categories

The prize winner in the category Regional Value Added is *Qualitätsgemeinschaft Vorarlberger Holzbau* from Austria and its *Holzbau-Kunst* project. The Governance Capacity prize went to the *Polo Poschiavo Further Education Centre* from Grisons/CH. Other prizes in the categories Protected Areas and Mobility went respectively to the non-profit association *Logarska dolina d.o.o.* from Slovenia and the Austrian Municipality of Werfenweng for its sustainable mobility concept. The prize in the category New Forms of Decision Making went to Italy and the support organisations of the Self-administered Referendum on the Future of Mobility in the Puster Tal. The prize winners in the Policies and Instruments category were Tyrol's Ferdinandeum Provincial Museum and Tyrol's Environmental Advocate's Office for the *Die Helle Not* project, a scheme aimed at protecting moth species. The two

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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. Through the Project CIPRA is contributing to sustainable development in the alpine region and to the implementation of the Alpine Convention.

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special prizes were awarded to the Kempodium urban project in Germany and the AIAB Association for Ecological Farming in Italy.

Photos of the awards ceremony and detailed descriptions of the eight prize winners and the 15 other projects which also made the shortlist are available in German, French, Italian, Slovene and English at <http://competition.cipra.org/en/competition>.

The awards ceremony as a launch pad for new activities

The winning projects are to play an important role throughout the remaining term of the Future in the Alps Project. They will serve as role models for others and are to be publicised accordingly in the media. Over the next two months the activities for which the prize money is to be used in each case are to be discussed in detail at each project location by the project managers and representatives of the Future in the Alps core team. These discussions will also examine possibilities for carrying out excursions with outside visitors at the site of the winning projects so that the experience can be passed on.

The projects that were not among the award winners are also a valuable source of information for further work under the Future in the Alps Project: While some are potential members of the planned Alpine Enterprise Network, others could be involved as teaching and learning bases; in any case all the players involved in the projects submitted are potential users of the services provided by alpService.

THE GATHERING OF “ALPINE KNOWLEDGE” IS NOW IN FULL SWING

Around 30 experts from seven Alpine countries made use of the summer to collate knowledge on the Project's six topic areas on behalf of the Future in the Alps Project. Practical knowledge and examples of best practice are to be gathered up until mid-October for the topics of Regional Value Added, Governance Capacity, Protected Areas, Mobility, New Forms of Decision Making, and Policies and Instruments.

Experts from the fields of research and practical work are to meet at a second workshop in Bregenz/A on 24 and 25 October. Together with the project team they will discuss ways in which to evaluate, compile and process the collated knowledge. The synthesis phase thus initiated is to last until spring 2006. The results will provide the basis for the alpService products with which the Future in the Alps Project is to make the knowledge available to players in the Alpine region.

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

Start of a **seminar series on the availability of energy**: The Power Plant in Your Car? Speaker: Jeremy Rifkin; 1.10.2005, Poschiavo/CH; organisers: Polo Poschiavo; seminar languages: English, German, Italian

2nd Workshop of the Extended Future in the Alps Project Team; 24 – 25.10.2005, Bregenz/A

Tourism – Without the Auto Mobile: Sustainable Forms of Mobility in Municipalities; 3rd DYNALP Theme Workshop in Co-operation with Future in the Alps; 27.10.2005, Werfenweng/A; organisers: DYNALP Project, Municipality of Werfenweng, Future in the Alps Project; workshop languages: German, French, Italian