

# FUTURE IN THE ALPS

## PROJECT NEWSLETTER 3

July 2005

### **Huge success for our 150,000 Euro competition** page 1

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### **It's all systems go! for gathering „Alpine knowledge“** page 2

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### **HUGE SUCCESS FOR OUR 150,000 EURO COMPETITION: 570 PROJECTS NOW ONLINE AT [WWW.CIPRA.ORG/FUTURE](http://WWW.CIPRA.ORG/FUTURE)**

**The Future in the Alps competition being held across the Alps has been very well received. By the July 20 submission deadline individuals and organisations from all eight Alpine countries had submitted more than 570 projects. All the competition contributions can now be viewed at [www.cipra.org/future](http://www.cipra.org/future). The six project winners will be benotified during the first half of September and announced on 22 September.**

Under the terms of the competition we were looking for the best projects on sustainable development in the Alpine region. As part of its Future in the Alps Project the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) is compiling and rewarding innovative ideas that have already been implemented. Switzerland's MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation is financing the Project and prize money worth a total of 150,000 euros.

We received 200 projects from Switzerland and 186 from Italy. The response from Austria was also strong, with 153 projects submitted. Other entries came from France (82), Germany (57), Slovenia (27), Liechtenstein (15) and Monaco (5). Many of the contributions concern cross-national projects.

We asked for projects on sustainable development in six categories: Regional Value Added, Governance Capacity, Protected Areas, Mobility, New Forms of Decision-making, and Policies and Instruments. The huge response proves that the Alpine region is not short of sustainable projects. One of the main objectives of Future in the Alps is to network these projects and its key players, which is why all the contributions are now posted at [www.cipra.org/future](http://www.cipra.org/future), where they are open for comment.

The International Jury comprises representatives of, among others, the MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation, CIPRA International and the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL). The Jury will award six prizes worth €25,000 each. Its main focus is on sustainability, i.e. which project is best able to harmonise ecological, economic and socio-cultural interests. Who has good ideas that can be applied to other regions, ideas that are capable of drawing the public's attention to the issue of sustainability?

**The awards ceremony is to take place in Brig/CH on 22 September 2005 as part of CIPRA's 2005 Yearly Symposium.**



Zukunft in den Alpen  
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## IT'S ALL SYSTEMS GO! FOR GATHERING "ALPINE KNOWLEDGE"

One of the main objectives of the Future in the Alps Project is to collect and cross-reference all we know about sustainable development throughout the Alpine region. On 6 and 7 July 33 experts from seven Alpine countries met in Chur/CH to launch the "alpKnowhow" project phase.

The Project Workshop in Chur was attended by economists and social scientists, transport experts, and specialists in agriculture and tourism. They are all members of the six international teams who, over the next nine months, will be collating research findings and practical knowledge on the six project topics and coming up with answers to the Project's key issues (see box).

### Developing a common understanding of the Project

The Workshop was an opportunity first of all to get to know one another; after all, the teams are nothing if not mixed, with experts and representatives of national CIPRAs from France, Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. One of its aims was that partners should develop a common understanding of the Project and clear up any outstanding issues.

### Teamwork for sustainable development in the Alps

The six main topic areas are to be addressed in mixed teams comprising three to five experts in the scientific and practical fields. And for a good reason: innovative solutions to the Alpine region's burning issues can only be found by combining the know-how from research and practical work. Researchers and practitioners have to be able to exchange their findings and reinterpret the knowledge in the light of their respective fields of expertise.

Until the autumn the teams are to gather examples of best practice and the most relevant publications on the six topics, for subsequent evaluation. The national CIPRAs are to provide support and mediate contacts. The knowledge base acquired in this way will pave the way to finding answers to the questions raised by Future in the Alps. Suggestions for ways to process and publicise the new information will also be sought. This second phase is to last until spring 2006, by which time at least three other workshops will have been held.

### Future in the Alps is looking for answers to six main questions

1. How can product and service chains with a high *regional value added* be used successfully?
2. What, besides economic and ecological considerations, prompts people to live in the Alps? How can the *governance capacity* of individuals and communities be consolidated?
3. Under what circumstances do large *protected areas* serve the purposes of both sustainable development and the preservation of the natural diversity?
4. How are mobility and structural regional development linked? What solutions are there to fast growing *leisure, tourism and commuter mobility*?
5. What *new forms of decision-making* are the most promising whenever regional planning demands have to be negotiated and sustainable development has to be taken into account?
6. What sort of impact do *policies and instruments* have on future regional development? How can they contribute more to sustainable development? How can policy assessment and research processes be improved to help reduce the gap between recommendations and practical implementation?