

Future in the Alps

Project newsletter

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Wir Alpen! – The 3rd Alpine Report is here!

Wir Alpen! Menschen gestalten Zukunft is the title of the 3rd Alpine Report, which is now available in German, French, Italian and Slovene.



The book is based on CIPRA's *Future in the Alps* study and is one of the Project's most successful results.

It shows how dedicated people have committed themselves not only to the protection of the alpine region but also to its economic, social and cultural advancement.

The book tells the story of people committed to find solutions. Creative, innovative and successful solutions. Like the Swiss mountain village that uses the internet to overcome its isolation. Or the serendipitous revival of a regional railway in Italy. Or an idyllic valley in Slovenia that is now being preserved as a privately managed protected area. Or successful timber craftsmen who have turned Vorarlberg into a place of pilgrimage for architects

from all over the world. All these examples have been compiled into the Future in the Alps knowledge base.

These reports and the atmospheric photographs, all of which make for exciting reading, are published in a single volume by Haupt Verlag, Bern/Stuttgart/Vienna; they are by authors and photographers from the renowned German agency *zeitenspiegel*, which also works for *Spiegel*, *Stern*, *Focus* and the *New York Times Magazine*. The second part of the book demonstrates that the practical examples are not isolated cases, and examines the scientific evidence in layman's terms. In fact, it proves that these cases are trendsetters for the developments of the future across the entire Alpine range.

The third section features the facts and figures on subjects such as the economy, transport, demographic trends and regional development, with clearly structured tables, charts and maps.

Wir Alpen is aimed at the people living in, and visiting, alpine regions as well as those in positions of responsibility and experts in and outside the Alps – in a word, committed people everywhere for whom the future of the Alps is a concern and who are involved in ecological and sustainable development either in their everyday work or in their leisure time.

For information and orders: CIPRA International, <http://www.cipra.org/de/3-alpenreport> (de)

Alpine Week 2008 – And we want to celebrate!

The second edition of what is known as the Alpine Week is being held in the Pays des Ecrins/F from 11 to 14 June 2008, with players from throughout the Alpine region discussing issues of sustainable development.

After the positive experiences of the 2004 Alpine Week in Kranjska Gora/SI the major Alpine networks ISCAR, CIPRA, Alliance in the Alps, ALPARC and Club Arc Alpin decided to repeat the event in 2008. The aim is to promote dialogue between the different groups of players involved in sustainable development. Proposals are also to be drawn up on ways in which public administrations and the Alpine Convention in particular can orientate their activities and their measures towards sustainable innovation.

In five main topic strands, the lectures and presentations are to address the issue of “Innovating [in] the Alps”. The main subject always revolves around questions of innovation, coupled with the challenges of sustainable development in the Alps.

We want to seize this opportunity to celebrate the completion of the Future in the Alps Project. So on Wednesday evening, 11 June 2008, there will be plenty of discussions, food and dancing. And everyone who took part in the Project is warmly invited to attend!

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



The Future in the Alps Project has been successfully completed: a good reason to celebrate!

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International workshop series “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People”

Services for people living in rural mountain regions



Public services are essential for sustainable development in rural mountain regions.

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From 4 to 5 October 2007 the Workshop at St. André les Alpes/F brought together 80 participants, including representatives of public institutions (municipalities, local authority associations and regional bodies), associations and various public-sector institutions. They all showed a great deal of interest in the subject and took an active part in the discussions. The Workshop was organised by CIPRA France, the Association for the Development of Regional and Service Networks (ADRETS), the local authority association Pays A3V and its advisory committee on development.

Participants were unanimous on the importance of the role of public services for sustainable development in rural mountain regions and noted the current trend towards the centralisation and specialisation of services. The wide variety of illustrative presentations, workgroups

and field trips highlighted the importance of initiatives aimed at maintaining high-quality services that are accessible to all. They also made clear that these initiatives face many problems such as the lack of recognition and long-term support as well as the absence of any evaluation. These difficulties are all the more acute in remote regions with little in the way of networked structures. They face the challenge of adapting to the fast pace of developments in the technical, political and financial requirements set out in the services sector.

The Workshop was intentionally held in a neglected region in which highly motivated players and dynamic structures have produced exemplary initiatives. As a contribution to the Future in the Alps Project it illustrated the fundamental importance of services aimed at the population when it comes to life together in the Alps.

The results of the Workshop are online at www.cipra.org/future.

International workshop series “Disseminating Knowledge – Networking People”

Exchange of know-how on participation at Siders/CH

50 experts in the fields of regional planning and the environment from Switzerland, France, Austria and the Netherlands convened in Siders/CH on 6 and 7 December 2007 on the occasion of the last workshop in the international series of workshops entitled *Getting Knowledge Across – Networking People* to exchange views on “What sort of participation do regional and environmental projects require?”. The Workshop was organised by CIPRA and *sanu* (the Swiss institute for education in sustainable development) jointly with the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland, the Foundation for the Sustainable Development of Mountain Regions, and the Pfyng-Finges Valais Regional Natural Park.

At the start of the event the participants gathered at a *World Café* (a participatory method aimed at large groups) to compile the list of issues they would be discussing over the next two days. Three different examples of participatory processes were presented to highlight the topic: To what extent has the participatory process contributed to the success of the Health and the Environment Action Plan of the tourist resort of Crans-Montana/CH? How does participation work within the organisational structures of the UNESCO Biosphere Entlebuch/CH and how is it adapted to the different situations? And how has the participation of theme-related interest groups and geographic groups made it possible to realise a project as large as the third correction of the Rhone? On Day 2 the exchange took a more in-depth look at individual participatory approaches such as the use of new technologies. Even once the Workshop was over, the participants wanted to capitalise on the contacts they had just made to continue their stimulating exchanges.

The results of the Workshop are to be posted online soon at www.sanu.ch and www.cipra.org/zukunftf, where they will be available for downloading.

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

The documentation on the Transport and Visitor Management in Mountain Areas Workshop, which was held in Gozd Martuljek, Slovenia, on 10 and 11 May 2007, is now available under the Downloads heading.

Global know-how transfer: Exchange of know-how and people

Mussarat Parveen is a 26-year-old Pakistani woman and together with 25 other people from mountain regions of Asia she is taking part in a further education programme organised by CIPRA together with the development organisation InWent. In Pakistan she works for the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme. This development organisation uses participatory processes involving village and women's organisations to try and alleviate poverty and improve the living conditions of the population in mountain regions. As was the case with the other participants a six-month stay and a language course in Germany enabled Mussarat Parveen to acquire a sufficient level of proficiency in German for a six-week practical course with CIPRA International in Schaan (the first of two such courses on the further education syllabus).



Mussarat Parveen is a 26-year-old Pakistani woman and, together with 25 other people from mountain regions of Asia she is taking part in a further education programme.

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"As part of the programme, which focused on change management, I was able to learn about communication skills and methods of conflict management," says Mussarat. During my practical course with CIPRA I found out about methods of know-how transfer from the Future in the Alps Project and observed at first hand the dynamics of CIPRA's network activities. Taking part in the anniversary celebrations for the network of municipalities in Schruns/A and the subsequent workshop on governance capacity was also very interesting. Over the past few months I have been able to visit many interesting projects in the areas of energy, tourism and social capital. I was able to get lots of new ideas, ideas which could also be put to good use in Pakistan. In tourism for example, farmhouse holidays is a fascinating concept and could offer new prospects for tourism in northern Pakistan, which has declined sharply since 9/11."

The InWent programme continues, and in January 2008 participants will have a second opportunity to attend a practical course on the environment and sustainable development with organisations and institutions in the Alps. By transferring know-how from the Alps to other mountain regions of the world, Future in the Alps is contributing to the global transfer of know-how. For the staff at CIPRA, working together with Mussarat was also an interesting opportunity to get to know the culture of Pakistan and find out about a different reality.

Future in the Alps now available in didactic form and described as a good example

In mid-January 2008 Future in the Alps is to publish a CD with teaching and learning materials on the contents and results from the Project. The eight main topics of Policy Landscape, Development Trends, Change Management, Regional Value Added, Governance Capacity, Protected Areas, Mobility and New Forms of Decision-making convey the contents of *alpKnowhow* in didactic form, with many cross-references to specialist literature, web sites and practical projects. Twelve background topics showcase the current state of the Alps in the areas of mountain farming, mountain forests, tourism, climate, energy, landscape, biodiversity, urban-rural relations, culture, the economy and research. International

experts have provided the information for these topics. The CD has been compiled in English and is designed for courses at universities and other higher-education establishments.

A manual on regional development entitled *Erfolgreich durch Netzwerkkompetenz* [Success through Network Competence], edited by Stefan Bauer-Wolf, Harald Payer and Günter Scheer, has recently been published. In it, Future in the Alps is described as a successful example of good practice. Bibliography: *Erfolgreich durch Netzwerkkompetenz – Handbuch für Regionalentwicklung*. Stefan Bauer-Wolf, Harald Payer, Günter Scheer (editors); 2008; Springer-Verlag Vienna/New York; p 191; ISBN 978-3-211-73126-0

DYNALP² - The decisions have now been made: 14 other projects are to be supported financially

On 14 September the international jury selected 14 other projects to be co-financed by DYNALP². The spectrum ranges from small-scale projects such as the re-use of ancient historical footpaths in Polcenigo, Italy, to large-scale projects – in terms of both geography and operations – such as the traffic-calming concept in the Julian Alps/SI. Of the 40 projects submitted on sustainable development in Alpine communities the jury gave the go-ahead to four projects from Austria, three from France and Switzerland, two from Italy, and one from Slovenia and Germany. So together with the projects from the first round of tendering, in which 22 projects were selected, 36 projects are now being subsidised by DYNALP² with a total of around €500,000 Euro. The local authorities themselves must co-finance at least 50% of the costs.

The projects approved during the first tender have already been published at <http://dynalp.alpenallianz.org/de/bewilligte-projekte> (de). The next 14 are to added soon.

NENA: a process for setting up a network

The Interreg III B Project entitled NENA – ‘Network Enterprise Alps’ – was launched in March 2006. Less than 18 months later the network of small and medium enterprises which have adopted a sustainable approach to their economic activities is now almost completed.

A large-scale event was held in Bregenz from 26 to 28 September to report on and discuss regional resources, raw materials and energy as the driving forces behind regional development. At this event the NENA partners also discussed the implementation of an enterprise network.

The project partners are focusing on the issues of renewable energies, energy efficiency and timber as a value added chain. Other points raised within these key issues include innovation management, the transfer of know-how and experience, education and training as well as process optimisation and interface management between the individual links in the value-added chains.

The alpine-wide enterprise network offers a unique opportunity to extend and develop this catalogue of measures, to set up new initiatives, and to strengthen the co-operation ventures that have emerged as a result. The current project draws to a close at the beginning of 2008. An Interreg follow-up project is currently under discussion.

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