

Brig, 22 September 2005

CLOSING DEADLINE: 22.09.2005, 19.30

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PRIZES GALORE FOR THE FUTURE IN THE ALPS

CIPRA COMPETITION: EIGHT PRIZES WORTH A TOTAL OF €160,000

CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, has awarded prizes worth a total of €160,000 to eight outstanding projects aimed at sustainable development in the Alpine region. The awards for the Future in the Alps Competition were presented at CIPRA's annual conference in Brig/CH on 22 September.

The six main prizes were endowed with prize money of €25,000 each. CIPRA also awarded two special prizes, each worth €5,000. Three prizes went to projects from Austria (Salzburg, Tyrol, Vorarlberg), two to projects from Italy (Friuli, South Tyrol), with one prize each for projects from Germany (Allgäu), Slovenia and Switzerland (Grisons). The international jury had drawn up a shortlist of 15 other projects from the more than 570 projects submitted.

CIPRA's competition was aimed at publicising and networking innovative schemes which had already been implemented. Both the Future in the Alps Project and its prizes were financed by Switzerland's MAVA Foundation for Nature Conservation.

The prize winners in the six competition categories

The prize winner in the Regional Value Added category is **Quality Control in Wood Construction (QG-Holz)** from Austria and its *Art of Wood Construction* project. "QG-Holz is contributing in a major way towards promoting the timber chain from the forest to the finished structure. Thousands of jobs are secured in this way. In the pursuit of its objectives QG-Holz is equally mindful of both nature and landscape and the sustainable use of resources," praised Jury member Mario Broggi. In the same category the Jury also awarded a special prize to a "small yet worthy" project from Italy. In the Municipality of Budoia the **Italian Organic Agriculture Association (AIAB)** has enlisted the help of broad sections of the population to ensure that school meals are prepared using produce from ecological farming in the region.

The Governance Capacity prize went to the **Polo Poschiavo Further Education Centre** from Grisons/CH. It enables people of all ages and social backgrounds to gain access to the new technologies. This in turn improves the quality of life and education in the region, and boosts its competitiveness. The **Kempodium Education Centre** from Germany won a special prize as an urban project aimed at



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encouraging and sustaining the promotion and development of people's handicraft, cultural and social skills in the town of Kempten and environs.

In the Protected Areas category the Jury presented the award to the non-profit company **Logarska dolina d.o.o.** from Slovenia. Through its management of the Logarska dolina Nature Park the Association is contributing in an important way towards protecting nature and the environment, improving the infrastructure, and promoting sustainable economic development within the Park itself and its surroundings. The Association's members consist essentially of resident landowners.

The Austrian **Municipality of Werfenweng** won the Mobility prize for its project "Future in the Alps: Sustainable Mobility Strategies". "Werfenweng successfully implements fully integrated concepts for sustainable mobility in tourist, leisure, occupational and commuter mobility. Its policy focuses on positive incentives," explained Jury member Aurelia Ullrich.

The prize in the category New Forms of Decision Making went to Italy's Puster Valley. The support organisations of the **Self-organised referendum on future developments in traffic management in the Puster Valley** have helped to raise the population's awareness of mobility and transport issues. Local residents have realised they are able to influence policy, and the provincial government has entered into a dialogue with the population concerned.

The prize winners in the Policies and Instruments category were **Tyrol's Ferdinandeum Provincial Museum** and **Tyrolean Ombudsman for the Environment** for the *Bright Emergency* project. The Jury paid tribute to the fact that thanks to the project the recommendations from butterfly research are to be implemented in 60 municipalities throughout Tyrol. Converting public street lighting to a form of lighting that helps preserve the species not only protects moth species but also helps to save 30 to 40% more energy.

The list of the eight prize winners and the 15 projects that made the final cut can be found in the Annex. More detailed descriptions of these 23 projects are available in German, French, Italian, Slovene and English under <http://competition.cipra.org/en/competition>. Illustrations, photos in print quality and the press release can be downloaded from www.cipra.org/future/press.

Winning Projects (€25,000)

Regional Value Added: **Art of Wood Construction**, Quality Control in Wood Construction, Vorarlberg/A

Governance Capacity: **Polo Poschiavo**, Polo Poschiavo, Grisons/CH

Protected Areas: **Logarska dolina**, Logarska dolina d.o.o., Slovenia

Mobility: **Future in the Alps: Sustainable Mobility Strategy**, Municipality of Werfenweng, Salzburg/A

New Forms of Decision Making: **Self-organised referendum on future developments in traffic management in the Puster Valley**, supporting organisations of the referendum, South Tyrol/I

Policies and Instruments: **Bright Emergency**, Tyrol's Ferdinandeum Provincial Museum and Tyrolean Ombudsman for the Environment, Tyrol/A

Special Prizes (€5,000)

Regional Value Added: **Agriculture with an organic future**, regional group for Friuli-Venezia Giulia of the Italian Organic Agriculture Association, Friuli Venezia Giulia/I

Governance Capacity: **Kempodium**, **Allgäu Self-sufficiency Centre**, association Kempodium e.V., Allgäu/D

Other Finalists

Regional Value Added

Bregenzerwald Cheese Route, KäseStrasse Bregenzerwald, Vorarlberg/A

Co-operative Valplantes / Bio Alp Tea, Co-operativValplantes, Valais/CH

Governance Capacity

Barter Circle Vorarlberg, Talent Barter Circle Vorarlberg, Vorarlberg/A

Stop in Langenegg – for a living village, Langenegg local authority, Vorarlberg/A

Renewal of town-and-country ties in the Alpine space, Alliance of Farmers, Ecologists and Consumers of Isère, Isère/F

Protected Areas

Jobs for Styria's Natural Park Areas, Austrian Association of Natural Parks and Steirische Wissenschafts-, Umwelt- und KulturOrganisation GmbH., six Styrian nature parks, Styria/A

Life in Harmony with Nature – UNESCO's Grosses Walsertal Biosphere Park, REGIO, Vorarlberg/A

The Achenal Eco-model, association Ökomodell Achenal e.V., Upper Bavaria/D

Mobility

Healthy and eco-friendly travel to work, INFICON AG, Liechtenstein

Back to the Alps, Swiss Alpine Club SAC, Switzerland

Contact: Aurelia Ullrich, Future in the Alps Project Team, +423 237 4030

ullrich@cipra.org, www.cipra.org/future

Action plan for Health and the Environment in Crans-Monana, commission to coordinate the activities of the six local authorities in the Crans-Montana region, Crans-Montana Valais/CH

Sustainable Tourism – ALPS 2005, The Netherlands Platform for the Alps, Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Switzerland

New Forms of Decision Making

Environmental mediation process for rehabilitation of the protection forest above the village of Hinterstein, Protection Forest Department at the Office of Agriculture and Forestry in Kempten, Allgäu/D

Policies and Instruments

Hartberg Regional Cluster, Hartberg District Development Association, Styria/A

Undertaking.Vorarlberg, Vorarlberg Regional Government's Office of Future Affairs, Vorarlberg/A