

alpMedia Newsletter

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CIPRA submits Memorandum on Future in the Alps

(29.3.2007) In a Memorandum, CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, formulates political demands for the future development of the Alpine region as a whole. The demands are the result of the Future in the Alps Project.



"Getting Knowledge Across – Networking People" is the motto of Future in the Alps
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The future belongs to those who help to shape it. And in the Alps countless initiatives involving thousands of activists are aiming to do just that. Yet many are unaware of the fact that elsewhere other people are working on precisely the same problems as they are. This is exactly where CIPRA's Future in the Alps Project comes into play, collating practical experience gained throughout the Alps, classifying it and making it available to those who need it.

To compile a set of political demands and conclusions derived from the knowledge gathered as part of the Future in the Alps Project, CIPRA representatives from seven

nations convened in Schaan/FL on 8 and 9 December 2006 and formulated the Schaan Memorandum on the Future in the Alps. The Future in the Alps Project was able to show for instance that social and economic prosperity does not depend solely on how accessible a region is, and as a consequence CIPRA is calling for the promotion of models of economic success that do not require hard development measures and to push ahead with research into the factors that make such models a success. Elsewhere Future in the Alps also revealed that tourists in general are more confused than ever by the proliferation of different categories of protected areas. CIPRA is therefore calling for a high-quality development programme for protected areas, binding quality criteria throughout the Alps, and a renouncement of dubious practices of pseudo-policies that merely juggle with terminology.

The know-how gained as part of Future in the Alps provides a comprehensive overview of the plans, policies and instruments, and projects in place in the Alps. All the key findings have been summarised for the current issue of CIPRA Info entitled "Getting Knowledge Across – Networking People", for easier access by anyone interested in the subject. Information on Future in the Alps can also be found at <http://www.cipra.org>, where CIPRA Info can be ordered free of charge and the Schaan Memorandum can be downloaded.

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Launch of the new programme phase of the European Alpine Space co-operation project

(10.5.2007) The transnational programme conference “Alpine Space Heading for Excellence” is to be held in St. Johann im Pongau/A on 28 and 29 June. It is part of the EU Community Initiative Alpine Space Programme and marks the actual completion of the 2000-2006 programme phase (Interreg IIIB) as well as the launch of the new programme phase 2007-2013. The event is an opportunity to find out more about the new objectives and priorities of the Alpine Space Programme and to exchange information and experience.

The Programme’s political dimension is to be explained in the course of plenary sessions. Guest speakers will illustrate what is genuinely new about this European Transnational Cooperation 2007-2013. Theme-based platforms will provide participants with opportunities to showcase project ideas, and there will be a project market and field trips to give an insight into current projects. Around 350 participants are expected, and the conference languages will be German, French, Italian, Slovene and English.

Similar events are to be held at the national level in Vienna/A and in the Aosta Valley/I on 4 and 5 June, in Slovenia on 7 and 8 June, and in Neu-Ulm/D on 12 and 13 July.

Information and registration: <http://www.alpinespace.org> (de/fr/it/sl/en); contact: Wolfgang.Schrattenecker@Salzburg.gv.at



The Alpine Space Summit was held in Stresa/I a year ago.

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Alpine transit under EU observation

(29.3.2007) The new EU observatory for traffic in the Alpine region became operational in mid-March. It has been set up to monitor road, rail and combined traffic in the Alpine region. The observatory was established under the inland transport agreement between the EU and Switzerland.

It will centralise statistics from surveys and studies carried out in the various Alpine countries. Its reports will provide an overview of all traffic flows and of the trend in trans-Alpine rail and road freight traffic. The EU and Switzerland will thus have at their disposal the information needed in the event of transit problems or disturbances affecting trans-Alpine traffic in order to be able to decide on appropriate measures. The results of the observatory’s work will also serve as a basis for any initiative aimed at improving and harmonising the management of traffic through the Alps. The observatory’s first report is expected in June 2007.

Source:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/338&format=HTML&aged=0&language=DE&guiLanguage=en> (de/fr/it/en)



Transit traffic is a problem for many regions of the Alps.

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International trade fair and conference on renewable energies in Aosta

(26.4.2007) The trade fair and conference entitled “Rigenergia: Renewable energies and energy-saving in architecture and construction in the mountains” is being held in Aosta from 7 to 9 June. The event is organised by the Chamber of Commerce of the Aosta Valley (Camera Valdostana) with support from the region of the Aosta Valley, *Ice* (Istituto commercio estero) and *Compagnia valdostana delle Acque*. It is targeted at a broad cross-section of the public, including planners, manufacturers and fitters of installations as well as end consumers and users of such technologies. The objectives set out by the organisers include the transfer of knowledge to be able to evaluate and use the technologies available today, creating the preconditions necessary for new jobs, and educating the next generation on use energy in a more conscious way.

The event is designed first and foremost to provide information and features demonstrations as well as training and further training. Over a period of three days it will offer lectures, roundtables and workshops as well as fun and educational events for some 400 schoolchildren from the Aosta Valley. Languages: Italian, French and English.

Information: <http://www.rigenergia.com> (it)

On the right track – for and with hikers

(29.3.2007) An international joint venture of eight hiking regions grouped under the heading of *Best of Wandern* has come up with some innovative ideas for boosting visitor figures and strengthening visitor loyalty. The joint venture partners from Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the island of La Réunion/F in the Indian Ocean intend to break new ground in marketing their ideas. The concept includes offering advice to guest hikers in the regions through specially trained staff, separate hiking information and detailed itinerary suggestions in each hiking region as well as hiring out equipment to registered members. For instance members will be able to test and borrow hiking boots, binoculars or technical outdoor clothing at test centres, free of charge - provided the hikers register as members online, which is also free. This service also allows the hiking regions to co-operate with five manufacturers of outdoor gear and equipment. Source, registration and more information available at <http://www.best-of-wandern.de> (de)

From winter to all-year tourism

(12.4.2007) The French *département* of Savoie aims to promote all-year tourism with its 2007-2013 Tourism Plan. Under the terms of the Plan a lot more money is to be invested in tourism projects by 2013, i.e. €60 m. In the Savoie, which is a leading region for tourism, significant turnover is generated first and foremost by its ski resorts. While the government intends to support winter tourism, it wants to boost summer tourism, too.

€23 m has been earmarked for modernising winter sports resorts. The Plan provides for strategies for adapting to climate change but also for changes in the needs of the resorts' guests. Pensioners in particular, who represent an increasingly important guest segment in mountain regions, want alternatives to ski tourism in winter. However the process of merging large ski resorts is proceeding apace. €37 m has been set aside for diversifying the tourist offer and promoting all-year tourism. Besides the general upgrading of the accommodation infrastructure, the Tourism Plan also focuses on the following key areas: spa and wellness tourism, more attractive offers for hikers, cyclists and anglers, cultural tourism, and a focus on special guest segments (e.g. children and teenagers).

Source: <http://www.savoie-culture.com/index.php?id=769> (fr)



The Savoie is planning new value-adding chains for other forms of tourism besides ski tourism.

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European Parliament approves new flood directive

(10.5.2007) With the new directive on flood protection the EU has agreed on the assessment and prevention of flood risks. The flood directive is aimed at minimising the impact of floods, which are occurring more frequently due to climate change, with a common, cross-border flood protection.

In terms of content the directive provides for a strategy schedule that comprises assessing the flood risk, compiling flood risk maps and devising flood risk management plans in the areas at risk. The management plan focuses on prevention and protection. Floodplains are therefore to be maintained and/or restored and additional structural measures avoided whenever possible. However the new directive still does not contain stringent regulations concerning man-made flood protection devices; environmental associations and the WWF have criticised the directive for not going far enough.

Source and information: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu> (de/fr/it/sl/en) 25.04.2007



The new European Directive enables improved cross-border flood protection.

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New publication series on the Alpine region

(12.4.2007) The "Alpine Space - Man and the Environment" research platform established by the Leopold-Franzens University in Innsbruck/A is publishing a new series of publications by the same name. Two volumes have so far been published. The first volume, entitled *Die Alpen im Jahr 2020* [The Alps in 2020], summarises the findings of an interdisciplinary conference held at the University Centre Obergurgl/A in late September 2005. The second volume, entitled *Politische, kulturelle und wissenschaftliche Perspektiven der nachhaltigen Raumentwicklung in den Alpen* [Political, Cultural and Scientific Prospects of Sustainable Regional Development in the Alps] looks at the findings of the EU's DIAMONT Project.

Other volumes on events by the research platform and topical issues in Alpine research are planned over the next few years. The University Platform, founded in 2005, intends to use the series to make its activities accessible to the general public and publicise the findings of Innsbruck's Alpine research. The volumes are published in German with abstracts in English.

Source and information: <http://www.uibk.ac.at/alpinerraum/publications> de)

Initiative for mountain enthusiasts with disabilities

(26.4.2007) This summer the French Vanoise National Park is offering special programmes for visitors with physical disabilities. The activities include guided tours in the company of Park staff, who will lead groups consisting of two to a maximum of eight participants. The target groups are associations or groups of the disabled as well as private individuals. The tours on offer are routed along wide paths through the Grande Sassièrre Nature Reserve, which besides the beauty of its landscape also offers the opportunity to observe the mountain fauna, with bearded vultures or chamois. The itineraries are well suited for all-terrain wheelchairs; the park administration also has two such wheelchairs available, which can be adapted individually. The fees are €5 for individuals, and €4 per person for groups.

Contact: patrick.rouland@vanoise.com Source: Montagne 06.04.2007

Miscellaneous

Using biological GIS databases to gain a better understanding of mountain biodiversity

(26.4.2007) Linking biological databases with geophysical data (such as precise co-ordinates, altitudes, temperature) provides a good basis for obtaining more accurate analyses of biodiversity in mountain areas. The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment research network, in co-operation with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, is therefore encouraging global efforts to mine geo-referenced databases on mountain organisms. It is hoped that in future it will be easier to clarify questions relating to bio-geographical or nature preservation issues, such as the influence of climate change on Alpine flora biodiversity. The EUROMONT initiative is one example of such a project.

Source and information: <http://gmba.unibas.ch/research/datamining.htm> (en)

Climate Star 2007 – European award for climate protection activities at the local level

(12.4.2007) For the third time the Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples is inviting all European cities and municipalities to present their climate protection activities and apply for a Climate Star. This year's focal theme of the Climate Star is sustainable mobility. The competition rewards outstanding activities and documents experience and good practice at the local level. The closing date for submitting projects is May 31.

Information and registration: <http://www.klimaschutz.kbserver.de/460.html?&L=1> (de/en)

Centre for high-altitude medicine in Lausanne

(10.5.2007) A new medical consultation centre for high-altitude medicine is to be set up at the University Hospital Lausanne/CH. According to the management there is no comparable centre in Europe. The Centre is being built in response to the growing need for the relevant medical advice prior to major mountain expeditions. Anyone can go to the Centre for a health check, particularly with regard to resistance to classic high-altitude sicknesses such as pulmonary or high-altitude oedema. Sportsmen and women undergoing high-altitude training can also consult the Centre. In the medium term the Centre is also considering a co-operation venture with other institutions for the establishment of training and research facilities for high-altitude medicine together with a Masters course.

Source and information: http://www.amge.ch/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1580&Itemid=96 (fr)

Agenda

Liechtenstein Workshop on Brown Bears: **Brown Bear in the Alps**; 14-16.05.2007, Triesenberg/FL; language: en; organisers: Liechtenstein Office for Forests, Nature and Landscapes.

Information: barbara.flad@awnl.llv.li, <http://www.awnl.llv.li> (de)

International conference on transit freight traffic: **Alpine Freight Railway: The Solutions of Today and the Perspectives of Tomorrow Implementing the International Agreements for Sustainable Transport and Mobility in the Alpine Space**; 15.05.2007, Brescia/I; languages: de, it, en; organisers: Provincia di Brescia, AlpFRail and others.

Information: swomm@eurac.edu

International Conference on Climate Change: **How Does the Climate Change in the Alps: Trends, Natural Hazards, Impact on the Alpine Territory**; 16.05.2007, Bolzano/I; languages: de, it, en; organisers: Italian Ministry of the Environment, ClimChAlp.

Information: conference@climchalp.org

29th International Conference on **Alpine Meteorology**; 4-8.06.2007, Chambéry/F; languages: en; organisers: Météo-France, Laboratoire d'Aérodynamique;

Information: http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/ICAM2007/index.php?page=first_circular.html (en)

22nd International Conference on the **History of Cartography**; 8-13.07.2007, Bern/CH; languages: en/de/fr. Organisers: Working Group on the History of Cartography of the Swiss Society of Cartography, Cartographica Helvetica and Imago Mundi Ltd;

Information: <http://www.ichc2007.ch> (en)

International Conference: **“Managing Alpine Future – Strategies for Sustainability in Times of Change”**; 15-17.10.2007, Innsbruck/A, languages: de, en, organisers: alpS – Centre for the Management of Natural Hazards.

Information: <http://www.alps-gmbh.com/alpinefuture> (de/en)

Strange but true...!

... they're turning a mountain into mince meat – well, almost: The Mullwitzkogel near the municipality of Prägraten/A is to be renamed for advertising purposes. If the municipal council gets its way, the summit will soon be renamed Wiesbauer-Spitze in keeping with the idea put forward by a sausage manufacturer. In return, the company will promote the mountaineering village on its sausages and cold cuts. In keeping with the campaign it has produced a sausage with a tip of fat to represent the snow-covered peak. Neither the mayor nor the councillors understand what all the fuss is about; they're delighted about the great advertising opportunities. For those keen on copying the idea, the names Piz Doner [kebab] and Goulash Kofel are still available.

Source:

<http://tirol.orf.at/stories/186442>

18.04.2007