

Towards more integrated research and observation in the Alps

Workshop, 25 /26 November 2009, Bozen/Bolzano

Introduction:

The Slovene Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention organize a workshop “Towards more integrated research and observation in the Alps” on 25/26 November 2009 in Bolzano to exchange views and deliver proposals for further steps in this field. The aim of the respective workshop is presenting national and international research programs and their functioning to the representatives of the Alpine Convention and present research institutes, and also to collect proposals and additional contributions from contracting parties of the Alpine convention and research institutions which work within the Alps.

The Alps are a unique living environment, which is largely seen as an important development potential for Europe, either regarding its natural resources or its specific culture. Coordinated and harmonized observation and research activities are necessary and essential in order to best develop this potential in sustainable way. As a comprehensive framework, the Alpine Convention is able to support this development and process.

As the Alpine Convention disposes only limited means and funds for research and observation it is advantageous to coordinate the needs of the Alpine Convention with general research funds, observation efforts and research programs. The network of actors in research on the Alps plays a crucial role in observation and information on the state of the Alps, trends and recommendations for future.

In the frame of the Alpine Convention different needs for research and observation are stated in a number of background documents as for example the Framework Convention, the

Protocols of the Convention, the Multiannual Work Program, the Climate Action Plan, the mandates of the Working Groups and Platforms, the recommendations of the Compliance Committee, and also research background documents as for example the Research Agenda of the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps' (ISCAR, an official observer of the Alpine Convention) which is based on the multiannual work program of the Alpine Convention. The System for the Observation and Information on the Alps (SOIA) aims at supporting the harmonization and development of complementary systematic monitoring programmes for observation. Information and data of different actors feed SOIA as for example national/regional statistical data, results of national and also international research projects on specific alpine issues.

Goals of the Workshop:

1. Present the observation obligations and research needs of the Alpine Convention;
2. Collect input concerning the relevant fields of research from the parties of the Alpine Convention and research institutions;
3. Present funding programs on international, national and regional levels;
4. Identify ways of making synergies among funding programmes and research needs of the Alpine Convention;

Participants:

National Focal Points of the Alpine Convention, National Institutions responsible for Research (ministries and funding institutions), International Institutions and Research Programs (EEA, COST, ISCAR, etc.), Foundations, Research Institutions and Universities, Partners of ETC Alpine Space – Projects to which the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention is an observer

Moderation:

The Workshop is moderated by Martin Sommersacher, SOSA mediencoaching

Provisional Agenda:

Day 1 – 25th November 2009

Concerted action for Research on the Alps and funding opportunities

13.00 Welcome and Introduction

- Current activities of the Alpine Convention and priorities of the Slovene Presidency

Slovene Presidency

- Impulse on Alpine observation and research

Representative of Slovene Research Ministry

Alpine Research – overview

13.45 A - Research in the frame of the Alpine Convention

- Observation obligations and research needs of the Alpine Convention and the System of Observation and Information on the Alps SOIA

Regula Imhof, Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

- Transforming issues from MAP 2005-2010 into a research agenda: state of the art and outlook of ISCAR activities

Thomas Scheurer, ISCAR

- Ecological Network: a model for focused multi action in the frame of the Alpine Convention

Yann Kohler, Platform Ecological Network

Concerted Action for research on the Alps

14.30 – 17.00 Input Collection of relevant research topics for the Alpine Area:

Presentation of research questions as elements for a concerted action for Research on the Alps

- Presentation of research topics
- Feedback and discussion

Research institutions and programmes

15.15 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.00 Summarizing discussion on relevant research topics for the Alpine Area

Moderation by Markus Sommersacher

19.00 Reception and dinner

Day 2 – 26th November 2009

International, national and private funding opportunities and mechanisms

9.00 B - The relevance, opportunities and funding mechanisms for research on the Alps in existing observation systems, scientific programmes and initiatives

International programs

- GLOCHAMORE / ESF Net-DYNAMO

Mountain Research Initiative (Rolf Weingartner/Greg Greenwood) (tbc)

- International research programs – the example of “COST”

Melae Langbein, European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) (tbc)

- Environmental observation needs on the Alps: the Alpine Convention as a partner providing regional information

Stéphane Isoard, European Environmental Agency (EEA)

- ERA – Net, CIRCLE Climate Impact Research Coordination for a larger Europe (CIRCLE)

Astrid Felderer, UBA Vienna

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 National programs

- Slovene research program

Slovene representatives of research ministries

- Possible links between the goals of the Alpine Convention and the scientific research programmes and initiatives in Italy

Antonio Ballarin-Denti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Brescia

Riccardo Santolini, Urbino University

11.45 Other programs

- Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Commission for Glaciology

Christoph Mayer (tbc)

- Institut de la Montagne, University of Savoye

Carmen De Jong

12.30 – 13.00 Summarizing discussion on opportunities and funding mechanisms for the Alpine Area and steps forward

Summarizing by Markus Sommersacher

Steps forward by Slovene Presidency and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

13.00 Lunch

13.00 Media Conference

Moderation by Markus Sommersacher

Presentation of the Workshop results and priorities of the Slovene Presidency in Alpine Research

Slovene Presidency and Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention