Have you heard of the word ‘sufficiency’? It refers to the principle of consuming as little as possible in terms of energy and natural resources. But this is not something we can really afford today, and so we are confronted with some major challenges. On the one hand the envisaged energy transition is putting more and more pressure on the Alps as a source of renewable energy, and on the other hand our high standard of living means that we are all consuming above-average quantities of resources. The ecological footprint of people living in non-urban areas in the Alps is additionally growing due to their increased car usage.

So are we supposed to sew our own clothes, go everywhere on foot and spend our holidays in our own gardens? There can be no universal answer to this question. It’s a matter of tempering consumption with awareness – and about doing what really makes us happy. If you have a well insulated home with room temperatures adjusted to your individual needs, get enough regular exercise and consume regional products, you can say you are living comfortably – and at the same time enjoying a high level of wellbeing in the knowledge that you are not living at the expense of nature and future generations.

There are many excellent examples of how such a sustainable way of life can be compatible with joie de vivre, comfort and pleasure – such as the agricultural school built to passive house standards using the timber of silver fir trees from regional forests in the Upper Austrian Salzkammergut, or the Slow Food movement with its culinary delights conjured up from regional produce, which is gradually sweeping across the Alps, or the e-bike boom triggered in Switzerland by commuters and tourists, or swap marts for re-using quality consumer goods, such as that in Kempten, Bavaria.

With these and many other examples, CIPRA is showing the way to sufficiency, to a society and economy in the Alps and elsewhere in which the key indicators are not growth but happiness and contentment.

Wishing you many happy and contented hours of sufficiency with our annual report!

Dominik Siegrist
President of CIPRA International
“From time to time I need to spend a few days away from civilisation.”

Katharina Conradin

**FREEDOM FROM EXCESS**

**ALPINE DIALOGUE**

Whether the subject is energy, transport or tourism, at CIPRA the sustainability debate is increasingly focussing on the question: What do we really need to live a good life? With the Alpine Dialogue on Energy Transition, CIPRA is contributing to today’s sufficiency debate. In October 2013, CIPRA opened the dialogue with a workshop organised by CIPRA International, of which she is a board member.

Thirty-one-year-old Katharina Conradin sits by the train window, rummaging in her bag for her mobile, while delightful hills and mountains pass by. Framed by black horn-rimmed glasses, her dark brown eyes glow with pleasure while she shows photos of the trip. As Executive Director of Mountain Wilderness Switzerland, a member organisation of CIPRA that campaigns for environmentally friendly mountaineering, she is on her way to a workshop she has been invited to chair – the first Alpine Dialogue organised by CIPRA International, of which she is a board member. A brainstorming session involving two dozen committed men and women from all the countries of the Alps, who are to spend two half days discussing “Energy Transition in the Alps”, pooling their knowledge and experience, and generating inputs for their daily work and for the next ministerial meeting of the Alpine Convention.

Is there such a thing as everyday happiness?

Oops – there it is again: the mobile ring tone. And the reflex. She looks at the display, “From time to time I need to spend a few days like that, away from civilisation,” says Katharina, “if only to overcome the compulsion to check my e-mails all the time.” You could call that feeling happiness. The happiness of a simple life in the mountains. But does frugality, in other words sufficiency, also work on an everyday basis, with no loss of quality of life? “In the city I have no open fire, but I might have a stove. And I can get anywhere I want without a car.” Katharina Conradin knows her ecological footprint. It is about 1.8. In other words, if everyone were to consume the same amount of energy and resources as she does, the Earth would have to be 1.8 times bigger than it is. And this is in spite of the fact that Katharina has no car, buys regional produce and has not gone on holiday by plane for years. It is a very low figure for a Central European. So how are we to achieve a sustainable figure for all?

Daily dilemmas

The Lucerne School of Social Work on the shore of Lake Lucerne is the destination for participants from all corners of the Alps and a wide variety of backgrounds. What they have in common is their concern for the energy transition and sufficiency. They include Peter Tramberend, a 44-year-old civil servant at the Federal Office of the Environment in Vienna: “In my department we are frequently confronted with the excessive use of land. Austria is being swamped by the spread of urban areas. The suburbs are sprawling out into the surrounding countryside, with obvious results in terms of commuter traffic and energy consumption.” In his private life, too, he tries to strike a balance between ecology and personal preferences – he likes living in the mountains but has to work in Vienna. The solution? Peter and his family live in an apartment in Vienna during the week and spend their weekends at their house in the mountains, an hour’s drive from the city. “This means I don’t have to commute every day.”

Alain Boulonge, 63, looking sun-tanned in his green V-neck pull-over, black trousers and slip-on leather shoes, was Mayor of Les Gets, a ski and health resort in Haute Savoie, from 2001 to 2008. Les Gets suffers from a shortage of water, and Alain found himself in a dilemma. More and more tourists meant more and more ski slopes, with extra snow cannons using additional water until the taps ran dry. His response was a three-year moratorium on building development. He was promptly defeated at the next election. Voters could not forgive him for this apparent anti-growth policy. But the ex-mayor remains convinced: “We have to find new solutions.” Since losing the election, he has been working for sustainable development as President of CIPRA France.

Sufficiency as the third pillar

Two interpreters murmur into the microphones needed to feed their simultaneous English and German translations into the headsets used by some of the participants. The walls are hung with posters addressing the energy situation in the various countries of the Alps. Through the windows, the waters of the lake and the opposite shore gleam in the silky golden autumn sun. Katharina Conradin welcomes everyone to CIPRA’s first Alpine Dialogue and hands over to Hanspeter Guggenbühl for his keynote speech. The 64-year-old energy expert writes for various Swiss newspapers. He has a mane of silver hair, striking features, and rides a bicycle. “Over the last few years, I’ve shaved two minutes off my time for the Stelvio Pass!” His message is that the energy transition is necessary but requires a different approach. Subsidies for renewable energy are leading to increased electricity consumption, while electricity savings remain unattractive. “What’s the point of subsidies for energy-efficient construction if land use increases at the same time? Do public buildings have to be illuminated all night?” The increasing consumption of resources is cancelling out the efficiency improvements and calling the energy transition into question. This is what’s known as the rebound effect. His conclusion is that, in addition to renewable energy and efficiency, a third pillar is required for the
energy transition: sufficiency – perhaps in the form of an incentive tax based on energy consumption so as to make energy savings more attractive. Following a discussion, the subject is pursued further in a number of workshops. Claire Simon, Executive Director of CIPRA International, chairs a workshop on sufficiency, beginning with a brief historical introduction to the concept. Diogenes in his tub made it into a lifestyle, while the 19th century economist Thomas Malthus chose a more drastic formulation in his “Essay on the Principle of Population”: Where the number of people grows faster than the ability to produce food to feed them, famine will restore the balance between supply and demand. The Club of Rome offered the same message in more modern terms. “At CIPRA, these discussions – whatever the subject – keep bringing us back to the same question: what do we really need?”

“The energy transition is necessary but requires a different approach.”

Hanspeter Guggenbühl

Forests of wind turbines
At the back of room sits Rudi Erlacher, complete with jacket, moustache and laptop, quickly clarifying any factual queries with online assistance. He is Executive Director of the German mountain protection organisation “Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt” and CIPRA Germany’s representative in Lucerne. He is also a physicist, as reflected in the strict logic of his arguments: “As nature protection organisations, we have to draw attention to the negative side of the energy transition – the fact that it’s blighting nature.” The belief in the infinite potential of renewable energy sources fails to take account of people’s longing for unspoiled countryside. He is particularly concerned about plans for the south of Germany, where four pumped-storage power plants are to be constructed on the fringe of the Bavarian Alps and 8,000 wind turbines installed in Baden-Württemberg by 2015. “One wind turbine for every four square kilometres of land!” The Alps as the green battery of Europe? Increased building development in the countryside is also a cause for concern in a workshop on how the Alps are contributing to the energy transition. “The Alps cannot support any more energy to neighbouring regions; their capacity is exhausted,” says one attendee. And former CIPRA President Mario Broggi is quoted once again: “The Alpine landscape is not renewable!”

A man in a denim shirt and relaxed posture occasionally appears sceptical and says, “Restraint is hard to sell!” The first step must be to develop a concept of the quality of life that has less to do with consumption. This could be a task for an NGO like CIPRA according to Francesco Dellagiacoma, who is Head of Forestry for the provincial authority in Trento and a longstanding friend of CIPRA. Living in passive houses is not only ecological, he says, but also more pleasant than living in conventional houses, and that is something we can build on. “We could use more of our own timber instead of importing cheap wood from the Far East and exporting carbon emissions to ship it.”

“Do not be a preacher but a living example and measure your dependence on consumption. And Katharina’s suggestion: “As nature protection organisations, we have to draw attention to the negative side of the energy transition: the disfigurement of the landscape.”

Rudi Erlacher

Scoring with good ideas
Katharina Conradin continues to collect suggestions for sufficiency strategies. “What ideas can you communicate to your regions?” Towards the end of the second day, the pin-board is covered with coloured cards. Katharina reads out the proposals. A high priority is given to the creation of a database for best practice projects from all spheres of life. For example, in some regions new ski areas may only be developed if old ski lifts are dismantled at the same time. A similar compensatory approach has been developed in Vienna in the form of an eco-points system for land use. Planning permission for new buildings on open land will only be granted in future if buildings are demolished to create an open space elsewhere. Another proposal is to finance a campaign to buy up all the advertising space and time in the media on a particular day so as to draw attention to our dependence on consumption. And Katharina’s suggestion: “Do not be a preacher but a living example and measure your own ecological footprint.”

Two days of brainstorming are over. The future of the Alpine Dialogue will show which of the ideas that have been aired will be implemented by the participants in their local arenas and how the politicians will react. For the present, the workshop has left behind a highly symbolic photo. A bridge on the lake offers an appropriate setting, complete with autumn leaves and seagulls. The leaf blower used by a municipal employee makes enough noise to drown out the squawking of the birds. The two-stroke motor has a job to do – blowing leaves that have fallen from trees along the shore to one side of the car park where they can be swept up. There’s laughter in the group, and someone says, “So much for sufficiency!”

Tilman Wörtz (text) and Heinz Heiss (photos)
Zeitenspiegel Reportagen

“Controversial Energy Transition”

The Alpine Dialogue on Energy Transition, which was launched in Lucerne/CH in October 2013, is one of several contributions made by CIPRA to an ecologically compatible energy transition. Together with a number of member organisations, CIPRA Germany has drawn up a position paper on an ecologically compatible energy transition in the Bavarian Alps. With the Alpine Power trek and the Fire in the Alps campaign, CIPRA Switzerland drew attention last summer to the threats posed to the mountain environment by climate change and the energy transition. And CIPRA representatives continue to present both findings and demands to Alpine Convention bodies such as the Energy Platform. The event was organized as part of the climalp and Alpstar projects, with financial support from the Federal Office for Spatial Development, the canton of St. Gallen, Liechtenstein, the EU, the Karl Mayer Foundation and Fondation Assistance.

For commuters, the answers to a few basic questions are decisive: How long does it take? How reliable is the service? How often do I have to change? Where the answers are positive, there is potential for a modal switch. Unfortunately, most people overestimate public transport journey times and underestimate their current mobility behaviour so that they start to ask the right questions themselves. Awareness building was at the heart of the Alpstar campaign, and that made it a good solution for us. At Hilti, the subject of mobility is now much higher on the agenda than it was only a couple of years ago.

Like Hilti, CIPRA has an international orientation, but as an NGO it is committed to quite different values. Were there any initial reservations to collaborating with such a project partner? I didn’t notice any reservations at all. If you want to make progress by trying a different tack and setting a new course, you have to take on board a partner with a different view. I find cooperation with CIPRA stimulating; the organisation’s expertise and the differences in approach are real assets. We now have the knowledge and time to move the project forward with all our partners. Without CIPRA at the helm, we would not be doing so well.

You have put a lot of work into the campaign, organising mobility weeks and generally promoting the project within the company, from the shop floor to senior management. Has it been worth the effort so far? Definitely. There has been a clear change in the perception of mobility management. We have created a platform for the project and defined responsibilities, and we now have ongoing communication on the subject via various channels. Simply by providing some basic figures – how many parking spaces we have, how many cars are parked on our premises every day, and how few employees regularly use public transport – we have triggered a lively debate among our employees.

The project runs until the summer of 2014. How do you intend to move forward with your experience and results to date? Our experience with Alpstar has shown us that awareness building has to be promoted at a high level. We had a form of mobility management before, but now we have a new and coherent mobility management strategy. Alpstar has been like a lift; it has raised the subject to a higher level of perception.

Barbara Wülscher (interview) and Caroline Bégel (photo) CIPRA International

HELP WITH DECISION-MAKING
ALPSTAR / C3-ALPS
Unused knowledge is useless knowledge. In a world of climate change, CIPRA guidelines show how to prepare for unpredictable scenarios.

The mayor of a small municipality in the Tyrol sits at his desk studying a damage schedule. He sighs quietly. The flooding in May is costing the local authority a lot of money, and the heat wave in summer caused crop failures. “Time to do something about it,” he says to himself. But what?

Throughout the Alps, there are many people in this mayor’s shoes. During the last century, temperatures in the Alps rose almost twice as fast as the global average. The impact of this includes heavy precipitation and parched Alpine meadows – and their associated economic, environmental and social consequences. CIPRA is responding by showing how to pre-empt such events. Intact wetlands, for example, soak up water like a sponge and thus offer protection from flooding. But today, many of these areas are seriously degraded. One simple and cost-effective restoration measure is to clear the land of trees and shrub cover so that the marshland can flourish again. The advantages are clear – the peat bogs store water and bind carbon, and valuable habitats are created for human beings, flora and fauna.

CIPRA is very experienced in collecting, processing and communicating such knowledge. Guidelines and background reports translate scientific findings into practical applications. Like mountain guides, they show the way through pathless terrain. Pioneers of sustainable development – politicians, business people and energy experts – provide background information and show how to avoid mistakes.

The CIPRA compacts, for example, provide useful information on climate change and mitigation measures in ten areas ranging from agriculture to urban planning. CIPRA guidelines prepared as part of the pan-alpine Alpstar project (see box) show how more efficient use can be made of energy and how demand can be met with the help of regional green energy. And the C3 Alps project has produced a guide containing useful tips on communicating, debating and also visualising the subject of adaptation to climate change.

With the right arguments and the help of ecologists, the Tyrolean mayor mentioned above could, for example, motivate volunteers to get out their axes and chainsaws to revitalise the local peat bog. This would be a simple way of protecting his municipality today and preparing it for the challenges of tomorrow.

Jakob Diethachmair CIPRA International

LEARNING TO ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The C3 Alps project is closing the gap between theories of adaptation to climate change and their practical application. It is consolidating findings of earlier climate projects in the Alps and making them available to regional and national decision makers. CIPRA International works for the Office of the Environment in Liechtenstein and the Chamber of Commerce for Munich and Upper Bavaria in Germany. C3 Alps is partly financed by the EU’s Regional Development Fund.

www.cipra.org/climate

RELAXED COMMUTING

With Alpstar, partners from all Alpine countries are demonstrating ways of reducing CO2 emissions in the Alps. This is contributing towards the climate action goals of the Alpine Convention. In the Alpine Rhine Valley pilot region, Vorarlberg, Liechtenstein and the Swiss canton of St. Gallen are motivating commuters to use sustainable methods of transport to travel to work. CIPRA International and Energie-institut Vorarlberg are coordinating these activities on their behalf. Alpstar is financed by the EU’s Regional Development Fund.

www.cipra.org/climate

LEARNING FROM PIONEERS: CIPRA PROVIDES GOOD EXAMPLES FOR RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Barbara Wülscher (interview) and Caroline Bégel (photo) CIPRA International

There is a railway station and a bus stop right on Hilti’s doorstep, and most of the company’s employees are locals. What does it take to generate change?

For commuters, the answers to a few basic questions are decisive: How long does it take? How reliable is the service? How often do I have to change? Where the answers are positive, there is potential for a modal switch. Unfortunately, most people overestimate public transport journey times and underestimate their current mobility behaviour so that they start to ask the right questions themselves. Awareness building was at the heart of the Alpstar campaign, and that made it a good solution for us. At Hilti, the subject of mobility is now much higher on the agenda than it was only a couple of years ago.

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Barbara Wülscher (interview) and Caroline Bégel (photo) CIPRA International

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Jakob Diethachmair CIPRA International

LEARNING FROM PIONEERS: CIPRA PROVIDES GOOD EXAMPLES FOR RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Barbara Wülscher (interview) and Caroline Bégel (photo) CIPRA International
LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL THE SENSES

CLIMALP / MOUNTEE

With its study trips on the subject of sustainable construction and renovation, CIPRA has helped turn many an idea into reality. Participants from Slovenia, Austria and South Tyrol share their impressions of a study trip to Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg in November 2013.

MARIJA IMPERL (57) Director of Radeče Regional Development Agency, Slovenia

CIPRA is a bridge. It helps you gain fresh knowledge and new information.

TEJA ZAKRAJŠEK (30) Architect at Gi Zakražek d.o.o. Trebnje, Slovenia

The study trip makes you more aware of the fact that we are all in the same boat – a common vision, with everyone coming together and pulling together.

ERNST ROTH (56) Architect, Feldkirchen/Carinthia, Austria

We were told about the climalp-MountEE excursion by our Slovene partners and we have brought our complete team along. The study trip is interesting because of the excellent architecture to be found here in Liechtenstein and Vorarlberg.

MIHA BOGATAJ (32) Director of CIBOS Wood Construction Ekoart, Kamnik, Slovenia

I went on a CIPRA excursion about five years ago. The programme was exciting and I came back full of new ideas. Since then our family business has handled thirty timber construction projects.

HANSJÖRG ALBER (45) Councillor for Urban Planning and Construction, San Martino in Passiria, South Tyrol, Italy

As a councillor, I see that a new approach to construction is needed for the future. The study trip offers good inputs and shows examples of how it can be done.

TADEJ RUŽIČ (41) Managing Director of SGP Pomgrad d.d. construction company, Murska Sobota, Slovenia

I am interested in how new materials and ideas can be used in a different social context. CIPRA connects people with an interest in sustainable architecture from the whole of the Alpine region.

JOŽE PRAH (56) Forester in Sevnica, Slovenia Forestry Office

CIPRA has many young experts – not in terms of age but in terms of their fresh and innovative ideas. And they know how to put them across.

THE HUMAN YARDSTICK

CONSTRUCTIVE ALPS

What role does CIPRA play on the international architecture scene? Kőbi Gantenbein on the subject of CIPRA’s work with Constructive Alps, the competition for sustainable construction and renovation in the Alps.

CIPRA has two roles in the pan-Alpine Constructive Alps competition for sustainable construction and renovation. With virtuosic skill, CIPRA plays the networker role I have seen before. Five years ago the team in Schaan pulled the strings to persuade the Liechtenstein authorities to promote and help fund the competition as their contribution to the climate action goals of the Alpine Convention. The 2011 award was a great success. And for 2013, CIPRA pulled more strings to get the commitment of the Swiss. The Swiss Federal Office of Spatial Development played a brilliant part in staging the competition while the CIPRA team worked behind the scenes and dealt with more than twice the number of entries.

Virtuosic skill was also much in evidence in what for me was a wonderful mix of factors that determined the winning project. In comparison with the first time the competition was held, the issue of sufficiency came across louder and clearer in 2013. The question “What do we really need to live a good life?” proved a severe test for many of the entries. CIPRA has already put this question on its agenda, and former Executive Director Andreas Gätz, as a member of the 2013 jury, was a genuine and successful advocate. This is important; sufficiency is good because it goes beyond technical and aesthetic feasibility and offers a human yardstick for architecture and urban planning.

Kőbi Gantenbein
Editor in Chief of “Hochparterre” and member of the jury for Constructive Alps

LEARNING FOR LIFE

For ten years now, CIPRA has been using the Climalp project to disseminate knowledge on the subject of sustainable construction and renovation in the Alps. Study trips provide architects, building contractors, local officials and experts with first-hand experience of efficient and sustainable planning, construction and renovation. In 2013 the information campaign received financial support from the Liechtenstein authorities, Foundation Assistance and the Karl Mayer Foundation.

EFFICIENT MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

The MountEE project is designed to help mountain communities in Sweden, the Alps and the Pyrenees meet European construction standards. Between 25 and 30 public buildings in six regions are being constructed or renovated in keeping with the calls of sustainability and energy efficiency. CIPRA International is the lead partner with responsibility for communications. MountEE receives EU funding as part of the Intelligent Energy Europe programme and from the International Charitable Foundation in Vaduz/LI.

BUILDING WITH HEARTS AND MINDS

With Constructive Alps 2013, Switzerland and Liechtenstein awarded the second international architecture prize for sustainable construction and renovation in the Alps. The competition is a contribution towards implementing the Alpine Convention’s Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps. The competition itself was organized by CIPRA. The thirty most attractive and climate-friendly new and renovated buildings can be admired in a travelling exhibition and also in a special issue of the architecture magazine “Hochparterre”.

www.cipra.org/en/sustainable-building
Habitat networking is essential if we are to preserve the extraordinary biological diversity and functioning of Alpine ecosystems. Networking is also a key element of CIPRA’s projects and activities.

www.cipra.org/biodiversity
YOUNG VOICES, NEW IDEAS

YOUTH IN THE ALPS

Young people want to be heard and taken seriously. That requires staying power. CIPRA is helping.

Isabella Hilber, 16, stands up. All eyes are on the young woman. “Everyone keeps saying how wonderful it is that we are here, and yet we are rarely permitted to speak. Why is that?” The vague reply given by the Swiss Minister of the Environment Doris Leuthard fails to satisfy the Austrian representative of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention. Her persistence is finally rewarded – German Environment Minister Peter Altmaier promises an invitation to participate in a video chat in the near but unspecified future. As no date has been fixed, however, the representatives of the countries of the Alps present their ideas for collaboration to CIPRA delegates. The CIPRA Youth Committee is born. It advises CIPRA bodies on all relevant questions.

The fruits of a busy year: The Standing Committee, a group of senior officials at the Alpine Convention, has put the subject of youth involvement on the agenda, as has the Alpine Town of the Year Association. The invitation to come to Berlin has become an invitation to participate in a video chat in the near but unspecified future. As no date has been fixed, however, the representatives of the 2014 Youth Parliament in Chamonix will have to chase the matter. CIPRA will again be there to support them, this time as official partner of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention.

Bettina Hug
CIPRA International

IMPROVISATIONAL THEATRE: MACRO-REGION FOR THE ALPS

Is it a comedy, a farce, or a whodunnit? In any case, the subject matter – an Alpine macro-region – is controversial and the cast high-powered. Inspired by the EU, Alpine countries and regions take to the stage while the Alpine Convention assumes the role of input provider.

Prologue
The first to come on stage in Mittenwald, Germany and Bad Ragaz, Switzerland are the Alpine regions, who declare their desire for an Alpine macro-region. Macro-regions are areas with similar challenges and potential. That is what it says in the script written by the European Union, also known as the Treaty of Lisbon. Then the Alpine Convention steps in front of the curtain and calls for a macro-region dedicated to sustainability and eco-friendly development in the Alps. The EU’s Alpine Space Programme also wants a role.

Act one: enter CIPRA, stage left
The actors are soon improvising – without a director or a script. There’s a lot of competition to obtain parts, contribute to the dialogue and join the protagonists. CIPRA is there, too, lending a voice to those who are at risk of being drowned out by the combined noise of the political bodies, i.e. civil society. CIPRA’s message: any cooperative venture affecting the core area of the Alps must include a role and benefits for the people who live there. In its scenario, CIPRA calls for a participatory style of theatre with a part to play for the states and regions, the Alpine Convention, Alpine networks and all the other actors working in the Alps and at the interfaces to the surrounding regions. In order to make better progress, the regions soon bring the states onto the stage.

Act two: voices from the audience
There is confusion on stage. Some say there can be no independent role for civil society. Even the Alpine Convention, which has the basic organisational structures and content ready to pull out of the bag, has to fight hard for a seat on the editorial committee. CIPRA and seven other Alpine networks respond by speaking with one voice at a conference in Brussels and in the media, demanding an open process and a good and sustainable life and economy in an Alpine macro-region. The national CIPRA representatives pass ideas to the actors on stage. CIPRA Austria wishes to contribute “Alpen.Leben” (Living in the Alps), a project for the development of good governance.

Act three: the decision
On 19 December 2013 the European Council decides that there should be a European Strategy for the Alps and appoints the EU Commission as producer. Work begins on the play. Who will we see on stage? Who will get which role? CIPRA calls for a citizens’ stage and for a macro-region that can look forward to standing ovations at the end of the play.

CIPRA and the Alpine Town of the Year Association offer a network for young people in the Alps. It all began in March 2013 with the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (YPAC). The objective of YPAC is to give young people initial experience with the objective of bringing the Alpine Convention closer to the young generation and vice-versa.

“Alpen.Leben” (Living in the Alps), a project for the development of good governance.

POLITICAL INTERVENTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

A European macro-region is an area that includes territory from a number of different countries or regions connected by one or more common features or challenges. The under-lying idea is that a small group of countries and regions can achieve the levels of coordination needed to efficiently tackle common challenges on a cross-border basis and effectively implement solutions. In addition, macro-regions are meant to promote prosperity and cohesion in line with the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and its objectives and to achieve sustainable, integrated growth. CIPRA and its networks wish to contribute their experience to a strategy for the Alps in the belief that an Alpine macro-region would represent an opportunity for sustainable development.

As co-founder of the Alpine Convention, CIPRA is also working at other levels for sustainable development in the Alps – in the Alpine Conference of the Ministers of the Environment, on the Standing Committee and through various platforms and working groups. On the Compliance Committee, CIPRA monitors the performance of the signatory states in implementing the Alpine Convention. CIPRA is able to perform these valuable tasks thanks primarily to the generous funding provided by the Liechtenstein authorities.

www.cipra.org/en/alpine-politics

TRIED AND TESTED COOPERATION

CIPRA and the Alpine Town of the Year Association offer a network for young people in the Alps. It all began in March 2013 with the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (YPAC). The objective of YPAC is to give young people initial experience with the objective of political decision-making. CIPRA supported teachers in preparing the young people with regard to the topics, organised expert assistance and coached the youngsters in public relations. The network of Alpine towns was responsible for the smooth running of the event and the necessary funding, and encouraged politicians from all the Alpine countries to travel to Sonthofen, the 2005 Alpine Town of the Year, for an open exchange with the young people there. CIPRA also put young people in touch with the national representatives of senior officials at the Alpine Convention, has put the subject of youth involvement on the agenda, as has the Alpine Town of the Year Association. The invitation to come to Berlin has become an invitation to participate in a video chat in the near but unspecified future. As no date has been fixed, however, the representatives of the 2014 Youth Parliament in Chamonix will have to chase the matter. CIPRA will again be there to support them, this time as official partner of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention.

Barbara Wülscher
CIPRA International

... 7 September 2012, meeting of the environment ministers of the Alpine Convention states in Poschiavo/CH: One last question is granted to the journalists attending the press conference. Isabella Hilber, 16, stands up. All eyes are on the young woman. “Everyone keeps saying how wonderful it is that we are here, and yet we are rarely permitted to speak. Why is that?” The vague reply given by the Swiss Minister of the Environment Doris Leuthard fails to satisfy the Austrian representative of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention. Her persistence is finally rewarded – German Environment Minister Peter Altmaier promises an invitation to Berlin to present their resolution! The letter is Altmaier’s response to an invitation sent by the youngsters. Arzu wrote the invitation and it quoted the words spoken by the Environment Minister at the Poschiavo press conference. The text was supplied by CIPRA, who provided a live stream of the conference on Facebook and coached the young people at the conference in Poschiavo and also at the Youth Parliament in Sonthofen on the subject of “My Alpine Town of the Future”.

26/27 June 2013, Cortina d’Ampezzo/It: Sixteen youngsters and young adults discuss with the members of the Alpine Convention’s Standing Committee questions submitted in advance on the subject of the Green Economy. “New Generations for the Alps” is the name of the initiative launched by the Italian chair, with the objective of bringing the Alpine Convention closer to the young generation and vice-versa.

Spring/summer 2013, in various Alpine towns and cities: Young people present their local politicians with the resolution approved by the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention. This was organised by the Alpine Town of the Year Association, whose office is run by CIPRA. The youngsters are also present at the General Assembly. Will one or two of their demands – such as study programmes with an environmental focus – find their way onto the Alpine Towns’ political agendas?

October 2013, Bolzano/It: Half a dozen young people from all the countries of the Alps present their ideas for collaboration to CIPRA delegates. The CIPRA Youth Committee is born. It advises CIPRA bodies on all relevant questions.

The fruits of a busy year: The Standing Committee, a group of senior officials at the Alpine Convention, has put the subject of youth involvement on the agenda, as has the Alpine Town of the Year Association. The invitation to come to Berlin has become an invitation to participate in a video chat in the near but unspecified future. As no date has been fixed, however, the representatives of the 2014 Youth Parliament in Chamonix will have to chase the matter. CIPRA will again be there to support them, this time as official partner of the Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention.

Barbara Wülscher
CIPRA International
ENHANCEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS / ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR

CIPRA had two anniversaries to celebrate in 2013: For ten years it has managed the office of the Alpine Town of the Year Association and supervised the Dynalp programmes for the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities. How do our partners view collaboration with CIPRA?

Barbara Strajnar
Municipality of Kamnik/SI, lead partner for Dynalp, dynAlp-climate, and dynAlp-nature

CIPRA has done a great job, with a strong focus on content and positive results. Through Dynalp, Kamnik has built up a wealth of experience, developed a wider perspective and enjoyed useful support. It has provided confirmation that we are working well, and that our work is useful and necessary. Our young people have also gathered invaluable international experience and made new friends. That is important because they are the ones who will develop our municipality in the future.

Peter Niederer
Representative of the Swiss members of Alliance in the Alps

We have managed to continually develop the Dynalp programmes and gear them to the needs of municipalities. CIPRA is without doubt the most important partner for our network. I particularly appreciate its high level of expertise and fighting spirit. One of CIPRA’s strengths lies in the networks it has built up with other organisations. This is the key to strong positioning at a political level for all issues affecting the Alps.

Rainer Siegle
Mayor of Mader/AT, President of Alliance in the Alps 1999-2012, lead partner for Dynalp, DYNALP2, and Dynalp-nature

Local authorities often need a little push, a small financial contribution and some organisational knowhow to embark on sustainable projects. The Dynalp programmes offer just that. Dynalp operates where the impact of Alpine policies is most directly felt – at the level of the people in the municipalities. They can then participate in meaningful projects for the future of the Alps. CIPRA has both the linguistic and cultural expertise to help and the biggest sustainability network in the Alps. CIPRA has given me a new perspective on the Alps and cultural expertise to help and the biggest sustainability network in the Alps. CIPRA has given me a new perspective on the Alps and the municipalities. They can then participate in meaningful programmes and activities.

Denis Palisse
Auzet/F, lead partner for Dynalp, Dynalp-climate

At the start of the project we found ourselves very much on our own with little knowledge of passive houses. We looked around for support and contacts with other local authorities who had experience of the subject. That was done with the help of Dynalp, and the results were very positive. Without the assistance provided by Dynalp, we would probably not have been able to get our project up and running. CIPRA was an ideal partner at all times, always providing answers to our questions and the information we needed.

Hubert Buhl
Former mayor of Sonthofen/D, Alpine Town of the Year President 2000-2010

The Alpine Town of the Year Association benefits from the skills and great commitment of the people at CIPRA in its day-to-day work as well as for the content and organisation of major projects. CIPRA works beyond the call of duty for the development of the Alps. I wish CIPRA every success in convincing governments – through its networking and meaningful lobbying activities – that protection for the Alps can only be implemented locally and above all in collaboration with the people who live in local communities.

Colette Patron
Deputy Mayor of Gap/F, Alpine Town of the Year President 2002-2010

Collaboration between our association and CIPRA enabled us to develop from being an amateur group to becoming a municipal network. The people at CIPRA understand the specific needs of our association and contribute international expertise, their knowledge of the challenges confronting the Alps, multilingualism and experience in networking with the towns and cities of the Alps.

TEN YEARS OF MANAGING THE ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION

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Deputy Mayor of Gap/F, Alpine Town of the Year President 2002-2010

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Ten years of managing the Alpine Town of the Year

The Alpine Town of the Year Association is an organisation comprising those Alpine towns and cities that have been awarded the title for their outstanding commitment to implementing the Alpine Convention and as an incentive to sustainable development. Since the association was established in 1997, CIPRA has been represented on the jury and has run the association’s office since 2003.

City of Belp, Switzerland

Belp is the lead partner for Dynalp-climate and Dynalp-climate projects. CIPRA works beyond the call of duty for the development of the Alps. I wish CIPRA every success in convincing governments – through its networking and meaningful lobbying activities – that protection for the Alps can only be implemented locally and above all in collaboration with the people who live in local communities.

TOWNS AND CITIES PULLING TOGETHER

The Alpine Town of the Year Association is an organisation comprising those Alpine towns and cities that have been awarded the title for their outstanding commitment to implementing the Alpine Convention and as an incentive to sustainable development. Since the association was established in 1997, CIPRA has been represented on the jury and has run the association’s office since 2003.

www.cipra.org/en/networks

MUNICIPALITIES FOR MUTUAL LEARNING

Alliance in the Alps is a network comprising some 300 municipalities across the Alps. Together, they develop sustainable solutions for the challenges facing their local authorities. CIPRA was involved in the foundation of the organisation in 1997 and has had administrative and project management responsibilities since 2000. This also includes developing and managing the Dynalp programmes.
In the International Year of Water Cooperation, CIPRA placed a strong focus on this, the most important of natural resources in the Alps. Its activities reached a wide audience, triggered debate and are now generating new solutions.

“One of CIPRA’s main tasks”, says Thomas Aichner, Director of Merano Marketing, “is to make people more aware and give them a sense of responsibility.” That neatly summarises what CIPRA’s communications work is all about. Solutions are more successful when we are better informed and know and understand other people’s standpoints. Thomas Aichner was speaking at CIPRA’s conference on “The Alps as a Water Trough”, which was held in Bolzano in October 2013. In the International Year of Water Cooperation, CIPRA approached the subject from various angles. In Bolzano, experts, mountain lovers, young people and stakeholders devoted three days to the question of who is responsible for water management, and their debates received extensive coverage in the media. A basis for the discussions was provided by CIPRA in the form of an edition of Alps Insight entitled “Alpine Water” (not available in English). This booklet paints a clear picture of the forthcoming challenges facing the Alps with regard to water and presents solutions with examples in the various articles. Articles in other publications and online documentation rounded off CIPRA’s communication efforts in the International Year of Water Cooperation. The following three central findings emerged from the informed debate that all of this facilitated:

• Climate change has a major impact on water supplies in the Alps. By 2050 at the latest, the runoff from glaciers will be in decline, and the Alps will lose their function as a drinking water reservoir. Georg Kaser of the Department of Meteorology and Geophysics at the University of Innsbruck/A, says, “We decide today the direction we are going to take.”

• The proposed energy transition is a threat to the natural environment of the Alps. What is missing is an awareness of the balance between the capabilities of renewable sources of energy such as hydro-electric power and those of ecosystems. Mario Broggi, former CIPRA President and expert on the Alps, offers a succinct warning: “Landscape is not renewable.”

• One of today’s trends is towards privatisation. But water must remain a public good: “Only the public authorities – through laws and taxes – can guarantee its fair distribution,” says Stefan Kunz, Director of Aqua Viva - Rheinaubund.

CIPRA is also fulfilling its responsibility for action, incorporating the findings of the International Year of Water Cooperation into its projects and the political bodies of the Alpine Convention. CIPRA is patient in the knowledge that change does not happen overnight. That makes it all the more important for us to start now.

Barbara Wülser
CIPRA International
THE CIPRA INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Back row, from left to right: Nicoletta Piersantelli (I), Christina Bachner (A), Jakob Dietachmair (A), Bettina Hug (A), Madeleine Rohrer (A), Caroline Begle (A), Julia Müller (A), Karen Schüller (D), Wolfgang Pfefferkorn (A), Carole Piton (F), Barbara Wüerser (CH). Front row, from left to right: Claire Simon (F/D), Julitta Eller (I), Katharina Lins (A), Katharina Conradin (CH), Katharina Spannraft (A), Katharina Wülser (LI), Eva Schwienbacher (A), Caroline Begle (A), Helmut Moroder (I), Christian Baumgartner (D), Christiane Frick (D).

FINANCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all the individuals and organisations that have placed their trust in us and supported us in 2013. In 2013 CIPRA’s income totalled CHF 1,931 million and expenditure amounted to CHF 2,040 million, making a loss of about CHF 109,000. This was the result of a number of unforeseeable changes: the resignation of Bruno Stephan Walder as Executive Director and the necessary reorganisation of the team led to higher payroll costs, and the withdrawal of Liechtensteinsche Gesellschaft from our shared office caused an increase in office expenditure. In addition, a lot of work was done to develop new projects and the macro-economic process, both of which can be seen as long-term investments. It was not possible to generate additional income to offset these extra costs. Cost-cutting measures will be implemented during the course of the current year.

In 2013, the biggest single revenue item were services to third parties, in particular for the Alpine Town of the Year Association and the CIPRA International, as CIPRA’s legal domicile, was again a very generous sponsor in 2013, providing about one third of the organisation’s funding and thus making it possible for us to engage in regular public relations activities in the field of sustainable development and participate in the political process. In third place is income from project revenue. The contributions paid by our member organisations are indicative of our function as a pan-Alpine network.

Half of our funds go towards project work and services. In addition to implementing the principles of sustainability, we also attach great importance to communication activities and political work, which account for the other half of our expenditure. Activities include regular media relations, the publication of our topical magazine “Alps Insight” and our “alpMedia” newsletter, and political work for the Alpine Convention and the European Strategy for the Alps.

Where does the money come from?

- Project income
  - CHF 319,895
- Services to third parties
  - CHF 939,152
- Government subsidies
  - CHF 600,000
- Membership fees
  - CHF 40,000
- Other income
  - CHF 31,202

Where does the money go?

- Administration, communications, politics
  - CHF 949,825
- Projects/services: material costs, fees
  - CHF 441,989
- Projects/services: payroll costs
  - CHF 648,027

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CIPRA INTERNATIONAL

Dominik Siegrist (CH)
President

Jernej Strih (SI)
Deputy President (since October 2013)

Damiano di Sinine (I)
Deputy President (since October 2013)

Christian Baumgartner (A)
Deputy President (since October 2013)

Josef Biedermann (LI)
Treasurer

Katharina Conradin (CH)
Executive Committee Member (since October 2013)

Helmut Moroder (I)
Deputy President (until October 2013)

Katharina Lins (A)
Deputy President (until October 2013)

Marjeta Kosič-Svetel (SI)
Deputy President (until October 2013)

THE CIPRA INTERNATIONAL TEAM

www.cipra.org/cipra-international/team
CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, is a non-governmental umbrella organisation with representatives in the seven Alpine states of Germany, France, Italy, Liechtenstein, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and regional representatives in South Tyrol/I. It represents around 100 associations and organisations from across the Alps. CIPRA works for sustainable development in the Alps. It advocates the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, the preservation of regional diversity and solutions to cross-border issues in the Alpine region. It was founded on 5th May 1952 and is domiciled in Schaan in Liechtenstein. CIPRA’s status as a non-profit organisation is recognised by the tax authorities of Liechtenstein. Its guiding principle and its statutes can be found on the internet at www.cipra.org.