CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps, is a non-profit, non-governmental umbrella organisation with national and regional branches in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland. It represents about a hundred member organisations. CIPRA works for sustainable development and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, the maintenance of regional diversity and cross-border problem solving in the Alps. It was founded on 5th May 1952 and is headquartered in Schaan, in the Principality of Liechtenstein.
DEAR READER,

SCHAAN/LI, APRIL 2018

CIPRA and its member organisations adopt a behaviour and that we can carry on regarding CO² emissions into rocks at the bottom of the ocean. Only if we ourselves change will the society we live in change with us. Together we can tackle the major challenges facing the Alps.

Which is why we’ve focused on the topic of “Social Innovation” and showcase our activities from a societal perspective. Within the current strategy with its three core themes of “Nature and People”, “Economic Transition” and “Sustainable Development of glaciers as a means of adapting to climate change”, everything revolves around the way we interact with our environment and our surroundings. This is also reflected in the way CIPRA operates. Very few other organisations succeed in bringing together more people to engage actively with a future in the Alps that’s worth living, to question our behaviour, and to become part of new proposals for solutions – indeed, this Annual Report illustrates just how we go about this.

And so we wish you a stimulating read.

Yours

Katharina Conradin
President, CIPRA International
WHEN IDEAS FLOURISH

From apple trees to pig’s hearts, blind alleys, and whales: five participants in the I-LivAlps Workshop in Italy’s Maira Valley in September 2017 talk about how ideas flourish and thrive. Uncertainties and frictions are all part of it.

IDEAS LIKE APPLE TREES

Cristina Dalla Torre

Whenever Cristina Dalla Torre gets excited about an idea, she feels she has to tell the whole world about it. She knows how important it is for ideas to get out there and enthuse others. Her dark curls bounce around wildly as she speaks, as if underscoring her words. The 27-year-old Italian conducts research on social innovations at the European Academy in Bolzano (Eurac Research). And when she laughs her warm laughter, it’s almost as if she’s looking to apologise for the chaotic way she articulates her thoughts.

And yet, that’s the way she does things and how she achieves success. Her most recent idea came about as she was taking a long hard look at her home region, the Non Valley. She was appalled at the way its natural and cultural landscapes were evolving. The Non Valley is famous for its apple plantations, but most of the land is intensively farmed and, in recent decades, a great deal of building land has been made available to private individuals. Cristina Dalla Torre knows full well that agriculture is not synonymous with biodiversity.

Through her involvement in the CIPRA Youth Advisory Board and as a member of the Board of CIPRA Italy she knew that landscape and spatial planning processes need time. Successful sustainable changes need the involvement of other people, especially younger people like her. “Someone has to have the initial idea, and it will only be a good one if other people then get enthusiastic about it.”

And so Cristina Dalla Torre drummed up her network of friends and acquaintances. It led to a whole range of activities designed to promote the region’s biodiversity and make people aware of the links between biodiversity and landscape. The group revolving around the young scientist initiated school visits, a biodiversity festival, and a book. “A good idea always has a solid foundation and the potential to develop further,” she explains. Just like the apple trees in the Non Valley. A strong trunk is able to support the branches for the fruit to grow. And you just never know what direction they’ll branch out into.
“AND... AND... AND”
Jean Horgues-Debat

Jean Horgues-Debat reserves the right to get it wrong. “There is no norm,” says the 60-year-old engineer. “We’re allowed to give it a go, develop, and reject.” As Director of the Adrets Association, he spent years studying the question of how to secure basic public services in rural regions. His conclusion: get people together, connect, and consolidate. They were an innovation in the 1990s, but after twenty years of “experimenting” (as he calls it), there are now eighty so-called maisons des services publics in the French Alps. These centres combine municipal administrations, health care, trade, and lots more, all under the one roof. His vision is to transfer what’s on offer from the countryside to the cities. “It’s low-threshold and designed with people in mind.”

With his chiselled features reminiscent of a mountain farmer, his craftsman’s hands, and his philosopher’s mind, the graduate engineer personifies much of what social innovation is all about. “We live in a traditional system that separates, segregates, and pits us against one another.” He would like to see a change of perspective. A complex system that does not say “either … or”, but “and… and… and”. Jean Horgues-Debat was born in the town of Gap in the French département of the Hautes-Alpes, and since summer 2017 he has been offering his expertise as President of CIPRA France, the “head of a network”. “But is it even a network?” he asks himself. It only works if everyone is networked, also among themselves.

So what does it take for social innovations to prosper? “I don’t know,” he answers. “There is no recipe,” he says, adding, “a modicum of diversity in terms of people, skills, and backgrounds”. He believes the processes themselves are as important as the outcomes. All resources are welcome, even computer-aided ones. “We need to utilise whatever there is, in the sense of better co-operation.” If everyone is to benefit, people need to intervene and mediate. After all, “the internet does not listen”.

INSPIRATION WITH HEART AND MIND
Franziska Kunze

Sometimes inspiration comes to Franziska Kunze right in the middle of her day. As it did recently when she was at the market and spotted a pig’s heart in the butcher’s window. She knew there and then she’d buy the heart, even though she didn’t yet know how she was going to prepare it. So she put the pig’s heart in her bicycle shopping basket and cycled home. At her kitchen table she started looking up ways of getting the best out of the heart. The 29-year-old German certainly has a purposeful approach to food. In fact, it was in Italy, at the Slow Food University in Bra and elsewhere, that she acquired the understanding and know-how that now feeds her passion.

It’s an approach that’s also reflected in her way of speaking. She stretches out her sentences, pauses, relishes those pauses, and gives them space. It’s how her energy, inspiration and creativity express themselves. When she’s cooking (something she does several times a day), she lets herself be inspired by the feelings, flavours and forms she finds in her fridge and larder. Or she imagines a culture into which she’d like to immerse herself, or an emotion she’s keen to conjure up with her food.

But regardless of her impulses Franziska works with the utmost precision. As a course instructor for sourdough bread and croissants she knows the processes, baking times, temperatures and mixing ratios needed to bake perfect crusty bread. Time and again, she breaks all the ingredients and stages down into their individual constituents and studies the ways in which they interact, before reassembling them into a new whole. Beyond bread baking itself she studies the fermentation process of foods and plays an active role in supportive farming. This involves producers and consumers joining forces as part of an association and sharing the responsibility and the risk as well as the profits. For her, preparing food well is fundamental to doing justice to the produce and all the hard work that producers have invested into it. So ruining a pig’s heart in a frying pan would be nothing short of a catastrophe...
A PLACE OF ENCOUNTER

Maria Schneider

Living here is a life choice. It’s not a choice Maria Schneider from Germany made herself; rather, she followed her husband Andreas Schneider to Italy some thirty-five years ago. In actual fact, it all began by mistake. He got lost in the Piedmont Mountains en route to the south of France, where the couple from Cologne used to spend their holidays. But after that, they always spent their holidays in this remote Maira Valley before finally moving there once and for all in 1982.

“Here everything’s possible once you’ve decided to live this way,” says the sturdy woman with thick glasses and short grey hair. “This way” refers to living in a borgo, a cluster of houses which the Schneiders have gradually bought up and renovated. Today the Centro Culturale Borgata San Martino Inferiore attracts people from near and far, particularly from Switzerland and Germany. The money for the building conversions also came from up north. The Italian banks were reluctant to endorse such a venture as they felt there wasn’t much of a future in sustainable mountain tourism; the locals, too, were quick to crack the odd joke or two: “If you’re so keen to get rid of your money, why not burn it? At least you’ll be warm.”


Today, thirteen years after Andreas Schneider’s death, the Cultural Centre has become a showcase for sustainable tourism, with 3,000 overnight stays a year. Above all, it has become a place of encounter, specifically in this instance for the participants in CIPRA’s I-LivAlps workshops on social innovation. And so Maria and Andreas Schneider’s dream has become a reality: “We always wanted to bring people together.”

THE WHALE JUMPER

Gregor Novak

Hanging inside Gregor Novak’s flat is a whale. Made from an old pullover. That old woolly jumper had become seriously irritating as it had lost its shape and was unwearable. So Gregor scratched his head looking for an idea and then came up with two – in the drawers marked “Fabrics” and “Animals” respectively. He then handcrafted the old jumper into a whale, which now adorns his flat in Liechtenstein.

Gregor has thousands of ideas, garnered from the internet, everyday life, and life in general. He likes nothing more than immersing himself in ideas on Instagram and Facebook, in newsletters, blogs, and YouTube videos.

There’s nothing new. At least not for Gregor. In an age of the fast-paced global flow of information, the only thing that’s new is how people combine the familiar. Which is why Gregor is into recycling ideas. He will combine two ideas or inspirations that may be lurking at the back of his mind and then pluck them out depending on the occasion, or his fancy, intuition or mood.

Gregor wants to use his ideas and inspirations to make the world a better place. For Gregor, creativity is the urge people feel to create something new, to keep things moving. And he’s certainly always on the move, constantly fidgeting when in conversation, then sitting down, standing up, sitting back down again, or sketching out shapes in thin air with his hands.

For him, being creative means learning, whether it’s cooking, hobbies or everyday work. “Just as people always wish for something new, they always want to learn something new too.” He says he has high expectations: food only tastes good if it looks good too. Or a picture can only be beautiful if it’s also perfect. And an idea can only be good if it deviates from the norm and takes everyone by surprise. Then he’s happy. And right now Gregor is making the world a better place by painting pictures for his landlady.
In her report Christine Eben would write:

"Once again we formed mixed groups, in terms of both age and nationality, just as we had in our previous workshops that had proved so successful. As it’s all about future developments, exchanging ideas with young people is all the more important." For the past ten years Christine Eben from Munich has sought to attend each and every event organised by CIPRA International and then compile a report. And that includes the I-LivAlps Workshops, most recently in Stroppo in Italy’s Maira Valley in September 2017. Initially, she would report back merely to her own organisation, Germany’s Friends of Nature, but now she also reports to all member organisations of CIPRA Germany; indeed, she sits on its board as Acting Vice President. She’s the binding link between organisations and generations, between the regional, national and international level.

Until her retirement Christine Eben worked as a judge, so the workshops with young people are a new experience. “Allowing myself to venture out into the unknown is the greatest challenge at my age,” she says. In Stroppo she is observing closely the discussions within the small group on “living and working”. She still finds it quite difficult to take part in the debates in English, so for some time now she has been attending a course to brush up her school English. “So I can communicate more effectively with the young ones.”

So what does she get out of these events personally? “A sense of helping to shape something, together.” She feels that the social innovation topic of the fourth I-LivAlps workshops resonates with the agenda of the Friends of Nature as it is not purely an environmental organisation, but bears social responsibilities too. “What we do here in Stroppo I know I can take back to my own organisation and be certain of a sympathetic ear.”

Toni Büchel

Toni seeks out sources of friction between himself and his surroundings. That includes meeting up with people who have contrasting views to his own and his own living environment. “It’s the only way for something new to materialise,” he explains. Trains are the perfect place for striking up a conversation with strangers. Toni commutes between his native Liechtenstein and Austria’s capital Vienna, where he’s studying history and digital humanities. Alongside his studies he works for a newspaper, he conducts research into local history and genealogy for a municipality in Liechtenstein, and during the summer vacation he marshals tourist coaches and works at the road maintenance depot.

It’s those chance encounters you have in everyday life that really inspire him. Trying to seek out such encounters is pointless. “That’s as stupid as seeking your fortune,” he says. Yet perhaps, through his many activities, he does contribute to seeking out sources of friction.

But Toni is not like some explorer who sets off into the jungle without a plan or a water bottle. Instead, he makes his way purposefully, always ready to pause for a moment whenever the inspiration takes him – or indeed, turn back. He is very much a thinker and thinks along big lines. His profound approach contrasts sharply with his mischievous laugh and his impishly bobbing locks.

Sometimes his encounters compel him to rethink his view of the world. He says he needs space for these “castles in the air”. A narrow and rigid environment is not conducive. He finds it easier to build his castles in the air high up on a mountain top or looking out at sea, places where the landscape offers his thoughts the length and breadth they need. And ultimately the same is true of social innovations. They too need space; they need ears and arms that are open and receptive, so they can spring forth from the sources of friction between the old and the new.

Christine Eben

In her report Christine Eben would write:

“Once again we formed mixed groups, in terms of both age and nationality, just as we had in our previous workshops that had proved so successful. As it’s all about future developments, exchanging ideas with young people is all the more important.” For the past ten years Christine Eben from Munich has sought to attend each and every event organised by CIPRA International and then compile a report. And that includes the I-LivAlps Workshops, most recently in Stroppo in Italy’s Maira Valley in September 2017. Initially, she would report back merely to her own organisation, Germany’s Friends of Nature, but now she also reports to all member organisations of CIPRA Germany; indeed, she sits on its board as Acting Vice President. She’s the binding link between organisations and generations, between the regional, national and international level.

Until her retirement Christine Eben worked as a judge, so the workshops with young people are a new experience. “Allowing myself to venture out into the unknown is the greatest challenge at my age,” she says. In Stroppo she is observing closely the discussions within the small group on “living and working”. She still finds it quite difficult to take part in the debates in English, so for some time now she has been attending a course to brush up her school English. “So I can communicate more effectively with the young ones.”

So what does she get out of these events personally? “A sense of helping to shape something, together.” She feels that the social innovation topic of the fourth I-LivAlps workshops resonates with the agenda of the Friends of Nature as it is not purely an environmental organisation, but bears social responsibilities too. “What we do here in Stroppo I know I can take back to my own organisation and be certain of a sympathetic ear.”
CIPRA’s political work over the past year has been shaped to a large extent by new answers to social issues. One of the objectives of the new Alpine Climate Board of the Alpine Convention for instance was to bundle together existing climate change initiatives and ideas. Together with the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities and the Alpine Town of the Year Association, CIPRA carried out important preparations for the planned climate partnership of Alpine communities. Sustainable economic activity was very much on the agenda within the framework of an Alpine Convention advisory board and action plan in which CIPRA played a key role.

In 2017 CIPRA launched a number of initiatives that fell on fertile soil. Ahead of the Olympics referenda in Graubünden/CH and Innsbruck/A, it campaigned vigorously in favour of a more sustainable staging of major sporting events, with a clear affirmation that the Alps should remain Olympics-free. In both instances the population took a similar view and, by a clear majority, rejected the candidature for the Olympics at the ballot box. In its “Equinox in Winter Tourism” policy document, CIPRA is calling for a rethink in favour of more sustainability in tourism. In a poor winter for snow such as the winter of 2016/2017 the message certainly resonated with the media and the general public.

In the European Strategy for the Alpine Region (Eusalp), processes are now up and running and the various protagonists have gathered together in working groups. So now it’s a matter of setting the course for the future. In an open letter in November 2017, CIPRA called upon the ministers of the Alpine countries to anchor the Alpine Convention as a guiding principle and to involve society more strongly in the further development and implementation of the Strategy.

The private is political and the political is private. With its journey right across the Alps from Vienna to Nice, the Whatsalp hiking group drew attention to the changes occurring in the Alps (p. 20/21). The powerful impact of the event’s symbolism was certainly not lost on the international media, which re-discovered an interest in the Alps.
SOCIAL INNOVATION

The challenging situations that exist today in the Alps such as a population exodus, climate change mitigation, mobility, and the consumption of resources cannot be solved through technological progress alone; instead, they require social change too. In its core theme of “Social Innovation”, CIPRA is tackling these challenges from a societal point of view and the potential that lies within society. Personal initiatives, new collaborations, and a backpack full of ideas are needed in order to bring about change in social as well as economic practices. Taking centre stage is the vision of a strong society capable of carrying sustainable development in the Alps by pooling their resources.

Social innovations comprise new approaches, combinations and forms of social interaction in order to promote sustainable development, good governance and quality of life in the Alps. At the same time, social innovation is also a process for coming up with new ideas and enabling people to have a say in the fundamental choices made by society. One precondition is that any such choice must benefit society. The aim of CIPRA International is to use communication, political work and projects to promote social innovations and improve the outline conditions for their emergence and consolidation. It addresses social issues such as pluralism, the participation of young people, sustainable lifestyles and self-determination in various projects and activities.

With the PlurAlps Interreg Alpine Space Project for instance, CIPRA International together with other project partners is highlighting new approaches and solutions for communities, businesses and civil society to contribute towards making cultural diversity one of the strengths of the Alpine region. Adopting a creative and open approach to pluralism opens up opportunities for social innovations and economic development. The project partners set up the Alpine Pluralism Award to pay tribute to instances of good practice in the area of migration. The award honours and publicises successful integration projects in the Alpine region and networks the initiators – setting a great example!

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/SOCIAL-INNOVATION
ECONOMIC TRANSITION

The Alps are an economic area where many people live – and also a unique natural environment. Farming, goods and commuter traffic, tourism, production and investments shape life and culture in the Alps. They interact with climate change and leave lasting traces on the landscape. Politics and the economy often neglect ecological and social aspects in favour of short-term economic success. But there are also highly promising approaches aimed at creating economic activity that is both resource-friendly and socially compatible. In its core theme “Economic Transition”, CIPRA International is strongly advocating a radical change in economic thinking in favour of sustainability.

A changing economy means producing fewer pollutants, using resources more economically, responding to the climate crisis, generating renewable energy in a sustainable way, and providing socially fair working conditions. These objectives are promoted and implemented with projects and activities in areas such as mobility, construction and renovation, tourism, climate and energy. But technological efficiency and structural measures alone are not enough. Sufficiency, i.e. adapting one’s own behaviour and reducing consumption, must also be part and parcel of the strategy. In order to propel this rethink forward, CIPRA International is looking to network and raise awareness of the body politic, administration, the business community, and representatives of civil society for more sustainable economic activity in the Alps.

CIPRA International and other project partners have for instance been commissioned by Germany’s Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety to draw up a programme of action entitled “A Green Economy in the Alpine Region”. Its aim is to help implement the Alpine Convention’s objective of a low-carbon, energy- and resource-efficient economy. Workshops were held between September and November 2017 in six municipalities and towns throughout the Alpine region, partly in conjunction with the Alpine Town of the Year Association. Business and societal representatives contributed to the debates and networked by sharing their views.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/ECONOMIC-TRANSITION
NATURE AND PEOPLE

Steep ragged cliff faces, flowering mountain meadows, buzzing insects – the Alpine landscape and its inhabitants are nothing if not diverse. The Alps are home to around 30,000 animal species and 13,000 plant species. At the same time human beings are shaping and impacting nature as never before, through farming, tourism and construction. Biodiversity and the landscape of the Alps are increasingly at risk from sprawling towns and villages, a network of roads and railway lines, intensive farming, cattle breeding, and climate change. Humankind’s enormous influence on nature is also linked to a great deal of responsibility: responsibility towards nature itself and to future generations. In its core theme “Nature and People”, CIPRA is campaigning for a holistic understanding of human beings within nature.

CIPRA sees nature and people as common ground. The exceptional biological diversity of the Alpine region can only be preserved in the long term if we as human beings afford nature as high a status as we do our other needs, both in our actions and our way of thinking. CIPRA International seeks to bring all the relevant players together through its projects and activities on natural diversity, ecosystem services, management of water courses and spatial planning. In doing so it contributes towards linking ecosystems and their stakeholders as well as anchoring the preservation of biodiversity at the political level.

In the AlpES Interreg Alpine Space Project, CIPRA International and other organisations in research, business and administration are campaigning for a common understanding of ecosystems and the services they provide in the Alps. At their latest meeting in Venice, these project partners recreated a building permit application as a form of role play in order to gain a better understanding of the concerns of various interest groups and apply their own individual arguments to reality. They took turns wearing the relevant hats (a hard hat, a farmer’s cap or an official cap) so they could slip into their roles more convincingly. A lively debate ensued. An interactive strategy is also being pursued in the AlpES pilot regions, whether it’s through a theatre play in Italy on the theme of the forest or a workshop for children on Savinja River Day in Slovenia.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/NATURE-PEOPLE

In this project, CIPRA sought to preserve and enhance natural resources in the Alps by creating an interactive strategy for the Alpine region. Through the AlpES Interreg Alpine Space Project, CIPRA recreated a building permit application as a form of role play, allowing participants to switch between roles such as farmers, bureaucrats, or environmentalists. The aim was to gain a better understanding of the concerns of various interest groups and apply their own arguments to reality. This interactive approach was also implemented in pilot regions, either through theatre plays or workshops, such as the Savinja River Day event in Slovenia. These projects aim to raise awareness and promote the preservation of biodiversity in the Alps.
ON FOOT THROUGH THE ALPS WHATSALP

In summer 2017, the whatsalp hiking group trekked its way across the Alps from Vienna/A to Nice/F to document changes in the landscape and in society. Along the way the hikers met like-minded people and exchanged views with young people from the “whatsalp youth” CIPRA project. CIPRA was involved in the communication work and organised events along the route.

WWW.WHATSALP.ORG

Mountain regions – where to?
July 25 – 27
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Moving out
September 29
After 568 hours of walking and 66,000 metres of climb, whatsalp finally reaches the Mediterranean, its destination. Climate change, transport, exploitation and population exodus are clearly noticeable in the Alps.
➤CIPRA France

Wine excursion
August 17
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Sustainable travel
August 30
➤CIPRA France

“Whatsalp youth”
September 1 – 4
➤CIPRA Youth Council

Networking communities
September 7
➤CIPRA France

I-LivAlps Workshop
September 13 – 16
(Social Innovation, p. 4–11)
➤CIPRA International
➤CIPRA Italy

Young reinforcements
July 9 – 12
Young people from “whatsalp youth” join the hike and exchange their views.
➤CIPRA Youth Council

Keep on trekking
Whatsalp treks 1,800 kilometres through the Alps.

Fire in the Alps
August 12
In the UN’s Year of Sustainable Tourism, watch-fires are a reminder of the need to rethink Alpine tourism in the long term.
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Autobahn resistance
July 7
Representatives of municipalities and civil society from South Tyrol, Veneto, Tyrol and Carinthia sign a memorandum against the extension of the Alemagna Autobahn.
(National Associations, p. 30)
➤CIPRA Austria

Go-ahead
June 3
The core team completed the hike some twenty-five years ago. Now they want to draw a comparison and record the changes that the Alps have undergone.
➤CIPRA Austria

Wine excursion
August 17
➤CIPRA Switzerland

www.whatsalp.org

In summer 2017, the whatsalp hiking group trekked its way across the Alps from Vienna/A to Nice/F to document changes in the landscape and in society. Along the way the hikers met like-minded people and exchanged views with young people from the “whatsalp youth” CIPRA project. CIPRA was involved in the communication work and organised events along the route.

WWW.WHATSALP.ORG

Mountain regions – where to?
July 25 – 27
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Moving out
September 29
After 568 hours of walking and 66,000 metres of climb, whatsalp finally reaches the Mediterranean, its destination. Climate change, transport, exploitation and population exodus are clearly noticeable in the Alps.
➤CIPRA France

Wine excursion
August 17
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Sustainable travel
August 30
➤CIPRA France

“Whatsalp youth”
September 1 – 4
➤CIPRA Youth Council

Networking communities
September 7
➤CIPRA France

I-LivAlps Workshop
September 13 – 16
(Social Innovation, p. 4–11)
➤CIPRA International
➤CIPRA Italy

Young reinforcements
July 9 – 12
Young people from “whatsalp youth” join the hike and exchange their views.
➤CIPRA Youth Council

Keep on trekking
Whatsalp treks 1,800 kilometres through the Alps.

Fire in the Alps
August 12
In the UN’s Year of Sustainable Tourism, watch-fires are a reminder of the need to rethink Alpine tourism in the long term.
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Autobahn resistance
July 7
Representatives of municipalities and civil society from South Tyrol, Veneto, Tyrol and Carinthia sign a memorandum against the extension of the Alemagna Autobahn.
(National Associations, p. 30)
➤CIPRA Austria

Wine excursion
August 17
➤CIPRA Switzerland

www.whatsalp.org

In summer 2017, the whatsalp hiking group trekked its way across the Alps from Vienna/A to Nice/F to document changes in the landscape and in society. Along the way the hikers met like-minded people and exchanged views with young people from the “whatsalp youth” CIPRA project. CIPRA was involved in the communication work and organised events along the route.

WWW.WHATSALP.ORG

Mountain regions – where to?
July 25 – 27
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Moving out
September 29
After 568 hours of walking and 66,000 metres of climb, whatsalp finally reaches the Mediterranean, its destination. Climate change, transport, exploitation and population exodus are clearly noticeable in the Alps.
➤CIPRA France

Wine excursion
August 17
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Sustainable travel
August 30
➤CIPRA France

“Whatsalp youth”
September 1 – 4
➤CIPRA Youth Council

Networking communities
September 7
➤CIPRA France

I-LivAlps Workshop
September 13 – 16
(Social Innovation, p. 4–11)
➤CIPRA International
➤CIPRA Italy

Young reinforcements
July 9 – 12
Young people from “whatsalp youth” join the hike and exchange their views.
➤CIPRA Youth Council

Keep on trekking
Whatsalp treks 1,800 kilometres through the Alps.

Fire in the Alps
August 12
In the UN’s Year of Sustainable Tourism, watch-fires are a reminder of the need to rethink Alpine tourism in the long term.
➤CIPRA Switzerland

Autobahn resistance
July 7
Representatives of municipalities and civil society from South Tyrol, Veneto, Tyrol and Carinthia sign a memorandum against the extension of the Alemagna Autobahn.
(National Associations, p. 30)
➤CIPRA Austria

Wine excursion
August 17
➤CIPRA Switzerland

www.whatsalp.org

In summer 2017, the whatsalp hiking group trekked its way across the Alps from Vienna/A to Nice/F to document changes in the landscape and in society. Along the way the hikers met like-minded people and exchanged views with young people from the “whatsalp youth” CIPRA project. CIPRA was involved in the communication work and organised events along the route.

WWW.WHATSALP.ORG
CIPRA Germany

Stunning mountain scenery, gently rolling hills, beautiful valleys and delightful landscapes: that’s how many people imagine the Bavarian Alps and the Alpine foothills. And yet, the mountains of Bavaria are not just a natural environment, but also a cultural and economic area that is home to almost 1.5 million people. As part of the Alpine Convention, the Free State of Bavaria has made it its task to protect this living environment in the long term. But it takes a debate within the regions to ensure that ideas for sustainable development are not plucked out of thin air, with the involvement of as many key players from the world of politics and administration as possible.

As part of the Alpine Convention AAA+ project, CIPRA Germany has chosen to address three pivotal issues of the Alpine Convention by way of example: climate change, mobility, and sustainable tourism. The aim is to anchor these issues in the minds of all those who play an essential role in community development and initiate an exchange of views. By staging three public events, CIPRA Germany helped to bolster awareness of an active implementation of the Alpine Convention among those in charge of local politics and administration as well as the representatives of associations and the public at large.

Participants were able to find out about the latest trends and new ideas in areas such as the climate, tourism, and mobility. Demands for further networking and for “troubleshooters” were voiced, and they are to be addressed in the course of the project. The next steps towards sustainable development are already under consideration, with field trips to study examples of good practice and with round-table mediation sessions.
PRE-EMPTING CLIMATE CHANGE

CIPRA Italy Climate change in the Alpine region is having serious repercussions: drought, endangered water supplies, rises in average temperature, and melting glaciers. It is resulting in a lack of snow for the tourism sector and triggering extremes of weather which, more and more frequently, are creating all sorts of hardships for valley regions and villages and causing damage to property and personal injury. So new ideas and sustainable strategies are needed. The future belongs to those communities that are pre-empting the impact of climate change and looking to act with foresight.

CIPRA has an historical connection with the member municipalities of the Alliance in the Alps network of communities. Since the pilot phase during the second half of the 1990s, the Italian municipalities have been looked after by CIPRA Italy. Now, as part of a collaborative project with Italy’s Ministry of the Environment and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, they have set out to draw up strategies for adapting to climate change.

In a series of workshops attended by experts, representatives from the municipality drew up a list of adaptation issues relating to natural hazards, politics, and forests. Finally, the Charter of Budoia was presented and signed in Slovenia at the 2017 Annual Symposium of the network of communities. In this charter, the municipalities pledged to implement measures aimed at adapting to climate change. They endeavour to assess the potential risks and opportunities afforded by climate change for the territory of the municipality, to promote a public dialogue, and to increase awareness of these issues among the population.

GOOD EXAMPLES ON THE MOVE

CIPRA Slovenia Cold spring water to chill your drinks, solar power to generate energy, and rapeseed oil to run a cogeneration plant. During a field trip to the Austrian Alpine Club’s Hochweisssteinhaus hut organised by CIPRA Slovenia, participants got to experience what the energy-efficient, ecological management of buildings in the Alpine region might look like.

For a project entitled “From Mountains to Valleys”, CIPRA Slovenia has teamed up with the Slovene Alpine Association to campaign for the eco-friendly and energy-efficient upkeep of leisure and recreational facilities. The project focuses on awareness raising, information, and training for people who run leisure facilities such as mountain huts, hunting lodges, fishing huts, and scout huts. Other key aspects included sharing best practices and the transfer of knowledge.

At present Slovenia does not have any financing measures such as state financial aid or discounted loans to offer incentives for ecological investments in leisure facilities to the organisations concerned. So as part of the workshop the participants drew up recommendations for decision-makers to help promote such investments. They also discussed ways of managing premises more efficiently, for example through reservation systems, adapting the range of food on offer, and forms of soft mobility.

With its project, CIPRA Slovenia has created space for sharing experiences and best practice. This in turn provides a solid platform for social innovations; indeed, new ideas come about through exchanging views and adopting different viewpoints.

POWERED BY THE SUN: the hut “Vodnikov dom na Velem polju” in Slovenia banks on solar energy.
Diverse and flourishing landscapes benefit people and nature alike. They serve to secure the food resources for butterflies, bees and other insects, and therefore the pollination for 80% of indigenous flowering plants and agricultural crops. Diverse landscapes are of ecological value and attractive for local recreation and the tourism industry.

The “Naturally colourful and species-rich” project teaches managers of municipal operations centres in six Liechtenstein and eighteen Vorarlberg municipalities which types of seeding are best suited for different locations, how to prepare the soil, and how to nurture and care for these colourful areas of landscape. The project offers training courses and input from specialists as well as a space in which to swap experiences and new ideas. The municipalities are provided with knowledge, practical implementation aids and a good network, the ideal preconditions for long-term added value for these communities.

The staff at the operations centres appreciate the scope gained for their own creativity. It is down to the tremendous commitment of the project participants that some of the newly created colourful meadows have now even acquired nesting places for wild bees. Thanks to the expertise provided by one expert on wild bees, the knowledge gained has helped to promote wild pollinators even more effectively in the future. The “Naturally colourful and species-rich” project is a cross-border collaboration between the Liechtenstein Society for Environmental Protection (where CIPRA Liechtenstein is domiciled), the Federal Province of Vorarlberg, and the Vorarlberg Ecology Institute.

A bond for life: plants and insects need one another.

One particular feature of the project is its attempt to facilitate innovation through co-creation methods. This involves companies and customers working together to develop a product. The Innovation Generator is designed to provide incentives for new types of joint venture between destinations, universities and associations. A large number of institutions are therefore involved in the project – the main sponsoring agency is CIPRA Switzerland, partnered by tourist organisations and the tourism institutions at the universities of Siders and Lucerne. The project is supported by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs’ Innotour programme.

CO-CREATION IN TOURISM
Biotope campaigning: sponsors are taking charge.

SPONSORING BIOTOPES

CIPRA South Tyrol

How long has the rare species of marsh grasshoppers existed in the Kappl moss in Langtaufers? How does a rusty old bicycle end up in a drainage ditch in Wangerau? At the meeting of biotope sponsors in Vinschgau in South Tyrol, the discovery of a rare species of grasshopper was certainly a cause for celebration. There was also less positive news to report, such as the reckless fly-tipping of excavated rubble in a ditch.

With its pilot project on protected area sponsorships, the Vinschgau environmental group set up a sponsorship scheme for Vinschgau in 2015. The sponsors get to visit “their” protected area at regular intervals and check up on how their “ward” is doing, joining in with meetings to exchange their views and experiences. As a result they are gaining a greater awareness of biotopes and of natural monuments in their surroundings and are assuming a moral responsibility. As before, the legal representatives of the protected areas are still the relevant authorities. The sponsors remain in close contact with them, informing them about the state of the protected area and discussing necessary measures for its development and preservation.

Institutionally, the large national park and the nature parks in South Tyrol are all on a sound footing, i.e. they have their own branch offices and administrative staff. By contrast, smaller protected areas find themselves out of the limelight. Given that South Tyrol has around 230 biotopes and 1,160 natural monuments, the relevant authorities are not always able to give them the necessary attention. This is where protected area sponsorship kicks in. Last year the environmental groups in the Übretsch and the Eisack Valley adopted this initiative, and CIPRA South Tyrol is to support the project’s implementation.

CIPRA France

Car pools, sharing the use of houses and gardens, but also of knowledge: social innovations always tend to be more about exchanging and participating than owning. And they cannot be decreed; instead, they emerge in response to social needs, often on the margins of institutional regulations. CIPRA France has been taking an in-depth look at this topic as part of a study by its Adrets member organisation and the I-LivAlps workshop in the Valle Maira in Italy. Jean Horgues-Debat, President of CIPRA France, firmly believes that “social innovations are important because they help re-establish social ties and can bring about more sustainable development for Alpine regions”.

With Alimentation en Chartreuse, for instance, CIPRA France is looking to develop a project aimed at supplying schools with locally sourced organic food. In collaboration with students at Isara-Lyon, a higher education institution that specialises in agricultural, food and environmental science, a survey was carried out in Chartreuse among farmers, civil servants and canteen staff. The food project was repositioned based on their feedback to take more effective account of the ideas and initiatives of those concerned. Together with the Chartreuse Regional Park, CIPRA France established the Alimentation en Chartreuse forum to improve the networking of regions within the mountain massif and tap into synergies in the food sector. The forum steadily helped people to develop an adapted food strategy for their region.

REGIONAL, SEASONAL, SOCIAL

CIPRA France

Car pools, sharing the use of houses and gardens, but also of knowledge: social innovations always tend to be more about exchanging and participating than owning. And they cannot be decreed; instead, they emerge in response to social needs, often on the margins of institutional regulations. CIPRA France has been taking an in-depth look at this topic as part of a study by its Adrets member organisation and the I-LivAlps workshop in the Valle Maira in Italy. Jean Horgues-Debat, President of CIPRA France, firmly believes that “social innovations are important because they help re-establish social ties and can bring about more sustainable development for Alpine regions”.

With Alimentation en Chartreuse, for instance, CIPRA France is looking to develop a project aimed at supplying schools with locally sourced organic food. In collaboration with students at Isara-Lyon, a higher education institution that specialises in agricultural, food and environmental science, a survey was carried out in Chartreuse among farmers, civil servants and canteen staff. The food project was repositioned based on their feedback to take more effective account of the ideas and initiatives of those concerned. Together with the Chartreuse Regional Park, CIPRA France established the Alimentation en Chartreuse forum to improve the networking of regions within the mountain massif and tap into synergies in the food sector. The forum steadily helped people to develop an adapted food strategy for their region.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/EN/FRANCE

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/SUEDTIROL
The parties involved demanded that all local authorities and political bodies strictly observe the Alpine Convention’s Transport Protocol. In that Protocol, the contracting parties of Austria and Italy as well as the EU pledge not to build any new large-capacity roads for trans-alpine traffic. The signatories advocated that a joint regional planning and development programme be drawn up, one that would also incorporate rail traffic.

The call was reinforced by the Whatsalp hiking group, which broke its journey in Kartitsch to draw attention to the situation. The mountaineering village of Kartitsch is located at the entrance to the Gail Valley in Tyrol and lies at the foot of the Karnischer Kamm (Carnic Main Crest). If the Alemagna motorway were to be expanded to the north it would impact the village directly. CIPRA Austria organised the signing of the statement in close collaboration with the municipality of Kartitsch, the Sillian Section of the Austrian Alpine Club, the Comitato Peraltrestrade Cadore, and the Arge Stop Transit working group.
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SHOW A PROFIT
PREPARING THE GROUND

CIPRA’s multitude of political initiatives, projects and activities would not be possible without the appropriate resources. And in 2017 there were two stand-out factors: the renewal of the contribution by the state and the preparations for our new office premises.

In September 2017 the Principality of Liechtenstein renewed its state contribution of CHF 500,000 per year for the next four years. The fact that the resolution was adopted unanimously underscores the tremendous recognition of the work carried out by CIPRA and the desire for continuity in the protection of the Alps.

Besides its ongoing activities, CIPRA International supported the financing of a new executive office in Schaan. The Municipality of Schaan purchased a property that is to be used by CIPRA International and other NGOs. In 2017 significant funding was already put in place for its renovation. A big thank-you to all those who supported us! The renovation and relocation should be completed by 2019.

With a turnover of around CHF 2 million and a positive result of CHF 21,739, the year was a thoroughly encouraging one in financial terms.

Half of our funds are earmarked for political work, PR, committee work, networking and administration. That includes our commitment to the Alpine Convention and our role within Eusalp, our media work, and the project alpMonitor. The other half is expended on project work and services with which we initiate and promote the implementation of sustainable solution strategies. We are most grateful to all our sponsors, individual donors, foundations, and public and private bodies who have actively supported us in 2017 and continue to do so.

CIPRA International’s assets amounted to around CHF 325,704 at the end of 2017. Detailed financial statements of account can be viewed at www.cipra.org once they have been approved by the Assembly of Delegates in summer 2018.

CIPRA INTERNATIONAL’S THANKS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND CONTRACTS GO TO

LIECHTENSTEIN VADUZ/LI • FEDERAL OFFICE OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT BERN/CH • OFFICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT VADUZ/LI • FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY BERLIN/D • BRISTOL FOUNDATION ZURICH/CH • PANCIVIS FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES “ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS” ÜBERSEE/D • ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION BAD REICHENHALL/D • STIFTUNG FÜRST. KOMMERZIENRAT GUIDO FEGER VADUZ/LI • AAGE V. JENSEN CHARITY FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • GUIDO AND DORIS MEIER VADUZ/LI • THE EU’S ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME • RICHI FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • VIA ALPINA NATIONAL SECRETARIAT: SCHWEIZER WANDERWEGE, CLUB ALPIN MONÉGASQUE, SLOVENIAN TOURIST BOARD, GRANDE TRAVERSIÉ DES ALPES, LIECHTENSTEIN OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HIKING AND BIKING SLOVENIA • INTERNATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • NATURE FOUNDATION ALTENDORF/CH • FUTURE FOUNDATION OF LIECHTENSTEINISCHE LANDESBANK AG VADUZ/LI • OFFICE OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GEOINFORMATION, CANTON ST. GALLEN • OFFICE OF CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE VADUZ/LI • MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENT VADUZ/LI • MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND SPORT VADUZ/LI • FEDERAL AGENCY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION BONN/D • PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION INNSBRUCK/A • FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY GERMANY DESSAU-ROSSLAU/D • LIECHTENSTEIN NATIONAL LIBRARY VADUZ/LI • ALPS INSIGHT SUPPORTERS • PAUL SCHILLER FOUNDATION LACHEN/CH • CARIPLO FOUNDATION MILAN/IT • BLUE! ADVANCING EUROPEAN PROJECTS MUNICH/D • LEGACY MARIA KLARA FEHR SCHENLENBERG/LI • FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY RUGGELL/LI • HEIDEHOF FOUNDATION STUTTGART/D
CIPRA INTERNATIONAL Executive Board: Serena Arduino (from October), Christian Baumgartner (President ad interim until April), Hugo Guadener, Eva Šabec, Marko Slapnik (International Office Elisa Agosti, Christina Bachner, Caroline Begle, Corinne Buff (until December), Katarina Cesnik (until April), Magdalena Christandl (from December), Cristina Dalla Torre (until January), Martyna Derszniak-Noirjean (until April), Jakob Dietachmair, Martha Dunbar, Malcolm Grubhofer, Michaela Hogenboom, Benjamin Kögler (until November), Maya Mathias, Magdalena Holzer, Anna Mehrmann, Robin Nauman (from March), Gregor Novak (from April), Wolfgang Pfefferkorn, Andreas Pichler (Managing Director), Fabian Sandholzer (from October), Barbara Wolter.

CIPRA ITALY Executive Board: Vanda Bonardo, Gianni Cametti, Luigi Casanova, Federica Corrado (President), Cristina Dalla Torre, Oscar Del Barba, Carlo Gubetti, Marco La Viola.

Office: Francesco Pastorelli (Managing Director).

CIPRA LIECHTENSTEIN Office: Monika Gstöhl (Director), Cornelia Mayer, Claudia Ospelt-Bosshard, Samira Schädler.

CIPRA AUSTRIA Office: Josef Eisl (Managing Director), Committee Peter Haßlacher (Chairman), Christian Baumgartner, Liliana Dagozzo, Gerald Pfiffinger, Christine Pühringer, Gottfried Schindlbauer, Walter Tschon.

CIPRA FRANCE Executive Board: Jean-Hongtas-Debat (President from July), Alan Bougogne (President until July), Michel Chami, Hélène Denis (until July), Adrien Desse, Patrick Le Vaguerèse, Bernard Jean (from July), Office Marc-Jérôme Hassel (Managing Director), Julia Jarosch, Delphine Segalen, Pauline Pierre (from February)

CIPRA SWITZERLAND Executive Board: Remco Giovanoli (until May), Eva Inderwildi, Sebastian Moos, Patrick Schönberger (President), Benno Steiner (Office Hans Weber). CIPRA SLOVENIA Executive Board: Uroš Blažekovič, Gašper Kral, Patricija Muršič, Mate Ogrin (President), Dušan Pralžekar, Jenny Stüth (Office Spela Berloti, Ajda Kati Strajnarnik, Peter Žibernik). CIPRA GERMANY Executive Board: Ehrenbattt Babi, Peter Del, Axel Dorrner.

CIPRA SOUTH TIROL Executive Board: Klaus Peter Dissinger (President), Johanna Ebner (Vice President), Klara Kofler, Wolfgang Niederkofler, Hans-peter Niederkofler, Anna Pichler, Martin Schlögl, Wilhelm Seppi, Gerda Roidl (Office Martin Ayer), Silvreda Orl, Andreas Reiss (Managing Director). CIPRA YOUTH COUNCIL: Magdalena Christandl, Cristina Dalla Torre, Luisa Choubrou, Laura Foster, Mitja Horvat, Frederick Mannik, Andrea Müller, Matthias Denc, Eva Šabec, Julia Thüringer, Zala Zebeca.

CIPRA YOUTH COUNCIL: Magdalena Christandl, Cristina Dalla Torre, Luisa Choubrou, Laura Foster, Mitja Horvat, Frederick Mannik, Andrea Müller, Matthias Denc, Eva Šabec, Julia Thüringer, Zala Zebeca.

NEDERLANDSE MILIEUWEPAN

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/EN/CIPRA/ABOUT

M A S T H E A D

Editor: CIPRA International

Editorial Staff: Maya Mathias (responsible), Barbara Wäser

Translation: Claire Simon, Natalie Leask (until 2020)

Proofreading: Stephen Grynwasser

Print: BVD Druck+Verlag AG/LI

Total circulation: 2,400 copies

Photos: Daniel Ospelt, Franz Oss