

CIPRA in the age of climate change

Annual Report 2008
CIPRA International

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE ALPS

INTERNATIONALE
ALPENSCHUTZKOMMISSION

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
PROTECTION DES ALPES

COMMISSIONE INTERNAZIONALE PER LA
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CIPRA International, Im Bretscha 22, FL-9494 Schaan

Tel. 00426 237 53 53 Fax 00743 237 53 54

international@cipra.org www.cipra.org

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LIVING IN THE
ALPS!

LEBEN IN DEN
ALPEN!

VIVRE DANS LES
ALPES !

VIVERE NELLE
ALPI!

ŽIVETI V
ALPAH!

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Schaan, June 2009

Dear Reader,

The American secretary of energy recently suggested painting the world white: white paint on the roofs of houses, white warehouses and white factories. White surfaces on motorways, white roads and white squares. He calculated in a study that this could help slow down the warming of the Earth's atmosphere. So is white paint the recipe for combating climate change?

People may have their own views about the proposals put forward by the American secretary of energy. But given that the climate situation is becoming increasingly acute, we are all called upon to act as fast possible. That is why CIPRA suggested its Climate Protection Action Plan to the Alpine Convention. Unfortunately the Environment Ministers of the Alpine states ultimately adopted a paper that does not deserve the name «action plan». Key aspects of climate protection such as transport and energy policies are neglected. A couple of symbolic projects will not be enough to make the Alps a carbon-neutral region.

By contrast, what is encouraging is that in spite of failings in politics regarding matters of climate protection there are now many initiatives underway in the Alps. Many authorities and associations have already pledged their support to the Climate Pact for the Alps launched by CIPRA. By signing the Climate Pact they have shown political decision makers what sustained climate protection might look like. Please help to ensure that your organisation also signs the Climate Pact – so that a strong force for a climate-friendly future is able to emerge throughout the Alpine region.

CIPRA is also a broad-based organisation that addresses a multiplicity of issues. For more than fifty years it has been networking players and stakeholders in fields of work such as nature conservation, transport, energy and regional planning. These are all issues, it should be noted, that are crucial for an effective climate protection.

All that remains for me now is to wish you «happy reading!» of our Annual Report.

Dominik Siegrist
President, CIPRA International

CIPRA

As diverse as it's versatile



The Alps are overpopulated and suffering from avalanches of traffic and oversized tourism projects? True! The Alps are depopulated and outdated, with people moving away, schools and post offices shutting down, and nothing going on? Also true! «The Alps» vary extremely, depending on the historical, political and demographic conditions. On a positive note, the Alps are highly versatile. Just like CIPRA itself. That's why we have access to so many different circles within the Alps: not just to scientific circles, political circles and protected areas, but also to planners on site and to people who want and have to get things moving within their communities.

The reason we emphasize our versatility is exactly because we want to be heard and understood by everyone. That diversity is apparent already in our structures, the way our staff is put together, and the way we work. In 2008 the people employed at CIPRA International's headquarters came from seven different countries and spoke five different mother tongues: German, French, Italian, Slovenian and Rhaeto-Romanic. CIPRA also has national representatives with

own staff in seven Alpine states.

Working in the entire Alpine range means not only speaking the languages of other people, but also knowing and understanding their distinctive cultural, national and historical traits. Time and time again we have succeeded in addressing new issues across the Alps, in bringing people together and disseminating knowledge. Indeed, that's precisely what the nebulous term «sustainable development» means: to concretize issues that matter using positive and negative examples. It's the basis for our own capacity to act.

Our strengths are played out in many areas: within the Alpine Convention, where we have addressed the political issue of climate protection and will continue to denounce the inaction of nations in this issue; in our publications such as the 3rd Alpine Report, which has been praised by the international press for showcasing those who get things moving and act as role models for others; or in our co-operation with other networks, at conferences and on field trips.

We are proud to list so many genuine

examples in this Annual Report which show that an organisation operating across the Alps, anchored in the individual states and regions and speaking the language of the people of the Alps can achieve a great deal. Both, in the «abstract» way of knowledge transfer as well as in a tangible way as with showcase projects that would not exist without the work carried out by CIPRA – for instance the French municipality which, thanks to CIPRA's information input and field trips, now swears by passive buildings built using regionally sourced timber. CIPRA is as diverse as it's versatile. And this Annual Report illustrates precisely what we mean. ■

Andreas Götz

Executive Director, CIPRA International



Team-workshop upon Mount Staubern/FL © CIPRA International

Alpine Convention

Has a state treaty been left to gather dust?



When it was founded in 1952 CIPRA called for a «convention for the protection of the Alps». That vision came true in 1991, thanks in particular to CIPRA's pressure on politics and administrative bodies. But of what benefit is it to us today?!

One thing is clear: fighting to secure the contents of a convention and watching over its implementation is a tedious and at times frustrating task. But this does not mean that therefore conventions are pointless. No-one would claim for instance that the Kyoto Protocol or the European Convention on Human Rights is pointless.

Take the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities. It's a flourishing network – launched at the time by CIPRA and now one of CIPRA's key partners – and a prime example of how a convention should be implemented. The network was founded with the sole objective of implementing the abstract contents of the Alpine Convention in a tangible way among Alpine communities. Today almost 300 municipalities have shown that, for them, sustainable development is not an empty phrase, but rather that they have managed to reconcile protecting the environment with the concerns of the population and the needs of the economy. You can find out more on this topic in the section on the network of municipalities of this Annual Report. The same is true of the Network of Alpine Protected Areas, which was founded to implement the Alpine Convention's Nature Conservation Protocol.

Both these networks and a whole range

of other networks and initiatives would not have come into existence without the Alpine Convention. For that alone our efforts have been worthwhile. The Alpine nations themselves are also working on implementing the Convention. Austria in particular has many concrete examples, with the other states slowly following suit.

And yet, we feel exasperated almost daily at the slow pace of progress and the setbacks we experience. For instance CIPRA urged not simply for the adoption of a declaration on climate change, but for drawing up a concrete plan of action. Indeed, the ministers of the Alpine states did in fact commission such an action plan. After two years of less than professional or dedicated work

by these states all they have managed to conclude are tentative resolutions. At least a study is now being drawn up which is meant to show whether the Alps could become a carbon-neutral region. CIPRA will continue to exert pressure so that the study leads to concrete implementation steps. In doing so we are bound to get annoyed and be driven to despair. But it doesn't matter. After all, just because the pace of progress of such conventions is always too slow and the work within their bodies often tedious, it does not mean they are pointless. We for our part will stay on the case. ■

Andreas Götz



Setting an early course for the future: The ministers of the environment in Alpine countries creating the guidelines of collaboration, as here during the X. Alpine Conference in Evian. Precise implementation of guidelines in the alpine regions are essential.

The ideal framework for CIPRA activities

The Alpine Convention is a state treaty between all the Alpine states and the European Union. It was signed in 1991 at the incentive of CIPRA and after a great deal of preparatory work by CIPRA. The Convention is substantiated by various protocols, which are also treaties under international law, for instance on the conservation of nature and the countryside, tourism, transport, energy, etc.

17 years after the Alpine Convention was signed, Switzerland and Italy still have not ratified a single one of the implementing protocols; the European Union and Monaco for their part have

ratified only a few of them. The other Alpine states ratified all the protocols some time ago.

CIPRA has an observer status at the Alpine Convention. It regards the state treaty as an important instrument of exchange and co-operation, but also of protection and sustainable regional development. Particularly against the backdrop of globalisation, dwindling agriculture and a changing tourism sector. ■

www.cipra.org/en/alpenkonvention
www.alpconv.org

Ecological Continuum Project and ECONNECT

So brown trout can migrate from the river Rombach when it gets too warm

Brown trout are native to the Rombach in Switzerland's Münstertal valley. They like fast flowing, oxygen rich and cool waters. And among anglers they're also a much sought-after catch. But it's not just anglers that brown trout have to fear but also climate change which warms the waters the fish swims in, to uncomfortable temperatures. Whenever the course of a river is disrupted by a weir or a hydraulic power plant, the river trout are unable to seek out cooler stretches of water during the hot season.

Brown trout feel good at the Rombach, now that a renaturation project has ensured good living conditions for the species. Along a stretch of some 2 km the Rombach, which at one point had been turned into a canal, has been widened and redesigned as a natural river habitat. However, along the Rombach (as the river is called a few miles downstream in south Tyrol on the Italian side), there are plans to build a hydraulic power plant, severely curtailing the river trout's habitat. On the Swiss side the Rombach is important not just for the brown trout, but also for efforts aimed at setting up a biosphere park in the area. The main argument put for-

ward by the park's proponents is that the Rombach is the only major river in Switzerland that has not (yet) been used to generate electricity.

The Rombach and Rambach rivers are situated at the heart of a pilot region of the Continuum and ECONNECT Project. The region itself extends over a large area, reaching as far as Austria. In November representatives from the three countries discussed how the habitats' networking situation in the pilot region might be improved. The representatives agreed that one of the priorities had to be to ensure continuity between the Rombach and the Rambach across national borders. The ECONNECT Project helps them to highlight ecological necessities and bring together all those involved at both the technical and the political level. It's not just the brown trout that will benefit from the activities of the Continuum and ECONNECT pilot regions, but also local inhabitants and visitors, by the preservation of a near-natural landscape with a high level of recreational value. ■

Aurelia Ullrich

The Continuum
Project

econnect
Restoring the web of life

Role of CIPRA: founder and partner for the project consortium made up of CIPRA, ALPARC, ISCAR and WWF (16 partners).

Term: Continuum: July 2007 to December 2008, ECONNECT: September 2008 to August 2011.

Budget: Ecological Continuum: CHF 416,480 (EUR 274,000), financing: MAVA Foundation for Nature, Montricher/CH. ECONNECT: CHF 4.86 m (EUR 3.2 m), funded by the EU within the framework of the ETC Alpine Space Programme and co-funded by ERDF.

Main focus: Continuum: Drawing up a basic methodology and catalogue of measures, PR work, carrying out work in four pilot regions, contributing to the work of the Alpine Convention's Ecological Network platform, aligning with the ECONNECT project; ECONNECT: Submitting an application to the EU, project approval in June 2008.

Contact: Aurelia Ullrich, project manager; Mateja Pirc, project team member.

www.alpine-ecological-network.org
www.econnectproject.eu



The Alpine Rhine River near Bregenz. © Frank Schultze/Zeitenspiegel.

cc.alps

Acting consciously in times of climate change



Dornbirn, 16 June 2008. A grey and rainy yet promising day. Full of expectation the core team of the cc.alps project welcomes some 40 experts from right across the Alps. Climatologist Helga Kromp Kolb from Austria, meteorologist Luca Mercalli from Italy, climatologist Martine Rebetez from Switzerland and Tanja Cegnjar from Slovenia's environmental agency – they and many others had all accepted CIPRA's invitation to take part in an Open Space Event. It was a meeting that gave everyone an opportunity for an exchange of know-how and expertise on climate change and on the measures we adopt every day to try and counter or somehow mitigate its impact in all kinds of areas, from energy matters to tourism, agriculture and water management.

CIPRA's cc.alps project was aiming at something quite special. An innovative idea that would go beyond the purely scientific monitoring of climate change based on rising temperatures and receding glaciers. An idea that would focus on the impacts of the actions we have implemented as a result of this dramatic change. So investing all our resources into utilising our forests to produce biomass; or tapping into all our water reserves right down to the last stream to generate hydraulic energy; or wrapping up glaciers to prevent them from melting... what consequences do these decisions and interventions have on nature, society and the economy? Are we really allowed to do everything and anything in the name of climate change?

How clean is biodiesel actually if its price includes the fact that in other countries poorer people cannot afford to buy food anymore? Can we and do we want to really afford to do that?

CIPRA knows well that it alone does not have sufficient know-how and competence to tackle such a broad issue. There are still too many doubts and uncertainties. The invited experts are the ones who should provide the answers to CIPRA's questions. Is the project idea really sound? Should other topics besides the eleven on the agenda be taken into consideration? Over a period of two days in Dornbirn the experts exchanged ideas and know-how on a variety of topics such as winter tourism, environmental education, energy, communication, the side effects of climate change, the changes needed at the institutional level, etc. The project team benefited from a wide range of useful ideas and incentives from the Open Space Event. For instance, the idea of an alpine network of organisations dealing with environmental education was sketched out. Furthermore, the importance of awareness raising on the part of all citizens was discussed as was the importance of municipalities when it comes to the implementation of climate strategies. The novelty of this CIPRA project and its important pioneer character was emphasized in all working groups at the Open Space Event. The participants were unanimous: cc.alps is an innovative project that should be pursued in all its diversity. Something CIPRA

is happy to do – e.g. with an Alps-wide investigation on climate compatible reduction- and adaptation measures, with the implementation of results in pilot regions, by supporting Bolzano on its way of becoming a climate neutral city. To be continued.

Serena Rauzi

Term: From February 2008 to the end of June 2009.

Budget: CHF 1,8 m (EUR 1.2 m), financing: MAVA Foundation for Nature, Montricher/CH.

Main focus: Competition across the Alps: 160 contributions, 7 award winners, total prize money CHF 152,000 (EUR 100,000). Research into and evaluation of 150 climate response measures in all Alpine countries. Preparation of an international conference for 2009.

Contact: Wolfgang Pfefferkorn, project manager; Serena Rauzi and Aurelia Ulrich, project team members. Internationally acknowledged experts: Bruno Abegg, Zurich University/CH; Helmut Haberl, Veronika Gaube, Simone Gingrich, Institute for Social Ecology Vienna/A, University of Klagenfurt/A; Martine Rebetez, WSL – Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Birmensdorf/CH. cc.alps's activities are supported by the CIPRA representatives in seven Alpine countries.

www.cipra.org/en/cc.alps

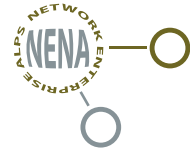
The cc.alps project was put through its paces for two days: A group of international experts assesses the project idea of cc.alps as sound at an open space event in Dornbirn/A.

© CIPRA International



Network Enterprise Alps (NENA)

Because local solutions are not enough



For Willy K  chler, it all began with a call from the national co-ordination agency for EU projects. Willy K  chler, managing director of the Swiss company InnovationsTransfer Zentralschweiz (ITZ), was asked whether he would be interested in taking part in an EU project as its Swiss partner. The project initiated by CIPRA was to be about innovation and the transfer of know-how between umbrella organisations and businesses involved in energy-efficient construction. After only a moment's hesitation Willy K  chler agreed.

Today, four years later, the repercussions of that decision are clear to see. Not only has there been a multitude of new co-operation ventures and projects with small and medium-sized companies, but Willy K  chler has also become vice president of the Network Enterprise Alps, or NENA for short. Together with president Daniel Wibmer they form the Executive Board. The association represents a union of the members of the NENA network who came together at the end of the EU project.

Organisational structures were subsequently set up together with CIPRA International, which co-ordinates the network and is responsible for social networking. These structures are essential for favourable outline conditions for co-operation and the transfer of know-how between the members scattered throughout the Alpine countries.

The aim of appealing to and incorporating small and medium-sized companies is achieved mainly through projects

such as ENERBUILD, which was submitted by the Network in the EU's Alpine Space Programme. Small and medium-sized businesses are made aware of such projects and the NENA Network brings together partners from different countries.

Of course, this does not happen by itself. «You need to take small and medium-sized companies by the hand and encourage them,» says Willy K  chler, «but ultimately they themselves need to act.» And all the members are aware that that represents a long journey that requires great staying power.

What is useful, besides a functioning business idea, is an overarching objective. One such objective is developing innovations and activities in energy-efficient construction which contribute to slowing down climate change. This provides additional motivation to members.

Willy K  chler and NENA members in other Alpine countries close to businesses have all made the same experience: local solutions are not enough; it takes a joint network of partners to exchange experiences and know-how. And not least it needs someone like CIPRA to hold the threads together and co-operate closely, for instance with members such as Willy K  chler. ■

Stefan Arlanch

Role of CIPRA: project partner in Interreg IIIB project NENA and coordination centre of the NENA network.

Term: Interreg IIIB Projekt NENA: from March 2006 to February 2008. 2008: establishment of the association Network Enterprise Alps (NENA).

Budget: for the whole term of the Interreg IIIB project NENA CHF 162,640 (EUR 107,000), of which CHF 86,640 (EUR 57,000) come from «Future in the Alps» and CHF 76,000 (EUR 50,000) were co-financed by the country of Liechtenstein. Finance of the network activities after the end of the Interreg IIIB project NENA over cc.alps: CHF 45,600 (EUR 30,000).

Main Focus: Founding of the Network NENA after the end of the Interreg IIIB project, Preparation of the creation of the network.

Contact: Claire Simon, project manager until august 2008; Stefan Arlanch, project manager since September 2008.

www.nena-network.net



© CIPRA International

The NENA network is born: Presidents Willy K  chler (2nd from the right) and Daniel Wibmer (6th from the right) celebrates the project launch in January together with representatives of CIPRA, the umbrella organisations and small and medium-sized companies.

climalp

I don't build what I don't know



Jean Claude Monin, the mayor of the small French municipality of St. Jean d'Arvey near Chambéry in the Savoie Alps, was planning to have the town hall rebuilt. For himself and the members of his municipal council he wanted to get an idea of what was possible nowadays in architectural terms in the areas of energy-efficient construction and the use of regional materials such as timber. The main question was whether it was at all possible to build contemporary ultra-low energy architecture in such a way that it would blend with the context of a small French village. There was a great deal of scepticism among many members of the municipal council towards the concept and the architecture of ultra-low energy buildings.

Hence, as part of the climalp project, CIPRA organised a trip to Austria for the members of the municipal council in September 2008. The group included politicians from two other municipalities from the Chambéry region and representatives of the agency for social housing in the province of Savoie. The group visited the Energy Institute in Dornbirn and went to look at buildings by VOGEWOSI, Vorarlberg's public utility housing company, as well as the municipal centres in Ludesch and Blons. Thanks to CIPRA they had ample opportunity over the two days of field trips to talk to Vorarlberg's local authority representatives, architects and politicians.

What they had seen, heard and experienced during the excursion made a great impression on the participants and served to convince them. By autumn 2008 the municipality of St. Jean d'Arvey had already organised an architecture competition for a municipal centre complex comprising the new town hall, several children day care facilities and a library. In terms of function, architecture and energy technology the new centre was to be modelled like the municipal centre in Ludesch, which they had visited as part of the field trip. Among the main stipulations for the competition were the use of regional timber and minimum energy requirements. The project submitted by architect Vincent Roques won unanimous approval and is to be carried out very soon. It would certainly be the first of its kind in France. The municipality would also like to erect a building complex consisting of forty housing units with minimum energy consumption, perhaps even in the passive house style and a wood-and-concrete composite construction method. It has helped many interested people such as the members of the city council of St. Jean d'Arvey to a look beyond cultural and linguistic barriers knowing that «the eye experiences what the mind refuses to believe».

Stefan Arlanch

Term: Since 2005.

Budget: Annually CHF 100,000 (EUR 65,800) from the country of Liechtenstein.

Main focus: Presentation of the climalp project at various events in collaboration with national CIPRA representatives, f.ex.: «Sustainable Building in the Light of Climate Change in the Alpine Region» in Dobrovo/SI or discussion group on Energy Policy in the Alpine Region in Lenzerheide/CH. Organisation and staging of field trips with Slovenian architects and entrepreneurs to Vorarlberg/A. Various activities as part of the «Klimahaus Bayern» competition staged by CIPRA Germany in co-operation with the Allgäu Energy and Environment Centre eza!. Public relations work: media work, updating and further development of the website, setting up a blog on the construction of a passive house in France.

Contact: Felix Hahn, project manager until the end of 2008; Stefan Arlanch, project manager since 2009; Anita Wyss, project team member.

www.cipra.org/climalp

© patayarchitectes



Vision for a climate compatible future: Model of a housing area with minimal energy consumption planned in St. Jean d'Arvey/F.

alpMedia

Top of the CIPRA hit list

The alpMedia information service became even more popular in 2008, with the 8,000th subscriber signed up by the end of the year. Hundreds of new subscribers are joining every year. A media survey has shown that alpMedia is CIPRA's best known product among media representatives throughout the Alpine region, and one that is very much appreciated. The newsletter helps contribute to raise public awareness of CIPRA as an alpine-wide network.

It also strengthens CIPRA's internal network, with the national CIPRA representatives and their member organisations forwarding news from each country to CIPRA International itself.

alpMedia is sent to its readers by e-mail. The news is also available online, together with more in-depth information on each item. Half of all the alpMedia readership is in the German-speaking countries. The French and Italian language regions account each for almost 20%. The Slovenian and English version of the newsletter is each sent to 5% of alpMedia subscribers.

But alpMedia is more than a newsletter. Besides a news archive the alpMedia website also offers other services. Bibliographies in areas such as demographics, agriculture, regional development, the economy, climate, the

environment, etc., are available in the four main languages of the Alps. As the access rate shows, the alpMedia dossiers proved particularly popular in 2008. These publications provide an in-depth look at topical issues such as modern architecture in the Alpine region, the upgrading of alpine winter sports or hydraulic power in the Alpine region. The dossiers are continually updated, and in 2008 the collection was complemented by a new dossier on the building of second homes in the Alpine region. ■

Anita Wyss



Plenty of space for little use

Building of second homes

background report



© CIPRA International

Term: Since 2002.

Budget: Annually CHF 230,000 (EUR 151,300) from CIPRA's general funds.

Main focus: Information service on sustainable development in the Alpine region: fortnightly circulation of a four-language newsletter (25 newsletters in four alpine languages, 5 newsletters in English). Continual updating of the website with publications, links, editing of dossiers, compilation of a new dossier on «building of second homes».

Contact: Felix Hahn, project manager until the end of 2008; Anita Wyss, project manager since 2009.

www.cipra.org/de/alpmedia

Web

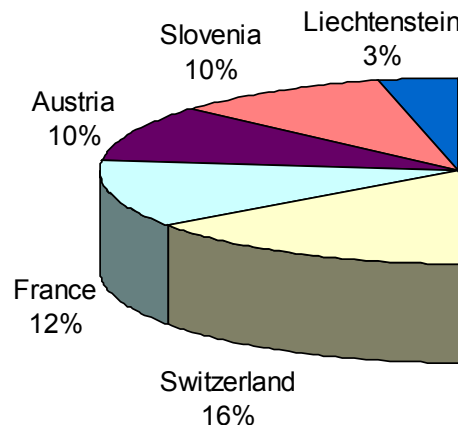
40'000 people a month on the website www.cipra.org

CIPRA's website is one of the most important tools for reaching the general public. And that's precisely what it does, with a very broad offer and in five languages: more than 70,000 individual pages can now be accessed at www.cipra.org. There's plenty to attract internet users to our website, from news to publications, information on projects, the Alpine Convention or CIPRA and its national representatives, service pages for the press and for subscribers, as well as countless documents and images ready for downloading. In 2008 more than 310,000 hits were recorded on www.cipra.org. In the course of the year the average number of users per month rose from 25,000 to 40,000 – and the trend is up.

One particular innovation that year was the integration of the www.climalp.info website, which is now part of the CIPRA web. This means that all the information on this particular project can be ideally updated to ensure it is always topical.

A new service was also set up in March: JobMail. This free mailing service provides regularly updated information on job vacancies at organisations and institutions that woperate in the area of conservation and sustainable development in the Alps. By 31 December there were no fewer than 1,300 subscribers,

Percentage distribution of hits on the website



With use the CIPRA org

underscoring this offer's tremendous success. ■

Around 74,000 pages and documents can be found at www.cipra.org. A total of 313,089 hits were recorded in 2008, most of them from Germany. An equal amount of hits was from Italy and Switzerland followed by France, Austria, Slovenia and Liechtenstein (see figure).

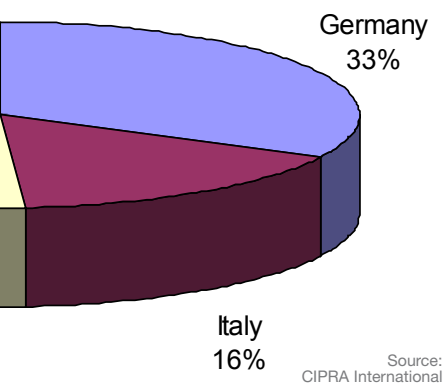
The top key word among the search engines was «cipra» (10,000 hits); other popular keywords included «alps map», «alpmedia», and «the alps».

Main focus: alpMedia (news, events, publications, links, features, etc.), information on projects (cc. alps, climalp, Future in the Alps), showcasing the national representatives (each of which looks after its own pages), information on CIPRA, press and subscription service (newsletters, CIPRA Info, JobMail), providing information on topical issues (e.g. climate pact).

Contact: Caroline Begle, Webmaster.

www.cipra.org

CIPRA website according to countries:



CIPRA Info

Mandatory reading for conservationists and officials

Many years ago when CIPRA first began to advocate the progressive transport protocol of the Alpine Convention, there was a great deal of resistance in one Alpine country in particular to everything that looked too much like a modern and contemporary transport policy. And this in spite of the fact that the minister of Transport of that country at the time had been a former railway trade unionist. In letters to CIPRA he gave assurance that he would push for CIPRA's demands. But in the negotiations within the relevant working group there was little sign of that commitment. Evidently the nation's responsible official in this issue ignored the instructions of his minister. In desperation we resorted to dubious means by deploring the behaviour of the official in question- and mentioning his name- in the CIPRA Info feature magazine. At the working group's next meeting the official, who was most annoyed, gave CIPRA's managing director a piece of his mind. Did he think that the people at his Ministry did not read CIPRA Info? He added that following the article in question he had been forced to justify his behaviour in front of the minister's cabinet.

CIPRA does not only provide important information and entertainment for people but does also deliver political messages. Since then there has been a number of changes with CIPRA Info. Since 2002 we have been sending topical information to thousands of interested readers in our fortnightly alpMedia, and as a result CIPRA Info has become more of an in-

depth feature magazine. Each issue has a key aspect, covering the background story and featuring a range of opinions. What has not changed is that the magazine is taken seriously by opinion leaders across the Alps and that it continues to stir things up. And that's a good thing. ■

Andreas Götz

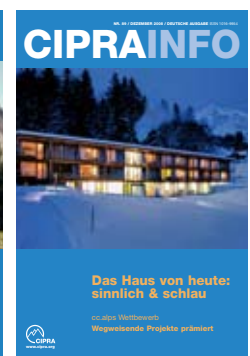
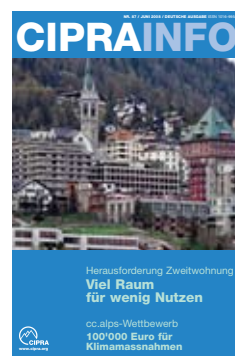
Term: «CIPRA Info» since 1984 until 2008. Since 2009: «AlpsInsight».

Budget: around CHF 90,000 (EUR 59,200) per issue from general CIPRA funds.

Main focus: No. 86 Biological and Cultural Diversity, No. 87 Challenge «second home building», No. 88 Innovation in the alpine area, No. 89 Energy-efficient building with wood. In 2009 the magazine's name was changed to «AlpsInsight – CIPRA's Feature Magazine». Periodicity: four times a year until the end of 2008, since 2009: two to four times a year. Edition: 12,000 to 15,000 copies.

Contact: Andreas Götz, director, until the end of 2008; since 2009: Barbara Wülser, communication manager.

www.cipra.org/szenealpen



«Alliance in the Alps» network of municipalities and DYNALP²

Cooperation phial of magic potion



It is a fine, maybe little stormy day in June. At the community centre of the municipality of L'Argentière-la-Bessée in the Pays des Ecrins/F the participants in the «Alliance in the Alps» network of municipalities gather to hold their 12th general meeting. The atmosphere all around is one of southern climes, with the fragrances and colours of what was almost the Provence, a land of sheep and goats, a place where life is worth living, and a somewhat improved organisation.

At the end of the meeting the president of the network of municipalities, Rainer Siegele, asks CIPRA International's director, Andreas Götz, to come up on stage. He hands him a precious phial, bearing the network's logo. It contains a very special, renewable magic potion: eau de vie, the «water of life» for a sustainable development in the Alps.

Was it a meaningless symbol, one that would soon be forgotten? Not necessarily. Few of us are fortunate enough to have fallen into a cauldron filled with magic potion when we were small. In times of globalisation phials containing magic potion are always welcome. They give strength when it comes to forcefully advocate and defend ideas and projects that are in harmony with the people and the environment of the Alps.

The phial underscores the confidence of the network of municipalities in CIPRA International and the determination to continue side by side along the path that had now been taken. It serves to replenish CIPRA's reserves and those of its players. Rainer Siegele and Andreas Götz commented on this symbolic act with only a few, but memorable, words. They spoke of the significance of the network of municipalities, of its co-operation with CIPRA International, of their mutual roles and areas of responsibility – and of the importance of role models.

And who better than a mayor like Rainer Siegele can credibly convince another mayor that a municipality – even one with barely 60 inhabitants in a remote location at the end of a valley – can and must implement the Alpine Convention through genuine action! For that to succeed, the mayor needs an assistant director and a team of stage hands and lighting technicians who set up the network between the experts on the Alpine region behind the scenes. Stage hands who pull into sharp focus the right information and showcase genuinely good and useful examples. People, who are able to switch between the languages and cultures of the Oisans Massif, the Achantal, the Friuli or the Julian Alps. And that is precisely the sort of support that CIPRA International has been offering the network of municipalities for many years now, in the hope of strengthening the elected municipal authorities in this way, authorities who every day set about their task of fulfilling their mission and their obligations.

CIPRA International will once again be

«directing» events in 2009 for the projects and activities undertaken by the «Alliance in the Alps» network of municipalities. The next annual meeting is just around the corner, and that phial with the magic potion of co-operation is already packed in our bags; it will guide us as we make our way to Eppan in South Tyrol/I. The 2009 annual meeting is to be held there, and there we will discover another alpine town, one characterised by its vineyards, its history and its culture at the crossroads between the Romansh and the Germanic world.

Claire Simon



«Water of life», © CIPRA International.

Term: Since 2000 CIPRA International has an office mandate that is renewed every year by the network's board based on a tender, as was the case in 2008; DYNALP²: 31.06.2006 to 31.06.2009.

Contract volume: «Alliance in the Alps» CHF 63,840 (EUR 42,000); DYNALP²: CHF 106,000 (EUR 69,770), financing: MAVA Foundation for Nature, Montricher/CH.

Main focus: Three DYNALP² workshops and an international conference (Alpine Week, June 2008). Public relations work: annual information, 4 issues of the short info brochure, PR work, communication workshop, administration and further development of the website, design of a conference stand (with Alps table, project folder), participation in the Europa Forum in Lucerne. Support provided for 36 DYNALP² projects.

Contact: Claire Simon, coordinator Claudia Pfister, team member. Certain network activities were organised in co-operation with CIPRA representatives in France, Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland.

www.alpenallianz.org/en

«Alpine Town of the Year» Association

Joining forces in the battle against climate change



Term: Since 1997: the title «Alpine Town of the Year» is awarded by an international jury which CIPRA forms part of. Since 2003: Executive Office of the «Alpine Town of the Year» Association was appointed to CIPRA.

Contract volume : CHF 63,840 (EUR 46,000), Financing: Appointment of the «Alpine Town of the Year» Association for general office and one time events like the organization of events.

Main focus: PR-work: annual report, 4 issues of the short information brochure, media work, impulse workshop in Bolzano/I, administration and beginning of website update, organization of international events (2 member meetings) as well as an international conference (Gap/F). Bolzano/I and Bad Aussee/A obtain the title for «Alpine Town of the Year» 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Contact: Andreas Götz, managing director; Aurelia Ullrich, team member until February 2009; Serena Rauzi, team member since February 2009.

www.alpenstaedte.org

September 2008, Gap, France. An international conference. All the presentations and discussions focus on one key topic: the responsibility of Alpine towns in the battle against climate change and the opportunities at their disposal. Among the participants are the towns of Brig-Glis/CH, Bolzano/I, Bad Reichenhall/D, Gap/F and Sonthofen/D. All these towns are members of the international network known as the «Alpine Town of the Year» Association, which is the organiser of the conference. For their commitment to the Alps's sustainable development they have all held the title of «Alpine Town of the Year» for one year. And they are all here in Gap because they are fully aware of the great challenge posed by climate change, which we cannot be ignored any longer. They know that alpine towns, as the driving force behind economic development in the Alps cannot shun their responsibilities. Alpine towns have been getting support from CIPRA for many years now. CIPRA provides them with know-how and data, with useful impulses to current issues and connects them with other actors in the alpine region.

At the close of the conference the Association adopts a clear-cut stand by signing CIPRA's Climate Pact. The towns can do, and must do, a great deal in areas such as energy, mobility and planning, which are key issues for a real and far-sighted climate policy. Right after the conference the board of

the «Alpine Town of the Year» Association urges all members to take part in the European Pact of Mayors. In doing so, the municipalities undertake to reduce their CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2010.

«Europe's climate policy can only take shape and be strengthened if many towns sign up to the Pact,» says Klaus Ladinser, a member of the Association's board. Bolzano has already joined the Pact and is widely regarded to be the precursor of the Association's commitment to climate issues. In February of this year the town in South Tyrol was voted «Alpine Town of the Year» 2009 by the Members' Meeting – not least for its ambitious goal to be carbon neutral in the next few years.

2008 saw a wide range of events at which the «Alpine Town of the Year» were able to take a much closer look at the many aspects of climate and climate change. Many steps were taken, some of them small, others greater in scale. So the seeds have now been sown, and we are confident that over the next few years we shall be seeing the first fruits and genuine results.

Serena Rauzi

Alpine towns, as the driving force behind economic development in the Alps: The participants of the international conference in Gap/F become aware of the big challenges that come along with climate change.

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2nd Alpine Week 2008 from 11 – 14 June, l'Argentière-la-Bessée/F

New Thinking – Thinking Anew [in the Alps]

Yann Kohler, Task Force espaces protégés SPCA, Chambéry/F:

A number of projects were presented in a real and tangible way on the one hand and, on the other, it was easy to get in touch with people. The closing discussion was also very important as visitors were able to have their say.



© CIPRA International

A rendezvous for stakeholders in the Alps

The 2nd Alpine Week which took place from 11 – 14 June 2008 in l'Argentière-la-Bessée/F attracted around 40,000 participants. This event is an expanded version of CIPRA's annual conference, which is the most important event in the CIPRA year. The Alpine Week 2008 dealt with the innovation necessary in the Alps if this region is to have a lasting and sustainable future.

The event's programme was divided into modules with presentations and discussions chaired and moderated by the partners of the Alpine Week 2008. The programme was rounded off with field trips, exhibitions, entertainment, festivities and cultural events, bringing the population and the host region together.

The Alpine Week is one of the most important events for sustainable development in the Alpine region. It brings together the key players from France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Monaco and Liechtenstein from all the major networks involved in Alpine research (ISCAR), the municipalities (Alliance in the Alps), the NGOs (CIPRA), protected areas (ALPARC), and Alpine associations (CAA).



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Mojca Arsenijevic, University of Nova Gorica/SI:

In my opinion the Alpine Week is a good opportunity to meet people who work in the Alpine region. Personally I'm eager to find out what has been done and what new ideas and innovations there are.

Cassiano Luminati, Polo Poschiavo, Poschiavo/CH:

Thanks to this event I discovered a new region of the Alps. As I had never been here before, I found the local aspect particularly interesting. I was able to watch the way in which a region finds its new place and develops further. Some of the contributions were very insightful, and from what has been said so far it is becoming increasingly clear that we're all working with the same methods and pulling in the same direction.



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Barbara Ehringhaus, proMONT-BLANC (NGO merger), Chamonix/F:

We're very keen to make our concerns known and we also want to learn from other regional examples. I was present at the first Alpine Week in Slovenia and find it interesting to see how co-operation has evolved. This year's Alpine Week offers a better balance of scientific expert contributions and reports of regional examples with model function.

Valentina Zambon, Budoia/I:

What I took away from the event is a desire to take a more in-depth look at these issues and see how an incentive for initiatives can be created, particularly in my own country.



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Finances and Acknowledgements

In 2008 CIPRA International had an income of around CHF 2.377 m (EUR 1,5638 m) and an expenditure of around CHF 2.387 m (EUR 1,5704 m), which meant that it recorded a loss of around CHF 10,000 (EUR 6,600). The bulk of the income was from CIPRA's project revenues, although here CIPRA International acted in part merely as a clearing centre for various foundations and passed on part of the monies to its project partners.

We are grateful first and foremost to the MAVA Foundation for Nature in Montricher/CH, which made the largest contribution to project financing. Next were state contributions, particularly from Liechtenstein, which as the domicile of CIPRA International supports it very generously and ensures that we are able to carry out our activities from here under very good conditions. An important contribution also comes from Switzerland while other states endow the national CIPRA representatives with in part very significant funding

and project subsidies.

The next item consists of services provided by CIPRA International for third parties such as the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities, the Alpine Town of the Year Association, etc. Also of importance for CIPRA International are the membership fees since they afford CIPRA its legitimacy as an umbrella organisation operating throughout the Alps.

Around one third of our expenditure goes on PR and political work, which includes in particular the publication of the quarterly CIPRA Info and the fortnightly alpMedia newsletter as well as our political involvement at the Alpine Convention and at the European level. Project work and services account for the remaining two thirds, divided more or less equally between third-party costs and fees on the one hand and salaries on the other.

Andreas Götz

CIPRA International would like to thank all its financial backers, without whose support our work would not be possible:

Fondation MAVA pour la nature
Le Petit Essert
CH-1147 Montricher
www.mava-foundation.org

Landesverwaltung der Fürstlichen Regierung
Stabstelle Finanzen
FL-9490 Vaduz
www.llv.li

Bundesamt für Umwelt, BAFU
Papiermühlestrasse 172
CH-3003 Bern
www.bafu.admin.ch

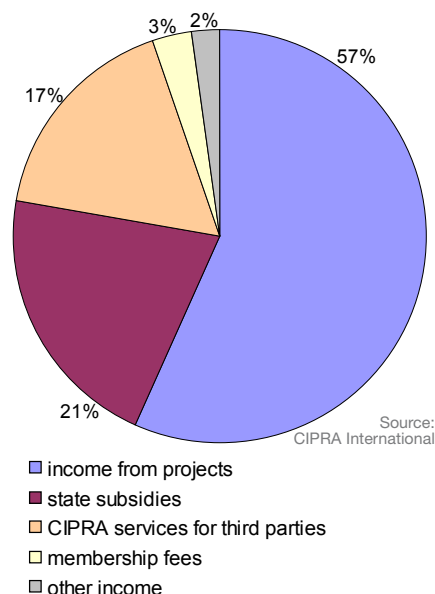
Aage V. Jensen - Charity Foundation
Postfach 470
FL-9490 Vaduz
www.avjcf.org

Binding Stiftung Schaan
In der Ballota 1
FL-9494 Schaan
Liechtenstein
www.binding.li

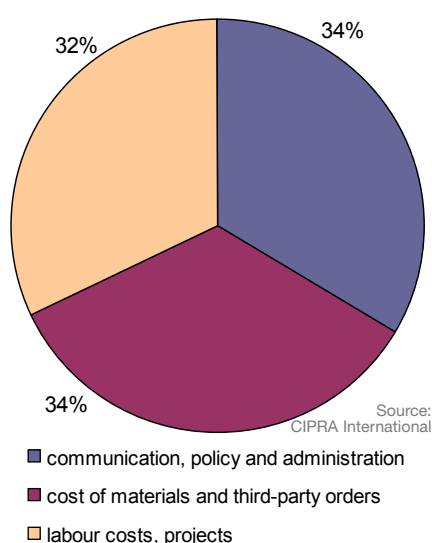
CIPRA International does also thank the originating parties for their trust in the implementation of projects and office duties:

Alliance in the Alps
www.alpenallianz.org

Alpine Town of the Year
www.alpenstaedte.org



The bulk of income of CIPRA International stems from project revenues.



The funds of CIPRA International go in equal parts into communication, policy and administration on the one hand, into material costs and third-party orders on the other hand as well as into salaries.

The national CIPRA representations and their members

France:

MNEI, 5 place Bir Hakeim, F-38000 Grenoble
 Tel.: +33 476 48 17 46 Fax.: +33 476 48 17 46
france@cipra.org www.cipra.org/fr/CIPRA/cipra-france
 Director 100% project manager 100%, project manager 50%,
 trainee 100%.

Affiliated organisations:

Association Dauphinoise pour l'Aménagement de la Montagne (ADAM)
 Association des amis du PNR de Chartreuse
 Association nationale pour la protection des Eaux et rivières (ANPER TOS)
 Centre de la Nature Montagnarde
 Fédération française des clubs alpins et de montagne (FFCAM)
 Fédération française de montagne et d'escalade (FFME)
 Fédération française de randonnée pédestre (FFRP)
 Fédération Rhône-Alpes de protection de la nature (FRAPNA)
 Fédération française union touristique des amis de la nature (FFUTAN)
 Mountain Wilderness France – Parc National des Ecrins Parc National de la Vanoise
 Parc National du Mercantour
 Parc naturel régional de la Chartreuse
 Organisation Mondiale de protection de l'environnement (WWF France)
 Association pour le Développement en Réseau des Territoires et des Services (ADRETS)
 Association nationale des centres et des foyers de ski de fond et de montagne (ANCEF)

Italy

C/o Pro Natura, via Pastrengo 13, I-10128 Torino
 Tel.: +39 011 548 626 Fax: +39 011 503 155
italia@cipra.org www.cipra.org/it/CIPRA/cipra-italia
 Director 100% plus casual work by conscientious objectors and external project co-workers.

Affiliated organisations:

Club Alpino Italiano
 Dachverband für Natur- und Umweltschutz in Südtirol
 Federazione nazionale Pro Natura
 Gruppo Italiano Amici della Natura
 Gruppo Ricerche Cultura Montana
 Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica (INU)
 Italia Nostra
 Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli
 Legambiente
 Mountain Wilderness
 Valle d'Aosta Ambiente

WWF Italia
 Pro Natura Torino
 Parco Nazionale delle Dolomiti Bellunesi
 Parco delle Orobie Valtellinesi
 Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio
 Parco delle Alpi Marittime
 Parco Nazionale della Val Grande
 Federazione Italiana di Parchi e delle Riserve Naturali (Federparchi)
 S.O.S. Dolomites
 Servizio Glaciologico Lombardo
 Istituto Piante da Legno e Ambiente IPLA

Switzerland

Hohlstrasse 489, CH-8048 Zürich.
 New adress, valid from 2009:
 Postfach 22, CH-3800 Interlaken.
 Tel.: +41 (0)44 431 27 30 Fax: +41 (0)44 430 19 33
schweiz@cipra.org www.cipra.org/de/CIPRA/cipra-schweiz
 Director 20%, 25% projects (Alpine Convention, Forum, Fire in the Alps, climalp Switzerland, Future in the Alps).

Affiliated organisations:

Pro Natura
 WWF Schweiz
 Schweizer Alpen-Club SAC
 Schweizer Vogelschutz SVS/BirdLife Schweiz
 Stiftung Landschaftsschutz Schweiz
 Schweizer Heimatschutz
 Verkehrsclub der Schweiz
 Alpen-Initiative
 Mountain Wilderness Schweiz
 Naturfreunde Schweiz
 Rheinaubund
 Schweizerische Greina-Stiftung
 Grimselverein
 Fondazione Uomo Natura

Germany

Heinrichgasse 8, D-87435 Kempten/Allgäu
 Tel.: +49 831 520 95 01 Fax: +49 831 18 024
info@cipra.de www.cipra.de
 Director 50%, staff member in the office 50%, trainee 100%.

Affiliated organisations:

Bergwacht im Bayerischen Roten Kreuz
 Deutscher Alpenverein
 Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern
 Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald

Bund Naturschutz in Bayern
 Verband Deutscher Berg- und Skiführer
 Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt
 Mountain Wilderness Deutschland
 Institut für Meteorologie und Klimaforschung (Garmisch)
 Naturfreunde Deutschlands e.V.

Liechtenstein

c/o Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz,
 Im Bretscha 22, FL-9494 Schaan
 Tel.: +423 232 52 62 Fax: +423 237 40 31
 info@lgu.li www.lgu.li
 5% managing director.

Affiliated organisations:

Botanisch-Zoologische Gesellschaft BZG
 Fischereiverein Liechtenstein
 Liechtensteiner Alpenverein LAV
 Liechtensteiner Forstverein
 Liechtensteinischer Imkerverein
 Liechtensteinische Jägerschaft
 Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz LGU
 Liechtensteinischer Ornithologischer Landesverband LOV
 Solargenossenschaft Liechtenstein
 Verkehrs-Club Liechtenstein VCL
 Weitere Partnerorganisationen:
 Verein Holzkreislauf
 Liechtensteinischer Imkerverein

Austria

Alser Strasse 21, A-1080 Wien
 Tel.: +43 1 40 113-36 Fax: +43 1 40 113-50
 oesterreich@cipra.org www.cipra.at,
 Director 50%, Alpine Convention Office manager 100%.

Affiliated organisations:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Berg- und Naturwachten Österreichs
 Naturfreunde Österreich
 Österreichischer Alpenschutzverband
 Österreichischer Alpenverein
 Österreichischer Forstverein
 Österreichischer Naturschutzbund
 Österreichischer Touristenklub
 Zentralstelle der Österreichischen Landesjagdverbände
 Verband Österreichischer Höhlenforscher
 Kuratorium Wald (ab 11/08)

Die neun Bundesländer Österreichs:
 Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburg, Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Niederösterreich, Wien, Burgenland

Slovenia

Večna pot 2, SI-1000 Ljubljana.
 New adress, valid from 2009:
 društvo za varstvo Alp, Trubarjeva cesta 50, SI-1000 Ljubljana
 Tel.: +386 59 071 322 Fax: +386 59 071 321
 slovenija@cipra.org www.cipra.org/sl
 Director 10%, trainee 50%, 77 individual members.

South Tyrol

The regional organisation is represented by Dachverband für Natur- und Umweltschutz in South Tyrol.
 Kornplatz 10, I-39100 Bozen
 Tel.: +39 0471 97 37 00 Fax: +39 0471 97 67 55
 info@umwelt.bz.it www.cipra.org/de/CIPRA/cipra-suedtirol
 Director 100%, 50% administration, 60% project support.

Affiliated organisations:

Alpenverein Südtirol (AVS)
 Arche B - Verein für umwelt- und menschengerechtes Bauen und Leben
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz in Südtirol (AVK)
 Bund Alternativer Anbauer (BAA)
 Heimatpflegeverband Südtirol
 Lia per Natura y Usanzas
 Naturtreff Eisvogel
 Plattform Pro Pustertal (PPP)
 Südtiroler Gesellschaft für Gesundheitsförderung
 Südtiroler HochschülerInnenschaft (sh.asus)
 Umweltschutzgruppe Vinschgau
 Verband Südtiroler Berg- und Skiführer
 Verbraucherzentrale Südtirol

Local groups:

Transitinitiative Südtirol/Sudtirolo – Umweltgruppe Andrian – Umweltgruppe Bozen – Umweltgruppe Brixen – Umweltgruppe Eppan – Umweltgruppe Jenesien – Umweltgruppe Kaltern – Umweltgruppe Olang – Umweltgruppe Salurn – Umweltgruppe Terlan – Umweltgruppe Ulten – Umweltgruppe Vahrn – Umweltgruppe Vintl – Umweltgruppe Völs – Umweltgruppe Wipptal

Team of CIPRA International



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Andreas Götz/CH
Executive Director



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Claire Simon/F
Deputy Director, project manager «Alliance in the Alps»



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Petra Beyrer/A
Secretary



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Caroline Begle/A
Webmaster



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Barbara Wülser/CH
Communication manager



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Aurelia Ullrich/D
Project manager ECONNECT, Ecological Continuum



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Wolfgang Pfefferkorn/A
Project manager cc.alps



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Stefan Arlanch/A
Project manager NENA, climalp



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Serena Rauzi/I
Project team member cc.alps; Project manager «Alpine Town of the Year»



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Claudia Pfister/CH
Project team member «Alliance in the Alps»



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Mateja Pirc/SI
Project team member Ecological Continuum, ECONNECT



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Anita Wyss/CH
Project team member NENA, climalp, cc.alps; Project manager alpMedia



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Felix Hahn/CH
Project manager alpMedia, climalp



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Christina Stadlbauer/A
EU-Contacts



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Anna Loibner/A
Part-time staff member

Following interns contributed with equal effort to the implementation of the activities of CIPRA International:

Mateja Pirc/SI
Anita Wyss/CH
Hemma Burger-Scheidlin/A
Angelika Rott/D
Fabian Lippuner/CH
Catherine Frick/FL

Executive Committee of CIPRA International



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President



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Vice-President



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Vice-President



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Treasurer

CIPRA within the world ... or the world within?!

Maqsd is 30 years old and from Tajikistan. «Where on earth is that?» some people might wonder, without admitting it openly. No doubt Maqsd asked himself that very same question when he found out he would be spending a year in Germany and six weeks in Liechtenstein as a trainee working for CIPRA International.

First there was a one-year study course on sustainable development in mountain regions. It was co-financed by CIPRA's Future in the Alps project and by Inwent, the organisation for further education and development, and was based on activities surrounding the Year of the Mountains 2002. Since then CIPRA has also been involved in activities beyond the Alps. It has encouraged like-minded partners in Central Asia to become involved in sustainable development in their regions. AGOCA, the network of villages, was founded as a result of these incentives and now deals with issues such as optimising the energy consumption of buildings. In doing so it also enjoys the support of the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities.

So after the study course it was time for the 25 stakeholders from Pakistan, Tajikistan, Nepal and China to tackle the more practical aspects. By the time Maqsd reached Schaan in Liechtenstein, he was hungry to find out more and excited by the cultural exchange; this is what awaited him: a country where most people speak dialect; a female Italian colleague to look after him; and sharing a desk with another female colleague, this time from

Slovenia. His mission: to put together a know-how transfer project that he would later be able to implement back home. But first it was important to acquire the knowledge necessary, and what better way than through CIPRA's tightly woven network? Thanks to CIPRA's national representatives he travelled throughout the Alps from Liechtenstein to Switzerland, Austria and Slovenia. Everywhere he went he learnt new things, from sustainable tourism to promoting regional products; examples which he was determined to transfer to Tajikistan and adapt to local circumstances.

His final stop was Turin, the headquarters of CIPRA Italy. And what a pleasure it was to meet its director Francesco Pastorelli! No common language, but the same love of the mountains. And right away they got on famously: with a few words of English here and a few words in Spanish or Italian there, and their hands and feet. The visits to highly contrasting places in the Piedmont Alps – unspoilt mountain villages, only a few miles away from overcrowded and consumer-driven ski resorts – made a big impression on Maqsd and also made it clear to him what he wanted to implement in his home country – and what not.

Maqsd has now returned to Tajikistan. He has taken back with him many impressions and experiences and the vision of an international platform of knowledge between Pakistan and Tajikistan. ■

Serena Rauzi

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International

DEUTSCHLAND FRANKREICH ITALIEN LIECHTENSTEIN ÖSTERREICH SCHWEIZ SLOWENIEN ALLEMAGNE FRANCE ITALIE LIECHTENSTEIN AUTRICHE SUISSE
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SLOVENIA NEMČIJA, FRANCİJA, İTALİJA LİHTENŞTAYN AVSTRİJA ŠVICA SLOVENIJA DEUTSCHLAND FRANKREICH ITALIEN LIECHTENSTEIN ÖSTERRE
SCHWEIZ SLOWENIEN ALLEMAGNE FRANCE ITALIE LIECHTENSTEIN AUTRICHE SUISSE SLOVÉNIE GERMANIA FRANCIA İTALİJA LİHTENSTEIN AUST