



TRACKING CHANGE

CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alp, 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.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG

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GERMANY Bergwacht im Bayerischen Roten Kreuz • Bergwaldprojekt e.V. • Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e.V. • Deutscher Alpenverein e.V. • Gesellschaft für ökologische Forschung e.V. • Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern e.V. • Mountain Wilderness Deutschland e.V. • NaturFreunde Deutschlands e.V. • Ökologischer Jagdverband e.V. • Verband Deutscher Berg- und Skiführer • Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt e.V.

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www.cipra.org/de/cipra/suedtirol

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SCHAAN/LI, APRIL 2016
DEAR READERS

__It is a quarter of a century since the Alpine Convention was ratified, and CIPRA is dedicating its annual report to this anniversary. Since 1991 the Alps have changed, with new cable cars and tunnels being built and more traffic filling the valleys on the one hand and the gradual return of wolves and bears to their old habitats on the other.

You may well ask whether the Alpine Convention has played any role in that. No bears or wolves have contacted the Permanent Secretariat to obtain an entry permit, and ski area upgrades continue in spite of the Climate Action Plan.

It would be unjust, however, to dismiss the Alpine Convention as an ineffectual piece of paper. The Standing Committee and Platforms have attracted attention in the context of international cooperation to those subjects that are important for the Alps. Dozens of municipalities have learnt from the innovative responses

developed by their partners within the two networks Alliance in the Alps and Alpine Town of the Year. And there is now more knowledge sharing between scientists and young people from various regions of the Alps.

Nevertheless, CIPRA is hoping for more in the next 25 years. As an established and accepted instrument enjoying Alps-wide support, the Alpine Convention has great potential for a good life in the Alps, a life built on values such as moderation, solidarity and participation.

If this vision is to become reality, we need political guidelines, a clear political will and committed Alpine inhabitants – people like you!

I hope you find our Annual Report an interesting read and wish you lots of energy for your commitment.

Katharina Conradin
President, CIPRA International

THE BEAUTIFUL ALPS: A JOURNEY TO 2050

— The people in the wonderful Alps live in compact villages, towns and cities. They make economical and thoughtful use of the natural resources of their bounteous region. The woods and meadows are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna; the rivers are filled with fresh, crystal-clear water. The good life in the Alps makes the people contented and happy.

This was not always the case. It was not so long ago that the people in the Alps were in the grip of an endless stream of traffic, at the mercy of policies that sacrificed the landscape to a faceless urban sprawl and saddened by the declining numbers of flowers in the meadows.

True, voices were raised in warning. An organisation by the name of CIPRA was one of the first. But in their craving for the longest tunnels, the biggest cable cars on the highest peaks, and the most supermarkets, many did not hear those voices. Only when climate change turned the snow to rain, the children could no longer play outdoors because of all the traffic, and bylaws were introduced in many cities requiring masks to be worn because of all the smog did a gradual rethink set in.

CIPRA encouraged the residents of the Alps to take their fate into their own hands. Local authorities in the Alps united in their demand for change. The people wanted an Alpine region where nature was respected, problems were tackled through mutual assistance and children, women and men could develop their full potential. They sat down together to consider how to make their vision reality. And they remembered an instrument that had been available for a quarter of a century – the Alpine Convention.

For many years, this international agreement had received little attention and been denied the funding needed to implement this ambitious mission. But with increasing numbers of worsening environmental crises and resulting social tensions, the pressure became so great that its potential became apparent to all.

At the end of the 2010s, the ruling classes finally disassociated themselves from the hypocritical policies they had previously practised. They anchored the transalpine millennium goals of moderation, solidarity and participation in the Alpine Convention's new multi-year programme of work. Once again, CIPRA was the source of many of the ideas. And lo and behold: new approaches blossomed like Alpine flowers after a spring shower. The ruling classes learnt to govern by developing relationships with the people based on partnership and giving their initiatives more prominence, recognition and support. In society and the world of business, change became the order of the day.

Today, in 2050, round table discussions are a regular feature of life in the beautiful Alps. They enable innovative community initiatives to be developed in line with the Alpine Convention's millennium goals. CIPRA chairs and mentors some of these discussions and supports the implementation processes. And so the Alps have become a flourishing region of protection and solidarity, one that serves as a model for the rest of the world.

Katharina Conradin
and **Claire Simon**,
CIPRA International



SETTING THE STAGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Alpine Convention is interested in young people. One highlight in 2015 was an encounter between the Youth Alpine Express and representatives of the Alpine Convention. CIPRA played a supporting role as mediator.

Getting close: Young people from the Youth Alpine Express discussing their upcoming meeting with representatives of the Alpine Convention.

“I love bio,” proclaims a green smiley on a white background hanging in a prominent position above the desk of Markus Reiterer. An orange sun placed top right of the smiley tells us to “reduce, reuse, recycle”. The whole picture is made of waste materials. It tells the story of an exciting journey – one that Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention, likes to tell visitors in his office.

June 2015, Expo Milan: Markus Reiterer is the last. Four other representatives of the parties to the Alpine Convention are already on the stage, holding white picture frames. Next to the men in dark suits stand young people wearing white T-shirts. The white zero on a red circle in a green ring on their T-shirts stands for zero points, meaning zero carbon emissions. For their journey to the event by train, bus, bicycle or on foot, the 22 participants of the Youth Alpine Express, a project created by CIPRA, have used a total of 3124 points, giving an average of 142 points per person per day. The idea was to use no more than 100 points or 6.8 kilogrammes of CO₂ in order to achieve the two degree target set by international climate policy-makers.

A short-skirted young lady with a ponytail steps up to Markus Reiterer. Lisa Maria Marchl presents the Secretary General with the picture made of packaging from products they have consumed on their journey. “This is the message we have for you,” says the representative of the Italian delegation. “Eat seasonal, regional and organic food!” The group is all smiles for the photographer.

For Markus Reiterer, the meeting with the young people from the Youth Alpine Express was a splash of colour in the anonymity of the mega event in Milan. His encounters with young people always give him something extra: “When you have spent a number of years in professional life, you become accustomed to certain diplomatic norms. But young people have a candid and challenging approach to the questions involved. We can learn from them.” The Alpine Convention has put youth participation very much on its agenda. The suggestion of making “Greening the economy” the subject of the next Report on the State of the Alps, for example, was made by young people who attended a session of the Permanent Secretariat in 2013.

“Eat seasonal, regional and organic food!”

The young people also see that things have changed. On the day before the meeting with the representatives of the Alpine Convention in Milan, they had a talk with Doris Leuthard, the Swiss Minister of the Environment and representative of the Alpine Convention. Andrea Müller from Entlebuch in Switzerland remembers: “At AlpWeek 2012 in Poschiavo we had to fight for attention. Today we are on every photo taken of the Minister of the Environment. That is also a good way to communicate our message.

The narrative continues to be told – and not only by the young travellers’ picture hanging in Markus Reiterer’s office. In November 2015, the Secretary General also carried the young people’s message to Paris, to the United Nations’ Climate Change Conference. In the spring of 2016, he will have another encounter with CIPRA’s Youth Alpine Express at the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention in Bassano del Grappa in Italy. And in autumn 2016 he will have a further opportunity to talk to them – and possibly with the Ministers of the Environment in the Alpine Conference – at AlpWeek in Grassau in Germany.

Barbara Wülser, CIPRA International, (text)

Michele Silvestro (photos)

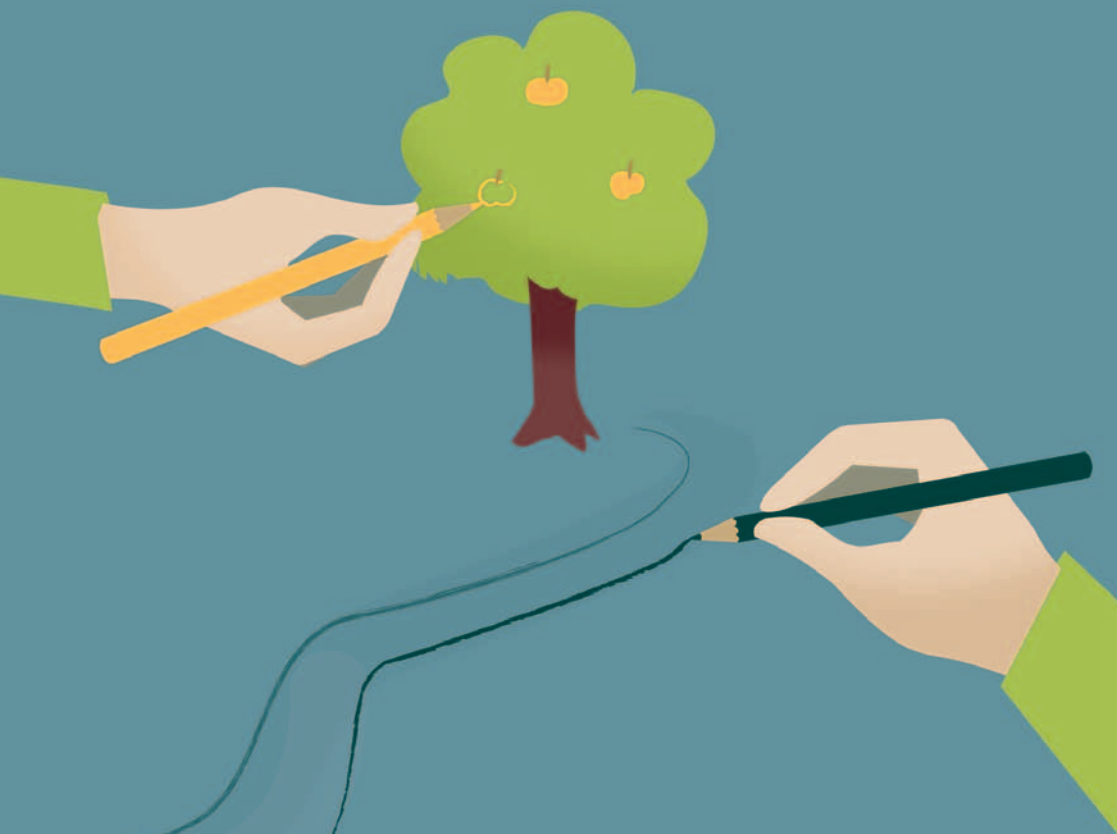
Encounter: Meetings with Doris Leuthard, Swiss Minister of the Environment (below), and Markus Reiterer, Secretary General of the Alpine Convention (right).



Pictorial messages: refuse as souvenirs of an exciting journey (left).

The event in Milan was organised as part of the Youth Alpine Express project (p.14). It enjoyed co-operation and support from the German Ministry of the Environment (BMUB), the Swiss Federal Office of Spatial Development (ARE) and the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

WWW.YOUTHALPINEEXPRESS.EU



PARTICIPATION

Many hands and heads are the key to diversity, innovation and sustainable solutions. The prerequisites are trust, access to information and the ability to have good discussions and listen to one another.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/DE/ALPMONITOR (DE/FR/IT/SL)

A GOOD CLIMATE STARTS LOCALLY

ALPINE POLICY

Alpine policies are being increasingly determined by global developments. The boundaries between the Alps and surrounding areas are becoming blurred. A case in point is the European Strategy for the Alps (Eusalp), which also covers regions and urban centres beyond the perimeter of the Alpine Convention. Problems such as traffic, migration, declining biodiversity and the pressures of growth are being encountered everywhere in varying forms and degrees. For this reason alone, it is important to find local answers that do justice to the local natural, social and economic conditions. CIPRA supports people in the Alps by relating global themes to the Alpine context and finding and communicating good examples. CIPRA accompanied the Liechtenstein delegation to the United Nations' Climate Change Conference in Paris and represented the interests of Alpine municipalities there (Pan-Alpine Networks, p.17).



The **Eusalp** area includes 80 million people, six times more than the **Alpine Convention's** 14 million



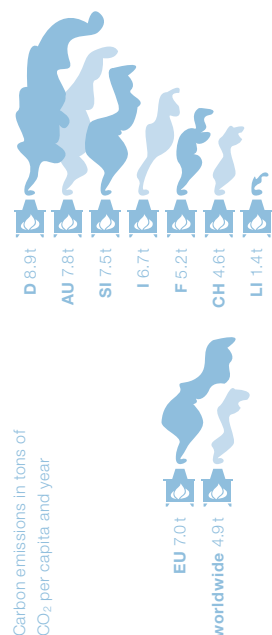
PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Alpine Convention** Participation in the Alpine Conference, the Standing Committee and the following work groups and platforms: Transport, Ecological Network, Large Carnivores, Wild Ungulates and Society, Macro Region, Water Management, Mountain Farming, Spatial Planning, Energy Efficient Construction and the Multi-annual Work Programme. Discussion of a motion submitted to the Compliance Committee. Support for the Report on the State of the Alps with reference to the green economy, for example by organising a workshop with the Alpine Town of the Year association
- Organisation of a **public book reading** by authors in Liechtenstein as part of the "Reading Mountains" initiative by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention (Communication & Networking p.16)
- **European Strategy for the Alps** Participation in subject-specific working groups and at national and international strategy events. Various position statements formulated
- Participation at the **United Nations Climate Change Conference**. Presentation of an appeal from Alpine municipalities
- High-visibility **position statements** relating to ongoing debates

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/EN/ALPINE-POLITICS

LIVING VALUES INSTEAD OF SOULLESS MACHINES

CLIMATE & ENERGY



__ Krumbach now has an inviting venue for singing, playing, reading and living. The parish centre in this Bregenz Forest village in Austria was planned in a participatory process with a focus on regional crafts and traditional construction methods. It was built using local raw materials. The building is a fine example of how climate protection in the field of construction can be achieved not only with high-tech systems but also with sustainable flagship buildings with aesthetic appeal and social value.

For that reason, the parish centre was selected for a prize in the 2015 Constructive Alps architectural competition. That was the third edition of this architectural competition for sustainable buildings and renovation projects in the Alps. CIPRA has provided strategic input from the start and also handles the organisational aspects. The competition was created to help implement the Alpine Convention's climate action plan as approved at the Alpine Conference held in Evian, France in 2009. It is funded by Switzerland and Liechtenstein.



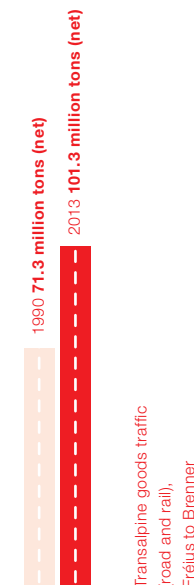
• **MountEE** operates with sustainable model regions and buildings to trigger fundamental change in the construction industry • **CCA Toolbox** offers tools for sustainable adaptation to climate change • **Climalp** is an information campaign run by CIPRA to promote energy-efficient construction and refurbishment in the Alpine space using regional wood • **Constructive Alps** is an international architecture award for sustainable construction and building refurbishment in the Alps • The international **Climate Protection Now!** conference raised an awareness in Alpine communities for the implementation of climate change mitigation measures (Pan-Alpine Networks p.17) • **Climate Game 100max** is designed to motivate people living in the Alps to adopt a climate-friendly lifestyle

CONSUMPTION HABITS DRIVE TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT & MOBILITY

__ In the history of the Alpine Convention, transport has always played a central role. Even though a lot has happened in the last 25 years, traffic congestion and its impacts will continue to increase as long as the economy grows and consumption also rises. A turnaround in the traffic situation will only occur if people aspire to a better quality of life by adopting a more moderate and discerning approach to consumption.

Much of CIPRA's work at a political and social level, such as the position paper entitled "Transport sufficiency: towards a new sustainable mobility culture", is designed to sever the link between quality of life and traffic volumes. This requires a clear-cut position on the subject and an awareness of the interdependencies between the economy, personal behaviour patterns and traffic levels. It is a non-negligible challenge – but experience and good examples show that the link can be broken.

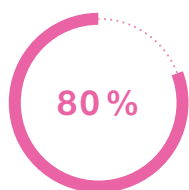


PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

• **Alps-wide information** CIPRA has a focus on the interrelationships between various transport projects, thereby offering a pan-alpine perspective for assessing transport projects in terms of their benefits for people and the natural environment • **Goods transport** In collaboration with the Swiss Alpine Initiative association, a change management approach was developed in order to reduce freight transport in the Alps through a series of dialogues with carriers and decision makers • **Youth Alpine Express** 24 young people undertook a journey through the Alps with the aim of trying out new life styles and reporting on their experiences to politicians, civil society and other young people • **Commuter mobility** Development of a project for sustainable commuter mobility in the Lake Constance region. Implementation 2016 • **We are Alps** Press trip (Alpine Convention): Liechtenstein stage organised with a focus on commuter mobility • **Position paper** "Transport sufficiency: towards a new sustainable mobility culture"

MOTIVATING THE YOUNG TO STAY

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ALPS



80 percent of young people say environmental protection is very important in a poll of 1500 young people in North and South Tyrol.

__ Young people who are involved in their communities also assume responsibility for their home towns in the long term. They embody hope for those Alpine regions affected by depopulation. The Alpine Convention has highlighted these demographic changes in its Report on the State of the Alps. Local authorities are therefore well advised to take youth participation seriously. CIPRA helps municipalities steer such processes. How to involve young people is the subject of a manual produced by the YSAM project (Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities). Small and peripheral municipalities in particular can benefit by motivating committed young people to stay in their home towns and villages. By adopting an open-minded approach and encouraging young people to participate in planning and decision-making processes, municipalities can prepare the ground needed to persuade active, creative and responsible young citizens to stay and make a long-term contribution.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

• **Youth Alpine Express** 24 young people undertook a journey through the Alps with the aim of trying out new life styles and reporting on their experiences to politicians, civil society and other young people • **Youth Alpine Dialogue** 36 young people discussed mobility and new opportunities for young people in the Alps • **yapp-network.org** Pan-alpine web platform for youth participation and environmental education. 13 partners with CIPRA International as the lead organisation • **Handbook** for a Youth Alpine Dialogue August 2015 • **Youth Parliament to the Alpine Convention (YPAC)** Kamnik/SI. Advice and support for planning, public relations work and networking with politicians • **Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities** Joint project run by CIPRA and the Alpine Town of the Year Association with the goal of promoting youth involvement at a municipal level

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/EN/YOUTH

source: LQ4U, University of Innsbruck/A

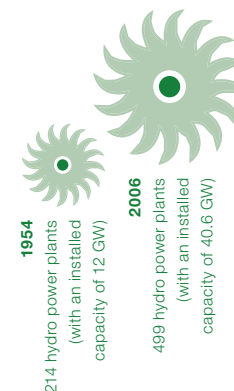
“WE ARE ALL ENERGY ACTORS”

BIODIVERSITY & LANDSCAPE

__ Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst, Chair of the Alpine Convention's Ecological Network platform, on reconciling renewable energy generation and nature protection.

As part of recharge.green, methods have been developed to permit objective decisions to be made regarding the production of renewables. Where do you see the benefits of the project? The tools that have been developed are designed to support decision makers at all levels by taking account of various factors and modelling the environmental impact of measures. The results can be used as a basis for discussions in the decision-making process.

For recharge.green, CIPRA has produced a perpetual calendar that follows a fictitious municipality in deciding how to use renewable energy sources. Who do you think should read this calendar? All decision makers! But don't forget that we're all energy actors, and when it comes to energy, we're all key decision makers!



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

• CIPRA was responsible for communications for the **recharge.green** project, in which methods were developed for striking a balance between the benefits of renewable energy and the those provided by ecosystems • As part of the **Alpine Rhine Valley Green Belt** project, CIPRA was able to prepare the link for aquatic fauna between the Tentschagraben in Liechtenstein and the Inland Canal, which will be introduced as of 2016. In collaboration with various partners, CIPRA also developed ideas for cross-border activities in the Alpine Rhine Valley • CIPRA is contributing to the Alpine Convention's **Ecological Network and Water Management platforms** • Within the **dynAlp-nature** programme run by Alliance in the Alps, CIPRA is supporting four cooperation projects for the protection of Alpine biodiversity involving 23 member municipalities (Pan-Alpine Networks p.17)

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/BIODIVERSITY

source: Deutscher Alpenverein

TRACKING CHANGE

COMMUNICATION & NETWORKING



Page views 2015 437,191

__ Sustainable development is not limited to nature protection. As a fundamental that applies to all fields of life, sustainability should be discussed in every lunch room, workshop, classroom and parliament. With alpMonitor, CIPRA is focussing on society's contribution. Its aim is to maintain and promote a good life in the Alps through moderation, solidarity, and participatory decision-making processes. alpMonitor draws attention to creeping change and interrelationships in the Alps. The five central fields of investigation include nature and people, spatial planning, tourism, living and working, and social innovation. The results are regularly presented and discussed via CIPRA publications and events. alpMonitor is therefore a useful complement to scientific investigations and publications like the Reports on the State of the Alps published as part of the Alpine Convention.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **alpMonitor** regular research and PR on five main fields of activity. Preliminary project 2015, project start 2016
- **"Alps Insight"** issue entitled "Women Leading the Climb. Their Contribution to Nature and Society in the Alps" (in French, German, Italian and Slovene). 14,000 copies
- **Symposium** on the same subject held in the Frauenmuseum in Hittisau/A. 23-24 October 2015
- Organisation of a **public book reading by authors** in Liechtenstein as part of the "Reading Mountains" initiative by the German Presidency of the Alpine Convention (Alpine Policy p.11)
- **"alpMedia"** newsletter: eight issues in French, German, Italian, Slovene and English. 21,000 subscribers
- **www.cipra.org** all-round information platform on subjects relating to sustainable development in the Alps (in French, German, Italian, Slovene and English). Almost 500,000 page impressions
- **Social media** multi-lingual profiles on Facebook and Twitter
- **CIPRA's annual conference** "Action for change! And more than just declarations of intent". 25-26 September 2015, Ruggell/LI
- **Media activities** relating to various subjects including youth participation and large carnivores

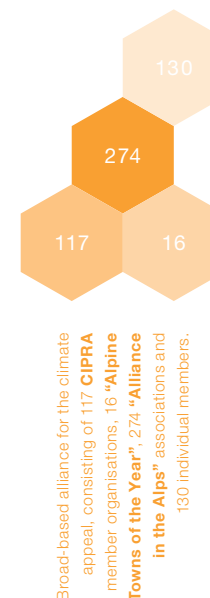
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WWW.CIPRA.ORG/EN/ALPMONITOR

ENCOURAGING CLIMATE PROTECTION

PAN-ALPINE NETWORKS

__ In the run-up to the Climate Change Conference in Paris, CIPRA took steps to strengthen climate protection at a municipal level. In October 2015, in collaboration with Alliance in the Alps and the Alpine Town of the Year Association, CIPRA organised an international climate conference in Benediktbeuern/D as part of the German presidency of the Alpine Convention. At the same time the partners issued an appeal for urgent action on climate change, which Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Under-Secretary of State at the German Ministry of the Environment, delivered in Paris. She confirmed that the conference entitled "Climate protection now! Action by Alpine municipalities" and the appeal strengthened the German position in the negotiations. The issue of climate protection really came to life in the workshops and the initiatives market at the Benediktbeuern conference. Practicable solutions were discussed and refined – with the aim of encouraging Alpine municipalities to lead the way with good examples.



PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **Alpine Town of the Year Association** CIPRA has run the association's offices since 2003. 2015 Workshop on the Green Economy held as part of preparing the Report on the State of the Alps
- **Youth Shaping Alpine Municipalities** Joint project run by CIPRA and the Alpine Town of the Year Association to promote youth involvement at a municipal level
- **Alliance in the Alps** Association of 274 Alpine municipalities. CIPRA handled administrative and project management work for the **dynAlp-nature** programme. Support for four joint projects for the protection of Alpine biodiversity involving 23 members
- **Via Alpina** Coordination of the long-distance footpath as an Alpine Convention implementation project
- International conference entitled **"Climate protection now!"** to support Alpine municipalities in implementing climate change mitigation measures, Benediktbeuern/D
- **Climate Game 100max** motivated people in the Alps to try out a climate-friendly way of life
- Input to the **International Conference on Climate Action**, Hanover/D

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/EN/NETWORKS



MODERATION

What do we need for a good life? Our lives and plans are individual, but many of our needs are universal: food, security, exercise, inspiration, freedom of choice and development, and social contacts.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/DE/ALPMONITOR (DE/FR/IT/SL)

TOWARDS THE ENERGY TRANSITION

CIPRA France What are the obstacles to the energy transition for French mountain communities and what opportunities does it present? CIPRA France has been able to identify them in talks held with politicians and officials and has developed measures to move forward with the energy transition in France, including study tours, workshops and the exchange of good practice. These activities are based on a programme called “Tepos Alpains, Territoires à Energie Positive” (Energy-Positive Areas), which CIPRA France mentored with the support of the Comité du Massif from 2013 to 2015.

“Tepos Alpains” is fully in keeping with the objectives of the Alpine Convention and especially the Action Plan on Climate Change, which was approved at the 2009 Alpine Conference in Evian/F. It is also in line with various international agreements such as the Paris Agreement formulated at the 2015 Climate Change Conference.

The main beneficiaries have been municipalities with limited financial resources and personnel, which might otherwise be left behind. They are to be found above all in Alpine areas in which the energy transition is limited to the development of renewable energy. Solène Raffort from the municipality of Haute-Maurienne Vanoise says, “Thanks to ‘Tepos Alpains’, we now have a more holistic approach to regional development, and proposals are on the table for the energy transition”. In its final report, CIPRA France also makes recommendations for decision-makers at a regional and national level.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/FRANCE

ACTION INSTEAD OF WORDS

CIPRA Switzerland The Swiss Parliament has not ratified the protocols relating to the Alpine Convention. The last attempt failed in the face of resistance from the National Council. That was an anti-ecology and anti-European knee-jerk response on the part of a narrow majority. It remains a fact, however, that the problems addressed by the Alpine Convention, such as goods traffic in transit across the Alps, can only be solved at an international level. Ratification of the Implementation Protocols relating to the Alpine Convention is not currently

on the agenda in Switzerland. CIPRA Switzerland has reacted by repositioning itself. Its core competencies – in collaboration with member organisations – now include cross-sectional Alpine policy fields such as the Alpine Convention, the Macro-Regional Strategy for the Alps, and tourism and regional policies.

For example, CIPRA Switzerland has contributed to the development of a climate toolbox for regional authorities. In the pilot region of Surselva in Canton Graubünden, the main risks and opportunities presented by climate change were identified in a participatory workshop and the relevant measures prioritised. In a partnership project with the Romanian park network ProPark Romania, CIPRA Switzerland is making available its knowhow in the development of near-natural tourism programmes and at the same time learning about the management of bear and wolf populations in the Carpathian Mountains. This work is currently making a greater contribution to the goals of the Alpine Convention than unrealistic calls for ratification of protocols.

WWW.CIPRA.CH

Field excursion: visit to the Piatra Craiului National Park in Magura, Romania.



Photo: Christian Baumgartner

THE ALPS: HOMECOMING OF THE WOLF, LYNX AND BEAVER

CIPRA Liechtenstein The beaver and lynx have returned to Liechtenstein. They have a pack of wolves as neighbours. The big rodent and the feline predator became extinct in this part of Europe many years ago. They have returned to what is an intensively cultivated landscape. Coexistence between human beings and the returnees calls for a legal framework and management solutions. This is where CIPRA Liechtenstein comes in. Rodents and large predators are migrants – and no respecters of national borders. Article 3 of the Nature Protection Protocol of the Alpine Convention calls for harmonisation between neighbouring countries of the relevant laws and implementation strategies “as necessary and appropriate”. With regard to large predators, Liechtenstein is meeting its obligations in various ways, for example in the context of the Alpine Convention’s Large Predators, Wild Ungulates and Society platform. Since wolves require large territories that may extend beyond national borders, Liechtenstein’s laws and regulations are being brought into line with those of its neighbours. The beaver is a different case – in Liechtenstein this promoter of biodiversity does not yet enjoy the same legal protection as it does in neighbouring countries.

CIPRA Liechtenstein is pinning its hopes on Article 7 of the Nature Protection Protocol, which provides for measures to be taken for nature and landscape protection. In 1996, for example, the Liechtenstein Nature Protection Act was amended to include the duty to draw up a nature and landscape development strategy. However, this strategy has not yet been implemented. As part of the consultation procedure for a further amendment to the law, CIPRA Liechtenstein is now campaigning for mandatory improvements to legal protection for the returnees and the development of strategies to facilitate coexistence.

WWW.CIPRA.LI

BOOST FOR THE SOIL PROTECTION PROTOCOL

CIPRA Austria The 2015 International Year of Soils provided an excellent platform for boosting the Alpine Convention's Soil Protection Protocol. The importance and application of the protocol were put on the agenda of the regular Alpine Convention Workshop organised by CIPRA Austria and its Alpine Convention Legal Services Office. Representatives of the public authorities, NGOs, the scientific community and planners from Austria and surrounding countries came together to discuss the challenges and proposals for using and protecting the diverse and limited Alpine space. The meeting focussed on the economical use of the soil, soil management in wetlands and moorlands, the identification and management of Alpine areas at risk from erosion, and the impact of tourism facilities on forests and sensitive areas. As the workshop showed, problems are still being encountered in communicating scientific knowledge in the fields of nature and planning and integrating it into Alpine Convention legislation.

In the interests of access to information and implementation quality, CIPRA Austria published the various presentations and the results of the workshops – for the first time ever with the support of the Austrian regional authorities – in issue no. 79 of its journal “Die Alpenkonvention – Nachhaltige Entwicklung für die Alpen”. That stimulated great interest in the Soil Protection Protocol. Amongst other things, CIPRA Austria has since been invited to collaborate on projects and investigations into the subject of soil protection.

WWW.CIPRA.AT

FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE WITH THE ALPINE CONVENTION AND THE ALPINE PLA

CIPRA Germany Flashback to the 1970s: there are plans for cable cars on the Alpspitze, Watzmann and Riedberger Horn. Wonder of wonders: the authorities show signs of resisting the projects. In the interests of the natural environment and to provide scope for “recreation in peace and quiet”, a state master plan is developed in the form of the Alpine Plan. It provides for a combination of areas served by cable cars and areas which are to remain free of such installations. In 1976 the Alpine Plan was integrated into the Bavarian Development Plan and has since remained unchanged. Its provisions are binding for the authorities, and

it is seen as a model tool for sustainable regional development. Flashback to the 1990s: the Alpine Convention is signed by the countries of the Alps in 1991. There follow years of struggle for substantial implementation protocols. CIPRA Germany was a driving force with regard to nature protection, mountain forests and protection of the soil.

And today? Policymakers seem to be turning their backs on earlier achievements. The developers have again set their sights on the Riedberger Horn, and a proposal put forward to dilute the Alpine Plan could ensure they succeed. In fact, the project would infringe Article 14 of the Protocol on Soil Protection of the Alpine Convention, since the envisaged ski trail is located on a 38-degree slope classed as a landslide hazard zone by the Bavarian Environmental Agency. For CIPRA Germany one thing is clear – today, forty years after publication of the Alpine Plan and 25 years after the signing of the Alpine Convention, stronger regional planning tools offer the only defence against unchecked land use.

Loud protest: against development plans.



Photo: CIPRA Germany

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THE LAST WEEKEND IN MAY IS ALPINE CONVENTION TIME

CIPRA Slovenia For the last six years, Alpine Convention Day has been held in spring in Slovenia – in Mojstrana, the gateway to the Triglav National Park – to draw attention to the contribution made by the Alpine Convention to the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage. The event serves to build awareness for the challenges confronting the Alpine space and for the need for environmentally-friendly mobility. It is supported by local authorities, associations (including CIPRA Slovenia), public services, the National Park management, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Con-

Splash of colour: Slovenia Day
at the Alpine Convention.



vention and many others. Such multi-sectoral cooperation strengthens existing partnerships and the visibility of the Alpine Convention.

In order to attract an even bigger turnout, this year's event, which was held at the end of May, was divided into two parts. The first, more energetic part was entitled "On foot and by bicycle" and involved a walk and a cycle ride through the Triglav National Park plus a full supporting programme with market stalls, workshops, traditional folk groups, a climbing wall and a mountain rescue demonstration. The second part of the event took the form of a conference on the subject of the challenges confronting mountain and border areas. It also provided a platform for presenting the fifth Report on the State of the Alps on demographic change in the region. In addition, attendees were shown how Austria's successful Mountaineering Village model could be employed in Slovenia. There followed an expert discussion on the role of mountain and border areas in the context of Slovenia's new regional development strategy.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/SLOVENIJA

Photo: Tina Markun

BOLZANO AIRPORT – A NEVER-ENDING STORY

CIPRA South Tyrol The debate on Bolzano Airport is almost as old as the Alpine Convention. In the middle of the 1990s, the regional government of South Tyrol was proposing an upgrade for Bolzano Airport. Italy had signed the framework Alpine Convention in 1991, but the individual protocols were not ratified until later so that Article 12 (2) of the Transport Protocol – recommending a restrictive approach to new airport construction projects and major upgrades of existing airports in the Alps – did not apply at that time.

In 1997 over 36,000 signatures were collected in Bolzano and its surroundings protesting against the airport upgrade proposal. The first stage of the project was implemented regardless, with economic viability put forward as the main argument. In the following years, the airport went into decline and continued to lose money. The political establishment decided to continue with the airport development project and offered to submit the question to a mediation process. CIPRA South Tyrol, however, as the regional umbrella for the protection of nature and the environment, successfully called for a referendum, which was held in 2009. Eighty-

two percent voted against any further public spending on the project. The verdict was not legally binding, as the turnout was slightly less than the forty percent required.

Following another flop with another master plan and further public subsidies totalling 120 million euros, the regional government is now back on the starting line with a "new" development plan targeting a ten-fold increase in passenger figures. The word profitability is no longer in the promoters' vocabulary, and a continued need for tax-payers' money is clear. Another referendum is due to be held in June 2016. The political and business communities have already set the propaganda machine in motion – despite the Transport Protocol.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/DE/CIPRA/SUEDTIROL

STRATEGY FOR PROTECTED AREAS

CIPRA Italy These are unsettled times for the Italian system of protected areas. Many regional parks are confronted with financial problems and have to defend themselves against interests seeking to weaken them. The Stelvio National Park, one of the most important national parks in the Alps, has been practically eliminated and replaced by three regional protected areas. And yet interesting signals are being received from the affected areas, including proposals for the creation of new protected areas or extensions to existing ones and initiatives for protected area networks. Such proposals deserve to be taken seriously but in many cases no-one is listening.

Carve up: Stelvio National Park.

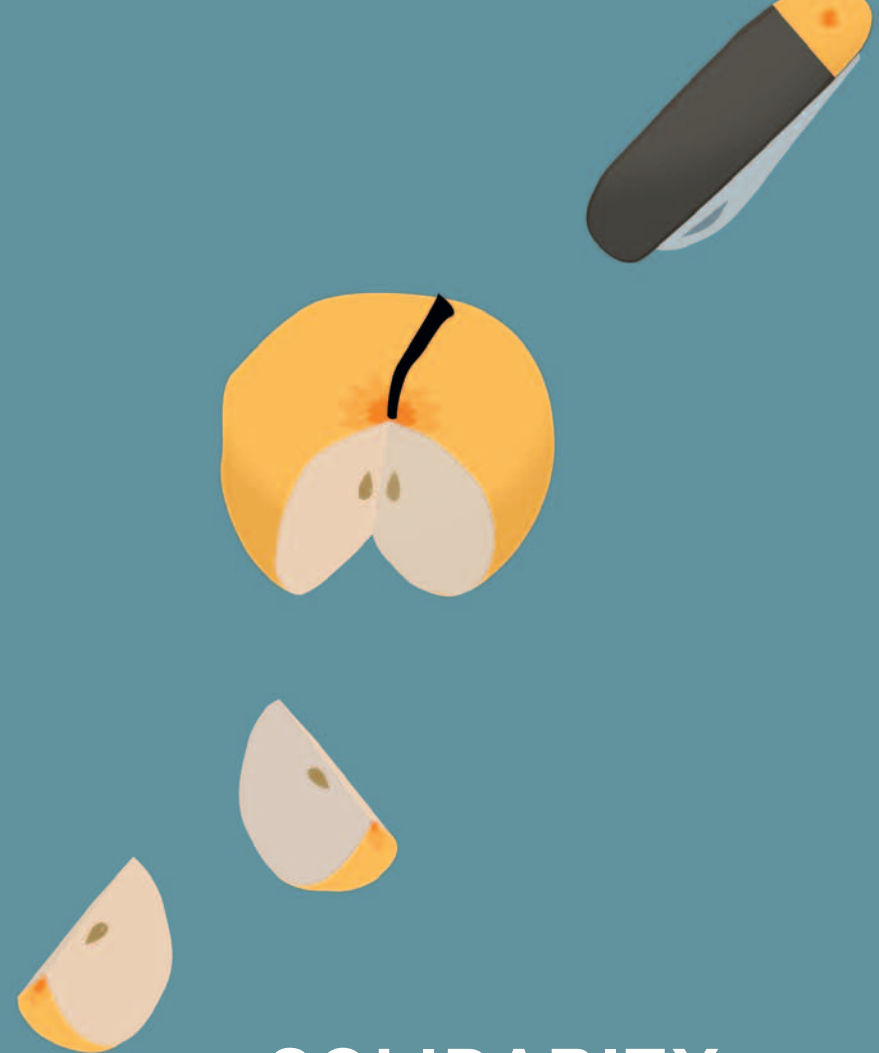


The Alpine Convention and the Nature Protection Protocol continue to serve as an important point of reference. As long as the international agreements exist only at the level of diplomatic negotiations, however, and do not relate to the realities on the ground, they cannot provide answers for the people living in the parks. CIPRA Italy has addressed this problem and developed a strategy document for the protected areas. It has been a long process, sometimes involving controversial debate among member organisations that represent different cultures and sensitivities as well as critical reflection on the way in which protected areas have hitherto been managed.

Thanks to the inclusion of the local people affected by the complex system of protected areas, the strategy can deliver answers at both levels: protection for biodiversity and people's expectations in terms of quality of life. By targeting the strategy at the actors of the Alpine Convention, CIPRA Italy is also encouraging them to follow up words with actions.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/ITALIA

Photo: Luigi Casanova; Illustration p.26: Johannes Gautier



SOLIDARITY

Those who share also gain. A society that is willing to share gains in terms of stability, cohesion, identification and resilience. The Alps are dependent on solidarity in several ways: within and between generations and regions, and also beyond them, with the surrounding regions.

WWW.CIPRA.ORG/DE/ALPMONITOR (DE/FR/IT/SL)

POSITIVE YEAR-END FINANCIAL POSITION FOR STABILITY AND CONTINUITY

__ In the last few years, CIPRA International has successfully adapted to a difficult economic environment. With the help of an internal re-organisation process and new partnerships, it has been possible to meet growing expectations of a high level of professionalism. In this context, our motto in 2015 was “Building on Stability and Continuity”.

We would like to thank all those people and organisations who continued to support us or joined the ranks of our partners in 2015. The trust they placed in us and their support for our work has helped us to close the financial year with a surplus, with revenues of about 1,683 million Swiss Francs and expenditures of 1,678 million for a surplus of about 5,100 Swiss Francs.

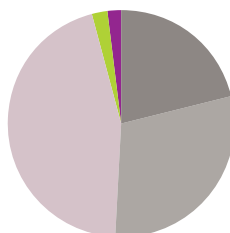
Our sponsors and clients have again increased in number, from 24 to 35. We believe that every donation made and contract placed lends legitimacy to our activities. Liechtenstein, as CIPRA's legal domicile, provides about one third of the organisation's funds, thus enabling us to work for sustainable development throughout the Alps.

Half of our funds are spent on communications, political work, committee activities, networking and administration. Among much else, that includes our activities in the context of the Alpine Convention and Eusalp, media work and especially our newly launched awareness-building project alpMonitor. The rest is employed for our project work and services, which initiate and support the implementation of sustainable strategies and solutions.

At the end of 2015, CIPRA International's assets amounted to 298,637 Swiss Francs. The full financial statements including the balance sheet will be made available on www.cipra.org following their approval by the Assembly of Delegates in autumn 2016.

Where does the money come from?

Services to third parties	CHF 357,569
Government subsidies	CHF 500,000
Project contributions, donations	CHF 758,641
Membership fees	CHF 36,113
Other income	CHF 31,323



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

LIECHTENSTEIN VADUZ/LI • FEDERAL OFFICE OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT BERN/CH • FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY BERLIN/D • BRISTOL FOUNDATION ZÜRICH/CH • NON-PROFITMAKING FOUNDATIONS IN LIECHTENSTEIN • ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS NETWORK OF MUNICIPALITIES ÜBERSEE/D • ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION BAD REICHENHALL/D • CIPRA GERMANY MUNICH/D • STIFTUNG FÜRST. KOMMERZIENRAT GUIDO FEGER VADUZ/LI • GERMAN FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION OSNABRÜCK/D • AAGE V. JENSEN CHARITY FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE • THE EU'S ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME • RICHI FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • VIA ALPINA NATIONAL SECRETARIATS: SCHWEIZER WANDERWEGE, CLUB ALPIN MONÉGASQUE, AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB, GERMAN ALPINE CLUB, SLOVENIAN TOURIST BOARD, GRANDE TRAVERSÉE DES ALPES, LIECHTENSTEIN OFFICE OF THE ENVIRONMENT BERN/CH, MONACO/MC, MUNICH/DE, LJUBLJANA/SI, GRENOBLE/FR, VADUZ/LI • INTERNATIONAL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • ALPINE INITIATIVE ALTENDORF/CH • HEIDEHOF FOUNDATION STUTTGART/D • FUTURE FOUNDATION OF LIECHTENSTEINISCHE LANDESBANK AG VADUZ/LI • VILLAGE OF PLANKEN PLANKEN/LI • OFFICE OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GEOINFORMATION, CANTON ST. GALLEN ST. GALLEN/CH • SCANDINAVIAN HEARTLAND FALUN/SWE • KARL MAYER FOUNDATION VADUZ/LI • INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR ALPINE RESEARCH BERN/CH • FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ENERGY BERLIN/D • PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE ALPINE CONVENTION INNSBRUCK/A • BEBRE FOUNDATION TRIESENBERG/LI • LIECHTENSTEIN NATIONAL LIBRARY VADUZ/LI • ALPS INSIGHT SUPPORTERS

Where does the money go?

Political work and communications	CHF 431,913
Committee activities, networking and administration	CHF 305,371
Projects and services	CHF 941,252

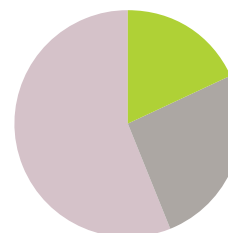




Photo: Martin Walser

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