

# alpMedia Newsletter, summary No. 5-6/2020

## Talking about the climate – but how?



Oslo, Hamburg, Vienna, Bolzano: around 250 participants from the Alps and far beyond took part in the discussions. (c) CIPRA International

Personal, visual, social: this is how we communicate the climate crisis more effectively. Around 250 people discussed language, psychology and social media in the online conference “Tell stories, prick up your ears, make contacts”.

“At Fridays for Future we are dealing with clever protest communication. Short, dense and fast, networked via social media,” analyses linguist Martin Reisigl. At the online conference on climate communication on 30 June and 1 July 2020, he agreed with experts from other fields that the young climate movement is doing many things right – and differently – in its communication. The organisers had made a climate-friendly virtue out of necessity and, after several postponements due to the corona pandemic, had moved the conference to the internet. A total of around 250 participants from all Alpine countries listened to presentations and discussed matters in plenary sessions and workshops with experts from Norway, Hamburg and Vienna. They voted in online surveys on climate issues and experienced a live video tour of a climate-friendly renovated residential complex in Bolzano/I.

### The Climate Youth shows how it works

Disaster scenarios such as “hot summer” or abstract technical terms such as “tipping points in the climate system” make it difficult to talk about the climate crisis. For example, the German Physical Society had already warned of an “imminent climate catastrophe” in 1971, and as early as 1986 the news magazine “Der Spiegel” was already using this title. It was not until 2019, with “Fridays For Future”, that the world of politics also came under pressure. “Journalism puts the climate issue on the public agenda and thus in our heads,” explains communication scientist Irene Neverla. It alone does not create enough awareness of problems or responsibility, however. In contrast, people use social media to pick up journalistic topics, mobilise each other and become politically active. According to Austrian pollster Christoph Hofinger, good climate stories are based on empathy, promise salvation and describe how to get there in a pictorial, emotional and understandable way.

### Brain-friendly communication

How do you get people to participate in solving the climate crisis? “Our biggest obstacle is 15 centimetres thick and is located between our ears,” says environmental psychologist Per Espen Stoknes. He talks about the barriers in our minds that have to be overcome in matters of climate change. Climate targets, for example, are far in the future, and the climate crisis plays hardly any role in everyday life. This personal distance can be overcome through positive role models. “Climate change should feel personal, urgent and close.” For example, if we eat more vegetarian food, it will be good for us and for the climate. Inspiring stories with which we can identify in everyday life are also helpful: from the mountain farmer who runs his old mowing machine on his own electricity, to the city council planting new trees.

Climate spring, climate protection in everyday life, adaptation strategies of a community, the Charter of Budoia, the climate game 100max, the activities of the Alpine Climate Council: motivating workshops and inputs on these and other topics rounded off the conference. Helmut Hojesky, Chairman of the Alpine Climate Council, outlined what is needed for climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps in 2050. His summary of the event: “A model for further video conferences!” All presentations and further information are available online: [https://padlet.com/cipraga/alpaca\\_conference2020](https://padlet.com/cipraga/alpaca_conference2020)

*The online conference of the Alpine Partnership for Local Climate Action (ALPACA) was made possible by the kind support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano – South Tyrol.*

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## Point of view: The mountains, a safe place



Vanda Bonardo, President of CIPRA Italy.

During the lockdown due to the corona pandemic, mountain areas have gained in importance as places of retreat. In order to be able to fulfil this role better in the future, they must be strengthened and digitally networked, demands Vanda Bonardo, President of CIPRA Italy.

Since it has become clear that crowds of people are hardly healthy, the city is no longer the safe place it once was. People want open spaces, air to breathe and nature to live in. During and since the lockdown, Italy's mountain areas have been literally overrun, by people either looking for a safe place to retreat or for a second home to rent or buy. These flows are often difficult for local institutions to control. For mountain areas to be able to provide such a service, they need to become aware of their new role and find the framework conditions they need to fulfil it.

Mountain areas have always been less densely built up and utilised. The diverse mountain landscape is the result of a millennia-old interplay between human activities and nature. Ideally, it reflects the search for a balance between people and the environment – from both an ecological and a health point of view. A well-equipped and comfortable home for living, studying, learning and working has proved essential in the lockdown. This need can also be met by upgrading inner-Alpine regions. If we look at the problems involved in reaching or leaving these places, we find that here too, a change that was hardly conceivable until a few months ago has taken place. Thanks to the push for digitisation, it is now possible to stay in touch with the rest of the world from home.

The epochal shift towards digitisation triggered by the lockdown has opened up unimaginable new horizons: we never thought that everyone, even the oldest and most reluctant, would use digital systems. The coronavirus has left us with a legacy that may radically improve the lives of all those people who have chosen or will choose to live and work in inner-Alpine regions. The condition is that this trend is accompanied by the necessary measures to develop ultra-broadband technology and the telephone and television networks. In these places it is essential to develop access to information and communication technologies in order to bridge the digital divide that exists there when compared with large conurbations.

The situation created by corona is very difficult and worrying. However, as in all periods of transition, new balances and therefore new opportunities will be created. In this respect, it will be important to understand how mountain areas can once again become more firmly established as pivotal points, as has been repeatedly called for by many voices over the past few years. As such, they provide us with support and are at the same time a testing ground – not only for climate and socio-economic change, but also for mitigation and adaptation to coming pandemics.

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## Freight transport belongs on the rails



Traffic jams, air pollution and noise: trucks produce many negative effects, especially in the Alpine region.

EU transport ministers want to reach an agreement on the new Eurovignette Directive for transit traffic by the end of September 2020. CIPRA International and the "iMonitraf!" network are therefore calling for rapid agreement to ease the burden on humans and nature.

The new Ceneri Base Tunnel in Ticino/CH will speed up passenger and freight transport by rail from September 2020 on. European transport ministers will meet on-site for the opening for talks – which will probably also cover the new Eurovignette Directive for freight transport. The ambitious proposed revision to the infrastructure costs directive,

adopted by the European Parliament in October 2018, is to be brought to a conclusion under the German presidency of the EU Council. However, Andreas Scheuer, the German minister for transport, has proposed an exemption from all tolls for so-called zero-emission vehicles. The EU ministers of transport may agree to this at their Council meeting, to be held on 28 September 2020.

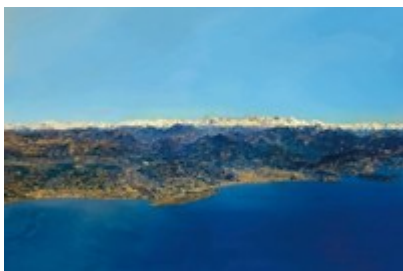
Even though the CO<sub>2</sub> differentiation in toll charges will also contribute to reaching the objectives of the European "Green Deal", this should not negate the main goal of shifting traffic from road to rail, as Kaspar Schuler, co-director of CIPRA emphasises: "Even if average vehicle emissions continue to fall thanks to new engines, the toll must be designed in accordance with the polluter-pays principle. Noise, congestion and increased infrastructure costs are also caused by low-emission trucks and they must be charged accordingly. Only with substantial charges for all trucks will there be an effective shift from road to rail". Inclusion of true costs, an increase in the mountain factor in the Eurovignette Directive and no full exemption for "emission-free" heavy goods traffic from the toll: a joint position paper by CIPRA and the "iMonitraf!" network sums up their central demands to the transport ministers.

Sources and further information:

[www.cipra.org/de/positionen/eurovignetten-wegekosten-richtlinie-zeit-zum-handeln-1](http://www.cipra.org/de/positionen/eurovignetten-wegekosten-richtlinie-zeit-zum-handeln-1) (de), [www.cipra.org/en/topics/alpine-politics/focus-transit](http://www.cipra.org/en/topics/alpine-politics/focus-transit), [www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-76210.html](http://www.admin.ch/gov/de/start/dokumentation/medienmitteilungen.msg-id-76210.html) (de), [www.cipra.org/en/media-releases/freight-transport-belongs-on-the-rails](http://www.cipra.org/en/media-releases/freight-transport-belongs-on-the-rails)

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## Youth and climate as the focus of AlpWeek



The city of Nice – located at the end of the Alpine arc – is hosting this year's AlpWeek Intermezzo. (c) Métropole-N.C.A.

What do young people think about climate change in the Alps? This is the main theme of the AlpWeek Intermezzo, due to take place in Nice in December 2020.

The living environment and the professions that are considered typically "Alpine" today will probably not be so tomorrow – mainly due to climate change. The AlpWeek Intermezzo 2020 in Nice will focus on what this means for the younger generation. The AlpWeek presents actions, ideas and projects that are carried out for or by young people themselves. The aim is to raise awareness of the need to preserve habitats and the fauna and flora living there. The event is intended to show that there are highly motivated young

people who want to help shape solutions for the future and learn more about how to transform their homelands into climate-friendly regions.

Like its big sister, the AlpWeek, which takes place every four years, the AlpWeek Intermezzo is an international event on sustainable development and related Alpine issues. It is jointly organised by central organisations active throughout the Alps – including CIPRA. AlpWeek Intermezzo 2020 is being held in conjunction with the closing events of the French Presidency of the Alpine Convention and EUSALP. It thus offers an ideal opportunity for the various players to meet and exchange ideas. Institutions, young people and local authorities are invited to take part in the event and help shape it. Proposals for workshops, excursions or market stands can be submitted until 10 September 2020.

Sources and further informations:

[alpweek.org/](http://alpweek.org/)

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## Vision Velo Alpina: a cycle path through the Alps



A long-distance cycle path across the Alpine arc: CIPRA is pursuing this vision with the Velo Alpina. (c) TS

The Alpe-Adria cycle path or the Eurovelo routes: in the Alps there already exist cross-border long-distance cycle paths, but there is not yet a route through all the Alpine countries. A project to test the feasibility of a Velo Alpina wants to change this.

Cycling is one of the best ways to discover cultures and countries: fast enough to get around, yet slow enough to get to know culture, cuisine and people along the way. Cycling also sharpens the eye for landscape, nature and biodiversity. Long-distance cycle paths are becoming more and more popular and, with e-bikes, even demanding mountain stages are fun. The vision of

Velo Alpina is to connect existing long-distance cycle paths with each other, making it possible to experience the Alps in their entirety from east to west. In this way, a new long-distance cycle path could make local projects and initiatives for sustainable development visible. Long-distance cyclists could also experience the cultural heritage of the Alps along the way, for example by tasting culinary specialities from different regions. Besides hiking, cycling is the most ecological form of local tourist transport.

### Survey on the Velo Alpina

To collect ideas, wishes and suggestions for the Velo Alpina, CIPRA is launching a survey in which all those interested in the idea can take part. It can be accessed via the following link: [cipra.typeform.com/to/gSzkATBi](https://cipra.typeform.com/to/gSzkATBi)

The feasibility study project is made possible by the financial support of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

## Living mountain forests



The "GozdNega" project in Slovenia's Pahernik Forest organises excursions to demonstrate sustainable forest management. (c) J. Diaci

Climate protector and habitat, recreational area and timber supplier: forests have many functions, both in the natural ecosystem and for humans. CIPRA Slovenia's "GozdNega / Forest Care" project aims to convince forest owners of the benefits of climate-friendly management.

The Pahernik Forest in northern Slovenia is brimming with biodiversity. The rare Alpine longhorn beetle and the coral tooth fungus are both at home here. While large parts of this 500-hectare mixed forest are deemed nature reserves, it is at the same time very productive from an economic point of

view. Visitors can also admire one of the largest and oldest spruces in Slovenia and the whole represents a model of sustainable forest management.

Initiated by CIPRA Slovenia, the "GozdNega" project encourages forest owners to promote climate-resistant forests by means of appropriate forest management, taking account of the forest's ecological, economic and social functions in equal measure. Mixed forests and appropriate forest management ensure high resistance to extreme weather events caused by climate change and also permit a high level of biodiversity.

CIPRA Slovenia works together with forest owners and forest experts in workshops so as to develop a management model. "As traditional management is often forgotten or no longer even practised, we want to show participants why forest management is so important for healthy, resilient forests", says Katarina Zakelj of CIPRA Slovenia. Excursions also take participants to visit the Pahernik Forest.

In keeping with the project, the annual "Fire in the Alps" action in Slovenia, held on 8 August, is therefore dedicated to the special role of healthy Forests.



Sources and further information:

[www.cipra.org/sl/cipra/slovenija/aktivnosti-v-teku/gozdnega-1/#gozdnega-aktiven-in-opolnomocen-lastnik-negovan-in-podnebno-odporen-gozd](http://www.cipra.org/sl/cipra/slovenija/aktivnosti-v-teku/gozdnega-1/#gozdnega-aktiven-in-opolnomocen-lastnik-negovan-in-podnebno-odporen-gozd) (sl), [www.cipra.org/sl/novice/napoved-tecaj-nege-gozda-s-poudarjeno-socialno-funkcijo](http://www.cipra.org/sl/novice/napoved-tecaj-nege-gozda-s-poudarjeno-socialno-funkcijo) (sl), [www.pahernikovaustanova.si/](http://www.pahernikovaustanova.si/) (sl), [www.prosilva.org/close-to-nature-forestry/](http://www.prosilva.org/close-to-nature-forestry/), [https://informar.eu/sites/default/files/pdf/20170111\\_Pahernik\\_Booklet\\_Final.pdf](https://informar.eu/sites/default/files/pdf/20170111_Pahernik_Booklet_Final.pdf)

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## What can we learn from the coronavirus crisis?



CIPRA takes a closer look at the opportunities and challenges of the coronavirus for the Alpine region.

In the Alps, too, the question now arises as to what will happen after the corona crisis. As part of its development of new projects, CIPRA conducted a survey to gain an impression of the current mood.

The corona crisis has affected more than three quarters of the survey participants: 68 percent felt restricted, with personal contacts being the most missed. Most of them spent their time on creative activities such as cooking and handicrafts, enjoyed themselves at home or spent more time reading or outdoors.

When asked which side effects should be continued after the lockdown, 94 percent said that there was less road traffic, closely followed by air traffic; almost three quarters felt that the increased solidarity among people should be maintained; while technical aids for teleworking and similar, as well as flexible time management followed in the ranking.

According to the survey, the measures most likely to be implemented are greater attention to regional trade (68%), more online meetings and less travel (59%) and the consumption of regional and seasonal products (42%). Participants see the greatest development potential in the Alpine region in the areas of nature, tourism and agriculture. Tourism also poses the greatest challenges for 70%, followed by mobility and trade and industry.

The 172 participants in the survey came from all Alpine countries. More than half find their own lifestyle sustainable, most buy seasonal, regional products, avoid packaging and cycle regularly.

In addition to the qualitative survey, CIPRA conducted discussions with various players throughout the Alpine region. The evaluation serves as a basis for the development of new projects or modules that address the opportunities and challenges of this development in the Alpine region.

CIPRA's activities: [www.cipra.org/de/aktuelles/projekte](http://www.cipra.org/de/aktuelles/projekte)

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## Quality from the mountains



Cows in Slovenia's Soča valley:

Cheese, meat and honey – these and other products from the mountains must meet certain EU requirements to be allowed to bear the “mountain product” quality label, introduced by the EU in 2014. A recent study shows whether and how this term has become established.

Alpine regions like these benefit from marketing their products as "mountain products". (c) Miro Kristan

Agricultural products from the mountains are the end result of extensive and environmentally friendly farming techniques that strengthen local economic cycles and preserve traditional working methods. With the optional term "mountain product", the EU aim to protect the making of products in mountain areas and thus better support mountain farming. Such products must meet a whole range of requirements: for example, animals must have lived most of their lives in recognised mountain regions, and products may be transported no more than 30 kilometres for further processing.

In recent years, the various EU member states have worked to establish the quality concept of "mountain products" in their countries. In order to provide an overview of the current situation and further promote the successful marketing of these agricultural products, Euromontana, the European Association for Mountain Regions, regularly evaluates the activities of individual countries. "Most of the Alpine countries in the EU are already working hard to establish the concept", says Marie Clotteau of Euromontana. Many farmers already use the term, especially in France and Italy, where there are now over 600: "However, the EU and individual countries must provide much better information and support, particularly to producers, so as to help them use the term for their products. After all, they will in the end benefit from it", she says.

Sources and more information:

[www.euromontana.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-05-26-Implementation-of-the-OQT\\_EN.pdf](http://www.euromontana.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-05-26-Implementation-of-the-OQT_EN.pdf), [www.euromontana.org/en/working-themes/mountain-products/](http://www.euromontana.org/en/working-themes/mountain-products/), [www.agrarheute.com/land-leben/begriff-bergerzeugnis-geschuetzt-512545](http://www.agrarheute.com/land-leben/begriff-bergerzeugnis-geschuetzt-512545) (de)

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## Hut transport: mules as an alternative



Sustainable hut transport: heavily-laden mules make their way through rocky terrain. (c) L. Ellena

For centuries, mules and horses have transported goods in mountainous regions. What used to be the only means of transport has nowadays mostly been replaced by helicopter. A nature park in Piedmont, Italy, is now organising the delivery of goods to mountain huts by mule, while environmentally friendly alternatives to helicopters are also being tested elsewhere.

For six hours a convoy of heavily-laden mules trudges through rugged terrain towards the Pagari refuge in the Italian Maritime Alps. On their backs they carry all sorts of food, especially fresh produce. Breeder Luciano Ellena is the man behind the mule transports. The Maritime Alps Nature Park is organising the event as part of the EU Alpimed Clima project: following last year's positive experiences, seven huts are now receiving regular deliveries in this way. "The mules are a flexible way of transporting goods up to the huts in a climate-neutral way", says Giuseppe Canavese, director of the Maritime Alps Natural Park. He adds that transport by helicopter has also had to be reduced to a minimum on account of Covid-19 and its associated uncertainties. "With this project we also want to encourage other regions to focus on sustainable hut transport", adds Canavese.

### Guests who pull their weight

In 2019, the Swiss team from the non-profit organisation Protect our Winters (POW) launched its "Climate Protection on a Plate" project. The idea was that guests would collect their food from a central point and carry it up to the mountain huts themselves. In this way, ten people carried some 60 kilos of supplies up to the Adula hut in Switzerland, subsequently enjoying a climate-friendly weekend high up in the mountains. "We want to raise awareness among visitors and show them that huts can be supplied on a local, sustainable basis. If everyone made even a small contribution, we could literally get things moving", says Nicholas Bornstein of POW Switzerland.

### Flying pack mules

Drones are also being discussed as a means of transporting goods up to huts. In 2017, the Austrian Friends of Nature initiated a pilot project in Zell am See. During a test flight, one drone transported a load of up to 50

kilograms to the Pinzgauer Hut in a low-noise and above all environmentally-friendly manner. Legal issues and the effects on wild animals and mountain hikers still however pose challenges for this form of transport. Supply by helicopter has until now been the order of the day in many places, as large volumes can be efficiently flown to remote regions.

Sources and more informations:

[www.reeprotektealpimaritime.it/news/1209/nel-parco-trasporti-ai-rifugi-con-i-muli-al-posto-dell-u2019elic](http://www.reeprotektealpimaritime.it/news/1209/nel-parco-trasporti-ai-rifugi-con-i-muli-al-posto-dell-u2019elic) (it), [www.protectourwinters.ch/events/2020/7/17/klimaschutz-auf-dem-teller-adula](http://www.protectourwinters.ch/events/2020/7/17/klimaschutz-auf-dem-teller-adula) (de), [www.bergwelten.com/a/e-drohnen-zukunft-der-huettenversorgung](http://www.bergwelten.com/a/e-drohnen-zukunft-der-huettenversorgung) (de), [www.tourismuspresse.at/presseaussendung/TPT\\_20190617\\_TPT0002/drohnen-die-zukunft-der-alpinen-versorgung-bild](http://www.tourismuspresse.at/presseaussendung/TPT_20190617_TPT0002/drohnen-die-zukunft-der-alpinen-versorgung-bild) (de), [www.aargauerzeitung.ch/schweiz/kritik-aus-den-eigenen-reihen-weil-sich-der-schweizerische-alpen-club-fuer-gletscher-einsetzt-138458166](http://www.aargauerzeitung.ch/schweiz/kritik-aus-den-eigenen-reihen-weil-sich-der-schweizerische-alpen-club-fuer-gletscher-einsetzt-138458166) (de)

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## Location policy at the expense of the environment



Slovenia's government wants to restrict the right of civil society to have a say in controversial construction projects. Other Alpine countries are also pursuing location policies at the expense of the environment.

In the midst of the coronavirus crisis, the Slovenian government moved to restrict the right of NGOs to have a say in environmental impact assessments (EIA). The environmental movement "Balkan River Defence" organised a protest action in May. Several thousand people supported it on the internet, and around 1,000 took to the streets of Ljubljana. CIPRA Slovenia also criticised the government's actions. "NGOs are not, as is often asserted, opponents of development", says Špela Berlot, Executive Director of CIPRA Slovenia: "As representatives of civil society they express the interests of local communities".

### **Associations' right of appeal: "Important tool in the rule of law".**

In Liechtenstein, Parliament is currently discussing a possible restriction on the right of associations to lodge complaints on environmental issues. This is, however, an important instrument in a constitutional state, as Monika Gstöhl, the Executive Director of CIPRA Liechtenstein and the Liechtenstein Society for Environmental Protection (LGU) believes: "The LGU participates in the environmentally and nature-friendly design of legally compliant projects; it only takes legal action in exceptional cases and for justified reasons. In Switzerland, an initiative to abolish the right of association appeal was rejected in 2008.

In Austria, the former government passed the Location Development Act, which has been in force since 2019. It enables project applicants to push through large infrastructure projects within 12 months. As parts of the law are in conflict with the EIA Directive and the precautionary principle, the EU has initiated infringement proceedings. The amendment to the EIA Act had already introduced stricter criteria for the recognition of environmental organisations in 2018: they must prove their non-profit status with the tax authorities and have at least 100 members; associations require at least five member associations. "Associations are thus confronted with appreciable costs in terms of money and time," explains Paul Kuncio, CEO of CIPRA Austria.

### **Hurdles for NGOs**

The charitable status of NGOs is currently at stake in Germany. According to a ruling by the German Federal Fiscal Court, NGOs such as Attac and Campact lost their non-profit status in 2019, and with this certain tax advantages, on the grounds that they were not politically neutral. German Environmental Aid has also been a frequent topic of discussion in this regard, as Uwe Roth, Executive Director of CIPRA Germany, explains. He asks: "Can environmental protection and nature conservation be at all politically neutral nowadays?"

Sources and more information:

<https://balkangreenenergynews.com/slovenian-government-is-taking-rights-from-environmental-ngos/>, <https://orf.at/stories/3141645/> (de), [www.derstandard.at/story/2000110172899/eu-kommission-zerpflueckt-oesterreichisches-standortentwicklungsgesetz](http://www.derstandard.at/story/2000110172899/eu-kommission-zerpflueckt-oesterreichisches-standortentwicklungsgesetz) (de), <https://lgu.li/artikel/einschraenkung-des-verbandsbeschwerderechts> (de), [www.wz.de/wirtschaft/gerichtsurteil-im-fall-attac-warum-die-deutsche-umwelthilfe-ihre-gemeinnuetzigkeit-nicht-so-leicht-verliert\\_aid-37321695](http://www.wz.de/wirtschaft/gerichtsurteil-im-fall-attac-warum-die-deutsche-umwelthilfe-ihre-gemeinnuetzigkeit-nicht-so-leicht-verliert_aid-37321695) (de), [www.welt.de/wirtschaft/article202284082/Campact-Gemeinnuetzigkeit-aberkannt-Steuvorteil-ade.html](http://www.welt.de/wirtschaft/article202284082/Campact-Gemeinnuetzigkeit-aberkannt-Steuvorteil-ade.html) (de)

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## Climate change: Merano's strategy for a better quality of life



Newly planted trees create a pleasant urban climate in Merano. (c) Madeleine Rohrer

Trees instead of parking spaces and support for the population during hot spells – with a total of 19 measures like these, the city of Merano/It is countering the effects of climate change. Experts, interest groups and young people have worked together to develop the strategy.

Heat, droughts and extreme rainfall are already hitting people hard in cities like Merano. In cooperation with the Eurac research institute in Bolzano/It, Merano has developed concrete measures for adapting to climate change, intended to help improve the quality of life of the local population. The issue was discussed in focus groups by participants from various policy fields as well as interest groups and members of YPAC, the Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention. “For us, adapting to climate change means that people here feel more comfortable, and the quality of life should improve as a result of the measures”, states Madeleine Rohrer, Environmental Councillor for Merano.

### Increasing the quality of life

Cristina della Torre of Eurac Research supervised the project and is convinced: “Thanks to the various parties involved, we were able to take a great many interests into account”. This was a challenge, she says, but at the same time so many more people support the measures. For example, more trees will provide a cooler microclimate, as one tree will be planted for every two parking spaces. A campaign is underway to inform the general public about dealing with heatwaves. Younger people go shopping for older people and other risk groups – which in turn strengthens social cohesion in the population. In addition, the modernisation of its historic irrigation canals will protect Merano from flooding.

Merano's “Action Plan for Energy and Climate” was awarded the South Tyrol 2019 Energy Prize, and the prize money of 2000 euros was donated by Merano to the climate protection project of a School.

Further information: [www.gemeinde.meran.bz.it/de/Energieeffizienz\\_Meran\\_hatte\\_die\\_beste\\_Idee](http://www.gemeinde.meran.bz.it/de/Energieeffizienz_Meran_hatte_die_beste_Idee) (de)

Podcast on the topic - in German, English:

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## Strange, but true...

Many are drawn to the mountains for a micro-adventure at the weekend or after work – out of a love for nature and in search of solitude. All it takes is a tent, some beer and a disposable barbecue in a backpack. The narrow gravel road uphill is no problem for the SUV as you quickly pass some e-bikers on the way to the hiking car park. It is full, but fortunately there is still space along the road on the meadow. Nobody's going to check at this time. After the half-hour mountain tour, the view to the lake finally opens up – click, click, Instapic! Red, green and yellow plastic tents crowd the shore, with “No camping” signs in between. Now pitch the tent, light the goals and





Micro-adventures at a mountain lake: usually less lonely than you might expect.

put the sausages on the grill. It smells of adventure, smoke and a touch of chemistry. Crack open a cold beer and enjoy the view. Too bad that there are no animals to be seen. But the sound from the beatboxes fits perfectly with the sunset. Ouch! But you wouldn't have expected mosquitoes at this altitude. #Love of nature #Geilertag

Source and further information:

[www.sueddeutsche.de/reise/bergsee-alpen-gaisalpsee-allgaeu-1.4995491](http://www.sueddeutsche.de/reise/bergsee-alpen-gaisalpsee-allgaeu-1.4995491) (de)

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## Agenda

**Virtual Workshop: Mountain Forestry and Mountain Agriculture**, 11.09.2020, Online. [More...](#)

**Matchmaking Workshop to implement the Alpine Climate Target System 2050**, 15.-16.09.2020, Online. [More...](#)

**European mobility week**, 16.09.-22.09.2020, alpswide. [More...](#)

**EUSALP Energy Conference: Climate, Risks, Energies**, 30.09.-01.10.2020, Chamonix/F. [More...](#)

**Outdoor tourism with a vision - Between climate change, sustainability and crisis management**, 16.11.-17.11.2020, Prien am Chiemsee/D. [More...](#)