

CARBON-NEUTRAL ALPS

Annual report 2011 CIPRA International



CIPRA



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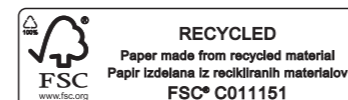
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SCHAAN / FL, APRIL 2012

DEAR READER,

In future, the regions that make up the carbon-neutral Alps will emit only the volume of greenhouse gases that nature can absorb in forests, marshes and other carbon sinks. This is a vision which CIPRA hopes will motivate as many people as possible to pursue the notion of climate change mitigation. Indeed, effective steps can still be taken to prevent a climate catastrophe. Turning the Alps into a showcase region in matters of energy and climate can represent an important contribution.

A globalised world requires global approaches to its problems, and achieving a carbon-neutral status in the Alps is no easy venture. Any contribution the Alps can make towards reducing global greenhouse gases will always be modest. But it will be a crucial one if, in doing so, we can encourage politicians to focus at last on a serious policy of climate change mitigation. For CIPRA, striving to make the Alps carbon-neutral does not mean rejecting a global way of thinking. Rather, it is our attempt to highlight the need for a new environmental and resources policy and to prepare and support it at a regional level – with projects such as Alpstar and climalp, where CIPRA gathers and communicates the best climate change ideas, or with My Clime-mate, in which

young people from five Alpine nations campaign on behalf of the Alps as a carbon-neutral region.

2011 was an eventful year for CIPRA. Major projects prepared long in advance unexpectedly failed to materialise. This forced our executive office to tighten its belt and rethink its strategy. At the same time Andreas Götz, our Director of many years, is leaving CIPRA to take up new duties elsewhere. The Presidency, the Presiding Committee and all the staff join me in thanking the outgoing Director for his 15 years of successful dedication to our organisation; we wish him well and all the best for the future. Under its new Director Bruno Stephan Walder, CIPRA looks forward with renewed energy and innovative ideas to facing the new and existing challenges posed by the protection of the Alps and Alpine policy.

Discover the carbon-neutral Alps and much more in our Annual Report 2011.

Dominik Siegrist
President, CIPRA International

KNOWING HOW TO SHAPE THE CLIMATE

ALPSTAR

Climate protection is possible. It's just that lots of people don't know how to go about it. CIPRA is demonstrating how we can protect the climate and save money at the same time. The whole idea is being trialled in two pilot regions in the Alps.

“Dealing with climate change costs a fortune,” says Helmuth Moroder, grinning as if he were not particularly intimidated by that fact. And yet, what he's saying is quite outrageous. Who in their right mind could even imagine being able to influence the climate? And yet this slender man of medium height, in his checked jacket and glasses, doesn't act like a megalomaniac. Considering he is Bolzano's head administrator, his office is small.

One of the main reasons Moroder was appointed in early 2011 was that he wanted to “change the climate”, and he was able to demonstrate to the municipal council that, by spending money on climate change mitigation, it could save even more money. He initiated a historic vote in which, in a rare show of unanimity, all 50 municipal councillors voted in favour of legislation on the “energy-saving renovation of buildings”.

Moroder is a big fan of statistics. “This one here is the one that swayed the council,” he says, opening a window on his computer. The figures show that over the next twenty years Bolzano can cut its energy costs by EUR 160 m by renovating the town's buildings and developing its local public transport. Of course, Moroder knows full well that in order to achieve such savings a great deal has to be invested first. The walls of houses all over Bolzano need to be insulated; double-glazed windows fitted; tram lines built; and cycle lanes laid out. The advantage is that local tradesmen will all benefit from these construction measures and, after twenty years, all the costs will have been amortised. “Better to invest the money in climate change mitigation than watch it disappear up the chimney.”

Whether or not Moroder's energy plan works out depends of course on whether the owners of the buildings in question are willing to make the investments needed for the renovations. Here, too, the municipal council has taken steps. What it boils down to, in a nutshell, is that the legislation will allow building owners in Bolzano to add one extra storey to their properties, providing the energy figures add up. An attractive offer, given how extremely densely populated Bolzano is in a location closely surrounded by mountains. By selling the extra storey, owners will be able to finance the building renovations.

If the plan succeeds, in twenty years' time no building in Bolzano will use more than 50 kilowatt-hours per square metre and year, not even the older buildings, which currently average 200 kilowatt-hours. Every inhabitant will then emit a mere two tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, compared with ten tonnes at present. Extrapolated to a town of 100,000 inhabitants, that is a considerable contribution to “changing the climate”. If the same proportion of CO₂ were to be reduced worldwide, global climate objectives could be achieved and the average global increase in temperature could be limited to two degrees.

But even in the Alpine region, at least beyond Italy's borders, hardly anyone has heard of the Bolzano initiative. And yet it could so well inspire other municipalities, as could the other mitigation projects seeking an answer to climate change in the Alpine region. That is why, in July 2011, CIPRA initiated the Alpstar project with a dozen partner organisations. Over the next two years Alpstar will document best practice projects in an online database, promote exchanges between pilot regions through field trips and further education complete with learning materials, and draw up an action plan with the partners in each pilot region.

The guiding vision will be to make “the Alps carbon-neutral by 2050”, i.e. a balanced CO₂ footprint. On the way to realising that vision the benchmark will be set increasingly higher. Once the experiences gained from examples of best practice among the pilot projects have been documented for individual sectors such



Cycling for the climate:

Bolzano is focussing on sustainable mobility and renovating buildings.

glaciers and animal and plant species that are dying out. That impact is set to increase dramatically.

A transport turnaround

Schaan, Liechtenstein. 4.30 pm. A number 70 bus is pulling up at the stop on Bendererstrasse, right in front of the headquarters of the dental technology company Ivoclar Vivadent. It's the change of shift, and a cluster of employees are waiting to board the commuter bus. Its schedule is geared to the working hours of the businesses on the industrial estate. The Principality's companies attract workers from all over the region, with around half coming from across the borders in Austria or Switzerland. That is why Alpstar has defined the three-border region as a pilot region for its “commuter traffic” agenda.

Viktoria Müller, 20, is an accountant at Ivoclar and has a 20-minute commute every day from Feldkirch across the Austrian-Liechtenstein border to Schaan and

as transport or energy generation, they will be used as a benchmark for the Alpine region as a whole.

The need for action on climate change mitigation is all too apparent. Over the past 100 years temperatures in the Alpine region have risen almost twice as much as the global average, i.e. around two degrees Celsius. In the sensitive alpine eco-system the impact of global warming can now be observed in melting

back. In the past she would have had to change at Postplatz in Schaan and waste a lot of time. “Without the number 70 bus I would take the car,” she says. The Vorarlberg Transport Authority set up its commuter buses to entice motorists like Viktoria Müller. The launch of the buses was preceded by intensive research. Gerhard Kräutler of the Vorarlberg Transport Authority recalls the procedure: “We visited the companies, studied the

times at which the shifts change and how long it takes employees to get changed and make their way to the bus stop.”

So a “wind of change” is now blowing through Vorarlberg. In this federal province, acceptance for initiatives such as these is high. New transport concepts and sustainable forms of economic activity are being trialled everywhere, even by private companies. Early in the morning in front of the 30 m high glass façade of the Haberkorn trading company in Wolfurt a dozen or so employees are pulling up on their company bicycles, provided by the company itself. After arriving by train at the railway station, they cycle to work, cutting the travelling time from a ten-minute walk to a two-minute cycle. The company also provides season tickets. As a result many employees now leave their cars at home.

“By taking the train and using the company bicycle, I have cut the mileage on my car by 10,000 kilometres a year,” says Helmut Wetschko. He is Head of Logistics and lives in the town of Klaus some 22 km away. What’s even more important to him than any ecological number crunching is quality of life: “Taking the train gives me plenty of time to read.” He is currently reading Afghanistan: Where God Only Comes to Weep, which every morning and every evening whisks him away on a half-hour journey to Central Asia.

In a bright seminar room at the Vorarlberg Energy Institute a dozen key players representing local transport authorities, administrations, transport associations and foundations are meeting to address the issue of transport strategies in Vorarlberg, Liechtenstein and the Canton of St. Gallen. They are seeking to draw up a single transport and communication strategy throughout the three-border region from a multitude of individual initiatives such as commuter buses and company bicycles. The workshop has been organised by CIPRA together with the Vorarlberg Energy Institute. CIPRA itself has been commissioned by Liechtenstein and St. Gallen to carry out the mobility campaign in those regions while the Energy Institute is to do the same in Vorarlberg. During the course of the project Alpstar partners from other pilot regions will come to Vorarlberg to take a look on site at the results of the campaign, and vice versa.

Wolfgang Pfefferkorn sums up the group’s objective as follows: “Ultimately we want to bring about a change in people’s mobility patterns.” As Alpstar project manager at CIPRA, he is fully aware that a goal as ambitious as this one requires an unconventional approach. His partner Martin Reis of the Energy Institute concurs: “People have to see that there is a benefit in changing their attitude. In the long term the attitude change defines a social norm, for instance the fact that cycling becomes part of the lifestyle rather than being scorned as a means for poor people to get about.” The participants juggle ideas and experiences: Perhaps commuters would like to have WiFi access? That way they could follow the news or check their emails on their laptop on the way to work. High-quality bicycles and electric cars might appeal to people because of their aesthetic design. The group defines a



At Wolfurt railway station Helmut Wetschko switches to his company bicycle.

geographical triangle for which a mobility strategy is to be drawn up. Buchs in Switzerland, Feldkirch in Austria and Schaan in Liechtenstein make up that triangle’s three corners.

The benchmark

The Alpstar database containing examples of best practice is not limited to the pilot regions alone. For example, listed under the heading of Energy and Citizens’ Participation is the district of Goms in the Canton of Valais, which has successfully positioned itself as the “Swiss Alps’ first energy region” and is also working together with CIPRA as part of an EU leader project. In the 13 municipalities with around 5,000 inhabitants it has established beacon projects such as a fleet of electric cars for tourists, photovoltaic installations on avalanche barriers, wood-chip heating systems and wind power plants. Each project avoids having to buy in energy produced outside the Goms district and promotes the activity of local manufacturers and tradesmen when it comes to installing and servicing the plants. And while household expenditure goes down, the revenues of local companies go up. Alpstar is collecting and evaluating current examples of best practice across the Alps. Its ambition is that, by 2050, what is exemplary today will have become the minimum acceptable standard throughout the Alpine region.

In Bolzano head administrator Helmuth Moroder has seen how an ambitious vision can gain traction and generate its own momentum. “Achieving carbon-neutral status by 2030 was an objective we formulated in our candidature for Alpine Town of the Year 2009,” says Moroder. “When we were actually awarded the title, we had to do something. So we drew up the energy plan,” recalls Helmuth Moroder, who was a Green municipal councillor at the time.

He is now keen to see what sort of dynamics Alpstar will generate. He knows just how tough times are: “For the first time in decades people are now economically worse off than the generations before them.” Good, pragmatic ideas are in demand. But judging by his smile, it would seem he is not overly concerned by the challenges ahead.

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



Top: Thanks to Helmuth Moroder’s energy plan Bolzano hopes to save EUR 160 m. Bottom: The No. 70 operates a timetable based on the shift schedule of commuters in Liechtenstein.

ALPSTAR: CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS A CARBON-NEUTRAL ALPINE REGION

13 partners from the Alpine region, including the Alpine Town of the Year Association and the Vorarlberg-Liechtenstein-St. Gallen pilot region, are working together to find effective ways of reducing CO₂ emissions throughout the Alpine region. Through AlpStar, CIPRA aims to work together with project partners to help implement the climate action plan drawn up by the Alpine Convention, which CIPRA itself initiated. The project is scheduled to run from July 2011 to March 2014 and has been endowed with a budget totalling EUR 2.8 m, with the EU contributing EUR 1.9 m.

www.cipra.org/alpstar | www.alpstar-project.eu

YOUNG, CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS, AND THIRSTING FOR ACTION

ALLIANCE IN THE ALPS

Young people from five Alpine nations campaigned as part of the My Clime-mate Project to make the Alps a carbon-neutral region. At the end of October they took stock – and forged new plans.

Primož Jeras is not sure whether switching off the light when you leave the room really helps. He knows that there is a limit to what one person alone can do. On the other hand, becoming a role model can sometimes get things moving. Which is why the 24-year-old from Kamnik in Slovenia always switches off the light, buys regional produce whenever he can – and talks about these issues with his friends and acquaintances.

It is a mild October morning and sunlight is flooding through the glass frontage into the school gym in the Swiss municipality of Sörenberg in the UNESCO Biosphere of Entlebuch. Seated around tables in a horseshoe layout are 33 young people from Italy, Austria, France and Switzerland. They are discussing the results of the My Clime-mate project. They range in age from 16 for the youngest to 24. They all live in a member community of the Alliance in the Alps, a network of more than three hundred communities and municipalities in seven countries. Together with the resident population the network of municipalities wants to develop the alpine living environment in a sustainable way, the motto being: “Exchange, Address and Implement”. CIPRA has been supporting this network of municipalities along the way for many years, providing impetus, enabling projects and offering administrative support (see box).

Responses to climate change

“Many people simply can’t afford organic produce,” Andrea Cleva, 22, tells the group. The student from Pordenone at the foot of the Dolomites believes the government should reward those who make efforts to protect the climate and fine those who are agents of climate change. “Maybe then people will start leaving their cars in the garage.”



Standing at the opening of the horseshoe are Katrin Löning and Peter Niederer, jotting down on a flipchart the arguments put forward by the participants. The workshop leaders remember the project kick-off meeting in February when group dynamics were sluggish due to the language barriers and initial shyness. Now, six months later, the ideas and thoughts just keep on coming – in English or whatever the mother tongue happens to be. Those who speak more than one language whisper the translation into the ear of those sitting next to them.

“We want to make young people much more aware of the impact of climate change,” says Peter Niederer, who represents Alliance in the Alps. With dynAlp-climate, the network of municipalities has set up an ambitious climate protection programme and instructed CIPRA to manage it. As part of the programme, twenty projects by various municipalities are to be promoted in 2011 and 2012. The most comprehensive one is My Clime-mate. “Our work revolves around the question of what we can contribute specifically to climate change mitigation,” says Katrin Löning of the Austrian Institute of Ecology, one of the partner agencies of My Clime-mate.

The answers can be found on the desks in front of the wall bars in the school gym. Stacked there are packs of noodles next to piles of postcards, brochures, posters and calendars. What’s the connection with climate change? One look at the pasta reveals all: the light-brown spelt macaroni, which one project group developed together with an Entlebuch pasta manufacturer, is an uncompromisingly regional low-CO₂ product, from the ear of the grain to the actual pasta. What’s more, for every pack of Klimarönli sold, 50 centimes will go towards a fund to save the upland moors in the Entlebuch biosphere reserve. The region owes its UNESCO title to these wetland areas; acting as giant carbon dioxide sinks, they enjoy special protection. They are regularly cleared of trees and shrubs. And, again, it was a My Clime-mate team that joined in the work in summer, helping to dig and pull up the vegetation.

The brochures next to the pasta are designed to encourage people to be more responsible in the way they use water. The photos depict information panels which a My Clime-mate team set up along the banks of the river Soča in Slovenia. Colour postcards

A sensory experiment: The young people use herb extracts to formulate their very own bath oil.

are a reminder of just how precious natural resources actually are. They feature small works of art made by young people outdoors, in nature. Leaves, moss and stones create stick figures while a miniature waterwheel turns in a mountain stream. The back of the postcards contains tips on reducing CO₂ emissions: use green electricity and energy saving power strips, put on a pullover and turn down the heating. Anyone sending one of these cards undertakes to reduce their CO₂ emissions in future.

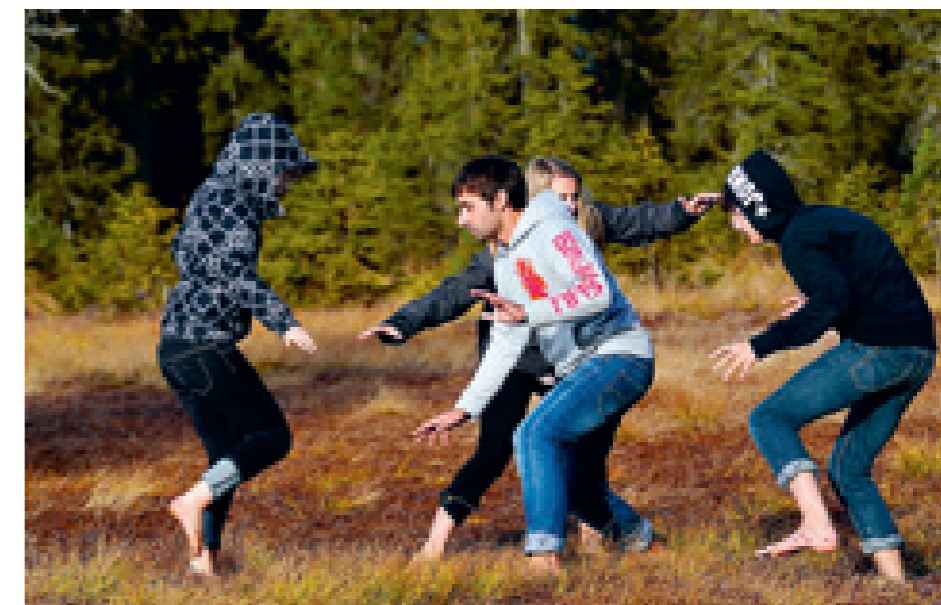
Karst and Chrütli

In the afternoon, after the meeting at the gym, the young people set off in small groups to explore the Biosphere

Reserve. While some climb into the caves of the karst mountains, others wade through the ice-cold waters of a Kneipp pool or visit a regional cottage industry that manufactures salves, soaps and bath oils. Herbalist Silvia Limacher, the woman behind the Chrütlimacher brand of natural cosmetics, lives on a community farm that breeds cattle and pigs. On the lower ground floor of the farm building the smell of stables gives way to the fragrance of hayseed and coltsfoot. The shelves of her small herb kitchen are stacked with canisters and cans full of wax, oils, salt and dried flowers. Meanwhile a thick syrupy mass bubbles away in a pot. “Marigold salve,” explains Silvia Limacher.

Arrayed on a table are beakers, delicate vials, funnels, and jars filled with blossoms. “If you want, you can put together your very own personal bath oil,” says Silvia Limacher encouragingly to her young guests. Timidly they sniff at the blossoms and extracts. So whether it’s karst caves, Kneipp pools or Chrütlimacher, workshop leader Katrin Löning wants the young people to experience the wealth of nature with all their senses.

In fact, they have all travelled to Sörenberg for a concluding workshop. By the time they leave for home again after four days, they are motivated more than ever. While one team wants to create



Heaps of fun on spongy ground:

The youngsters discover the marsh with all their senses.

a website, another wants to shoot short feature films that make people more aware of the issue and can be circulated via the Internet or mobile phone. Some want to put their demands to local politicians, and others still want to go to primary schools and get the children interested in the subject through games and fun. The network of municipalities will continue to assist the young people so they are able to implement their ideas and projects.

The participants intend to present their findings at the Alpine Week in the Swiss valley of Val Poschiavo in September 2012. So one way or another, climate change will continue to keep this young generation busy – long after all the Klimarönli has been eaten up and the natural sculptures have worn away.

Mathias Becker (text) and Eric Vazzoler (photos)
Zeitenspiegel Reportagen

COMMUNITIES: GETTING TOGETHER ON BEHALF OF THE CLIMATE

Alliance in the Alps (AidA) comprises more than 300 municipalities which, together, are striving to make the Alps a living environment with a healthy future. CIPRA participated in the founding of the network of municipalities in 1997, and since 2000 it has been running part of its secretariat.

CIPRA International drew up the dynAlp-climate programme on AidA’s behalf and is in charge of its management. It coordinates the choice and follow-up of the twenty financed projects – including My Clime-mate, which organises events and campaigning activities on climate protection among its member municipalities and beyond. The three-year programme has a budget of EUR 800,000 financed by Mava, the Swiss Foundation for Nature, and co-financing arrangements set up by regional authorities and the European “Youth in Action” project.

www.alpenallianz.org/en

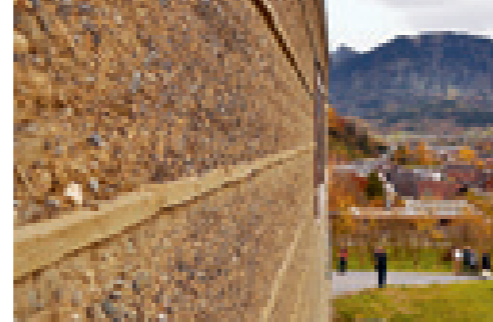


BEACONS FOR THE CLIMATE

Through the climalp project, CIPRA demonstrates that energy-efficient houses built using regionally sourced material are cosy and comfortable, assist with climate change mitigation, and boost the regional economy. To this end it regularly organises field trips, and 2011 was no exception, featuring an excursion to the quadrangle formed by the four countries of Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. In 2011, climalp received subsidies of CHF 75,000 from the Principality of Liechtenstein and CHF 50,000 from the Valüna Foundation.

www.cipra.org/climalp

Rediscovering a local building material: At the Rauch loam house in Schlins, Vorarlberg, the participants on the field trip find out how a house is almost literally stamped out of the ground. The material excavated from the building pit is screened, and the loam obtained as a result is compacted, baked, sprayed and smoothed. The floors, ceilings, walls, rendering and even the tiles and washbasins consist of up to 85% loam. Layers of reeds, loam and cork make for good insulation.

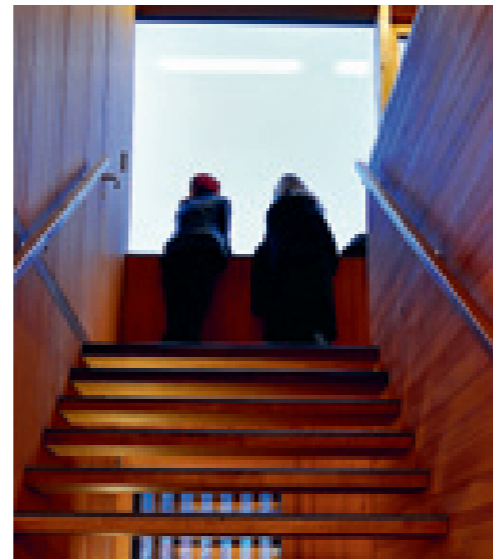


UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH THE BUILDING

CLIMALP



A house open to many: The municipal building in Raggal, Vorarlberg, combines regional timber construction methods and energy efficiency to create sheer beauty. It was built using silver fir and spruce from the municipal forest. A woodchip heating system provides a warm, cosy climate that is also justifiable ecologically. From the upper floor, two climalp field trip participants enjoy views of the valley.



“WE’LL KEEP AT IT”

ALPINE TOWN OF THE YEAR ASSOCIATION

— Virtually everyone was there. Idrija's festival hall was packed to the rafters, and the youth symphony orchestra summoned specially for the occasion was in full flow. There was plenty of drama, and the TV people were there, too. A murmur went through the 1,000-strong audience as they got to their feet and began clapping. Then a large burly man in a dark suit walked onto the stage. Deep creases bracketed his laughing mouth like waterfalls, stretching up to his white temples. Bojan Sever, the mayor of the small Slovenian town in the alpine foothills, held aloft the certificate confirming their status as Alpine Town of the Year 2011. Cameras flashed and the applause redoubled. That was just over a year ago.

In the meantime the town, which with a population of 6,000 inhabitants has precisely 80 unemployed, is one of five pilot regions in the Alpstar EU project, the purpose of which is to make the Alps a carbon-neutral region. Bojan Sever firmly believes that Idrija has sufficient biomass to become self-sufficient with green energy. The necessary infrastructure is already being built.

Achieving carbon-neutral status is one of the main objectives of the Alpine Town of the Year Association. For Idrija, receiving the title sent out a powerful signal – both within the community and beyond. Long-held projects were tackled and new ones planned. “When I first heard of the network, I knew the title would be good for Idrija,” says the 56-year-old. Together with his colleagues, the horse breeder and former technical manager of a domestic world market leader in electronics travelled first to Bolzano, then on to Bad Aussee, both Alpine Towns of the Year. “There we realised that Idrija also needed a strategy for a sustainable future.”

Idrija's geographical and geo-political remoteness has always shaped its inhabitants. For 500 years it owed its livelihood to mining. Until the late 1980s it was home to the world's second largest mercury mine. The mine should soon become a UNESCO World Heritage Site – if the mayor has his way. He is said by some to be stubborn; by others, cunning. Be that as it may, Idrija has seven other EU projects on the go besides Alpstar – and in



Ecologically mobile: Mayor Bojan Sever intends to make Idrija a great place to live.

2011 it received an award for sustainable tourism from Brussels. The fact that he has been unable to win over any other Alpine Towns for one of his EU projects has dampened Bojan Sever's spirits somewhat. “They're all a little timid.” He certainly feels they ought to give it a try. “Previously we used to have an eco-day here; now as Alpine Town of the Year we have a whole ecological week.” Ten years from now his town will be a place where the living is good, attracting international corporations. Bojan Sever is in no doubt that Idrija owes its revival and upturn first and foremost to its inhabitants. “The Alpine Town of the Year has shown that everyone here is keen and capable of doing something for a better life. So we'll keep at it.”

Madeleine Rohrer (text and photo)
CIPRA International

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN ALPINE TOWNS

Since 1997, towns in the Alpine region that pursue economic, environmental and social interests equitably and in an exemplary way within their community, in keeping with the Alpine Convention, have been awarded the title of Alpine Town of the Year by an international jury. The award-winning towns work together as part of an association which, as partners within the ALPSTAR Alpine Space Project among others, aims to make the Alps carbon neutral by 2050. CIPRA has been on the jury since the Association was first founded and has been running its executive office since 2003.

www.alpenstaedte.org/en/

“CIPRA IS BOTH A MAINSTAY AND A CORNERSTONE”

ECOLOGICAL NETWORKS

Chris Walzer, lead partner of Econnect, on ecological networking, psychological barriers and a continuous landscape.



Chris Walzer, professor of wildlife medicine and nature conservation, would like to see a continuous landscape.

“Without CIPRA the project would not have been possible.”

Photos (box): Dietmar Steltmaier, Lea Christianne, Paul Trummer

After three years the Econnect project has now been completed. So are bears, lynx and wolves now able to roam freely?

That was not the aim of the project. Structural barriers don't really exist for large predators such as bears, lynx and wolves. But there are psychological barriers. There are people who are not happy about sharing the landscape with carnivores. One of Econnect's biggest achievements is that we now take quite a different view of the notion of barriers. In the past we sought to take a relatively narrow spatial approach to the issue. We now realise that “passability” throughout the entire landscape must take place regardless of individual factors. This transition from a traditional corridor concept to a continuous matrix within the landscape is a long and arduous process. It was only towards the end of the project that it began to take shape.

Is it fair to say that this change in attitude is also one of the project's successes?

As far as I'm concerned it's one of its greatest successes. But not all the partners share that view. Dealing with a corridor is so much simpler: you have an island here, a corridor there... green motorways – and animals wandering up and down. But what about in between? Anything that's roaming around there has no protection. The problem is demarcated, and the efforts to address it are just as confined, spatially restricted, restricted from the point of view of the entire thought construct. The moment I say the entire landscape has to be passable it all becomes more complex. And the potential for conflict rises.

In the final report, it says: “The biggest obstacles are cultural in nature.” What do you mean by that?

I'm talking about socio-political issues. Ultimately it's an ethical problem. We're just treating symptoms at the end of a long chain – a fragmented landscape, infrastructure, and more and more traffic. But hardly anyone is actually asking whether we need more traffic and more infrastructure. In fact we should be questioning the issue of growth itself. The pace of development is so fast that we're unable to keep up. The problem is shifting the whole time. The minute I'm able to offer a solution, the problem has changed yet again.

CIPRA does not manage nature reserves and does not draw up scientific studies. So in your view how did CIPRA contribute?

CIPRA was one of the founders of the project. It is both a mainstay and a cornerstone, a centre of competence. It has a great deal of knowledge about the players who operate in the Alpine region; it can provide lots of resources and fundamentals. It has many years of expertise on ecological networking in the Alps. Without CIPRA the project would not have been possible. CIPRA is also a melting pot. When it comes to ethical problems as I mentioned earlier, CIPRA takes that information on board, too, and follows on

from it. CIPRA has already done quite a few things on the limits of growth. One of CIPRA's roles in the future might be to incorporate socio-political issues to an even greater degree.

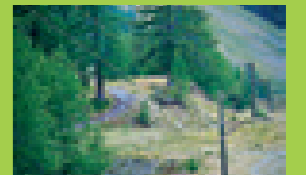
The Jecami platform is a cartographic tool for visualising ecological barriers and corridors.

The Jecami tool, a computer application developed essentially by the Swiss National Park and based on the geographical information system GIS, has helped solve a number of problems. First of all, when it comes to visualising aspects of the landscape such as passability, you're tied to whatever spatial resolution is in



Chainsaws for capercaillies

If it is to attract a potential mating partner, the capercaillie needs space for its courtship rituals. In the Hohe Tauern pilot region with its dense forest cover, that sort of space is now in short supply. Which is why Econnect called in the lumberjacks on the Gassneralm. Here foresters and farmers, nature conservationists and the hunting community worked so well together that the pilot project has now become a role model for the Capercaillie Action Plan launched by the Austrian federal province of Carinthia.



Sending out a signal with plastic balls

Ski resorts with their multitude of cable cars and other infrastructure represent a constant hazard for many species, particularly birds. But now, thanks to the Econnect pilot project, more than 2,000 red balls have been put in place in the resorts of Limone Piemonte (I) and Isola 2000 (F) in the south-western Alps to ensure that ski-lift routes are clearly visible to animals as obstacles. All Econnect had to do was purchase the balls; the work itself was carried out by the ski resort operators.



Lights out for wild boar

In the French valley of Grésivaudan human activity is turning night into day. Nocturnal animals such as wild boar tend to avoid crossing fields and roads if they are lit up, which seriously curtails their movement. To make the population aware of the problem and prompt municipalities to take action, the département of Isère organised a campaign day on 1 October 2011 as a contribution to Econnect. Since then more than 20 communities have reduced their lighting.

place. Jecami is able to process all sorts of data irrespective of scale, a bit like Google Earth. And it calculates the landscape's suitability for networking based on indicators such as population density, infrastructure, fragmentation index, light pollution, etc. It is a good communication tool, for example for municipalities who are in discussions with the parties concerned such as land owners or farmers.

Communication also means simplification. And yet the science is complex. How did Econnect navigate these tricky waters?

Sometimes the gap between the science and the users in the pilot regions is simply too wide. All the theoretical foundations are in place. But they are "hidden away" in scientific publications and not accessible to users. What we need is some sort of translation service to make the scientific data accessible to the users and the pilot regions. I have no doubt that in future one of CIPRA's key tasks will be to make the findings from scientific literature



Chris Walzer, lead partner of the Econnect project, is professor of wildlife medicine and nature conservation at the Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology at Vienna University/A. As expert representative and scientific consultant to various institutions the 49-year-old is also a strong advocate on matters of species protection in Central Asia. www.vu-wien.ac.at

“Hardly anyone is asking whether we actually need even more infrastructure.”

Ecological networking is a long-term project covering several generations. But the project itself is now completed. How will you ensure that the fruits of your labour won't simply be left to rot?

First of all, we're working on follow-up projects and looking to find a place for networking. One of Econnect's strengths is the consortium. If I have spent three years working with someone, then the direct contact has been established and it can be used. The pilot regions themselves have also been greatly strengthened and they will carry the notion of networking forward into the future.

Barbara Wülser (interview) and Caroline Begle (photos)
CIPRA International

FOR MORE NATURE OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

CIPRA is strengthening its roots as a nature conservation organisation through its habitat networking activities in the Alps. In 2011 the emphasis was on completing the Econnect project. Over a period of more than three years the 16 project partners have initiated a rethink and achieved their first implementation successes. The Econnect budget of EUR 3.2 m was co-financed by the EU. CIPRA also received financial support totalling EUR 57,900 from Liechtenstein for its activities over the three years.

In 2011 CIPRA also took part in the Ecological Continuum Initiative alongside the Alpine Network of Protected Areas (Alparc) and the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR). It also participated in the Alpine Convention's "Ecological Network" and "Wild Animals and Society" platforms.

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

Alps Insight Feature Magazines

alpMedia, Newsletter

Reports of the Annual Conferences

Events

Reports on the State of the Alps

Fact Sheets

www.cipra.org

Facebook

Compacts, Background Reports

REACHING OUT TO PEOPLE WHEREVER THEY ARE

CIPRA'S COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

What constitutes a genuine inhabitant of the Alps? The alpine dairywoman from Frankfurt who milks her goats first thing in the morning and processes the raw milk into cream cheese? The skiing instructor in Lech who smiles encouragingly at the tourists who have missed the tow-lift bar for the third time in a row? The farmer-cum-energy-producer in L'Argentière-la-Bessée who looks after his suckler cows and checks the temperature of his biogas installation before setting off for the woods to supplement his income as a forestry worker? Or the young man in Trento who has just won a newcomers award for young researchers?

As different as all these people are, they are all part and parcel of the Alps. Together they constitute Alpine identity. Through its communication work CIPRA contributes towards strengthening that identity by networking people in different regions across language and national barriers, highlighting the fact that many of them face quite similar challenges – and how they can learn from one another. It wants to strengthen the awareness and the knowledge of how important sustainable development and the sparing use of resources actually are, and how everyone can assume their share of responsibility.

In its publications CIPRA conveys a realistic picture of the Alps and its inhabitants. People who keep the Alps alive are able to tell their stories in their own words, talk of their experiences and their wishes, without glossing over critical aspects. CIPRA sorts and categorises what it hears and processes the information for a wider audience, but without distorting it. Through its publications and events it aims to reach out to the people in the Alps, speaking their language whenever possible.

And with its range of topics CIPRA is a mouthpiece for the Alps as a whole. It does not represent the specific interests of individuals; its communication work seeks to integrate, rather than exclude and ostracise. It makes knowledge practical by translating jargon into language everyone understands. And rather than just highlighting shortcomings, it also puts forward suggestions for solutions – and has done so for 60 years.

JOINT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The forests of the Alps will only be able to cope with climate change if the findings from all the various specialist fields are pooled together. And that requires new forms of cooperation and communication. CIPRA made its contribution as part of the cc.alps climate project with an international conference entitled Forestry and Climate Change – Thinking One Step Ahead! In Interlaken/CH in early July more than 60 experts from various Alpine countries and institutions exchanged their practical experience and the latest findings from a range of research projects. The event was based on the CIPRA compact entitled Forestry and Climate Change.

The cc.alps project was launched in February 2008. With the event in Interlaken and the publication of a total of 11 theme-based compacts CIPRA concluded the cc.alps project, which aimed to harmonise climate response measures with sustainable development. The total budget amounted to around CHF 3 m.

www.cipra.org/cc.alps
www.cipra.org/cc.alps-compacts

FOCUSING ON ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

This year's CIPRA Symposium in Bovec/SI showcased concepts and regions that want to gain autonomy from energy imports. The vision of energy self-sufficiency is not restricted merely to energy generation and efficiency; it also requires a rethink in spatial planning and transport. With seven demands adopted at the conference in September 2011 CIPRA underscored its determination before the media and politicians to ensure that the energy turnaround takes place in an ecologically compatible way.

www.cipra.org/events

Schaan

CIPRA Liechtenstein

www.cipra.li

- Botanisch-Zoologische Gesellschaft Liechtenstein-Sargans-Werdenberg
- Fischereiverein Liechtenstein
- Liechtensteiner Alpenverein
- Liechtensteiner Forstverein
- Liechtensteiner Imkerverein
- Liechtensteiner Jägerschaft
- Liechtensteinische Gesellschaft für Umweltschutz
- Liechtensteinischer Ornithologischer Landesverband
- Solargenossenschaft Liechtenstein
- Verkehrs-Club Liechtenstein

THE NATIONAL CIPRA REPRESENTATIONS

Interlaken

CIPRA Schweiz

www.cipra.ch

- Alpen-Initiative
- Grimselverein
- Naturfreunde Schweiz (NFS)
- Mountain Wilderness Schweiz
- Pro Natura
- Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Natur und Heimat (Rheinaubund)
- Schweizerische Greina-Stiftung
- Schweizerischer Alpenclub SAC
- Schweizer Vogelschutz (SVS)
- Stiftung Landschaftsschutz Schweiz SL
- Verkehrsclub der Schweiz (VCS)
- WWF Schweiz
- Fondazione Uomonatura

Grenoble

CIPRA France

www.cipra.org/france

- Fédération Française des Clubs Alpins et de Montagne (FFCAM)
- Fédération Française de Montagne et d'Escalade (FFME)
- Centre de la Nature Montagnarde
- Association des Amis du Parc Naturel de Chartreuse
- Association Dauphinoise d'Aménagement de la Montagne
- Association Internationale Mountain Wilderness
- Association Nationale pour la Protection des Eaux et Rivières
- Fédération Française de Randonnée Pédestre (FFRP)
- Fédération Française Union Touristique des Amis de la Nature
- Fédération Rhône-Alpes de Protection de la Nature (FRAPNA)
- Parc National des Ecrins
- Parc National du Mercantour
- Parc National de la Vanoise
- Parc Naturel Régional de 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 Foyers de ski de fond et de montagne (ANCEF)

Torino

CIPRA Italia

www.cipra.org/italia

- Associazione Dislivelli
- Associazione Ambiente e Lavoro
- Club Alpino Italiano
- Dachverband für Natur- und Umweltschutz in Südtirol
- Canoa Club Trento
- Ecoistituto del Friuli Venezia Giulia,
- Federazione Italiana Pro Natura
- Gruppo Amici della Natura
- Gruppo Ricerche Cultura Montana,

Eching am Ammersee

CIPRA Deutschland

www.cipra.de

- Bergwacht im Bayerischen Roten Kreuz
- Bund Naturschutz in Bayern e. V.
- Deutscher Alpenverein e. V.
- Landesbund für Vogelschutz in Bayern e. V.
- Mountain Wilderness Deutschland
- Naturfreunde Deutschlands
- Verband Deutscher Berg- und Skiführer
- Verein zum Schutz der Bergwelt e. V.

Wien/Innsbruck

CIPRA Österreich

www.cipra.at

- Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Berg- und Naturwachen Österreichs
- Naturfreunde Österreich
- Österreichischer Alpenverein
- Österreichischer Forstverein
- Österreichischer Naturschutzbund
- Österreichischer Touristenklub
- Zentralstelle der Österreichischen Landesjagdverbände
- Verband Österreichischer Höhlenforscher
- Kuratorium Wald

The nine Länder of Austria: Vorarlberg, Tirol, Salzburg, Kärnten, Oberösterreich, Steiermark, Niederösterreich, Wien, Burgenland

Ljubljana

CIPRA Slovenija

www.cipra.org/slovenija

- 109 members

AND THEIR MEMBERS

Bozen/Bolzano

CIPRA Südtirol

www.cipra.org/de/CIPRA/cipra-suedtirol

- Alpenverein Südtirol
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Natur- und Umweltschutz Pustertal
- Arbeitskreis Südtiroler Mittelschullehrer
- Arche B - Verein für umwelt- und menschengerechtes Bauen und Leben
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vogelkunde und Vogelschutz in Südtirol
- Bund Alternativer Anbauer
- Heimatpflegeverband
- Lia per Natura y Usanzas
- Südtiroler Gesellschaft für Gesundheitsförderung
- Südtiroler Tierschutzring
- Südtiroler Schützenbund
- Touristenverein „Die Naturfreunde“ Meran

- 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 Wipptal

Photos: Martin Wälsler

- Instituto Nazionale di Urbanistica (INU)
- Italianostra
- 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
- IPLA (Istituto Piante da Legno e Ambiente)

Sustaining member

- Nederlandse Milieugroup Alpen, Niederlande

TEAM CIPRA INTERNATIONAL



Back row (l. to r.): **Claudia Pfister** (CH) Project manager "Alliance in the Alps", **Verena Cortés** (CH/A) Communication team member, **Mateja Pirc** (SI) Project team member Ecological Continuum, **Wolfgang Pfefferkorn** (A) Project manager cc.alps, Alpstar, **Madeleine Rohrer** (I) Project manager "Alliance in the Alps", alpMedia, **Anita Wyss** (CH) Project manager climalp, alpMedia, Project team member cc.alps, **Petra Beyrer** (A) Administration, **Aurelia Ullrich** (D) Project manager Ecological Continuum

Front row (l. to r.): **Barbara Wülser** (CH) Communication manager, **Caroline Begle** (A) Webmaster, **Claire Simon** (F/D) Deputy Director, **Andreas Götz** (CH/I) Executive Director, **Kirsten Dittrich** (D) Layout and project team member

Not shown in photos:

Marie Billet (F) French-language editorial assistant, **Rainer Nigg** (FL) Fundraising, **Tanja Mähr** (A) Data input clerk
Interns: **Sarah Becker** (D), **Carole Piton** (F), **Alexandre Druhen** (F)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF CIPRA INTERNATIONAL



Dominik Siegrist
President (CH)



Helmut Moroder
Deputy President (I)



Katharina Lins
Deputy President (A)



Marjeta Keršič-Svetel
Deputy President (SI)



Josef Biedermann
Treasurer (FL)

Photos Team: Darko Todorovic, Photos Executive Committee: Martin Waiser

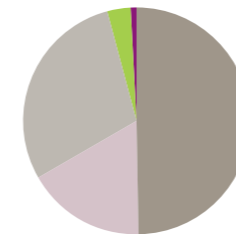
FINANCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In 2011 CIPRA International posted income of CHF 1.951 m and expenditure of CHF 1.929 m to return a profit of around CHF 22,100. While the profit may appear very modest in the light of total income and expenditure, it cannot in any way be taken for granted. In the course of 2011 CIPRA's partner foundation of many years had withdrawn from the working relationship in a move whose short-term nature took us by surprise. As a result CIPRA was forced to make a number of redundancies and implement cost-cutting measures. But thanks to these measures and the support of other foundations we have been able to avoid posting a loss.

This year again the bulk of the income stemmed from project revenues, followed by state contributions, particularly from Liechtenstein, which as CIPRA's place of domicile is very generous with its support and ensures that we are able to organise our activities under very good conditions. Other states endowed the national CIPRA representatives with in part very significant funding and project subsidies. Other items include remuneration for services rendered to third parties, particularly the Alliance in the Alps network of municipalities and the Alpine Town of the Year Association. Equally important were the contribution payments made by our member organisations as they testify to our role as an Alpine-wide network.

Where the money comes from

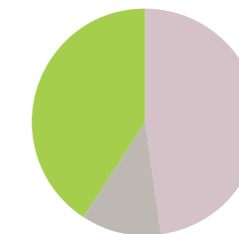
Half of CIPRA International's income stemmed from project revenues.



- Project revenues CHF 972,397
- Services rendered for third parties CHF 328,378
- State contributions CHF 570,402
- Membership fees CHF 67,500
- Other revenues CHF 12,180

What the money is spent on

Half the monies of CIPRA International was expended on the areas of PR, policy and administration, and half on projects (material costs, fees, and wages and salaries).



- PR, policy, administration CHF 925,279
- Projects/services: material costs, fees CHF 218,253
- Projects/services: wages and salaries CHF 785,218

Half the expenditure went on PR and political work, which notably included the publication of the topical magazine AlpsInsight and the alpMedia newsletter as well as political activities at the Alpine Convention and at the European level. The other half went towards project work and services for other networks.

As at the end of 2011 CIPRA International's assets amounted to around CHF 400,000. CIPRA International's annual financial statements and accounting were verified by the independent auditors Revitrust AG in Schaan/FL.

The complete annual financial statements and balance sheet can be found at www.cipra.org.

CIPRA would like to thank its financial backers:

Principality of Liechtenstein
www.llv.li (de)

MAVA Foundation for Nature, Gland/CH
www.mava-foundation.org (fr/en)

Gerda Techow Foundation, Vaduz/FL

Valüna Foundation, Vaduz/FL

Foundation Assistance, Lugano/CH

Foundation Fürstlicher Kommerzienrat Guido Feger, Vaduz/FL

Binding Foundation Schaan/FL
www.binding.li (de)

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), CH
www.bafu.admin.ch (de/fr/it/en)

Pancivis Foundation, Vaduz/CH

Aage V. Jensen - Charity Foundation, Vaduz/CH
www.avjcf.org (en)

European Union, Youth in Action
www.aha.li

CIPRA would like to thank its clients:

"Alliance in the Alps" network of municipalities
www.alpenallianz.org (de/en/fr/it/sl)

"Alpine Town of the Year" Association
www.alpenstaedte.org (de/en/fr/it/sl)

Principality of Liechtenstein
www.llv.li (de)

Office for Spatial Development and Geographical Information, Canton of St. Gallen/CH

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

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CIPRA
LIVING IN
THE ALPS

