

Editorial

Newsletter aim: presentation of the AlpCity Trans-national Conference held in Milan on 27th-28th June 2005 at "Palazzo delle Stelline" and description of the AlpCity project activities.

Contents:

- Conference agenda and its participants' presentation;
- Case studies synthesis in order to explain their development and current situation into the framework provided by the proposition papers written by the experts of the Scientific Steering Committee;
- The "cadrage problematique", finalized by Mrs Fourny

Kober (SSC Coordinator), is illustrated;

- The Conference follow-up and results are outlined;
- Presentation of Best Practices identification modalities and utility in relation to the sustainable development of small alpine towns;
- Mrs Cavallo Perin's (the officer in charge of the AlpCity Project) speech and proposals about the policy guidelines;
- Internal and external events involving AlpCity and on the Best Practices worldwide call for submission are pictured.



Starting from the left: Mrs Dagnino (Lombardy Region), Ms Sena (Piedmont Region), Mrs Cavallo Perin (Piedmont Region), Mr Trauner (Provincial Government of Lower Austria), Mr Scheurer (ISCAR)

AlpCity Scientific Conference • 27th-28th June, Milan

The AlpCity Trans-national Scientific Meeting was organized by the project partners Lombardy Region, Venetia Region and Friuli Venetia Julia Region with the

overall support of Piedmont Region.
www.alpcity.it/past_events.htm

Morning Session 27 th June	<p>Moderator: Mr Scheurer, Executive Secretary of the International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps (ISCAR). Coordinators of each WP introduced the case studies they are engaged in:</p> <p>WP5 "Economic Development" - Mrs Dagnino - Lombardy Region.</p> <p>WP6 "Services and Quality of Life" - Mr Trauner, Ms Zold and Mr Kuhness - Provincial Government of Lower Austria.</p> <p>"Cadrage Problematique" - Mrs Fourny Kober, SSC Coordinator.</p> <p>WP7 "Urban Environment" - Mr Suber - Friuli Venetia Julia Region.</p> <p>WP8 "Co-operation among Towns" - Mrs Gras Plouvier - Rhône-Alpes Region.</p> <p>Best Practices - Arch. Kitio, representative of the UN-Habitat Agency.</p> <p>WP9 "Best Practices and Future Scenarios" - Ms Guarini and Ms Rosa - "Observatory on Sustainable Cities", Polytechnic of Turin.</p>
Afternoon Session 27 th June	<p>Moderator: four different coordinators with the collaboration of the members of the Scientific Steering Committee acting as facilitators.</p> <p>WP5 "Economic Development" - coordinator Mrs Dagnino, Lombardy Region. SSC - Mr Gaido and Mr Corvo.</p> <p>WP6 "Services and Quality of Life" - coordinator Mr Trauner, Provincial Government of Lower Austria. SSC - Mrs Alfaraé and Mr Tyrkas.</p> <p>WP7 "Urban Environment" - coordinator Mr Suber, Friuli Venetia Julia Region. SSC - Mrs De Sede and Mr Torricelli.</p> <p>WP8 "Co-operation among Towns" - coordinator Mrs Gras Plouvier, Rhône Alpes Region. SSC - Mrs Fourny Kober and Mr Perlik.</p> <p>After these presentations an open discussion on the issues underlined by the SSC members took place.</p>
Closing Session 28 th June	<p>Moderator: Mrs Fourny Kober, SSC Coordinator.</p> <p>The experts and the coordinators summarized the case studies content mainly underlining different themes, such as participatory process, involvement issues and the transformation of a small city into a "museum", cooperation and exchanging information.</p> <p>Mrs Cavallo Perin closed the session by suggesting some key topics for the finalization of strategic guidelines for policy-makers.</p>

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Participants and special guests

Participants: Project Partners, institutions engaged in the case studies implementation: Universities, NGOs, Research Institutions and some case studies local counterparts (mountain communities), CIPRA, the

Alpine Convention, ISCAR.

Special guest: the representative of the UN Habitat “Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme”, Arch. Kitio.



Starting from the left:
Ms Sena (Piedmont Region)
and Mr Kitio (Un Habitat)

Case Studies Exhibit • Transnational Conference • 27th-28th June, Milan

Work packages	Case studies	Proposition papers issues and red lines
<p>WP 5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Proposition Paper Authors: Mrs Dagnino, WP Coordinator (AlpCity Partner - Lombardy Region) Mr Corvo, SSC Expert Mr Gaido, SSC Expert</p>	<p>Lombardy Region ⇒ WP Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Experimentation of innovative actions for preserving the commercial services” • “Experimentation of innovative actions for trade and handcraft integration” <p>Piedmont Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Local Development and the Olympic Winter Games’ legacy” <p>Municipality of Grainau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Creation/implementation of trade sites and development of tourism industry” <p>Municipality of St. Maurice and Haute École Valaisanne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Future & Tourism in Saint-Maurice” <p>Municipality of Tschlin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Strategies for an integrated tourism” 	<p>The <i>red line</i> of these case studies involves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Participatory planning (a methodology which approaches problems in an integrated, overall manner); 2) Study of “development levers” (it concerns the identification of the levers for sustainable development in small communities); 3) Study of the characteristics of the financial and planning tools available to Administrations in carrying out experimentation following the AlpCity initiatives.
<p>WP 6 SERVICES AND QUALITY OF LIFE</p> <p>Proposition Paper Authors: Mr Trauner, WP Coordinator (AlpCity Partner – Provincial Government of Lower Austria) Mr Tyrkas, SSC Expert Ms Alfaré, SSC Expert</p>	<p>Provincial Government of Lower Austria ⇒ WP Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Network of multimedia public libraries” • “Network of youth in small-medium alpine towns” <p>Piedmont Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The mountain international school of the Maritime Alps” <p>Municipality of Grainau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Improvement and promotion of services with a special focus on youth’s needs and interests” 	<p>The theme suggested for discussion deals with the transferability of experiences and the exchange of lessons learned. This is the most efficient and effective way for small alpine towns to obtain information about how to face a special “small-alpine-town-problem”.</p>
<p>WP 7 URBAN ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Proposition Paper Authors: Mr Suber, WP Coordinator (AlpCity Partner - Friuli Venetia Julia Region) Mr Torricelli, SSC Expert Mrs De Sède, SSC Expert</p>	<p>Friuli Venetia Julia Region ⇒ WP Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Recovery of abandoned areas” • “Environmental Certification” <p>Piedmont Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The renewal of abandoned hamlets in mountain areas” • “To live in mountain areas” <p>Franche-Comté Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Enhancing the image of the longitudinal axis in the Jura mountains” • “Enhancing the image of and promoting cultural historical sites for the reinforcement of the regional attractiveness” <p>Municipality of Grainau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Improving local aspect such as better traffic routes in downtown areas” <p>Venetia Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Renovation and optimal use of abandoned rural buildings once used for production purposes” 	<p>The red line among the case studies involved in this WP consists in the way these eight projects are trying to find:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the local identity of mountain small towns and villages; • Maintaining their cultural, historical, natural and environmental heritage, which is perceived as the main development opportunity and resource to be exploited. <p>The best way to achieve these goals is to promote networking and participatory processes by involving people and local actors in order to build consensus and interest.</p>
<p>WP 8 COOPERATION AMONG TOWNS</p> <p>Proposition Paper Authors: Mrs Gras Plouvier, WP Coordinator (AlpCity Partner - Rhône Alpes Region) Mrs Fourny Kober, SSC Coordinator Mr Perlik, SSC Expert</p>	<p>Rhône - Alpes Region ⇒ WP Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Experiences of little towns in different mountain areas in Rhône-Alpes Region (Alpes, Jura, Massif Central)” • “Technical assistance to little mountain towns” 	<p>Issues for discussion suggested by this proposition paper deal with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) problem of competences (compensate the lack of ‘cognitive resources’); 2) strategic method (how to exploit networks); 3) territory and the mountains (how networks can create bonds); 4) links between networks (how to transfer know-how).

The proposition papers are available on: www.alpcity.it/past_events.htm

The SSC Paper “Framework of critical issues”: an excerpt

The “framework of critical issues” (the so-called *Cadragre Problematique*), presented by Mrs Fourny Kober, the SSC Coordinator, deals with the weaknesses and resources of small alpine/mountain towns. This document was presented at the Conference to build up a framework for comparison among all case studies and to provide the participants with an instrument of analysis.

Key words suggested by the document are: “**territorialization**” (small alpine towns should reinvent their place in the mountain environment), “**sociability**” (small towns must improve the image they give of themselves and their inhabitants to attract people) and “**links**” (be they cultural, economical or spatial).

Follow up

Main Themes - Identity, heritage, sustainable development, sustainability and territory retrain, methodological problems.

As the AlpCity project manager, Ms Sena, said, the main AlpCity purpose is creating an opportunity of comparison and an exchange of experiences and knowledge in

order to provide sustainable development with a practical contribution and the implementation of the AlpCity project with a medium-long perspective. Identifying and transferring of lessons learned from the project are important goals AlpCity wants to reach in order to assure the project of a continuation as well as of the finalization of strategic guidelines for policy makers.

Focus on AlpCity Project

Lead Partner
Piedmont Region

Partners
Lombardy Region,
Venetia Region, Friuli
Venetia Julia Region,
Franche-Comté Region,
Rhône-Alpes Region,
Municipality of Grainau,
Haute École Valaisanne,
Provincial Government
of Lower Austria,
Municipality of St. Maurice,
Municipality of Tschlin.

Project Duration
July 2004 - October 2006



AlpCity Best Practices and future scenarios

UN-Habitat “Best Practices and local leadership programme” participation in the AlpCity Scientific Conference

Arch. Kitio, representative of UN-Habitat, explained the way Best Practices are identified and documented. He provided the participants with some useful information about the UN-Habitat Database structure and the procedure BPs are collected according to.

UN-Habitat defines a Best Practice as an initiative, which has had a **tangible effect** in improving the quality of life for the population and the environment. The **main features** of a Best Practice are:

- Having a demonstrable and **tangible impact** on improving people’s quality of life;
 - Being result of effective **partnerships** between the public, private and civil society sectors;
 - Being socially, economically and environmentally **sustainable**.
- Best practices are useful to promote problems awareness, support policy development, facilitate sharing and exchange of expertise and experience, and as a tool for learning and empowerment.



Posters exhibit at the Milan Scientific Conference

Contacts

Mrs Marie Christine Fourny Kober
SSC Coordinator
Institute of Alpine Geography
University Joseph- Fourier
(Grenoble I)
Laboratory TE0 UMR 5038
14 bis av Marie Reynoard,
38100 Grenoble
Tel. +33 0476822000
Fax +33 0476822001
Fourny-kober.marie-christine@uif-grenoble.fr

Prof. Carlo Socco
Head of the Observatory
on Sustainable Cities
DITER - Polytechnic
and University of Turin
v. Morgari 36b
10125 Torino (Italy)
Tel. +39 011 564 7489
ocs@polito.it
www.ocs.polito.it/alpcityruo/bestpractice/

Mr Vincent Kitio
Best Practices Officer
“Best Practices and Local
Leadership Programme”
UN - HABITAT
Nairobi, Kenya (Africa)
Tel. +254 20 624 343
Fax + 254 20 623 080
Vincent.Kitio@unhabitat.org
www.unhabitat.org/programmes/
bestpractices/
www.bestpractices.org

“Observatory on sustainable cities” participation in the Conference

The “Observatory on Sustainable Cities” is composed by a group of experts under the overall direction of Prof. Carlo Socco, who work on research and on training activities dealing with the sustainable urban development.

The OCS group’s role in AlpCity concerns the WP9 “Best Practices and Future Scenarios”.

The OCS experts contribute to the setting up and

updating of a Best Practices dedicated section in the AlpCity website and of a Database containing Best Practices and lessons learned to be spread out through the network of subjects engaged in the project.

(www.ocs.polito.it/alpcityruo/best.db.htm).

OCS support also implies the first screening of the BPs submitted and the finalization of some BPs guidelines.

Internal call for “Best Practices”

Within the AlpCity Project all partners are kindly invited to find out Best Practices and lessons learned through the internal advice of their consultants and to submit them to the AlpCity LP.

All information is available on:

www.ocs.polito.it/alpcityruo/en/dwd/application/scheda.doc

The main purpose of the AlpCity Project is ensuring usefulness to its activities and the database is a basic and strategic instrument to accomplish this task.



From Best Practices to Policy Guidelines

Speech and proposals of the person in charge of the AlpCity Project

Mrs Cavallo Perin, person in charge of the AlpCity Project, proposed the task of establishing some common guidelines and AlpCity policies. She advised to present these guidelines to the national governments and to the European Union as final proposal for the improvement of life conditions of people living in mountain areas.

Purposes and proposals:

- To foster and increase relationships and exchange between small alpine towns and the larger, well-established cities in the area to create a polycentric network to support the cultural, social and environ-

mental development of these small towns.

- To develop urban functions and urban services in mountain communities in order to guarantee a higher degree of development in these areas.
- To provide local authorities with various forms of technical assistance in designing, carrying out and maintaining public works and services and, consequently, to improve local authorities' skills and expertises.
- To create a common alpine market for public works and services. A national market could be opened to attract the most qualified enterprises from the whole Alpine space area to carry out works and services.

AlpCity internal – external events

Project Partners and Scientific Steering Committee meeting, 12th–13th December 2005, Besançon (F)

The meeting, kindly hosted by the Project Partner Franche-Comté Region, allowed an exchange of experiences among all Partners and an evaluation of the case studies status with a specific reference to the Good/ Best Practices research.

An important role was played by the Lead Partner (Piedmont Region) which illustrated the project updates in relation to AlpCity changes and priorities.

www.alpcity.it/past_events.htm

AlpCity Participation in the CIPRA (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps) Conference, 22th–24th September 2005, Brig (CH)

Main Themes of the Conference: alpine cities and space. The meeting conclusion proved that an effective cooperation among alpine cities and the greater consideration

towards rural areas provides advantages and allows a better positioning against extra-alpine big agglomerations.

www.cipra.org/futuro/

AlpCity Participation in the Interreg IIIB Workshop, 4th November 2005, Bern (CH)

The Interreg IIIB Workshop, organized by the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE) of Switzerland, faced the evaluation of projects within the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space Programme and the provision of the

guidelines about the future of transnational cooperation. Prof. C. Clivaz from the Haute École Valaisanne, one of the Helvetic partner, presented the AlpCity Project.

www.alpcity.it/past_events.htm nella sezione 'other'

Highlights AlpCity participation in the CIPRA competition "Future in the Alps"

A competition among the projects fulfilling sustainable development in the Alpine region within the "Future in the Alps" project, was launched by CIPRA, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps.

Although AlpCity did not reach the final stage of the competition, it considers very important to spread information related to the CIPRA initiative and the project "Future in the Alps".

www.cipra.org/futuro

Best Practices world wide call for submission The importance of a Best Practices submission is strictly linked to the will of spreading them through the network and making them available to other actors, who are implementing similar projects and need suggestions and help.

Those interested in inserting information related to potential Best Practices into the AlpCity Database should fill in the Abstract Submission Form and send it to the technical head office of Piedmont Region, which is responsible for carrying out a preliminary evaluation.

All information about the submission procedure is available on the web site of the AlpCityRuo:

www.ocs.polito.it/alpcityruo/en/best_application.htm

Contacts

AlpCity Office, Piedmont Region

Regional Budget Planning and Statistics

Via Lagrange, 24
10123 TORINO (Italy)

alpcity@regione.piemonte.it

Maria Cavallo Perin

Person in charge of the AlpCity Project
mariaperin.cavallo@regione.piemonte.it

Daniela Sena

AlpCity Project Manager
pm.alpcity@regione.piemonte.it

Anna Maria Caputano

and Antonella Convertino
AlpCity Project Assistants
pa.alpcity@regione.piemonte.it

Valentina Scioneri

AlpCity Project Intern
Newsletter author
alpcity@regione.piemonte.it



Besançon closing session

We are grateful for your response and we encourage you to keep sending us your feedbacks. If there is any additional information for the newsletter or the AlpCity website or simply if you have any news or would like to be linked to our web site, please contact us: alpcity@regione.piemonte.it