



The International Seminar “**AlpCity towards innovation through strategic transfer and networks**”, which will be held in Turin on the 3rd of April 2007, is organized in the framework of the AlpCity Project – Interreg III B Alpine Space.

The initiative is promoted by Piedmont Region as Lead Partner of the AlpCity Project (co-financed with European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and national funds) with the support of the United Nations Habitat. It represents the kick-off event of the new project proposal in view of the new programming period (2007-2013).

The Seminar organization follows up the whole set of activities carried out within the AlpCity Project with the aim at going on along a path of endogenous sustainable development, through the promotion of synergies in international and interregional policies and clusters, which favour the dissemination of innovative solutions to shared problems.

The International Seminar will take place some months before the launch of the new Interreg Alpine Space programme (2007-2013), scheduled in June 2007 in St. Johann im Pongau (Austria). It will be useful to outline the AlpCity Partnerships’ position and composition, together with a range of operating proposals to be expressed as contributions to the preparatory work for the new call.

The event is conceived in the frame of innovation transfer promotion with the purpose of pursuing the optimal mix of policies and the most effective actions in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas. It is organized according to two different levels, an institutional one and a strategic one, which can be summarized as follows:

- a) Re-launching the debate on the sustainable development on the basis of a new political, strategic and operational alliance, set up on the sharing of visions and policies and on a new project of collaboration at international level;
- b) Promoting a model of territorial sustainable integrated development and partnership, which enhances spill-over effects produced by innovative and successful experiences and knowledge.

Moreover, part of the Seminar will be devoted to the debate on potential joint actions aimed at promoting an optimal allocation of the resources belonging to the new Alpine Space Programme, through the integration of the main public and private players’ (UNCCEM, CIPRA International, Alpine Convention, Alliance in the Alps just to mention some of them) different initiatives in a unique and comprehensive project.

The network created through the AlpCity Project is meant to answer the European Union “Regions for Economic Change” Initiative as effective connection and operational tool between the exchange of innovative and original solutions, developed in the framework of the interregional/trans-national cooperation, and the European Union Programmes on the urban development networks.

It is necessary to underline that the new strategic alliance has to be extended to a larger framework including international organizations like UN Habitat and FAO, which operate in emerging geopolitical areas addressed to become important knots of the innovation transfer network.