Alp City

Local endogenous development and urban regeneration of small alpine towns

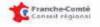# Alpcity Project

Trans-national Scientific Conference
Milan, June 27th - 28th 2005

PROCEEDINGS

A trans-national project implemented by

REGIONE PIEMONTE

in collaboration with

Franche-Comté
Conseil régional

RegioneLombardia

REGIONE DEL VENETO

RhôneAlpes

SAINT-MAURICE
D'AGAUNE

HEVs

Local endogenous development and urban regeneration of small alpine towns

Trans-national
Scientific Conference

organised by

RegioneLombardia
Commercio, Fiere e Mercati

REGIONE DEL VENETO

REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

with the support of

REGIONE PIEMONTE

Palazzo delle Stelline

Milan (Italy)

June 27th - 28th, 2005

Acknowledgements

The proceedings of the AlpCity Trans-national Conference were transcribed and desktop-published by Antonella Convertino and Valentina Scioneri under the overall direction of Daniela Sena, AlpCity Project Manager.

Original recordings are available by the AlpCity Office of Piedmont Region (via Lagrange 24, 10123 Turin, Italy).

Gian Paolo Torricelli prepared a summary of the AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee's remarks and assessments on the case studies, contained in the last part of this text.

Table of contents

Elisabetta Rosa - Polytechnic of Turin (Observatory on Sustainable Cities, OCS), Consultant of Piedmont Region for WP 9

Stefania Guarini - Polytechnic of Turin (Observatory on Sustainable Cities, OCS), Consultant of Piedmont Region for WP 9

Open discussion
Thomas Scheurer, Marie Christine Fourny Kober, Colette Gras Plouvier, Manfred Perlik, Jöri Schwärzel

Economic development
Maria Luisa Dagnino, Luigi Gaido, Paolo Corvo

Services and quality of life
Loredana Alfarè, Hubert Trauner, Luigi Gaido, Helga Zodl, Karl Günter, Michael Tyrkas, Lore Mühlbauer, Egidio Dansero, Manfred Perlik, Clotilde Lombardi Satriani, Colette Gras Plouvier, Marie-Christine Fourny Kober, Jöri Schwärzel, Helga Zodl, Representative of Franche-Comté, Representative of the Mountain Community of Friuli Venetia Julia, Vincent Kitio.

Urban environment
Pier Paolo Suber, Gian Paolo Torricelli, Marie Hélène De Sède, Gian Paolo Torricelli, Luisa Ingaramo, Maria Luisa Dagnino, Maria Cavallo Perin, Andrea Moro, Bernadette Benoitte, Luigi Gaido, Romeo Toffano.

Cooperation among towns
Marie Christine Fourny Kober, Manfred Perlik, Giovanni Scalera, Manfred Perlik, Gian Paolo Torricelli, Pier Paolo Suber, Colette Gras Plouvier.

Presentation of the Working sessions conclusions and proposals
Marie Christine Fourny Kober, Paolo Corvo, Luigi Gaido, Gian Paolo Torricelli, Manfred Perlik, Michael Tyrkas, Loredana Alfaré, Maria Luisa Dagnino, Colette Gras Plouvier, Hubert Trauner, Pier Paolo Suber, Lore Mühlbauer, Damiano Desimine, Vincent Kitio, Tiziana Quaglia, Maria Cavallo Perin.

List of participants

AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee's Meeting: a summary of its remarks and assessments by Gian Paolo Torricelli

Trans-national Scientific Conference:
Background and Objectives

The **AlpCity Trans-national Scientific Conference** was organised in the framework of the AlpCity Project (Interreg IIIB - Alpine Space Programme) by three Project Partners – Lombardy Region, Venetia Region and Friuli Venetia Julia Region - with the overall support of Piedmont Region (AlpCity Project Lead Partner).

This trans-national meeting represented a project's key event during which the AlpCity Project (2004-2006) was widely presented in terms of strategies, activities and concrete results. A special focus was developed on the project's case studies, which were also exhibited in a dedicated posters session.

The ambition of this meeting was the setting-up of a platform for discussions and exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned in order to provide with an added value and with some concrete inputs the overall successful project's implementation, development and follow-up.

The Participants were all the Project Partners as well as the Experts of the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), the institutions involved in the AlpCity case studies (e.g. Universities, NGOs, Research Institutions and some case studies local counterparts). Representatives of key institutions such as CIPRA, the Alpine Convention and ISCAR attended the meeting.

A special guest of this event was a representative of the United Nations Habitat "Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme", who presented strategy and results of this ten year-old United Nations Programme, which is the reference programme at worldwide level in the field of "Best Practices" in the area of sustainable urban development.

The AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) Coordinator stated at the first plenary session an overview on the "Status and challenges of the small alpine towns" conceived as the basic framework for the project's strategy and action.

The working groups' session, focused on the project's areas (Economic development – Services and quality of life – Urban environment and Cooperation among towns), were led by the Work Packages (WPs) Coordinators and the Experts of the Project Scientific Steering Committee, who acted as moderators and facilitators respectively.

During the Conference the WPs Coordinators were required to display the activities carried out under their own Work Package by underlining - on other Partners' behalf - the main case studies results, lessons learned, follow-up, synergies and collaboration activities among Partners.

The Conference concluded with a synthesis of the working groups' session and an open discussion, coordinated by the Partners Coordinators and the SSC Experts.

At the end the Conference organisers and the representatives of Piedmont Region expressed some acknowledgements.

Agenda

27th June 2005 - Morning plenary session (9.00 h /13.00h) Moderator : Mr Thomas Scheurer		
Timing	**Item**	**Person**
9.00 -9.30	Registration to the meeting	Participants
9.30 - 9.45	Welcome and introduction of participant guests	Mr Paolo Mora, Lombardy Region Ms Maria Luisa Dagnino, Lombardy Region Ms Daniela Sena, Piedmont Region
9.45 - 10.00	AlpCity Project in a nut	Ms Maria Cavallo Perin, Piedmont Region
10.00 - 10.30	Scientific Steering Committee's presentation 'A challenging framework: crisis and resources of the small alpine and mountain towns'	Ms Marie Christine Fourny Kober Scientific Steering Committee
10.30 - 11.00	AlpCity case studies: State of the art and activities' ''Red line'' Economic Development and Services/Quality of life	Ms Maria Luisa Dagnino, Lombardy Region Mr Hubert Trauner, Provincial Government of Lower Austria
11.00 - 11.30	Break - Posters' session	
11.30 - 12.00	AlpCity case studies: State of the art and activities' ''Red line'' Urban Environment and Co-operation among towns	Mr Pier Paolo Suber, Friuli Venetia Julia Region Ms Colette Gras Plouvier, Rhône-Alpes Region
12.00 - 12.30	AlpCity Best Practices' framework	Ms Daniela Sena, Piedmont Region Mr Vincent Kitio, UN Habitat - Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme Ms Stefania Guarini and Ms Elisabetta Rosa Observatory on Sustainable Cities, Polytechnic of Turin
12.30 - 13.00	Open discussion	Participants
27th June 2005 - Afternoon working groups' session (14.30 h /18.30 h)		
Timing	**WORKING GROUPS**	**COORDINATORS**	**FACILITATORS**

Timing	WORKING GROUPS	COORDINATORS	FACILITATORS
14.30 – 16.00	Economic Development	Ms Maria Luisa Dagnino (Lombardy Region)	Mr Luigi Gaido Mr Paolo Corvo
	Services and Quality of Life	Mr Hubert Trauner (Provincial Government of Lower Austria)	Ms Loredana Alfaré Mr Michael Tyrkas
16.30 – 18.00	Urban Environment	Mr Pier Paolo Suber (Friuli Venetia Julia Region)	Ms Hélène de Sede Mr Gian Paolo Torricelli
	Cooperation among towns	Ms Colette Gras Plouvier (Rhône- Alpes Region)	Ms Marie Christine Fourny Kober Mr Manfred Perlik
18-00 – 18.30	Conclusions		

28th June 2005 - Closing session (9.30 h /11.30 h) Moderator: Ms Marie Christine Fourny Kober		
Timing	**Item**	**Person**
9.30 - 11.00	Presentation of the Working sessions' conclusions and proposals Round Table	Partners' Co-ordinators Scientific Steering Committee
11.00 – 11.30	Closing session	Piedmont Region and Meeting's Organisers

Work Packages and case studies

WORK PACKAGES	CASE STUDIES
WP 5 **ECONOMIC** **DEVELOPMENT**	**Lombardy Region → WP 5 Coordinator** • "Experimentation of innovative actions for preserving the commercial services" • "Experimentation of innovative actions for trade and handicraft integration"
	Piedmont Region • " Local Development and the Olympic Winter Games' legacy"
	Municipality of Grainau • "Creation/implementation of trade sites and development of tourism industry"
	Municipality of St Maurice and Haute École Valaisanne • "Future & Tourism in Saint- Maurice"
	Municipality of Tschlin • " Strategies for an integrated tourism"
WP 6 **SERVICES AND QUALITY** **OF LIFE**	**Provincial Government of Lower Austria → WP 6 Coordinator** • "Network of multimedia public libraries" • "Network of youth in small-medium alpine towns"
	Piedmont Region • "The international mountain school of the Maritime Alps"
	Municipality of Grainau • "Improvement and promotion of services with a special focus on youth's needs and interests"
WP 7 **URBAN ENVIRONMENT**	**Friuli Venetia Julia Autonomous Region → WP 7 Coordinator** • "Recovery of abandoned areas'" • "Environmental Certification"
	Piedmont Region • "The renewal of abandoned hamlets in mountain areas " • "Living in mountain areas"
	Franche Comté Region • "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"
	Muncipality of Grainau • "Improving local aspect such as better traffic routes in downtown areas"
	Venetia Region • "Renovation and optimum use of abandoned rural buildings once used for production purposes"
WP 8 **COOPERATION AMONG** **TOWNS**	**Rhône-Alpes Region → WP 8 Coordinator** • "Experiences of little towns in different mountain areas in Rhône-Alpes Region (Jura, Massif Central)" • "Technical assistance to little mountain towns"
	Franche Comté Region • "A study of the territorial organisation of Franche-Comté"

Welcome and introduction
of
participant guests

Mr **Mora** introduced himself as the new Deputy Director of the General Division "Trade, fairs and markets" of Lombardy Region. On behalf of Lombardy Region, the Regional Councillor Mr Franco Nicoli Cristiani, and the Director Mr Danilo Maiocchi, Mr Mora welcomed the participants in the conference.

He was grateful to his colleagues Ms Francesca Borgato and the former Director Mr Mario Nova, who supported the participation of Lombardy Region in the project.

After this brief introduction Mr Mora focused on the project contents.

Forty per cent of Lombardy Region's territory is characterised by mountains. These territories have a density of population inferior to other regional areas. This reality became a central problem in the regional policies, given that Lombardy Region is one of the richest regions in Europe. One of the Region's purposes is to fill this gap.

For the development of mountain areas it is necessary to focus on sustainability issues. Occasional support to seasonal tourism is not enough. It is necessary a stable approach aiming at integrating different productive sectors such as agriculture and trade.

This is a common need but it is necessary to find the suitable solutions for each region feasible according to the available resources. Moreover it is very important to stress on the participation process, which commits local populations following a bottom-up approach and avoiding any kind of imposition from the top based on abstract theories. This means that all the efforts should be oriented towards subsidiarity and negotiated planning. In order to make this challenge successful, it is necessary to develop human capital in enterprises and local authorities of mountain areas. Lombardy Region is particularly sensitive to this purpose; in fact a very relevant "Mountain Bylaw" (n.10) was approved in 1998 and then revised to become more suitable and slender. There is also a "Small-municipalities Bylaw", which indicates to the Regional Council the policies to safeguard and protect mountain towns. For what concerns trade an integrated trade plan has been designed as a kind of negotiated planning on the field. Today Lombardy Region is trying and going beyond these experiments just to find some effective, slender and timely measures to sustain vitality in small mountain villages. The AlpCity Project offers a good occasion to share lessons learned and results deriving from the individual case studies.

Mr Mora concluded his speech confident that the meeting could lead to a fruitful discussion and some concrete proposals.

Sena

anager
Region
artner)

Ms **Sena** made the opening addresses. At first she introduced herself as AlpCity Project Manager led by Piedmont Region and co-financed by the European Union in the framework of the Interreg III B Alpine Space Programme. Ms Sena welcomed all the participants and expressed, on behalf of Piedmont Region, her thanks to the attendees, who accepted the invitation to this key event. Then, she thanked the meeting official organizers (Lombardy Region, Venetia Region and Friuli Venetia Julia Autonomous Region), and on behalf of Venetia Region and Friuli Venetia Julia Autonomous Region she thanked their Mountain Communities involved in the AlpCity Project and present at the meeting. Ms Sena extended her thanks also to the representatives of the small Alpine towns, local communities, universities, non-governmental institutions, research centres, consultants which are involved in the AlpCity Project specifically with reference to the implementation of twenty case studies addressed to the local endogenous development and the urban regeneration of small alpine towns.

She drew the participants' attention on the conference tone, mainly operative. The aim was at fostering discussion, exchange of experiences and knowledge in order to provide the final beneficiaries of the project with a concrete contribution as well as the overall implementation of AlpCity with a short-medium-long term perspective.

The meeting was future-oriented with reference to the research and collection of Best Practices and to the finalisation of policies' guidelines at a strategic and political level.

Ms Sena expressed her thanks to the Scientific Steering Committee, composed by senior experts in the AlpCity working areas. The SSC Experts contribute to the successful implementation of the project through a steering advising role. They also provided the Conference with a relevant preliminary contribution by finalising some documents ("Proposition Papers") useful for the afternoon working session and the closing session.

A further acknowledgement was addressed to the researchers' team of the Polytechnic of Turin - "Observatory on Sustainable Cities" led by prof. Socco, and represented at the meeting by Ms Guarini and Ms Rosa. They were contracted to work on Best Practices (within WP 9) by Piedmont Region.

Finally, Ms Sena expressed a special thank to Arch. Vincent Kitio coming from Nairobi (United Nations Habitat), who works as Best Practices Officer in the framework of the United Nations Habitat '"Best practices and local leadership Programme''.

Ms Sena finally introduced Mr Thomas Scheurer as moderator of this first plenary session and she thanked him for having kindly accepted this assignment.

Mr Scheurer since 1994 is the Executive Secretary of the Inter Academy Commission for Alpine Studies (ICAS), and since 1999 of the International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR).

Mr **Scheurer** received the role of moderator of the first plenary session. He was pleased to accept this task because he believed in the importance of a debate on the Alpine space future. He underlined that alpine cities should assume an increasing responsibility towards the alpine territories. He was looking forward to supporting the conference debate and the outlining of instruments able to foster, in collaboration with mountain cities and villages, their lasting and sustainable development.

Mr Scheurer explained the organisation of this session including the different presentations scheduled.

He finally introduced Mrs Maria Cavallo Perin, who launched the idea of the project, moulded it and who currently acts as the officer in charge of the AlpCity Project.

Thom
AlpCit
Confe
of the
sessio

The AlpCity Project in a nut

Perin

ge of
t and
mont
vision
ojects
als of
acts'

Mrs **Cavallo Perin** began her speech by thanking Friuli Venetia Julia Autonomous Region, Lombardy Region and Venetia Region for the meeting organization, and particularly Ms Daniela Sena and Mrs Anna Maria Caputano.

She underlined that the main aim of the project is at sharing a common strategy in the design of regional policies for the sustainable development of alpine space small cities. The project guidelines could be presented to national governments and to the European Union as the project final proposal able to contribute to the improvement of the human conditions of people living on mountain.

AlpCity Project makes reference to the experience carried out by Piedmont Region in the framework of EU "Urban" Programme. The "Urban" methodology adopted in degraded urban areas in Piedmont Region could be actually considered and tailor made for small alpine towns. "Urban" is the new methodology used by the European Union similar to the "Leader" Programme focused on integrated approaches and policies. This universal method seems useful not only for big cities but also for small ones. The European network built up within the "Urban" Programme could be replicated on a smaller scale in the alpine space.

Mrs Cavallo Perin proposed the following four suggestions for the AlpCity Guidelines, she wished to discuss about during the Conference:

1.   To foster and increase the relationships and exchanges between small alpine towns and the larger, well-established ones in the alpine area (reference to the creation of a polycentric network to support the cultural, social and environmental development of these small towns). These networks have to be extended beyond the national borders and support cooperation not only among small towns, but also between small towns and large cities on a transnational level according to the policies of the European Union, which aim at promoting networks among towns with different dimensions.

2.   To develop some urban functions and services in the mountain communities in order to guarantee a higher level of development of these areas. It should be the task of the regional governments to help local authorities on the outlining of these functions and putting them into practice (she made reference, as an example, to the case study of the "Maritime Alps International School" carried out by Piedmont Region). In order to reach this purpose it is very important to develop a real cooperation among the regions, which have to exchange their methods and policies for the spatial planning by overcoming regional borders and creating a trans-national metropolitan area.

3.   To offer local authorities different kind of technical assistance in designing, carrying out and maintaining public works and services, in other words to improve local authorities' skills and expertises. Local authorities face a number of difficult challenges due to the unique characteristics of mountain towns. While designing and implementing

the public services, the local authorities are often isolated and unprepared, and this is mainly due to the extremely small size of their communities and the lack of qualified technicians. Mrs Cavallo Perin presented the good example of the Rhône-Alpes Region networking policy, which could help local authorities. Mrs Cavallo Perin invited participants to identify other good examples before the conclusion of the AlpCity Project, in order to use these good practices as a basis for future cross-border and trans-national programmes aimed at providing local authorities with the necessary technical assistance.

4.   To create a common alpine market for public works and services. Any development that occurs in mountain areas has to take into consideration a number of important aspects such as environmental impact and accessibility. The development of alpine towns has to be sustainable. Mrs Cavallo Perin underlined that in order to increase the awareness and skills of local authorities in deprived areas it is necessary that the civil servants of these areas would acquire the necessary skills and expertise from other local authorities in more advanced alpine areas (such as Austria and Germany). It is therefore necessary an exchange of young technicians in order to promote a higher level of quality of life. Mrs Cavallo Perin suggested an Alpine common market able to attract the most qualified enterprises from the Alps for the implementation of public works and services in line with eco-sustainable methods (e.g. bio-building industry).

Mrs Cavallo Perin concluded her speech by inviting the participants to think about the mentioned issues during and after the Conference.

AlpCity case studies:

State of the art and activities ''Red line''

Economic Development
and Services/Quality of life

gnino

of the
age 5
ment"
gion)

Mrs **Dagnino** started with an overview of the "WP5" and a synthesis of the different case studies under the mentioned WP 5.

She underlined that the economic development has a primary role in reaching the alpine space four main purposes:

    1. To consolidate the alpine space as an important area in the network of European developing areas;

    2. To setting-up and support sustainable development of initiatives taking care of relationships between strong and weak areas;

    3. To find some efficient solutions in terms of accessibility and transports by promoting sustainable projects on the field;

    4. To safeguard cultural, social and economic peculiarities of towns and protect the population from the hazards of development.

The main purpose within the Work Package 5 - "Economic Development" is dual: on the one hand implementation of case studies and analysis of specific local situations; on the other side testing different methodologies, which could be then shared and potentially transferred as Best Practices. The work consists in comparing similarities and peculiarities of different specific cases through the study of their strengthens and weaknesses with the perspective of improving the alpine space value. All the cases refer mainly to initiatives carried out at a local level, but economic systems often imply bigger dimensions.

Four common working issues can be outlined among the case studies:

1. New launching and consolidation of small and medium existing enterprises which must be safeguarded and supported also through innovative functions;

2. Creation and attraction of new small and medium enterprises connected to new technologies and telecommunications, which could enrich the mountain traditional functions and create new job opportunities;

3. Training activities for the local population in order to create new professionals and involve them in the productive local context;

4. Territorial specialization. There are some valley floor areas, which have an attractive role with a competitive advantage lacking in ridge areas, where an urban development is almost unthinkable and aged, unskilled population is prevailing.

Furthermore, Mrs Dagnino summarised the six case studies carried out autonomously by the following PPs (slide):

PARTNERS INVOLVED IN WP 5	CASE-STUDY SUBJECT	CASE-STUDY AIMS
MUNICIPALITY OF GRAINAU	Creation/implementation of trade sites and development of tourism industry	To strengthen the existing trade and industry sites; To formulate new hypothesis for the development of trade sites; Job creation in the tourism sector
MUNICIPALITY OF SAINT-MAURICE	Attraction of small and medium enterprises and development of tourist activities	The case study Future & Tourism aims at giving a great impulse to the development of tourism in St-Maurice territory, by increasing the value of the local economy and improving the quality of life for the inhabitants.
MUNICIPALITY OF TSCHLIN	Reuse/renewal of empty buildings and their conversion with a tourist option	Evaluation of the renewal of empty buildings starting with schools' building. The change from a rural to a soft-tourist economy, could take an advantage from the uncontaminated nature of Tschlin and its traditions.
PIEDMONT REGION	Olympic Winter Games' legacy in two Olympic resorts in Piedmont Region	To analyse the perception of the local actors as well as the local initiatives and proposals with a specific reference to the Olympic Winter Games' legacy (The Winter Olympic Games will be hosted in Piedmont Region in February 2006).
LOMBARDY REGION	Innovative actions for preserving commercial services	To maintain an adequate standard level of commercial services in some mountain and disadvantaged areas.
	Innovative actions for trade and handcrafts integration	To define a "potential model" for the revitalisation of the typical places for commerce, through a research which will involve all the local institutions, artists and manufactures, and promote the sharing of the local resources. A similar research will be carried out for agricultural products and local cultures, by considering the hypothesis that it could be suitable to put together different kinds of products in the same "selling place". Training activities are planned for the interested operators.

Each case study focuses on small municipalities (with less than 5000 or 2000 inhabitants), and the following work objectives can be highlighted:

1. Sustainable development of tourist industry (Municipalities of St-Maurice and Tschlin);

2. Analysis of local opportunities and threats related to local events (e.g. Olympic Winter Games in Turin, February 2006, Municipalities of Pragelato and Prali in Piedmont Region);

3. Revitalisation of trade and handicrafts (Municipality of Grainau; Camonica Valley, Vestino Valley and municipality of Dazio in Lombardy Region).

Tourism is the 'red line' among the different case studies and it could be considered as a primary opportunity for development and the exploitation of local potentialities and conditions of attractiveness in order to face the depopulation trend. Depopulation is a shared problem in the alpine space, but with different causes: in Camonica and Vestino Valleys an inexorable and lasting negative trend has taken place for twenty years; in St-Maurice the loss of several job opportunities related to the Swiss Railway Company in the last ten years.

For what concerns Prali and Pragelato the main purpose consists in developing relationships with the closer French Mountain Communities to promote a balanced growth and to avoid decline. The exceptional event (Winter Olympic Games) can produce an immediate but not durable attractive effect; for this reason it is necessary to consolidate some important economic and communication functions.

The municipality of Tschlin has other problems: it is a very small village not far from the well-known ski and spa resort Scuol; it houses a "Music Festival" every year and the municipality would like to become a sort of "City of Music" through the built up of a concert hall and a multi-building hotel by renewing existing empty structures.

The improvement of services and the development of trade and handicraft are two important links between WP 5 and WP 6. In fact the case studies focused on trade and handicraft try and exploit territorial realities, but above all aim at realising sector actions to guarantee the survival of trade in presence of demand shortage, to create a tie between trade and handicraft to develop cooperation and integration among different distribution modalities.

Mrs Dagnino underlined the social role of trade as service available to the community and especially "neighbourhood trade" in mountain areas is essential for the weakest local population, such as aged and handicapped people, who cannot move for provisions.

uner

f the
e 6
ty of
life"
ncial
ower
tria)

Mr **Trauner** introduced the Work Package 6 "Services and Quality of Life" by highlighting the meaning of quality of life in terms of good living conditions, participation of people and sustainable activities from an economical, ecological and social point of view. All these themes deal with services, which could ensure a high life quality level as well as networking and participation. Then Mr Trauner introduced the partners involved in WP6: Piedmont Region (Italy) with the case study focused on "A mountain

international school of Maritime Alps", the municipality of Grainau (Germany) with the case study related to the "Improvement of services related to the tourism" and "The geological hiking trail through Grainau", and last but not least the province of Lower Austria with two case studies concerning the "Networks of Youth in small medium alpine towns" and the "Networks of multimedia public libraries".

Ms **Zodl** made an overview of the case studies under WP6 in terms of ACTIVITIES carried out up to June 2005:

Helga
Consu
Provin
of Low

PIEDMONT REGION	MUNICIPALITY OF GRAINAU	PROVINCE OF LOWER AUSTRIA
Identification of the area/schools for the development of the case study Involvement of the Maritime Alps Park Finalisation of a strategy/work plan for the collaboration between the different involved institutions Collection of documents/data concerning the situation / priorities / challenges of schools in mountain areas Preliminary search for Best Practices related to schools' innovative initiatives in mountain areas in Piedmont Region	Creation of working groups under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Bausch The participants come from the services' companies and people living in Grainau.	Conception of the working group systems Presentations and reporting of networking-methods and aims Planning of regional workshops Exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned Education days for participating entities and persons

Then Ms Zodl presented the case studies' first RESULTS*:*

PIEDMONT REGION	MUNICIPALITY OF GRAINAU	PROVINCE OF LOWER AUSTRIA
Setting-up of a working team with the involvement of different actors at different levels Outlining of an initiative called 'Cento Montagne' ("One hundred mountains") promoted by Piedmont Region, and co-funded by	Setting up of experts' study groups Extensive minutes of the working groups' meetings Setting up of the cultural project "Geological hiking trail"	Finalisation of agreements with 11 interested towns (networks of youth) Finalisation of agreements with 2 interested towns (networks of libraries) Co-ordination of regional and local authorities and stakeholders

'Fondazione per la Scuola della Compagnia di San Paolo' as potential Best Practice in field of promotion of schools in mountain areas in Italy		Preparation and organisation of workshops and education days Homepage (www.alpcity.at) and projects logos Workshops (local and regional)

Therefore Ms Zodl talked about the different case studies' PLAN of WORK/methodologies:

PIEDMONT REGION	MUNICIPALITY OF GRAINAU	PROVINCE OF LOWER AUSTRIA
- Analysis of the state of schools in terms of peculiarities, priorities, potentialities, existing good practices (Italy and other Alpine countries); - Formulation of a first theoretical model of an 'European school' feasibility studies including financial, administrative and technical aspects (e.g. check with the current legislation and recent changes, financial requirements and other funding opportunities); - Analysis of the Maritime Alps area in terms of criticisms and potentialities; - Definition of an European school's model applied to the peculiarities of the Maritime Alps area; - Involvement of local key actors involved in the promotion of schools in mountain areas in Piedmont Region and at a trans-national level (e.g. Principals of local schools, Maritime Alps Park, Provincial Educational Office of Cuneo, Mountain Communities, the Italian Alpine Club etc.)	Implementation of a participatory process including the involvement of the inhabitants of Grainau Integration of the government of Upper Bavaria into this participation process	Co-ordination of interested and involved groups Identification of topics and working fields Implementation of a self-organisation methodologies (local workshops) Identification of inputs and finalisation of a strategy for the know-how exchange (regional workshops) Development of products and services to create more direct benefits for the local participants (education days)

Mr **Kuhness** focused on 'the red line' among the case studies under WP6 and underlined the following aspects:

1. Promotion of networks

2. Promotion of participatory processes (e.g. involvement of local population and civil society)

3. Support to local identity and sense of belonging

4. Implementation of initiatives and ideas with a future-oriented developement perspectives

He proposed these points for the discussion during the Conference.

Mr. **Scheurer** thanked all the Niederösterreich team for the effective presentation and suggested those present to have a look at the posters session during the pause to get a better clue of the individual case studies.

Then he introduced Mrs Marie-Christine Fourny Kober, leader of the AlpCity SSC and working at the Geographic Institute of the Grenoble University, who had to speak about the challenges of small alpine towns, about their crises and resources, and about their orientation towards a fruitful development.

Alexa

Consu
Provin
Gover
Austri

Thom

AlpCity
Confe
of the
sessio

Scientific Steering Committee's presentation

'A challenging framework: crisis and resources of the small alpine and mountain towns'

istine
Kober

entific
mittee
inator

Mrs **Fourny Kober** presented during the first plenary session an overview on the status of the small Alpine/mountain towns in terms of potentialities and challenges. She introduced the subject by highlighting the problem of getting a definition of a small alpine city. She focused on its specificities despite the difficulty of this task. Mrs Fourny Kober underlined the existence of commonplaces related to the concept of small alpine/mountain city often linked to negative images characterised by depopulation trends and a decreasing dynamism. There are different situations: for example in some French small mountain villages the inhabitants are augmenting, on the contrary in the Italian alpine areas the decrease of population is a relevant phenomena after a certain period of growth.

Therefore the main problem consists in the definition of a small mountain town. Mrs Fourny Kober asked whether it is possible to talk about a general crisis of the mountain villages considered the fact that some small cities are in a favourable position in terms of spatial organisation.

Experts and geographers have often defined a small city on the basis of its dimension and activities. A small city was often considered in the middle between a medium village and a rural one, at the bottom of the urban hierarchy. If we consider the provision of services, we cannot speak about villages but towns, which offer a wide range of basic services (e.g. doctors, police, schools and specialised shops). To get more sophisticated services it is necessary to go up on a superior level. Small towns play different role today: for what concerns their image they try and modernise the urban look; moreover they occupy a pivotal position between villages and big cities; they can also structure rural areas, since they are the central places of these zones, where basic services are provided. Of course in case these services disappear, relevant crises could occur not only to the city, but to the whole rural area. Therefore Mrs Fourny Kober underlined the important function of small villages to maintain rural population.

Furthermore, Mrs Fourny Kober explained that the situation of small mountain cities have changed since the eighties with a different spatial organisation, which was characterised by polarisation. Because of some economic changes small towns were affected by dislocation of many industries and hydroelectric generation and by a loss of the military and custom function. At the same time these small towns faced the crises better than the big cities, because they always have the chance to find new resources outside: the immediate consequence was a flight toward big cities. Another important

tool in the most recent years has been the improvement of communications, of people and information circulation, which suppressed the function of junction typical of small towns. She also explained that these changes were different from the one occurred in the big centres, because people usually live in small mountain towns and work in big cities (she defined this phenomena as "peripheral urbanization"). For this reason the position of small towns in the urban hierarchy makes no more sense, because it is more and more similar to a big one in terms of accessibility to services and trade peripheral poles.

Then she focused on the small city's quality of life. There is a big literature on the way of living in small towns and its significance. She affirmed that too often a small city was considered as the province of the province with a social devaluation: on one hand it is cannot be considered up to a big city in terms of services and opportunities; on the other hand the renewal of an ecological way of living has been conducting people to move to the countryside and not to small towns featured by urbanization. Moreover small towns have lost a lot of their commercial and administrative functions; they have to face a facilitated mobilization, which permits the access to services available in big cities.

Mrs Fourny Kober considered that the main problem of small village can be resumed in two concepts: "belonging" or "not belonging" to the so-called "metropolisation", that refers to the inclusion into the residential fabric of big urban conglomerations with a social and economical interdependence. Mrs Fourny Kober underlined that a mountain small village could play an important role in a metropolitan area even if it is out of this metropolitan dynamics and networks. Mrs Fourny Kober said that a small city could have some potentialities for a sustainable development and this could be based on its identity, its peculiarities and its resources. She focused her attention on this identity added value. Therefore she made some questions:

- ✓ What could attract people in a small city?
- ✓ In which way small cities could express their positive image in a context characterised by mobility?
- ✓ Why people should came and live in a small city?

If we consider the dynamic environment surrounding the small mountain cities, that specialists call "zapping territory", it is difficult to find the social values (nature, sports, leisure, culture, information, education, friendly relationships among people, landscape) and factors that could lead people to small cities, stimulate positive reactions and processes for their local development.

Speaking about the importance of understanding if the specificities of a small mountain village are the same of the alpine ones, Mrs Fourny Kober remarked that mountains are important for the construction of a territorial identity and a sense of belonging that are important instruments for preserving a local culture. This affection to mountain could support the affection to small villages, and on the other side the small villages could

produce some positive effects to mountain areas. She described the relationship between small towns and their environment as a sort of association, which owned in the past a sort of utilitarian status, because a small town provides services and materials; on the other side mountains offer foodstuffs, human resources and chances to develop tourism. Nowadays it is important to transform this relationship to find other solutions for development taking into account the images attached to mountains, which can make small alpine towns attractive. A reciprocal exchange can be realised: the quality of the mountain environment can benefit small towns, whose services can offer advantages to rural populations.

Then Mrs Fourny Kober said that a common problem to the different case studies of AlpCity is the difficulty to foster a cultural specificity that could give value to the representations of the mountain areas developed by the society. Mrs Fourny Kober focused on the importance of taking care of cultural, symbolic, and identity's values instead of taking care just of resources. This problem could also be connected to dimension, not from a hierarchical and functional point of view, but with reference to the ability to integrate territory and relationships of mountain areas into the surrounding environment.

The highlighted key word is weaving relationships in the territory at different levels:

> ✓An internal one: through living with certain values and a peculiar urbanisation, together with equality and sociability
>
> ✓A micro-regional one: a reflection on the quality of services in rural areas; communications among similar towns and among smaller and bigger ones

It is necessary to think in terms of complementarity and specialisation within a network of small human settlements. Some shortages have to be taken into consideration: in services and in cultural resources. Also potential exchanges among different networks of small and big towns are important: the individual town cannot be conceived as an island any more, because it is part of "metropolised" economy, whose important element is accessibility to markets, high quality of life, new technologies.

   Finally Mrs Fourny Kober said that the focus of the AlpCity Project should be on the ability to foster relationships starting from social and symbolic mountain values through a participatory methodology, which implies networks and solidarity. In so doing several actors, cities, equipments and organisations will be structured to mould development in the alpine space.

Mr. **Scheurer** thanked Mrs. Fourny Kober and announced a pause and a further discussion at the end of the morning session to face questions about the project and the individual case studies.

AlpCity case studies:
State of the art and activities ''Red line''

Urban Environment and Cooperation among towns

Mr **Scheurer** introduced the second part of the morning session and the next two Working Packages: WP 7 - "Urban Environment" and its case studies outlined by Mr Pierpaolo Suber from Friuli Venetia Julia Region and WP 8 - "Cooperation among towns" presented by Mrs Colette Gras Plouvier from Rhône-Alpes Region.

Mr **Suber** presented the WP 7 contents related to the subject of "Urban Environment" that was before analysed by Mrs Fourny Kober. Mr Suber added some information concerning the Italian problems.

Mr Suber stressed the fact that in Italy the concept of small city is almost negligible, because Italian Alps are studded with mountain villages with an average of 700-800 inhabitants.

He explained the aims of this WP:

✓ To identify the development processes which could increase the sense of belonging to these mountain villages in order to face the depopulation trends;

✓ To identify the key social and cultural factors which could sustain a successful (in terms of sustainability) development projects in the mountain areas.

In order to reach these aims it is necessary to find out some processes and projects, which could improve the quality of the urban environment in terms of cultural, social, economic and environmental aspects by:

✓ Maintaining the cultural, historical and environmental heritage as the main development opportunity and resource;

✓ Promoting networking and participatory processes in order to build consensus and interest;

✓ Increasing the inhabitants' participation in order to increase the local identity;

✓ Recovering the public and private real estate with an historical and an architectural value;

✓ Redesigning "urban spaces";

✓ Pursuing an integrated and multidisciplinary approach and the co-operation among different sectors.

Then Mr Suber shortly presented the eight different case studies under WP 7:

Friuli Venetia Julia Region:

▪ The environmental certification of a model territory (finalisation of guidelines to obtain the environmental certification as a factor including precise economic contents);

▪ Recovery of abandoned and dismantled mountain areas in the neighbourhood of the Austrian and Slovenian borders, characterised by many buildings to be renewed due to their important cultural legacy.

Piedmont Region:

▪ Renewal of abandoned mountain villages together with activities connected to the agricultural-breeding activities;

▪ Recovery of real estates with a particular attention to the modalities of restructuring old traditional mountain buildings by testing a new assessment tool AEBAT (Alpine Environmental Building Assessment Tool), which allows the evaluation of the best solutions mostly from an environmental and energetic point of view.

Venetia Region:

▪ Recovery of old traditional mountain buildings by analysing the best instruments to renew and reuse them in productive and tourist terms.

Franche-Comté Region:

▪ Finalisation of guidelines to improve tourist and cultural exploitation of cities close to the main street of the Jura Mountain by sharing methodologies among all the municipalities interested in the case study;

▪ Setting up of a network of the so-called "Villes de caractère" (Typical cities) based on an urban scheme generated by spatial planning studies and shared programmes for the rehabilitation of historical centres and urban conglomerations.

Municipality of Grainau

▪ Carrying out an integrated action plan for improving the city image through a multi-disciplinary and integrated action (e.g. improvement of different aspects of the urban environment thus leading to a better traffic of the main routes, the renewal of the city centre, the creation of new business places for craftsmen to be based in the village).

According to Mr Suber the "Red Line" of this WP 7 is without doubt the empowerment of the sense of belonging of local populations in their different villages. The renewal and the improvement of urban conglomerations, the exploitation of the environmental heritage, the promotion of participation processes are the tools unfolded to reach the main purpose.

Mrs **Gras Plouvier** explained she coordinates her working group in Rhône-Alpes Region. She has different tasks and responsibilities dealing with tourism, environmental and city policies.

She introduced the Work Package related to the subject of "Cooperation among towns". She specified that originally the WP included also the PP Territoire de Belfort working on aged people issues, which decided to withdraw from the AlpCity Project.

She started to describe the regional territory and she stated that during the first contacts with Piedmont Region she was very interested in Mrs Cavallo Perin's proposal to think about on the strategies for the sustainable development of small mountain cities and villages.

Then Mrs Gras Plouvier described Rhône-Alpes Region as a big Region with more than 100.000 inhabitants. The 80% of the population live in the 20% of the territory and 78 cities have more than 2.000 inhabitants. There is a relevant tradition of networking among big and middle towns. Almost all the cities are interested in getting a strategic position and role in the territorial planning: a good example is represented by 20 middle towns, that have created a network in order to take part in the Rhône-Alpes Region spatial planning.

Mrs Gras Plouvier stressed that the approach suggested by Piedmont Region was very interesting due to the necessary remark on the small mountain villages' definition.

Small mountain villages surrounding Rhône-Alpes Region lie among the Alps, the Central Massif and the Jura Mountains. Mrs Gras Plouvier explained that the AlpCity Project is an opportunity to show the different situations, which characterise these small mountain villages, particularly in the apparently less difficult contexts of the Jura Mountains and the Central Massif, notwithstanding the lack of alpine development features. This should allow the formulation of a suitable strategy for small towns.

She focused her attention on the fact that small cities in Rhône-Alpes Region are different if compared to the other regions involved in the AlpCity Project. Therefore she said that a reflection on the most suitable definition of a small village was made. In the Rhône-Alpes Region there is a tradition to work in partnership with the local communities, and this is a relevant experience to be exploited (spatial plans, development contracts, agglomeration contracts, natural regional parks).

The working group, she is the coordinator of works with the National Institute of Statistics that provided it with some analysis of rural, intermediate and **neighbourhood**

Colett

Coord
Work I
"Coop
towns'
(PP RI
Region

poles in order to have a clear idea, from a statistical point of view, of the level of services and of the kind of relationships between urban and rural areas.

Starting from the mountain cities of the Central Massif, the National Institute of Statistic selected 207 small cities, which presented a strategic role and they were invited to exchange experiences and take part in the AlpCity Project by the Regional President. Twenty cities accepted to the November 2004 call.

Mrs Gras Plouvier stressed the important issue related to the need of these small cities for engineering tools and training which could be developed within AlpCity. She remarked that there are many difficulties to manage the requests posed by the participant cities; she doesn't know how to hierarchize activities and priorities. A sort of Internet forum was implemented in order to choose some so-called "bureau d'étudie" (case studies) to accompany and guide towns along their path through some diagnostic studies.

Furthermore, Mrs Gras Plouvier presented a document that was drawn in collaboration with Ms Severine Mulatier, project assistant, concerning the analysis and the experiences of the small villages. The small villages that play an important role in mountain areas have just 300.000 inhabitants (they has chosen cities with less than 100.000 inhabitants).

Mrs Gras Plouvier also added that among 13 case studies, the working group involved in the AlpCity Project selected 6 best case studies on the basis of the results of the analysis and the results provided by the National Institute of Statistics. A project to focus on was related to the improvement of the sanitary system. Mrs Gras Plouvier underlined the fact that it is necessary to provide the small mountain villages with similar services of the one already in place in other big cities.

Mrs Gras Plouvier stressed the fact that since April 2004 in Rhône-Alpes Region there have been a new Executive Council, which works politically in order to answer to the territorial needs. Mrs Gras Plouvier said that to benefit from resources means also to find some common issues among the different experiences carried out in Rhône-Alpes Region and consider them for a sustainable development. After April 2005 all the projects approved by the Region have to be in line with the principle of a lasting and sustainable development. Her working group has also set up a course for the agricultural and rural development and a mountain policy has to be defined by the end of the year. Finally, she underlined that employment is a regional priority. They are trying and mobilising all the local authorities of the small towns involved and they would also commit other Project Partners in the appraisal of small cities networks.

AlpCity Best Practices framework

On behalf of Piedmont Region, coordinator of the Alpcity Work Package "Best Practices and Future Scenarios", Ms. **Sena** made a brief introduction of this WP, which represents a bridge between the AlpCity activities, connected to the case studies, and the policy guidelines conceived at a political and strategic level.

The WP includes a collection of Best Practices mainly related to the issues of the AlpCity case studies with the aim at outlining some lessons learned useful for the formulation of policy guidelines.

Some considerations have been already made in order to understand whether a future could be expected after the AlpCity Project's ending. Actually, the AlpCity is looking for potential Best Practices to be included into the project's database and the aim is at setting-up a more articulated Best Practices framework.

AlpCity pays attention to other international initiatives and agencies - such as the United Nations Habitat - involved in similar activities in order to potentially set up some collaboration activities.

Then she introduced Mr Kitio, Best Practices Officer of the United Nations Habitat in Nairobi (Kenya) and the representatives of the Observatory on Sustainable Cities, Ms Stefania Guarini and Ms Elisabetta Rosa.

Dani...

AlpCi...
Piedr...
(Lead...

Mr **Kitio** thanked the conference organizers, particularly Mrs Cavallo Perin. Then he briefly explained the mission of the United Nations Habitat Agency. It is the dedicated United Nations Agency dealing with the human settlements' development. Mr Kitio works within a programme focused on Best Practices, which was created 10 years ago in order to monitor the situation on the field. It is well known that rural areas are affected by depopulation and in three years the 50% of the world population will live in cities. Therefore it is necessary to develop methods to find out suitable and sustainable solutions for this new reality. Furthermore, UN or governments cannot face this challenge by their own. They need assistance from the United Nations system, which can provide them with some support including the identification and the documentation of experiences and their wide spreading.

Vince...

Best P...
of the...
United...
"Best ...
Leade...

Mr Kitio made a brief presentation on what could be considered as a Best Practice.

The United Nations Habitat defines a Best Practice as an initiative that:

- ✓ Has a tangible positive impact on improving the people's quality of life;
- ✓ Is the result of an effective partnership between the public, private and civic sectors of the society;
- ✓ Is socially, culturally, economically and environmentally sustainable.

Mr Kitio explained that the United Nations Habitat Best Practices Programme started basically in 1996 during the Habitat II Conference, which took place in Istanbul. During that Conference the international community defined which criteria characterise a Best

Practice, and adopted the guidelines for its reporting and dissemination. During that conference it was decided to use the collected Best Practices as a monitoring tool to assess the progresses in achieving a sustainable urbanisation. Furthermore, it was decided to develop a set of standard reporting formats for the submission of Best Practices.

Then, Mr Kitio focused on why and how is it possible to concretely use the outlined Best Practices.

Firstly, the United Nations Habitat decided to develop a set of Best Practices, to collect them from all over the world in order to use them in the promotion of the public policies based on a tangible positive impact achieved at a local level. Mr Kitio explained that the United Nations Habitat used the Best Practices Programme to raise awareness of the decision makers toward emerging issues at all levels and offer some training as a policy's response.

Mr Kitio also stressed the importance to use the Best Practices as a tool for transferring experiences and lessons learned through the networking activities, while keeping in mind that the sustainability factor has to be always considered.

Mr Kitio made clear how it is possible to identify a Best Practice:

- ✓ Target search through a global network of institutions;
- ✓ Calls for best practices by using the incentive of the biannual Dubai Award for Best Practices and the collaboration with other awards and recognition systems;
- ✓ Ongoing research and operational activities and development projects and programmes;
- ✓ Partnership such as the one implemented within the AlpCity Project;
- ✓ Documentation process intended as a capacity building exercise as well as an exercise in a self-appraisal process;
- ✓ Standardised reporting format for the documentation process, which have been evolving over these years due to the lessons learned and the response to emerging issues and trends.

Then he explained how the Best Practices documentation is carried out, and how it grew up in the last 10 years.

The use of a common set of criteria and a standardized reporting format is useful in identifying and analyzing the lessons learned concerning:

- ✓ What obstacles people and their communities face, and the effective adopted approaches for overcoming them;
- ✓ What are the roles, responsibilities and contributions of the different social actors and partners;
- ✓ Contributing factors in sustaining a successful initiative;
- ✓ Promoting policy options, effective institutional frameworks and governance systems.

The assessment of a Best Practice includes three main steps:

✓ Validation → it involves the global network of partners and the aim is at verifying whether the submitted information is accurate;

✓ Technical appraisal → the United Nations Habitat checks the potential best practices through an independent technical advisory committee consisting of 15 technical experts with equal geographical distribution and a gender balance. Their main role is to differentiate between "best", "good", "promising" and "not qualified" practices through:

− basic criteria (e.g. impact, partnerships and sustainability) and

− additional criteria (e.g. leadership and community empowerment; innovation within the local context; gender, equality and social inclusion, transferability).

A Practice is qualified as 'Best' when it includes different sustainable components. The sustainable component is very important because some practices could be "best" in some contexts and could be a "normal" practice in another one.

✓ Normative assistance → the short listed practices are forwarded to an Independent Jury composed by senior professionals and formal ministries, ex-policy makers and former researchers from universities who, on the basis of the first selection done by the technical experts, identified the awards' winning practices.

An aspect that is considered very important and that could be considered the "biggest lesson" of this ten years programme dealing with Best Practices, is the development of a knowledge management framework which has been replicated in several countries such as Spain and Brazil. Mr Kitio wished that this knowledge management framework could be shared with the AlpCity Project.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK		
OBJECTIVIES/ ACTIVITIES	**TARGET AUDIENCE /USERS**	**INSTRUMENTS**
AWARNESS BUILDING	Informed public Media Decision makers	DUBAI AWARD ICLEI Local Initiatives Stockholm challenge award UNDP Equator initiatives UNEP Success Stories
NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING	Decision and policy-makers Practicing professionals training and leadership development institution	Best Practices Databases Publications/articles Web/pages Newsletter List services

LEARNING TOOLS AND CAPACITY BUILDING	Training and Leadership development institutions Local authority associations Professional associations	Best Practice Case studies Best Practice Casebooks Issue briefs & articles Training materials
PEER to PEER LEARNING AND CITY TO CITY COOPERATION	Local authority associations Networks of NGOs/CBOs International organisations Multi- & bilateral assistance	Transfer guides, methods and tools Match supply/demand for expertise Conferences & seminars Advisory services
POLICY DEVELOPMENT	Decision-makers at all levels Policy advocacy groups National governments International & inter-governmental organizations	Database on urban policies and enabling legislation Policy trends and responses Normative guidelines State of the World's Cities Report

The United Nations Habitat fosters the knowledge management framework through the Dubai awards' initiative that represents a unique opportunity for informing the wide public and the media about the existing and selected good and best practices.

The United Nations Habitat has created an online database including around 2100 practices from all over the world, that are accessible on the web site (www.unhabitat.org), and could be used to promote networking and information's sharing.

Mr Kitio emphasized that the United Nations Habitat database is really used by millions of people and it receives a positive feedback. The United Nations Habitat is also used to collect Best Practices as a learning tool able to foster the local leadership and empower the local authorities.

Mr Kitio emphasised the importance to know experiences from other countries, and this could be also important for the AlpCity network, which develops different case studies to be shared with other people.

The United Nations Habitat has also finalised some guidelines and tools on transfer in order to promote the city-to-city cooperation and the exchange of experiences among different cities. The United Nations Habitat is committed to develop and foster "good urban policies" on the basis of the assumption that we could move from good practices to good policies.

Finally Mr Kitio explained that the knowledge management framework is "a step by step" approach able to support the transfer of Best Practices. He believes that once a practice is analysed and documented, it is possible to use it in other places where there is a need. He added that the important aspect is not the outcome but the process put in place.

Finally, he quickly presented one case study in order to show the differences between some cities in the north and some cities in the south, and he stressed that the needs of these cities are often almost the same.

✓   Fossato di Vico is a small mountain city with 2.500 inhabitants. The city faces many problems similar to the cities involved in the AlpCity Project. The city was affected by a high level of migration in the 1950s and in '60s to USA and by a progressive ageing of the population. The worst event was the earthquake that took place in '97. After that the city has received a lot of funds from the European Commission and thanks to the good local leadership of the city they have identified consultants who develop a plan.

Fossato di Vico (Italia) – Achieved results:

- Increased job opportunities for women and youths;
- All new buildings are anti-earthquake;
- An information center has been set up in order to promote social inclusion and integration and support old people and immigrants;
- Citizens are environmentally conscious: solid waste is recycled at all levels and a wind generator produce clean energy;
- The private sector cooperates now with social and cultural initiatives;
- A newsletter is published every 4 months to inform the public on the activities of the municipality. Cooperation activities with 2 other cities in France and Germany;
- Fossato di Vico is alive again after a long sleep thanks to a committed leadership with a clear vision and with the ability to make things happen.

They have identified priorities through the community participation and consultations with all stakeholders (e.g. political parties, social groups, the private sector) and they have reorganised the Council Administration in order to achieve efficiency and transparency. Thanks to their great vision they have created a lovely city and reached good results. Therefore, this is considered from the United Nations Habitat's Jury a Best Practice

Ms **Rosa** presented the work fulfilled by the researchers of the Polytechnic of Turin in collaboration with Piedmont Region, which contracted the Observatory on Sustainable Cities in relation to WP 9 - "Best Practices and Future Scenarios".
The main aim was at defining a methodological and theoretical frame, whose key topics are: Best Practices, Transfer of lessons learned, Networking and a Common Strategy. Afterwards there was a more operating phase consisting in the identification and evaluation of case studies, followed at the end by the development of policy guidelines.
Then Ms Rosa explained that a Best Practice is an innovative practice, which is implemented to solve a problem in terms of sustainability, and it is the combination of practical know-how and innovative scientific skills.

Elisa
Polyt
Obse
Cities
Cons
Regio

The Best Practices researchers' team aims at finding out and spreading information deriving from good practices. In order to achieve this goal, a Best Practices database will be set up within the AlpCity Project in line with the United Nations Habitat and EU basic databases developed in this working field.

As she highlighted in order to make a Best Practices system efficient, it is necessary to transfer the lessons learned in a very effective way. This means that we have to transfer the acquired knowledge in a different context in order to solve similar problems. Transfer of lessons learned has to be a Best Practice itself. It has to be realised according to a criterion of innovation, necessary to solve problems concerning innovative knowledge and sustainability.

In order to have an effective transfer system it is useful to have a supporting framework, like the AlpCity network, able to allow the match between information demand and supply coming from different actors sharing similar problems. In this network actors have equal access to information that is a basic principle for the transferring process and allows a peer-to-peer exchange. This network represents not only a sort cooperative intermediation but it becomes an instrument for capacity building and a learning organisation.

The transfer procedure should focus on synergetic systems of actions and not on individual practices. On this basis AlpCity could build its common strategy depicted as an integrated and synergetic system of Best Practices organized according to a logical

ALPCITY RUO Regional Authorities ; Universities; Research Centres; etc.			
LUO Partner I Region … Provinces; Councils; Other local Authorities; Professionals; NGOs; Associations, etc.	LUO Partner II Region …. Provinces; Councils; Other local Authorities; Professionals; NGOs; Associations, etc.	LUO Partner III Region ….. Provinces; Councils; Other local Authorities; Professionals; NGOs; Associations, etc.	LUO Partner VI Region ….. Provinces; Councils; Other local Authorities; Professionals; NGOs; Associations, etc.

structure, which is divided into thematic areas, action fields and actions.

Ms Rosa also underlined that this thematic and hierarchical division has to be integrated to the system of interdependence, which must connect the different actions belonging to the strategy. This connection can make the system effective.

She closed her presentation by anticipating that there is an intention to go further with the AlpCity network activities after the project ending through the potential setting-up of a Regional Urban Observatory (RUO) in line with the model proposed by the United Nations Habitat.

This Observatory would assume the structure of an interregional horizontal cooperative network among different regions, which could be supported by a vertical network able to connect each region to the municipalities of its territory. Piedmont Region, current AlpCity Lead Partner, could be the coordinator of the future central RUO web site and

each region should build a Local Urban Observatory (LUO) able to realise the vertical network within the communities, which are the real actors of the common strategy.

In this view it is very important for Ms Rosa to build an international framework, which could be structured at two levels: a vertical one (with supranational bodies - e.g. Habitat and the European Union) and a horizontal one (with networks dealing with policies and urban regeneration activities in the alpine context - e.g. CIPRA International).

All the information contained in this presentation can be found in the six Guidelines drafted by OCS and available on the AlpCItyRUO web site in a provisional version. Ms Rosa invited the PP and the SSC to develop proposals and advise for their improvement.

Ms **Guarini** started her presentation by highlighting the idea of the RUO coming from Mrs Cavallo Perin, Ms Sena and the OCS coordinator Prof. Carlo Socco.

The mind refers to the European trends concerning information and communication technologies (ICT) considered a basic tool for communication and transparency between governments and civil society. Therefore the AlpCity Best Practices team started to develop an on line section dedicated to the Best Practices framework and RUO in the AlpCity official web site. This work was made in order to exploit and develop the connection between the current AlpCity Project and the potential future Regional Urban Observatory. The web site interface is very similar to the AlpCity Project one, just to underline the origin of the RUO idea.

Ms Guarini briefly described the mentioned web site sections:

It is divided into different main thematic areas dedicated to:

    ✓   Common strategy

    ✓   Best Practices

    ✓   Learning Centre

Each thematic area includes some general and specific information about the subject. For example the theme of "Common Strategy" is divided into 4 areas: economic development, services and quality of life, urban environment and cooperation among towns.

The web site owns a hierarchical structure (sections: problems, action fields and actions. Under the "actions" section it is possible to find the 20 case studies of the AlpCity Project).

Ms Guarini then focused on the AlpCity database, which is under construction. She asked all the participants to fill in the Best Practices Submission Form available on the AlpCity web site and useful to propose a potential good/best Practice. Ms Guarini summarised the main sections of the Best Practices Submission Form. All the fields to fill in will be useful to the analyst to establish the practice quality. The main fields are:

        ✓Thematic areas

        ✓Project Characteristics:

o Situation before the initiative implementation

o Priorities

o Targets, strategies and objectives

o Resource mobilization

o Project description

o Expected results

o Impacts and sustainability aspects (financial, social, economic, cultural and environmental)

She concluded her presentation by inviting the participants to read the guidelines for the transfer of lessons learned, which could be useful from an operational point of view. The OCS team made some experiments to test efficacy and efficiency of this Form; they received all the requested information, but evaluation was not so positive.

Open discussion

After thanking all the speakers for their clarity and conciseness, Mr **Scheurer** invited the participants to pose some questions. In the meanwhile he asked his own question: he was wondering about the connection between the case studies and the small alpine cities and asked Mrs Fourny Kober how it is possible to link the concepts of city in the Alps and of case studies.

Mrs **Fourny Kober** tried to answer to this difficult question even if she said that it was very difficult to establish some selecting criteria of small alpine towns proper to become object of a case study. She focused her reply on the problem of development, rehabilitation and urbanization of small mountain towns. She underlined that the real problem of the alpine space is the development itself and she posed the question of how is it possible to convert into resources the alpine situation and how is it possible to create something durable starting from this alpine situation. She said that the common answer to these questions could be the tourism as an instrument able to increase the economy. However, she also underlined that tourism should use these added values linked to other mountain symbolic values such as the environment of an alpine town. In order to ensure some lasting results, small alpine towns should appropriate of mountain resources and integrate them with their productive activities (tourism, handicraft, ecc.).

Mrs **Gras Plouvier** focused her attention on the question previously expressed by Mrs Fourny Kober. She proposed to go beyond the small town's hierarchical concept, and to focus on the theme of small towns' available resources and activities. According to her it is not correct to make up a study of individual towns, but she auspicates the spreading of peculiar concepts like networks and interconnections.

Mrs Gras Plouvier said that a big city has usually got a central pole, which attracts many different activities. Therefore she prompted to apply the same strategy to a small city by connecting all its activities and relations to a central pole and analysing its hinterland.

Then, in order to answer to Mrs Fourny Kober's question, Mrs Gras Plouvier said that offering a good image is very difficult for a small city even if tourism provides some resources: the main problem rests on the possibility of sharing and exploiting these resources in the whole mountain territory. She remarked the importance of public expenditure and programmes to enhance development.

Mrs Glas Plouvier finally suggested the idea of the small mountain city as a "micropolitan" centre in opposite to the metropolitan one.

Mr Perlik

Scientific Committee Expert

Mr **Perlik** affirmed that all the participants should be aware that the AlpCity Project involves a big heterogeneity of grouped municipalities, but most of them cannot be considered as cities. This is not simply a terminological issue, but the relevant question is whether these individual municipalities will be able to transform themselves in the future. He noticed that metropolis and big cities always act in an autonomous way and they pursue their own interests, while the municipalities involved in the project are not able to become individually actors on the international stage. For this reason they can make horizontal networks operational through the exchange of information about Best Practices. At the same time also the vertical component should be integrated within a region, both in a "metropolis" region (such as Lyon) and in a "middle-town" region (like Wallis). This vertical integration is necessary not only for what concerns urbanisation, but also quality of life in decentralised places. At the end Mr Perlik remarked that it is necessary to be aware of the existence of different concepts, which should be refined during the project implementation.

Mr Scheurer

national moderator plenary session

Mr **Scheurer** thanked Mr Perlik for his reply and underlined the challenge emerging from this discussion: it is necessary to move from the individual cities toward the hinterland and to have a glance not only at small towns, but also at bigger ones. According to Mr Scheurer they had still to discuss about the modalities to realise these contacts between a small town and its hinterland, a small town and a big city, a small town and another small town. So he preferred leaving the question open. Then he left the representative of the municipality of Tschlin speak.

Mr Schwärzel

representative of municipality of Tschlin

Mr **Schwärzel** explained that at the beginning of the AlpCity Project he was wondering whether also municipalities with less than 5.000 inhabitants could take part into it. The municipality of Tschlin, he represented, was very interested in the way urbanization and the other key-elements of the Project could work together.

Mr Schwärzel thinks that still bigger efforts should be put in place just to give a profitable chance to littler villages far from every small town, like Tschlin. He admitted that the SSC expressed already some indications towards a vertical integration. As Mr Perlik explained before, this the best solution for a small place, which is almost autonomous, very active and which can make progress thanks to Best Practice application. The connection with the urbanization theory proved to be very coherent speaking from a scientific point of view, but as Mr Schwärzel remarked, it is far from the pragmatic approach he is interested in. So he asked for some answers in this direction.

Mr Scheurer

national moderator plenary session

Mr. **Scheurer** assured Mr Schwärzel that he would have received a proper answer during the afternoon and in the closing session. Then he closed the morning session of the Conference; he thanked Ms Sena for entitling him moderator of the first session. Finally he wished all the participants a good prosecution of their work and adjourned the meeting.

Afternoon working groups' session

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mrs **Dagnino** introduced the working session and explained that they decided to talk at the same time about "Economic development" and "Quality of life" for the sake of brevity. In order to put all the different contributions together she invited all the people engaged in the case studies to take part in the discussion.

Some proposition papers - including general and specific questions and guidelines for future work - were finalised and distributed in order to support remarks.

The meeting was conceived as an intermediate step for the project evaluation aimed at understanding whether and how some peculiar aspects should be studied in depth.

The main themes of the "Economic Development" area are:

- Participatory process methodology (while comparing the different existing methodologies it became evident that all partners applied this method)
- Sustainable development (it is important to define the incentives for local sustainable development, to make an evaluation of the planning and financial tools at local authorities' disposal and analyse their characteristics).

  This second point allows a comparison among the different European territorial realities and the study of problems emerged within the case studies in villages between local authorities and stakeholders.

Mr **Gaido** focused on the subject of sustainable development and the method to support it.

During this intermediate step of the AlpCity Project, the Scientific Steering Committee's role consists in a sort of coaching to offer a methodological support including some suggestions to solve problems within the case studies implementation.

There is a series of basic conditions for sustainable development common to different kinds of models, such as the original bipolar model (society – environment), the three-pole model introduced after the Rio Conference (society – environment – economy), the four-pole model (which adds culture as grounding element) and the five-pole one applied by someone to Sion candidature for the 2006 Winter Olympic Games (which still adds politics to the other elements).

All these conditions have to be fulfilled in order to build a good plan for sustainable development. On this subject it is necessary to refer to natural sciences: in a three-pole model it is impossible to calculate simultaneously all the interactions among the three elements. This means that in every planning process there is the methodological need to declare an *enter key* with the awareness that some negative dynamics on the other

Luig

 Alp
Stee
Exp
Faci
Wor
'Eco

elements will be produced (there is no dynamic without entropy - e.g. choosing economy as enter key will certainly generate some negative consequences at social level or/and on the environment, like for example pollution).

It is obvious that the choice of an enter key is an exquisitely political option during planning procedures for development.

Among the cases analysed only Lombardy Region declared a social motive to justify an economic process: in order to preserve a peculiar mountain social fabric it was necessary to maintain the so called shops "di prossimità" (near by), which could be otherwise damaged by the competitive market rules.

Mr Gaido concluded his speech by underlining the importance of a clear definition of the project target and the direction to reach it. All the listed steps constitute an advantage for the project evaluation phase and for the make up of appropriate evaluation grids.

Corvo
entific
mittee
Expert
of the
oup 5
nomic
ment"

Mr **Corvo** spoke about the subject of participatory planning procedures from a methodological point of view. It is necessary to engage all the citizens who live in the areas involved in a project by adopting different instruments and modalities according to the project step. The participatory planning can reveal itself to be very complex, because people couldn't share the project proposals.

He wondered about the most appropriate modality for a comprehensive involvement of local populations. According to Mr Corvo's direct experience within the Lombardy communities, it is necessary not only to analyse the method based on focus groups or citizens' meetings or other realities, but to study population's reaction.

Mr Corvo affirmed that best practises could arise from mentality change. To reach this goal it can be also necessary to train people in this direction.

Once the AlpCity Project has been finished it will be necessary to get some best practises in order to fill general concepts and terms in with concrete contents and to adapt them to individual realities while underlining specificities of each local area, according to the concepts of belonging and local identity in a global environment.

Mr Corvo made some questions:

- How were these procedures of population's involvement developed? Which kinds of quantitative data (e.g. which kind of socio- economic indicators) were considered?

- Which practical methodology was implemented from a sociological point of view (e.g. questionnaire, which kind of sample in the focus groups)?

- Were similar realities considered during the implementation of the case studies? And in which way?

He invited everybody to answer these questions.

SERVICES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Mrs **Alfaré**'s speech dealt with the theme of quality of life, and then she focused again the discussion on the participatory processes methodology.

She affirmed that in the today globalised world specific and peculiar elements are aggregating factors. Some inputs of production, such as technology and information, can be provided everywhere, while natural and unpolluted environment, mountain amenities, the landscape and local culture can be experienced only in few places. Therefore these mountain areas gain more and more importance. In the case studies under WP 6 there are many common points: the public libraries in the Province of Lower Austria and the mountain school in Piedmont Region.

Mountain towns cannot compete with big towns from an economic point of view, but they have an opportunity in offering a higher quality of life and job opportunities in the service sector.

According to the officers of the European Commission the participatory process with its bottom-up approach doesn't work well, especially within the Interreg Programme: for this reason they would like to remove it for the next planning. In Mrs Alfaré's opinion the apparent failure depends on projects brevity: it takes almost three years to identify project key actors and to establish relationships with local people. In 19 of the 20 case studies of the AlpCity Project the participatory model was successfully applied: the Province of Lower Austria can boast a long tradition in this sense. Mrs Alfaré thinks that some efforts should be put in place to demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. Afterwards she hopes that the European officers could think about and retrace their steps.

Mr **Trauner** thanked Mrs Alfaré for the introduction of the WP6 and the other SSC expert Mr Tyrkas. As they decided before, Mr Trauner should take care of two blocks of questions. The first block concerns citizens' participation and particularly the Lower Austria model; the second one is about trans-national cooperation. He affirmed that the model proposed by Lower Austria has been working very well in all modesty for more than twenty years and they can celebrate their jubilee and the existence of citizens' participation in their villages. In 1992 this action was spread also in different towns: today about 500 villages (which means one fourth of Lower Austria villages) take part into this programme, while the number of towns is around 40 (which means two thirds of all towns). This is certainly a very relevant percentage.

Lored

AlpCit
Steerir
Expert
Facilita
Workir
"Servi
life"

Hubert

Coordir
Work P
"Servic
life"
(PP Pro
Govern
Austria

Mr Trauner underlined that a very popular saying in Lower Austria remarks that national loyalty does not translate into what people should think, but simply "God helps those who help themselves".

Then he tried to explain how the model works by outlining some important points suited to the renewal of alpine cities. The key for success consists in the presence of assistants in every town. In Lower Austria a very harmonious change is taking place thanks to the creation of a national association for villages and towns renewal and at present about 40 people are involved: they started this process on the field and aim at putting alpine populations in a position to solve their own problems. To accomplish this task there are very rough suggestions: in fact every town should find its own way. In any case there is a common element, that is a towns steering committee established with the participation of local political parties, local authorities and citizens. In order to find some solutions about 20 or 30 people in every town should point out the central elements to the common steering committee. Of course 20-30 people in a town are not so many, considered that they have to be qualified in different subjects; for this reason working groups are appointed to face specific topics and projects. These groups can range from 5-10 to 30-40 people; so in a town we can find also 200-300 people engaged. Since towns in Lower Austria are relatively small with 1.000-5.000 inhabitants, the participation degree can be considered quite high. The already mentioned popular saying invites to participation, which is the most important topic according to Mr Trauner.

The process, Mr Trauner so actively supports, can take many years: sometimes a normal pause can take place; in some cases a long-time pause can be necessary for financial reasons and after many years the action can be undertaken another time.

For what concerns his personal experience, Mr Trauner declared that local political representatives were a bit sceptical at the beginning. Since the idea belonged to the head of the province, later it was eagerly accepted. Even if it is desirable to implement other tools for the increase of participation the situation is quite good and Mr Trauner hopes for reaching the Bavarian level, that is a 100% towns participation.

At the moment the number of developed projects is 106 with a total cost amounting to €18.000.000,00. The experience shows that sometimes citizens can be opposed to a project; through the participatory process they can be correctly informed since the beginning: this means that they do not know only the external results and appearance of the project, but they can analyse advantages and disadvantages of the initiative and they can play an active role in designing conditions and frameworks.

Referring to what was said previously by Mrs Alfaré, Mr Trauner faced the problem of the next programme planning and of the possible lack of future support to such projects by the European Union because of the enlargement. From the Austrian point of view this enlargement and particularly the economic opening to some European Eastern countries has been very positive, because Austria already cooperated with the new

member countries. Of course they are now competitors, but according to Mr Trauner our countries can still provide them with important factors for the economic development. This means that Lower Austria cannot preserve its old position, but it has to get an international profile: it should stress on its most important features, such as quality of life, culture and so on.

A very important asset to develop within this Interreg project is the creation of a network, because AlpCity is not conceived for individual towns. Moreover their problems can be solved much more easily through cooperation than individually.

Then he wondered about the long-term effects, a question posed also by the two experts. For what concerns citizens' active participation it is clear that committees and working groups cannot find solutions by themselves, but people and inhabitants can have the right understanding of their town and their identity; for this reason they can be welcome by the former through the participatory process. All this evolution can take many years, including pauses and reflections: but at the end a good solution is more probable. According to Mr. Trauner these ones are very meaningful signals.

He explained why their model is considered as a very good one: on the one hand there are so many assistants engaged, who can accomplish the conceptual work; on the other hand we cannot forget the importance of localization and change. Otherwise we get at the end only a lot of paper. With this statement he concluded his speech about the citizens' participation and he said he hoped for some other representations and models coming from regions, which are implementing similar procedures.

The second important point faced by Mr Trauner is trans-national cooperation, another issue raised by the two mentioned experts. Talking about different experiences on the subject, Mr Trauner defined them very positive within the Interreg Programme, but he remarked the pivotal role and the quality of Lead Partners, which must be strong and effective to allow the project to be developed. He took the opportunity to thank Piedmont Region for the excellent work in AlpCity.

Then he dwelt on some obstacles and some basic points. First of all he underlined the importance of information spreading. In his opinion many European regions share common problems, but they do not know questions and skills of the others; for this reason it is necessary to implement as many information tools as possible, like for example the Internet, which can favour important exchanges. Nevertheless he added that we can never renounce direct dialogue. The second obstacle is time, which is always scarce also because there are many local projects to accomplish. However, the will of working and thinking about European projects is enough firm to support this major work. Another important issue to be faced is the language problem, always present in our multifarious Europe. According to Mr Trauner's opinion this is a deferred question considering that the ongoing conference was characterized by exchanges among people with different mother tongues. He judged the variety of languages as an important richness for Europe.

In the last trans-national meetings a very important issue came out, even if it was not considered so much: it deals with the clarity of competence at different levels; this feature assumes various shades passing from municipalities to regions and to nations. Probably one key of problem solving is the clear definition of assignments and the chance to accede to information about a problem so that it could be possible to propose a proper solution.

Mr Trauner concluded by remarking the positive experience with the group participating into the Conference and he expressed the hope for future collaborations in implementing other Interreg projects.

...eurer

...tional
...erator
...enary
...ssion

Mr **Scheurer** invited the people attending the Conference to tell their experiences and to pose some questions.

...Gaido

...entific
...mittee
...Expert
...of the
...oup 5
...ment'

Mr **Gaido** referred to Mr. Trauner's speech and underlined two elements considered as basic for the understanding of participatory processes as well as useful for the best practices issue:

    1.   Transparency $\rightarrow$ it deals with quality and quantity of citizens' involvement. Actually the problem is not the method, but its application. The principle of transparency also refers to the engagement of the most of stakeholders.

    2.   Support $\rightarrow$ it refers to the support projects must provide local communities with (that he himself defined as "coaching" in his previous speech). As Mrs Cavallo Perin said before without this element local communities have many difficulties from an economic and a technical point of view in developing a participatory planning process.

...Alfarè

...entific
...mittee
...Expert
...of the
...oup 6
...lity of
life"

Mrs **Alfaré** asked the case studies representatives (particularly the municipality of Grainau) for the way they use to involve people and for the engaged actors.

...Zodl

...e PP
...ment
...ustria

Mrs **Zodl** focused on the way through which it is possible to find and involve stakeholders at a local level. The working group she refers to implements the participatory process by rendering easily possible for people to take part into the decision-making. They are working at a local level: first of all, a group of 5 or 6 people analyses and supports a proposed idea. Secondly, this group tries and understand the composition of local population, the role of leadership and the opposition groups. This

procedure is useful for learning how this community works. It takes about half a year and then the group starts developing a concept. To do that in a town of 5000 people it takes approximately one year; familiarizing with local people takes maybe six weeks and the rest of time is devoted to work with them.

In terms of relationships the effective method consists in the knowledge of people and understanding them. Apart from working on relationships, there is an important focus on the ideal images of the town that people keep in their minds. So they work on images first and then on projects.

Mr **Günter** affirmed the efforts of the municipality of Grainau towards a learning process from the experts, who own all the knowledge to answer to peculiar questions. Then the local authority tries and adapt their observations to their town. He was aware of the plenty of time needed to implement the process, but he declared also that many important results were reached in the short term.

For what concerns Grainau it is remarkable the work developed in the tourist industry with the creation of trade sites and the editing of a brochure; moreover there is a strong will towards the improvement of service providing, especially targeting the youth. In order to put in place experts' suggestions all the local population has been involved: this one is the only democratic method, which allows a concrete expression and implementation of the public opinion. Results seem to prove that the participatory model works. He concluded by saying that the major prejudice to overcome belongs to the Bayern political authority, whose support is essential for the project.

Karl G
Repre
the Mu
Graina

Mr **Tyrkas** went on with Mr Günter's description: he comes from Garmisch and spoke about the tourist industry, where a bottom-up process was implemented with a relevant citizens' participation, exactly according to the Lower Austrian model pictured by Mr Trauner.

An important feature of the process has been the make up of working groups formed by experts and local skilled people specialized in hotel management, gastronomy, tourist subjects like tourist economics and administration: they tried to considered all the aspects of the matter and to focus on critical and peculiar points. They expressed the grounding aspects of the topic and local actors had the chance to exploit these important considerations.

The most important purpose of the working groups consisted in creating in the local population the awareness to be potential makers of change; according to Mr Tyrkas this is obviously an important ingredient for success. The enlarged involvement of different actors and particularly this public-private partnership revealed very fruitful in producing and coagulating different ideas to be realised and developed.

Mich
AlpC
Stee
Expe
Fac
Wor
"Ser
of lif

Mrs **Mühlbauer** comes from the northern part of Bavaria and precisely from the municipality of Grainau. She spoke about the promotion method adopted in that area. She told their big problem consisting in the lack of prepared researches and studies and in the lack of financial planning. Unfortunately they cannot get any support from Bavarian policy-makers, because of the general spare policy adopted in the region, which implies a strong reduction of economic and financial means. For this reason, as she explained, there won't be new projects foreseen in the next three years. As consequence they have no funds to set up studies and research.

Grainau can be considered very lucky, because it is a beneficiary of European Union funds, otherwise all the work implemented within this project would have been almost impossible.

Since 1978 cities promotion in Bavaria, but also in Germany has been a very effective instrument, probably also in other regions where it is possible to find very peculiar and special places. A very important element was the shared perception of the importance of cooperation, which seems today a bit asleep. All this is complicated by the shortage of national and regional funding; apart from Interreg III and AlpCity it is very difficult for municipalities to develop their ideas and this problem will be very serious in the next years.

Mr **Dansero** introduced himself as professor at University of Turin and working as consultant for the case study implemented by Piedmont Region in the Chisone and Germanasca Valleys. The case study under WP5 is entitled "Local development and the Olympic Winter Games' legacy".

Mr Dansero explained that his case study should be initially followed by TOROC, the Olympic organization committee, which then withdrew from the Alpcity Project also for bureaucratic problems. So the University of Turin took over together with the Pracatinat Consortium, a sort of laboratory of environmental education on sustainable development, created by Piedmont Region, Turin Province, Municipality of Turin and many other bodies.

Mr Dansero talked about two different realities (Chisone and Germanasca Valleys) involved in a big event, and explained that this difference required the use of different instruments of analysis even if at the beginning they wanted to apply the same methodological path. This case study is only a part of a bigger work implemented by the University of Turin and other experts (local and not) and started two years ago regarding participatory planning and sustainable development in the so-called Pinerolese area.

Pragelato is very dynamic, and ski-tourism development-oriented. The town is not far from Sestriere (the most important Olympic centre) and hosts different important events for the Winter Olympic Games, such as cross-country ski races and jumping-off- the-springboard races. Just the springboard together with the more northern bob track

(situated in Susa Valley) is the most impacting element from an environmental point of view. In this area many political and economic local actors are very dynamic and have been implementing many relevant projects aimed at developing tourism in every season of the year. This factor produced also an increase of the population, which passed from 400 to 500 inhabitants: a very contrasting process if compared to the other towns of the area. Immigration is also significant with the presence of 100 Romanian people. Unfortunately Pragelato was inserted in the black list of Legambiente, the most important Italian environmental organisation: for this reason this case is quite controversial.

The case study focuses on 'listening' to local territory through some interviews carried out with different local stakeholders with the aim at understanding what they think about the concept of the Olympic Games' legacy in terms of material infrastructures and strategies.

Prali in the Germanasca Valley (where a Waldensian community still survives) is instead more marginal: in fact there is only one chair lift. Local actors don't believe in the Olympic heritage and don't want to invest their resources to manage the chair lift. Therefore, they wait for outside investors. Interviews to local key actors (young people and authorities) are developed also in this context; they would like to organise a summer meeting to invite everybody to express her/his opinion. However, the perspective seems to be quite depressing.

Tyrkas

Scientific
Committee
Expert
of the
Group 6
"Quality
of life"

Mr **Tyrkas** showed a great interest in alternative models of the participatory process and especially in the one implemented by the French project partners.

He wondered about the way through which citizens are involved and about the main obstacles in the application of the method. He declared to be interested in the conduct of the participatory procedure not only from a regional point of view, but also according to a trans-national focus.

Moreover all these experiences imply a relevant quantity of information, which could be usefully transferred by trying to understand the better way to accomplish this task. It is important to verify the existence of basic and recurring elements, which could be put into practice and be a reference for whoever applies the method. Then these learned lessons could be spread, because reciprocal exchange of information and experiences can be very fruitful.

Among the most important obstacles to trans-national application and transfer of the participatory process, Mr Tyrkas outlined the language and other major difficulties depending on political and administrative conditions and structures, but also on culture and mentality, which can prevent the process from realizing.

He was interested in the real citizens' engagement, characterized not only by a pro forma capacity of dialogue, but in concrete forms of cooperation and collaboration, which can be identified in a true public-private partnership.

Perlik

Scientific
Committee
Expert

Mr **Perlik**'s statement referred to Mr Tyrkas' last question about the obstacles of the trans-national know-how transfer and cooperation. According to his experience the political culture plays a very important role in tracing the life path and the future path of a society.

The participatory process is a learning procedure and in this activity it is possible, in Mr Perlik's opinion, to find the keys for success from an economic, ecological and social point of view and at the end also from a political point of view. It is very useful to look at the Lower Austrian model even if he keeps a sort of critical and analytical position in front of it.

Then Mr Perlik referred to Mr Gaido's words and declared to believe in another direction, that is towards the regional and local development. He thinks that this is the future direction and the right life path according to the concept of persistence. Many projects throw themselves into the future; some of them are based on economic grounds, others on ecological or social ones.

It is pivotal to understand what is pre-eminent for the future generations between the economic side and the ecological one. Mr Perlik works with a lot of young people, who are called to take political responsibility for the future.

This involvement is the first step, then we can speak about the method to apply. Mr Perlik expressed his interest in this kind of trans-national exchange of experiences and underlined the importance of looking at the Lower Austrian performance. According to his

experience the young people of the alpine space think that this method can work well. So he concluded by encouraging this kind of activities.

Mr **Tyrkas** thanked Mr Perlik for his reply and repeated his central questions to the French representatives with the will of understanding their implementation method and their considerations of the subject.

Micha
AlpCit
Steeri
Expert

Mrs **Lombardi Satriani** is responsible for institutional relations at the Human Resources Centre in Brussels.

Clotild
Satria
Consu
Lomba
WP 5

Lombardy Region is implementing a steer action that involves seven villages in the province of Brescia(Val Camonica and Alto Garda Bresciano).

The aim of this case study is not only the analysis of these mountain areas but also the formulation of innovative specific solutions for the trade sector (e.g. how to support the traders in the small mountain areas which are characterized and affected by the depopulation, the increasing presence of ageing people and the consequences of the competitive wide scale products distribution).

The participatory process has been adopted in order to mobilise people and make everybody aware of the problem.

Some focus groups have been organised with the administrators and representatives of category associations of the involved towns (less than 2000 inhabitants). The interviews with local people stimulated their participation (among the adopted participatory instruments there is also the creation of a specific web site).

Instruments for local operators:

✓A ban, untitled "Obiettivo2" for the creation of an experimental way of sale was published in January

✓The search for replicable initiatives from other European areas to Lombardy Region.

Some best practises, implemented at the European level, were then presented (e.g. reference to the experimentation multi - services shop in Germany, Finland and Sweden and of the partnership between little traders and representatives of the large distribution) and considered as starting point for other innovative actions).

The ban provided the financial basis, and the best practises provided some support in terms of people awareness.

Mrs Lombardi Satriani underlined the importance of training activities addressed to traders and the partnership with some actors of the large distribution in order to foster the role of the little mountain traders as providers of typical and high quality local products. This type of relation could also allow the development of economies of scale in terms of production because the traders themselves could buy some products from the large distribution.

ouvier

" of the
age 8
mong
owns"
Alpes
egion)

Mrs **Gras Plouvier** focused on the case study implemented within the WP "Economic development": a district council has been set up in all villages with more than 50.000 inhabitants. The participatory process has been tested both in terms of projects' development and management at a local level.

The main problem is actually related to the setting up of a district council.

One or more district councils have been created in Lyon since each district has almost 50.000 inhabitants or more.

Each council has chosen the best way to conduct the election (e.g. some councillors has invited the whole population to take part at the first meeting and they have presented a chart for participation. All the associations, the actors and the citizens came to the meeting in order to be eligible. They chose the candidates among them in order to legitimate the representativeness of the council.

The problem of representation is very important. The adopted method is considered valuable because it provided the Council a legitimacy among the civil society.

Region has adopted a participatory approach also from a political point of view, and a series of decentralized meetings has been organised in the Rhone-Alpes area to analyze the inhabitants' life. All the citizens were invited and the most motivated have expressed the needs of the sector they were representative of. During these meetings it was evident who were the most motivated persons and competent actors. It was also important to consider how to finance their training.

Mrs Gras Plouvier also posed some questions :

- How to build this local participatory process?
- Who follows the development and the management of a programme from the beginning to the end?
- Which are the available instruments?

Mrs **Fourny Kober** added some considerations to Mr Tyrkas' speech.

She underlined two elements:

- How the participatory method is conducted in the framework of the Interreg programme
- The cultural differences of participation

Cultural differences exist especially in France, and the process for the consensus' construction is more difficult. In opposite a culture of consensus already exists in German towns and this makes things easier. So, in France the participatory method is the only way to build consensus among the civil society.

Mrs. Fourny Kober also underlined that this method is easy to be used in a society where internal conflicts and divisions are almost absent, and where people is favourable to innovation and available to experience it with enthusiasm. In rural and

mountain areas, often affected by a crisis, the population is not always towards innovation and modern processes.

Mr **Gaido** underlined that the problem of participatory process was discussed up to now from a technical point of view. He explained that the culture of participation process existed and it is referred to the seventies. Participatory process depends on ideas credibility and on the credibility of people who propose the project.

He added that sometimes ideas are made banal. Projects often are focused on tourism which although is impossible to delocalise. However, it is also true that it is impossible to do tourism everywhere and there aren't tourists for everybody. So he considered important to understand if projects have or not declared the economic consequences and who are the direct beneficiaries.

Finally, he highlighted the importance of understanding what are the foreseen consequences for the employment sector and for young people when a project starts.

Luigi (

 AlpCi
Steerin
Expert

Mr Schwärzel gave a picture of the Swiss situation, which is different because of its position outside the EU. He described Switzerland as the country where the extreme form of federalism is implemented and he praised its true direct democracy. Each project needs consensus to be approved through a participative process. This does not mean that this procedure is easily applied: there is a traditional approach, which is just a bit participative mixed with the most modern participatory procedures. Of course it is difficult to find a connection between the two definition of citizens' participation. The majority of the population is oriented towards the second way. The municipality of Tschlin is similar to the one of St Maurice; there is a good degree of participation and when something new has to be introduced citizens' opinion is taken into great consideration.

Then he referred to a very successful project developed in Tschlin, that is the creation of a Tschlin brewery. As a German saying outlines "a beer idea is not easily marketable", but nonetheless this idea has been working. Citizens' participation can be measured by considering that each family in Tschlin owns at least a share of the brewery: this example indicates the active role of local population in deciding and supporting a project. Thanks to the concrete engagement of people a potential financial problem of the municipality was avoided.

Then Mr Schwärzel spoke about another ongoing project involving an hotel; the idea developed by a famous architect was refused by people. So during a workshop many people took part into another project was approved. In this sense Switzerland is different from the rest of the countries.

Jori S
Repre
the M
Tschli

Mrs **Zodl** added something about the fears of the participatory process. There are many projects with a clear purpose supported by a large percentage of the population. In

Helga
Consu
Provin
of Lov

these cases also decisions and paths for local authorities or other entitled bodies are almost traced.

In other cases the solution is not always so unambiguous; the most important element is a good communication, because people need to be informed about all the consequences and characteristics of the project. In so doing local population is encouraged to take the right decision, because they have a clear image of what it implies. A good initial idea does not turn always in a good reality: so it is important to be transparent and to provide people with sufficient information about the project.

The **representative of Franche-Comté Region** presented the case of "Routes touristiques in the Jura mountains" which aims at revitalising the region with the support of engineering tools that could help the Mayors of small mountain towns (100,200,300 inhabitants), situated along the main street in the Jura mountains, to have a more strategic vision.

He said that the Region has not given the contracts' criteria to the Mayors in order to understand the effective participation of population, while his working group has asked a general study on urbanisation in each village and mountain town (ancient and modern aggregation). Through these studies it could be possible to understand how to realise a certain type of participation.

The absence of the contract criteria and the quite centralised mentality of some small towns have caused some difficulties in understanding the value of the project. In opposite the participation process was successful in the towns where the Mayors had an open mentality and culture.

He underlined that there were some cultural obstacles.

For this reason he explained that it could be necessary more time in order to allow the local actors to review their global purposes aiming at supporting the economic development through the urbanisation. He though that most probably the enter key of urbanization was too restricted for achieving the main project's aim related to the economic development. Therefore, he suggested adopting a more integrated approach. This project could be a financial opportunity at a national level for local actors and an opportunity to have resources for the mountain villages. He closed his speech by adding that it could be done more.

Mrs **Alfarè** answered to Mrs Fourny Kober's question. The participation process is adopted to solve conflicts, and the real problem is the lack of a local capacity building. The participatory method should be used to face these problems.

Mrs Alfarè answered to Mr Gaido. Due to the scarcity of resources it is difficult to create employment.

Mr **Gaido** focused his speech on the need to choose a clear enter key when a project starts. Referring to the work package related to the economic development he said that if the urbanisation is chosen as enter key, the economic development is put on a second level.

So Mr Gaido asked all experts :

✓ Which are the consequences when the economy is selected as the enter key

✓ Which are the purposes when money is invested, and where is it directed to

Luigi (
 AlpCi
Steerii
Expert

A question was made to the experts of the case studies related to the subject of quality of life. He asked them which would be the relation between a successful participation and the cooperative movement tradition (he referred to the famous example of Emilia Romagna Region tradition of cooperation). He asked if cooperative movement could help to obtain a successful participation process.

Repres
Mount
Friuli \
Regior

Mr **Gaido** answered that the culture for cooperatives could not be invented where it is not present.

Luigi (
 AlpCi
Steerii
Expert

Mr **Perlik** declared to be sceptical about the definition of a best practice. Notwithstanding the discussion he affirmed not to have the will to change his idea.

He thinks that participation is a sort of conquer of the last 20 years and it can be considered as a best practice together with the request of transparency in economic, political and cultural processes.

Then he wondered about the meaning of participation and he remarked to need a clear answer. He said we cannot be satisfied with the definition spread in the 70s, which identified participation with the good old democracy concept. Nonetheless we can simply accept a sort of juridical definition.

According to Mr Perlik there are lots of methods, through which it is possible to make an experience of participation. He proposed the concept of cooperative as example: if we go forward with this organisation form we can get very different performances. For example the model proposed by the municipality of Tschlin; we can find also other examples in bigger alpine towns, like Villach entitled "the alpine city of the year", where public officers were allowed to develop their preferred specialization and creative skills. Another example is Basel, which operated a sort of transformation of quarters under the concept of "WerkBasel": during the 90s the city adopted a deep interest not only in the economic, but also in the cultural development. The result has been a significant improvement of quality of life in those places.

Manfr
 AlpCi
Steerii
Expert

At the end Mr Perlik reminded his dislike towards the concept of best practices by affirming his preference for concepts such as participation and transparency and leaving space to whatever kind of application of these ideas with original and innovative moods.

yrkas

entific
mittee
Expert

Mr **Tyrkas** underlined the strong connection between participation and economy. In the projects implemented in Lower Austria it was computed that 1€ spent in favour of participation produces 5€ in the realization of the project.

: Kitio

Officer
of the
abitat
Local
mme"

Mr **Kitio** focused his speech on the participation of the population, which he considered as a conquest of the progress. So, he explained that in the past there was a top-down approach: decisions were taken by the centre and then implemented without any question. Nowadays instead, there is a progress in the cooperation development. Mr Kitio highlighted that the United Nations Habitat database includes many BPs which have a relevant participatory component, and this could be noticed both in the south and in the north of the World. He concluded that when there is the participation of the population in the solutions' research, normally it is easier to find more suitable solutions.

uner

f the
e 6
ty of
life"
ncial
wer
tria)

Mr **Trauner** thanked all the participants in the discussion and praised all the different points of view. He concluded with few words about legitimation, which is a prerogative belonging to each democracy, where it is possible the expression of every opinion. From the discussion it emerged that there is not a better region or town, but all of them can learn from other experiences and. Each situation is perfectible.

URBAN ENVIROMENT

This second working group involved the last two project's Work Packages 7 and 8 on "Urban environment" and "Cooperation among towns" issues respectively.

The "red line" among the case studies under WP7 is related to the following aims:

- To support and increase the local identity of alpine towns
- To increase the sense of belonging in the alpine communities

Through the participation of the population it could be easier to reach these aims and to intervene successfully at a local level.

Mr **Torricelli** emphasised that the case studies' red line is related to the sense of belonging in order to support the marginal areas. The mountain areas' marginality has been a characteristic of this places for many years. In order to revitalise these areas, where the population changes and where many migratory movements occur, the case studies under WP7 aim at preserving the local heritage. These actions are based on a sense of belonging. The regional identity could be a lever for the endogenous and local development.

A problem is that these regions are not involved into the metropolitan process of expansion.

In these processes there were two different strategies developed by the partners:

- Enhancement of the local image (e.g. Franche-Comté Region through the revitalisation of some villages).
- Search for and development of practices related to the renewal of the local heritage (civil and rural buildings - what could be the best ways to reuse these abandoned buildings?) - this is the strategy of Piedmont Region, Venetia Region and Friuli Venetia Julia Region.

Mrs **De Sède** made some questions to the partners.

- The first question was related to he local identity and the red line among the projects;
- The second was about the tourism identity;
- The third was about the theme of methodology for participatory processes

Mrs De Sède reflected on the identity's issues, and the concept related to the sense of belonging. She asked if these aspects are sufficient to face the mountain people's immigration, and what does it mean for these new inhabitants, the term identity and the concept of sense of belonging.

Pier F
Coord
Work
"Urban
(PP Fr
Region

Gian I
AlpCit
Steerin
Expert
Facilita
Workin
Urban

Marie I
AlpCity
Commi
Facilita
Group
environ

She observed that in each AlpCity case study under WP7 it exists a relation between the local heritage and the issue of identity. This is particularly evident in the case studies of Piedmont Region and Franche-Comté Region.

Heritage is referred to the memory and the sense of belonging. Ms De Sede considered these as factors for a sustainable development.

She highlighted for example that Franche-Comté Region project has the aim to preserve the identity of the mountain areas through the urbanization but they have to adapt this project and to find different type of approaches.

When a Region decides to preserve its patrimony and resources, it usually reinforces the sense of identity and uses different type of actions such as economic one.

This sense of identity is very important for the area because if the landscape is an aspect for tourism's attraction, a mountain village also needs to communicate its cultural and historical image. If it is necessary to choose an enter key, this could be the tourism that could have the economic development as consequence.

In many projects tourism is presented as the privileged action. In a global perspective, if we talk about the sustainable development we have to also consider the economic, social and environmental aspects.

Another important question is related to how is it possible to identify the potential impact on the other system's components or how is it possible to know problems in other contests (for example the concurrence in the resources' utilization related to the tourism development).

The enhancement of the sense of identity is considered a potential attractive factor. Mrs De Sède asked how is it possible to reinforce this concept, and who are the actors able to invest in tourism.

Then she asked how is it possible to contribute to the development of a territory while creating the most suitable project for the local actors and inhabitants through a participatory process.

Then she focussed on the participatory process methodology.

She asked the reason of the differences which exist within the different projects and regions at the different political and institutional contexts. Finally Mrs De Sède emphasized the importance of an evaluation of the good participatory methodologies in terms of involved actors and processes.

Torricelli
Scientific
Committee
Expert

Mr **Torricelli** made a question particularly addressed to Piedmont Region and Lombardy Region concerning the transformation of the territory into a museum. He asked if these problems are considered by these partners or if partners pose themselves at a superior level.

Ingaramo

Ms **Ingaramo** works as Consultant for Piedmont Region, and she is a researcher at the Polytechnic of Torino.

The case study - she is involved in - is developed in Borgata Varda (Comune of Noasca, Piedmont Region) in the Gran Paradiso National Park.

It is the unique case study which involves a completely abandoned village.

She explained that in this case it is very difficult to talk about an urban context also if there is an administration and the strong will of the local owners to do something positive.

The working group developed this case study through a practical analysis that involved a technical, architectonical, economical, financial, territorial and urbanistical sustainability assessment.

Then Ms Ingaramo underlined one element of comparison with the Swiss partners: in their case study the private owners have retired from the project, while in her case study the proposal is based on the purchase of some buildings by the local administration. This is a relevant starting point for other future interventions. Moreover they have involved the public sector in the project.

She stressed that through this action it becomes evident the population's identity as well as their will to revitalise the village.

Mr **Torricelli** answered that this intervention was useful to understand that not necessarily a territory which is revitalised in this way has to became a museum.

Mrs **Dagnino** stressed the despite Val Camonica has developed some positive processes, Vestino Valley risks to became a natural museum.

A natural landscape creates all conditions to build a "diffuse museum" and also to realize a "diffuse hotel" (the owners leave their homes in order to allow the creation of a common breakfast to host a soft tourism), but the population is often not in line with these proposals.

The workshops have revealed the population's desire to play as active actors.

Mrs **Cavallo Perin** added some considerations to this discussion.

Talking about Piedmont Region Mrs. Cavallo Perin said that since the seventies many strong policies have been developed. She then focused on the negative reaction of the population when the natural parks were created in concomitance of the presence of national parks. There was some tension between the national parks' structure and the population. The dichotomy between the protected areas and unprotected areas is present in Piedmont Region where people have always considered the protected areas as a transformation of particular areas into a museum. Ms Cavallo Perin explained that in these last eight years the general idea has changed. People have understood the meaning of sustainable tourism and protected areas and have understood that it could be a moment for the economical development.

Gian

AlpCi
Steer
Expe

Mari

Coor
Worl
"Ecor
(PP L

Maria

Office
the Al
Head
Regio
'Evalu
and pr
negoti

If the park and the protected areas imagine their activities not only with a preserving function but also with a development one (e.g. through the creation of positive relations with local administrations), the local population and community could envisage in the park an instrument for the economy's promotion.

Mr **Torricelli** said that this was a complete change of approach that could be evident in all the alpine areas and not only in Piedmont. In many places people ask for parks while ten years ago they had an opposite position.

Mrs **Dagnino** added that the parks themselves often became promoters of a typical local products' creation and she stressed that this is a strong point to be considered by the each administration.

Mr **Moro** works as consultant of Piedmont Region for the case study "Living in mountain areas" (WP7)

The working team aims at defining the best strategies of intervention to restore and reuse buildings located in mountain areas. This is a very complex action.

The adopted intervention's strategies refer to the local territory's identity. The environment is a key factor in this working field and it could be a "winning card". Mr Moro took the example of the eco-label, which provides an additional value. The choice to focus the work on the environment is a political choice and it needs to be supported by the population.

In this work the social aspects have also to be considered because the improvement of the buildings' conditions at the environmental level means to improve the quality of life of people who live in these areas.

The last issue was the economical one. Mr Moro communicated the intention to provide some practical recommendations for intervention and strategies proposed also from an economical point of view.

Ms **Benoitte** works as consultant of Franche-Comté Region. She highlighted the problem of identity and transformation of a territory in a museum.

She stressed that the "museification" of a territory means to talk about the identity referred to the past. To talk about a territory's revitalisation refers to its patrimony and the creation of a new heritage for the future generations.

Some projects work on the renewal of abandoned buildings but sometimes the results are not respectful of the surrounded environment.

So Ms Benoitte suggested to integrate the different elements in order to reach a revitalised identity.

Mr **Gaido** intervened as a senior expert in the field of tourism development (25 years of career). He noticed that the development of tourism was considered until that moment as a simple issue, which could be reached through the creation of a park or of an eco-museum. Mr Gaido highlighted that the tourism's development doesn't depend on the patrimony but on the population's skills to exploit the patrimony (the '' business culture'' of local population).

Mr Gaido stressed that if this culture and willingness to do something is missing it is impossible to exploit the patrimony.

So Mr Gaido concluded by giving the advice to be more cautious about the issue related to the tourism development. Actually before the implementation of a project it would be better to analyse the population and its reasons for the tourism's development.

Mr **Suber** supported the opinion expressed by Mr Gaido. Actually, to have at our disposal an architectural heritage doesn't involve automatically the development of an action towards tourism.

He considered as a basic factor the business mentality of the population which allows the tourism. However, to have a business mentality is not enough. The support of the local institutions is necessary .

Some mountain areas seem to be fated to the urban decay and depopulation, but through a global and pluriannual vision able to consider the different aspects of a place such as its history and potentialities for the future, the recovery of the traditions, the exploitation of resources for a sustainable tourism's development, some positive results could be achieved.

Mr Suber made the example of a project implemented in the Comune of Sudrio which aims at sensitising the young generation. The Project is called 'My country is a museum'. Therefore he highlighted that the concept of a museum is not always negative. Its positive perception depends on the local participation to the proposed initiative.

Mr **Toffano** is Director of the Division Territorial Planning and Park (Veneto Region). He was completely in line with Mr Suber's intervention. Resources are not enough to develop a sustainable tourism, entrepreneurs are necessary.

The idea of a museum is not perceived as negative in Venice. A museum is a place where there are values.

Mr Toffano highlighted that different kind of tourism exist. In the mountain areas of Venetia Region, the future is strongly linked to the past because in the tourist areas different choices and initiatives were made.

Nowadays the tourism could be a resource for these areas if we consider the historical excellences together with the hospitality component.

Luigi

 AlpCi
 Steeri
 Exper

Pier F

Coord
 Work
"Urbar
(PP Fr
Regio

Rome

People go to a place able to offer a sense of wellbeing. In line with this logic it is necessary to discover the identity of a place.

The economic development has affected the local identity. Therefore we have to return the sense of identity to the local places also through initiatives, which could have a relevant symbolic value.

Speaking about the case study implemented by Venetia Region, Mr Toffano highlighted that they are working on 30 communities hosting 300 mountain wooden houses ("Tabià"). This is an important patrimony.

The case study is complex and it aims at supporting the identity of these areas.

The Tabià are a resource and they risk to be perceived as an unchangeable reserve partially used.

Another critical aspect is related to the cultural associations which didn't meet the local expectations. Therefore there is a kind of suspicion towards the participatory processes.

Participation is often seen as an instrument for communication rather than an approach able to support the achievement of the a project's purposes.

An important aspect if the formulation of the project since its beginning in order to clarify the mission of the project which aims at supporting the local identity trough the renewal of "Tabià". This is a complex action which includes urban, environmental and technical components. It is difficult to achieve the suitable results at an urban and environmental level by also respecting the local building traditions (for this case study it is important to find people able to work with wood).

Mr Toffano considers the communication one of the most difficult and fundamental component for the success of the project.

COOPERATION AMONG TOWNS

Mrs **Fourny Kober** focused on the issue of cooperation among towns.

The cooperation among villages usually involves the municipalities and local institutions as well as some inhabitants with some spontaneous actions.

The political co- operation supposes a volunteer service.

The question is related to the motivations at the basis of the co-operation among the villages.

Why the villages decide to co-operate with a certain community instead of another in the framework of a volunteer association ?

What are the factors that allow the finalisation of this co-operation ?

Mrs Fourny Kober stated that the cooperation and the associations support the development of a territory. She talked about the "micro-polization" (as opposed to "metro-polization") that is able to attract people in a natural way.

Nowadays, we can assist to a natural movement towards some mountain areas. Starting from the local resources and the volunteer initiatives we can support the development of the territory.

The case studies implemented by the Rhône-Alpes Region focus on resources. The Region aims at creating the conditions for supporting and sharing the local resources.

The Region aims at reinforcing the local capacities.

It was interesting the analysis of the answer of the different villages to the call launched by the Region. This allowed the understanding of their difficulties.

1. The villages, that answered to the Region's call, asked for methods to go further in terms of strategies rather than for equipment or money.

2. The resources for the local development are linked to the local cultural specificities. The small villages which don't have a monumental patrimony, have some other resources such as mining resources or literature works that could became the enter key for the local sustainable development.

3. Quality of life. A research on the urban centres was carried out and the result was the need for an attractive landscape. This issue puts the attention on the problem of diversification. Some villages have different resources connected to the tourism. The problem is how the can diversify the activities. How is it possible diversify the activities in order to answer to the needs also of the new inhabitants.

4. According to the villages' answers, there is a willingness to co-operate and innovation. The communities believe that they could solve the problems in co-operation with other actors and through the exchange and transfer of experiences. The problem is the lack of a methodology. It is necessary to sort

Marie
Fourn

AlpCit
Steeri
Coord

out from isolation and co-operate with other villages, which have similar problems.

Questions to the partners and actors involved in the case studies:

- Which policies are in place for an appropriate use of the local resources? How do you foster the co-operation among villages? Does it exist a regional policy that facilitates the co-operation among small towns?

- Problem of lack of competences in the small villages. Mrs Fourny Kober highlighted that we can recover the lack of competences with the support of the regional institutions.

- Problem of methods and strategies. Towns face this problem through some communication techniques. The big villages work on the model of the enterprise and base their activities on the competitive approach where towns became actors of their development. However, Mrs Fourny Kober focused her attention on the instruments at the disposal of the small villages to face the need for these new competences.

- Which role play the collaboration among the institutions (State, Region and all the other institutional levels) while facing these different local needs?

erlik
ntific
ittee
xpert

Mr **Perlik** focused his speech on the key word of the last decades, that is networks, and he showed some important maps featuring local areas. The images were related to a spatial study conducted in Switzerland and just concluded: the work examined demographic data from a municipal point of view and tried to develop some considerations about the most important transformations of areas in relation to population's growth and workplaces. He pictured the situation starting from about 1970 with a proportional growth of territorial areas without any agglomeration of municipalities; during the 90s there was a more-than-proportional growth and from the end of the decade till now there have been only a growth of metropolitan regions.

In another slide he indicated that the biggest towns lying near basins grew more and more inside their areas. In so doing very big regions were created in few years: precisely in a three-years period we observed a strong growth at the beginning, followed by a slightly negative trend in the two following years to finish with a very negative one. All this information was obtained by official statistical data available from a Swiss census.

A similar work was carried out in Austria following the results of three of the last census, which confirm a growth in the central area in places like Linz and Klagenfuhrt. On the

contrary in the west regions of the country and in mountain areas there is a negative trend.

For what concerns France Mr Perlik showed the situation of the municipalities involved in the case study conducted by Rhône-Alpes Region and dealing with 20 poles. The most important French areas from the growth point of view are around Paris.

Coming back to the Swiss study, Mr Perlik focused on the spatial development as output of economic inputs and outlined the reduction to 5-6 metropolitan areas. The image was provided by Avènir Suisse, which investigated the decrease of metropolitan areas. Looking at the picture he indicated Tschlin outside the metropolitan area and Wallis, Sierre and St Maurice belonging to the so-called *Germanik* area.

Then he posted a slide about France edited by Urbain with some dimensions, work and original official data about metropolitan areas.

According to Mr Perlik, all these results cannot be interpreted as fortuitous, but they are considered as the premises of an actual change in social relationships.

There is a shared conviction that the development happened in the 70s in mountain areas have been changing in a process of increasing concentration in poles and spatial unities.

In Switzerland a lively and critic debate on regional policy has being developed in order to judge the sufficiently liberal approach, which supports strong cuts while regions are requested to demonstrate in future to perform in a very innovative way.

The most important question according to Mr Perlik deals with the finding of cooperation methods among towns.

Mr Perlik remarked that, in principle, towns have a double nature: on the one hand we can trace some networks already during the middle age (we can think about textile fairs) made up by towns with strategic targets and owners of the political power in Europe. On the other hand the role of nations above regions (hierarchically speaking) influenced the formation of big (like Paris and Milan) and small (like Lyon and Salzburg) metropolitan areas. Mr Perlik wonders about the evolution of this process and about the growing autonomy of the smaller towns. He took into consideration the citizens' worries in the surrounding alpine area including big and small towns. Mr Perlik underlined the importance of delimiting independence in order to establish a spatial system of solidarity aimed at balancing strength and power among towns.

Then he focused on the concept of network by trying to fix a tie with economic geography and by establishing a provisional solution to hierarchical relationships between regions and municipalities from an administrative point of view. There are also other two important levels of analysis characterizing networks: the attribution of power and the informal procedure through which ideas, thoughts and interests can be exchanged in a very efficient way. Of course this kind of networks implies some costs: in fact it is necessary to establish clear relationships, to express the main shared

intents in order to take strategic decisions in relation to a compromise between potentially different interests.

calera

Mr **Scalera** is involved in the AlpCity Project in the Alta Valle del Tagliamento, Friuli Venetia Julia Region.

He referred to Mrs Cavallo Perin's speech related to the importance of a network as an instrument able to strengthen some realities which are too small to have a comprehensive policy for the economic, environmental and territorial development.

- Network: the collaboration of different small realities that thanks to this co-operation could became strong enough to develop their own policy for development.

- Environment: the respect for the environment is a strong issue in the alpine space are and is a "leitmotif" of the different projects.

- Cultural identity and participation: in the project implemented in Carnia (Friuli Venetia Julia Region, Italy) the cultural identity is very strong as well as people's participation. There is a strong identification of people with their territories particularly among the young generation who has an idea of the economic development with a sustainable perspective.

- Tourism: Mr Scalera talked about competition related to the fact that the provision of services related to the tourism is bigger than the demand. Furthermore, the tourists are changing and it is now necessary a strategic marketing in order to attract foreign tourists in Carnia (Friuli Venetia Julia Region, Italy). Different initiatives are already in place but due to the absence of a real strategy and marketing activities, these initiatives have a reduced positive impact. The key factor is related to the actors who manage the marketing activities and strategy beyond the networks. These are not the Regions, The Provinces or the Municipalities. It is necessary a suitable structure able to deal and dialogue with the local territories and foster initiatives at a strategic level.

Mr Scalera whished to find some answers to these problems by the end of the project.

Perlik

entific
mittee
Expert

Mr **Perlik** posed a question to Mr Scalera: he asked whether a "mountain community" in Italy or a "pays" in France are not big enough and why.

ricelli

eering
Expert

In which sense these units are not big enough?

Mr **Perlik** referred to Mr Scalera's considerations about the Italian lack of an organized regional support to tourism development and economic development. For what concerns dimensions, a region seems to be a too big entity and municipalities too small. So he thought about a mountain community, seen as an association of different municipalities belonging to the same mountain area; he wondered whether that one can be considered as a good compromise or it is necessary to insert another dimensional level.

The mountain community of Carnia (Friuli Venetia Julia Region, Italy) follows the community's initiatives implemented in Sudrio. The initiative developed in Sudrio during the last ten years were not carried out by Mountain Community. However their problems are similar .

If an organization choices one Community and privileged it for its actions, the other communities have to do something in the meanwhile.

Mr **Suber** said that the situation in Sudrio is characterized by the presence of a very active Mayor who has a pragmatic vision for the territorial planning of his Municipality. This Mayor was able to create some financial tools to be used within the regional programmes without waiting for resources. Sometimes the problems related to the political power have caused some disputes that have paralysed the mountain community's development, particularly in Carnia (Friuli Venetia Julia Region, Italy). The Regional policies presented in the past a low interest in tourism as a factor able to support the development of the mountain communities. This was a missing opportunity.

Mrs **Gras Plouvier** said that Mr Scalera's intervention was very interesting because he underlined very clearly the need for resources in order to defend the tourist marketing in the alpine areas. The action that has to be continued within the AlpCity Project is the alliance among small towns in order to offer services and better answers to the population.

In which way the European mountain communities and villages of the Alpine Space could defend their common interests?

The issue concerning the future and the sustainable development of the small mountain villages has to be submitted at the European level. She highlighted that it would be necessary to work together in order to build a common European future.

Mr **Torricelli** intervened on the issue related to the Italian definition of a small mountain city, which presents some differences in France, Germany and Switzerland.

The urban cultural identity of Lombardy Region, Piedmont Region and Venetia Region valleys is the identity of a big town. Mr Torricelli highlighted that the question of the cultural identity has beyond some historical events. The history of the alpine space is

www.alpcity.it

different in Italy if compared to the one occurred in Switzerland and France. It is important within AlpCity to set-up a network able to share the different experiences.

Presentation
of the
working sessions conclusions and proposals

Round Table

Mrs **Fourny Kober** was the moderator of the June 28 plenary session, and she introduced the structure of this ending session.

The main aim of this session is to synthesise the results of the previous day. This session will be then divided into parts. The SSC Experts will intervene in the first part and they are required to present their point of view concerning the outlined problems, difficulties and potentialities related to the different case studies.

The second part of the session will include the interventions of the Work Packages Coordinators.

Mrs Fourny Kober made a synthesis of the themes discussed the day before. She focused on the different experiences and she highlighted that thanks also to a debate it is possible to work and face together different issues and problems.

Mrs Fourny Kober also underlined another key aspect: all case studies focus on the subject of local sustainable development. From this point of view the different Partners are in line with the project's main aim.

Mrs Fourny Kober underlined that the theme and questions related to the local heritage drew the highest attention.

Concerning the issue related to the cultural identity, it is important to underline how we could work on it in terms of methodology.

The problem is not related to resources but the approach of people towards the local culture and different contexts. It is important to reflect on methodologies and find out some dynamics able to include the participation of the population, integrate the different local aspects, and – as it was highlighted by Mr Gaido – to clarify the project's enter key.

Mrs Fourny Kober underlined the importance to transfer experiences and lessons learned. Best Practices could be used in this direction.

She then gave the words to the SSC Experts and then the WPs Co-ordinators by asking them to synthesise the different issues related to the AlpCity WPs including outlined problems, difficulties and proposals for facing them during the last part of the project.

SSC EXPERTS

Mr **Corvo** talked as a sociologist. He said that his involvement was total in relation to the issue of participatory processes and the difficulties in involving the local population.

Marie
Fourn

AlpCit
Steeri
Coord

Paolo

AlpCi
Steeri
Expert

The element, which he considered particularly interesting, is that the participatory processes have changed since the seventies. Nowadays it is very difficult to involve people. He supported the idea of considering the young generation as a starting point that must be involved in concrete and future oriented projects.

The most relevant problem, outlined from the studies conducted at the Catholic University in Milan, is linked to the difficulties in looking for future strategies because we often plan ourselves just making a reference to the present. This is a sociological theme but it has many consequences on people that could be involved in the present just if there is a future.

He finally highlighted that we need to be involved in the decision-making processes at different levels (e.g. State, EU, Regions etc.). These processes have to take into consideration and involve the different realities if we really want to support a local sustainable development.

Gaido

entific
mittee
Expert

Mr **Gaido** said that he was surprised by the optimistic vision of Mr Corvo about tourism because there are some cases in which tourism represents a reduction of the local identity although it is not the case of the case studies implemented within AlpCity.

He focused on the main theme discussed during his working group: the economy.

All partners have talked very much about the participatory process and have talked about economy just in an indirect way. However the economic development is one of the purposes of the project.

He underlined that economy is strictly connected to the society's rules, because it is a society's product. However, economy is treated in all projects as if it is separated from the society. As Mrs Fourny Kober said a providential state does not exist anymore. Mr Gaido stressed the importance of declaring more openly the purpose of a project, because in many alpine spaces the main problem is social and not economical: a small city affected by the depopulation has a social problem. This also brings to the environmental problems (nobody cultivates the land).

Mr Gaido linked his speech to question highlighted by Mrs Fourny Kober "what can we do?". This question brings the discussion directly to another issue that he defined as a sort of auto-referring of projects that create a distance from the territory.

Finally, he focused on the tourism's planning that is different from the one of the enterprises. Speaking about tourism, the competitive advantages are based on the human capital, which involves a very serious evaluation of the territory, and the human and patrimonial potentialities to be considered. Mr Gaido proposed to take care of not only form a technical point of view but also in terms of future perspectives.

ricelli

entific
mittee
Expert

Mr **Torricelli** is manly involved in the discussion related to the WP "Urban Environment". The key words related to the cultural identity and the valorisation of the patrimony has been outlined and they are connected to the sense of belonging. Mr Torricelli said that

the cultural identity generates differences. The small alpine towns are very different according to their location (e.g. the alpine towns in the Jura mountains have a different development if compared to the Italian alpine areas that have to be called valleys rather than cities). During the discussion related to the WP 7 he noticed an added value to the AlpCity Project thanks to the exploitation of the cultural and environmental heritage. Mr Torricelli made the question related to what we could do beyond the exploitation of the patrimony with some tourism purposes.

Then he talked about the importance of the demographic structure. Because without the involvement of the young generations and an entrepreneurial mentality it is difficult to achieve a sustainable development.

He concluded by asking to all the partners how is it possible to guarantee the sustainability of the project, which type of indicators we have to consider in order to understand which projects could have a future also after the end of AlpCity.

Mr **Perlik** spoke about the work package dealing with cooperation among towns and affirmed that networks include very different topics. He tried to summarize many important points regarding not only the WP8, but also the other ones. According to him discussing about the different themes of the AlpCity Project can allow interesting inputs together with the first results of the case studies. The topics examined during the Conference involve not only small alpine towns, but also valleys and mountain communities. All the places preserve their own urban traditions, like also the municipality of Tschlin, and can represent different solutions. During the various historical periods they experienced diverse developments and today they can be part of a metropolitan area or simply rural centres. The observation of small towns is quite useful to understand in which way they structure their surrounding area how they vertically integrate in the bigger regions. In fact the horizontal integration among municipalities is only a partial view of small towns reality.

He remarked again all the changes during the 70s from a social and an economic point of view. On the one hand the system was characterized by a trend towards centralization; on the other hand the European approach aims at a polycentric development of regions. In his opinion the dominant element is still centralization. The same assets are today requested to big and small towns; the topic of a decentralized and differentiated development also in small rural towns seems to assume an important social and cultural meaning apart from historical.

He referred to the concepts of Best Practices and participation as key words by underlining the importance of transparency and empowerment of networks. According to Mr Perlik we have to think about a potential variety of relationships among partners, taking into consideration also spontaneous forms of cooperation. For what concerns Best Practices we can learn a lot from the case studies and after all this work new elements will be able to come out. Thanks to Mr Kitio we realized that many lessons

Manfr
AlpCit
Steerir
Expert

can be learned and new best practices can emerge also from the project activities and studies.

Among the different studies he was impressed by the project of an international mountain school conducted by Piedmont Region and he wondered whether it aimed at imitating the model of a Swiss college by preserving the prerogative of a mountain region and not those ones of a big city.

Mr Perlik thought that it was necessary to speak also about the industrial sector together with tourism; he took as example the Italian alpine area, characterized by a lot of lakes, where the secondary sector lives together with specific tourism.

At the end he remarked the possible transformation of a town into a museum, which has been a reality in mountain areas for the last ten years: taking care of traditions and customs does not necessarily mean making the territory like a museum.

kas

tific
tee
pert

Mr **Tyrkas** started his speech by saying that the local peculiarities are becoming important factors for the local sustainability. Many things such as technology and information can be found all around the globe, but other factors such as local amenities, the natural environment, the landscape and the local culture must be experienced only on a spot. So these areas are gaining every day more relevance.

About the question related to the museums, he said that the small alpine towns are a in a certain way a museum. He considers this concept positively. Actually people form cities aim at experiences the nature, the environment, the local culture and traditions including the folklore, the special food and so on. These are resources of a positive tourism. The next point was that small cities have a good chance to offer an high level of quality of life including not only a beautiful landscape's scenario but also services related to education as well as some job opportunities related to tourism and also IT technologies.

So, there is a chance, nothing is just negative. A good quality of life deals with the combination of successful concepts for the future development as well as the interest to preserve and promote the cultural and natural heritage. The combination of these aspects could increase the local attractiveness and decrease the decay of these areas. He considered this point as the challenge we have all to focus on.

Then he posed some questions:

- what kind of reaction the PPs receive from the local people and stakeholders
- what kind of difficulties the PPs have encountered up to now
- what PPs are doing to guarantee the sustainability of the project
- what are the main obstacles encountered by the PPs for a fruitful co-operation

He considered the last question very important because considered relevant the exchange of knowledge and experiences through co-operation.

Furthermore, Mr Tyrkas highlighted that we have to tailor made the participatory processes according to the specific local situations and problems to be faced by respecting the different local cultures and the mentality of the population. It is understood that not everybody is convinced of the effectiveness of this participatory process. There are different opinions on this subject. Therefore Mr Tyrkas asked the participants to express their suggestions on how is it possible to improve this situation.

He made the example of Austria where the participatory process is the best way to get the feedback from the territory, the Region or the population. They have established suitable structures for the bottom-up approach over the last 20 years. The key factors of success for the bottom-up approach adopted in Austria are at least 5:

1. transparency
2. communication
3. guidelines and leadership
4. pick up and asset the ideas
5. keep realistic

Finally, Mr. Tyrkas underlined the difficulties in involving the local population due sometimes to its lack of know-how. However the involvement of the local population is fundamental as the case studies carried out in Piedmont Region are demonstrating us.

Mr. Tyrkas stressed that criticisms exist also because what could be obvious for a project's responsible could not be understood by the local population.

This project is a difficult project because we have different partners, different local situations. However we started this trans-national co-operation even if some challenges make our work difficult as well as the one of the project managers. It is important to consider the different political structures of the various Partners involved in the project. The result of the co-operation depends also on the level you co-operate. Actually the Regions present a higher bureaucracy even if this changes according to the different countries. Main challenges:

1. Different cultural background. We have seen that even the terminology is used differently (e.g. if we say infrastructure, for us it is something to be constructed physically, but in the Czech-Republic infrastructure is related to investments). Therefore, sometime we don't understand each other.
2. Different languages. Even if we choose a common project's language, it is often very difficult its concrete adoption from all the actors involved in the project. Therefore, to speak different languages become a real problem, which creates different misunderstandings.
3. Lack of time. A project usually lasts two or tree years. However if we consider that we normally need 6 months for its starting, the time for cooperation is reduced.

4. Different rules and laws. The different Partners have different national structures, rules and laws. These differences have some consequences in relation to the financial and administrative aspects. When we finalise a project's budget it is very difficult to consider these aspects that later on affect the real project's implementation.

5. Have a good leadership. Actually a successful project's implementation depends on the leadership role carried out by the Leading Partner. Without and efficient and effective leadership a project will fail.

6. Internal cooperation and internal communication. The presence of a large number of partners requires an efficient communication system. Each actor involved in a project has to contribute to the communication activities in order to achieve the suitable results.

istine
Kober

entific
mittee
linator

Mrs **Fourny Kober** expressed her interest in Michael's speech because he has created a sort of propositions' platform for AlpCity, and she considered very important to have underlined the enterprises' difficulties.

Then she gave the word to the WPs Coordinators by asking them to explain in a few words the main issues outlined from the discussion linked to the case studies under the WPs they are the coordinators of.

WORK PACKAGES COORDINATORS

gnino

of the
age 5
ment"
gion)

Mrs **Dagnino** talked about the economic development issue.

She started with a consideration dealing with the lack of local direct assessments.

She said that although the direct assessments are deficient, there are indirect local assessment – for example in the case studies carried out by the PP Rhône-Alpes Region, which is doing some demographic and occupational analysis considered by Mrs Dagnino as a good basic for the AlpCity common work.

Another important point are the quantitative aspects linked to the qualitative analysis (how many meetings have be organised, how many people attended the meetings). On the basis of the information provided by each case study we can finalise a scheme as working basis for sharing information and lessons learned.

Concerning the economic development issue, it is important to outline the most important areas to focus on - such as tourism or the provision of services.

This question is deeply connected to local cultural identity because through the development of this identity we could improve the attractive factors of these areas. Some innovative actions carried out on Mount Amiata in Tuscany Region show as attractive factors the rural and tourist districts (where the local agricultural role is linked to the tourist one in order to provide an added value to the local typical products).

The identity theme is also linked to the services one as attractive factors.

Some reflections have to me made on the instruments at the disposal of the local administrations in order to support them in their management of the urban attractiveness.

Mrs Dagnino considered very interesting the reflection made within the working group 'Urban environment' concerning the relationship between the Regions and the local municipalities/communities.

Taking as example the initiative developed in Great Britain, Mrs. Dagnino highlighted the initiative of setting-up some offices, within the municipalities, dedicated to the promotion of the cities in different aspects. Speaking about small mountain towns, it is necessary to promote networks because it is not possible to have a single structure as in a big city.

It could be useful to link the reflections made within these Work Packages with the issues discussed within the WP8 "Cooperation among towns" in order to analyse the situations and initiatives of different cities.

Mrs **Gras Plouvier** aimed at underlining some conclusions made by her the day before. She was a little bit sceptical towards this trans-national scientific meeting because she thought that it was too early for making a fruitful exchange among the co-ordinators. The project needed to work a lot on contractual and administrative issues. In opposite this meeting has allowed us to work more on the case studies. Mrs Gras Plouvier thanked the SSC for their reflections and questions that could support a better understanding of the results we want to achieve.

Mrs Gras Plouvier said that AlpCity aims at providing an added value to the small alpine towns at an European policy level. For the Rhône-Alpes Region the finalisation of a 'chart' could be very useful for understanding the common problems and difficulties, which are relevant themes to be submitted to the attention of institutions at an European level.

Mrs Gras Plouvier thought that this two days meeting has provided some substance for the understanding of a project case studies and the relationships between the Regions and the small mountain towns.

She considered the United Nations Habitat representative's intervention very interesting and she asked them what kind of classification they have made and which are the problems of small and big towns. Actually Mrs Gras Plouvier considered that some small cities could have similar problems of the big ones: tourism's development, financial and management problems.

She said that AlpCity and Scientific Committee could make a list of these common themes and questions and explain how small towns related to the others neighbourhood towns could face the future of the alpine space area through the exchange of common experiences and problems.

Mr **Trauner**

of the
age 6
ility of
life"
incial
Lower
stria)

Mr **Trauner** made a brief summary after thanking Mr Tyrkas and Mrs Alfaré. Above all he focused on municipalities by expressing an ardent appeal to an increased citizens' participation. He remarked that there is not any alternative to democracy; even if enthusiasm is not the same everywhere, it is necessary to support these trends towards participation. Sometimes political authorities can be afraid of this kind of process, but actually it is unthinkable to conceive a project without citizens' involvement and consensus.

This involvement should not be implemented when problems arise, but awareness has to be awoken already from the beginning.

Mr Trauner underlined that no process is perfect; for this reason it is not possible to guarantee that people can be unified through a participatory process. In any case citizens' participation into the decision-making offers the chance to deeply investigate the real needs of local population and, as some colleagues remarked the day before, there are also significant economic earnings for the community. He confirmed all these advantages according to the Austrian experience; even if it is not easy to quantify this economic gains and some people expressed some doubts about the numbers advertised, we cannot neglect the positive evident repercussions.

At the end he praised the performance of the AlpCity Project Lead Partner and expressed his compliments for the organization of the Conference.

Suber

of the
age 7
ment"
Giulia
egion)

Mr **Suber** was in line with Mrs Gras Plouvier's contribution because he had some doubts concerning the projects' results (even if he was among the organizers). At the beginning there was a confusion about the different roles also within the Scientific Steering Committee. Today, instead, AlpCity is going on well and we clearly outline its purposes also thanks to the exchange among the partners. He underlined with strong emphasis his proud for the concrete and real exchange of experiences and know-how among the different partners. This is an important element that is missing in many other projects.

He said that the conference was useful in order to open a discussion and allow a fruitful exchange.

Mr Suber wanted, as other partners, to find a future for the AlpCity Project and uphold the proposal of having a closing meeting in which it could be possible to present the data base of best practises such as it was suggested by UN-Habitat.

Then he talked about the identity question that he considered to be a common issue of each project. He said that the identity could also have some negative aspects, as Mrs Fourny Kober said, because it could represent a closure and opposition to the others. However, it could be also seen as an offer of specificity and self-consciousness.

Then he provided an example related to Friuli Venetia Julia Region, where the middle generation (40-50 aged people) is quite sceptical towards the institutions and this kind of

projects, while in opposite the young generation has a lot of positive expectations related to the Interreg and EC projects. However, they don't have a business mentality.

He brought the example of the areas of Ampezzo that were rich of enterprises and that now are loosing tourists as well as the enterprises. AlpCity Project has suggested the local actors (Ampezzo) to issue an environmental certification in order to stimulate the economy. However the first reaction was a refusal of this proposal. When Mr Scalera explained them the potential positive economics' consequences, the local groups changed idea. Referring to Gaido's question about the auto-referring of projects Mr Suber said that this is a real problem which involves anyone who does a project. Actually, it is very difficult to understand the mountain environment also because projects are complicate and is necessary to improve a specific professional nature to manage these projects.

He added that although the risk is real, it is possible to overcoming it through the comprehension and listening of the local population.

Then he made an advice to all the partners. Mr Suber expressed his worries about the new approach adopted by the European Union. During the Innsbruck's conference the European officers said that they wanted to focus on infrastructure in a physical way. But Mr Suber complain is about the fact that the previous attention to the services and the local population was a specificity of the alpine space programme. Mr Suber ended his speech by saying that this is necessary to fight this wrong approach of the new EC programmes' policies.

Mrs **Fourny Kober** gave the word to anyone who wanted to ask other questions or add something.

Mrs **Mühlbauer** expressed her positive impression about the meeting and the ongoing works, even if she reminded the critic German situation and the shared feeling referring to project funding.

As example of good local initiative she proposed Mittenwald, a small town near Garmisch, where in the past there was a great music tradition and precisely linked to violins manufacturing, like Cremona in Lombardy Region. Some years ago a small museum was opened and this event can be interpreted in relation to the considerations developed on the transformation of towns into museums. To tell the truth this museum is very modern and lively and the managers try and organize many collateral activities, such as the creation of partnerships with similar municipalities in Italy and in Austria.

Referring to what Mr Suber said, Mrs Mühlbauer added that an interesting initiative in the same place consists in a school where young people can learn manufacturing violins. Thanks to this institution 20-year-old people living in Mittenwald can learn a job and

promote their cultural heritage. This is a good example of what people can do in spite of structural problems. According to Mrs Mühlbauer it is a good idea to focus attention on similar performances, characterized by the overcoming of economic and structural problems through a cultural institution, a museum and a school, which stimulated the birth of a lively community.

As well as the AlpCity Project there are many encouraging models conceived and applied at a local level with an admirable result.

imine

Mr **Desimine** (President of "CIPRA Italia") expressed his worry about the common idea, which exists about the alpine space as a tourist and hospice place. He though that tourism is important as added value at a local level but it is also important to consider the alpine space as a more complex system. Particularly, he drew the attention on the rural and primary production, which is an excellent sector. In the alpine areas there are big places for agriculture and nourishment transformation and research.

He added that in all projects everybody puts a strong accent on tourism with a unique link to the skiing culture. Institutions themselves don't intervene to protect the primary sector linked to the excellent production. Nobody is really interested in understanding how to continue to guarantee a future to this strategic activity, which produces an added value for the internal development.

He was worry about the fact that an excessive attention to the tourist system deprives the alpine space of other strategic components.

yrkas

entific
mittee
Expert

Mr **Tyrkas** declared to be optimist for what concerns the potential development of the primary and service sectors. He added also the example of the municipality Oberomagau in Bavaria, which successfully implemented a combination of agricultural activities and tourism. Interesting productive activities were allowed to grow up (like cheese production) and have been improving also tourist intensity. From an organizational point of view, producers constituted an association and built up a sort of clustering, exploiting also the gastronomic side, which spreads far and wide regional products and favours cultural exchanges without forgetting the local "museum" character.

He concluded remarking his positive attitude towards this kind of economic and polyhedric local developments.

Suber

of the
age 7
ment"
Giulia
egion)

Mr **Suber** totally supported Mr Desimine's idea. He said that the negligence concerning this theme is real, but he underlined the fact that the main problem is strongly present in all coordinators' mind. More attention towards these themes is the basis for the local revitalisation. It is relevant to look for good practises in other regions such as Trentino Alto Adige Autonomous Region where this sector is strong and all economies gain some benefits from this, also tourism.

Mr **Kitio** thanked the meeting organizers because during this conference he learned many things. He said that it is crucial to look for best practices because these examples provide a starting point for other people who start to work on project. The United Nations Habitat web site, for example, is a referring point (he made the example of Korea meeting where the best practices presented in the Habitat web site were taken as referring point for new initiatives).

So Mr Kitio underlined the importance of this action of 'picking up' best practice because it could be used to teach and strength the local leadership's capacity and other cities also out of the alpine space which could benefit from this share of practices.

Mr **Perlik** outlined that apart from all the observation about tourism it is correct to take into consideration the secondary sector, with the example of Luxottica, which moved to China. Mr Perlik declared to be very interested in the regional policies regarding industries and the development planning of valleys and areas involved in these activities. It could be useful to analyse in which way networks are implemented not only among municipalities, but also among local actors. Moreover strategy planning for the future in these regions can offer some suggestions about the key elements for further development according to sustainability standards.

At the end he promoted a debate about the features of a general parallel development of the industry and service sector.

Mrs **Fourny Kober** thanked Piedmont Region and the Scientific Steering Committee for the two days meeting that she considered very interesting, and for the discussion that finally provided an added value to the project, the small mountain and alpine cities' development, and to the future cooperation.

Mrs **Quaglia** concluded the meeting, and made the following acknowledgments:
- On behalf of Venetia Region, one of the meeting's organisers together with Lombardy Region and Friuli Venetia Julia Region, she thanked all participants to the meeting.
- Piedmont Region, Maria Cavallo Perin, Daniela Sena, Anna Maria Caputano and Maud Tronchin, who provided a precious collaboration.
- Lombardy Region that hosted the meeting, and particularly Maria Luisa Dagnino, Margherita Zigliotti ("Veronelli Eventi"), Barbara Scotti ("Palazzo delle Stelline"), Alessandra Izzo and Laura Spreafico.
- Friuli Venetia Julia Autonomous Region and more specifically PierPaolo Suber and Paola Pontelli

- Venetia Region including Francesca Franzin and Serena Borlitto (reception), Alberto Miotto and Romeo Toffano.
- Vincent Kitio who opened new perspectives for the alpine space area
- The Polytechnic of Turin (OCS) for its contribution on the best practices issue
- The Scientific Steering Committee for the work done and for the active participation
- The Coordinators of the different work packages
- All partners and their representatives
- The interpreters for their excellent service

Perin

ge of
t and
mont
vision
jects
als of
acts'

Mrs **Cavallo Perin** declared to share Mrs Quaglia's various acknowledgments and uttered some additional comments concerning the meeting results. She admitted to consider the Scientific Conference as a successful milestone for the AlpCity Project.

She though the previous day discussion produced some results evaluated like a qualitative leap due to the regular work made by partners on one side, and the Scientific Steering Committee members on the other one. The beginning was very challenging, but the basis of the project proved to be solid thanks to all the contributions.

Without this type of approach it wouldn't be possible to achieve fruitful collaboration and concrete results. This rich patrimony of ideas is based on a challenging cooperation.

Mrs. Cavallo Perin thanked the Work Packages Coordinators for the way they have worked but also all members of the Scientific Steering Committee.

She expressed her thanks to Mr Tyrkas, the youngest SSC expert, who showed an immediate interest in the AlpCity Project; to Mr Corvo, the last one became member of the SSC, who contributed with very interesting considerations; to Mr Torricelli, who owns a peculiar historical competence.

The most difficult project purpose was the involvement of the Scientific Steering Committee, which used to work in the academic world. The members have demonstrated interest and a full commitment in the meeting. They have provided important contributions to the discussion as well as an important theoretical point of view different from the operational one of the partners. Their role can be correctly defined as maieutic.

Mrs Cavallo Perin affirmed that the added value of the project is to build up a basis for a common cooperation able to allow a vision for the future. As Mrs Fourny Kober, Mr Perlik and Mr Corvo said before, it is important to think about on the method, and then to go back to initial discussions that were at the origins of the project.

Actually the "Urban method" deals with the sense of belonging, participation, bottom-up approach, integrated policies, development of relationships and vision for future.

The most interesting aspect of the previous day discussion consisted in the Scientific Steering Committee's invitation to everybody to use the cases studies not only for solving individual problems but also for thinking in terms of future perspectives.

Mrs Cavallo Perin was persuaded that the meeting strongest message is towards conceiving the project mission at a superior level: she wondered which political role can be played by the regions. This is the most difficult point because it involves a political reflection on the project themes. Mrs Cavallo Perin considered very interesting the Scientific Committee's advise of considering, before the next PPs meeting, the possibility to lead the AlpCity final policy guidelines to the political sphere. Actually strategies for a sustainable development need time and the right instruments to be made up. All of these results need the support of Regions from a political point of view.

If a methodology like "Urban" is considered at a regional level it become possible to break a sectorial approach and move to a territorial one in elaborating policies. This consideration comprises not only economic resources and their uses, but also investment involving human and social capital. A passage to a political level implies strong efforts and probably disruptive effects due to the rigid procedures local public authorities work with.

Mrs Cavallo Perin talked also about her vision for the future that is linked to the creation of a database, as Mr Kitio suggested with could support the project follow-up.

Mrs Cavallo Perin stressed that the common policy guidelines have to go over the simple technical assistance and enter into a political sphere with a special reference to the future of the European structural funds. As Mr Suber outlined we can propose our partnership, our common strategy and our shared considerations notwithstanding the probable reduction of funds.

Mrs Cavallo Perin suggested an exchange of strategic documents among the Regions able to support the outline of common issues among the regional policies to be then submitted at the Interreg Programme Coordinators.

Mrs Cavallo Perin concluded her speech by inviting Ms Sena and Mrs Fourny Kober to reconsider the issues outlined during the meeting in order to have further elements for the discussion scheduled for the next PPs and SSC meetings in Besançon.

She expressed her satisfaction about the project and about the work carried out by Ms Sena and Mrs Caputano; then she closed the Scientific Conference.

List of participants

(Alphabetical order)

Loredana ALFARÉ Scientific Steering Committee National Institute of Scientific and Technological Research,Roma Via Brenta 3/A 31027 Spresiano (Treviso), Italy Tel: + 39 0422.880366 alfare3@tiscali.it	**Angelo ANDINA** Secretary of the Tschlin Commune Gemeinde Tschlin - CH-7559 Tschlin, Germany Tel: +41 81 866 33 03 Fax: +41 81 866 32 47 tschlin@spin.ch
Flavio BONA Architect- Veneto Region Consultant EURIS s.r.l. Via Friuli, 124 32010 Tambre (Belluno) , Italy Tel: +39 0437.49291 Fax :+39 0437.438021 fbonarch@iol.it	**Claudine BORDAGE** Alpcity Project Manager Direction Aménagement du Territoire Région Franche-Comté 4 Square Castan - 25031 Besançon, France Tel. :+33 03.81.61.64.23 claudine.bordage@cr-franche-comte.fr
Francesca BULLIO Foundation for the school of San Paolo's Company Corso Ferrucci, 3 - 10138 Torino, Italy Tel:+39 011.433 21 33 Francesca.bullio@compagnia.torino.it	**Enrico CAMANNI** Director of "L'Alpe" Strada Rosero, 79 10020 Pecetto T.se (Torino), Italy Tel.: +39 011 860 8252 ecamann@tin.it
AnnaMaria CAPUTANO AlpCity Project Assistant Regional Budget Planning and Statistic Via Lagrange 24, 10123 Torino, Italy Tel.:011.432 5915 Fax: 011.432 5560 pa.alpcity@regione.piemonte.it	**Renato CAVALLI** Prassi Coop Manager - ANCI 20100 Milano, Italy rcavalli@prassicoop.it
Maria CAVALLO PERIN Officer in charge of the Alpcity Project Regional Budget Planning and Statistic Piedmont Region Via Lagrange 24, 10123 Torino, Italy Tel.: +39 011.432-2202 Fax: +39 011.432-5560 MariaPerin.Cavallo@regione.piemonte.it	**Walter CESANA** Maritime Alps Park P. zza Martiri ,4 12011 Borgo San Dalmazzo (Cuneo), Italy Tel.: +39 0171.260585 cesana.walter@libero.it
Michele COLUSSO Officer Mountain Community of Carnia Via Carnia Libera 1944, 29 33028 Tolmezzo (Udine), Italy Tel.: +39 0433-487745 Fax :+39 0433-487760 michele.colusso@cmcarnia.regione.fvg.it	**Antonella CONVERTINO** Finance & Management Assistant Regional Budget Planning and Statistic Piedmont Region Via Lagrange 24, 10123 Torino, Italy Tel.: +39 011.432-5915 Fax :+39 011.432-5560 pa.alpcity@regione.piemonte.it
Paolo CORVO AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee	**Maria Luisa DAGNINO** AlpCity Local Project Manager

Catholic University of Milan Corso Magenta, 69 25121 Brescia, Italy Tel.: +39 030 2400566 paolo.corvo@unicatt.it	Lombardy Region – Council Regional Trade, Fair and Markets Via Pola 14- 20100 Milano, Italy Marialuisa_dagnino@regione.lombardia.it
Egidio DANSERO Professor University and Polytechnic of Turin Inter-university Department on Territory Viale Mattioli, 39 - 10125 Torino, Italy Tel :+39 011 564 7456 Fax: +39 011 564 7499 egidio.dansero@unito.it	**Domenico DELEONARDIS** Polytechnic and University of Turin Inter-university Department on Territory Piazza Albarello 8 - 10122 Torino, Italy Tel: +39 011 670 5772 Fax: +39 011 670 5788 deleonardis@econ.unito.it
Marie- Héléne DE SEDE AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee Laboratoire ThéMA, UMR-6049 du CNRS Université de Franche-Comté 32, rue Mégevand , F-25030 Besançon cedex, France Tel. : +33 0381665497 Fax : +33 0381665355 Marie.DeSede@wanadoo.fr	**Nicolas DÉLÉTROZ** Haute Ecole Valaisainne Economic and Tourist Institute Techno- pole Sierre 3 – CH-3960 Sierre, Switzerland Tel.:+41 27 606 90 03 Fax: +41 27 606 90 00 Nicolas.deletroz@hevs.ch
Damiano DESIMIME Consultant of Lega Ambiente Via Moncalvo 20/15 - 20146 Milano, Italy Tel: +39 02 454 75 777 Fax:+39 02 454 74 776 Parchi.lombardi@legambiente.org	**Raffaella FACCENDINI** Alpcity Project Assisstant Art&Craft and Services Department Lombardy Region Viale F.Restrelli,1 - 20124 Milano, Italy raffaella.faccendini@regione.lombardia.it
Laure FARRET Franche-Comté Region 4 Square Castan - 25031 Besancon, France Tel:+33 381616473 Laure.farret@cr-franche-comte.fr	**Luca FERRARESE** EURIS s.r.l. Consultant of Veneto Region Via Guido Rossa,26 – 35020 Ponte San Nicolò (Padova), Italy Tel:+39 049 80 43 311 Fax: +39 049 80 43 328 Luca.ferrarese@eurisnet.it
Claudia FORZAN EURIS s.r.l. Concultant of Veneto Region Via Guido Rossa,26 – 35020 Ponte San Nicolò (Padova), Italy Tel:+39 049 89 62 283 Fax: +39 049 80 43 328 Claudia.forzan@eurisnet.it	**Francesca FRANZIN** Veneto Region Territorial Planning Department Palazzo Linetti -Calle Priuli Cannaregio 99 30121 Venezia, Italy Tel.:+39 041 279 2087 Fax: +39 041 279 2096 Francesca.franzin@regione.veneto.it
Marie Christine FOURNY KOBER Alpcity Scientific Steering Committee Coordinator Institute of Alpine Geography, University Joseph-Fourier (Grenoble), laboratory TEO UMR 5038 14 bis av Marie Reynoard - 38100 Grenoble , France Tel :+33 0476822000 Fax: +33 0476822001 fourny-kober.marie-christine@ujf-grenoble.fr	**Michel FOURNIER** Director of the Planning Department Region Franche -Comté 4 Square Castan - 25031 Besancon, France Tel: +33 0381616192 michel.fournier@cr-franche-comte.fr

www.alpcity.it

Luigi GAIDO AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee IRE s.r.l. Via Massena,58 - 10128 Torino, Italy Tel: +39 011 56 83 044 Fax: +39 011 59 04 27 ireto@ats.it	**Stefania GUARINI** Observatory on Sustainable Cities (OCS) Polytechnic of Turin Via Morgari 36 - 10125 Torino, Italy Tel:+39 011 56 47 489 Fax:+39 011 56 47 499 Ocs@polito.it
Bernadette GUYON BENOITE Consultant of Region Franche -Comté Algoé - 9 bis route de Champagne - 69 134 Ecully , France Tel.: +33 472181234 bernadette.guyon-benoite@algoe.fr	**Giorgio INAUDI** Foundation for the school of San Paolo's Company Corso Ferrucci, 3 - 10138 Torino, Italy Tel: +39 011.433 21 33 Giorgio.inaudi@compagnia.torino.it
Luisa INGARAMO Polytechnic of Turin AREA snc, Via Varallo 28/A - 10153 Torino, Italy Tel.+39 011 888600, Fax: +39 011 8396327 area@areatorino.it	**Alessandra IZZO** AlpCity Project Assistant Regional trade, fair and markets Lombardy Region Via Pola 14 20100 Milano,Italy Alessandra_izzo@regione.lombardia.it
Günter KARL Councillor of Grainau Municipality of Grainau - Am Kurpark 1 - 82491 Grainau, Germany Tel: +49 8821 981814 Fax: +49 8821 981830 gemeinde@grainau.de	**Vincent KITIO** Best Practices Officer Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme UN - HABITAT - Nairobi, Kenya Tel.:+254 20 624343 Fax: + 254 20 623 080 Vincent.Kitio@unhabitat.org
Alexander KUHNESS AlpCity Projet Assistant Hofgarten 3/4, 2801 Katzelsdorf, Austria Tel: +43 676 88 591 253 Fax : +43 2622 78467 4 alexander.kuhness@dorf-stadterneuerung.at	**Graziano MARTINI BARZOLAI** AlpCity Project Assistant Territorial Planning Department Palazzo Linetti Calle Priuli – Cannaregio 99 30121 Venezia. Italy Tel: +39 041. 279 2090 Fax: +39 041. 279 2096 Graziano.martini@regione.veneto.it
Alberto MIOTTO AlpCity Project Assistant Territorial Planning Department Palazzo Linetti Calle Priuli – Cannaregio 99 30121 Venezia, Italy Tel: +39 041. 279 2090 Fax +39 041. 279 2096 alberto.miotto@regione.veneto.it	**Paolo MORA** Lombardy Region Trade Manager Regional trade, fair and markets Via Pola 14 20100 Milano, Italy paolo_mora@regione.lombardia.it
Andrea MORO Architect Environment Park Via Livorno, 60 – 10144 Torino, Italy Tel. /Fax :+39 011.2257461 andrea_moro@envipark.com	**Lore MÜLHBAURER** Baurätin - Government of Upper Bavaria Regierung von Oberbayern Maximilianstrabe 39 - 80538 München, Germany Tel:+49 089 2176 22 69 Fax: +49 089 2176 2854 Lore.muehlbaurer@reg-ob-bayern.de

Severine MULATIER Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes 78 Route de Paris-BP 19 69751 Charbonierre les Bains, France Tel.:+33 047 25 94 231 Fax:+33 047 82 59 4784	**Mario NOVA** Alpcity Local Project Legal Responsible- Director of Territory Department Lombardy Region - Council Territorial Direction Via Pola 14 20100 Milano, Italy mario_nova@regione.lombardia.it
Rizieri ONAGRO Mountain Community of Agordina President and Legal Responsible Via IV novembre n°2 – 32021 Agordo (Belluno), Italy Tel: +39.0437.62390 Fax: +39.0437.62043 Comunita.montana@agordino.bl	**Michele OTTINO** Director of the Gran Paradiso National Park C/o Gran Paradiso National Park Via della Rocca, 47 10123 Torino Tel: +39 011.8606204 Fax: +39 011.8121305 direzione@pngp.it
Joseph PARREIN Vice- President of Regional Council Regional Council 4, Square Castan 25031 Besançon cedex – France joseph.parrenin@elus.cr-franche-comte.fr	**Pierluigi PASI** Sondrio Case Study Manager for Lombardy Region Lombardy Region Arts& crafts and Services Direction Viale F. Restelli, 1 20124 Milano, Italy pierluigi_pasi@regione.lombardia.it
Manfred PERLIK Alpcity Scientific Steering Committee Regionalwissenschaftler/Geograph Wettsteinallee 75 CH-4058 Basel, Germany Tel.: +41 61 693 4365 perlik@nsl.ethz.ch	**Colette GRAS PLOUVIER** AlpCity Project Manager Regional Council of Rhône Alpes 78 route de Paris - BP 19, 69751 Charbonniere les Bains, France Tel.: +33.047.2594231 Fax :+33 047.82594784 cgrasplouvier@cr-rhone-alpes.fr
Paola PONTELLI AlpCity Financial Manager Central Directorate for Agricultural, Natural, Forestry Resources and for the Mountain Territories Mountain Department Viale Caccia, 17 - 33100 Udine, Italy Tel.: +39 0432.555029 Fax :+39 0432.555052 paola.pontelli@regione.fvg.it	**Tiziana QUAGLIA** AlpCity Project Manager Veneto Region Territorial Planning Department Palazzo Linetti Calle Priuli – Cannaregio 99 30121 Venezia, Italy Tel: +39.041.2792086 Fax: +39.041.2792086 tiziana.quaglia@regione.veneto.it
Eva REINDL Alpcity Project Assistant Municipality of Grainau Am Kurpark 1 82491 Grainau, Germany Tel.: +49 / 8821 / 981814 Fax: +49 / 8821 / 981830 gemeinde@grainau.de	**Valerio PILLER RONER** President of Mountain Community of Comelico Sappada Via Dante Alighieri n. 3 – 3 Tel: +39.0435.62436 2045 S. Stefano di C. (Belluno), Italy Fax: +39.0435.62113 segretario@cmcs.it
Elisabetta ROSA Polytechnic of Turin Observatory on Sustainable Cities (OCS) Via Morgari 36b - 10125 - Torino. Italy Tel.:+39 0115647489- Fax: +39 0115647499	**Barbara ROTA** Environment Park Via Livorno, 60 - 10144 Torino, Italy Tel.: +39 011.2257289 Fax :+39 011.2258201 barbara.rota@envipark.com

ocs@polito.it	
Clotilde LOMBARDI SATRIANI Consultant of Lombardy Region ADIE Office of Bruxelles Rue d'Ecosse, 44 B - 1060 Bruxelles, Belgium Tel.: +32 2 6445821 Fax: +32 2 6445822 euroadie@skynet.be	**Giovanni SCALERA** Consultant of Lombardy Region Sistemi SRL Via Larga, 11 - 20120 Milano, Italy Tel.: +39 02-5830.3691 Fax: +39 02-5830.3802 giovanni.scalera@tiscali.it
Johannes SCHÄFFLER 2nd Mayor of Grainau Municipality of Grainau Am Kurpark 1 82491 Grainau, Germany Tel.: +49 / 8821 / 981814 Fax: +49 / 8821 / 981830 gemeinde@grainau.de	**Thomas SCHEURER** Swiss Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies(ICAS) International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps ISCAR Office Schwarztorstrasse 9 CH-3007 Bern , Switzerland Tel.: +41 31 318 70 18 Fax : +41 31 312 16 78 icas@scnat.ch
Christian SCHUELE Saint-Maurice Tourisme Director Avenue des Terreaux 1 Case postale 110 CH-1890 Saint-Maurice, Switzerland Tel.: +41 (0)24 485 40 40 Fax: +41 (0)24 485 40 80 christian.schuele@bluewin.ch	**Jöri SCHWÄRZEL KLINGENSTEIN** Consultant of Municipality of Tschlin Alpenbüro Netz GmbH, Dorfstrasse 150 CH-7220 Schiers, Switzerland Tel: +41 81 420 22 58 Fax: +41 81 422 62 44 joeri.schwaerzel@alpenbuero.ch
Daniela SENA Alpcity Project Manager C/O Piedmont Region, Regional Budget and Planning Statistical, Via Lagrange 24, 10123 Torino, Italy Tel.: +39 011.432-4662 Fax: +39 011.432-5560 pm.alpcity@regione.piemonte.it	**Laura Lucia SPREAFICO** Lombardy Region Consultant Regional trade, fair and markets Via Pola 14 - 20100 Milano laura_spreafico@regione.lombardia.it
PierPaolo SUBER AlpCity Project Manager Central Directorate for Agricultural, Natural, Forestry Resources and for the Mountain Territory Mountain Department Viale Caccia,17 33100 Udine, Italy Tel:+3 90432 55 50 86 Fax:+39 0432 55 50 52 **Pierpaolo.suber@regione.fvg.it**	**Romeo TOFFANO** Legal Responsible for the Alpcity Project Veneto Region Territorial Planning Department Palazzo Linetti Calle Priuli – Cannaregio 99 30121 Venezia, Italy Tel: +39 041.279 2091 Fax +39 041. 279 2096 pianterritoriale@regione.veneto.it
GianPaolo TORRICELLI AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee Observatory on Territorial Development, SPU, CH-6501 Bellinzona , Switzerland Tel.: +41 918142975 gian-paolo.torricelli@ti.ch	**Hubert TRAUNER** Alpcity Project Responsible Gaswerkgasse 9, 3500 Krems, Austria Tel: +43 2732 82522 45441 Fax: +43 2732 82522 45455 hubert.trauner@noel.gv.at
Maud TRONCHIN	**Giovanni TUBARO**

Alpcity I&P Assistant Regional Budget and Planning Statistical, Via Lagrange 24, 10123 Torino, Italy Tel: +39 011.432-5915 Fax: +39 011.432-5560 alpcity@regione.piemonte.it	Civil Engineering Department of Udine University Consultant University of Udine – Civil Engineer Department Via delle Scienze 208 - 33100 Udine, Italy Tel.: +39 0432-558066 – Fax: +39 0432-558052 giovanni.tubaro@uniud.it
Andrea TURATO Veneto Region Via Dante,76 30171 Mestre(Venezia), Italy Tel.: +39 320.0775592 turato@patchworkstudio.it	**Michael TYRKAS** AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee Alpenforschungsinstitut GmbH Am Kurpark 21 D- 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen Tel.: +49 / 8821 / 9431643 Fax: +49 / 88 21 / 9431679 tyrkas@alpenforschung.de
Helga ZODL AlpCity Project Assistant Hofgarten 3/4, 2801 Katzelsdorf, Austria Tel: +43 676 88 591 217 Fax : +43 2622 78467 4 helga.zodl@dorf-stadterneuerung.at	

AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee's Meeting

Milan, June 27th-28th 2005

by Gian Paolo Torricelli

Summary of the main contributions and assessments expressed by the Scientific Steering Committee experts

Contents

Foreword
1. AlpCity - Main objectives
2. The partners and the case studies of the Interreg III B AlpCity Project
3. Observations and proposals by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC)

4. Conclusions

Foreword

This document summarises and reformulates the proposals and the observations by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) of the trans-national cooperation AlpCity Project, coordinated by Piedmont Region in the context of the "Alpine Space" Interreg III B Programme. The content properly reflects remarks and assessments on the pilot cases/local projects/case-studies within the different Work Packages (WP), presented and discussed during the Meeting held in Milan in June 2005.

1. AlpCity - Main objectives

In the context of the Interreg III B "Alpine Space" Programme, the AlpCity Project promotes sustainable local development of small towns of the peripheral areas in the Alps. AlpCity is based on a partnership and a network amongst public subjects (among them six important Regions in Italy, France and Austria). AlpCity Project partners have conceived and realized projects and pilot cases, trying to stimulate a voluntary participatory approach among actors involved at local level. The local projects (or pilot cases or case-studies) follow four general objectives, grouped in as many Work Packages:

a) study of alternatives to supplying consumer goods, compatible with new forms of distribution for local handicraft;

b) improvement of life quality in the small towns of the Alps, and in particular of the services addressed to the youth;

c) recovery of sense of belonging and local identity through the valorisation of the landscape and the cultural-architectural environment;

d) networking through exchange of local experiences.

Many regions of the Alps are today inserted in the greatest contexts of the peri-alpine metropolitan spaces. Thanks to the development of mobility and the transport network (in particular of the freeways) many small towns of the Alps, entire valleys in some cases, have practically become residential areas or "leisure quarters" inserted in the metropolitan spaces at the border of the Alps (in example: Po Plain, Swiss Plateau, urban axes of the Rhine and the Rhone river in western Alps). However, other alpine spaces exist, often peripheral and less accessible - since interstitial in respect to the main traffic flows - where we do not observe important shapes of integration with the cities and the urban agglomeration outside the Alps, but rather a pronounced economic decline. Decline begun at the end of the '80s (closing of industrial plants, forfeiture of tourist stations, also for the elevation of the limit of winter snow), and in various cases it was followed by the abandonment of many connected activities; therefore by a demographic decrement and a weakening of social woven. In some cases (like in some areas of Piedmont mountain, in the medium mountain of Veneto Region, near the Italian-Slovene border in Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, but also in various valleys of the French Alps and Jura Mountains, just to list only territories involved in the AlpCity case-studies) today we observe a sensitive lessening of the number and the quality of services, where there is a pronounced aging of the population and a limited access to culture and to a good life quality. In many places decision-making and participatory (from the bottom) processes have not been developed or have been abandoned also as consequence of the economic changes and crisis of the last decade. They are unsustainable islands of disparity in a generally affluent part of Europe, whose

existence implies the creation of a polycentric urban system and a sustainable urban-rural relationship, often in fragile natural environments at the heart of the Alps.

AlpCity aims at promoting common understanding, cultural and political change, through a large trans-national partnership and different groups of activities, namely: networking and exchange to create common knowledge and strategies, collection of local best practices, innovative project-cases by single local authorities, dissemination and communication, guidelines to design future scenarios.

2. The partners and the case studies of the Interreg III B AlpCity Project

Piedmont Region (Italy) (Lead Partner) that ensures the coordination of the whole project;

Piedmont Region a) The international mountain school of the Maritime Alps

Piedmont Region c) Local development and the Olympic Winter Games' legacy

Piedmont Region d) Living in mountain areas

Piedmont Region e) The renewal of abandoned mountain villages/hamlets

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region(Italy)

FVG a) Guidelines for the recovery of abandoned areas in the neighbourhood of the borders with Austria and Slovenia

FVG b) Guidelines for obtaining the environmental certification

Lombardy Region (Italy)

Lombardy Region a) Experimentation of innovation actions for preserving the commercial services in disadvantaged areas

Lombardy Region b) Experimentation of innovation actions for trade and handicrafts integration in disadvantaged mountain areas

Veneto Region (Italy)

Veneto Region Renovation and optimum use of abandoned rural buildings once used for production purposes

Rhône-Alpes Region (France)

Rhône A. a) Experience of little towns in different mountain areas in Rhône-Alpes

Rhône A. b) Engineering assistance for little towns

Franche-Comté Region (France)

Franche Comté Region a) Enhancing the image and promoting cultural historical sites for the reinforcement of the regional attractiveness

Franche Comté Region b) Enhancing the image of the longitudinal axis in the Jura mountains

Franche Comté Region c) A study of the territorial organisation of Franche Comté

Provincial Government of Lower Austria (Austria)

Provincial Government of Lower Austria a) Network multimedia public libraries

Provincial Government of Lower Austria b) Network youth in small-medium alpine towns

Municipality of Grainau (Germany)

Grainau a) Creation/implementation of trade sites and development of tourism industry

Grainau b) Improving local aspect such as better traffic/routes/ downtown's

Grainau c) Improvement/promotion of services with a special interest on youth needs/interest

Municipalities of St Maurice and Tschlin (Switzerland)

Future and Tourism in Saint-Maurice

Future and Tourism in Tschlin

The different case studies elaborated from the AlpCity partners have been grouped in 4 trans-national Work Packages (WP5 Economic Development, WP6 Services and quality of life, WP7 Urban Environment, WP8 Cooperation among towns). The following table summarises the plans in each different WP.

	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8
Piedmont Region (I)	Local development and Olympic winter games in two Olympic resorts	The school in mountain areas	To live in mountain areas The renewal of abandoned mountain villages/hamlets	
Lombardy Region (I)	Experimentation of innovation actions for preserving the commercial services in disadvantaged areas Experimentation of innovation actions for trade and handicrafts integration in disadvantaged mountain areas			
Veneto Region (I)			Renovation and optimum use of abandoned rural buildings once used for production purposes	
Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (I)			Guidelines for the recovery of abandoned areas in the neighbourhood of the borders with Austria and Slovenia Guidelines for obtaining the environmental certification	
Rhône-Alpes Region(F)				Experience of little towns in different mountain areas in Rhône-Alpes

				Engineering assistance for little towns
Franche-Comté Region (F)			Enhancing the image and promoting cultural historical sites for the reinforcement of the regional attractiveness Enhancing the image of the longitudinal axis in the Jura mountains	A study of the territorial organization of Franche-Comté
Provincial Government of Lower Austria (A)		Network multimedia public libraries Network youth in small-medium alpine towns		
Municipality of Grainau (D)	Creation/implementation of trade sites and development of tourism industry	Improving local aspect such as better traffic/routes/ downtown's Improvement/promotion of services with a special interest on youth needs/interest		
Haute École Valaisanne-Municipality of St.Maurice (CH)	Future and Tourism Saint-Maurice			
Municipality of Tschlin (CH)	Future and Tourism in Tschlin			

3. Observations and proposals by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC)

3.1. WP5 Economic development

The economic development plays a primary role in the achievement of the Alpine Space main objectives, which are:

- to consolidate the Alpine Space as an important area in the network of development areas
- to start up and support sustainable development projects with particular attention to the relationship between the central areas and the peripheral areas of the Alpine Space
- to find efficient solutions to the demand for accessibility and transport by promoting sustainable models for transport and communications

- to safeguard special natural and cultural characteristics and protect the population and infrastructure from the risks of development.

The topic has been faced through some case studies, which analyse the economic environment of various small mountain communities in order to identify new patterns of local economic development and adequate methodologies aiming at supporting and developing the local economy through different shapes of participatory process by the resident stakeholders.

Six cases have being analysed autonomously under the exclusive responsibility of the respective partners:
- Olympic legacy in Chisone and Germanasca Valleys - Piedmont Region
- Creation/implementation of trade sites and development of tourism industry - Municipality of Grainau
- Attraction of small and medium-sized enterprises and development of tourist activities - Municipality of Saint Maurice
- Reconversion of empty buildings for tourist purposes - Municipality of Tschlin
- Experience with innovations aimed at retaining commercial services in the Municipality - Various municipalities in Valcamonica and Valvestino in the Province of Brescia (Lombardy Region)
- Experience with innovations aimed at integrating retail trade and handicrafts - Municipality of Dazio (Province of Sondrio, Lombardy Region).

Before starting each case study, an analysis of the territorial situation needing an improvement would have to be realized. Generally, these analyses don't result sufficiently explicit in the development of the individual projects. Experience shows that it is necessary to act through specific interventions, by ensuring a proper trade distribution service, also when supply is absent (or very low). For the partners (in particular Lombardy and Piedmont Regions) it's possible to develop new models, which create incentives for handicraft and cooperation, and for new and various channels of marketing, transferable also elsewhere in the alpine space.

The case studies have put in evidence a good adhesion and participation, with however still some gaps to overwhelm. As far as participatory processes on concrete projects they would apparently have to be able to improve in the future. Some opened issues remain therefore, that in part we find again also in the others Work Packages:

- How were these procedures of population's involvement developed?
- Which kinds of quantitative data (e.g. which kind of socio-economic indicators) were considered?

- Which practical methodology was implemented from a sociological point of view (e.g. questionnaire, which kind of sample in the focus groups)?
- Were similar realities considered during the implementation of the case studies? And in which way?

3.2. WP6: Services and quality of life

Declared objective of the case studies in this Work Package is to increase the quality of life in the peripheral mountains communities, in particular for young generations. Small alpine towns cannot compete at economic and cultural level with big cities; however they can offer a good life quality and different job opportunities in the services sector.

There are four projects in this Work Package:

- The international mountain school of Maritime Alps (Piedmont Region)
- Network multimedia public libraries (Provincial Government of Lower Austria)
- Youth Network in small-medium alpine towns (Provincial Government of Lower Austria)
- Improvement/promotion of services with a special interest on youth needs/interests (Municipality of Grainau)

Also in this Work Package, the participatory process gets a decisive importance, without differing from the other Work Packages. The stressed general problem concerns the duration of the case studies, objectively too short, because the administrative formalities are heavy and expensive in time (for the Regions): energies for administrative procedures are removed from the real implementation time of the case studies. Time devoted to the development of the case studies is often too short, especially if we take the participatory processes into consideration.

The course of the case studies has highlighted same differences due to the praxis and to the experience of the participatory processes in the various alpine regions. The case of Lower Austria is exemplary; however we must remember that it's the result of a long tradition based on the local participation performed on a wide scale: actually the projects of networking concern approximately 500 villages and more than 40 towns. This is not always the case of other realities, where the participatory processes are a relatively new approach (or renewed compared to the past) and stiff essentially to the search of consent. In the case of Lower Austria, the most important levers for the development of local projects (and of participation) and which could represent as many best practises in the future, are:

- Transparency → it deals with quality and quantity of citizens' involvement. Actually the problem is not the method, but its application. The principle of transparency also refers to the engagement of the most of stakeholders.
- Support → it refers to the support projects must provide local communities with (that Mr Trauner defined as "coaching" in his speech during the conference). Without this element local communities have many difficulties from an economic and a technical point of view in developing a participatory planning process.

Also in the case of Grainau forms of participatory planning process have been implemented through the constitution of focus groups, supported by experts and local professionals specialized in some activities (hotel management, gastronomy, management and tourist administration); groups in which the participants have been invited to consider the various aspects of local tourism development in a critical and open-minded way. The most important objective of these "working groups" consists in creating in the local population the awareness of a potential change, which revealed itself to be an important success factor. Also the enlarged participation of several actors, in particular thanks to various partnerships between public and private sectors, revealed itself to be fruitful and allowed to formalise several ideas to be realised and developed.

3.3. WP7: Urban environment

In this Work Package the projects answering to the following two strategies of valorisation of the local identity were grouped:

- through the creation of instruments, like agreements or conventions (i.e. environmental certifications, cultural and tourist promotions, etc.), that increase and promote the construction of new local identities, and new collective representations of the natural and built landscape in the peripheral areas of the Alps;
- through the development of best practices (with guidelines) for the recovery and the sustainable renewal of local architectural heritage, partially or totally abandoned, with the aim at tourism or leisure development;

The last purpose of the projects of this Work Package is twofold: on one side the promotion of local development processes starting from the collective identity, the sense of community belonging in the peripheral areas of the Alps; on the other side the improvement of the knowledge of social, environmental and economic factors allowing success (or failure) of a local development project.

8 pilot cases were implemented:

- Four pilot cases for guidelines to recovery rural and civil or military buildings, partially or totally abandoned (two cases of Piedmont Region, one of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region and one of Veneto Region), with a tourist - leisure or formation character;
- Two projects for guidelines to recovery the image of the historical centres of small cities in the Jura mountains (both of them coordinated by Franche-Comté Region);
- A case study for guidelines to get an environmental certification for mountain resorts (Friuli Venezia Giulia Region)
- A project for the re-organization of the traffic and the revitalization of the city centre of the municipality of Grainau.

The discussion stressed two topics. First of all tourism generally appears as the only issue of the pilot cases. Secondly, the problems and the opportunities of a museum in the territory have focused the attention. In this and some other Work Package, tourism often appears as the only tangible issue of the pilot cases; we just wonder whether it is necessary to imagine projects with other aims (i.e. mountain agriculture or better local services). Relationships among local development, tourism development and local identity haven't appeared sufficiently clear in the analysed projects. Before formalizing a project, it would have analysed the local population's expectations as regards tourism. Tourism is surely an important resource for the local development of mountains communities, but in truth it cannot and it could not be developed everywhere. As regards the topic of the transformation of the alpine space in a museum, it can have positive or negative implications, which modify the relationships for the construction of local identity (the sense of belonging). It can be remarked, like an example, that in Valcamonica (Lombardy Region, Work Package 5), the territory has been regarded as a museum for a long time, without considering the related problems. Also in other mountains contexts, territory is seen like a museum, not always with positive implications. In Piedmont Region, for example, the (national or regional) parks have been judged negatively (because of hunting and collection prohibition, etc.). Now, nearly 10 years after their opening, people attribute them a positive value for the sustainable development of mountains areas, and the parks are perceived in a more positive way. In any case it appears necessary to analyse in every mountain context, according to its own history and culture, the relationship between heritage (or landscape) safeguard and local identity.

The sense of belonging is also an important factor for tourism (tourists are not interested in artificial identities). This is the strategy applied by Franche-Comté Region, whose projects act on the image (on a new spatial imagery: the so called *cités de caractère*), through the improvement of the value of the architectonic and urban heritage in historical centres belonging to the small towns scattered on Jura Mountains.

Moreover, we don't forget that urban culture is different from country to country. As an example, what we can often define "small city" (*petite ville*) in France, is not perceived as an urban unit in the Italian Alps: where it would be better to speak about "mountain community" or "valley community", grouping several villages. In Italy the concept of city is rather identified with the big cities of the Po plain (Milan, Turin, Verona, etc.) and the provincial chief towns. While in France, a municipality with more than 2000 inhabitants already owns the city (or better, town) standing. These cultural differences (like the ones characterising participatory processes) will have to be remarked in the AlpCity Final Report.

The projects - in progress - have appeared promising and interesting from various points of view.

3.4. WP8: Cooperation among towns

Cooperation and networks among small cities are a cross-sectional topic of many projects. However *cooperation* is a very general term. In the following we distinguish:

- "network" (*rete/réseau/Netzwerk*) which refers to relationships among individual or collective actors at supra-regional level aiming at pursuing specific (for example economic) or general strategic interests;
- "cooperation" (*cooperazione/coopération/Kooperation*) which refers to the relationships among municipalities at regional level including smaller and bigger municipalities (villages and towns).

The whole Work Package is realized from Rhône-Alpes Region (the Territory of Belfort, initially included in this Work Package, decided to withdraw from the project). Two pilot cases have been implemented. The first one concerns exchanges of local development experiences between small towns; the second one deals with a network of technical attendance/assistance to small towns in mountain areas of Rhône-Alpes Region.

What is the aim of Rhône Alpes Region? The Region wants:

- To validate the interest in setting a network among small mountain towns, while working on the specificity of their needs and on their capacity to rally towards this kind of association, also by analysing the experiments already carried out in other areas.
- To engage a bottom-up step, thanks to a call of candidature, which makes possible to join together motivated towns having projects. Consequently, the cities themselves define whether they want to be helped and whether co-operation is relevant for them.

- The network of towns has to be the result of a collective mobilization. The cities "are not put " in network according to an administrative procedure. Since collaboration can be only voluntary and according to common interests, the step of the call for projects (and thereafter, the animation of the selected towns), must make a conscience of common interests possible and also the desire to work together. The network could thus be the concrete and organised tool for a collective and bottom-up process. With this condition the Region will be able to support it.
- To support innovating actions for development, answering the aim at sustainable development.
- To support the constitution of a "territorial intelligence". What does it mean? At first, we can consider that equipment assistance and subsidies for projects already exist in several forms. For this reason the aim of the Interreg Programme is not at increasing them, but rather at trying to make local projects more efficient. This "performance" had a territorial nature and not only economic: it consists in a good adaptation to the context, in an interesting innovation, to increase effects on the development, in a social and cultural improvement of the value of local territories.
- To examine how the mountain character is relevant on these various accesses. According to the exchanges and comparisons developed within the AlpCity Project, it should be established whether the mountain membership allows the mobilization more easily, whether relevant networks can be built in an international form on the alpine space, whether the required innovation and the territorial intelligence enhance the integration of the rural areas served by these small cities.

The Region aims at reinforcing the local capacities. The analysis of the answer to the call launched by the Region from different villages, revealed to be very interesting. It allowed the understanding of their difficulties.
- The villages, which answered the Region's call, asked for methods to develop strategies rather than for equipment or money.
- Resources for the local development are linked to local cultural specificities. The small villages, which don't own an architectural heritage, have some other resources such as mining resources or literature works, that could become a key for local sustainable development.
- Quality of life. A research on the urban centres was carried out and resulted in the need for an attractive landscape. This issue focuses the attention on the problem of diversification. Some villages have different resources related to tourism. The problem is how they can diversify the activities. In which way it is possible to diversify the activities in order to answer the needs also of the new inhabitants.
- According to the villages' answers, there is a willingness to cooperate and innovate. Communities believe that they could solve the problems in co-operation with other actors and through the exchange and transfer of experiences. The problem is the

lack of a methodology. It is necessary to sort out from isolation and cooperate with other villages, which share similar problems.

We observed a good availability to collaborate and to innovate. Communities think to be able to solve their problems in collaboration with other actors and through the exchange and the transfer of the experiences. The problem, once again is the lack of an adapted methodology to develop participatory processes (please see the paragraph 3.5.2).

3.5. Synthesis and evaluations of the Scientific Steering Committee

3.5.1. The red line among the Work Packages

A red line exists among the projects belonging to the different Work Packages, since they pursue generally similar objectives. These general aims are at the:

- Development of **participatory processes** of the local population (all the pilot cases);
- Development of **cooperation among small towns** (9 pilot cases);
- Elaboration of **model** case studies or **best practices** (9 projects);
- Creation of **guidelines** (6 projects all included in the WP7).

The following table summarises the main problems/results existing in June 2005.

	WP5	WP6	WP7	WP8
Participatory processes	Methodology Experimentation Issues to be consolidate	Addressed to young generations Issues to be consolidate	For urban and cultural regeneration Identity/ feelings of belonging	Through the cooperation and exchange of local experiences
Cooperation among towns		Multimedia network of public libraries Network for young residents of the middle and little towns	Collection and exchange of best practices between different alpine areas (to be consolidate)	Realization of two networks between actors/small cities Good degree of answer and adhesion to the plan
Guidelines			For the recovery of buildings and the constructed heritage For the improvement of the image (environmental and cultural)	Possible creation of guidelines
Best practices	New patterns of economic and local development	"Generational approach"	Urban and architectonic recovery for the	Networking of local experiences,

	(to be consolidate) Tourism	Possibility for transferring practices and knowledge in others alpine areas	development of the local identity in the marginal areas	under the coordination of the Region (issues to be confirmed).

3.5.2. Participatory processes: the background of the local projects

According to the officers of the European Commission, participatory process with its bottom-up approach doesn't work well, especially within the Interreg Programme: for this reason they would like to remove it from the next planning. This apparent failure depends on projects brevity: it takes almost three years to identify projects key actors and to establish relationships with local people. In the most of the case studies within the AlpCity Project the participatory model was successfully applied.

Participatory process is a learning procedure and just in this learning we can find the keys of success, from the ecological, economic, social and also from the policy-making point of view. Province of Lower Austria can boast a long tradition in this sense. Some efforts should be made to demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach. However this example seems to be an isolated case, whose learning has been widely assimilated for 20 years of praxis. This is not the case for many other projects, in which participation is a relatively new element. Two points must therefore be emphasized:

- The participatory process structure of the whole AlpCity Project, coherently with the general objective of Interreg 3 B "Alpine Space" Programme;
- The participation of the population appears very different according to the context, and there are various cultures of participation.

I.e. In France situation is different from the areas of German language and culture, where a culture of consent (and the political agreement) exists; therefore participation seems to be more easily implemented. In France the participatory method is the only way to construct consent in the civil society at local scale.

We can also observe that the participatory method turns out to be more easily applied where inner conflicts are rare or absent. And where people are favourable and interested in innovation, local projects often obtain good results. However, in rural mountain areas, often touched from a crisis (like the closing of industrial plants), population is not always open-minded towards innovation and these new approaches. Therefore two possible scenarios appear. On one side considering that some inhabitants of (the big) cities search an experience of nature, local culture, typical

products (like local food, etc), all these ones remain the most important resources for a potential tourist development of marginal areas. On the other side, we can often meet negative feelings, also because of the failure of previous local development plans in '80s and '90s; therefore it is necessary at first to operate for the search of a minimal consent of local population.

In fact, culture of participation has existed since the '70 decade, but participatory process depends mostly on the credibility of the plans and their promoting stakeholders. Moreover, in comparison with the past experience it seems much more difficult today to involve young generations in the participatory process. A lot of the pilot cases consider the development of tourism as the main purpose. Certainly tourism cannot be replaced, but it cannot be developed everywhere as well. It is also important to understand the relationship between the improvement of the heritage (from a tourist point of view) and that one of the local identity, because we have cases where tourism is a negative factor for the identity. In the AlpCity Project Final Report it should be, therefore, opportune to mention the "several cultures" of participatory processes, the positive aspects and the difficulties met in the various case studies and national contexts. The only solution can consist in the collection of transferable best practices, from a mountain environment to another one, within and outside the alpine space.

Finally we wonder whether this great interest for participatory processes hides the real stake of the pilot cases (limited in time), whether actors have a correct perception of the economic consequences of the projects and of their direct beneficiaries. When a local project starts it is important to know some forecasts regarding spin-offs for employment and young generations. Therefore the AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee asks the Project Partners to better specify:

• what kind of reaction participatory processes receive from the local people and stakeholders;
• what kind of difficulties participatory processes have encountered up to now;
• what participatory processes have being implemented in order to guarantee the sustainability of the Project;
• which are the main obstacles encountered by participatory processes for a fruitful cooperation.

4. Conclusions

We must underline two essential points. First: the start and the implementation of the AlpCity local projects (pilot cases, case-studies) have often been particularly complicated from the bureaucratic and administrative points of view, even if with some

differences among the various national procedures. In spite of that, local case studies have generally overcome this initial obstacle, and almost all the announced projects have been implemented at local level with temporary good results. Second: there are, in fact, remarkable differences, regarding the participatory processes and the main topics of heritage improvement, cultural identity, local services and tourism. Difficulties have been met as regards the involvement of local actors in some contexts, which should be better analysed and linked to the economic aspects. It would be opportune, in fact, to link the issue of participation to the economic aspects, particularly in the cases directly involved in the tourist development.

Belonging to a mountain area (or context) seems less discriminating than belonging to the national context, in which the small alpine city is inserted. There are also different perceptions on what a city is and what a rural area is. These local differences and specificities do not necessarily represent negative aspects; in fact, they can enrich the meaning of sustainable local development in the alpine space. The challenge of AlpCity, in fact, consists also in the networking of these different situations and local partners, different contexts for culture and political-administrative traditions. At the moment this trans-national cooperation - realized also by considering different political structures and environments - has reached a very good level in order to overcome the main difficulties.

In order to reach a better integration and understanding of the mechanisms of success (or failure) of the local case studies, in conclusion we can cite the main challenges that AlpCity has to face and to solve in the rest of the time for the implementation of the pilot cases:

1. Different cultural backgrounds. We have seen that even the terminology used is different. Therefore, sometime we don't understand each other.
2. Different languages. Even if we choose a project common language, it is often very difficult its concrete adoption by all the actors involved in the project. Therefore, speaking different languages become a real problem, which creates several misunderstandings.
3. Different rules and laws. The different Partners have different national structures, rules and laws. These differences have some consequences in relation to the financial and administrative aspects. When we finalise a project budget it is very difficult to consider these aspects that later on affect the real project implementation.
4. Lack of time. A project usually lasts two or three years. However if we consider that we normally need at least 6 months for its starting, the time for the real cooperation is reduced.

5. Have a good leadership. Actually a successful project implementation depends on the leadership role carried out by the Lead Partner. Without an efficient and effective leadership a project will fail.

6. Internal cooperation and internal communication. A large number of partners requires an efficient communication system. Each actor involved in a project has to contribute to the communication activities in order to achieve the suitable results.

June 2006