



Innsbruck meeting among partners



Alpcity team showing the Alpcity poster



Krems meeting Ms Cavallo Perin speech and participation of Ms Leitz (JTS)



## AlpCity introduction

AlpCity is a project co-funded (ERDF funds) in the framework of the Interreg III B Alpine Space Programme.

The AlpCity project proposal was approved in November 2003 under the first Priority of the programme named "Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space in the

scope of a polycentric spatial development in the EU".

AlpCity project aims at contributing to the setting-up of a mutual knowledge and a common strategic perspective with specific reference to the endogenous sustainable development of small Alpine Towns, in line with the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space objectives (Priority 1 - Measure 1)

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### Alpcity key data and dates

<b>Duration</b>	April 2004 - October 2006 31 months	
<b>Budget</b>	2.404.928,00 €	
	50% ERDF	50% Member States' national funds
<b>Number of participants</b>	12 Partners from 5 countries	
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Regione Piemonte (Italy)	
<b>AlpCity Scientific Conference</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2005, Milan	
<b>AlpCity Final Conference</b>	September 2006	

## Alpine Space presentation – [www.alpinespace.org](http://www.alpinespace.org)

The Alpine Space area represents one of the most manifold regions in the heart of the European Community. This area is a major contact zone between different European cultures and languages where the German, the Latin and the Slavic areas meet.

The region is characterised by small-scale heterogeneous diversities in respect with political and socio-economical aspects. Considerable social and economic disparities, often within small distances, are evident.

The Alpine Space Programme belongs to one of the three strands (A,B,C) of the EU initiative Interreg III.

Strand B programmes address to trans-European cooperation and aims at encouraging harmonious and balanced development of the European territory. Project Participants could be from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia, as well as Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The main objective of this Community Initiative is to contribute to a more cohesive, balanced and sustainable territorial development of the area, by fostering transnational co-operation and maximizing the benefits in important fields of mutual concern between member states, regions and other authorities.



Valbruna Valley, Udine – Italy



## AlpCity Project – [www.alpcity.it](http://www.alpcity.it)

### AlpCity: Local endogeneous development and urban regeneration of small alpine towns.

AlpCity project addresses to some key areas of the Interreg IIIB-Alpine Space Programme including the support to a polycentric and sustainable local development, the creation and development of new and existing networks, some trans-national innovative initiatives and co-operation activities.

AlpCity deals with the crucial problem of a critical socio-economic development, inadequate quality of life and urban environment in small alpine/mountain communities and towns (<5000 hab.) often characterised by economic decline, ageing population, abandonment of villages, loss of cultural vitality, buildings' decay,

and a limited community participation.

The AlpCity trans-national approach aims at facing these processes of decline which actually have a trans-national dimension.

Twenty case studies are carried out by the Project Partners at a local level as innovative pilot actions through the collaboration of different subjects such as the local actors and stakeholders, universities, research institutes and NGOs. Moreover, the creation of a common knowledge and vision is supported by the collection and exchange of 'Good and Best Practices' in view of the formulation of policies' guidelines towards the local sustainable development.

## AlpCity Partners – [www.alpcity.it/partners.htm](http://www.alpcity.it/partners.htm)

### AlpCity: 12 Partners from 5 alpine countries

The AlpCity partnership is transnational and includes 12 Partners from 5 Alpine countries: Italy (4), France (3), Austria (1), Germany (1) and Switzerland (3). The partners belong to the public sector at different levels. The finalisation of the AlpCity partnership has been achieved in September 2004.

Each partner actively participates to the different project activities (Work Packages), and contribute to the successful project's implementation and development by a regular support to the Lead Partner (Regione Piemonte) as well as an active collaboration among the PPs.

Some Partners act as Work Packages' Co-ordinators as explained in the following scheme, and all the PPs contribute to the collection of Good/Best Practices as well as Information and Publicity activities.

Lead Partner LP	Regione Piemonte
<b>Projects Participants PPS</b>	12
Italy	Regione Piemonte Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia Regione Veneto Regione Lombardia
Germany	Gemeinde Grainau
Austria	Provincial Government Niederösterreich
France	Région Rhône-Alpes Région Franche-Comté, Territoire de Belfort
Switzerland	Haute Ecole Valaisanne Municipalité de Saint Maurice, Gemeinde Tschlin

## AlpCity WPs – [www.alpcity.it/overview/overview.htm](http://www.alpcity.it/overview/overview.htm)

WP1 Transnational Project Preparation	WP2 Transnational Project Management	WP3 Project Management	WP4 I&P	WP5 Project-cases: Economic development	WP6 Project-cases: Services/quality of life	WP7 Project-cases: Urban environment	WP8 Project-cases: Cooperation among towns	WP9 BPs and Future scenarios
Piemonte				Lombardia	Niederösterreich	FVG	Rhône-Alpes	Piemonte
<b>Partners co-ordinators</b>								

## AlpCity Interview with the PP **Niederösterreich**

### Partner Co-ordinator of the WP6: Services and quality of life

The PP NIEDERÖSTERREICH has been selected for an interview related to the implementation of two case studies carried out by the PP in the framework of AlpCity in order to put forward the value of the local development and the use of Information and Communication Technologies.

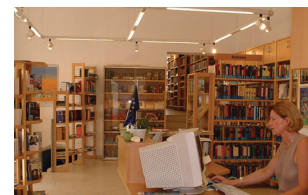
Lower Austria is a federal State of Austria and a region on NUTS II-level. It is divided into 5 main regions for regional planning. Each planning region consists of 3 to 5 districts, where regional administrative action takes place. Small towns in Lower Austria have 3000 - 10.000 inhabitants and often represent the core of regional processes. Small towns often have a strong influence on their region, due to their economic importance and are mostly situated at the best geographic site within the region. The mountainous regions of Lower Austria are located in the western and southern part of the

country. Approximately 40 % (600.000 people) of the population of Lower Austria lives in mountainous regions. The mountains play a very strong role for traffic and limits for economic development.

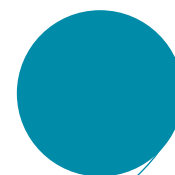
This PP aims at promoting networks and innovative co-operation initiatives in public services in order to improve the quality of life in small alpine towns.

The first case study "Network of multimedia libraries" aims at implementing a creative and innovative co-operative process within some selected multi-media equipped public libraries in small-medium alpine towns in Lower Austria. The expected benefits (local and regional levels) are an increase of the importance of public libraries and their services. The libraries will attract more people and offer new chances of access to knowledge.

The second case study "Network of youth in small-medium alpine towns" aims at providing qualified support for local authorities in the field of youth.



Case study "Network of multimedia libraries"



## Questions to: Ms. Helga ZODL

- Could you synthesise the activities carried in the framework of your case study up to now?  
*We informed 15 cities about the project (networks) and contacted about 8-9 of them personally. Workshops were held, where more information was given and common goals were formulated. In the network "Multimedia Libraries" a one day seminar was offered as a result of these workshops. Topic: Sponsoring and fund raising.*
- What are the main results and lessons learned up to now?  
*It is very difficult to implement networks, because of the additional workload for the participants. In an active network, before synergies take effect, it is important to receive some inputs from each participant. Personal contacts are the key element. In every project, the use of IT is demanded, but it still cannot fully substitute the contacts 'face to face'.*
- Did the trans-national partnership and expected exchange of knowledge/information already contribute to the good execution of your case studies?  
*At the PPs meeting in Krems, good contacts were established and I hope that the contacts will be intensified in the near future. We are looking forward to hearing more from our partners in the occasion of the future Project's meetings.*
- Did you already find out any synergies, or common issues with the others PPs in terms of methodology,

approach and activities?

*We definitely have a lot in common with the PP Grainau, who deals with similar problems as many small towns in Lower Austria (Niederösterreich). The exchange of information mainly takes place at the PPs meetings like in Krems. We hope to hear more in Grainau (9-10 May 2005) and Milan (27-28 June 2005) and will gladly make our contributions.*

- Do you envisage any follow-up of your activities carried out in the framework of AlpCity (ref. to the case studies' follow-up)?  
*Building networks is a main goal of "Stadterneuerung NÖ". Depending on the funding, there will be follow-up activities.*
- What do you think about trans-national projects, and above all this one in the frame of the Interreg Programme?  
*They are very useful in enhancing the mutual understanding within Europe. They give us the chance to develop projects together and to learn from each other. I find extremely interesting to work with French or Italian Partners, because the organisation of the public sector is very different if compared to Austrian.*
- Would you participate again to a EU project?  
*Definitely yes, although the administration and coordination represent a lot of work. On the other hand, the possibilities and chances for development are priceless.*

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## "Best Practices and future scenarios"

The WP 9 "Best Practices and Futures scenarios", co-ordinated by the LP, has a key role within the project because it supports strategically and operationally the achievement of the project's main aims (ref. to the exchange of experiences, information, know-how at a trans-national level and setting - up of networking activities) as well as it represents the working basis for reflections in view of the formulation of recommendations and policies' guidelines (mid-long term perspectives).

The WP basically includes the activities aimed at the selection, collection and exchange of 'Best Practices' with reference to the subject of the local sustainable development and urban regeneration of small alpine/mountain towns. The recent hypothesis of project's follow-up related to the WP9 includes: the setting-up of a Regional AlpCity Observatory, the Best Practices AlpCity Award and the participation to the Best Practices Award of the UN Habitat (ref. to the UNHabitat Programme 'Best Practices and Leadership Programme' 2006 Award edition).

## AlpCity events

Partners Meeting	9/10 May 2005	Grainau, Germany	Future Events 2005
AlpCity Scientific Meeting	27/28 June 2005	Milan, Italy	
External Events	Date	Location	Past Events
Alpen Forum Presentation of AlpCity at the Projects Fair	21 <sup>st</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2004	Kranjska Gora Slovenia	
Vitalcities Forum "Innovative Models for trade: The case of the mountain regions"	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2004	Brescia Italy	
"JTS Transnational Workshop: Maintaining quality of life and economic competitiveness in the rural Alpine Areas and their centres"	7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2005	Innsbruck Austria	
AlpCity Events	Date	Location	
Partners Meeting Presentation of the AlpCity team/PMO and updates on project activities	23 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2004	Krems Austria	
SSC Meeting Definition of tasks and role of the SSC	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2004	Aix les Bains France	

### Partners Meeting, 9 –10 May 2005, Grainau

This **AlpCity Partners Meeting** will be kindly hosted by the PP Gemeinde Grainau. The meeting's agenda includes the presentation of project's updates from the LP as well as from the PPs in relation to the overall project management and development with a special focus on the case studies' implementation. The following PPs: Lombardia, Franche Comté, Rhône Alpes and Veneto, will present in details the activities carried out in the

framework of their own case studies. The afternoon working session, co-ordinated by the WPs Co-ordinators, will focus on the synergies among the different case studies also in view of the AlpCity Scientific Meeting (Milan, June 2005). The LP will finally present the new section of the AlpCity web site which includes the framework, and the first outputs, of the activities related to the WP 'Best Practices and future scenarios'.

### AlpCity Scientific Meeting, 27 – 28 June 2005, Milan

The **AlpCity Trans-national Scientific Meeting** - organised by the PPs Lombardia, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia with the overall support of Regione Piemonte - represents a key project's event during which AlpCity project will be widely and deeply presented in terms of strategies, activities and concrete results. A special focus will be on the project Case studies' implementation which will be also presented and exploited through a posters' session.

The ambition of this meeting is linked to the idea of setting-up a platform for discussion and exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned which will represent and added value and concrete input to the successful project's implementation.

The Participants will be all the Project Partners as well as the Institutions involved in the case studies' implementation such as the Universities, NGOs, Research Institutions and some case studies' local counterparts. Representative of key institutions such as the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space Managing Authority and JTS, CIPRA, Alpine Convention, ISCAR etc ... will be invited and hopefully present at the meeting.

A special guest of the meeting will be a representative of the UN Habitat 'Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme' who will present the strategy and results of this 10 years UN programme which is the reference programme at an international level in the field of 'Best Practices' in the area of sustainable urban development.

The Scientific Steering Committee will present at the first plenary session an overview on the status and challenges of the small Alpine towns as a basic framework for the project's strategy and action.

The working groups' session (1st day in the afternoon) focused on the project's areas (Economic development - Services/Quality of life - Urban environment and Co-operation among towns) will be led by the WPs Co-ordinators and the Experts of the Project Scientific Steering Committee who will act as moderators/facilitators.

Further detailed and updated information concerning this AlpCity trans-national meeting is available at the AlpCity web site: [www.alpcity.it](http://www.alpcity.it)

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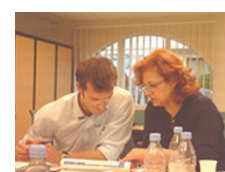
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**Focus on the Scientific Steering Committee - SSC** - The SSC is a team composed by 8 highly qualified Experts in the AlpCity project working area: 'Sustainable local development and urban integrated regeneration of small Alpine towns'. The basic role of the SSC is to steer the project from a strategic and operational point of view. The SSC experts contribute to the overall success of the project basically through an advisory role. The SSC works as a team focused on 2 areas: one more scientific and the other more operational. However, these two missions - 'framing and consulting' - are strongly linked. The SSC Experts will act as facilitators of the working groups in programme at the Scientific Meeting in Milan (27th – 28th June 2005). Further information concerning the SSC - Experts' profile and SSC outputs in the framework of AlpCity - is available at the AlpCity web site.



Mr Tyrkas and Ms Alfarié