

AlpCity logo (not ready yet!)

## ALPCITY – PARTNERS AND LOCAL PROJECTS FORMS

### Advice to partners:

Three forms prepared by the Scientific Steering Committee are attached, concerning respectively:

- Form 1 – The partner’s institutional role and capacity
- Form 2 – The partner’s involved territories
- Form 3 – The partner’s local activities within AlpCity

You might be under the impression that we are asking more than once the same information elements, especially in Form 1. But we seriously lack at the moment standard details and data regarding each partner’s project involvement. This makes it very difficult to exchange and share information between partners and to plan common activities. If we want to reach a good level of reciprocal knowledge, it is essential that each partner has a clear view of differences and similarities between the various experiences that will be undertaken within AlpCity.

Thank you for filling the forms in English with the best care and attention, even we appreciate it might be sometime difficult and your analysis may sometime not be perfect at this early stage. This material will allow us all to proceed and be able to integrate further details in the future. You are kindly requested to attach maps for the location of your local cases (file or paper version). After you have filled all cells (no limits to the number of lines), you are welcome to attach additional information and data on separate sheets of papers.

We will summarise these forms and present our analysis and comments at the meeting in Sierre (if possible by sending a document one week before).

Filled forms must be returned by email to the **Lead Partner** by the **7<sup>th</sup> of May**.

Thank you all for your kind cooperation.

**The Scientific Steering Committee**

## ALPCITY

### Form 1 - Partner's introduction

<b>Name of the partner</b>	Office of the provincial government of Lower Austria Department Spatial planning and regional policy
<b>Institutional role of the partner</b>	(General information on all sectors of competence and degree of administrative capacity) Provincial authority
<b>Name of the sector in charge of managing AlpCity</b>	Agency for regeneration of towns in Lower Austria Landeskoordinierungsstelle für Stadterneuerung in Niederösterreich
<b>Role of the sector within the partner's administrative structure</b>	(Information on specific competences, policies and services) The agency for regeneration of towns gives the general conditions, handles the government subsidies, controls the whole process and manages the subsidies of the European Union. Another task of the agency is giving professional inputs to the program and taking care of further development in new spheres of action.
<b>Partner's expected benefits from the participation to AlpCity</b>	Promotion of networks and cooperation in public services to improve quality of life and the effectiveness of public services in small alpine towns. In this case, it will be a network of public multimedia libraries and a network of participation projects for young people "network youth". Equal opportunities for small alpine cities, like access to knowledge or chances for economic development have to be created. AlpCity gives the chance to exchange experiences within Europe in the field of urban development in small alpine cities. Rapidly changing times require new strategies to provide quality of life and economic development in the rural regions of Europe.
<b>Indicate the WPs (4-7) in which the partner</b>	Lower Austria ist responsible for WP 5.

<p><b>will undertake local case-projects (and if the partner is WP responsible)</b></p> <p>■</p>	<p><b>Project-cases2: services/quality of life</b></p> <p>■</p> <p>■</p>
<p><b>Organisational expectations from the participation to one or more specific WP4-7 (case-projects)</b></p>	<p>(The WP must have internal rules? Which ones? How do you see the role of the WP responsible? How do you think exchange of experiences within the WP should be promoted? What could be the ways to structure the WP: distinct meetings, news by email? Others?)</p> <p>Lower Austria part is implying the overall monitoring of workpackage objectives and common outputs, methods of work, promotion of specialist meetings; effort to integrate between WPs 4-7 activities the transnational activities under this work package. Furthermore we coordinate the national projects.</p> <p>National: Exchange of experience will be very important: Distinct meetings with face to face communication will happen as well as e-mail contact with our partners. Meetings or news letters should be regular.</p> <p>We will provide an Internet web page under <a href="http://www.alpcity.at">www.alpcity.at</a> where national and transnational meetings and results will be published. We expect to be online in June 2004. Links to other partners homepages are very welcome!</p> <p>The progress of the national projects should be reported regularly by the partners. The part of the coordinating body will be to provide a platform, where communication and exchange of experience will be possible.</p>
<p><b>Expectations from the work of AlpCity Scientific Steering activities</b></p>	<p>Advice on sustainable communication strategies within AlpCity partners.</p> <p>Assessment of methodological approach</p> <p>Evaluation of projects</p>

## ALPCITY

### Form 2 - Description of the concerned territory (geographic and/or institutional areas)

<p><b>Administrative areas within the region</b></p>	<p>(What are the administrative levels within the region for different policy, planning, and project purposes? What are the different competences within these areas? What is the relationship between these levels and the small towns? The mountains?)</p> <p>Lower Austria has diversified planning levels according to its policy of strengthening grass root activities. 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. The local municipalities form a strong administrative body, mostly from 800 up to 2000 inhabitants. Most planning activities took place on this level for the last years, now more and more activities start on small regional level (4 – 10 municipalities) formed by voluntary cooperation. Small towns in Lower Austria have 3000 – 10.000 inhabitants and often are the cores of regional processes. Small towns often have a strong influence on their region, due to economic importance and are mostly situated at the best geographic site within the region.</p>
<p><b>Brief description of the mountain character within the whole partner's territory</b></p>	<p>(Examples: what part is covered by mountains, what are the types of mountain (high, medium, low), which is the quota of the population living in mountain areas, what is the role of the mountain areas in the regional economy, etc.)</p> <p>The mountainous regions of Lower Austria are located in the western and southern part of the country. The East Alps are ending here at the border of the Danube. East and south of Vienna there are rather flat areas of 200 metres above sea level, the north-eastern part (Weinviertel) consist mostly of hills up to 500 metres, the north-western part (Waldviertel) is covered by forest and extensive agriculture up to 1000 metres, the southern and south western areas are reaching up to more than 2000 metres. 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.</p>
<p><b>Structure of the towns within the region</b></p>	<p>(Examples: size, hierarchy, demographic and economic changes, main social and economic problems)</p> <p>In general, towns in Lower Austria gain more importance due to constant additional population from rural areas. Towns in the mountains are facing loss of importance compared to the rather “booming” villages, towns and cities in the flat areas, especially around Vienna. Typical mountain towns are centres for their rural surrounding, have a good social structure and a rich cultural life. Young, well trained people cannot find adequate jobs and so leave for the strong economic areas. Sometimes these people restore their old family homes as second residences or come back when living on retirement. Economic development comes late to these towns and is the main reason for constant drain.</p>

<p><b>Names of all administrative area/s involved in the case-projects</b></p>	<p>The most important administrative bodies involved in this project of creating networks concerning youth and libraries are the local municipalities. We will begin with some partners on different starting positions in order to gain widespread knowledge. We will keep the networks open for other towns to join in. The activities are communicated to the responsible departments dealing with libraries and youth to ensure follow-up actions and coordinated regional progress. The department of culture of Lower Austria and the department for youth will be involved.</p>
<p><b>Number of inhabitants in these areas</b></p>	<p>As the number of local municipalities as network partners is not limited it is difficult to estimate the number of involved inhabitants. In each network it will be at least 20.000 people.</p>
<p><b>Specific issues on the structure of the towns in these mountain areas</b></p>	<p>Two main issues hindering progress in small alpine towns are lack of economic development and the “brain” drain by loss of well trained young people. Therefore two networks (libraries and youth) will be started to overcome some effects of these general trends.</p>
<p><b>Economic characteristics of these towns</b> <b>(Regional, international or local functions)</b></p>	<p>The towns in the mountainous regions provide all necessary goods and services for everyday life of their inhabitants and the rural surrounding. Often there are still handicrafts and shops, which don’t exist anymore in more “booming” areas. Traditional structures are conserved by the rather conservative views of the local opinion leaders. These towns know about their importance for their region and try to face global changes in a very responsible and serious way. External professional input is highly recommended and needed for social and economic innovation.</p>
<p><b>Social image of the mountains within the region</b></p>	<p>(Examples: symbolic values attached to the mountains, level of attractiveness for residential and/or leisure time activities, level of repulsiveness, differences among community and social groups. Please comment your replies!)</p> <p>In general, small alpine towns are very proud of their landscape, the mountains and the good physical living conditions. They consider themselves to lead a sustainable lifestyle and there is a strong relation to the possibilities offered by their environment. Mountains in Lower Austria offer a wide range of activities, for spending free time, for relaxing etc. Young people feel sometime cut off from the latest trends seen on TV and the Internet and are dreaming of leaving their “narrow-minded” home.</p>
<p><b>Policies for the mountain</b></p>	<p>(Is there a specific legislation concerning mountain areas? E.g. national, regional, other levels. What are the main points? Please indicate also the references and dates. Besides legal instruments, is there a specific partner’s political approach vis-à-vis the mountains? What are the objectives? What are differences with other areas/regions?)</p> <p>Compared to other fields of interest, mountains do not play a major role in politics in Lower Austria, because Lower Austria does not feel “mountainous” compared to other provinces in Austria, e.g. Tyrol. These areas are included in Lower Austria in “rural areas”. There are of course many political statements and treaties to preserve nature and natural conditions in mountainous regions, mainly to prevent major catastrophes for the more important flat areas. According to the</p>

	<p>strong efforts to support bottom-up projects by the state, there is a constant financial flow to these “poorer” regions. Living conditions in these disadvantaged regions should be improved in order to prevent further population decrease. Economic efforts from outside the region – bringing big enterprises to these regions – have mostly failed in the long run. Endogenous regional development has diminished the differences between “booming” and disadvantaged areas a little bit during recent years and this policy will be further pursued.</p>
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## ALPCITY

### Form 3 - Description of the local activities within AlpCity (IMPORTANT: please copy and paste the table, and fill one for each distinct case-project)

<b>Title of the case-project</b>	Network multimedia public libraries
<b>Case-project abstract</b>	<p>The main target of the project “network multimedia library” is to implement a creative and innovative co-operative process within some selected multi-media equipped public libraries in small-medium alpine towns in Lower Austria.</p> <p>New forms of personnel and virtual user dialogs together with a periodic exchange of experiences within the network will create the base for an enduring development process, that aims at provision of user oriented multimedia stock and services.</p> <p>The start up phase will be enforced by a structured exchange of experience and best practice transfer. Then the existing potentials of the co-operation should be focused and special fields for efficient co-operation should be developed in detail. To enable a long lasting working process together, a virtual platform and periodically organised personal meetings are needed as a fundamental organisational structure.</p>
<b>Reasons for the choice of this case-project</b>	Equal chances for access to knowledge are key in our times. Libraries within a network can be powerful access points, because they can provide better service. Furthermore, libraries can be focal points for cultural activities in small towns.
<b>Adopted methodology</b>	Together with representatives of public libraries, a networking - concept will be developed during workshops. Best practice examples will be collected and used as professional input. It is important to choose this bottom up approach, so people identify fully with their project.
<b>Expected benefits (local and regional levels)</b>	The importance of public libraries and their services should be increased. The libraries will attract more people and offer new chances of access to knowledge. For example it will be more easy for students to stay in the small towns where they grew up and still have the opportunity to get all the information they need. It is important for the development of regions to keep young people with good education from moving to big cities.
<b>Are follow-up activities foreseen ?</b>	During and after AlpCity we still have our Urban Regeneration Program in Lower Austria, where projects can be supported during the Intensive Phase of the Program. The virtual platform and network meetings should be kept up. The activities of libraries will be a long term focal point of the Urban Regeneration Program in Lower Austria.
<b>Expected value added (other than financial)</b>	The added value should be created in concrete cooperation projects. The form and type of cooperation have to be developed during the networking process.

<p><b>from the participation to an INTERREG project</b></p>	<p>Furthermore, the long-term existence of public libraries is secured through better and more effective services.</p> <p>The cooperation with European partners enhances mutual understanding. Especially direct communication for example over the Internet or on conferences gives the opportunity to get to know people and feel the European spirit. It is very important for each one of us to feel more European to fill the idea of the European Union with life.</p>
<p><b>Expected transnational exchange benefit gained from the case</b></p>	<p>The multimedia library network tackles the topics of knowledge, culture, learning and communication. All over Europe, equal chances should be provided. Alpine regions can learn in this respect from other thinly populated regions like Scandinavia.</p>
<p><b>Output indicators</b></p>	<p>2 workshops  1 virtual platform on the web  1 network structure for personal meetings  1 web-site  10 publications (press)  1 final report (experiences, best practice)  1 mailing list</p> <p>Sustainable networking structures created</p> <p>Innovative projects with regional and European partners.</p>
<p><b>Impact indicators</b></p>	<p>Libraries gain more users and provide more and different services.</p> <p>The town gets more culturally active</p> <p>More young, well educated people stay in the town</p>
<p><b>Name of the town/s concerned (please list all individual towns and other administrative levels concerned by each case-project)</b></p>	<p>Heidenreichstein  Eggenburg  Gänsersdorf  Wolkersdorf  Gloggnitz  Fischamend  Haag  Waidhofen/Y.</p> <p>These towns have been asked to take part. A final decision will be made after the first workshop in May.</p> <p>Other possible participants:  Langenlois  Waidhofen/Th.  Hainburg</p>
<p><b>Demographic, social and economic situation of the town/s concerned and specifically</b></p>	<p>All these towns have about 3.000 to 10.000 inhabitants and some of them are demographically shrinking. The centres of towns loose both businesses and inhabitants. On the edge of the towns, shopping centres are built - sometimes even on the territory of a neighbouring village, so the town does not have any</p>



<b>identified problems</b>	<p>influence on the development (the council of the neighbouring village can decide about the permit for the construction of the shopping centre).</p> <p>The towns also loose young, well educated people to the bigger cities like Vienna, Graz or Linz (capitals of the neighbouring federal states Styria and Upper Austria).</p>
<b>Role of the mountain resource within the local development chances of the town/s concerned (positive or negative)</b>	<p>The mountainous regions are generally interesting for recreational activities. Tourism has a long tradition especially in the southern part of Lower Austria. Skiing and mountaineering was partly developed in Lower Austria. There is no "Mass-Tourism" but many guests from Vienna and also the new members of the European Union Czech Rep., Slovakia and Hungary. Stays are short from only one day to mostly long weekends. Small towns provide important infrastructure especially in the cultural field. The economical development in the first and second sector has slowed down over the last few decades.</p>
<b>Expected contribution of the foreseen actions towards the development of the town/s concerned</b>	<p>One idea will be to establish local libraries as an powerful public access point to the Internet also for the guests of the region. The library should act as a cultural and social focal point in the town. Quality of life should be increased and more young educated people should be held in town.</p>
<b>Who is the responsible for the concrete development of the project?</b>	<p>The development of the project will be carried out by the "Verband für Dorf- und Stadterneuerung NÖ", (Association of "village and city regeneration") a non-profit organisation of towns and villages, that is working in the Urban Regeneration Program for almost ten years and in the Village Regeneration Program for over 15 years.</p>
<b>How are activities sub-contracted? (if it is the case)</b>	<p>The organisation and the development of the network with the heads of the participating libraries will be carried out by one subcontractor (Association of "village and city regeneration"). They are highly experienced in implementing programs and developing networks on a local and regional basis.</p>
<b>Beside the partner, which administrative authorities are involved in the project? How?</b>	<p>The main partners will be the municipalities that take part in the network. In most cases, they are the owners of the libraries and will make also a small financial contribution to the project. The towns also will be the partners, who hopefully will support further projects, which are developed in the network. Besides that, the Austrian Association of Libraries will be involved in the role of an expert later.</p> <p>The communication to other departments will be established in the course of the project. Information about objectives and planned activities will be the first step, closer contact will be useful when local projects are carried out.</p>
<b>Who are the main local/regional project actors?</b>	<p>The main local actors will be the people working in the libraries. They will be the ones who communicate and try out the strategies and projects that will be developed in the network.</p>
<b>The case is isolated or integrated within a broader frame/ programme of activities? How? How are these activities</b>	<p>The case is integrated in the Urban Regeneration Program in Lower Austria. Most of the participating towns are either in the intensive phase of the Program or have been in this phase before. They all work on increasing the quality of life for their citizens.</p> <p>The program is financed by the Province of Lower Austria</p>

being financed?	
<b>Timetable for the project development (July 2004 - May 2006)</b>	<p><b>Start-up phase and preparation of the project</b> January to March 2004</p> <p><b>Selection of local authorities during the project preparation phase</b> Participating local authorities and their public libraries are selected according to their declared will to contribute, to their service level and equipment state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Preparation of data concerning the fields of networks</b> The network database will be provided by the project lead.</li> <li>◆ <b>Preparation of an Internet-Platform of the network</b> Steps are undertaken to prepare an Internet site for the network both for dissemination activities and the use of the project partners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Research of best practice examples</b> February 2004 through the project</p> <p>Best practice European examples and their network methods, structure of organisation, services and experiences will be researched and prepared for presentation to participants.</p> <p><b>Conception and program for realisation</b> May 2004 to May 2005</p> <p>Based on results of an inception workshop with beneficiaries, experiences, stated needs and frame work criteria the conception and program for realisation will be worked out.</p> <p><b>Set up of infrastructure for networking and know how transfer</b> May 2004 through the project</p> <p>The frame work to stimulate the creative potential of the network partners (library staff, consultants, authorities...) for finding solutions will be set up. Two workshops and one symposium are planned as personnel meeting. A virtual platform will enhance the continuous process by providing an information- and communication channel.</p> <p><b>Dissemination activities – public relations</b> May 2004 through the project</p> <p>Set up of a co-operation in public relation to promote the institutions multimedia stock, services and its role in society. A communication plan will be set up and carried out in accordance with the lead partner.</p> <p><b>Implement structure of organisation</b> May 2005 to October 2006</p>

	<p>A virtual network and a network structure for personal meetings between local authorities and their public libraries, associations and appropriate authorities will be found and implemented.</p> <p><b>Carry out of projects using efficient financial and personnel resources</b> May 2005 through the project</p> <p>Public institutions like libraries have to face the challenge of efficiency and user demands. Concrete measures within the “network multimedia libraries” will preferably touch the realms: development of an unique content focus for each library, co-operative procurement and rational sequence of operations. To meet modern user expectations, structures to implement new forms of services (interlending, information research service) will be worked out. Facing the importance of libraries in adult education, user oriented education offers shall be created within the multimedia library network. Furthermore the cultural heritage shall be presented and contemporary cultural life structures shall be promoted that enable the working together in organising cultural events for library users.</p>
<p><b>Total cost for the case (Euros)</b></p>	<p>€ 38.246,--</p>
<p><b>Are experts (non SSC) involved into the case and research activities undertaken for the case? What is their role?</b></p>	<p>The experts will moderate and develop the network. During the workshops, they will provide some theoretical input. Lower Austria has agreed in financing a stageaire to find out good practice examples in order to learn from experiences already made in Lower Austria and abroad. We would also appreciate input of the SSC in the field of networks for libraries or other public services.</p>

## ALPCITY

### Form 3 - Description of the local activities within AlpCity (IMPORTANT: please copy and paste the table, and fill one for each distinct case-project)

<b>Title of the case-project</b>	<b>Network Youth in small-medium alpine towns</b>
<b>Case-project abstract</b>	<p>In the province of Lower Austria you can find a lot of activities and efforts to integrate young people in the social life of towns; especially the program of urban regeneration has started some projects in the field of youth. There are important experiences from the projects concerning the different ways of implementation, the challenges and the results.</p> <p>A network between local authorities, associations and appropriate authorities is needed to give new ideas, new impulse, and new points of view. The set up of infrastructure for networking and know how transfer will allow to carry out projects using efficient financial and personnel resources in the future and will encourage new and innovative forms of development in small-medium alpine towns.</p>
<b>Reasons for the choice of this case-project</b>	<p>Today you need a „new language“ to work with young people. The adults complain about the lack of interest of the youth, and young people about being not understood. The local authority is interested in doing something for young people, but often they are not able to get in contact with each other. So often public facilities are destroyed by vandalism. The aim of this network is to gather the needs and ideas of the young generation and to form projects fitting to them. A special part of this network will be in finding the right method for working with the young people. Thereby young people shall get the feeling, that their needs are important for the society. So there is the hope, that the facilities are accepted as their own ones and used in an appropriate way. Further this process shall be able to decrease the migration of young people out of small alpine towns.</p> <p>The local authorities in alpine regions will get support and solutions to challenge the diverse problems (youth unemployment, vandalism, drug abuse, no participation) in the field of youth work.</p>
<b>Adopted methodology</b>	<p>The chosen methods will vary depending on the local situation. Many conflicts with young people have their cause in former projects or personal matters. Therefore the process of motivation and engagement has to start at a different level of communication.</p> <p>In some alpine cities there are already groups of very active persons dealing with this challenge as organized youth associations or local discussion groups lead by adults.</p> <p>In many alpine cities a representative of the legal communal body is designated to face youth interests. These persons often have some good ideas and know the needs of the youth in their city but lack know-how or time for action. In this situation an external initial impulse often give the kick-off for projects.</p> <p>In other cities there is a need to establish structures for activities and to</p>

	<p>know what the kids really want. The mayor of Fischamend for example stated in the year 2000: “We lost the contact to our youth. We don’t know what they exactly want, what they are doing (in their spare time) and where they meet. So we want two youth consultants to go out, meet young people, gain their trust and consult us (the municipality) what to do for the well-being of young people in Fischamend.”</p> <p>A small number of cities in alpine regions do not deal with their youth in an organized way at all. In these cases the advantages for local development, necessities, costs and long-term effects have to be pointed out and a positive climate for youth activities has to be created in a first step.</p>
<b>Expected benefits (local and regional levels)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide qualified support for local authorities in the field of youth</li> <li>• to share good practice on successful youth projects</li> <li>• to create a network between local authorities, associations, appropriate authorities and schools</li> <li>• to take projects forward with different methods to activate and to encourage young people on independent and honorary work</li> <li>• to present projects and activities, outcome and success from projects and to intensify the exchange of experiences between all target groups</li> <li>• to improve the flow of information between youth groups and appropriate authorities</li> </ul>
<b>Are follow-up activities foreseen?</b>	<p>(Please describe)</p> <p>The partnership in this project is the start of more networking activities run by the Town Regeneration in Lower Austria. Experiences how to work together will be necessary of more cooperation on EU-level.</p>
<b>Expected value added (other than financial) from the participation to an INTERREG project</b>	<p>(Please mention concrete examples and not general statements such as: exchange of experiences)</p> <p>We are sure, that our partners have lot of experience how to cooperate on EU-level. Town Regeneration in Lower Austria wants to carry out innovative forms in the vast field of regenerating European towns. Ideas can be shared to improve services in the partner countries.</p>
<b>Expected transnational exchange benefit gained from the case</b>	<p>(Cases should not tackle exclusively local problems. Where in the whole Alpine Space Programme area can similar problems be found? And where can good practice be found?)</p> <p>The networking activities in the fields of youth should encourage the partners to enhance their efforts in these subjects. The different starting positions of the municipalities in Lower Austria will enlarge the possibility to transfer the results to our partners. Learning from mistakes, the following projects will go on in an easier and quicker way.</p>
<b>Output indicators</b>	<p>2 workshops 1 virtual platform on the web</p>

	<p>1 network structure for personal meetings</p> <p>1 web-site</p> <p>30 local meetings</p> <p>10 publications (press)</p> <p>1 final report (experiences, best practice)</p> <p>1 mailing list</p>
<b>Impact indicators</b>	<p>Better understanding of youth interests and problems</p> <p>Local projects to improve living conditions for young people</p> <p>Local organisations were funded to face youth interests</p>
<b>Name of the town/s concerned (please list all individual towns and other administrative levels concerned by each case-project)</b>	<p>(Please also attach a map – file or paper version)</p> <p>The partner are not fixed up to now: Brunn am Gebirge and Gloggnitz will be partners. As mentioned above, the network will stay open for other municipalities to join in.</p> <p>Administrative level: local authorities as municipalities, regional cooperations</p> <p>The department of culture of Lower Austria and the department for youth will be involved.</p>
<b>Demographic, social and economic situation of the town/s concerned and specifically identified problems</b>	<p>Please see Form 2: specific issues, economic structures</p> <p>In some alpine cities (e.g. Brunn am Gebirge) there are already groups of very active persons dealing with this challenge as organized youth associations. In march 2004 Brunn has won an award for “youth-friendly municipality”.</p> <p>In many alpine cities a representative of the legal communal body is designated to face youth interests. To stop the “brain drain” to the big centres is one of the main tasks.</p> <p>In other cities there is a need to establish structures for activities and to know what the kids really want. (e.g. Gloggnitz: is trying to establish a self-organized youth club)</p> <p>A small amount of cities in alpine regions do not deal with their youth in an organized way at all. Chances and threats of dealing with this group and their importance for town-life will be shown up.</p>
<b>Role of the mountain resource within the local development chances of the town/s concerned (positive or negative)</b>	<p>The biggest role of the mountains is to make the physical contact between the young people in the rural surroundings harder. On the other hand, better environmental conditions are given in towns with mountains nearby. Leisure and sport activities in close range to places of learning and working gains importance for personal quality of life. Smooth tourism and the discovery of regional specialities is strongly supported by the state and by countless associations and regional organisations.</p>
<b>Expected contribution of the foreseen actions towards the development of the</b>	<p>The network will encourage opinion leaders and young people to think about the role of youth and youth interests in small alpine towns. More activities to foster ties between young people and their native towns will ensure the necessary human resources to face global changes. More well trained people living in these</p>

<b>town/s concerned</b>	towns will be the base of successful local development.
<b>Who is the responsible for the concrete development of the project?</b>	<p>(Partner, university, local authority, consultants, other institutes? Why has it been chosen?)</p> <p>Partner: Village and Town Regeneration of Lower Austria together with external experts of the association of “village and city regeneration”.</p> <p>The partner has the biggest interest in positive results. The importance of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) and their social acceptance (network libraries) and the potential of young people (network youth) is part of the philosophy of this non-profit organisation.</p>
<b>How are activities sub-contracted? (if it is the case)</b>	The local part of the activities is subcontracted to the Association of “village and Town regeneration”, which is dealing with these matters since 15 years in commission from the Village Regeneration of Lower Austria. Motivation of the inhabitants, project management on local level, public relations etc. are the main tasks for the subcontractor.
<b>Beside the partner, which administrative authorities are involved in the project? How?</b>	As the network activities in this scale are quite new to Lower Austrian administrative authorities, the communication to other departments will be established in the course of the project. Information about objectives and planned activities will be the first step, closer contact will be useful when local projects are carried out.
<b>Who are the main local/regional project actors?</b>	<p>(economic, political, cultural, social actors, NGOs)</p> <p>The main project actors are the partner and the external experts in close co-operation with local activists such as opinion leaders and representatives of the local authorities. Young people of the alpine towns and organisations or associations dealing with youth interests will play a major role in this network.</p>
<b>The case is isolated or integrated within a broader frame/ programme of activities? How? How are these activities being financed?</b>	Network youth are embedded into everyday work of town regeneration in Lower Austria. The results in this field will have strong impact on further networks in this scale. The work of Town Regeneration is financed by the federal Province of Lower Austria.
<b>Timetable for the project development (July 2004 - May 2006)</b>	<p>Survey and preparation: 09/2003 – 06/2004</p> <p>Implementation: 06/2004 – 05/2005</p> <p>Workshop: 06/2005</p> <p>Dissemination: 07/2005 – 08/2006</p>
<b>Total cost for the case (Euros)</b>	The total costs will be 38.350 Euro.

<b>Are experts (non SSC) involved into the case and research activities undertaken for the case? What is their role?</b>	Lower Austria has agreed in financing a stageaire to find out good practice examples in order to learn from experiences already made in Lower Austria. The communication and discussion between the partners and together with the scientific steering committee should ensure a big step ahead towards innovative forms of development in these subjects.
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