

INTERNAL MEETING

4TH APRIL 2007

WELCOME AND OPENING SPEECH

Dear Partners good morning,

Here we are again after a long and intensive day of presentations and discussions with a special focus on the AlpCity follow up.

Later on I will summarise the main key issues raised yesterday which could be useful also for the today discussion.

Actually the meeting of today is organised with the aim to discuss internally and more openly the potential scenarios we can foresee together after the close end of AlpCity (end of April).

I take immediately the opportunity to thank the partners' core team present today, the ones who already sent some contributions/proposals for this meeting including Regione Veneto unfortunately absent today.

It is understood that the commitment of the partnership is a key element for the project follow up especially now that the project will officially ends.

During this period of project extension (February – April 2007) we started to exploit the different programmes of the new programming period, which are mainly under approval by the EC, such as Alpine Space II, Interreg IV C, Urbact II, Interact II, as well as other new initiatives lunched by the EC such as Regions for Economic Change.

Dana participated to some events related to these programmes and could provide us with further information on them.

As you most probably are already experiencing we are in a crucial phase due to the definition of new strategies, priorities, programmes and procedures of the new

programming period. Some questions and novelties are still unclear (e.g. regions for economic change).

This transition phase effects in a certain way the future of AlpCity in the sense that normally it is not easy to design the future of a project (even if successful), but this process becomes much more delicate and difficult if this design is in the framework of programmes and procedures under definition.

However, in line with the conference of yesterday we are exploiting new and strategic partnerships as well as new scenarios for the future of AlpCity which could be summarised as it follows:

- 1) We could imagine the design and submission of a new project proposal starting from the AlpCity Project results already presented in Pracatinat in October. The main idea was for a transnational laboratory for the development of small alpine towns through strategic networks and transfer aimed at the formulation and sharing of innovative policies. This proposal is for example in line with the EC Regions for economic change initiative (Interregional level). In opposite the sharing and transfer of best initiatives could not be submitted to the Alpine Space anymore.

Before working at a new project proposal we have to reflect and decide the best level (transnational, interregional) to focus on and therefore to chose a programme to submit the proposal to: Alpine Space II, Interreg IV C, Regions for Economic Change ecc ...

- 2) We could imagine a collaboration among some of the AlpCity existing Partners, and new ones, without the finalisation and submission of a new project proposal to a specific EC programme. This could be also considered as an intermediate phase before the finalisation of any EC new project proposal finalised with a medium-long term perspective.

The areas of collaboration could be related to the new cohesion policy, and related key issues such as:

- The use of renewable energies
- The setting up of a common market of public works and services

- The promotion and implementation of strategic spatial and territorial planning

A cross cutting area of collaboration is represented by the institutional strengthening and development of human resources involved in the process of implementation and integration of structural funds.

Today it is quite difficult to make a precise choice, or speak about the new project proposal without a strong project idea to work on, and without clear programmes and procedures.

However we have to benefit from this (last official partners' meeting) opportunity, and set up a fruitful brainstorming session in which we could openly communicate and listen to the different ideas, proposals, criticisms and discuss them in view of a potential future collaboration on the basis of the AlpCity project relevant results, and the first steps forward discussed yesterday.