



Minutes

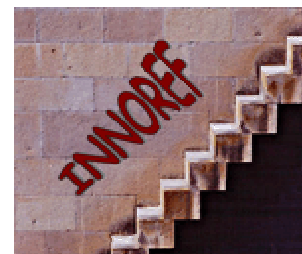
Meeting among  
ALPCITY, RECOVER and INNOREF  
projects representatives

Palazzo Balbi - Meeting Room 'Travi'– 3rd Floor

Dorsoduro 3901 – VENEZIA

19 April 2006

by Loredana Alfaré and Antonella Convertino





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## Meeting objectives

The meeting aimed at exploiting synergies among the AlpCity case studies and the INNOREF sub-project Recover. The topic (re-conversion) and the methodology (participation process) adopted by the mentioned projects are very similar and in the case of Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region there is also a sharing of the case study area. The intention was of discussing a possible cooperation in order to give an added value to the involved projects, by collaborating with different programmes and optimising the results.

A first meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March between FVG AlpCity case study, concerning the environmental certification, and the INNOREF sub-project AEDES, which deals with a similar topic. The minutes of this meeting have been already sent to the partners.

There is an intention of creating a working group. Therefore participants avoided “formal presentations of the projects” but they concentrated on **short presentations** focused on objectives, methodology, outputs and results (maximum 6 slides) in order to have enough time for discussion and operative proposals.

# Agenda

- 10.00 -10.15 Opening speeches  
Arch. T. Quaglia (Veneto Region) and Arch. D. Sena (Piedmont Region)
- 10.15-10.30 The aim and the expectations of this meeting and a short summary of the previous meeting held in Udine  
Mrs. L. Alfarè - Mr. E. Ruoss
- 10.30-10.50 Veneto Region's case studies  
"Renovation and optimum use of abandoned rural and productive buildings"  
Mr. Agostinetti, Mr. Bona, Mrs. Ferrari
- 10.50-11.10 Piedmont Region's case studies  
Case study 1: "The renewal of abandoned areas"  
Arch. L. Ingaramo  
Case study 2: 'To live in mountain areas'  
Arch. A. Moro
- 10.10-11.30 Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region's case study  
Case study : "Recovery of abandoned areas"  
University of Udine
- 11.30-11.40 RECOVER Project  
Ms Zanier, Mr. Piantadosi
- 11.40-12,30 Open discussion about the options concerning cooperation
- 12.30-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-15.0 Operative proposals  
Mrs L. Alfarè (AlpCity Scientific Steering Committee)
- 15.00-15,30 Conclusions  
Veneto Region and Piedmont Region

## List of participants

Tiziana Quaglia (Veneto Region)

Daniela Sena (AlpCity Project Manager - Piedmont Region)

Pierpaolo Suber (Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)

Loredana Alfaré (AlpCity Project SSC Expert and Innoref Project Coordinator)

Engel Ruoss (Innoref TPM and UNESCO Consultant)

Anna Maria Caputano (AlpCity Project Assistant - Piedmont Region)

Antonella Convertino (AlpCity Project Reporting Assistant - Piedmont Region)

Alberto Miotto (AlpCity Consultant for Veneto Region)

Daniele Zannin (Euris S.r.l. and AlpCity Consultant for Veneto Region)

Viviana Ferrario (Euris S.r.l. and AlpCity Consultant for Veneto Region)

Flavio Bona (Euris S.r.l. and AlpCity Consultant for Veneto Region)

Andrea Moro (Environment Park Spa and AlpCity Consultant for Piedmont Region)

Luisa Ingaramo (Polytechnic of Turin and AlpCity Consultant for Piedmont Region)

Giovanni Tubero (AlpCity Consultant for Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)

Gianfranco Agostinetti (Euris S.r.l. and AlpCity Consultant for Veneto Region)

Valentina Zambetti (Euris S.r.l. and AlpCity Consultant for Veneto Region)

Luciana Zanier (RECOVER Project Manager)

Edo Piantadosi (RECOVER Consultant)

Giovanni Scalera (AlpCity Consultant for Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)

# Summary of speeches and presentations

The meeting started at 10.30 am with **Arch. Quaglia's** welcome on behalf of Veneto Region to all the participants.

After expressing Mrs. Cavallo Perin's (Officer in charge of the AlpCity Project) greetings to the attendance, **Arch. Sena** (AlpCity Project Manager) outlined the purpose of the meeting consisting in some reflections about the future potentialities of the project.



## Meeting



## Reconversion of mountain hamlets

Venice, 19th April 2006

*L. Alfaré & E. Ruoss*

**Mrs. Alfaré**, AlpCity SSC expert, explained the inspiring idea of the meeting, that is the identification of cooperation ways, both inside and outside the AlpCity Project (particularly through the interregional cooperation of Venetia Region for INNOREF, AEDES and the most recent RECOVER and STS projects). The most important goal is constituted by the development of effective and real synergies among the projects.

Then she listed the involved projects:

- Local endogenous development and urban regeneration of small alpine towns (Venetia Region)
- The renewal of abandoned mountain hamlets (Piedmont Region)

- To live in mountain areas (Piedmont Region)
- Renovation and optimum use of abandoned rural and productive buildings (Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)
  - RECOVER – Re-conversion of rural villages as an opportunity for economic development (Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)
  - AEDES - Eco-management system EMAS (Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)
  - Guidelines for Environmental Certification (Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region)

Mrs. Alfarè described also the common issues of these projects, which are:

1. Territorial analysis
2. Methodology:
  - Participation process
  - Individuation of case studies
3. Case study
4. Outputs:
  - feasibility study
  - guidelines for similar projects

The results of the projects are still unknown, together with their follow up and impact. The most important challenge concerning the usefulness of these results depends on the chance to grant a continuation to all the projects.

In Italy three regions are involved: Piedmont Region, Venetia Region and Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region.

At the end of her presentation, Mrs. Alfaré summarised the most important conclusions (please see Annex 1) of a previous meeting organised together with Mr. Suber (Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region) and Mr. Romanelli (AEDES Project Manager). The meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March in Udine.

Afterwards **Mr. Ruoss** remarked the three key-points concerning the meeting objectives:

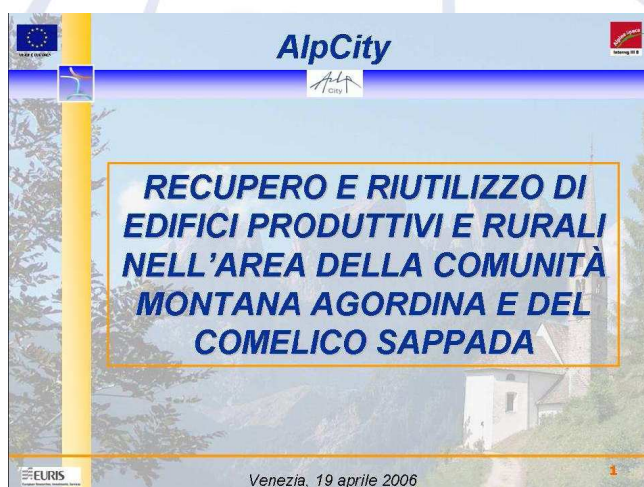
1. Cooperation implies shared common interests
2. Communication must be constant and effective
3. The achieved results have to be recognized



He recalled the AEDES Project as example: it implies the creation of an environment management system among municipalities situated north and south of Tagliamento river. Through AEDES Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region wants to be equipped with a backbone inspiring a main development strategy, which can be applied also in other contexts. This purpose implies a long-term cooperation and the length of the projects is not sufficient to fulfil it. For this reason it could be useful to combine AEDES studies on the upper part of the basin with the AlpCity ones focused on the lower part. Another example is represented by the WAREMA Project.

Mr. Ruoss suggested also some potential synergies with international programmes dealing with protected areas and biospheres, like the one promoted by UNESCO.

Later **Arch. Bona** introduced the AlpCity case study coordinated by Veneto Region and belonging to the Work Package 7 – Urban Environment. It deals with the recovery of traditional buildings called *Tabià* situated in the Agordino and Comelico zones.



The case study objectives are as follows:

- Identifying solutions and Best Practices for re-converting the building heritage of small alpine towns;
- Setting up re-conversion models transferable to other mountain areas;
- Increasing the value of historical buildings;
- Supporting the social-economic development of mountain areas.

The methodology applied consists in:

- A preliminary territorial analysis
- The involvement of local communities

- A collection and a classification of the buildings
- The definition of general criteria for increasing the value and recover the cultural and natural heritage
- The dissemination of results.

The outputs produced will be:

- A Best Practices manual
- Some guidelines for buildings re-conversion and rehabilitation
- A feasibility study

As Arch. Bona outlined, the *Tabià* are wooden buildings peculiar of Veneto mountain areas: in the past they played a very specific productive role for the Region. The most part of these buildings are actually abandoned. The first problem emerged in the case study concerns the future use of the buildings. The proposal of transforming the buildings into houses contradicts the original productive nature (hayloft or shed). In case this transformation takes place, the buildings will pass under the jurisdiction of the common residential houses laws with a consequent weakening of the constraints binding these traditional buildings.

Together with some architectural intervention it is necessary to follow a cultural path allowing to create and realize some housing criteria extremely different from those ones implemented in an urban area. For this reason some town planning derogations seem essential in order to preserve the peculiarities of *Tabià* independently from their use. The potential users are required to be flexible for what concerns the fulfilment of needs and housing requisites. As regards the recovery a no-standard approach will be applied in order to be respectful of the ancient building techniques.

Through this case study an easy method has been identified with the aim at simple application and transfer in different contexts.

Since there is a prevailing focus on the safeguard of the cultural heritage and the know-how belonging to the old local skilled workers, there is a project of opening of schools and workshops for apprenticeship of traditional building techniques.

Afterwards **Arch. Ferrario** talked about the recovery intervention on *Tabià*, she is engaged in together with Arch. Turati and Arch. Zannin. Their analysis focuses on the chance to go back to *Tabià* both for productive and housing purposes.

As she said, whereas on the one hand the abandonment consists in a very slow process, which gradually takes place, on the other hand the opportunity to transform and sometimes to irreparably damage the buildings is a very fast event.

The methodology followed by this working group has the quality check of recovery interventions as objective, because sometimes they can reveal to be not very beneficial. It is very important to set up some incentives to recovery, but also the tools, like handbooks and guidelines, to put in place the interventions.

After this experience of a pilot project within the Alpine Space Programme, it is clear that projects work only together with some spreading instruments. Anyway some difficulties emerge also in drafting and using handbooks: the most important risk consists in coming apart from the economic and housing realities, also because the necessary operative skills are often lacking. The ideal mixture is constituted by the availability of skilled workers together with the handbooks virtuous analysis: the workers should be acquainted with the traditional techniques in order not to distort the original aspect. Identifying skilled workers is a quite difficult task, because they are often emigrants without local family ties. Arch. Ferrario continued her presentation pointing out that there is a lack of skilled workers; in this sense it is necessary to invite these experts to transfer their knowledge to young people. As case study follow-up she proposed the creation of an "Observatory on Know-how" (Osservatorio dei saperi) in order to preserve the local traditions.

Afterwards **Arch. Agostinetti** traced the most evident differences between the Agordino and Comelico *Tabià*. The Agordino area is characterized by urban contexts; it should be understood how the rural and social aspects integrate in this reality. In Comelico Valley many rural wooden buildings were destroyed together with their activities. For example in Dosoledo we can observe an ousting of haylofts from the inhabited buildings. When buildings are isolated, it is necessary to consider accessibility and slope, which can prevent from transformation. This implies a selection of the buildings. Arch. Agostinetti declared to be in favour of some strict constraints on transformations.

**Arch. Quaglia** remarked the double nature of the case study:

- Analysis of territory
- Analysis of know-how

She outlined the itinerary Veneto Region is going to follow:

1. inserting the most important conclusions of the case studies in the new spatial coordination plan by next year.
2. a political objective: a proposal for a regional law aimed at financing excellent restorations following the guidelines. This point emerged during the mid-term case study meeting.
3. creating the "Observatory on Know-how".

The first case study of Piedmont Region, dealing with the renewal of abandoned hamlets in mountain areas, was presented by **Arch. Ingaramo**. She recalled Arch. Agostinetto's words, because there is only a path (practicable only on foot) connecting the Varda hamlet within the Gran Paradiso Natural Park. The Park Board is opposed to the building of a road, even if it is interested in the social and economic recovery of the hamlet. The path up to Varda was called "Nature Path" and connects 8 abandoned hamlets.



The project objectives are:

- social and economic recovery of the hamlet
- creation of a multi-building hotel as development driving force
- increase of the value of the mountain pasture
- attraction of private investments

The methodology applied consists in:

- a context analysis

- the analysis of alternative economic proposals for the hamlet development
- a study of accessibility

As Arch. Ingaramo underlined some buildings owners already restored their real estates. During some meetings among the local authorities, the buildings owners, the Park Board and the Mountain Community, some refuges were selected. A first group was identified: 10 rooms with 40 beds: a multi-building hotel for the park visitors. In any case the context should be still studied in-depth; the aim is at designing a business plan. Moreover there is the intention to revitalize the zone not only from a tourist point of view; particular attention is paid to the mountain pasture and the milk productive chain. According to the project a place to collect milk and a dairy will be organized in Noasca. There is a relevant problem of accessibility: at least a tractor transporting building material should be allowed to run the path.

Arch. Ingaramo outlined some important points to think about:

- identification of a start up group
- management options and modalities
- timing to realize the proposal
- connected strategic actions
- ability to attract capitals

**Arch. Ferrario** reminded also the potential public catering function of *Tabià* emerged in a study financed by the National Institute of Mountain.

**Arch. Moro** presented the second case study of Piedmont Region concerning the life in mountain areas. The focus of this study is on the individual building. The most important objectives of this study are:

- definition and identification of strategies for the physical and functional re-qualification of typical alpine buildings according to the principle of sustainability;
- analysis of the physical and energetic degradation of the buildings;
- definition of the intervention and re-qualification of buildings;
- use of innovative tools.

The sample of analysis involves 13 Mountain Communities with 18 buildings identified.



The methodology applied implies the use of:

- EPIQR
- AEBAT (Alpine environmental Building Assessment Tool)
- Definition of optimal intervention using a cost-benefit analysis
- Re-qualification of the hosting infrastructure according to Ecolabel
- Trickle-down effect on the alpine centers

Adding the energetic analysis to the economic one (based on life-cycle costs) it is possible to issue an Ecolabel certification.

Some conferences were organized in order to involve the local communities.

The outputs produced are:

- Some guidelines for local authorities
- A feasibility study

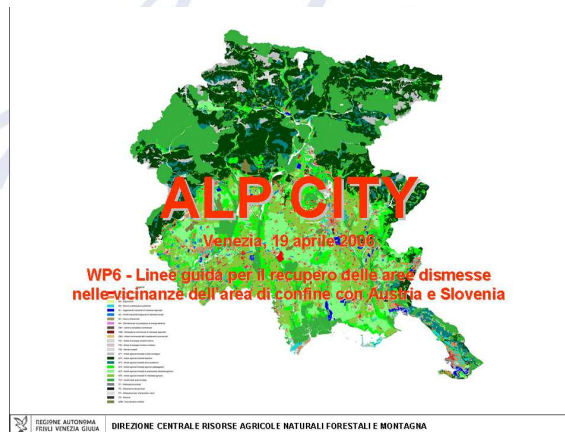
As Arch. Moro remarked the approach of this case study has been almost pragmatic.

Then **Mr. Suber** recalled a previous meeting held the day before in Ampezzo, where they discussed about a case study on Fora and Ampezzo for the area (7 municipalities + 2, within the AEMAS Project) environmental certification up to the whole valley (Tagliamento Upper Valley) within the AlpCity Project.

The output of this work will consist in a three-year economic and sustainable development Plan of Tagliamento Upper Valley. The most challenging part is represented by the collaboration among stakeholders, mountain community and local authorities towards a way of development and economic re-launching of the valley. In autumn a memorandum of understanding was finalized in order to create an open spatial association as reference frame for 2007-2013 programming.

According to Mr. Suber an integration with the just approved WAREMA Project should be enhanced.

The case study supported by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region was presented by **Mr. Tubero**. He talked about some abandoned areas at the border among Italy, Austria and Slovenia. In the past the zones were characterized by heavy infrastructures: railways, barracks, etc. The territory interested consists in 8 municipalities of Pontebbia. A proposal for a tourist re-launching was presented with a plan for the winter Olympic Games. From an economic point of view the area surrounding Tarvisio seems to be more attractive. Two settlements of the valley floor have been taken into consideration.



The project objectives are :

- Improving the quality of life and local services
- Enhancing the social and economic development
- Improving the public urban space

The methodology implemented consisted in:

- A preliminary SWOT analysis
- A collection of emerged proposals
- A comparison and an evaluation of these proposals with the identified trans-national Best Practices
- A participation process

The output produced was constituted by:

- Some guidelines
- Some punctual interventions

- Some strategic indications about the role of abandoned areas

At the end of this work the following results and proposals have been drafted:

- Recognition of the territorial specificities
- Developing an economy of the territory and for the territory
- Creating only one comprehensive tourist industry
- Modernity can live with mountains
- Marginality can be transformed into an advantage

The just started Recover Project was presented by **Mrs. Zanier**, who explained its different approach in comparison with the AlpCity case studies. Recover is focused on the economic feasibility: because of the lack of financial resources it is not possible to “save” or “rehabilitate” all the abandoned areas, but it is necessary to identify the ones with a real potentiality for economic development.

Among the project partners there are different needs:

- Region of Western Greece: Olympia has the problem of a fleeting tourism
- Region of Umbria (Italy): the municipality of Marsciano is oppressed by the traditional and classic resorts
- Region of Hranico (Czech): the municipality of Stritez nad Ludinou is an isolated place, which needs a revitalization of the historical centre.

Afterwards **Arch. Piantadosi** made a presentation on the Recover Project methodology; he outlined two different situations of the alpine space:

- on one hand there are isolated sites characterized by settlements in good conditions, even if there are also many cases of abandonment
- on the other hand there are also many alpine valleys crossed by important roads.

Starting from this situation, the project objectives are:

- spreading a culture of conservation and recovery of settlement and architectural characteristics aimed at improving the area appeal;
- reducing the depopulation of mountain areas
- safeguarding the cultural identity of local population
- improving the effectiveness of incentives policies



- providing a real support in the decision making



The methodology applied consisted in:

- training, information and involvement of social actors
- an analysis of the architectural and landscape characteristics
- an evaluation of the state of conservation and definition of interventions
- a definition of reversibility of transformations
- a benchmarking
- a cost-benefit analysis

The output of the project is:

- some guidelines
- the creation of a network among the partner Regions for the exchange of good practices

Expected results:

- changes of mentality
- awareness of decision-makers
- sharing of studies and results achieved.

After this last presentation **Mrs. Alfaré** outlined the main points to be discussed:

- Next programming period: development of projects in relation to the previous agreements among regions on the priority objective
- Need to create regional partnerships

- Letters of intents
- Partner searching
- Funds identification and raising

According to her the basic elements to be considered in the new projects are:

- Topic
- Methodology
- Public-private partnership
- Implementation of case-studies
- Training of local authorities
- Resources efficiency

Then she invited all the participants to speak up about some concrete synergies among the projects.

**Mrs. Quaglia** said that Veneto Region established the PTRC as priority and she remarked the necessity to reduce the actions dimension to the regional objectives level.

Later **Ms. Sena** outlined the definition of Best Practices and the essential mix of their collection and transfer in relation to the idea of an AlpCity Regional Urban Observatory according to the UN-Habitat model.

**Mrs. Quaglia** recalled that the AlpCity Project was listed as excellent example in the Alpine Space during a CEMAT meeting held in Lubijana.

Then **Mrs Alfaré** asked Ms. Sena whether the guidelines drafted within the AlpCity individual case studies will be inserted all together in the final report.

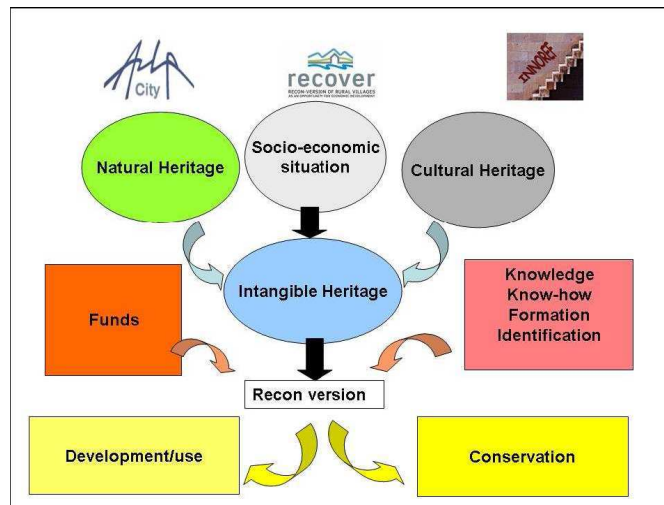
**Ms. Sena** remarked that all the project output will be summarized in the Project Final Report, which includes also the updating of the case studies cards.

**Mr. Suber** explained that AlpCity had great difficulties at the beginning and everything seemed confused. Nonetheless the partnership can be considered a starting point for the new programming phase. It is necessary to increase the value of the available tools and initiatives. In his opinion it is too soon to identify common topics.

Then **Ms. Sena** invited all the participating regions to look for new partnerships.

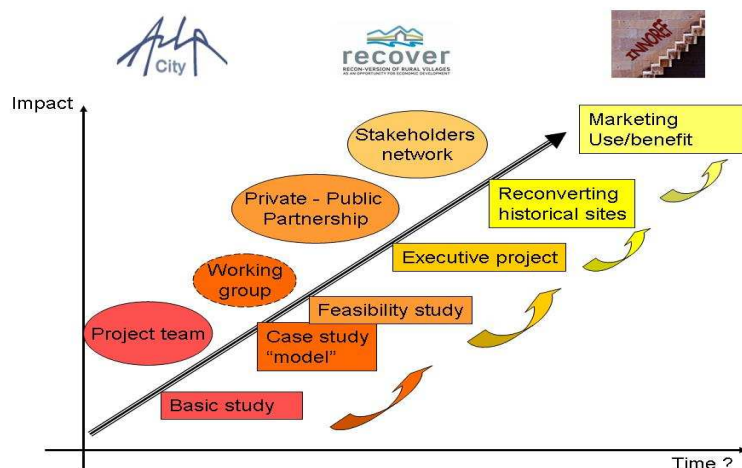
According to **Mr. Ruoss** in Switzerland there are concrete implementations of the case studies, which are lacking within the AlpCity Project.

At this point **Mr. Ruoss** summarized the most important aspects of the presentations.



The presentations showed how the single projects intend to recover the cultural and natural heritage in the alpine villages improving the social and economic situation of inhabitants. The main approach consisted in providing case studies, models and tools to improve the intangible heritage (e.g. training).

Only few studies are already focusing on the main aim: in order to re-use buildings and to develop these marginal areas. The dominating aim for the public administration is mostly the conservation of the cultural heritage. At present the funds to re-build the sites are missing, therefore the success of such projects is mainly depending on the private investment.



The overview on the projects processes shows that studies are only on the first steps toward implementation. While the AlpCity case studies have reached the step of feasibility study, Recover is working on existing reconverted infrastructures and combining the re-use with marketing activities.

In parallel the development of cooperation structures have to be considered, since the projects teams have to be replaced by a working group supported by public-private partnership and stakeholder networks in order to achieve investment and impact.



## Conclusions

After lunch the meeting continued with comments and proposals of participants about the AlpCity follow-up and the co-operation with Recover-STS and Aedes projects.

**Mrs. Alfarè** explained that there are 2 different levels of cooperation: one internal between the AlpCity case studies of WP 7 and one external with other projects/programs. In the next programme period structural projects will be asked so it is important that since now the AlpCity-Innoref regions will start to think about a possible common project preparing a letter of intent or another document which will demonstrate a real cooperation and sharing of objectives and needs.

The 5 Alpcity case studies dealing with recovery of mountain hamlets can issue a CD-Rom containing the complete version of manuals/guidelines. This CD will mainly aim to provide technicians of local authorities and decision-makers with a complete overview on restoration techniques.

**Mrs. Quaglia** pointed out that the creation of the "Observatory of know-how" will be supported by Veneto Region and the results/suggestions derived by the case studies guidelines will be proposed as part of the PTRC. In this way there will be a concrete result and benefit if the suggestions will be integrated in the regional law.

**Ms. Sena** explained that she welcomes the idea of a CD-Rom including the final relevant project documents/guidelines/handbooks. The structure of the CD-Rom has to be still decided and some proposals will be submitted by the Lead Partner to the PPs at the occasion of the next project meeting (Turin, 6/7 June 2006).

Furthermore she communicated the willingness of Piedmont Region to put forward the proposal of a "Best Practices Regional Observatory" as follow-up of the AlpCity Project. Further information is already available on line in the AlpCity Website – best Practices

Section – virtual library – Guideline n.5 “Outline for the Regional Urban Observatory Project”.

**Mrs. Zanier** asked the involved regions to insert now in their next Programme documents the recommendations emerged by their case studies underlining the importance of such contributions for the regional laws dealing with this topic.

Another important aspect is the fund-raising for the implementation of the case studies: all possibilities must be investigated.

For what concerns the external cooperation **Mrs. Zanier** added that Recover and STS projects will provide the Piedmont partners with technical advice on the multi-building hotel management thanks to their long experience.

The cooperation among the FVG Alpcity case study and the 3 Innoref sub-projects will provide common marketing strategies in the mountain area.

**Mr. Suber** pointed out the importance of the partnership for a future common project.

The meeting ended at 16.00, **Mrs. Quaglia** thanked all participants for their contribution.

# Annex

## **MEETING BETWEEN ALPCITY ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION CASE STUDY AND INNOREF SUB-PROJECT AEDES**

The meeting was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March in Udine (Italy).

Participants:

Mr. Pierpaolo Suber (Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia)

Mrs. Loredana Alfarè (Alpcity SSC member and Innoref Coordinator)

Mr. Fabrizio Romanelli (PM Aedes)

Mr. Engel Ruoss (Innoref TPM – Unesco advisor)

The meeting started at 10,30 with the welcome of Mr. Suber to participants.

Mr. Suber introduced the Friuli case study explaining the state of the art of the project, the achieved results and the opportunities of future development of the project.

He explained that the interested area is situated in the north-western part of the region, near the sources of river Tagliamento, the area is poor and the agricultural is focused only niche products. Recently the municipalities started to cooperate and to create some initiatives but a capacity building is missing.

He pointed out that at the beginning the idea was to make the certification of Forni di Sopra municipality but during the start up phase of AlpCity, which took quite long time, this municipality, was certified together with other 18 of Carnia region so it was thought to certify the municipality of Ampezzo. This fact obliged the Alpcity team to observe the standards already used by the other municipalities. A "carta dei servizi" (chart of services) concerning hotels has been produced, a survey of the potential resources (from tourist point of view) has been carried out including customer satisfaction analysis, a draft of a 3-year action plan is being written in order to ensure a continuity of the project results and many other activities described in the report.

Mr. Romanelli described the project AEDES pointing out that the main aim of this project is to make promotion for a protected territory, not only nature but a commitment to protect the land and to strengthen the associations, support and provide know-how to the SMEs or single entrepreneurs. They would like to improve the observation of the environmental rules by the entrepreneurs. The territory involved is located in the lower part of the region along the river Tagliamento rich of natural beauties but also with a well developed agriculture. 4 municipalities of the area have been certified already.

Mrs. Alfarè summarise the synergies between the 2 projects:

AEDES	EMAS	Environment, energy, agriculture	Participation process	Objective: economic development	Location: low part of river Tagliamento
Alpcity c.s.	EMAS	Environment, eco-tourism	Participation process	Objective: label as a tool for eco-tourism promotion	Upper part of river Tagliamento

She pointed out that there is an opportunity of cooperation offered by a third project approved on Cades programme one week ago. The project WAREMA (water resource management) foresees a pilot project located in the Alta Val Tagliamento, exactly where the Alpcity case study. was located.

The project foresees the creation of a watershed partnership (participation process) of Tagliamento River as a first step for a creation of a biosphere reserve (the first one in the Southern Alps).

Mr. Ruoss, who is consultant of Unesco and is managing the Entlebuch biosphere in Switzerland proposed to consider a vision of creating a Biosphere Reserve of the whole Tagliamento river system. Lot's of different initiatives (World Heritage, BR etc.) exist already, but a real implementation failed until now. The procedure could be the definition of protected areas (existing) along the Tagliamento as core zone, the sensitive agricultural area along the river as buffer zone and then define the transition area later on, based on the stakeholders decision process. The process could start in the upper part including Alpcity communities, in the lower part AEDES communities and with the Coordination activities of WAREMA. The Middle Tagliamento area can be defined later on. He said that the Unesco will be certainly in favour of this initiative, being the Tagliamento considered the most natural river system in the Alps from the source to the sea.

Participants started to discuss on how they can cooperate in future using the 3 projects. There are three co-operation levels possible:

1. Exchange of know-how and experience between EMAS communities
2. Creation of a Network of EMAS Communities for co-operative activities
3. A long-term process for a regional development of the Tagliamento area as Unique Selling Proposition (USP) for FVG Region.

Having all projects as common denominator the environment and the participation process it was decided that AlpCity case study will raise the awareness of the local population in the upper Tagliamento while AEDES will do the same in the lower area. Warema will create the watershed partnership.

Advantages for Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia:

- 1) to promote synergies among different programmes gives an added value to the involved projects;
- 2) avoid duplication of existing works
- 3) save money
- 4) increase visibility due to resources efficiency
- 5) possibility to create new partnerships and projects.

The meeting ended at 12,30 with thanks of Mr. Suber to participants.

Loredana Alfarè

Spresiano 31/3/2006