

AlpCity Extension

AlpCity obtained the approval to the request submitted to the extension call of the Community Initiative Programme Interreg IIIB Alpine Space on November 22nd 2006 for the period February - April 2007.

Alpcity International Seminar

www.alpcity.it/inglese/primolivello/past_events.htm

The International Seminar "AlpCity towards innovation through strategic transfer and networks" (Turin 3rd of April 2007) was organized in the framework of the AlpCity Project - Interreg IIIB Alpine Space. The initiative has been promoted by Piedmont Region as Lead Partner of the AlpCity Project (co-financed with European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and national funds) with the support of the United Nations Habitat.

It represented the kick-off event of a potential new project proposal in view of the new programming period (2007-2013).

The International Seminar took place some months before the launch of the new Interreg Alpine Space programme (2007-2013), scheduled in June 2007 in St. Johann in Pongau (Austria). It was useful to outline the AlpCity Partnerships' position and composition, together with a range of operating proposals to be expressed as contributions to the preparatory work for the new call. The event was conceived in the frame of innovation transfer promotion with the purpose of pursuing the optimal mix of policies and the most effective actions in line with the Lisbon and Gothenborg Agendas.

It was organized according to two different levels, an institutional one and a strategic one, which can be summarized as follows:

- Re-launching the debate on the sustainable development on the basis of a new political, strategic and operational alliance, set up on the sharing of visions

and policies and on a new project of collaboration at international level;

- Promoting a model of territorial sustainable integrated development and partnership, which enhances spillover effects produced by innovative and successful experiences and knowledge.

Moreover, part of the Seminar was devoted to the debate on potential joint actions aimed at promoting an optimal allocation of the resources belonging to the new Alpine Space Programme, through the integration of the main public and private players' (UNCCEM, CIPRA International, Alpine Convention, Alliance in the Alps just to mention some of them) different initiatives in a unique and comprehensive project.

The network created through the AlpCity Project is meant to answer the European Union "Regions for Economic Change" Initiative as effective connection and operational tool between the exchange of innovative and original solutions, developed in the framework of the interregional/trans-national cooperation, and the European Union Programmes on the urban development networks.

It is necessary to underline that the new strategic alliance has to be extended to a larger framework including international organizations like UN Habitat and FAO, which operate in emerging geopolitical areas addressed to become important knots of the innovation transfer network.



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From the left: Mr Bakole, Un Habitat representative, Mr Conti, Piedmont Region Councillor for Planning, Ms Sibille, Piedmont Region Councillor for Mountain



international seminar



Interreg III B co-funding ERDF

AlpCity Follow up

After the end of AlpCity, April 30th 2007, the project potential scenarios are distributed on different levels:

As the International Seminar had a great success, AlpCity is looking ahead and recently signed a **Letter of Intent** with the Un-Habitat (end of April 2007) to pursue the vision 'to contribute to healthier, safer, more equitable and sustainable cities and communities through more effective partnerships and the implementation of practical solutions by key stakeholders in the human settlement and development process'.

This Letter conveys the intent of **Piedmont Region and Un-Habitat** to collaborate in the view of supporting the development of small mountain human settlements and in order to go on with the actions carried on during the implementation of the AlpCity Project with an added value in terms of activities, strategies and partners involved.

This collaboration is connected to the concept of enlarging the sustainable development further regional or national borders. The initiative of the AlpCity Project to build a bridge with UN-Habitat "Best Practices and Local Leadership" Programme and to focus part of its work on creating a Best Practices Database and Best Practices Guidelines is a very important step towards this active collaboration.

At International Level

At this level AlpCity is focusing on the opportunity to submit a new project proposal answering the new Alpine Space Call for Proposals in line with European, National and Regional Structural Funds Programming Period.

AlpCity partners have discussed, during the internal meeting held on the 4th April 2007 in Turin, the potential scenarios foreseen after the end of AlpCity. The partners who presented their expressions of interest and their proposals concerning the project carrying on were: Veneto Region, Lombardy Region, Franche Comté Region, Niederösterreich. Daniela Sena, AlpCity project manager, presented the **project SWOT analysis** in order to deeply analyse past experience in view of the new project proposal. The main AlpCity strengths concern the positive and innovative project results and the partnership although there are a lack of private partners and political support. The main AlpCity opportunity is that its activities and results are absolutely in line with the new programming period initiatives and programmes (Alpine Space Programme II, Regions For Economic Change, Interreg IVC, Urbact, Interact). The main threat is represented by the end of the AlpCity extension in April 2007.

The Partners proposals concern:

Niederösterreich proposed a project called AlpNet which is in line with the initiative developed in Lower Austria and focuses on cooperation and technical assistance to small medium alpine local authorities on sustainable urban regeneration activities.

Franche-Comté suggested to organise an horizontal and vertical « AlpCity » network by implementing an organisation which integrates 2 new dimensions :

- More direct exchanges between PP regions,
- Exchanges at the local level.

Lombardy proposed the creation of an international workshop focussing on the collection, selection and improvement of best practices in line with activities already implemented.

Veneto proposed a project based on the strengthening of operative spin-off of the past programming period and which foresees the alpine territorial planning as a transversal aim.

All presentations are available in a complete form at the AlpCity web site www.alpcity.it under the section dedicated to the AlpCity Seminar of the 4th April 2007.

At Transnational Level

Another interesting opportunity for the AlpCity follow up concerns an umbrella **project directly promoted, managed and co-financed by Piedmont Region**.

This project would be addressed to small alpine towns in order to face problems of mountain population quality of life, economic development, communications, transport and health.

At Regional Level



AlpCity External Events

http://www.alpcity.it/inglese/primolivello/past_events.htm

During the period of the Extension the AlpCity project manager, Daniela Sena, took part in some external key events in order to keep information about new potential partners and strategic ideas:

- **Regions for Economic Change Conference**
“Fostering competitiveness through innovative technologies, products and healthy communities” in Brussels (B) - 7, 8 March 2007



Regions for Economic Change, Plenary Session, Brussels



The new initiative "Regions For Economic Change" was adopted on 8 November 2006 by the European Commission relating to the "Territorial Cooperation" objective. It introduces new ways to dynamise regional and urban networks to help them work closely with the Commission, to have innovative ideas tested and rapidly disseminated into the "Convergence", "Regional Competitiveness and Employment" and "European Territorial cooperation" programmes (i.e. cross border and transnational).

The conference of 7,8 March 2007 aimed to facilitate the exchange of good practices for pursuing the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy at regional level through cohesion instruments. Through an 'exchange and networking forum' the event offered learning and networking opportunities for authorities managing the Structural Funds, regional development agencies, business organisations and other partners with up to 500 participants. In particular, during nine workshops the event showcased examples of good practice and governance in European regional policy. On 8 March 2007, Mrs Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy, launched the 'RegioStars 2008: awards for innovative projects' which aims to identify best European practice in regional development.

In the framework of this initiative the AlpCity follow up could include (at present) the idea of collaboration among macro mountain areas (Alps, Carpathians, Pyrenees...)

- **CIPRA Seminar “ The future of public services in Alpine areas: Challenges - Chances - Good Practices”**
Villach (A) - 28 February 2007, 1 March 2007

The conference gathered more than 100 participants from all Alpine countries in a fruitful exchange. It was organised by the Carinthian Government in the frame of the Alpine Space project PUSEMOR, together with CIPRA International. The following questions were raised:

- how to maintain public services in Alpine regions;
- how can local projects contribute to a basic supply;
- how to strengthen social capacities of local communities.

AlpCity selected as a Best Practice by the Un-Habitat

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AlpCity has been selected as a Best Practice, among the 750 submitted projects, by the Un-Habitat within the “Best Practices Award” launched in May 2006. Independent international experts have rated AlpCity programme as a Best Practice during the Technical Advisory Committee meeting organised by the Un-Habitat in Weihai, China, September 2006. Vincent Kitio on behalf of Ms Wandia Seaforth, Ag. Chief, Best Practices and Policies Section said : “I consider AlpCity's initiative as an important way for networking and sharing practical information and experiences among different stakeholders. It complements well the work that UN-HABITAT is undertaking in the Best Practice and Local Leadership Programme”. Vincent Kitio, Un-Habitat Best Practices Officer, took part at the AlpCity Scientific Conference held in Milan in June 2005, where he explained to AlpCity partners what a best practice is and what is its utility. On that occasion AlpCity made a relevant step forward the collaboration with Un-Habitat consolidated now in the signature of a Letter of Intent between Un-Habitat and Piedmont Region (AlpCity Project Lead Partner).



Un - Habitat Letter of Intent

AlpCity Final Conference

www.alpcity.it/inglese/primolivello/past_events.htm

The **AlpCity Final Conference** was organised in Pracatinat (Fenestrelle, Piedmont - October 16th 2006) in the framework of the AlpCity Project (Interreg IIIB/Alpine Space Programme) by Piedmont Region, AlpCity Lead Partner.

This trans-national Conference represented a project final key event, during which AlpCity (2003-2006) was widely presented in terms of concrete results towards the original project strategies and foreseen activities.

A special focus was developed on the overall project experience in terms of challenges and lessons learned by the eleven Project Partners as well as the Experts of the Scientific Steering Committee, the consultants and the different stakeholders involved in the project implementation.

The ambition of this meeting consisted in the setting-up

of a platform for presentations and discussions in view of a potential prosecution of the AlpCity Project.

Institutional bodies such as the Alpine Space Managing Authority, the Joint Technical Secretariat, the National Contact Points were invited as key presence for the Conference. They provided the audience with their contribution in terms of programme/project evaluation and relevant inputs for its future.

Other key Participants were: all the Project Partners, the SSC Experts and Institutions involved in the AlpCity implementation (Universities, NGOs, Research Institutions and some case studies' local counterparts). Representatives of CIPRA, Alpine Convention, ISCAR, Alliance in the Alps were invited to attend the meeting together with the representatives of the other Alpine Space Programme projects in synergy with AlpCity.



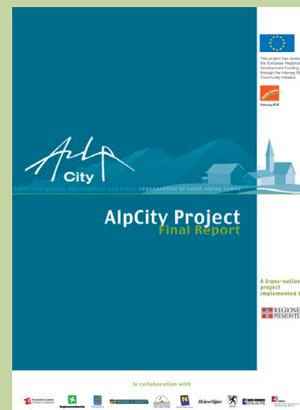
AlpCity Final Report

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Major issues discussed in the AlpCity Final Report are:

- The AlpCity Project in the framework of the Interreg IIIB Alpine Space Programme with detailed considerations about the peculiarities of the Alpine Space and the most important features of the Project.
- The AlpCity empirical approach through the development of 21 pilot cases within four topic areas (economic development, services and quality of life, urban environment, cooperation among towns) together with the specification of their aims, results, outputs and lessons learned.
- The policy implications and recommendations with prospects of future scenarios as result of the interaction among the AlpCity initiative, the partners' expectations and the development of policies at regional, national and international levels.

In discussing these issues, the Final Report seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the importance of transnational cooperation in the European development and, in particular, its implications for the Alpine Space.



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AlpCity
Local endogenous development and urban regeneration of small alpine towns

PROJECT PARTNERS
and
SSC EXPERTS
MEETING
17 October 2006
Hotel de la Ville
Fenestrelle (Piedmont - Italy)

AlpCity project is implemented by
REGIONE PIEMONTE
in collaboration with

Alpine Space
Interreg III B

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From the left:
Ms Sena, AlpCity Project Manager • Mrs Cavallo Perin, the person in charge of the AlpCity project • Mr Croccolo, Italian National Coordinator of the ASP, Ministry of the Infrastructure • Ms Dell'Olmo, Representative of the Interreg IIIB-III C Programme, Coordination Office, Piedmont Region



Audience at the AlpCity Final Conference (Pracatinat)