



// Land, projects and people //

Close-up
on a few
projects
Pg. 4 to 8 & 17 to 19

Alpine Space
The mid-term conference
Pg. 9 to 16



www.alpine-space.eu

Jean-François CARENCO

• 'Préfet' of the Rhone-Alps region

Cooperation is the cornerstone of regional development

Various European programmes have been set up for regional authorities, socio-economic structures and associations, helping them to develop both their own individual advantages as well as synergies between them, reinforcing their strategic development. An essential contribution, with cross-border and international cooperation, promoting harmonious development of our regions and turning them into competitive, sustainable places to live.

With this in mind, the Alpine Space programme has kept its promises, supporting numerous high-quality projects aimed at improving individual regions, involving more than 51 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The outlook is positive: the various project organisations have been able to develop efficient, pertinent networks, profiting from the experiences and best practices of one another, introducing truly innovative actions.

From a French point of view, Europe is supporting and financing various projects aimed at providing economic development, innovation and improving transport, as well as limiting the effects of climate change by developing, for example, energy-efficiency in Alpine Water Management projects.

As coordinating 'Préfet', responsible for the French end of the Alpine Space programme, I was delighted to play host to a mid-term conference, highlighting the achievements of the 25 projects currently underway whilst helping us prepare, alongside our colleagues from Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Slovenia and Liechtenstein, the future of this cooperation zone beyond 2013.



THE ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME HAS UPHELD ITS PROMISES BY SUPPORTING A GREAT NUMBER OF HIGH-QUALITY PROJECTS

Jean-Jack QUEYRANNE

• President of the Rhone-Alps region
- MP for the Rhone and ex minister-of-state

Building Europe by actions

Due to its sheer size, the number of inhabitants, its economic vitality and research potential, the Rhone-Alps region is one of Europe's greatest.

Uniting three mountain ranges, the Alps, the Jura mountains and the Massif Central - it is eminently Alpine in nature, sharing with its neighbouring regions the problems that go hand-in-hand with this feature: the pressures of tourism, environmental issues, accessibility and mountain economies. The Alpine Space programme is helping create



a united Europe, turning our individual willingness to fight the effects of

the climate change currently threatening the Alps into concrete acts.

In less than a century, temperatures have increased by approximately two degrees and glacial melting has accelerated - with the Bossons Glacier retreating by more than 600 metres in a single generation.

The aim of the regional partners involved in this programme is to provide a concrete solution to the sustainable development of these regions, involving local populations and authorities in shared projects, preserving the environment, the appeal of the area, and access to the region. Going beyond simply introducing innovative methods for governing the

THE ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME IS HELPING CREATE A UNITED EUROPE, TURNING OUR INDIVIDUAL WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT THE EFFECTS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CURRENTLY THREATENING THE ALPS INTO CONCRETE ACTS

regions, the projects being undertaken are operational references, feeding the values which forge the alpine nature and identity of our regions... features we must preserve and value.

In the current global economic climate, with a dire lack of public funds, the policy of creating European cohesion post-2013 is of fundamental importance to the regions.

Along with our partners, for example, within the Rhone-Alps Executive Conference, our region is continuing its efforts to ensure the future of the Alpine Space programme and to develop our living spaces, preserving their quality and, with the support of the population, guaranteeing the future of our mountain regions. I'm delighted that the mid-term conference has given us the chance to discuss the future and take solid cooperative actions to guarantee the future of our cherished Alpine regions.

The 35 projects currently underway

- ACCESS
- ADAPTALP
- ALIAS
- ALP FFIRS
- ALPSTAR
- ALP-WATER-SCARCE
- ALPCHECK 2
- ALPENERGIE
- ALPHOUSE
- ALPLASTIC
- ALPS 4 EU
- ALPS BIO CLUSTER
- CAPACITES
- C3 ALPS
- CC ALPS
- CLIMALPTOUR
- CLISP
- CO2 NEUTRALP
- COMUNIS
- DEMOCHANGE
- ECONNECT
- ENERBUILD
- IMONITRAF!
- INNOCITÉ
- MANFRED
- MORECO
- NEWFOR
- OPEN ALPS
- PARAMOUNT
- PERMANET
- POLY 5
- SHARE
- SILMAS
- TRANSALPEALP
- TRANSITECTS

Key figures

- Total committed budget: €91 million
- Nearly 25 % of the programme's funds are still available for a last round of projects
- Average grant to each project: €2.6 million
- On average, 10 to 13 partners are cooperating on each project

What are we doing together? What are the results? Close-up on a few projects

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The project heads and principal partners came together on the 16th & 17th June during the mid-term conference for the *Alpine Space programme*.

During the mid-term conference in Grenoble, on June 16 & 17, 2011, participants had the opportunity to discover details on the 25 projects, visiting the various stands of the 'Projects Fair'.

Close-up on eight of the projects whose actions are already making a difference.

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Project summary

The ALP FFIRS project is aimed at improving forest fire prevention in Alpine regions, creating a common alarm system based on the meteorological conditions which play on the risk of fire. The principal objective is to develop a tool to aid the decision-making process of those involved in the prevention and fighting of forest fires.

Key figures

- Budget: €2.9 million
- ERDF Grant: €2.1 million
- From 1/09/2009 to 31/08/2012
- Area of alpine forest burnt down each year: 20 000 hectares

Forest fire warning and prevention



The ALP FFIRS project is developing a tool to help prevent and fight forest fires.

Renata PELOSINI

- Project Coordinator, ALP FFIRS Regional Weather Service Manager, Piedmont, Italy

"We've achieved even more than I hoped. We've developed a common Alpine Forest Fire Danger Scale, so fire fighting and prevention agencies in our 7 partner countries will speak the same language on the risk and type of forest fire at any time. That way they can improve planning for patrols or helicopter availability, for example. The Scale uses clear colour codes and simple text, making it ideal for tourist information in parks or at campsites. We're confident it will have policy approval before the end of the project in August 2012.

We've also defined field exercises to optimise fire-fighting procedures and we hope to have 3 cross-border mutual aid protocols involving Italy, France, Switzerland and Slovenia operational by the project end date.

The key to our success has been the people involved. Everyone has worked very hard and built up strong relationships and I'm sure we'll go on working together in the future."

WE'VE ACHIEVED EVEN MORE THAN I HOPED

Adrien MANGIAVILLANO

- Partner - Entente pour la Forêt Méditerranéenne - CEREN*

"We are working hand-in-hand with the system's users to ensure their needs are fully integrated upstream of any research work. Within the auspices of the ALP FFIRS project, our mission is to provide the Alpine mountain range with appropriate tools and means to help prevention. Concretely, we are currently drawing up conversion tables for the various European Fire Prevention Indices, as well as a map of the hazards.

Another, highly operational, aspect of our work is developing protocols for fire fighting operations (cartography, coordination of fire fighting teams, etc.) in certain cross-border pilot zones involving the seven countries, covering a depth of 10 km either side of the frontiers."

* *L'entente pour la Forêt Méditerranéenne* is a public authority regrouping 14 French departments along the Mediterranean basin. The CEREN (Centre d'Essai et de Recherche de l'Entente) is a scientific research centre.

WE ARE WORKING HAND-IN-HAND WITH OUR USERS

The increased number of forest fires due to climate change is a threat to all Alpine forests.

The three objectives of the project

- Introduce an innovative forest fire management programme.
- Set up a warning system based upon the monitoring of prevailing meteorological conditions.
- Optimise fire fighting procedures.

Key figures

- Budget: €1.8 million
- ERDF Grant: €1.3 million
- From 01/10/2008 to 30/09/2011
- 3 studies: Autonomy and Health - New diagnostics and New therapies
- No. of businesses supported: 198

Project summary

ALPS BIO CLUSTER is attempting to set up a trans-national, trans-alpine meta-cluster. This grouping will include those involved in research, training and the industrial side of the bio-tech and medical technology fields. This network is set up for small and medium enterprises to help stimulate economic development and the development of our respective regions.

Contact

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Healthy living in a healthy environment



The objective is to set up cooperative networks which stimulate collaborative projects, creating new businesses and new jobs in shared research and development plans.



Valérie AYACHE

- Project Leader - Director of the ADEBAG *

"We need to accumulate a critical mass of those involved in both research and industry to develop on a European scale. With the creation of the meta-cluster covering five separate countries, the Alpine Space has provided us with a Europe-wide playing field.

Our aim: to create value by forming synergies between three worlds which have a tendency to ignore one another: research, business and universities. Concretely, we are currently working on two flagship trans-alpine networks: «e-santé» (e-health), setting up healthcare-at-distance solutions for mountain regions and the development of environmental services aimed at improving the quality of life in general. Due to the cumulative problems of accessibility, connectivity and scarceness of medical facilities, the Alpine Space offers a range of solutions easily replicated for other European regions."

* ADEBAG is an association, set up to develop Bio-industries in the area around the city of Grenoble.

∞∞ CREATING VALUE BY FORMING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THREE WORLDS WHICH HAVE A TENDENCY TO IGNORE ONE ANOTHER: RESEARCH, BUSINESS AND UNIVERSITIES ∞∞

Mariana TSYMBROVSKA

- Beneficiary - Director of Innovation Management - Floralis (private subsidiary of the University Joseph Fourier)

∞∞ TO BE PART OF THIS PROJECT IS A MAJOR ADVANTAGE ON A EUROPEAN SCALE ∞∞

"Floralis' job is to transform research into innovation for the marketplace. At the end of 2009, the association ADEBAG, project leader for the Alps Bio Cluster, invited us to a Business Conference in Innsbruck - Austria, which greatly helped in strengthening relationships with our European colleagues.

The Result: these improved relationships led to a widened network, improved identification of market requirements and possible areas of collaboration. Without a doubt, involvement in this project has given us an additional advantage in enhancing our specific qualities on a European scale."

Peggy OZENNE

- Studying for a Doctorate in Cancerology

"Last Summer I took part in the first ever Biotechnologies Summer School organised by the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences in Freising - Germany. This experience was highly profitable. I discovered a great deal about the world of biotechnology, much of which I was completely unaware of previously. Notable were the tours of various companies, which helped me extend my scientific knowledge enormously."

∞∞ THE PROJECT HELPED ME DISCOVER BIOTECHNOLOGY ∞∞

The aim of the Alps Bio Cluster

"To live in good health, at home, in the Alps, surrounded by an environment worthy of saving."



Contact

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Project summary

Financial resources for industrial and commercial development are hard to find, and current conditions are not optimal for the development of businesses in all areas.

The principal aim of the project is to develop a strategy to optimise the space for industrial and commercial development.

Key figures

- Budget: €2.1 million
- ERDF Grant: €1.3 million
- From 01/07/2009 to 30/06/2012
- Partner in the Rhone-Alps region:
4 local authorities (Tarare, Amplepuis,
Arbresle and Chamousset near Lyon)

For sustainable industrial and commercial development



COMUNIS encourages local authorities to develop and introduce a series of measures aimed at attracting and optimising the region.

Marie-Françoise PERRUCHOUD-MASSY

• *Project Leader - Doctor in Economics at the University of Applied Sciences, Sierre (Switzerland)*

"At a year from the end of the project, each of the partners has introduced concrete actions aimed at improving the dynamics of industrial and commercial business zones as well as for the promotion of inter-regional & inter-business collaboration. Our Italian partner is targeting energy-saving measures. The 'Tyrol du Sud' region is producing recommendations for improving inter-community management of industrial/commercial sites and traffic flow in the Passiria valley region. The Germans, in the Alpsee-Grünthen region and the Austrians in the Walsertal are jointly developing an association aimed at forming a shared strategy for the organisation of the region. In France, the Beaujolais Vert authorities have set up a joint plan of action to assure inter-communal development of local industrial sites. In Switzerland we are encouraging businesses to collaborate in reducing their energy consumption and waste production."

/// BUSINESS CHIEFS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY



Industrial ecology

Developed by the Earth Sciences University in Lausanne, Industrial Ecology is a scientific methodology, used in the analysis of the work being undertaken within a given zone of activities (incoming and outgoing traffic flow, potentials, etc.) and to identify potential economies of scale across individual enterprises.

On January 19 and 20, 2011 the first international symposium on Industrial Ecology, organised by the project's Swiss partners, was attended by more than two thirds of the zone's business leaders.

Florine GONCET

• *Partner - Project Manager for the CCI - Lyon - Tarare Delegation - France*

"In the Tarare region the local authorities are concentrating their efforts on regional marketing and the introduction of a welcome policy, aimed at improving economic attractiveness and making it easier for businesses to move into the area. Our task as Business Services Division is to support this inter-municipal cooperation to attract new businesses into the Alpine region. The communities within this area all suffer the same problems. In France we are working at a local authority level, the body with economic responsibility. Our European colleagues are not working in the same way. However, even if the administrative details differ, this in no way prevents us from sharing a

single Alpine value with common advantages to be valorised, restrictions to be overcome and best-practices to be shared. For example, the work being undertaken by our German partner on a business zone located in an old military base can be inspirational to us."

/// WE HAVE AN ALPINE IDENTITY TO PROMOTE ///

The three separate axes of the COMUNIS project

- Improve the dynamics of industrial and commercial spaces
- Encourage inter-municipal cooperation
- Draw up a practical guide for local authorities

Key figures

- Budget: €3.4 million
- ERDF Grant: €2.6 million
- From 01/09/2008 to 31/01/2012
- Number of partners: 14
- Decreasing CO₂ - a key figure in the use of electrical vehicles

Project summary

The project is aimed at developing renewable fuels and alternative technologies for transport around the Alpine Space: electricity produced by solar panels and hydroelectric power, bio-fuels in rural areas, vegetable oil recycling in urban environments, bio-gas, etc.

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Renewable fuels and alternative technologies used to decrease CO₂ emissions



Thanks to these new technologies, the project is attempting to promote 'softer' modes of transport and energy independence, encouraging dynamics and competitiveness in the SMEs within alpine regions.



Anja LEHMAN

- Project Officer CO₂ Neutralp Consultant, B.A.U.M. Consult

"In line with its objective of promoting renewable fuels in the Alps, the project has helped develop diverse solutions, from buses to bicycles and delivery vans. Electric minibuses are now running on mountain roads in the Italian province of Belluno, through a partnership between the Dolomitibus company and the local authorities. The terrain is hard on the batteries, but the buses cope well. And maintenance training is also being offered to local students.

In Padua, Italy, the city and University are testing electrical vehicles to deliver cooled goods, while tourists visiting the Allgäu region of Germany can now ride pedelec bicycles parked at over 100 hotels and restaurants. They can pick them up at one venue and recharge or drop them off at another."

/// OUR PARTNERS HAVE DEVELOPED A WHOLE BATTERY OF SOLUTIONS AGAINST CO₂ ///

Laurent COGERINO

- Partner - RhôneAlpénergie-Environnement (RAEE)

"We are working with three local public authorities to develop renewable fuels, for example, cooperating with the 'Pays de Romans' local authority on the production of vegetable oil-based fuels. The objective: To limit environmental impacts and find additional sources of income for agricultural producers.

We are also supporting the Peaugres Wildlife Park in the Ardeche region and the community of Villard-de-Lans in the Vercors with their accessibility-related problems and pollution levels by setting up an electric bus network. In Peaugres, this new solution has been running since July 1st 2011.

By the end of the project (September 2011), we will also be publishing two practical guides: one aimed at helping public transport authorities wanting to turn to renewable fuels, the other an attempt to convince agricultural producers of the advantages of bio-fuels."

/// WE ARE WORKING TO LIMIT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND FIND ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INCOME FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS ///

Good for locals, good for tourists

The implementation of inter-modal solutions and renewable fuels facilitates the day-to-day movement of local inhabitants, employees and tourists.

Contact

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Project summary

iMONITRAF! is aimed at producing a joint strategy to reduce the negative impact of road traffic. It is based upon three ideas:

- The monitoring of negative impacts using a dedicated monitoring platform and Web.Gis system
- Sharing best practices and proposing new, innovative measures to shift to alternative transport modes,
- Multi-level lobbying.

Key figures

- Budget: €1.7 million
- ERDF Grant: €1 million
- From 01/07/2009 to 30/06/2012
- Road traffic: doubled over the last 20 years

Reducing the negative impact of road traffic

iMONITRAF!



The iMONITRAF! project is developing and introducing joint measures for the Tarvisio, Brenner, Gothard, Mont-Blanc et Fréjus corridors.

Niklas JOOS-WIDMER

• Deputy Project Leader iMONITRAF! Administrator, Canton Uri, Switzerland

“WE'RE ON THE ROAD TO REDUCED TRAFFIC IMPACT”

“With iMONITRAF! we aim to reduce the negative impact of road traffic on the population, the environment and economic activity in the main Alpine traffic corridors. We began by monitoring the effects of road traffic and then defining the local measures best suited to roll-out across the Alps. These cover areas like sophisticated driving bans, fees for Heavy Good Vehicles or support for combined transport, such as road-rail. We presented our Best Practice Guide at the Transport Forum in Tyrol in 2010.

The annual forums are an important part of cementing our political network and achieving crucial political support. We hope that regional politicians will sign policy measures in support of our platform at the Rhone-Alpes Forum in spring 2012. That, and the GIS tool we're developing, will make our negative impact reduction measures a reality.”

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Caroline MUSCELLA

• Design Engineer - Freight and Alternative Transport Modes - Regional Transportation Division - Rhone Alps

“Based upon regional experimentation, our role in the iMonitraf! project involves producing a joint alpine policy aimed at reducing transport requirements, shifting traffic onto the railway network and introducing new technologies. Our information and lobbying operations have three separate targets: mobilising regional representatives around a shared strategy, involving state authorities in the implementation of recommendations and the inclusion of specific 'Alpine' requirements in regional policies. The White Paper on Public Transport, published in 2011 by the EU, showed that the principle messages have been received.,”

“Based upon regional experimentation, our role in the iMonitraf! project involves producing a joint alpine policy aimed at reducing transport requirements, shifting traffic onto the railway network and introducing new technologies. Our information and lobbying operations have three separate targets: mobilising regional representatives around a shared strategy, involving state authorities in the implementation of recommendations and the inclusion of specific 'Alpine' requirements in regional policies. The White Paper on Public Transport, published in 2011 by the EU, showed that the principle messages have been received.,”

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“WE HAVE MANAGED TO MOBILISE ELECTED AUTHORITIES AND PASS ON OUR PRINCIPAL MESSAGES”

Transport within the Alps has an intense impact on atmospheric pollution levels. Due to the geographical context, an HGV produces three times more pollution in the Mountains than on open plains during the day, and six time more at night.

More than 250 of the Alpine Space programme's partners gathered for the mid-term conference in the Grenoble Congress Centre on June 16 & 17. These two days were used to produce an inventory of the work being currently undertaken, launch debates on the key issues and trace out future plans. It was also the perfect opportunity for the participants to exchange opinions on the 25 projects currently underway and to learn of European Union expectations.

They were all there! June 16 & 17, 2011

Two days in the heart of the Alpine Space



1

Highlight of Day One, **Representatives of the Alpine nations and organisations** discussing the creation of an **Alpine Macro-Region**.



— Christian Salletmaier
— Marco Onida
— Luciano Caveri



2



Throughout the full duration of the halfway conference, **the project fair** offered participants the opportunity to re-discover the **25 projects already underway** and to develop useful contacts.

3



The **three workshops** were based on the themes and priorities for future generations, on best-practices and simplifying project management, with a macro-regional perspective for the Alpine regions and the Alpine Space in particular.

The Alpine Space: a key in EU 2020

Halfway through the programme, the participants produced a positive inventory and drew up the outlines of a possible future macro-region.

Throughout the interventions and debates, the Alpine Space has positioned itself as a region with its own identity and an example for European construction.



// THE PROJECT LEADERS MUST OPTIMISE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION //

KADRI UUSTAL

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE TOGETHER!

Affirming an Alpine Identity, both urban and mountainous, laying down the foundations for the future of our children, investing in excellence... The introductory speeches by representatives of the three powerful guests - **Alain Pilaud (1)**, Deputy Mayor of Grenoble for Mountain regions, **Claude Comet (2)**, Regional Councillor responsible for Tourism and the Mountains and **Marc Challéat (3)**, General Secretary for Regional Affairs - underlining the collateral benefits of the Alpine Space programme and its natural contribution to the creation of Europe.



1



2



3



4

A policy of territorial cohesion and international cooperation —

From accounting to project performance

During her speech, the European Commission's representative, Kadri Uustal, laid out the contours of a future policy for territorial cooperation and cohesion.

Mrs Uustal notably insisted upon future programmes being coherent with EU 2020 strategy. "90% of what has been done is totally in-line with our strategy. But the current policy is highly process-oriented. In the upcoming period we must concentrate our efforts on a policy based on strategy and results."



position strategy



**// WE NEED TO INTRO-
DUCE A NEW GOVERNANCE
MODEL FOR EXISTING STRA-
TEGIES, RATHER THAN A
NEW STRATEGY. THE ALPINE
SPACE HAS INSTITUTIONAL
CAPACITY – IT IS TRANS-NA-
TIONAL AND EXPERIENCED
– BUT WE NEED TO DEFINE
THE RIGHT LEGAL FRA-
MEWORK TO IMPLEMENT
A MACRO-REGIONAL
STRATEGY. //**

CHRISTIAN SALLETMAIER



Alpine Space 2014+ —

'We will find a way, or invent our own'

The Round Table discussing the post-2014 period gave rise to a converging position in favour of a macro-region.

The representatives of the alpine nations and organisations seated at the table debated the opportunities of such a strategy and laid down conditions for success, deciding to affirm the future place of the Alpine Space within the European Strategy for 2020.

"What value is added by a macro-regional strategy? What is a macro-region? How should it be introduced?" These three critical questions were at the heart of the debate involving the political leaders of the Alpine nations and other parties involved in the Zone. The first common sense principle, elucidated by **Marco Onida**, General Secretary of the Alpine Convention: 'No need to re-invent the wheel.'

Our strategy should be built upon our commitment to introduce pre-defined actions. *"To make progress we should use the foundation stones of the Alpine Convention, signed by State and Regional authorities. Produced by the individual regions, they take into account the needs of local populations"*, continued **Luciano Caveri**, Leader of the Italian Delegation to the Committee of Regions. An opinion echoed by his opposite number, **Daniele Belloti**, Councillor for Urban Affairs and Planning in the Lombardy Region. *"The convention was imposed top-down. We can't consider strategies without thinking of populations and cultures. We must produce a pragmatic strategy, with a limited number of concrete projects."*

A concrete, cooperative macro-region

And **Bernard Soulage**, Vice-President of the Rhone-Alps region restated the fundamentals: *"What should a State or Region expect from this strategy? I only see an interest if this macro-region is concrete and cooperative. Concrete: European actions must be implemented on a regional level, benefiting from European Funds. Cooperative, with a genuinely multi-level management system."*

Mitja Pavliha (5), of the slovenian Ministry of Environment, sees in this outlook an excellent opportunity to *"publicize and reinforce the attractiveness of the alpine areas"*, going as far as suggesting a territorial alpine brand, based on the particularities of the mountain regions. In terms of the European value added by this macro-region, the participants were unanimous: *"The fact that peoples of differing nationalities and cultures are working together is what gives Europe its true meaning"*. On completion of the meeting, two working areas were defined. The first, to improve the visibility and value of the programme amongst decision makers and the general population.

The second, to select and commit to a small number of questions important to the future.

They were all there!
June 16 & 17, 2011

Key figures

The is
70 million inhabitants,
390 000 km².

Europe is investing **130
million Euros** of ERDF in
international cooperation.

MACRO-REGION: THE VIEW FROM SLOVENIA

As one of the smallest and most recent members of the European Union and an entirely alpine country, does Slovenia have a unique view of the macro-region question? *"In any case, says **Mitja Pavliha** of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the regions must have their say. We are reserved about any strategy based on national level discussions. We must bring the debate to the regions, to the local communities and build structures from there. Somewhere in the middle, bottom-up and top-down will merge."*



5

Improved visibility for the

Made up of representatives from France, Slovenia, Italy, Austria and the Programme Management Team, the round table discussed the ten-year stage of the Alpine Space.



"We are a family now", stated **Christina Bauer** representative for the Management Team, before re-affirming the willingness of the Salzburg region to play an active role in the future common strategies. A Civil Servant, working for the Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and the Interior, **Slovenia Nadja** Kobe responded, stressing "the need for closer links and increased dialogues with the elected regional representatives who understand the needs of the end users".

"The link between regional and European organisations is a virtuous circle. We must create a chain reaction across the regions, using the principle of replicability", added **Alvise Rossi**, from the Venice Region. A point of view that was shared by **Jean-Pierre Chomienne** from the DATAR: "Our major pre-occupation must be to increase public visibility of our area and to produce long-term results."

// PROGRESS
ISN'T JUST ABOUT
PREVENTION,
ABOVE ALL IT'S AN
AWARENESS
OF THE RISKS //

HUBERT SIEGEL
OF THE AUSTRIAN MINISTRY
FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE



Off the record and informal

The discussions and comments of course spilled over into coffee breaks and lunch... "All the better to understand what the others are doing", "Mobilising policies", "Understanding the future rules of the game for 2014-2020" these are just a couple of the motivations shared by all project managers and partners. At the heart of the matter, the participants were expressing their worries, with finance coming out on top... "Participating in a European programme is hard work in terms of financial engineering and time spent", was the opinion of several para-public partners.





project

Spotlight on six projects

The programme's projects tie up an enormous quantity of high-level skills, which gives rise to a recurrent question: How will we be able to use, enrich and pass on this incredible asset of understanding beyond the three year period, and how do we pass it on to the end users? Various solutions have been found in the work of all partners.

The **PermaNET** partnership is carrying out a great deal of work on informing political decision-makers. *"The Permafrost map, drawn up using satellite imagery and scientific measurements, provides a measurement of the consequences of melting permafrost, notably for tourism. We need an accelerating approach to match increasing awareness"*, summarised Volkmar Mair, in a very popular phrase.

"Those involved with the network need to look after its implementation within their own regions", continued Daniela Hohenwallner, project leader - **Alp-Water-Scarce**. *"The success of the warning system created to optimise water use is dependant on it being taken up by professionals"*. Project Line Manager for **PARAMount**, Peter Greminger, insisted upon the increasing risks and the urgent manner in which actions must be taken to prevent future problems, using, as an example, the recent catastrophe in Fukushima which, according to him, could have been avoided if the relevant authorities had looked more closely at the available data. Peter Steurer, leading the **Enerbuild project** and a partner in **Alphouse** called for *"a tool to evaluate the energy requirements of public buildings, to be used as a model for private constructions."* Tools available to all, like the virtual energy production plant modelled by members of the **AlpEnergy** project, whose leader, Carmen Albrecht, wished it would become *"A source of information to all users on their own contribution to the system as a whole"*.

The speech by Laure Falempin from the **ACCESS project** plunged the audience into concrete examples using live reports via Skype, featuring a shop assistant and local inhabitant who had used the e-services and e-commerce platforms. *"The reason our actions have been so successful is that we have left them the time to develop"*, she concluded.



PERMANET



PERMANET

!! THE PROGRAMME'S PROJECTS TIE UP AN ENORMOUS QUANTITY OF HIGH-LEVEL SKILLS !!



ALP-WATER SCARCE



ACCESS



ALPENERGY



Building for 2014 -



Despite the geographic distances between the various partners, they made the effort to work together during Friday morning's workshops.



Themes and priorities for future generations

After having covered the priorities for the next generation projects (supporting demographic changes, energy savings, competitiveness), the discussion focused on **the difference between deliverables and results.**

This was the perfect opportunity for participants to express their needs for support and making the change.

WSP1 :

WSP2 :

Project Management: best practices and simplification

Without a doubt the most operational of the three workshops - No. 2 involved project leaders in small groups - working on the following questions: *What works and what doesn't? What needs to be improved? How do we simplify implementation?...*

In summary, three key points were noted:

- 1 - The expected changes should be visualised in terms of expected impact.
- 2 - The programme must remain relatively flexible. The importance of results should in no way stop projects taking risks and innovating to adapt to changes.
- 3 - From a more technical standpoint, administrative processes must be further simplified and harmonised.

WSP3 :

Aiming at a macro-regional strategy

Re-uniting around 50 personnel in a debate forum, Workshop 3 covered strategic thinking on the subject of a macro-region, with details provided on the first lessons learnt from the Baltic and Danube regions. However, it should be noted that no existing macro-region model can be transposed in situ: the approaches for each zone remain unique to the personality of the region in question, the problems it faces and the resources available.

Three common points were noted:

- 1 - Any strategic approach must be based upon the specific requirements of the Alps. To build a strategy based upon these requirements we must ask the right questions, vital to the survival and development of the region.
- 2 - The strategic approach must be cooperative and involve, at equal levels, state and regional authorities.
- 3 - It must produce a shared project, based upon the concrete problems found in the regions: the strategy must concentrate on a limited number of priorities, corresponding to those points which are critical to the future of the Alps and founded on concrete questions posed by real people.



“No battle is ever won in advance”

At the end of the halfway conference, **Bernard Soulage** (1), Vice-President of the Rhone Alps region and **Georg Schadt** (2), Chairman of the Alpine Space programme’s board both noted that numerous challenges remained to be overcome. ‘We must deepen, defend and illustrate what we have already done, that is to say, show that utility exceeds simple good intentions and continue on-course towards the idea of a macro-region.

Three challenges are our first priority: interconnections and transport; climate change and economic development.

And in conclusion: *“It is highly likely we will succeed in the building of a macro-region and in finding the correct balance between bottom-up and top-down as long as we work together.”*

2020



3 QUESTIONS TO... KADRI UUSTAL ADVISER, DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR REGIONAL POLICY, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

1 What is your impression of the Alpine Space Programme after the mid-term conference?

It’s a good example of a transnational cooperation programme that is functioning well. It’s already at its last call for projects, while some are still struggling with their first.

I enjoyed hearing about the projects. They’re very relevant; focused on solutions for real local issues.

2 What challenges do you see for the Programme?

If the Alpine Space decides to take the macro-regional strategy road, it needs to answer the question of added value. There is already strong, successful cooperation, so what more would a macro-region bring?

We’ve seen in the Baltic and the Danube that bottom-up commitment is essential and that will apply here too.

3 What messages will you take with you?

The Commission is committed to simplifying procedures. The last two days have been very useful in getting feedback on that. I would ask everyone involved in the programme to be as active as possible in the process over the next 18 months so they can help shape our future rules and regulations.

Christian Salletmaier

As head of the Alpine Space programme Managing Authority, Christian Salletmaier cast a watchful eye over every aspect of the conference

“The projects we’ve seen here show a real step forward from the period between 2000 and 2007. There’s a higher level of cooperation, but also concrete achievements, especially in policy definition and implementation.

The usual complaint we receive is that project procedures are too bureaucratic. So we need to find a balance between what we ask for in terms of innovation and the Commission’s requirements to account for every cent. **We’ve made some progress, but it’s a big challenge for post-2013.**

Discussions on macro-regional strategy have been lively, raising essential questions: Which partners and stakeholders should be involved? What topics should we cover? Cooperation is good, but what is it for? Macro-region is simply a label. We need to define what it means for the Alpine Space and align policy-makers on common goals.”



Site tours ←

MANFRED:

A closer look at protected forestry

Accompanied by Frédéric Berger, a Research Engineer for the Cemagref and one of the MANFRED project's French partners, we headed for Saint-Paul de Varce on the slopes of the Vercors range, about a dozen kilometres from Grenoble.

The objective: to gain an on-site understanding of the actions undertaken within the two research and training sites: the biological reservation in the national forests of Saint-Agnan in the Vercors and Valdrôme. 'What is the role of protected forests? Can houses be built, and if so, within what sort of perimeter? What are the risks? Can wood be taken, and how much? What type of silviculture is possible? How do we balance protection against economic and recreational needs? Important questions our elected officials need answers to, with the MANFRED project providing them with the elements needed to make future decisions. These elements are, principally, the results of on-the-ground work such as landslip resistance testing and computer simulation modelling.



ECONNECT:

Making connections in the field

Some 20 conference participants found out how on a visit to two sites supported through the ECONNECT project close to Grenoble.

What is 1km long, 40cm wide, made of extruded concrete and has helped save thousands of lives?

The answer is Europe's longest toad crossing, running along a road close to the Grand Lemps Nature Reserve, a marshy area that is home to dozens of protected species, including 12 species of amphibians. Amphibians reproduce in water, and every year thousands of toads were killed as they crossed the road to hibernate on land. But since 2004, 14 entrance points guide the toads into a passage and through a tunnel under the road. 20,000 have been saved every year and predators like the purple heron have returned to the site.

Close by, the group also visited a fish crossing connecting a small river, Le Ruisset, with the Isère. Here, road construction and a quarry had changed the river's course. Efforts to recreate a natural river bed, along with a tunnel under the road, will soon make it possible for fish like trout and perch to swim into the Isère and beyond once again.

ECONNECT aims to restore the web of life across the Alps; allowing animals and plants to return to natural migration patterns that have been blocked by man-made obstacles like roads, high-voltage lines or dams. Migration is essential for successful breeding and, therefore, preserving biodiversity.



Photo credits Econnect : © C . Frapporti

Key figures

- Budget: €3.3 million
- ERDF Grant: €2.4 million
- From 01/08/2009 to 31/07/2012

Project summary

The Manfred project is aimed at preserving the essential roles of ecological, economic and social protection of the forests, taking into account the ecological transformations relating to climate change.

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Forest Forever

Gillian CERBU

- Project Manager, Forest Research Institute of Baden-Wuerttemberg

“Like all projects, MANFRED has its share of achievements and we’ve succeeded in building a solid transnational partnership

together. Local stakeholders are excited and see the project as very useful with our 4 transnational pilots sites are already yielding information on how to deal with climate change.

We have also faced challenges, especially the sheer amount of data, and the difficulties in cross-border transfer and sharing.

For me, MANFRED will be a success if our recommendations end up in the hands of at least one person making policy decisions on forests, whether local, regional or national.”

“SUCCESS MEANS WORKING TOWARDS POLITICAL DECISIONS, TOGETHER”

The MANFRED project combines research and the practical management of forests.



“THE MARTELOSCOPE IS USED TO PROVIDE A SUSTAINABLE SIMULATION OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE FOREST AND ITS ENVIRONMENT”

Frédéric BERGER

- Forestry Sciences Research - CEMAGREF*

“Our team has introduced a marteloscope**. This is a land simulation device providing a simulation for alpine forest management and landslip propagation models. A marteloscope is therefore the perfect tool to study the impact of forest management on the environment. It is also an excellent tool for training and passing on knowledge. In a field where results are only visible in the extreme long term, this tool lets us look forward through time. With the marteloscope we can check the convergence of actual readings from the ground with theoretical data and thus simulate interaction scenarios between forest and environment. All this, by 2050. The principle of the marteloscope as already been adopted by our Austrian and Slovenian colleagues. In parallel, our team is working on a Forest Protection Management Guide. This should be available in 2012, for public and private forest management organisations.”

* The CEMAGREF is the French Institute for Research into Environmental Sciences and Technologies.

** For information, the name ‘Marteloscope’ comes from existing local forestry practices where all the trees were identified by markings, made by a hammer (or ‘Marteau’ in French).



Federico MANNONI

- Italian Ministry for the Environment

“It’s essential that we spread the message on how climate change affects forests, as well as collecting data.

Forests are of strategic value to mountain communities, both economically and socially. They’re important in tourism and as raw materials

in wood production and renewable energy. Added to that, they help prevent landslides and floods and preserve biodiversity.

2011 has been an important year for spreading that message. It is the UN International Year of Forests, which has helped increase awareness of the impact of climate change. And as the partner responsible for the project’s communications work package, we

also organised the Alpine Climate Change Days in Turin in March, dedicated to sharing scientific knowledge and boosting outreach.”

“WE NEED TO PUT THE MESSAGE ON THE PUBLIC AGENDA”

Looking towards the 22nd century

The French partners are working on the production of a geographical atlas of the major alpine forest resources. They provide images of the potential changes to evolutions and species movement by the 22nd century.

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Project summary

The SHARE project is aimed at developing, testing and promoting a decision-making support system for ecology and economic hydroelectric systems management in Alpine river systems.

Key figures

- Budget: €2.7 million
- ERDF Grant: €2.1 million
- From 01/08/2009 to 31/07/2012
- Number of rivers: 247

Developing balanced river management systems



The tool should help elected officials to decide upon whether a hydroelectric installation is suitable for a given river.

Andrea MAMMOLITI MOCHET

• Project Leader - Hydro-biologist - ARPA* Vallée d'Aosta

∞∞ THE PROJECT HELPS FIND A PATH BETWEEN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND BIODIVERSITY ∞∞

"The aim of our project is to conciliate the production of electricity with the conservation of our rivers. These objectives are generally conflictual as a hydroelectric dam has both positive impact in terms of the production of green energy and socio-economic advantages as well as negative impacts

on the river, landscape and natural surroundings.

The installation of a hydroelectric dam is thus a difficult decision to take as both fields - hydroelectric production and aquatic environments, are covered by European regulations. To build a dam to produce renewable energy or to prevent its construction to preserve biodiversity, two equally valid arguments. Which is where our project comes in... With the creation of a tool used to support debates and decision making amongst elected officials and experts."

* ARPA : Regional Agency for the Protection of the Environment (Agenzie Regionale per la Protezione dell'ambiente)

Hydroelectrical production is the principal source of renewable energy in Alpine Spaces.

Mathieu RUILLET

• Partner - Renewable Energy Mission Manager
- Coordinator GERES* France

"We have developed a multi-criteria support tool for decision making, aimed at elected officials, technical managers and the administrative departments of smaller local authorities who have to decide on whether or not to construct a hydroelectric dam.

The multi-criteria based approach means that a full set of risks can be assembled in perspective and one can look beyond the simple cost/benefit logic, which remains unsuitable for environmental issues.

Simple to use, the tool is in the form of a set of scales, where individual polices set the weight of the various risks, weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the envisaged scenarios. The tool is currently undergoing



tests on 11 pilot partner sites. The first quality-based feedback: The tool helps visualise the full set of risks and makes them easier to understand. It produces a joint diagnostic, improves the objectivity of any debate and gathers together, in a single European tool, all relevant information. "

* GERES : Groupe Energies Renouvelables Environnement et Solidarités.

∞∞ OUR TOOL MEANS THAT A FULL SET OF RISKS CAN BE ASSEMBLED IN PERSPECTIVE AND ONE CAN LOOK BEYOND THE SIMPLE COST/BENEFIT LOGIC, WHICH REMAINS UNSUITABLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ∞∞

Key figures

- Budget: €3.2 million
- ERDF Grant: €2.4 million
- From 1/09/2009 to 31/08/2012
- Number of Alpine Lakes: 22

Project summary

As part of an extension of the Alplakes network, the SILMAS project is aimed at improving communications and feedback between the 15 European partners to preserve the equilibrium, beauty and attractiveness of the Alpine lakes.

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Alpine Lakes: Attractive yet fragile environments

Not only does this involve the sustainable management of the lakes, but also increasing public awareness of the ecological and economic stakes.



François TRUSSON

• Line & Mission Manager - Rhone-Alps Region

〰〰 ALLOWING THE POLITICIANS TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THEIR DECISIONS IN TERMS OF WATER REMOVAL, THE URBANISATION OF RIVERBANKS, INDUSTRIAL AUTHORISATION, ETC.

“A precious yet vulnerable environment, Alpine Lakes feed numerous appetites: water consumption requirements, energy production, tourism.

Our aim is to conserve this inestimable resource in the current context of our changing climate. We are progressing in three stages: A scientific demonstration of the vulnerability of the lakes; discussions with

decision-makers and improving public awareness. We are currently half way through our work. The next step, in early 2012, is to give in-depth information to all political decision makers by providing them with a ‘best-practice toolbox’ covering the 18 alpine lakes of the SILMAS network.”

Loïc DAUTREY

• Partner - Regional Mission Manager
Provence Alpes Côte d’Azur



“The Provence-Alps-Cote d’Azur region has developed its own ‘Clean Ports’ project for its coastline, with regional certification originally, then national and, in the future, European.

The aim of this approach is to firstly preserve the quality and biodiversity of the ecosystem, a genuine plus for the tourism industry. Secondly, this

work is aimed at improving the environmental quality of the port infrastructure, working as close to the sources of pollution or contamination as possible, ports are the interface between the terrestrial and marine environments.

The SILMAS project has given us the opportunity to test out this certification process in a lake environment (Serre-Ponçon) and to raise awareness of the other lakes of the alpine arc.”

〰〰 WE ARE AIMING FOR A EUROPEAN ‘CLEAN PORT’ CERTIFICATE 〰〰

Anton BRANCELJ

• Partner - National Institute of Biology, Slovenia - Sustainable Development Education work group

“We are responsible for raising awareness of the importance of sustainable development of Alpine lakes. We are developing different tools, mainly focusing on the general public. Our aim is to give the public information about the special characteristics of mountain lakes and help people to learn more about nature conservation. For example, we are developing an educational video game about lakes, for very young children. We plan to open information centres so that the public can find out more about lakes: their different features, the species that live there, different activities on and near the lakes and their impact on the lake’s ecosystem...”

〰〰 IT IS ESSENTIAL TO CONSERVE AND DEVELOP THE INFORMATION CENTRES BEYOND THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SILMAS PROJECT 〰〰



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