

VIIth European Mountain Convention

"European Mountain Regions- A spirit of Innovation"

15th-17th September 2010, Lillehammer, Norway



Fjellregionsamarbeidet

Conference Booklet



7th European Mountain Convention

"European Mountain Regions –
A spirit of Innovation"

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Table of Content

Presentation of the conference organisers	3
Editorial of André Marcon, president of Euromontana	4
Editorial of Svein Borkhus, Leader of the Norwegian Mountain Network	5
Sponsors of the 7th European Mountain Convention	6
Speakers and chairmen of the 7th European Mountain Convention	8-25
Call for Good Practices	26-49
Contact details: EUROMONTANA and Fjellregionsamarbeid.....	50

This conference booklet was elaborated by
Euromontana and Fjellregionsamarbeidet

Euromontana is the European multisectoral association for co-operation and development of mountain territories. It embraces regional and national mountain organisations throughout greater Europe, including regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organisations, environmental agencies, forestry organisations and research institutes.

Euromontana's mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and quality of life in mountain areas.

In order to achieve this, Euromontana facilitates the exchange of information and experience among these areas by organising seminars and major conferences, by conducting and collaborating in studies, by developing, managing and participating in European projects and by working with the European institutions on mountain issues.



The Norwegian Mountain Network (NMN) is a network for municipalities, regional councils and county councils in the south of Norway of which the mountain areas constitute an important part of their basic resources. The network acts as a spokesman for the mountain communities, and works for a new Norwegian mountain policy through input to policies for regional development.

The NMN's goal is that *The mountain communities should have sustainable and living societies*. This is in accordance with the mission statement *The mountain communities are living – the mountain communities are delivering!*

The NMN draws attention to the great resources the mountain regions hold. It shows the extent of the values that the mountain communities provide to society as a whole, and showcases the particular challenges they face. Important themes and areas of co-operation are:

- Innovation, development of business and competence
- Agriculture in mountain areas
- "The modern life" in the mountain communities
- Use and management of large protected nature areas
- International cooperation through Euromontana

The NMN works for a specific mountain policy. This will be a policy which ensures that the values that the mountain communities manage, and the resources they provide for society, also create growth, employment, population increase, and social and cultural development in the communities. The future needs the diversity created by active and sustainable mountain communities!

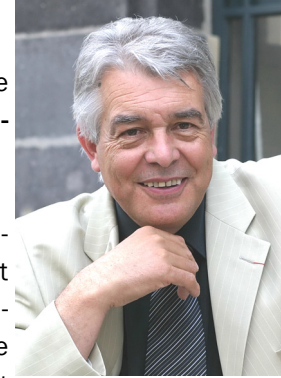
NMN has 15 members as at 1 September 2010. These are five county councils, four regional councils and six municipalities in Southern Norway.



Innovation in mountainous, rural regions? Of course!

We chose to focus this European mountain convention on innovation because we are convinced **mountain people must place innovation at the core of their development strategy.**

Innovation has been considered for too long as a concept interesting high-technology laboratories in big human agglomerations. It has been assumed that creative ideas can only emerge from a high concentration of people and businesses. Through this convention we aim to demonstrate that humans are creative when they are confronted to challenges, that innovation can take many different forms and overall that it can turn challenges into opportunities.



Being obliged to deal with several challenges in their every day life the mountain population has been dynamic and innovative already since ages. Problems of remoteness and accessibility, lack of services, lack of knowledge and skills, sparseness of population and businesses, etc. – all those disadvantages mountain areas have compared to their lowland counterparts do have a **positive implication** as well. New ideas and different ways of solving and overcoming these difficulties underline that **constraints can be turned into engines of innovation** too.

Our specific mountain areas proofed already that their innovation potential is huge. The European Mountain Convention and the experiences gathered in this booklet demonstrate that **mountain areas have already found innovative solutions** as regards education, tourism, public services, business development, forestry etc. **These innovations must be disseminated and shared among mountain actors!** Serving as a platform for exchanging knowledge and experience between innovation experts, local and regional mountain actors, European Commission representatives and private actors, in order to enhance the innovation potential of these specific areas, we hope that the debate will have an influence on the future EU innovation policy debated these days in Brussels.

Innovation, in conjunction with research, is part of the *EU 2020 strategy* the European Union and its Member States recently adopted to respond to the economic crisis and to energize European businesses. The strategy aims to improve the framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation, so as to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create green, smart and inclusive growth.

It is our conviction that **mountain areas are places of innovation that can showcase how the mountain population can contribute to make Europe more innovative** and thus more competitive on a global scale, and support one of the major EU objectives - the generation of the innovation union by 2020. Hence, we call upon **policy makers to recognize the innovation value that can be delivered by mountain areas and to support it further.**

André Marcon, President of Euromontana





Dear Mountain Friends!

It is a great honour to welcome you to the VIIth European Mountain Convention in Lillehammer.

Here in Norway, there is an ongoing discussion about whether values are created in the capital or in the districts. This provokes the question: What values?

The mountain regions contribute much to society. Examples of this include waterpower, food supplies, building materials and areas for recreation; not to mention mining, which for generations has provided the country with riches. Agriculture has always been a significant pursuit for the mountain regions. The activity of people in the rural districts has made the mountains and their nature valuable and attractive, both for themselves and for people in urban areas. These are the values our society is based on!

In order to maintain this, the mountain regions need to have the same economic and social development possibilities as more densely populated areas. It can be easy to think that one is the best in the field and always does things the right way. That is a dangerous thought! Therefore, it is important to arrange meetings between the European mountain regions, as in Lillehammer September 15th to 17th. Here, mountain friends can exchange experiences, share ideas and develop mountain policies for the future. One important task will be to build relationships based on trust with our parliaments and, not least, with the EU.

Through three days in Lillehammer we are going to continue to work with what we believe in. At the centre of our discussions will be innovation and how to build competence in the mountain regions, so that future generations can live the same good life that we do.. Through study visits in the mountain areas we will show examples of innovation within different fields.

Let us prove that "The mountain communities are living – the mountain communities are delivering!"

Welcome to Lillehammer! And for those from other countries: Welcome to Norway!

Svein Borkhus

Leader of the Norwegian Mountain Network

The European Mountain Convention is supported by:



The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development is responsible for housing and building policy, district and regional policy, municipal economy, local government, and conducting elections.

The government's district and regional policy objectives are

- for everyone to have real freedom to settle where they want
- to ensure equal living conditions and make use of resources throughout the country
- to maintain the main feature of the settlement pattern in order to continue and further develop the diversity of history, culture, and resources found in it
- that an active and targeted district and regional policy will contribute to wealth creation, employment, and welfare where people live

Oppland county is divided in 26 municipalities with a total of 183 637 inhabitants. 80 % of the area is above 600 m. In Oppland you find Norway's highest mountain, Galdhøpiggen, and Norway's biggest lake, Mjøsa. Oppland is the only county in Norway without coastline or national border. Oppland has a stable and good climate, a lot of unspoilt nature and a rich cultural life.

Hedmark county is located in the heart of Norway and has 190 709 inhabitants in 22 municipalities. It borders Sweden to the east, and has a stable climate and a rich cultural life. In Norway's largest agricultural and forestry county, we have Scandinavia's southernmost wilderness area, Norway's largest lake Mjøsa and the Norway's longest river Glomma. Smeltehytta east of Lake Femunden is listed as World Heritage by UNESCO.

Buskerud County is located north-west of the capital Oslo and demonstrates a wide variety within its territory, including historical sites dating back to the Viking era alongside high-tech industry based on oil and space technology. In the southern part of the county there are also 4 towns, whereas the northern part is very mountainous. This part of the region includes several important tourist destinations, such as Hallingdal, and some of Norway's most famous ski resorts, Geilo, Hemsedal and Norefjell, are located here.

The **county of Sogn og Fjordane** is Western Norway's most longest coastline with many fjords and large mountain ranges. The fjords are voted the world's best travel destination. The county is characterized by its sparsely populated areas, its many distinct small and medium-sized sites and its major national natural and cultural qualities. The development of the county is based on its vast natural resources while exploiting and developing them in a sustainable manner.

Telemark county is often described as 'Norway in miniature' with its glittering archipelagos and magnificent mountain plateaus. Telemark stretches from the Skagerrak coastline and further inland to the mountain plateaus of Hardangervidda – through wide open farming villages, narrow valleys, steep mountain sides, and countless lakes, rivers and waterfalls.

We are thanking all speakers and chairmen of the
7th European Mountain Convention for their contribution

**Audun Tron
County Chairman**

County Chairman Mr. Audun Tron (Labour), was elected to his present position as Chairman of the County Council in 2003 and reelected in 2007. He has a long political career, as Mayor of Lillehammer and Secretary of The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.



**André Marcon
President of Euromontana**

President of Euromontana since October 2008. André Marcon is hotel manager at Saint-Bonnet le Froid (Haute-Loire) where he offers trips to discover the local nature. He is the president of UCCIMAC, Union of chambers of commerce and industry of Massif Central. He is also President of the Chambers of commerce and industry and inter-consular organisations at local, regional, and inter-regional level, and vice-president of ACFCI at national level since 1995. He has been vice-President of the economic and social committee in France since 2004, member of the Permanent Board for Massif Central Committee since 1994, of the Permanent Commission of the National mountain council since 2002, of the Permanent conference for Tourism in rural areas since 2001, of the National conference for spatial planning and territorial management since 2006. Locally he is also Mayor of Saint Bonnet le Froid since 1989 and vice-président of the “Communauté de commune du pays de Montfaucon”.



**Synnove Brenden
Mayor of Lillehammer**

Brenden is a member of the Labour Party and has been the Mayor of Lillehammer since 1999. Before becoming Mayor, she had a long career in local politics behind her, having worked in several different positions. She has also worked as the county secretary in Oppland Labour Party, a job she is on leave from while holding the position of Mayor.

From 1996 to 1997 she was a political advisor for the Minister of Agriculture. From 2005 to 2009 she sometimes took part in parliament as the vice representative for the Oppland Labour Party. She has been elected as a member of the Board of Auditors General from 2010 to 2013 by the parliament.

Brenden has a long and diverse experience within politics, and the position as Mayor of Lillehammer provides her with challenging tasks both on a local, regional and national level. In addition, the municipality has active international connections both in Scandinavia and the rest of Europe.



Liv Signe Navarsete

Norwegian Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Political posts:

2009–today: Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

2005–2009: Minister of Transport and Communications

Work experience:

2001–2005: Member of various boards, self-employed

2000–2001: Head of Secretariat, IT-forum Sogn og Fjordane

Education:

1999: Administration and organisation programme, University of Bergen

1995–1999: Undergraduate degree in business administration and ICT, Sogn og Fjordane University College



Peter Dröll

**Head of Unit: Innovation Policy Development;
European Commission DG Enterprise and Industry**

Peter Dröll is a lawyer by training with a PhD in German constitutional law and European law. After two years as lawyer in a regional law firm specialised on the law of contracts, he joined the European Commission where he held several positions. He started as member of financial control, responsible inter alia for the Environment Institute of the Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra (IT). He continued in the legal unit of the Commission's Environment Department, with the remit to monitor and ensure transposition and implementation of EU environmental legislation. In the Environment Department he also worked on voluntary "Environmental Agreements". With the opening of accession negotiations in 1998, he joined the Commission's negotiation task force as member of the Poland team. In this function, he was coordinator of the environment negotiations with all accession countries. At the end of the negotiations in 2002, he joined the Cabinet of Commissioner Günter Verheugen and was later on appointed Assistant to the Director General for Enlargement. In 2004, he was appointed as Head of Cabinet of the Science and Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik. In May 2008, he was appointed Head of the Innovation Policy Development Unit in the Commission's Enterprise and Industry Department.

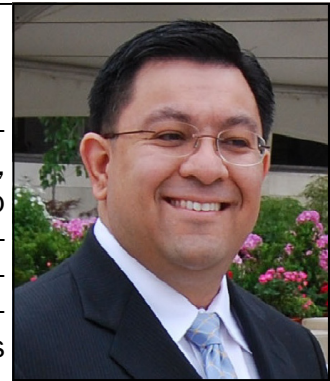


José J. Pacheco

Program Manager at MIT

José J. Pacheco is the Program Manager at the MIT Entrepreneurship Center. José works closely with the Managing Director, Chairman and other members of the MIT E-Center's team to build, develop and sustain the E-Center's research and educational programs, events, publications, alumni outreach, and networking activities. He promotes the MIT Entrepreneurship Center's courses, programs and activities throughout MIT, manages relations with MIT faculty, students and alumni, as well as entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and private and corporate donors. Among his many interests he pays particular attention to the development of tools in computer and numeric simulation for various applications including life sciences, finance and engineering. He also enjoys working with faculty and authors that chronicle economics, business and leadership history and provide context and insight into current economic and social challenges, especially as they relate to technology entrepreneurship.

Prior to returning to MIT, José was an associate principal in Next Economy Opportunity Partners, LLC (Nexop), an angel investment firm focusing on Asian based investments in education, communications/ technology businesses. José was a Manager in Andersen LLP's Business Consulting division, in the firm-wide team for the Global Strategy and Simulation Services Group – Business Decisions and Innovation. Prior to Andersen, he performed research at the Center for Organizational Learning (OLC) at MIT.



Ronan Uhel

European Environmental Agency

Background: Geography, Physical planning and Oceanography - Training in EU environmental legislation and regional policies.

Research: 20 years in environmental and sustainable development information and analysis at the European and international level. Bridging between science (knowledge) and policy (actions), assessing the state of the environment and policy effectiveness. Coordination and editorial responsibility in respect of many studies, reports and publications on these topics with broad coverage from economic sectors to technologies to education. Participation in many committees, working groups at European and international levels on environmental governance, speaker/discussant in conferences and workshops covering all aspects of environment/development issues.

Teaching: Lecturer in training schools and summer universities on sustainability issues.

Private life: Remain active and open to the many beauties of the world.



Michel Godet

Professor–Doctor at the “Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers” (CNAM)

Michel Godet, born in 1948, is a professor at the CNAM, Paris, where he holds the chair of 'strategic foresight'. He is also director of the Laboratory of Innovation in Strategic Foresight (LIPSOR) and of a doctoral programme in the field of future studies and scenario planning. He works as a consultant for major companies in Europe. Michel Godet holds doctorates in science and economics.



He is the author of *Creating Futures: scenarios building as a strategic management tool* (2006) second edition, *From Anticipation to Action* (1993), *Scenarios and Strategic Management* (1987), and numerous other books, papers, and articles.

Most of his 15 books, first published in French, have been translated into English, Spanish, Italian or Portuguese. Until 1979, Michel Godet was in charge of Sema Prospective, a department of the international Metra Group, and produced more than 20 future-oriented studies for private companies and government departments. In 1980-81, Michel Godet was responsible for future studies in the FAST project (Forecasting Assessment in the field of Science and Technology) of the European Commission. Godet's current research deals with demography, economic growth, employment, education, entrepreneurship and strategic foresight'.

During the last two years, he chaired a working group for the Prime Minister on Creativity and Innovation in France's territories .

André Marcon (Euromontana President) was among the 20 experts involved. The report is available on line www.lapropective.fr

Maud Skäringer

European Commission, DG Regio

An economist by training and in the European Commission since 1995, Maud Skäringer is currently working as a policy analyst in the field of regional policy, focussing on promoting sustainable energy as well as an innovation-friendly business environment. Prior to this work, Ms Skäringer was working to stimulate Member States to improve their national research policies, in particular working on peer reviews of national R&D policy mixes and on industry-led competence centres. Before that, she was working in the area of enterprise policy for several years, and prior to that, as a desk officer in the area of regional policy, with responsibility for a number of programmes in Sweden as well as several INTERREG programmes in the Nordic area.



Xabier de Maidagan

Innobasque, Basque Agency for Innovation

Xabier Maidagan, PhD. (1987) at the Engineering School of the Public University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) Bilbao, began (1975) his professional career at ONA ELECTROEROSIÓN S.A., leader in the manufacturing of Electrical Discharge Machinery in the European Union. From 1980 he was in charge of coordinating the R&D projects developed at ONA and from January 1990 until November 2004 he was Manager of the R&D Department.



In November 2004 he became General Manager of the Cooperative Research Centre in High Performance Manufacturing, CRC marGUNE, until October 2008, when he became General Manager of the Internationalisation Area of Innobasque, the Basque Agency for Innovation.

Joe Irvine

UHI Millennium Institute

Born and brought up in the Shetland Isles, Joe's background is in research, obtaining a PhD from Edinburgh University Medical Faculty followed by 10 years of biochemical research in a number of settings (Moredun Research institute, Edinburgh; Louisiana State University Medical Centre, USA; Stirling University and Glasgow University).



Joe then moved into industry and spent 5 years working for a biotechnology company in the Isle of Man, at the same time gaining an MBA (distance learning) from Durham University.

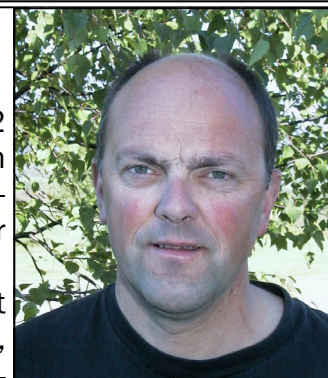
After returning to Shetland Joe worked remotely as UHI's Research and Commercialisation Manager before taking on the role of Project Leader for the HI Links project. HI Links aims to connect small businesses in the Highlands and Islands to the expertise and knowledge contained within Scotland's Universities, College's and Research Institutes.

Since February 2009 Joe has been Head of Knowledge Transfer at the University of the Highland and Islands Millennium Institute.

Dr. Hans Olav Bråtå

Eastern Norway Research Institute

Dr. Scient. (Geography), University of Oslo, 2001. Since 2002 and continuing: Senior Researcher at Eastern Norway Research Institute, Lillehammer, department of industry and regional development. 1989-2002 researcher at Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research in Oslo.



For years his research has been concentrated on management of common pool resources and planning in mountain areas, both management of wild reindeer herds and regional development planning. Innovation theory and policy, with special emphasis on open innovation models, is another targeted area on his research agenda. In recent years his research has focused on analyses and actual support to small and medium sized firms in order to boost their innovation, competitiveness and growth. Competence brokering is a useful approach to promote innovation in SMEs, and is the theme for his presentation.

**Kay Hakon Bjerke
Buskerud County Council**

Highest degree: Economist, Can Oecon, the University of Oslo 1980.

Employed by Buskerud County Authority since 1990 his main responsibilities are:

- Team leader development of towns and rural districts in Buskerud County Authority
- Project leader implementation of the European Charter for Mountain Quality Food Products in Norway on behalf of the Norwegian Mountain Network
- Project leader Municipalities with depopulation in Buskerud County
- Project leader PADIMA in Buskerud County Authority, and in charge of Education and training

He has 30 years experience within economic development, especially in rural districts.



**Lindsey Moodie
Centre for Health Science**

Lindsey is a native of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland and returned to the region after graduating from Glasgow Caledonian University with a First Class Honours degree in Business and Information Management. As Business Development Manager of the Centre for Health Science Company, Lindsey's role is to market and raise awareness of the work undertaken in the Centre as well as identifying and developing opportunities for further growth, interaction and innovation. The Centre's key activities are health-related research, education, training and commercialisation and the aim is to achieve high levels of collaboration, knowledge transfer and business development. Prior to this role, Lindsey worked for Highlands and Islands Enterprise working within their business development team supporting local businesses to start-up or grow their ideas.



**Gillian Galloway
Centre for Health Science**

I am the Project Director for the Centre for Health Science Company based in Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland. The Company is responsible for managing and marketing the Centre for Health Science project and developing the health science sector further in the region. The Centre for Health Science is a multi-stakeholder project involving universities, the NHS, and commercial companies. Current areas of expertise in the centre include rural health, diabetes and simulated health education and the Centre plans to develop a further phase of the building on the new Inverness Campus around a theme of 'health and wellbeing'. Prior to this role Gillian worked in research in the academic, public and private sectors.



Janice Wallace

STEM Ambassador Co-ordinator; Highlands and Islands Enterprise

I manage the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Ambassador Programme, a flagship initiative funded by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in the UK Government. I seek out hundreds of professional people working across Highlands and Islands with a background in STEM and I engage them to work directly with young people and more broadly in schools.

I am involved in working directly with businesses and representative organisations in the region to encourage them to release their staff to become ambassadors. I deliver a structured induction session for new ambassadors to enable them to communicate effectively and to promote their sector to young people. This then equips volunteers to visit any of the 85 senior schools we work with to help teachers access expertise from the STEM working world and enrich their curriculum.



Marc Richetin

Professor at Clermont-Ferrand University

After graduating from the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (national school of engineering and technology), he received a grant from the Canadian government and spent two years in Quebec from 1968 to 1970, followed by his national service as an aid worker. He was a researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), the French scientific research centre, from 1971 to 1986 in Toulouse and then in Clermont-Ferrand. In 1987, he was appointed professor at the Blaise Pascale University of Clermont-Ferrand.

His field of research specialization is artificial computer vision. He founded and directed, in Clermont-Ferrand from 1978 to 2006, a research team on computer vision, and then an Electronics/Automation research laboratory of the Blaise Pascale University and the CNRS, and a CNRS Research Federation composed on four academic research laboratories on the engineering sciences.



Kjell-Gunnar Dahle

Innovative Fjellturisme AS

Mr Kjell-Gunnar Dahle is AD in Innovativ Fjellturisme AS. He has been a member of the Steering Group for the Norwegian Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster Project 2004-2007, and the Chairman 2007-2009.

Kjell-Gunnar Dahle has his background in journalism, with a total of 25 years as journalist, chief editor and CEO in different newspapers/web sites in Norway.

Since 2002 he has been working with tourism development, both in his home municipality Tinn (with the city Rjukan) and within the Mountain region of Hardanger Plateau. He has been in charge of different projects, such as rebuilding a Destination Company from public to private ownership, building a new ski centre company, and creating accessibility for tourists in the Gausta Line, a cable railway that was built inside Mount Gausta (1883 m asl) during the 1950-ies as a military transport system.



Pedro Ruiz Aviles

Andalusian Institute of Research and Training for food and fisheries (IFAPA)

Pedro Ruiz Aviles holds a Doctor in Agricultural Engineering. He is sociologist and specialist in economics for agricultural enterprises.

He is professor-associate at the University of Córdoba dealing mainly with the Common Agricultural Policy. He is director of doctoral theses.

From 1982 until today Pedro Ruiz Aviles is researcher, project leader at the Andalusian Institute of Research and Training for food and fisheries (IFAPA). He participated in 17 projects on applied research and development; among them were four European projects and/or with Morocco and Latin America (Argentina, Chile and Venezuela).

Pedro Ruiz Aviles participated in several exchanges with the National Institute of Agricultural Research, Paris-Grignon and the European Commission. He is author of more than a hundred research articles in agricultural development or social sciences and holds seven Prizes of Agricultural and Environmental Research.



Steven Dodsworth

Highlands and Islands Enterprise

In the early 1990s, after training in molecular immunology, Steven joined the Sanger Centre (Cambridge, UK) as part of the international human genome project. He left to join the life science industry in 1997 and during the next 11 years undertook both technical and commercial roles in a company that grew from a university spin-out to a global enterprise. Steven joined Highlands & Islands Enterprise in 2008 as head of life sciences and has a remit to grow the regional sector.



Thomas Egger

Swiss Center for Mountain Regions (SAB)

Dipl. Geographer. 1991 - 1996: Scientific collaborator ARW, Dr. Peter Furger AG in Visp.

1996 - 2001: Head of regional office of the Swiss center for mountain regions (SAB) in Brig.

From 2002: Director of the SAB in Berne.

Observer at the Alpine Convention on behalf of Euromontana.

Member of the board of directors of *Schweizerische Beratungsgruppe für Regionen und Gemeinden*. Member of the board of directors of *Schweizerische Studiengesellschaft für Raumordnungs- und Regionalpolitik*.

Secretary of the Parliamentary Group *Mountains*. Secretary of the Conference of Heads of Municipalities from tourism villages in mountain areas.

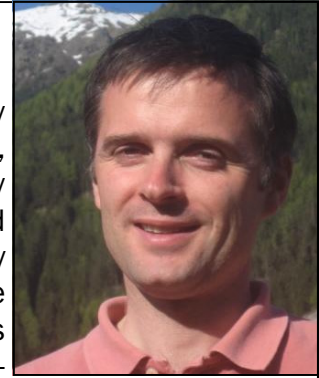
Committee of the *Eggiwiler Symposium* (partnership cities - rural areas). Committee Chance BeO (Berner Oberland). Committee Pro Val Lumnezia (regional development).

Committee Pro Safiental (regional development). Committee Landschaftspark Binn (regional development).



Thomas Fleury
The Alpine Space Programme

After graduating in business and management, Thomas Fleury completed his studies with a postgraduate in spatial planning, equipment and protection of mountain regions at the University of Savoie in France. He gained work experience in mountain and sustainable development related projects at the city of Chambéry and the techno park of Savoie Technolac, before joining the French Alpine Club headquarters in Paris in 2000. There he was in charge of international relations and mountain protection issues. In early 2004 he joined the Alpine Space Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat, which he has coordinated since the end of 2005. This programme is part of the EU Regional Policy and is the European funding instrument for transnational territorial cooperation in the Alpine Space (www.alpine-space.eu). Thomas Fleury is Franco-Austrian and holds a Mountain Hiking State Diploma.



Valérie Ayache
Association bio-industry development in the region of Grenoble (ADEBAG)

Valerie AYACHE has been managing director of ADEBAG since 2001.

An economist by academic training, she has 10 years of experience in developing biotech and medtech sectors in Grenoble area and 15 years in assistance to young companies: market research, business plans, first financial start. She conceived and was in charge of the Biopolis project, an 8 M€ specialized facility for housing young biotech and medtech companies. She has specialized in managing private/public partnerships and in its specific financial engineering. She has successfully integrated Adebag in European networks through the signature of numerous cooperation agreements with other biotech & medtech clusters. Since October 2008, she has been the lead project manager of ALPS BioCluster European project, federating 7 partners from 6 Alpine regions, co-funded by the ERDF (European Regional Development fund) within the framework of the Alpine Space programme. She has recently obtained the European Label Living lab of ENOLL for "e-Care Living lab in Rhone Alpes" in partnership with I-Care cluster.



Tore Lasse By
**Innovation Norway, Director the Norwegian Cooperation
Programmes with Romania and Bulgaria**

1977: MSc Mining Engineering, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology
1982: PhD, Geophysics, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology
1981-1996: Norwegian Geotechnical Institute
1996-1999: Selmer ASA/Norwegian Construction Group
1999-2000: Manager owner
2000-2001: The Research Council of Norway
2001-2003: Norwegian Trade Council, Director Technology
2003-2007: Innovation Norway, Director International Business development
2007- : Innovation Norway, Programme Director



Eliane Giraud
Natural Parc of Chartreuse

Eliane Giraud has been President of the Regional Natural Park of Chartreuse since 2001 and Vice-President of the Federation of Parks. She was delegated regional advisor for agriculture, rural development and regional parks from 2004 to 2010. She is currently in charge of general administration and regional natural parks in the region of Rhône-Alpes. Very rich in outstanding protected areas, the region Rhône-Alpes contains two national parks, six (almost seven) nature parks that cover 13% of its territory.

Reconciling conservation and development, maximizing biodiversity and sustaining economic activities in rural areas, strengthen the link between urban and rural areas, innovating and experimenting ... these are the policy lines she conducts and defended at the congress of parks of the massif Chartreuse hosted in October 2009. She represents the Federation of Parks within the national association of elected officials of the mountain (ANEM) and she holds a seat in the permanent Committee of the Alps.

She also represents the region Rhône-Alpes within the network Alparc, the Alpine Network of Protected Areas, and she is board member of the Assembly of European Regions.



Giovanni Scudo

Professor at the University of Milan

Full professor in Architectural Technology and Environmental Design at the Polytechnic of Milan. He extensively lectured in many European Universities (Siviglia, Barcellona, Ginevra, Londra, Stoccarda etc.) and contributed to many national and international conferences.

Since 2003 he has been president of the Undergraduate Course in Environmental Architecture in the Faculty of Architecture and Society, Polytechnic of Milan.

Since the seventies he worked on *bioclimatic design* and on *renewable energy building technologies* in many research programmes financed by National and European Research Centres (ENEA, CNR, COMET, BRITE, TERMIE); he has developed solar passive and hybrid components and systems which have been patented and produced by Italian industry.

Author of many articles and books on bioclimatic conscious design and integration of renewable energy technologies in built environment. From 1996 to 2001 he edited the magazine *Ambiente Costruito*. Nowadays he is Editor of the magazine *Il Progetto Sostenibile*.



Danut Gatan

Training and Innovation Center in the Carpathians (CEFIDEC)

Executive director of the Training and Innovation Center in the Carpathians - CEFIDEC Vatra Dornei and vice-president of Euromontana from 2004. Specialized on agricultural mechanics and agri-food economy, Danut has participated in implementing rural projects in the mountain area of Romania, financed by EU, the World Bank and the Romanian Government.



Sergio Palmieri

Province of Bologna

Sergio Palmieri (Italy - 1946) graduated in civil engineering at Bologna University is currently a freelance engineer working in the environmental and renewable energy sectors. His first professional experiences was in a small town where he served as city engineer and then as an executive in a "mountain community" where he managed geological situations of instability and worked in disaster management.

From 1980 he took care of plants for waste treatment and disposal and wastewater sewer and from 1995 to 2007 was CEO of COSEA, a consortium of more than 20 mountain municipalities for the joint management of environmental services.

In this role he became interested in developing renewable energy and enabled in recent years a collaboration with CISA (Center for innovation and environmental sustainability) which led to the construction of a large number of plants.



Alexandra Papadopoulou
EPU/NTUA (Management & Decision Support Systems
Laboratory of the National Technical University of Ath-
ens)

Dr. Alexandra G. Papadopoulou is a Chemical Engineer of the National Technical University of Athens, with a M.Sc in Energy Production and Management and a PhD on Decision Support Systems on Energy Efficiency. Her area of expertise includes energy efficiency and energy management procedures, energy management decision support tools, energy planning and modelling, climate change and Kyoto Greenhouse Gas emission reduction flexible mechanisms. She is an associate at NTUA in the Management and Decision Support Systems Laboratory and has been involved in several research and consultancy projects in the fields of decision making and promotion of energy efficiency and climate policy. In the above mentioned fields, she has contributed over 20 scientific journal publications and publications/announcements in international conferences.



Martin Price
Perth College, Centre for Mountain Studies (Scotland)

Professor Martin Price is Director of the Centre for Mountain Studies at UHI-Perth College, within the emerging University of the Highlands and Islands. He established the Centre in 2000 following previous work at the Universities of Oxford and Bern, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research (USA). He has undertaken activities related to the sustainable development of, and global changes in, mountain areas around the world since the early 1980s, and was centrally involved in the development and implementation of both the mountain chapter of *Agenda 21* (1992) and the International Year of Mountains (2002). He has been the coordinator of two major studies on European mountains for the European Commission (2002-04) and the European Environment Agency (2008-09) and has worked with many other international organizations on mountain issues, including FAO, IUCN, UNEP, and UNESCO which designated him UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Mountain Development in 2009.



**Zoltan Kun
PAN Parks**

Graduated as a forestry technician and landscape architect, he was always interested in nature conservation and sustainable use of resources. After university he was first employed by WWF Hungary in order to start its field programme. His first responsibility was to lobby for the establishment of a new National Park along the Danube river. The park is known now as Danube-Drava National Park. He also assisted in starting here the re-introduction of European beavers, which became extinct in Hungary in the XIXth century.



Zoltan has worked for PAN Parks Foundation since its establishment in 1999. First as conservation manager and as director since 2002. As Director of the foundation, his main responsibility is policy advocacy and government and aid agency fundraising. Due to his work at the foundation, I became engaged in various other projects. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Klagenfurt University's course on Management of Protected Areas. He is a member of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and contributes to three more smaller specialist group:

The Wilderness Specialist Group in which he has recently been appointed as Pan European focal point

The Transboundary Specialist Group

The Mountain Biome Specialist Group.

Zoltan has three children.

**Ruth Moser
Biosphereparc Großes Walsertal**

Ruth Moser studied landscape planning at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna and Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy at the College for Agrarian and Environmental Pedagogy, Vienna. Since 2006 she has been working as a coordinator of the biosphere reserve Grosses Walsertal, having previously worked in the field of waste management, organic agriculture and sustainable development. Core areas of her work include: strategic planning and implementation of projects in the field of sustainable regional development, environmental education and communication.



**Roland Beck
European Commission DG Agri**

Roland Beck is presently engaged as policy officer at the EU Commission, Brussels, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit H.4 Bio energy, biomass, forestry and climate change. He is also a Member of the Bavarian Forest Service with broad national and international working experience in the field of forest policy, family forestry, organisation of forest owners, wood mobilisation and non-wood forest goods and services.

Dragan Matijašić
Slovenian Forest Service

Dragan was born in Pula (Croatia) in 1960. After graduating in 1984 at Biotechnical Faculty of University of Ljubljana, Forestry division, he worked for ten years as a forest inventory specialist in the Celje region. When Slovenia Forest Service was founded in 1995, he moved to Ljubljana's headquarter, where he worked as adviser in the Department for forest management planning, and from 2002 to present as a head of the same department, which is responsible for the management of all Slovenian forests, including private and public.

Dragan was a project manager of the recently finished EU project Network Mountain Forest (Interreg IIIC), and presently of the Sylva MED project (MED Program). He also took part in some other EU projects: Forest and Water (Interreg IIIA), KnowForAlp (Interreg IIIC) and MANFRED (Alpine Space). He speaks fluently Slovenian, Croatian, English, German and Italian.



Jakob Trøan
Materialbanken

Jakob Trøan is 42 years old, and he lives with partner and three children aged from three to sixteen.

They live in Vingelen in the north of the Østerdal valley, on a small farm with many old houses.

He is educated Cand. Mag. in Nature Administration and Protection of Cultural Heritage from the College of Telemark.

Trøan worked in the Røros municipality from 1991 to 1998 as project leader for, among other things, restoration of the Timber channels and the Outhouse project.

The Material Bank ("Materialbanken") was established in 1995 as a part of the restoration process.

From 1999, Trøan has been manager of Materialbanken AS; a company with 15 employees and a turnover of 23,5 million NOK in 2009.



Josef Herkendell
European Environmental Agency

At present: Project Manager „Biodiversity and Climate change impacts” at the European Environment Agency (EEA), Copenhagen
Working field at EEA: "Forests"

Professional background on Forestry:

- studied "Forestry" at Freiburg University, Germany
- Ministry of the Environment Düsseldorf:
- 1984 –1994 Management of regional research centre " Air pollutants and forest decline"
- 1997 - 2001: Amendment of the "Pan European Monitoring scheme of Forest Condition" at DG Agriculture
- 2004–2005: Development and coordination of a regional climate change adaptation plan

Several publications and co operations in various scientific institutions in Germany and abroad



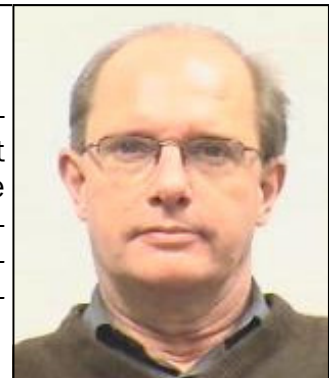
**Costel Bucur
Maramures Park Manager**

My name is Costel BUCUR and I come from north-west of Romania. I'm 34 years old and I became a forester ten years ago. After five years of dealing with forestry, logging, timber and berries I decided to switch to nature conservation since the threat of forest land restitution and the overall bad context for proper forest management were pretty obvious. Together with a local NGO we've started the procedure of setting-up a nature park in our region which now encompasses over 130.000 ha. In the last five years I've been managing the GEF/UNDP project which supported the park's establishment and the park itself. The project ended this year and I'm still working as a park manager.



**Peter de Souza
Associate professor at Hedmark Univeristy College**

Doctor of Economics. Försteamanuensis at the University College of Hedmark. Consultant in regional and local development issues (OECD, EU, public and private sectors). Member of the Board of Regional Studies Association and Chairman of its Nordic Section. Co-Editor of *New Nordic Regions* (2008) and *Regional Development in Northern Europe: Peripherality, Marginality and Border Issues* (forthcoming at Routledge 2011).



**Jan Andersson
Åre Municipality**

Head of business service & manager Peak Innovation Åre, 54 years old.

Jan Andersson has been Head of Business Services in the municipality of Åre for 12 years. He successfully developed Åre's vision "Vision 2020" and built up a trustful cooperation between municipalities and local businesses. This became a key factor for the success story of Åre. Working for the regions' development Jan is putting the focus on measurable aims.

Jan is responsible for the innovation system "Peak Innovation" in Åre which includes also the creation of the Swedish Alpine Research Centre and Peak Innovation Business Centre. The main lesson that could be learnt already is that a tourist destination can only be sustainable for the long term if it is possible to attract knowledge.

Before he took up his position as Head of Business Services he was responsible for the Tourist Data Base, a huge travel survey covering Swedish travel habits.



Janne Mellum

Stor-Elvdal Municipality

Head of Culture in Stor-Elvdal, Hedmark; a municipality with a declining population which currently stands at 2680 inhabitants. She has the responsibility for, among other things, culture, protection of culture, athletics and outdoor life. From 1994, she worked with a number of different studies, as well as measures and projects aimed to strengthen local business and provide a basis for population growth. Among these were: recruitment of Dutch people through



Placement Utvikling; regional projects aimed to make women and youth move back to the rural areas; network credit for women starting their own businesses; Interreg: the Scandinavian Heartland service project for rural communities; and PADIMA.

She is the active owner of a large forest property and has through this been engaged in, among other things, organic farming, the management of game, protecting cultural heritage, and tourism in rural districts. She is educated within agriculture, nature medicine, administration and management, pedagogic, innovations, culture and trade development.

Simen Bjørgen

Lom Municipality

Simen has been mayor of Lom Municipality since 2003. In Norway, he is often asked to speak about issues related to economic development especially in relation to protected areas like national parks. He is the head of the steering committee for Klimapark 2469 www.klimapark2469.no (see good practice). He also leads efforts to develop the first five national park villages, with a focus on economic and community development.



Lom has three national parks Jotunheimen, Breheimen and Reindeer Park.

Lom was awarded the best-preserved inland village designation a few years ago.

Round table : Building an action plan for the development of innovative initiatives in European mountain areas

Sylvain Marmier

FNSEA - National Federation of Farmers

Professional commitments with regards to Agriculture

1996-2000: President of Young Farmers of Doubs.

2000-2002: President of Young Farmers in Burgundy - Franche-Comté.

2002-2005: National Director of Young Farmers, in charge of the International, National Secretary AFDI (French Farmers and International Development), Vice Chairman and President of CEJA (European Council of Young Farmers).

Other commitments:

Since 2002: Director and member of the board of directors of the Doubs FDSEA

Since 2007 Member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Agriculture of Doubs and Franche-Comté

Since 2007: Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council of Franche-Comté

Since 2008: Member of Euromontana representing FNSEA

Since 2008: Member of Council of the UMP



Betty-Ann Bryce

Regional Development Policy Division at OECD

Betty-Ann Bryce is an administrator within the OECD Regional and Rural Development Unit in the Regional Development Policy Division of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate. Since joining the OECD in 2007, she has contributed to the OECD Rural Policy Reviews of the Netherlands (2008), Finland (2008) and Scotland, UK (2008). She coordinated and co-drafted the Rural Review of Italy (2009), the Rural Review of England, UK (forthcoming). She also coordinated and co-drafted the publication, Strategies to Improve Rural Service Delivery (2010). Besides publications, she coordinates the rural conferences and workshops, including the development of conference background reports and summaries. A lawyer licensed to practice in the United States (New York, State and Federal Courts), Ms. Bryce worked in litigation management in the United States before joining the OECD. In addition to a Juris Doctorate, she holds a Masters in Economic and Territorial Development from the L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP) de Paris (Sciences-Po), and a Masters in Economic and Political Development from Columbia University, School of International Public Affairs.



Elisabeth Mellbye
Innovation Norway

Mellbye is a trained teacher from Elverum Lærerhøyskole [*Elverum Teacher College*]. She is the CEO of Brennabu AS. Brennabu AS runs a school camp for groups during the school year and cabin rentals on weekends and school holidays. Brennabu has 150 beds, and accommodates about 4,000 students every school year, in addition to other groups. The operating part (excluding the education part) has about 10 full-time positions and a turnover of 10-11 million (SEK) a year. The company is located 850 meters above sea level in the mountain area of Vaset in Valdres.



In addition to her daily work, Elisabeth is politically active. She has been a representative on the municipal council for 4 years, and a representative on the boards of agriculture, technology, and industry.

Enrico Borghi
President of Uncem and Deputy president of AEM

He is Uncem President since 2000 and mayor of Vogogna, a small mountain village of Valdossola, in the north of Italy. Uncem - National Union of Mountain Communities and Mountain Municipalities, is the national organization which groups together and represents the municipalities entirely or partially mountainous and the mountain communities, and in addition it also includes some administrations and authorities (provinces, consortia, chambers of commerce) that operate in mountain districts. Enrico Borghi is the deputy president of AEM (European Association of Elected Mountain), co-founder of the World Association of Mountain Populations (APMM) and member of the Mountain Partnership, lodged with FAO. In the international field he has gained considerable experience as a member of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe and as a permanent member of the Committee of the Regions from 2002-2009. Since 2009, he is the President of "Technopark Lake Maggiore SpA", the management company of the Technology Park of Lake Maggiore specialized amongst others on renewable energy.



Call for Good Practices

*Innovative approaches for fostering Sustainable Development in
European Mountain Areas*

Being convinced that innovative actions are not exclusively occurring in big cities and urban agglomerations Euromontana launched a call for good practices that was promoted throughout the European mountain community.

This call aimed at collecting innovative examples of how new and different solutions were found to existing problems specific to mountain regions.

More than 30 applications reached us and proofed that **mountain actors have a word to say when it comes to the development of innovative solutions** in their areas. Their voice needs to be heard to improve the recognition of the innovation potential of mountain, remote and rural areas. This booklet will serve to transfer this information to other mountain actors, European stakeholders and all parties involved in the sustainable development of our mountain regions.

Projects and/or initiatives from different sectors like energy production, public service delivery, agriculture or education were submitted and we took the difficult decision to only publish 11 of them within this conference booklet.

On the following pages you will learn about the following projects/initiatives:

1. Klimapark 2469 – Past and Future on the Peak of Northern Europe (Norway)
2. Sustainable indicators for South Tyrol (Italy)
3. A nostra Cà - In our home (Italy)
4. Centre for Health Science (UK)
5. Peak Innovation - A four helix innovation system (Sweden)
6. Establishment of the protected forest area of river Ugar (Bosnia Herzogowina)
7. Master Degree in Planning for Sustainable Development in Mountain Areas and European Politics for Mountains (Italy)
8. climalp - energy-efficient buildings built from regional timber in the Alpine region (Alpine region)
9. Creating the Bologna Apennine sustainable energy district (Italy)
10. Boticas (Portugal)
11. Fjelltourism (Norway)

We hope that you will enjoy learning about these demonstrative examples and contribute to further exchanges between mountain regions and actors to spread the knowledge about innovative solution that might be adapted to other territories as well.

We would like to thank all applicants for sending their high-quality good practices and encourage them to further spread their experiences.

Klimapark 2469 – Past and Future on the Peak of Northern Europe

Project Description:

Klimapark 2469 is the first climate park in the world – a park dedicated to informing visitors about climate change. The park is situated at the foot of Galdhøpiggen, the highest mountain in Northern Europe (2469 m), and easily accessible by car. It contains glaciers, permafrost, archaeological remains, wildlife and plants in a high-alpine setting – visibly influenced by global warming.

The vision is to develop Klimapark 2469 into an internationally important area for climate monitoring, which is open to the public. Visitors will be informed about climate change, and will become active participants in climate research, based on science centre technology. Special programmes will be directed at schools. The scientific content in Klimapark 2469 will be provided by a climate monitoring programme in the Galdhøpiggen massif. The first step of the development programme, including a tunnel into the ice, was established in May 2010.

A climate park, where visitors can see, sense, measure and register what is happening to the climate will create individual experiences of climate change in a completely new way. Climate observation becomes understandable, and something that everyone can participate in. The idea is that providing understandable information on climate change will empower the visitor, and stimulate climate-friendly behaviour.

Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

Climate change constitutes a challenge, but also an opportunity for mountain communities. One such opportunity arose when melting ice on the Juvflya plateau in Lom, Oppland released unique archaeological finds during the hot summer of 2006. Based on the link between climate science and archaeology, the idea was born to develop a “Climate Park” where visitors can learn about the challenges of climate change and participate in on-going research. An important goal is to make the high-alpine park area accessible to everyone, including wheelchair users, with minimal damage to nature. Youth is an important target group for Klimapark2469.

Klimapark2469 contains three integrated parts: Science, education and tourism.

The Climate Park area has a long tradition as a research area for permafrost, climate and weather. Permafrost-data from the park area is included in the IPCC 2007 report on climate change. The Klimapark 2469 program will include an innovative interdisciplinary approach to climate monitoring. This climate monitoring programme will provide information for science, public services (incl. improved mountain weather forecasts) and park visitors.

As part of the education programme, the park area will be developed into a climate observatory, where visitors can participate in on-going climate research. Special attention will be given to visiting schools. The Climate Park can be used as an outdoor classroom by national and international schools and universities.

The unique accessibility of the Climate Park will make it possible to make innovative presentations of thought-provoking aspects of natural and cultural heritage in a high-alpine setting. The main attraction of the park is a tunnel into the ice – the first such tunnel in Northern Europe. An ice sculptor has decorated the inside of the tunnel, to create an emotional experience inside the ice. The Norwegian Mountain Museum (national park centre) will exhibit some of the archaeological finds, and at the same time integrate more emphasis on climate change. The park and the museum will become an important attraction of benefit to local tourism.



The ice tunnel Photo:
Peder Istad

Transferability of the project:

The four cornerstones of the Klimapark 2469 project are the high-alpine setting of the park area, the easy accessibility, the existing climate research and the archaeological finds melting out of the ice. This combination is no doubt unique in Northern Europe and maybe on a global level as well. However, the idea of creating climate parks could be implemented in other geographic regions. Such climate parks could develop on the basis of local climatic challenges, and with the same kind of integrated scientific, educational and touristic approach. They could even connect in an international network of climate parks.



Impact of the project on the region/ on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

Different authorities and institutions have the responsibility for scientific research, management and public information connected to the natural and cultural heritage in Oppland county and Norway. Universities outside Oppland initiate and conduct scientific research. Management is undertaken by governmental and regional authorities. Museums, national park centres and the Directorate for Nature Management are responsible for public information.

One of the main challenges is that there have been few coordinated efforts between the different au-

thorities and institutions. As an example: Scientists may conduct fieldwork in a specific area, but the authorities for management and public information may not be aware of this, and may receive little or no information on the scientific results. New knowledge is thus not easily accessible.

The Klimapark 2469 project has joined together the different authorities and institutions to a common platform, where possibilities and challenges are seen in context. Positive effects can be seen already at this early stage, for instance:

- Important research results are more easily available for local and regional players
- Local and regional authorities are more involved in the scientific research
- The Norwegian Mountain Museum has received added scientific and innovative strength
- International climate camps have taken place in the area, both in 2009 and 2010
- There is a greater local knowledge and pride of natural and cultural history

The Norwegian Mountain Museum is situated in Lom, the nearest mountain village to the Climate Park. The intention is to integrate the museum in the Climate park programme. This will potentially strengthen the position of the museum. The museum will cooperate more closely with local and regional schools, and become more involved in the scientific research in the area. One potential effect is that the region may become more attractive as an educational arena, with a closer cooperation with scientific institutions.

Potentially the Klimapark 2469 project will create more local jobs, both through tourism and research. Creating a Climate Park to inform about the necessity of sustainability, incurs a demand to practice sustainable development locally. Without this the Climate Park project would lose credibility. Sustainability is already part of the Climate Park itself: the technical installations in the ice tunnel (lights, video-projector) are solar powered. As the development of the Klimapark 2469 progresses, we hope to see a parallel local development into a greener and climate friendly economy.

Practical information

Contact person: Espen Finstad

Email: Espen.Finstad@oppland.org

Organisation: Klimapark 2469

Link to the project/initiative: www.klimapark2469.no

Projects' start: 2009

Projects' end: open

Sustainable indicators for South Tyrol (Italy)

Project Description:

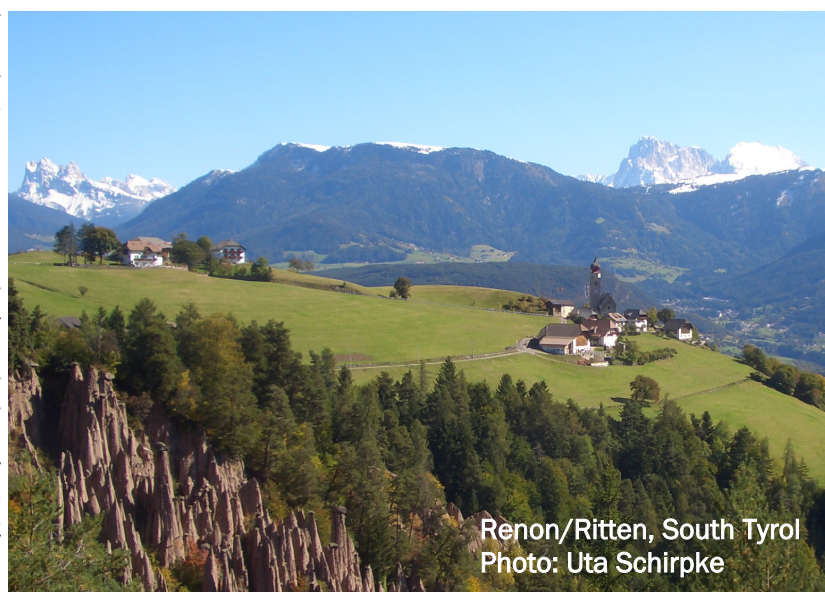
Indicators serve for monitoring and stimulating sustainable development and for evaluating the effectiveness of undertaken actions. According to Agenda 21, municipalities play a major role in sustainable development. However, conditions and problems often vary dramatically from one municipality to another, and thus, different strategies must be implemented. The *Institute for Alpine Environment* developed an indicator set for all 116 municipalities of the northernmost province in Italy, South Tyrol. The 74 indicators, taking into account important environmental as well as social and economic aspects, are adapted to the specific needs of mountain regions and at the same time still linked to the national and international level. The comprehensive central database facilitates dynamic monitoring as well as specific analysis of detailed questions. The project is still “young”, data have been collected since 2000 and the indicators are being updated annually making them a more meaningful tool year after year. An internet portal offers various interactive tools, such as charts and maps, to represent the indicators graphically and to give an overall view of current trends. It allows, for example, examination of the development of individual values over the years or comparison of municipalities with others. A complete documentation is provided for each indicator and data download is completely free.



Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

On a national and international level, indicator sets for sustainable development have been developed by several institutions, but there are considerably fewer studies on regional level and only a few studies on municipality level, which generally concentrate on individual municipalities. The indicator set for South Tyrol is therefore one of the first on municipality level for a whole region offering a valid tool for the objective evaluation of sustainability and covering various thematic aspects. The bottom-up approach allows municipalities and citizens to establish meaningful dialogues to achieve sustainability. The system serves to support public administration, decision-makers and other interested parties with political and planning decisions, and at the same time, it sets the actions on a high degree of transparency. An internet portal was created and the freely accessible data can be used e.g. for presentations or public relation and provides also a useful tool for scientists and experts, making it easier to carry out specific investigations, to implement sustainability and to gain acceptance. High effort was put into developing interactive web-based tools to represent the indicators in different ways like graphs and maps in order to facilitate understanding of the indicators and to offer advanced tools to assess and to monitor sustainable development. In mountain areas, a major constrain is the availability of environmental data for sustainability monitoring, and it is necessary to adapt the already known indicators at international and inter-regional level to the particular features of mountain regions. Thus, special new indicators were developed, internationally published and regionally implemented. Since ecological systems rarely meet up with political boundaries, many indicators are not only based on statistical data, but are calculated within a geographic information system using complex spatial data and sophisticated algorithms.

In general, this innovative monitoring system allows the adoption of independent and original ways towards achieving a balanced economic and social development of the population and at the same time caring for the environment to avoid the erosion of earth's life-support system.



Renon/Ritten, South Tyrol
Photo: Uta Schirpke

Transferability of the project:

As the selection of the indicators was performed, wherever possible, according to the official classification of national and international statistics institutes (ISTAT, EUROSTAT), it would be very desirable to launch the indicator set also in other regions in order to provide a wider database which allows the municipalities to compare the situation in different regions and to learn from other municipalities. The documentation of the indicators is freely accessible on the internet portal, which makes it easy to implement the indicators in other regions. Provided that the necessary data is available, there is the need for an expert in table calculation and/or a GIS expert. As the indicators are updated yearly, funds are required for data acquisition, maybe for internet hosting, and for financing the staff over several years.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

The indicators provide a basis for a constant monitoring of sustainability within the 116 municipalities of the province of South Tyrol (Italy). Comparing the indicators with each other in various municipalities can create a starting point for learning from forerunning municipalities in terms of "Good Practice". Correspondingly, several applications to foster the Agenda 21 process in various municipalities have already been carried out in collaboration with the local administrators.

To enhance the possibilities for the application of the indicator set for municipalities focusing on rural development strategies, a short description of a project including six municipalities in the south-western part of South Tyrol, implemented within the Leader+ initiative, is provided in the following. Based on the analysis of the sustainable indicators, specific problems could be identified and analysed in discussions together with the local administrators and representatives of the population. For example, the indicators revealed generally lower touristic activities as well as higher unemployment rates, and thus lower economic benefits for the selected municipalities, in comparison to most other municipalities of South Tyrol, due to more traditional structures with predominant agriculture. One of the larger municipalities is part of a national park which limits the possibility of actions, but it is of even higher importance to develop strategies consistent with sustainable development. After examining the problems, the local administration prepared together with experts and representatives from local parties with political and planning decisions a list of measures to be taken for the next 5 years in order to assure the economic basis, and at the same time improving the quality of life. Strategies to raise the awareness of local conditions and characteristics are required, as the main objective is to preserve the cultural heritage of the region and to improve the quality of local products (e.g. from organic production). On this basis, it will be possible to establish further activities like the development of sustainable tourism. The different actions include building thematic pathways through the national park or establishing education projects for the younger generation during the summer time, and in the winter offering eco-friendly excursions with snowshoes or wider possibilities for cross country skiing. During and after the implementation of the activities the indicator set will monitor the sustainable development of the municipalities in order to evaluate the impact of the taken actions.



Practical information

Contact person: Uta Schirpke

Email: uta.schirpke@eurac.edu

Organisation: European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC), Institute for Alpine Environment

Link to the project/initiative: www.eurac.edu

Projects' start: 2001

Projects' end: ongoing

A nostra Cà (In our home)

Project Description:

The project aims to enable elderly people living in rural and mountain areas to live more safely in their homes, thanks to the convergence of home-automation, tele-monitoring and tele-medicine technologies within the same framework.

The project was first proposed by Councillor Mario Tommasini as a pilot initiative in contrast with the nursing home system and was financed through an agreement between the Emilia-Romagna Region, Municipality of Neviano degli Arduini, Province of Parma, University of Parma, health services, care services for the elderly and the Cariparma bank foundation.

In the first phase, a home automation system was piloted in five flats within an elderly care centre in Neviano degli Arduini (Cà Bonaparte). The system mainly consisted of sensors aimed at creating an ambient safety and allowing continuous monitoring of a person's activities without being intrusive. Then, the second phase introduced wearable, personal sensors, fully integrated into the home network, covering automatic fall-detection, indoor localization, vital sign detection. Every system function can be controlled from remote locations, enabling "active" tele-monitoring and fostering the deployment of centralised care centres. At present, the project is still ongoing, and the pilot network is expanding, currently including six sites (each consisting of a set of assisted apartments) spread over the Parma mountain surroundings.

Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

The project implements an effective type of cooperation between different public bodies, research institutions and private actors in the development and testing of a new idea. User-centred design of innovative services has been carried out through a collaboration of technical, social and health care operators.

The technology is innovative because it is:

- sustainable, since it relies on standard, widely-diffused telematic technologies. This allows for affordable costs, high interoperability and reliability.
- open: the internet-based infrastructure is able to combine the different features of a conventional home automation system and of more specific assistive devices within the same framework. This results in a very flexible system, which is inherently expansive and reconfigurable, suitable for tailoring to the specific user's needs and to their changes over a period of time.
- not intrusive: technological tools that do not interfere with the lifestyles of residents. Care is also taken to ensure data security and privacy.
- user friendly: services are accessible to people with little or no technological skills; different access modes can be devised, depending on the user's needs and confidence.
- multi-disciplinary: the project team involves different profiles (psychologists, social workers, computer scientists and doctors)

The technology provides the ground for further innovative services, and aims to integrate the routine social and health care services provided by public and private care providers.



Ca' Bonaparte sheltered house, first trial site
Photo: Centro Tau, University of Parma

Transferability of the project:

The project is based on networking (both at a local and geographic level) and is therefore inherently suitable for being replicated elsewhere. No specific knowledge is required by carers and, due to the adoption of mainstream technologies, limited funding is required.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

Due to the relatively small size of the project it has not had an actual region-wide impact. On a local scale, however, it has had a significant influence on the organization of elderly care services. Such services are particularly critical in mountain areas, where global population ageing and depopulation of younger people combine. The Emilia-Romagna Region internet policies allow for broadband coverage of mountain areas, so that, perspective, tele-care systems may represent an effective way of allowing more elderly people to stay longer and more comfortably at home, at the same time improving their quality of life and reducing social expenses.

A significant by-product of the project consists of increasing the awareness of involved partners with respect to innovative technologies and their potential impact on the organization and functionality of care services. Indeed, new technologies often have to overcome visibility and diffusion problems by getting out of academia or narrow circles of specialists. Instead the project has made a number of people, dealing at different levels with service management and policies, aware of new opportunities. On the other hand, this provided scientific research and technology development with important feedbacks about effectiveness, usability and reliability of technological options.



View of a pilot-site, in which technology non-intrusively fits in an elderly person's home environment; Photo: Centro Tau, University of Parma

Practical information

Contact person: Paolo Ciampolini

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Organisation: Provincia of Parma

Link to the project/initiative: www.provincia.parma.it

Projects' start: 2005

Projects' end: open

Centre for Health Science

A centre for expertise in health science research, education, training, patient care and business development

Project Description:

The Centre for Health Science (CfHS) is a flagship facility located in Inverness, Scotland and brings together the public, private and academic sectors to be a focus for excellence in healthcare and biotechnology.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), together with key healthcare stakeholders in the region, developed and funded the CfHS as they had identified the life science sector as a key area for growth in the region. In particular they recognised the local healthcare sector in research, training, education provision and business as having enormous growth potential to drive forward a highly qualified, high paid, knowledge based economy.

The objective of the Centre was to address a number of issues affecting healthcare, teaching, research, business development and infrastructure within the region. This included the retention of young people as well as recruitment and retention of staff in remote and rural areas. Quality facilities were needed to encourage health professionals to work in the area whilst also providing opportunities to further their continued professional development and technical knowledge and training. The shortage of NHS dentists was a fundamental issue. The lack of research facilities in the area was also restricting the number of research projects and there were low levels of collaborative research involving academic institutions or commercial companies locally and beyond. Furthermore there was limited business incubation space to encourage new commercial activities.

The CfHS was conceived as a catalyst to encourage growth, interaction and innovation which in turn would achieve added value through collaboration, knowledge transfer, improved clinical outcomes, publications and commercialisation.

Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

The CfHS was developed through a highly collaborative partnership and was one of the first in the UK to bring together a range of health-related public, private and academic bodies in one building. The facility was purpose built and its design provides inspiring work spaces that help maximise the social and collaborative opportunities and encourages an environment for innovative, inter-disciplinary thought. To further enhance the creative environment a programme of public art was incorporated into the design and build process. The Centre uniquely contains 5 teaching and training centres, 4 academic institutions, 2 NHS patient departments, a Clinical Research Facility and 2 research institutes. The 2 research institutes are unique to the UK; the Centre for Rural Health is the only research institute of its kind and the Highland Diabetes Institute is a unique joint venture bringing together an academic department, commercial organisation and health provider all with expertise in diabetes. A further feature to encourage innovation was the incorporation of dedicated space for business incubation units. These units offer an opportunity to capitalise on intellectual property that arises, enables commercial spin off and encourages business start-up and growth in a supportive environment with the additional benefit of being co-located with sector experts. The use of state-of-the-art technology and blended learning approaches provide an innovative learning environment for teaching and training of students and the rural healthcare workforce as well as providing outreach training for other areas throughout Scotland. Technology has enhanced connectivity and helped extend access to modern teaching and training (e.g using 3D visualisation and simulated equipment) throughout the region.



Photo: Ewen Weatherspoon

Transferability of the project:

The CfHS model could be transferred to other regions and sectors. Key to the CfHS success has been consolidating and building upon existing strengths and turning them into a dynamic centre where learning, research and commercialisation all operate together and feed off each other's success. Essential to the development was the commitment of willing partners, particularly the economic development agency who funded the £24m build. Key to developing the critical mass has been the willingness of three universities to co-locate and work together collaboratively towards a common goal; each had a relatively small health science footprint but as a whole are making a significant impact. Today this model of working is critical for attracting funding. The provision of world class facilities to attract staff and students and a regional technology infrastructure to provide wider impact is important. Align developments with the needs of the region rather than using a proven 'urban' model and concentrate focus on core regional strengths is paramount.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

The Centre for Health Science was conceived in 2002 and was officially completed in 2009. Today the Centre represents a major milestone in adding to the already significant cluster of health science activity in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The centre has consolidated regional strengths and initiatives under one roof and brought together a related group of activities which support one another and form a widely recognised critical mass.

The benefits presented by the Centre for Health Science not only impact the immediate area but extend to the wider Highlands and Islands region.

The centre has helped address the deficit in the level and volume of higher education and research activity in the Highlands and Islands and has provided solutions to the problem of delivering healthcare education, training and services across the region. The centre has grown expertise in tackling the issues of recruiting and retaining healthcare professionals in remote and rural areas and has aided the growth aspirations of the emerging University of the Highlands and Islands and its Health Faculty as well as complementing the role of NHS Highland and its responsibilities for healthcare provision throughout the region. The CfHS has helped extend a multinational organisation's presence in the area by bringing them closer to other key players in the diabetes and health research arena. The incorporation of business incubators has also enabled growth and new commercial activities to flourish in the area.

The opportunities the centre has presented has meant people no longer need to leave the area to work, study or train. There has been a notable increase of qualified professionals moving into the area, an increase in the research portfolio and grant income and the critical mass being built up is making the region more attractive for inward investment and commercial opportunities.

Currently the CfHS has over 270 employees, around 600 students and approximately 300 research projects being undertaken or administered in the centre. The building design and co-location of multi organisations has resulted in the Centre for Health Science being a catalyst for collaborative projects and the transfer of knowledge between academics and businesses. It has broken down traditional barriers between different organisations, research teams and disciplines and encouraged those who worked largely in 'closed door environments' to integrate and work together, formulating new collaborations and partnerships to answer shared questions. Success of the Centre for Health Science model is now being transferred to a new phase development.



Photo: Ewen Weatherspoon

Practical information

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Link to the project/initiative: www.centreforhealthscience.com

Projects' start: 2002

Projects' end: 2009

Peak Innovation A four helix innovation system

Project Description:

Over the past ten-years, Åre has seen tremendous growth where tourism, businesses and the population have grown strongly. Much of this success is ascribed to the excellent cooperation between the companies, and the local authority; a trademark of Åre. Åre's vision for the future, *Vision 2020*, of becoming the most attractive alpine all year destination is still the most important tool for promoting further development. With the system 'Peak Innovation' the next phase of development is under way; ensuring that the **Business sector**, the **Public sector**, the **Mid-Sweden University** and the **Sports Movement** are welded together in the process.

Peak Innovation will enable the creation of the Swedish Alpine Sports Research Centre; a project that will offer unique facilities for research and product development within alpine skiing and mountain biking. The location of education programmes within tourism, outdoor and sports to Åre has already proven successful with at present two university programmes; SKARP, focusing on product development; and Outdoor Management. The combination of education programmes and research facilities in the dynamic environment in Åre adds strongly to the attraction of the Mid-Sweden University.

A small town so imbued with innovative businesses as Åre needs a centre where the entrepreneurs can work, mingle and bounce ideas; this will materialize in the form of Peak Innovation business centre.

Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

For the past decade, Åre has been seen as highly innovative because of the cooperation between the local authority and the local business association, as materialized in the then active Vision 2011. Now a brand new dimension has been added in the form of Peak Innovation: Enabling the development of a strong entrepreneur-driven destination into an entrepreneur **and** knowledge driven destination, with the joint input from the university, the public sector, the private business sector and the sports movement.



Photo: Rulle Malmquist

Åre is progressing from the image of a successful tourist destination to become the leading European environment for research and business development within the areas tourism, sports and outdoor recreation; an environment where the entire region, the university, the business sector, the public sector and the sports movement are involved in a systematic development process.

The innovative aspect is to make use of the leverage effect achieved in the interaction between these parties.

Transferability of the project:

Most alpine destinations function in a similar way where the cooperation between the public and private business sectors is the most essential ingredient but also constitutes the most difficult problem. The model of cooperation established in Åre, in its general sense, is a role model. The systematic development of tourism, outdoor and sports combining the resources of research, education and business schooling as through the vehicle of Peak Innovation can be transferred to other similar destinations where cooperation with one or more universities is already in place or could become established.



Photo:
Rulle Malmquist

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

The development within tourism, sports and outdoor, what we colloquially call the 'Peak' industries is a result of the involvement of many different players. When channelled through Peak Innovation the resources will be concentrated to one player and through the strong support that Peak Innovation enjoys, Peak Innovation has created an obvious venue where business ideas can grow and mature; a facility particularly appreciated by small companies generally having limited resources for navigating in the bureaucratic structures. In 2006 Åre Municipality was awarded the title 'Growth Municipality of the Year' in Sweden and in 2009, the title 'the New Business Promoting Municipality'. Peak Innovation provides an obvious means to maintain and accelerate this fruitful growth.

Practical information

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Link to the project/initiative: www.peakinnovation.se
Projects' start: 2001
Projects' end: ongoing

Establishment of the protected forest area of river Ugar

Project Description:

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is a country where the forest is an important natural resource as regards economy, social inclusion and ecology. Generally, forest management in BiH is very traditional and technically oriented.

Most of the forest managers advocate the “closed” forestry sector preventing any concrete connection with similar ones (e.g. tourism or water management sectors).

Thus, social inclusion in forest management is not an issue “on the table”, because a common understanding among foresters prevails that “only authorized persons (foresters themselves) decide on the management.”

The Ugar river supplies water for the Vlašić mountain, one of the famous tourist centres in ex-Yugoslavia with many hotels and hundreds of weekend houses and the rural population recognises the potential of tourism development in their area.

The Ugar river area, covered with forest, is managed by the local forest enterprise. Over the years, the enterprise’s management did not pay enough attention to water quality protection regardless of the fact that the water supply is crucial for the sustainable tourism development. They mainly focused on timber use.

By supporting the local civil society sector, preferably tourism stakeholders, SNV ran the initiative with two main objectives:

- to protect the water supply for Vlašić mountain area
- to improve the participation of the rural people in forest management.



Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

The most important innovative characteristic of the initiative was the process and approach of how the focus of forest management has been changed towards local/rural people’s needs. This happened by direct participation and influence by local/rural people in the local forest management.

In spite of the fact that local forest enterprise has a total mandate and monopoly in managing the forest based on their own needs (economic mainly), other stakeholders got a chance to voice their opinion through this initiative, as well. This was an innovative open approach to solving the forest management issue. The initiative was started by local NGOs (with SNV’s support) and very soon became a multi-stakeholder process including different actors (the enterprise, Ministry, local communities, NGOs, tourist associations, municipality and water management).

The whole process, facilitated by SNV, consisted of two big public discussions with media presence, several round tables, meetings and negotiations in which all stakeholders participated.

Although some of the stakeholders had completely opposite views (e.g. enterprise and tourism sector) at the beginning of the process, after one year, a common vision of the forest management in the Ugar area was achieved. The vision was formulated into an Elaborate, a document that was officially adopted by the Government of Middle Bosnia Canton.

Some of the main points based on the Elaborate are that 1660 ha of the Ugar river area is protected on behalf of the quality water protection and tourism sector needs, and that the local stakeholders will participate in the future in the forest management.

The process gave a big contribution to innovation regarding the governance of rural protected areas and the relation between sustainable tourism and sustainable forest management in mountain areas.



Harvesting residual in Ugar river before the project implementation
Photo: Samer Dolovac

Transferability of the project:

This project could take place elsewhere where the issue between foresters and local/rural communities exists. This means many places in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Balkan, Europe and the world. Based on the experience from this project, one of the most important preconditions for the success of the process is a good facilitation of the process in improving the communication among different stakeholders. Implementation of similar projects will create direct participation of local/rural people in forest management, thus creating many possibilities for the improvement of their living conditions.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

With the project implementation, complete logic of forest management in the area has been changed. This resulted in the creation of the Elaborate, an official document that recognised the very important role of the local/rural people's participation in decision making process related to forest management in the area. Also the Elaborate gave priority to the forest management in the area with water protection and tourism potentials increasing as opposed to timber use. The Elaborate was adopted by the Cantonal Government and became an obligatory document for the forest enterprise.

Some of the concrete effects of the Elaborate rules implementation are the following:

Harvesting activities by CFE would be time limited to the period from 1st of March to 30th of May and from 1st of September to 30th November (aims to avoid the tourist winter and summer seasons);

During the planning and implementation of all activities related to forest management in the Ugar area, the local forest enterprise is **obliged to consult the following institutions/organizations**: 1) Ministry for water management; 2) The water supply enterprise in the area; 3) Local communities (rural people) in the area; 4) The tourist association of Middle Bosnia Canton; 5) Ecological associations (NGOs) in the area.

The **benefits/added value** of the initiative for the Vlašić rural area could be summarised as follows:

- more transparent forest management in the area;
- localisation of forest management (more adapted to the local people needs-focus primarily on the water protection and tourism potential improvement);
- protection of the drinking water quality increased;
- official participation of the local people in forest management established;
- improved collaboration among forestry authorities and other stakeholders (tourist sector, water management sector, local communities, NGOs, etc.);
- increased tourist potential of the area in general;
- increased tourist potential directly linked to forestry in the area;
- possibility to multiply this practice in other areas in BiH/region.

These benefits created much better living conditions for thousands of local people especially as regards water supply and tourism development.



Vlašić-ski centre in winter
Photo: Samer Dolovac

Practical information

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Link to the project/initiative: [local webpage](#)

Projects' start: 2007 (December)

Projects' end: 2009 (March)

Master Degree in Planning for Sustainable Development in Mountain Areas and European Politics for Mountains

Project Description:

The Master Degree in “Planning for Sustainable Development in Mountain Areas and European Politics for Mountains” is organised by Irealp, the Milan Polytechnic and Advocacy Europe Institute (a Brussels-based institute specializing in high level courses in EU public affairs, lobbying strategies and European-funded project management).

The mountain territories are very complicated and articulated areas for project intervention: they are rich in opportunities but at the same time they require particular attention. In this context, the Master Degree intends to develop the project capacities oriented towards those sectors which are consolidated and essential for the mountain regions (tourism, landscape valorisation, energy, quality agro food products, etc), analysing the strong and weak points of these territories and the methodologies to cope with the marginality factors (as the hydrologic risk, environment and landscape, traditions).

The objective of the Master Degree is to provide methodological and operational tools in order to train experts in project planning for the mountains areas development: socio-economic sustainable development opportunities, social cohesion, EU funding programmes, techniques to manage and evaluate public policies, and networking promotion between people and institutions. The Master Degree course started on January 2010 and will finish in November 2010. The course not only makes good use of experts and academics but also of contributions from professionals, public administrators, functionaries, MEPs and operators who are all directly involved in the management of sustainable development in the mountain territories.



Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

First of all, the Master Degree course is innovative as far as the content is concerned: the programme tracks a course through several thematic European policies with the aim of outlining a possible sustainable development strategy for the mountain areas. The purpose of the Master Degree course is to create a professional figure lacking in Europe: a "mountain project designer" that will be able to respond to EU call for proposals that could involve players such as local authorities, associations, councils and business. Another component of innovation is the lessons' location: the Master is hosted by Irealp in the heart of the Alps in the Province of Sondrio, where no other University is located, so that, this is the unique graduate training scheme for people who want to remain in the mountains today and in the future. Furthermore, the Master training module on EU policies and programmes for mountains has been organised in Brussels. The students spent 3 weeks in the heart of Europe where they have met EC officers, advisors and experts on EU policies related to the mountain areas and have visited the EU institutions and the European mountains associations.

Finally the Master Degree course foresees, at the end, a period of internship with mountains associations, companies, public and private institutions in order to apply the knowledge acquired during the overall training and develop projects related to the mountains territories.



Transferability of the project:

The Master could be transferred to other mountain countries and regions with the involvement of a local university and/or mountain association.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

The Master would bring Europe nearer to the mountain areas through the improvement of knowledge with regard to sustainable development in mountain territories. The participants will be able to take advantage of the European territorial politics to rethink mountain development and bring to fruition those innovative projects which will foster the achievement of the Lisbon Treaty's purposes.

In fact, the Master training intends to provide the appropriate methodological and operational tools for creating a new professional figure the "Project designer for the mountains areas" with a specific deepening in the EU policies oriented to sustainable mountains development. This expert should work in the public local institutions; private companies and consultancies, public and private bodies involved in the public and local intervention policies (e.g. development agencies, lending institutions etc) and will have an important impact on the mountains territories improving the image of the mountains in Europe, increasing the funding for the mountains regions and supporting actions oriented to the sustainable development of these territories.

Moreover the Master aims, by this new professional figure, at encouraging the planning of public policies related to the mountains areas, at promoting the cooperation processes among the different associations, actors and stakeholders, at connecting and integrating the local, regional, national and European public policies related to the mountains and at influencing the decision making process in favour of the mountains regions.

Finally, the Master intends to fill the gap of some development programmes funded by the EU and by the local and national development policies which promote actions and projects in favour of urban or valleys areas that have already taken advantage of certain economic activities. The specificities of mountain territories, which are on the one hand related to marginality and fragility but on the other hand also to important opportunities in different fields and sectors are at risk of being underestimated and not appreciated.

Projects, not adequately connected with the specificities of these areas are in danger of being rejected by respective responsible funding institutions. The master will avoid this in bringing together the mountain reality and future mountain developers.



Practical information

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Link to the project/initiative: www.master.irealp.it

Projects' start: January 2010

Projects' end: December 2010

climalp - energy-efficient buildings built from regional timber in the Alpine region

Project Description:

The use of regional wood as a building material and fuel is an important contribution to reducing CO₂ emissions. Using local timber processed in the region creates jobs and ensures that the value added remains in the region. As a side effect the traffic burden in the Alpine region is also reduced.

The «climalp - Energy-efficient houses from local wood» project by CIPRA – the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps – is an information campaign aimed at promoting energy-efficient construction using regional wood in the Alpine region.

climalp publishes reports and showcases in four Alpine languages, thereby contributing to the dissemination of knowledge in the Alpine region. climalp enables that knowledge can be shared during study trips with architects, planners, wood construction professionals and community representatives.

With climalp, CIPRA contributes to climate protection, sustainable development in the Alps and the implementation of the Alpine Convention and its protocols on «Mountain Forests» and «Energy».



Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

climalp has several innovative characters:

- climalp: science fiction in certain alpine regions/countries

In some of alpine regions/countries the construction approaches promoted within climalp were practically unknown before climalp began to publicise its activities. climalp has contributed to raising the awareness of, and interest in, these construction approaches, and has initiated several construction projects that are now being implemented in various alpine regions.

- climalp: an integral and sustainable consideration of the building sector

This means that the project addresses the energy-related (including grey energy) and environmental aspects of building materials, the energy supply, grey energy and building location. climalp also demonstrates that buildings can now be constructed so that they produce far more energy than they consume.

- climalp: addressing spatial planning issues.

A passive house in the countryside contributes to the urban sprawl and is often accompanied by a high volume of private traffic. climalp shows how municipalities promote regional planning instruments and handle concentrated construction.

- climalp: sharing knowledge and networking beyond boundaries

Despite globalisation, it is not easy for local authorities, architects, energy experts, etc., to share their experiences and knowledge beyond the boundaries of their country and language sphere. climalp has greatly contributed to publicising the knowledge and the experiences across national and linguistic boundaries, thanks to the translation and circulation of technical and methodological facts as well as best practice examples in the main alpine languages. climalp works mainly with multipliers such as municipalities, architects and energy experts. climalp activities contribute to the creation of transnational networks with knowledge institutions, specialists and builders.



Photo: CIPRA International

Transferability of the project:

The idea of climalp is easily transferable.

In the building sector, simple solutions and ideas can have a big impact on the reduction of CO₂ emissions and the regional economy, and can help to protect climate, soil and landscape. climalp helps to spread these solutions and ideas from one place to another beyond national and language boundaries through its communication campaign.

The topic is simple; the message and the solution are easily transferable. A field trip and a meeting with the mayor, architect or engineer may be enough to find a solution or idea implemented elsewhere in the Alpine region. These trips are a success; an organization must have a good network to achieve both knowledge and learning.

The flexible nature of climalp's project structure makes it easy to operate a specific action and to uptake ideas. The available financial and human resources can be used wherever their impact is the greatest - without administrative expense.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

Community representatives, architects, timber professionals and others throughout the Alpine region benefit from the broad remit of the climalp project. Knowledge passes from one region to another in the Alps. Once implemented, the knowledge gained during study trips means innovation for a region:

- The first French passive house conference took place in Grenoble in April 2007, and was initiated jointly by CIPRA and other organizations. The passive house conference was a huge success, with around 420 people attending, including experts from France, Switzerland and Austria. Since then, the passive house conference has been held every year and is now an established knowledge venue across regional and national boundaries.
- climalp organizes study trips in Vorarlberg and other model regions where many passive houses are made of local timber, and innovative and sustainable regional policy is implemented in many communities. Over a period of several days the participants have the opportunity to meet policy makers, architects and other engineers and to learn from their experience and their methods to establish energy-efficient policies and make use of local wood resources. Several of the participants who took part in such study trips have since started implementing and adapting what they learned and saw. Indeed, after attending such a study trip in Vorarlberg, the French municipality of Saint Jean d'Arvey built its municipal centre on the model of a building in Ludesch. The municipality of Saint Martin de Belleville has implemented an energy-efficient nursery and in October 2010 is organising a conference on energy efficient building and the possibilities for municipality. The municipality is therefore passing on the knowledge and experience it has acquired to the surrounding municipalities, and has become a beacon municipality in the French Alps. If key political and administrative players were to build only best practice buildings in terms of energy efficiency, they would signal a positive image to home builders.



Photo: CIPRA International

Practical information

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Organisation: CIPRA International

Link to the project/initiative: www.cipra.org/de/climalp; www.cipra.org/en

Projects' start: 2004

Projects' end: open

Creating the Bologna Apennine sustainable energy district

Project Description:

This project involves the central-northern Apennine mountain regions and is carried out within the ambit of activities of the High Technology Network of Emilia Romagna, coordinated by ASTER (Emilia Romagna Association of Science and Technology).

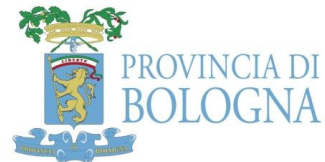
The strategic objective is to transform this mountain area into a “Sustainable Energy District” by disseminating scientific knowledge and technological applications to all stakeholders, thus creating a link between research, technology and production.

The technology transfer activities are carried out primarily by supporting the local public administration to create better conditions for sustainable development through energy savings and renewable energies' latest technologies.

These technologies have been applied for the construction of buildings and public facilities which, in addition to pursuing their technical function, are available to interested parties (citizens and businesses) for information and visits.

The plants were built by using all kind of renewable sources (wind, waterfalls, sun, geothermal, wood chips), with a focus on wood biomass which is abundant in our areas.

The outputs were then used by researches, studies and dissemination activities that culminated in the organisation of an exhibition "Ecoappennino" which is about energy saving and renewable energy sources and respective technologies.



Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

The innovative aspects of our project are concerning both the methodology and the technical content and organizational performance.

In terms of methodology we focused strongly on involving local public authorities considering them as active project partners and to secure their commitment and financial resources. This ensured that innovative, demonstrative installations are further maintained and managed even when the start-up phase ended.

The cooperation with COSEA, a public company that involves 23 mountain municipalities and that is managing environmental services, was very useful. COSEA was co-financing the project and contributed also with its technical section to the project by implementing an internal „Energy Service“. This service was supported by local young engineers that by being involved from the beginning of the project, gained remarkable expertise that will remain in the region.

As regards the technical issues most innovative aspects mainly occur in the field of greenhouse gas emissions and wood biomass as those are considered as having most positive impacts in the area.

We made investigations in this field and developed GIS models, that help evaluate CO2 emissions at municipal level. Furthermore, it is possible to measure the quantity of timber that can be extracted in a sustainable way from the forest.

Regarding technological aspects, more specifically, the most interesting initiative was the development, management and monitoring of a small (35 kW) woodchips cogeneration plant using the system for gasification of wood combined with an external combustion engine Stirling cycle: this plant, amongst the first in Europe, also allowed to create a technical working group between different European countries (Denmark, Austria, Germany and Italy).

Finally, concerning the effectiveness of dissemination, excellent results were achieved through the organization of the exhibition “Ecoappennino”.

Transferability of the project:

Important conditions to transfer this project to other regions:

- One organization already in the area with local knowledge serving as "incubator" for the project by providing its organizational structure;
- A project manager with technical and organizational skills but also with good knowledge of procedures and regulations and a team of young engineers, with a team leader able to motivate them;
- The presence of universities or research centres to support the initiative;
- Local companies capable of building plants and banks who can co-finance;
- The availability of public funds to support the initial stages of organization and planning and subsequent monitoring and dissemination of results.



Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

The projects' impact can be recognised on local, regional and partly even on an international level. At local level the impact can be described as follows:

- The municipal authorities started to realize that innovations in energy saving and renewable sources can have positive impacts. This has led to continuous investments and some municipalities have also applied energy certifications for public buildings and drafted municipal energy plans.
- Many companies including SMEs, can better compete with other players as they have better knowledge on new technologies that have been studied in depth. Thus, they can offer these services as well.
- Some larger companies, with more financial resources, have evaluated the benefits of adapting to the principles of the "green economy" and made a proposal for the construction of public facilities; the most significant example is the construction of a wood chips cogeneration plant with district heating network, serving schools, sports facilities and a small residential district.
- Many design teams and engineers have participated in specialized courses organized within the project, acquiring new skills.
- An exhibition and an info-desk helped raising awareness of local people regarding possibilities offered by new technologies and the use of renewable sources.
- Teachers use documentation and dissemination material to incorporate significant elements as regards energy saving/renewable sources in their timetables.
- At regional level, by joining the High Technology Network of Emilia-Romagna it was possible to not only act on local level but to act as a reference model in cooperation with other centres and laboratories in this network, broadening horizons and exchanging with other operational areas and other initiatives.
- Finally, the building of the experimental cogeneration woodchips small plant (35 kW - gasification and Stirling engine cycle) made it possible to play an important role within the international group of experts. Sharing, our experience as regards management and monitoring, allowed further improvement of the system.

Practical information

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Organisation: CISA (Centro Innovazione Sostenibilità Ambientale)

Link to the project/initiative: www.centrocisa.it

Projects' start: 04/2006

Projects' end: 12/2010

Boticas – New technologies in the rural world

Project Description:

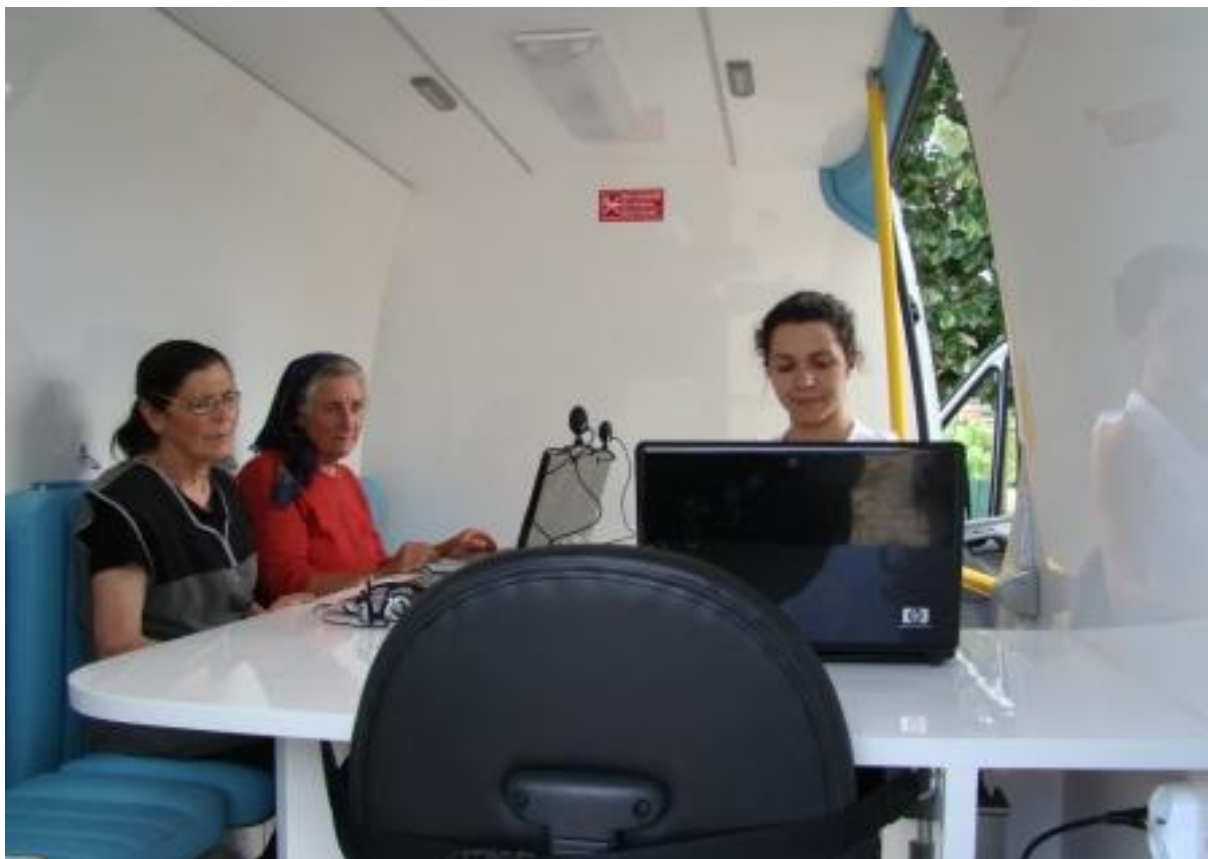
Working from the basis of decentralisation of municipal services, integrated into the context of a modern society in which such a process is increasingly necessary, particularly in non-urban communes, in view of crucial factors such as rural exodus and the isolation of populations farthest away from urban centres, coupled with poor access due to inadequate public transport networks; the municipal services available must be brought to these populations, and the municipal council's approach promoted to its citizens.

This project was set up with the intention of decentralising local government administration while reducing the bureaucratic aspects to a minimum and taking the various services out to outlying communes in the form of a travelling office using three appropriately equipped vehicles visiting the various villages making up the municipality. The service deals with a range of issues: social security, healthcare, electricity service, telephone service, town hall services or simpler matters such as sending a fax or e-mail, or services such as assistance with reading a letter or filling in forms that can also be useful to immigrants. The vehicles also have Internet access via onboard computers and WiFi connections.

Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

The project is innovative in that it offers a means of providing citizens with an extended range of services which could hitherto only be accessed by visiting the various offices concerned, and also of bringing Internet and other elements of information and communication technology (ICT) to those who, for whatever reason, have never before had a chance to use them, the elderly in particular. The communication networks used in the project are based on the latest technological innovations. This service helps to maintain contacts between the local population and loved ones scattered to the four corners of the globe, an aspect of the greatest importance for maintaining ties of affection to the native region.

Our intention is to encourage the population to participate in this project and thus to encourage the use of Internet as a way of speeding up problem-solving – not just for bureaucratic difficulties, but also for personal and family problems.



Transferability of the project:

Given the success that similar initiatives have had, we can be confident that this project will help to improve quality of life for the populations concerned and could be repeated in other mountain regions with a socio-economic and geographic context similar to that of the commune of Boticas.

The project does not need to be associated with any specific geographic location; it could be applied equally successfully to any region seeking to minimise the problems of population isolation and rural desertion.

The implementation of projects of this kind does not require the use of resources specific to a region; it calls, however, not only for the acquisition of material resources, high-tech equipment and qualified human resources, but also for the effective management of these resources, given the specific nature of the region and with the aim of providing the population with a quality service that will ensure the project's successful implementation.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

Internet, as a new form of written and visual communication, reinforces links with local residents who, in many cases, have been forced to emigrate, providing them with a new means of communication and problem-solving and also reinforcing the links between migrants from these communities and the mountain region, its inhabitants, their life experiences and traditions.

The project offers significant benefits for the population and for businesses from the viewpoint of use of the services and access to new technology, helping to optimise existing means of recourse by making it possible for different issues and different institutions to be dealt with simultaneously. It also leads to a reduction in costs and to uniformity of response times, and also to a lowering of the physical and techno-



logical barriers to access to public services that can only improve the quality of life of local citizens.

The project aims to create new ways of accessing information, establishing new relationships between local government and citizens, improving citizen participation and the transparency of decision-making processes, opening up new dimensions in freedom of expression and the exercise of full democratic rights, creating new services and improving existing ones, and combating social and regional discrimination in access to information and public services.

Practical information

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Organisation: Municipalité de Boticas

Link to the project/initiative: www.cm-boticas.pt

Projects' start: 2003

Projects' end: ongoing

Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster

Project Description:

The purpose of the Norwegian Mountain Tourism Cluster is to develop mountain tourism into a profitable, year-round industry with highly attractive tourism products that target selected international tourism markets.



Main goal:

The main goal is to establish a consistent cluster of mountain tourism stakeholders focusing on innovation and internationally-oriented summer tourism. By focusing on innovation, development and cooperation between the tourism industry, research institutions and governmental organisations, the aim is to increase employment and create more financially-viable tourism enterprises.

The strategy:

“The cluster will work to strengthen the cooperation between participants by organizing meetings and networking platforms. An increased understanding of and ability to implement innovation will be accomplished through a systematic increase in knowledge across all levels of enterprises. The attractiveness of the 7 participating destinations in international markets will be increased by promoting new developments and entrepreneurship within the destinations, as well as by making the products more accessible. The potential for growth will also be enhanced by improving the framework conditions for mountain tourism. “

Financing:

The partners behind the pilot-study applied for national funding from the Norwegian ARENA program and obtained 1,5 million EURO in 2004 for financing activities in a 3-year period (2005-2007). The total budget for the cluster during the 3-year was around 8,75 million EURO of which private financing (contribution in cash and time) accumulated to 5 million EURO and other public financing amounted to 2,25 million EURO.

Innovative aspects of the project/initiative:

The strategy was broken down into four strategic areas:

Networking and knowledge-building within the cluster. Aim: To increase the will and ability to cooperate between triple helix stakeholders within the 7 destinations and within the cluster

Entrepreneurship and product development. Aim: To increase the number of new establishments and product developments within the 7 destinations

Conceptualization and sales. Aim: To conceptualize, assemble and test new and current products with regards to potential markets

Framework conditions. Aim: To improve framework conditions for mountain tourism as an industry, and to enhance the relationship between the protection and utilization of national resources based on the principles of sustainable tourism development.

For the Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster, *building* cluster was the main innovative aspect. Within this, we created new networks, new network arenas, new products and – not at least – increasing knowledge about mountain tourism and the challenges.



Photo: Innovativ Fjellturisme

Transferability of the project:

Building Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster took part in a specific region close to the Hardanger Plateau. It could have been anywhere in Norway or other countries; mountain regions or not.

Tourism business is fragmented, especially in summer, with small activity companies working together with the destination companies. Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster made the small companies see themselves in a larger entity, giving them access to local, regional and national authorities, R&D-environments and financial institutions.

The most important need for creating an initiative like this elsewhere, is a willingness to cooperate, to long-term working and to find joint goals.

Impact of the project on the region/on management structures/ actors/ decision making processes:

The pilot study made before the Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster started, included two analyses. The results from these analyses showed:

*The mountain cluster is characterized by SMEs with a low degree of innovation activity. Innovation within the cluster focuses on incremental product innovation rather than developing new products.

* The development of new activities and coordination among tour operators within and across the 7 tourist destinations was fragmented both in terms winter- and summer tourism.

*** There were four main obstacles for developing new and innovative activities to summer tourists:**

—> lack of risk capital; lack of information between triple helix actors within and across the 7 tour destinations; lack of knowledge about tourists and how to conceptualize, package and sell mountain tourism experiences to tourists in an international market; and lack of structure with regards to planning infrastructure.

*** To develop the mountain tourism cluster a number of initiatives had to be taken:**

—> New products had to be developed; Marketing, sales and booking had to be put into focus; Focus had to be put on entrepreneurship to increase innovation; New knowledge and better competencies had to be developed; and Collaboration between triple helix partners had to pave the way for new collaborative alliances.

***The Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster has created:**

—> Common understanding of challenges and possibilities; Safety across the municipality borders; Environment for developing in cooperation with, and with both accept and respect for R&D people; Network of municipality/county planners/advisers who very often faces similar challenges

***Lessons learned through the project:**

—> We need continuing market knowledge, and knowledge about how to deal with it; We have to combine marketing activities from different industries – tourism, agriculture, fishing, oil – to be strong; Our nature are as good as anywhere, our commercializing are probably worse than anywhere - especially in our National Parks; We need strong destination companies and a dedicated cooperation between the tourism industry and public authorities.

A 6 year old cluster is still a child...

The Innovative Mountain Tourism Cluster has been a six year learning process for everyone involved. From not cooperating at all, or only dutifully, seven destinations - with a great deal of their local businesses and authorities involved – have created a common company – Innovativ Fjellturisme AS, to be in charge of the continuation of the Project.

Practical information

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