

## ALPCITY PROJECT

[www.alpcity.it](http://www.alpcity.it)

### KEY DATA AND DATES

**Project title:** ALPCITY “*Local endogenous development and urban regeneration of small alpine towns*”

**Project web site:** [www.alpcity.it](http://www.alpcity.it)

**Programme:** Interreg III B Alpine Space – [www.alpinespace.org](http://www.alpinespace.org)

**Priority 1:** Mutual knowledge and common perspectives

**Measure 1:** Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space in the scope of a polycentric spatial development in the EU

**Budget:** 2.404.928 € - 1.202.464 € from EU funds and the other 50 % from National funds

**Project start date :** April 2004 - **Project ending :** April 2007

### INTERREG III B - Alpine Space Programme - [www.alpinespace.org](http://www.alpinespace.org)

The Alpine Space area represents one of the most manifold regions in the heart of the European Community. This area is a major contact zone between different European cultures and languages where the German, the Latin and the Slavic areas meet.

The region is characterised by small-scale heterogenous diversities in respect with political and socio-economical aspects. Considerable social and economic disparities, often within small distances, are evident.

The Alpine Space Programme belongs to one of the three strands (A,B,C) of the EU initiative Interreg III. Strand B programmes address to trans-European cooperation and aims at encouraging harmonious and balanced development of the European territory. Project Participants could be from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia, as well as Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

The main objective of this Community Initiative is to contribute to a more cohesive, balanced and sustainable territorial development of the area, by fostering transnational co-operation and maximizing the benefits in important fields of mutual concern between member states, regions and other authorities.

## ALPCITY PROJECT IN A NUTSHELL - [www.alpcity.it](http://www.alpcity.it)

**AlpCity** is a project co-funded (ERDF funds) in the framework of the INTERREG III B Alpine Space Programme. The AlpCity project proposal was approved in November 2003 under the first Priority of the Programme named "*Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space in the scope of a polycentric spatial development in the EU*".

AlpCity project aims at contributing to the setting-up of a mutual knowledge and a common strategic perspective with a specific reference to the subject of the sustainable development of small Alpine Towns, in line with the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space objectives (Priority 1 – Measure 1).

AlpCity project addresses to some key areas of the Interreg IIIB-Alpine Space Programme including the support to a polycentric and sustainable local development, the creation and development of new and existing networks, the promotion of innovative initiatives and co-operation activities at a trans-national level.

AlpCity deals with the crucial problem of a critical socio-economic development, inadequate quality of life and urban environment in small alpine/mountain communities and towns (<5000 hab.) often characterised by economic decline, ageing population, abandonment of villages, loss of cultural vitality, buildings' decay, and a limited community participation.

The AlpCity trans-national approach aims at facing these processes of decline which actually have a trans-national dimension.

Twenty case studies are carried out by the Project Partners at a local level as innovative pilot actions through the collaboration of different subjects such as the local actors and stakeholders, universities, research institutes and NGOs. Moreover, the creation of a common knowledge and vision is supported by the collection and exchange of 'Good and Best Practices' in view of the formulation of policies' guidelines towards the local sustainable development.

### ALPCITY GOALS

**AlpCity** aims at raising awareness about the revitalisation of small towns in the Alpine Space area by sharing and improving a common knowledge and understanding on the key project's issue: the sustainable local development and integrated revitalisation of small alpine/mountain cities. An efficient exchange of information and an effective communication within the project contributes to its successful implementation.

**AlpCity** promotes and support local innovative actions and approaches by developing 20 case studies implemented at a local level, and which focus on the following 4 project's areas:

- ° Economic development
- ° Services and quality of life
- ° Urban environment
- ° Co-operation among towns

**AlpCity** promotes the search, collection and exchange of good and best practices on the AlpCity project's working issue in view of their replicability in other contexts. The lessons learned from these good/best practices present the basis for the formulation - within the AlpCity project – of recommendations and policies' guidance.

**AlpCity** promotes, with a medium-long terms perspective, networks and new forms of co-operation. Across all project's activities vertical (especially between regions and towns) and horizontal co-operations (between regions themselves, towns, universities) are sought for. The expected results include the establishment of new local and European networks on the project's issues, where alpine small towns will be the main beneficiaries of new programmes, actions and technical assistance.

## ALPCITY EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Sharing of information, knowledge, experiences and lessons learned, and setting-up of a common understanding on the project's issues
2. Implementation of 20 innovative pilot cases at a local level in the project's working areas:

- a. Economic development
- b. Services/quality of life
- c. Urban environment
- d. Cooperation among towns

3. Good and best practices collected and exchanged (ref. to the project's working areas) in view of their transferability

4. Outlining of lessons learned, and formulation of recommendations/policy guidance
5. Networks and new forms of co-operations exploited and promoted at a trans-national level

## **ALPCITY PARTNERSHIP**

The AlpCity partnership is trans-national and includes 11 Partners from 5 Alpine countries : Italy (4), France (2), Austria (1), Germany (1) and Switzerland (3). The partners belong to the public sector at different levels. The finalisation of the AlpCity partnership has been achieved in September 2004.

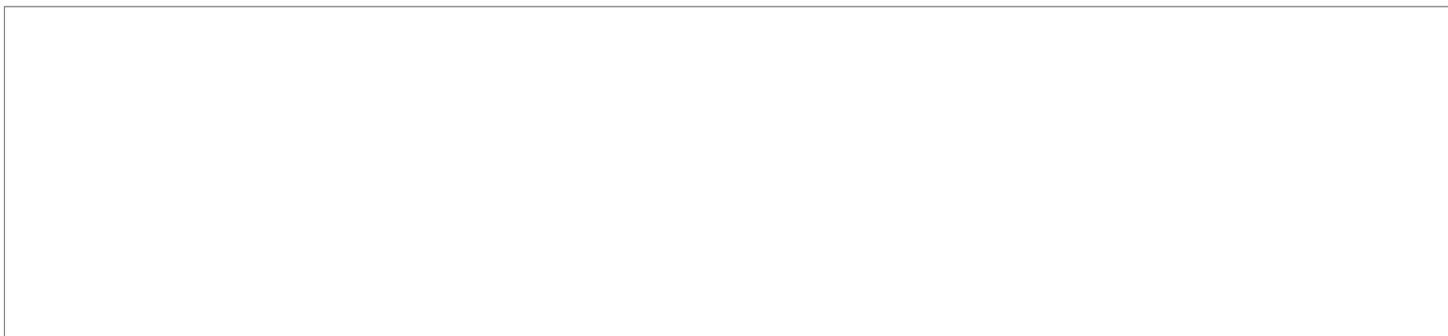
Each partner actively participates to the different project activities (Work Packages), and contribute to the successful project's implementation and development by a regular support to the Lead Partner (Regione Piemonte) as well as an active collaboration among the PPs.

Some Partners act as Work Packages' Co-ordinators as explained in the following scheme, and all the PPs contribute to the collection of Good/Best Practices as well as Information and Publicity activities.

Detailed information on the Project Partners including the contact details are available at the AlpCity web site - <http://www.alpcity.it/partners.htm>.

<b>Project Participants</b>	
<b>PPs</b>	<b>11</b>
Italy	Regione Piemonte, Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Regione Veneto, Regione Lombardia
Germany	Gemeinde Grainau
Austria	Provincial Government Niederösterreich
France	Région Rhône-Alpes, Région Franche-Comté,
Switzerland	Haute Ecole Valaisanne, Municipalité de Saint Maurice, Gemeinde Tschlin

**ALPCITY  
WORK  
PACKAGES  
(WPs) and WPs  
CO-  
ORDINATORS**



## ALPCITY SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE (SSC)

The **SSC** is a team composed by height highly qualified European Experts in the AlpCity project core area: 'Sustainable local development and urban integrated regeneration of small Alpine/mountain towns'.

The basic role of the SSC is to steer the project from a strategic and operational point of view. The SSC Experts contribute to the overall success of the project basically through an advisory role.

The SSC work as a team focused on 2 areas: one more scientific and the other more operational. However, these two missions – 'framing and consulting' - are strongly linked.

Among the outputs of the SCC: an overview on the 'Status and challenges of the small Alpine towns', basic schemes and forms for the synthesis of the project's case studies, the outlining of a 'Red line' among the case studies in terms of synergies and potential collaboration, and the 'Propositions Papers' in view of the working groups at the AlpCity Trans-national Scientific Meeting (Milan, 27-28 June 2005).

The SSC Experts will act as facilitators of the working groups in programme at the Scientific Meeting in Milan (27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2005).

Further information concerning the SSC Members, profiles and outputs in the framework of AlpCity project is available at the AlpCity web site - <http://www.alpcity.it/experts/expert.htm>

## ALPCITY CORE ACTIVITIES

### CASE STUDIES

Twenty case studies are carried out by the Project Partners at a local level as innovative pilot actions through the collaboration of different subjects such as the local actors and stakeholders, universities, research institutes and NGOs. The case studies focuses on the following working areas:

1. Economic development (WP 5)
2. Services and quality of life (WP 6)
3. Urban Environment (WP 7)
4. Co-operation among towns (WP 8)

The project's Case studies are deeply presented in the AlpCity web site with reference to the implementing Partner as well as the case studies' working areas [http://www.alpcity.it/index\\_cards.htm](http://www.alpcity.it/index_cards.htm).

## BEST PRACTICES AND FUTURE SCENARIOS

Work Package 9 "Best Practices and Futures scenarios", co-ordinated by the Lead Partner Regione Piemonte, has a key role within the project: it supports strategically and operationally the achievement of the project's main aims (ref. to the exchange of experiences, information, know-how at a trans-national level and setting-up of networking activities) as well as it represents the working basis for reflections in view of the formulation of recommendations and policies' guidelines (mid-long term perspectives).

The WP basically includes the activities aimed at the selection, collection and exchange of 'Good/Best Practices' with reference to the subject of the local sustainable development and urban regeneration of small alpine/mountain towns.

Recent hypothesis for the AlpCity follow-up related to the WP9 include: the setting-up of an AlpCity Regional Urban Observatory (RUO), in line with the UN Habitat 'Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme', an AlpCity Best Practices Award, and the participation to the Best Practices Award of the UN Habitat (2006 Award edition).

Further information at the AlpCity web site - <http://www.alpcity.it/overview/best.htm>

