



## Focus

### Mountain cooperation: the Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention meet the Apennines in Sarnano

Cooperation in the management of mountain resources is still a matter of debate on which several interests



converge to identify new forms of sustainable development for territories.

In this regard, the Italian Presidency welcomed the invitation of the territory to promote the International Conference "*The Alpine Convention and the Carpathian Convention: sharing experiences. The Apennines, a European mountain ridge*", as part of its activities on mountain partnerships. The meeting was held in Sarnano on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April.

The meeting had a wide participation of public and several experts, researchers and national and international

stakeholders attended the various session organized. Among participants, Frits Schlingemann, former Director of the Regional Office for Europe at UNEP Vienna, whose experience on mountain negotiations has growth over the years, within the setting and the launch of the Carpathian Convention as well as other multilateral agreements for sub-regions in South-Eastern Europe. Afterwards, two focused interventions, by the Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention and the *interim* Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention, presented the organization of these two international treaties, deepening the objectives and the activities that they pursue in their respective cross-border mountain framework.

A special session was dedicated to the presentation of international research focused on mountains. Among them, the research "*Access2Mountain - Sustainable mobility and tourism in sensitive areas of the Alps and Carpathians*", developed in the field of South East Europe ETC Programme, it was discussed by Romain Molitor and Christine Zehetgruber (Komobile - Vienna) and by Massimo Sargolini (University of Camerino). The European Academy of Bolzano (EURAC Research) introduced a Delphi study dedicated to the development of mountain areas in order to outline the socioeconomic status of the management and the governance of the Italian mountains, in this case the study was particularly useful to understand the state of scientific knowledge on the Apennines.

The second day was marked by a session specifically dedicated to the Apennines, several contributions allowed participants to study and to understand Apennines' features, values and critical issues from different points of view (from the geological to the ecological, from the landscape and environment to the geographical , anthropological, economic and touristic). The presentations highlighted the specificities of the

Apennine system and its continuity with the Alpine and Carpathian context, moreover they identified the main question to be solved in order to build a model of management and development for such a composed area. This session was characterized by several presentations made by Italian Universities that treated their studies on mountain: the University of Camerino, Politecnico di Torino, the University of L'Aquila, the University of Urbino, the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna of Pisa, University of Tuscia, University of Genoa, the University of Rome La Sapienza and the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

The conference was also an opportunity to discuss the tools available within the programming of European funds to continue to invest on and in favour of mountain. In this sense, the EPSON Italian contact point coordinated a specific workshop dedicated to regions, among others, Councillor for Agriculture and Environment Marta Malaspina in behalf of the Marche Region took part to the discussion.

In conclusion, the organizers declared their intention to collect contributions to the event within a publication that might represent the basis to implement a scientific coordination for the development of the Apennines in order to support the political and administrative action that in Sarnano seemed to be clear and aimed at fostering interaction and cooperation between mountain areas.

[Link to the meeting documents](#)

### **Eastern Mountainside: latest events**

#### **Constructive Alps: the Italian tour of the exhibition on sustainable architecture in the Alps**

Design and construction of environmentally sustainable buildings is one of the most interesting areas of



application for contemporary architecture. In this context, the Italian Presidency is supporting the project *Constructive Alps* for the promotion of sustainable architecture for mountain, inspired by the search for energy efficiency and for landscape protection.

The Presidency promotes the traveling exhibit dedicated to *Constructive Alps* among some Italian cities, Turin has been the first city to host the exhibition, displayed at Chamber of Commerce Headquarter in Palazzo Birago from 14<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of April; the next stages will be Ventimiglia

(May), Trento (June), Cortina and Rome.

The 32 panels of the exhibition describes the best construction and renovation projects presented at the international prize for sustainable architecture *Constructive Alps*, promoted by the Swiss Confederation and organized with the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein and supported by the University of Liechtenstein and CIPRA -International Commission for the Protection of the Alps-.

Research in the field of energy efficiency for the residential sector represents one of the most promising field for measures of energy saving and it is considered of great importance for the Alpine region. The promotion of the exhibition is part of the activities organized by the Presidency to e the work of the Platform on Energy, established by the XII Alpine Conference of Poschiavo; as opening event for each stage of the exhibition will be organized a workshop involving the experts of the working groups of the Alpine Convention.

For further informations [on the Italian stages](#) and on the exhibition [Constructive Alps](#).

#### **Energy and innovation in the Alps, in Turin to illustrate the Platform Energy work**

The Italian Presidency promoted the public workshop "*The inhabited mountain, energy and innovation in the Alps*" to present the work of the Platform on Energy of the Alpine Convention and to provide an overview of its main areas of research and analysis: the consumption, the production and the distribution of energy in

alpine contexts. The workshop was the opening event of the Turin stage of the traveling exhibition *Constructive Alps*.



The Platform on Energy works to implement the Energy Protocol of the Alpine Convention, identifying solutions that balance the need of alpine environment protection with the demand for energy production in mountain areas. The experts of the Platform are classifying the main sources for energy production in the Alpine region, evaluating which benefits would lead an increase and which critical impacts this use may have on the environment and on other infrastructure. The experts' work is based on the analysis of energy consumption in the Alpine region, with a distinction between the most

populated urban areas and areas of low housing intensity, where consumption is lower and mainly for residential consumption.

Among the objectives that the Platform will present at the next Alpine Conference in November 2014: the establishment of a permanent Alpine observatory for Energy -in order to collect energetic data (potential, production, consumption and local strategies), the publication of an "Alpine Energy Outlook" and the promotion of interaction between the alpine areas of production, storage and distribution of energy with the metropolitan areas where consumption concentrates.

Other relations presented during the first part of the workshop focused on the issues of energy efficiency in the residential sector -presented by the report of Prof. Marco Masoero from Politecnico of Turin- and on new forms of production, distribution and consumption in relation to actions and experiences made in alpine areas.

Among the best practices described, a particular mention goes to eco-friendly policies implemented in Alto Adige. Here, since many years, public administration and private sector have acted to develop clean energy system: in this Region the companies operating in the green sector have increased from 75 in 2005 to 456 in 2010 and many municipalities in South Tyrol have carried out incentive measures for clean energy, enough to be considered today 100% renewable towns.

The Alto Adige system starts from the use of local resources such as wood (40% of the territory is occupied by forests), in fact today the biomass heating centrals in the area are 71 and they provide energy to 20,000 families by helping to reduce the production of CO<sub>2</sub> of 225 thousand tons per year.

Attentions was dedicated also to experiences of research and innovation in the energy field, such as the Research Program for the Electric System (ENEA-MSE) which aims to innovate the Italian national electricity grid in order to make it more environment oriented, more safe and to improve its efficiency in terms of costs.

At the end of the first section of the workshop, the architect Ivano Talamon outlined the work of the CasaClima Agency of Bolzano, a public structure that is responsible for the energy certification of buildings, both new and rehabilitated ones.

The second part of the meeting has been dedicated to the theme of problems and future perspectives of inhabited mountain areas, with the organization of a roundtable participated by productive realities that, in different ways, deal particularly with sustainable design and construction techniques in alpine areas.

[Link to the workshop documents](#)

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### **Mountain tourism: in Asiago to discuss the development opportunities for the sector**

The Italian Presidency, in collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat, the Veneto Region, the Municipality of Asiago and the Regency of the Seven Municipalities, has promoted the workshop "*Opportunities of the rural tourism for the economy of the Alpine region*", held 11<sup>th</sup> of April at the Mountain Community Regency of



the Seven Municipalities of Asiago.

Sustainable tourism is a productive sector of increasing interest for territories as it represents value for communities both from an economic point of view and for the promotion of traditions and local customs. During the workshop of Asiago experts and stakeholder examined the question focusing, in particular, on the opportunities offered by rural tourism.

Speakers presented the work of the Task Force *sustainable tourism* and the contents of the Fourth Report on the State of the Alps, which contains data and updated

research (2013) on the touristic sector in the Alps. This document offers an overview of classifications and policies for sustainable tourism and addresses the challenges posed by the sector, presenting options and tools to find the best solutions.

A roundtable for the presentation of local projects and experiences in the field of sustainable tourism concluded the event, with thematic interventions on the activities undertaken into the Veneto region in order to promote sustainable tourism among territories. The meeting offered a focus on the recent regulation on rural tourism of Veneto Region and there were examined the two projects "*GAL-Montagna Vicentina*" and "*Grande Guerra*", a tool for tourism development in the territory of Asiago.

[Link to the workshop documents](#)

### **Belluno: presentation of the first outcomes for the draft of the Fifth Relation on the State of the Alps**

The Italian Presidency promoted the Workshop "*How the population in the Alps changes? Economic scenarios and new job opportunities*", which took place at the Hall of the Prefecture of Belluno, Piazza Duomo 38. The meeting was organized in collaboration with Veneto Region and the G. Angelini Foundation-Studies Centre on the Mountain, Professor Davide Pettenella from Padova University moderated the debate. Dr. Saverio Gazzelloni (ISTAT) presented to the audience and to invited experts (UNESCO Dolomites Foundation, Northeast Foundation) the first results of the expert group's work for the draft of the Fifth Report on the State of the Alps focused on demographic change. The workshop was intended as an exchange of view about the employment situation in the Alps, presenting some remarkable experiences on business plan, research, and sustainability in relation to the mountain environment. Particular attention was addressed to the Eastern sector of the Italian Alps, in the perspective of future scenarios for the area.

The next issue of "*Il Crinale*" will contain a focus on the outcomes of the meeting.

### **Western Mountainside: upcoming events**

#### **May 13: presentation of the exhibition "Constructive Alps" in Ventimiglia**

The Italian Presidency of the Alpine Convention promotes the workshop to present the traveling exhibition "Constructive Alps" at its second stage in the Ligurian Alps; the event will take place from 11:30 am at the Archaeological Museum of Ventimiglia, Via G. Verdi, 5.

The workshop will provide an overview of the actions taken by the Alpine Convention in the field of water management, forests, wood and energy; topics on which the working group of international experts in order to give effect to the commitments made by the Member States, in order to protect population and the alpine

culture. Given the intersectoriality of the topics, the exhibition and the workshops are addressed to a wide audience, with particular reference to local administrators, technicians, high school and university students.

**May 22: meeting of the National Coordination Board of the Italian Presidency in Venice**

According to the calendar of activities of the Italian Presidency, on 22nd May the fifth meeting of the National Coordination Board will be held in Venice. The meeting will be an opportunity for organizations and local governments that have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Italian Presidency to bring ideas and suggestions in view of the 56th Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention.

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