

INTERREG IV ITALIA-AUSTRIA 2007-2013 – PROGETTO 6662
Villaggi degli Alpinisti senza frontiere

INTERREG IV ITALIEN-ÖSTERREICH 2007-2013 – PROJEKT 6662
Bergsteigerdörfer ohne Grenzen

SUMMARY - FINAL REPORT

The three year project “The Mountaineer Village without frontiers – Bergsteigerdoerfer ohne Grenzen” commenced in September 2012. It started as an experimental project where the interested parties, those that carried out the operational aspects, were the Municipalities of Forno di Zoldo, Cibiana di Cadore and Zoppè, the Austrian and Sillian Section of the OeAV, and the CAI Veneto. This initiative will continue as a pilot experience on the model of the Austrian “Bergsteigerdoerfer”, with the objective of promoting a touristic offer based on quality, a sustainable offer aimed at conserving natural territories, territories where technical equipment is limited and the area in question is not excessively populated.

The initiative was promoted and sustained by the Italian and Austrian CAI and is part of the actuated projects of the Alps Convention, the contents of which reflect the philosophy and the inspiring principles of the new touristic offer that, in the “Mountaineer Village without frontiers, finds the concrete operative method. The total cost of the project was € 361.805,00

During the timeframe of the project, the partnership consolidated as a result of the continuous exchanges of opinions and updates on the methods of implementation of the project. The relationships were maintained and reinforced as a result of extensive email and telephone communications and numerous meetings between tourist operators, members of the aforementioned CAI, tourist offices and other parties interested in promoting the development of the territory on many planes, including cultural and productive, and also intent on developing the environment.

The adventure started in Cibiana on 20 September 2012 with the Launch Conference in which 80 people participated, an audience selected by both the Austrian and the Veneto CAI. Present at the event were the operators that had been involved with the initial phase of the project, individuals that had proven much interest in participating in project-based initiatives and training courses, in order to achieve the final certification of a “Bergsteigerdorfer” structure, therefore contributing in the birth of the first Mountaineer Village in Italy.

With the directorship and coordination of the Project Control Committee (CCP) created by the founding partners, and of the Local Group of Frontier Work (GLLT), members of the latter being both founding members and representatives of each economic category, the Work Group (BC), made up of the economic operators, completed all the actions and activities envisaged during the three year period.



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The criteria and requisites for the participation were approved by the CCP and the GLLT, and the economic operatives were able to present their request to participate and work towards all the actions indicated in the project.

With regard to the part dedicated to the hospitality and the exchange of experiences between the two countries, winter and summer seminars were launched, with the participation of 133 CAI officials of both nationalities. Furthermore, youth weeks were organised, with the participation of 56 youngsters and 14 guides.

The partners participated in the Tourist Trade Fair in Milan and Vienna, with great success. Two publications were produced for communications and tourist promotion, these to be distributed proportionally to the participating parties. One publication had a promotional objective (a 52 page bilingual coloured brochure, 20,000 printed copies), the other a historical one (a 120 page document, 5000 printed copies).

Beside the publications, a website was created, with specific characteristics and with functionalities similar to that available for the Austrian Bergsteigerdoerfer. Last but not least, a three day Media trip was organised, involving magazines from specific sectors. 7 journalists participated, all of whom, following their involvement, wrote about their personal experiences with the project, confirming the beauty of the territory and the quality of the services provided.

Finally, on completion of the initiative, a project was undertaken based on the identification and mapping of the route connecting all the hamlets of the Municipality of Forno di Zoldo, of the connection between Forno di Zoldo and Zoppè and, with regard to the Municipality of Cibiana, the route of the Murales (wall paintings) was structured and mapped. This last activity included as a first phase, the mapping and the signage aside from a specific printed reference document.

The resources invested in the territory have already given positive outcomes. The operators have confirmed to having received over 130 guests via this project and there are bookings for the next summer season. The Work Group has had the opportunity to gain experience on the field, acquiring know-how and the necessary skills, slowly absorbing the spirit of the Bergsteigerdorf.

The current challenge is to continue in the effort to work together and in synergy, taking full advantage of the network and the opportunity provided, with the intent that others can experiment this new and innovative idea based on sustainable tourism and in line with the local environment, a type of tourism that allows one to enjoy the nature and the most beautiful mountains “in the world”, preserving the integrity of the location and the authenticity of the people and the traditional activities.



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Forno di Zoldo, 06.03.2015

The Mayor of Forno di Zoldo
Camillo De Pellegrin

