

# Kick-off Meeting



## Welcome address of the Lead Partner

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the kick-off meeting of the ECONNECT project in Vienna. Protection of Alpine biodiversity and natural heritage are central necessities in coping with the challenges of climate change. This requires a proactive transdisciplinary approach reaching well beyond the established protected areas. The project aims to firmly integrate high biodiversity areas and corridors as linking elements in a single ecological network, while simultaneously removing legal and administrative constraints that impede effective Alpine wide cooperation. With 16 project partners and four observers representing the entire Alpine arch ECONNECT strives towards „restoring the web of life“ as stated in the new project by-line.



Prof. Dr. Chris Walzer

## Alpine Ecological Network Initiatives

The importance of ecological networks was recognized in the Conservation of Nature protocol of the Alpine Convention (art. 12) by all Alpine states in 1994. Today three Alps-wide initiatives contribute to the planning and implementation of ecological networks: The Platform „Ecological Network“ of the Alpine Convention provides the political framework. The Ecological Continuum project by ALPARC, CIPRA, ISCAR and WWF is financed with private funds and focuses on awareness raising, communication and implementation in pilot regions. ECONNECT, funded by Inter-reg IV, facilitates an Alps-wide project organisation based on cooperation among public and private stakeholders.

[www.alpine-ecological-network.org](http://www.alpine-ecological-network.org)

## 04/11/2008 Agenda for the Public kick-off

### 16:00 Welcome addresses

- Rector Wolf Dietrich Freiherr v. Fircks-Burgstaller
- Vice rector Prof. Dr. Swetly, VMU
- Representative of the Platform Ecological Networks of the Alpine Convention  
Dr. Christelle Otto (tbc)
- Representative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Representative of the PEEN project,  
Mr. Jan Plesnik (tbc)
- Representative of the UNEP, Harald Egerer
- Representative of the pilot regions, Dr. Michael Vogel

### 17:00 Introduction of the project ECONNECT Lead Partner, Prof. Dr. Chris Walzer

### 17:30 Panel discussion How to move to the next level?

Drivers and obstacles for ecological connectivity in the Alps?

*Participants:*

- Dr. Chris Walzer, Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology
- Ms Céline Randier, EURAC, Legal barriers to ecological connectivity
- Dr. Thomas Scheurer, ISCAR
- Ms Hélène Guillo, Region Rhône Alpes, Dépt. Cartographie du réseau écologique
- Herr Mag. Michael Proschek-Hauptmann, Director of the Austrian Umwelt-Dachverband (tbc)
- Ms Aurelia Ullrich, CIPRA International
- Ms Viktoria Reiss-Enz, Österr. Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie, Planung und Umwelt (tbc)
- Dr. Arthur Kammerer, Leiter des Amtes für Naturparke, Bozen (tbc)

18:30 Dinner buffet

## Who takes part in ECONNECT?

### Lead Partner

#### Austria

- University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna,  
Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology

### Project Partners

#### Austria

- Committee of the National Park Hohe Tauern
- Federal Environment Agency
- National Park Gesäuse
- University of Innsbruck, Institute for Ecology

#### Germany

- Berchtesgaden National Park Administration

#### France

- CEMAGREF
- Council of Department of Isère
- Task Force Protected Areas – Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention

#### Italy

- Alpe Marittime Nature Park
- Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta
- European Academy of Bozen
- Ministry for the Environment
- WWF Italy

#### Liechtenstein

- International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA)

#### Switzerland

- Swiss National Park

### Observers

#### Germany

- Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)

#### Slovenia

- Nature Park Logarska Dolina

#### Switzerland

- Biosfera Val Müstair
- International Scientific Committee for Alpine Research (ISCAR)

## 04/11/2008 Internal PP meeting

- 09:30 Press meeting (in the city of Vienna)
- 10:00 Start of PP-meeting:  
Coordination of Work Package activities
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:15 Co-ordination of Work Package activities and work plan
- 14:15 Plenary presentations and discussions
- 15:30 Coffee break

## 16:00 – 18:30 Public kick-off

The participation in the kick-off is free and the meeting will be held and simultaneous translation will be available for German, Italian, French and English.

## 05/11/2008 Internal PP meeting

- 09:30 Coordination with other initiatives (Continuum project, Platform Ecological Network)
- 10:00 Briefing by Joint Technical Secretariat / Questions
- 10:45 Coffee break
- 11:00 Update on project management issues, open questions
- 12:30 Lunch
- 13:30 Closure of meeting

## Shuttle Service

**On 4 November a shuttle service will be provided after the public kick-off meeting from the UVM main building to the hotels at Wilhelminenberg for those project partners who made reservations there.**

## Location

### Venue for the public kick-off (4 Nov):

Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien  
(UVM – University of Veterinary Medicine)  
Veterinärplatz 1  
A-1210 Vienna  
Tel.: +43 1 250 77 0

Building CA  
(Festsaalgebäude)  
1st floor

For further details how to come to the UVM please look at:  
[www.vu-wien.ac.at/de/universitaet/allgemeines/anreise/](http://www.vu-wien.ac.at/de/universitaet/allgemeines/anreise/)

### Venue for the internal PP meeting (5 Nov):

Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology (FiWi)  
Savoyenstraße 1  
A-1160 Vienna  
[www.fiw.at/lage.html](http://www.fiw.at/lage.html)

### How to reach the FiWi?

Underground line U3 to the final station Ottakring, then change to the bus line 46 B or line 146 B to the station Schloss Wilhelminenberg. The bus will take about 10 minutes and leaves every 15 minutes.



## Registration

**Please register via e-mail until 24 October 2008 at:**

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