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GOOD PRACTICES FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER AND TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT: EXPERIENCES FROM ALPS AND TRANSFERABILITY

M. De Marchi: *Good practices for sustainable water and territorial management: experiences from Alps and transferability.* – Geografie – Sborník ČGS, 109, 2, pp. 145–155 (2004). – The article deals with the application in Alpine area of Italy, Germany and Austria of one of the models to diffuse sustainable choices known as "good practice". A pioneer survey about the application of good practices in water and territorial management is presented with the analysis of main results. Then the successful factors and the transferability of good practice are discussed. The article intends to represent an opportunity of exchanging experiences to implement sustainable decision making about water and territorial management.
KEY WORDS: water management – territorial management – Alps experience.

Introduction

Alps are considered an island of ecological diversity in the middle Europe. The importance of natural dimension and the sensitivity of Alpine area, give to Alpine communities the responsibility for the development of socio-economically and ecologically integrated spatial organisation. So, in the last ten years, into the paradigm of sustainability, Alpine communities have been able to test and implement local strategies with outputs also outside the strict Alpine space.

A survey to collect the sustainability practices of Alpine communities was implemented during the year 2000 through a project financed by the Alpine Space Program within the context of financing from structural funds of the European Commission. Partners of the projects were:

- National Environmental Protection Agency, Provincial Environmental Protection Agency of Trento, Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy)
- Federal ministry for agriculture, forestry, environmental and water management (Austria)
- Bayerisches StaatsMinisterium fur LandesEntwicklung un UnmweltFragen, CIPRA Deutscland (Germany).

All the experiences have been collected in the "Handbook of good practices for sustainable development of the Alpine Space" printed in German, Italian, English (Boso et al. 2001) and published in a Internet Site in 2001.

This paper tries to present some interesting experiences developed in Alpine regions of Italy, Austria and Germany, looking for elements granting the success and transferability of good practices.

In Alpine area of France, Switzerland, Germany, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Slovenia 13 million of people live and work and more than 100 million of people decide to make tourism (Cipra 1998, 2000). A heavy transport network made up by roads, highways, railways cross the Alps joining southern with northern side of Europe.

These are the driving forces of relationships ecosystems and society in the Alps influencing the big change in land use and land cover. (EEA 1995; Diamantini 1996; Cipra 1998; Diamantini, Zanon 1999; Dalla Libera 1999b; De Marchi 1999b, 1999c; EEA 1999; Cipra 2000; Zanon 2000). Despite these critical dynamics Alpine ecosystems show a good quality of biodiversity, an important forested area, and a good extension of cultural landscape produced by the long activity of agriculture and pastoral practices (Scheiring 1996; De Marchi 2000).

Water and river ecosystem quality shows some critical situation near settlements, winter sport areas, intensive farming areas. Lakes in many cases suffer eutrofication even if the scarce population density and the presence of areas far from transportation network offer situation of integrity of water ecosystems. Water quantity and quality is important for the supply of fresh water for human consumption in the densely populated plain areas (Cipra 1998; Callegari, De Marchi 1999; Cipra 2000).

Air quality remain the critical point of Alpine environment specially for the areas near the communication networks and the Alpine cities (Cipra 1998; Dalla Libera 1999a, 1999b; Dalla Libera, L, Dalla Libera, P. 1999; Cipra 2000).

Alps supply communities outside the mountain landscape with fresh water and energy, so the choices of Alpine communities have to deal constantly with the dialectic local-regional: regional decisions about transportation system, energy, water supply, can conflict with local decision on spatial organisation, land use, territorial development (Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Centro di Ecologia Alpina 1997; De Marchi, Diamantini, Mattolin 2000).

Problems and methods: a cooperative work

To understand how Alpine communities are facing the sustainability challenge a survey of implementation of good practices for sustainable development has been realised. The survey was limited to the area financed by the European project, the Alpine regions of Italy, Austria and Germany.

The preparation of survey asked for a strong exchange among the project partners to define "what a good practice is". In the panorama of sustainability after Rio events three main models of implementing sustainability have been consolidated (UN 1997).

The first, the bottom up approach to sustainability, Local Agenda 21 (LA21), deals with mobilisation of local community (mainly at municipal level) to build in a participatory way a local sustainable development plan (ICLEI 1996, 1998a, 1998b).

The second, a top down approach to sustainability, typical of national sustainability plans or regional sustainability plans, is a commitment of national or regional governments to implement sustainability policies defining a "higher level plan" with the task of orienting the whole national or

regional planning system (Australian Government, Department of Environment and Heritage 1992; UK Government 2002).

Good practices represent the third model for sustainability implementation (Habitat 2001). Good practices, like Local Agenda 21, are grass-root way to sustainability, but they are not general and inclusive as LA21, the objective of a good practice is limited and sometime modest, the result is not a plan, but a defined action. Good practices spread up in developing countries and were definitively recognised as important tool for sustainability during the conference Habitat II held in Istanbul in 1996.

Good practice need less preparation and organization of a LA21, it allows local community to learn sustainability trough the commitment in setting and solving a defined problem. This way of dealing with the problems of local community results easier than to deal with a global and multi-sector plan like LA21. A successful good practice give the community the security to face a new sustainability task.

The project partners started meeting in October 1998 to implement the survey and to define the way of result diffusion. It was immediately clear that diffusion of results was the main task of the project. It was decided to produce a handbook in two languages (Italian and German) with English abstracts, the handbook will be printed and also diffused with a Internet Site.

The targets of paper handbook were local administration of Alps, business community, NGOs, local interest groups. The Internet site was devoted to young people, schools and citizens.

During the first half of 1999 it was prepared the document "Criteria for sustainable spatial and regional development, concerning the selection, evaluation and representation of good practice", in which the partners defined and established the basic content for implementation of the project. It also contains common positions concerning the possibility of classifying plans and projects for spatial and regional sustainable development.

In the meeting on 21 March 2000 in Salzburg, it was defined a proposal for the criteria for the selection, analysis and presentation of examples of good practice. The draft, prepared by Austria, was completed in collaboration with the representatives of Italy and Germany and was then approved.

The fundamental points were summarised in 12 basic criteria and in a procedure for the presentation of the good practice (see tab. 1). This allowed the comparison with the preliminary requirements identified and with the projects implemented in completely different contexts.

The key point were that attention must be paid not so much to the technical-quantitative characteristics of the practice, such as for example to the money necessary for realisation or results in terms of the number of activities, as rather to the qualitative peculiarities and the innovative processes which make them exemplary.

What is important is not so much the possibility of adapting pre-packaged experiences to other contexts, as the supplying of valid examples of sustainable planning on the basis of which to communicate and exchange intentions, ideas, comments and further proposals.

Consequently, the objective was to leave sufficient space for the highlighting of specific national aspects, rather than aiming to harmonise orientation for the determination of issues and operating methods.

Starting from April 2000 the surveys was implemented through visits, interviews, phone contacts, collection of documents (Tab. 2).

Tab. 1 – Criteria for the selection of good practices

I – Limitation of use or depreciation of natural resources, reduction of existing burdens·

- Reduction of use pressure on land resources caused by settlement and expansion of infrastructure
- Reduction of the pressure on energy resources partially caused by settlement and infrastructure expansion, and switching from fossil to renewable energy sources, preferably available in the Alpine region
- Avoidance of over-use of near nature regions·
- Avoidance of endangerment of variety through under-use

II – Social aspects

- Avoidance of poorly adapted measures by focusing on participation, local initiative and durable process orientation·
- Use of societal variety as an advantage, e.g. through timely instigation of initiatives and through inner-Alpine or trans-Alpine co-operation

III – Economic aspects

- Quantitative orientation of economic activities along the lines of limitedness of natural resources as well as of existing infrastructure available
- Qualitative orientation of economic activities along the lines of the availability of regional resources in regional and immaterial respect

IV – Value orientation

- Determination of normative components of sustainability in spatial planning and development in the Alpine space

V – Decision system

- Adaptation of the structures at the base of decision systems and processes (politics, legal system, administration) to Alpine specific resource oriented objectives

VI – Integration

- Integrated consideration of social, economic and ecological aspects, with the latter compound having priority on account of the limiting character characteristic of Alpine space
- Fitting into superior considerations by way of explicit reference to all-Alpine or trans-Alpine conceptions with sustainability aspects

Analysis of Alpine good practices

Good practices were selected following the criteria above that can be summarised in four aspects fundamental for sustainable spatial development: enhancement of the quality of life, participation of actors, reinforcement of regional economies, maintenance of the ecological heritage.

Many experiences were analysed, but only 37 were considered good practices and appeared in the handbook (tab. 3). The distribution of good practices among the three countries shows as the German side of Alps produced more experiences: 17 in Austria, 14 in Germany and only 6 in Italy. However in Italy good practices are concentrated in the Autonomous Province of Trento (4 cases), the other two cases one is in the Autonomous Province of Bozen the other in the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (BOSO et al. 2001).

It is important to stress as the work was really a pioneer attempt, considering the difficulties to individuate and evaluate experiences in a wide area in which local communities have as last objective the "publicity" of their successful experiences.

The 37 good practices has been analysed considering:

Tab. 2 – Two examples of good practices in water and territory management

EGAR - Catchment areas in Alpine Regions The EGAR Project allowed various local, provincial and federal authorities as well as technical bodies in Germany, Italy and Austria to co-operate on an interdisciplinary basis in order to deal with physical planning issues in the Alps in a more transparent and efficient way. Potential dangers from torrents and avalanches are observed to define high risk areas and to plan land use in a sustainable and precautionary way. Pilot actions were developed in two alpine areas, the Zillertal and the torrent areas between Garmisch-Partenkirchen an Oberammergau, to collect and compare data about land use and natural dangers. These areas revealed existing and potential conflicts among river geomorphology and social use of territory and conflicts among different actors. The know-how acquired through this project leads to smarter tools for spatial sustainable planning, conflict management and may serve as a model for other regions.
Clean Drinking Water for Munich In Mangfalltal region, about 40 kilometers south of the city of Munich, more than 2250 hectares of agricultural land are being worked under the guidelines of biological farming, to prevent any pesticides or fertilizers from polluting the most important resource of fresh water of Bavarian capital.The Stadtwerke München GmbH (the Munich water facilities) have started a special program to promote organic farming, paying the farmers for their participation at the programme, this represent a pioneer innovation in programme of water management. Also, the Stadtwerke München GmbH cooperates with the organic farming organisations, trying to establish ways to sell the products in the region.All these activities have not only led to a natural, environmentally sound way of agriculture, a beautiful idyllic landscape and an effective conservation of the cultural landscape and traditional farming, but also saves the city of Munich a lot of money: during most of the year, no chemical treatment whatsoever of the drinking water is necessary.

- the issues linked with the Alpine Convention[1] and relative protocols of reference (tab. 4)
- the three dimensions of sustainability (environmental conservation, economic development and social improvement and participation; tab. 5)
- the benefits of good practice implementation (tab. 6)

Each good practice normally touches many dimensions of sustainability, many protocols of Alpine Convention, and offers many benefits.

The benefits of good practices are grouped in six categories, which covers a large numbers of punctual benefits, as table 7 shows. Each project can provide more than one punctual benefits.

Good practices: successful factors and transferability

The best way to extend know how as regards the operational context of complex and strongly interrelated issues is to produce practical examples. In territorial development the propagation of so-called "valid examples" is a particularly effective method for the spreading of knowledge. The documentation of examples of "Good Practice" indeed has a double effect: on the one hand it allows the authors to make known the solutions adopted by them, while on the other it supplies users with an outline of effective solutions.

[1] The aim of Alpine Convention is the maintenance of local populations and traditional settlements, through the planning of infrastructures responding to development needs and environmental protection, in order to avoid mountain depopulation (Alpine Convention 1991); http://www.cipra.org.

Tab. 3 – List of selected good practices

Country	Good Practices
A	The Noric region
A	Biosphere reserve Grosse Walsertal
A	Regional cooperation Villach – the city and its surrounding
A	The environmental program of upper Austria
A	The region Kirchdorf – a region for nature, work and leisure
A	The way of Steinbach – an example of local regeneration
A	Traditional farm housing in Salzburg
A	Program for a sustainable regional development in Lungau
A	"Vital land" – Allgäu/Tirol
A	Egar – catchment area in alpine regions
A	Alpine park Karwendel
A	Nature and living Bregenzer Wald
A	Sustainable mobility – car-free tourism
A	Potential settlement areas in the alpine region
A	E5 – program for an efficient energy policy within the communities
A	Alliance in the alps – network of communities
A	Climate alliance Austria – climate protection in small communities
I	Environmental plan for the sustainable development of the province of Trento
I	Forestry development plan for the pine' plateau
I	Participatory urban development plan in an alpine commune – Sutrio
I	1998 state of the environment report of autonomous province of Trento
I	The Naturno model: participatory ecological planning at local government level
I	The socio-economic development plan for Roncegno
D	Biomass heating facilities Reit im Winkl
D	Restoration and management of alpine meadows at Mittenwald
D	"Ecologically sound ski-touring" of Germany's alpine club
D	Eu-life-projects "wetland restoration in the southern Chiemgau area"
D	Ecological restoration of the Gschwender horn skiing area
D	Landscape preservation and sustainable tourism in Hindelang
D	Interest group for car-free tourism towns in Bavaria
D	Regional rural development Auerbergland
D	Clean drinking water for Munich
D	Nature and culture between Oberammergau und Reutte
D	Sustainable development Achental
D	Sustainable land use in Stephanskirchen
D	Electronic travel logistics in the Berchtesgaden national park region
D	"Cars on holiday" – Public transport concept southern Allgäu

Tab. 4 – Good practices and the protocols of Alpine Convention

Protocol	N° of good practices
Energy	13
Transports	13
Tourism	18
Soil protection	13
Mountain forests	6
Sustainable development and territorial planning	15
Mountain farming	14
Nature and landscape protection	21

However, it not forget that the effective extension of "Good Practice" is not based on imitation of the solutions illustrated, but rather on the intelligent application of these to specific local context.

What is important to understand is first of all why the practice worked and why not. After the analysis of typology of practice and benefits it becomes useful to highlight the successful factors of implemented good practices. Table 8 shows in details the 8 categories of successful

Tab. 5 – Good practices and dimensions of sustainability

	Environmental conservation	Economic development	Social improvement and participation
Austria	16	11	9
Italy	5	1	3
Germany	14	4	2
Total	35	16	14

Tab. 6 – Benefits of good practices

	Air and Mobility	Landscape	Planning	Values and Culture	Political and Social Issues	Local Economy and Tourism
Austria	9	4	4	8	2	10
Italy	1	1	3	2	2	3
Germany	6	7	1	8	2	5
Total	16	12	8	18	6	18

Tab. 7 – Detailed benefits of good practices

Category of benefits	Detailed benefits	n° of good practices
Air and mobility	Development of alternative energy	9
	Energy saving	4
	Improvement of sustainable mobility	6
	Municipal energy balance	3
	Reduction of air pollutants	8
	Reduction of noise	6
Landscape	Conservation of biodiversity	7
	Ecological architecture	1
	Ecological restoration	1
	Growth of organic farming	4
	Reduction of water pollutants	1
	Waste reduction	1
Planning	Environmental risk monitoring	2
	Prevention of soil erosion	1
	Rural building projects	1
	Scientific supporting to political sustainable planning	3
	Sustainable territorial planning	1
	Urban restoration	1
Values and Culture	Change of values and behaviours	10
	Improvement of Environmental education and consciousness	7
	Reinforcement of traditional culture	3
Political and Social Issues	Welfare	1
	Empowerment	5
Local Economy and Tourism	Growth of local typical productions and marketing	10
	Sustainable tourism management	9
	Economic growth	5

factors resulted from the survey. Is it possible to group in a more "condensed" way the successful factors in two main "macro" categories: the technical dimension and the cooperative dimension.

Tab. 8 – Successful factors of good practices

	Austria	Italy	Germany	Total
Methodology and expertise	3	3	4	10
Information	4	2	1	7
Funds	2	3	1	6
Wide cooperation among citizens, private and public organization, NGO	10	4	11	25
Cooperation Among Local Authorities.	7		4	11
Cooperation among Local and Central Authorities	6	1	1	8
Transboundary cooperation	4			4
Commitment of Local Authorities	1	1	2	4

The first deals with expertise of facilitators, methodologies used to implement the practice, the availability of financial resources and the diffusion of information. The second deals with different typology of cooperation: among different actors (NGO, citizens, administrations, business), among different scale (local, central, trans-boundary).

The main successful factor seems to be the wide cooperation among different actors (25 good practices stress this issue). This main "factor" is followed by two others: the cooperation among local authorities (11 cases), methodology and expertise (10 cases).

Even if technical factors represent only 23 cases than "cooperative" factors weight for 52 cases, it is important to stress as good cooperation is also "matter" of good expertise and good ability of facilitate participatory processes.

To understand better successful factors it is possible to look for problems faced by the good practice implementation. The survey shows as problems resulted connected with cooperation: difficulties of involvement of firms, citizens, other local authorities, or instability of local administration.

However in the 37 reported practices problems were not able to "kill" the experience and normally they were solved through the adoption of organizational solutions facilitating exchange and participation.

The transferability of a good practice has more to do with cooperation participation and the ability of defining an appropriate organisation than with technical innovation per se.

After one decade of spotted experiences of sustainability the need now is to consolidate sustainability practice and to embody sustainability approach into current individual, public, private, actions.

Communities of the Alps, as many innovative communities in the world, have produced in this ten years a wide spectrum of sustainability experiences in research, business, public administration, civil society, and in different sectors from tourism to farming, from transport to landscape water and territorial management.

It is time now for a second generation of sustainability actions based not much in pilot experiences but more on consolidation and diffusion of winning practices. So, exchange among partners, monitoring of successful experiences, and a strategic integration among knowledge communication and practices, are the kernels of definitive transition to sustainability horizon.

Sustainability culture should become diffused orientation of decision making practices not remaining the heritage of enlightened minorities or the theoretical benchmark far from reality.

Daily decision making of individuals, firms, public administrations, have to face condition of complexity and uncertainity and needs sustainability vision to take strategic and adaptative decisions.

In this changing context sustainability are not optional decision, but are becoming decided option. This new decision making paradigm can be easily supported by a wise diffusion, exchange, confrontation and integration of existing experiences to build new futures, as Winograd and Flores (1986) wrote: "The important is not to choice but to create".

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Shrnutí

ZKUŠENOSTI Z ALP S VHODNÝMI POSTUPY PRO ŘÍZENÍ ÚZEMÍ A UDRŽITELNÉ HOSPODAŘENÍ S VODOU A JEJICH APLIKOVATELNOST

Alpy jsou považovány za ostrůvek ekologické rozmanitosti ve střední Evropě. Významná přírodní poloha a citlivost alpské oblasti přináší alpským obcím odpovědnost za rozvoj sociálně ekonomické a ekologicky integrované organizace prostoru. Proto byly alpské obce v posledních deseti letech jako vzor udržitelnosti schopné vyzkoušet a realizovat místní strategie, jejichž výsledky přesahují rámec alpského prostoru.

Pro pochopení toho, jak alpské obce přispěly k tomuto cíli, byl v průběhu roku 2000 vypracován přehled o vhodných postupech pro udržitelný rozvoj. Přehled se omezil na akce alpských oblastí Itálie, Rakouska a Německa, financované v rámci evropského projektu. Vhodné postupy byly vybrány podle čtyř základních kritérií pro udržitelný rozvoj prostředí: zvýšení kvality života, zapojení účastníků, posílení ekonomiky oblasti, zachování ekologického odkazu.

Mnoho zkušeností bylo analyzováno, ale pouze 37 bylo shledáno za postupy vhodné a bylo publikováno v „Příručce vhodných postupů pro udržitelný rozvoj alpského prostoru", vydané v němčině, italštině a angličtině (Boso a kol. 2001) a na Internetu v roce 2001.

Je třeba zdůraznit, že při práci byl uplatněn opravdu průkopnický přístup, zvažující obtíže při odlišení a vyhodnocení zkušeností v rozsáhlé oblasti, v níž se místní obce staly předmětem zveřejnění svých úspěšných zkušeností.

37 vhodných postupů, které byly analyzovány, se týká: otázek vyplývajících z Alpské konvence a navazujících doporučení; tří ukazatelů udržitelnosti (zachování životního prostředí, ekonomického rozvoje, zlepšení sociální úrovně a účasti); výhod realizace vhodného postupu.

Každý vhodný postup se týká mnoha ukazatelů udržitelnosti, mnoha pravidel Alpské konvence a nabízí řadu výhod. Dokumentace příkladů „vhodného postupu" má dvojí účinek: na jedné straně umožňuje autorům zveřejnit řešení, která přijali, na druhé straně nabízí uživatelům přehled účinných řešení.

Nelze však zapomenout na to, že účinné uplatnění „vhodného postupu" nespočívá v napodobení uvedených řešení, ale spíše v jejich inteligentním přizpůsobení specifickým místním podmínkám. Uplatnění vhodného postupu je možné v rámci spolupráce a účasti a schopnosti definovat odpovídající organizaci spíše než formou samotné technické inovace.

Seznam vybraných vhodných postupů (země – vhodný postup): Rakousko – Oblast Noric, R – Zachování biosféry v Grosse Walsertalu, R – Oblastní spolupráce města Villach a okolí, R – Program ochrany životního prostředí v Horních Rakousích, R – Oblast Kirchdorf – místo pro přírodu, práci a odpočinek, R – Cesta Steinbachu – příklad místní regenerace, R – Tradiční vesnické bydlení v Salzburgu, R – Program udržitelného oblastního rozvoje v Lungau, R – „Živá země" – Allgäu/Tyrolsko, R – Egar – sběrné území v alpské oblasti, R – Alpský park Karwendel, R – Přírodní a životní podmínky v Bregenzer Wald, R – Udržitelná mobilita – turistika bez automobilů, R – Vhodná místa pro osídlení v alpské oblasti, R – E5 – program účinné energetické politiky v rámci obcí, R – Spojenectví v Alpách – síť obcí, R – Klimatické propojení Rakouska – ochrana ovzduší v malých obcích, R – Plánování udržitelného rozvoje životního prostředí v provincii Trento, Itálie – Plánování rozvoje zalesnění náhorních plošin, I – Plánování městského rozvoje v alpské komuně Sutrio, I – 1998 Model Naturno: ekologické plánování na místní správní úrovni, I – Plán sociálně ekonomického rozvoje pro Roncegno, Německo – Možnosti vytápění biomasou v Reit im Winkl, N – Obnova a udržování alpských luk v Mittenwaldu, N – Živé projekty EU „obnova mokřin v jižní části Chiemgau", N – Obnova ekologických podmínek v lyžařské oblasti Gschwenderu, N – Ochrana krajiny a udržitelný turistický ruch v Hindelangu, A -Zájmová skupina pro turistiku bez automobilů v bavorských městech, A – Oblastní rozvoj venkova Auerberglandu, N – Čistá pitná voda pro Mnichov, N – Příroda a kultura mezi Oberammergau a Reutte, N – Udržitelný rozvoj Achentalu, N – Udržitelné využívání půdy v Stephanskirchen, N – Elektronická organizace cestovního ruchu na území Berchtestgadenského národního parku, N – „Automobily na dovolené" Koncepce veřejné dopravy v jižní části Allgäu.

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