

WIKIAlps: the online encyclopaedia for spatial development in the Alps EURAC presents the portal and how to use it at a public meeting

The Alps are a unique ecosystem in the world and a heritage that must be safeguarded. This means that the Alpine region must be considered as a whole, irrespective of national borders. It is in this context that EURAC, in collaboration with six partners from different Alpine countries, has developed WIKIAlps, an online encyclopaedia dedicated to spatial development in the Alps. The portal will be presented at EURAC on Thursday, 4 December at a public meeting where the encyclopaedia of the Alps can be experienced first-hand.

The Alpine region is a limited space where economic, social and environmental needs have to co-exist. That is why the issue of spatial development is crucial for the entire Alpine region. Often, however, decisions in these areas are taken at local or regional level even though matters such as protection of the landscape, management of water resources or traffic issues affect all Alpine countries and should be managed via a common approach. This is why researchers at EURAC have been working with partners from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia and France to create a portal that will facilitate access to the results of research projects concerning the Alpine region.

The portal has been online since summer and its pages have subsequently filled with guidelines, recommendations and reports. The project results have been categorised to allow administrators, public officials, researchers and those involved in spatial development to gain rapid and easy access to the information they need. Data can be filtered by country, language, subject area, addressees and institutions involved. The aim is to offer practical help to those working in the area of the sustainable development of Alpine areas by offering structured access to the methods, guidelines, data, tools and results of research projects.

The WIKIAlps online encyclopaedia will be presented on Thursday, 4 December at EURAC during the final project conference. At the meeting will be presented reports from the researchers who have developed the portal followed by a discussion with representatives of the Alpine Convention, the International Commission for the Protection of the Alps (CIPRA) and from the European Alpine Space Programme, as well as a practical session where, accompanied by researchers, participants will have the opportunity to browse the wiki and its database.

The conference is open to all and represents an opportunity to learn more about WIKIAlps and its functions since, like Wikipedia, its pages can be created and modified by anyone. The conference will be held in English. For information about the event please call 0471 055 333.

The event has been certified as a “Going Green Event” by the South Tyrol Environmental Agency in Bozen.

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