



**Meeting minutes of the 1st General Assembly 2023
of the "Alpine Town of the Year" Association
17 March 2023, Sondrio, 9:00 to 12:30**

Member towns present

- 1) Bad Reichenhall: Josef Dennerl (online, partly)
- 2) Belluno: Paolo Luciani
- 3) Biella: Barbara Greggio
- 4) Chamonix-Mont-Blanc: Michèle Rabbiosi, Etienne Grillot
- 5) Idrija: Tomaž Vencelj, Karmen Makuc
- 6) Lecco: Giovanni Cattaneo
- 7) Morbegno: Alberto Gavazzi, Maria Larossa, Oscar del Barba
- 8) Passy: Raphaël Castéra (online)
- 9) Sondrio: Marcella Fratta, Marco Scaramellini (for agenda item 1), Stefania Stoppani
- 10) Sonthofen: Ingrid Fischer, Sonja Karnath, Manfred Maier
- 11) Tolmin: Alen Červ, Špela Kranjc
- 12) Villach: Christine Redlein (online)

Jury: Gerhard Leeb

Secretariat: Magdalena Holzer, Caroline Begle.

Excused member towns: Bressanone-Brixen, Annecy, Tolmezzo, Brig-Glis, Bolzano-Bozen, Chambéry, Trento.

Excused jury members: Norbert Weixlbaumer, Cristina del Biaggio.



Alpine Town of the Year Association



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Reading notes:

- Resolutions in bold and orange
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- For faster reading: Parts in bold and black

Attachments to the meeting minutes and photos:

<https://www.alpinetowns.org/general-assembly-sondrio/>

Password: WithPassion!



1) Welcome, approval of the agenda, possible changes or additions to the agenda and verification of the quorum

Greetings

Ingrid Fischer welcomes the General Assembly and the hosts from Sondrio. Mayor Marco Scaramellini welcomes the representatives and thanks Marcella Fratta, who has been very engaged in the preparations of the events. Sondrio had laid the first stone and the city being a member of this Alpine family. He thanked those present and looked forward to the initiatives of the other members. Ingrid Fischer thanks Marco Scaramellini and his team, Marcella Fratta and Stefania Stoppani for their hospitality. She is also pleased to welcome new faces to the meeting: Alen Červ, new mayor of Tolmin and Giovanni Cattaneo from Lecco. She also welcomes the participants who are attending the Assembly via Zoom: Christine Redlein, Villach, Raphaël Castéra, Passy and Josef Dennerl, Bad Reichenhall.

The invitation and agenda were sent out 6 weeks before today's meeting. No requests for further agenda items have been received. Are there any further requests for agenda items to be dealt with under "Any Other Business"? No.

→ **The General Assembly has no objections and no further motions.
Resolution: the agenda is adopted unanimously.**

2) Approval of the meeting minutes of the 2nd General Assembly 2022

10 of 19 Alpine towns are present at this point (Lecco and Morbegno from agenda item 5 onwards), **the quorum is reached**. Each member town has one vote. Voting is done with the town cards that have been distributed.

Do you agree with the meeting minutes of the 2nd General Assembly of 14 October 2022 in Passy, which you found on Google Drive as preparatory material?

→ **9 out of 10 present (physical and virtual) Alpine Towns agree, one Alpine Town abstains, there are no votes against.
Resolution: The General Assembly agrees with the content of the minutes of the 2nd General Assembly 2022.**

3) Welcome in Sondrio, presentation of the Town's sustainable policies

Marcella Fratta presents the activities of the town of Sondrio:

- The new logo of Sondrio respects the most important elements of the town: vineyards, mountains and water.
- Sondrio is a green city, the awareness and will for it has only developed in the last 10 years: the main station with the main square has been planted with trees. There is a bike rental service that shows that it is possible to discover the area by environmentally friendly



vehicle. The rented bike can be parked on the way, there are also repair facilities for your own bike in the city. This is a service for green tourism. Bike sharing has been set up and charging stations for eBikes.

- Car sharing and charging points have recently been set up at numerous locations in the city. This was strongly supported by the municipal council.
- Public transport is promoted to citizens.
- For 37 years there has been a documentary film festival, an international competition with about 100-120 directors from all over the world who submit documentaries about nature parks. The jury selects around 15 films. During this time, there are many international guests in the city.
- There is a multitude of public green spaces and gardens in the city, maintenance is done by the municipality.
- Beautiful hiking trails through the vineyards have been created, there are new cycle paths and footpaths, and recently there is a cycle path directly along the Mallero River, which connects the town with a park. It allows being in the middle of nature, without having to go directly into the mountains.
- There are options for waste disposal and special containers for cigarette butts. On 30 May is International Tobacco Day, students collect cigarette butts in an organised campaign. This is also to raise awareness of how long it takes for them to decompose.
- Sondrio is a city with many historical and culturally important buildings. For example, the monastery, which was bought by a winegrower, or the city castle.
- An architectural highlight is the bridge (Sky bridge), a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the river.
- There are numerous solar panels on the roofs, smart heating systems, LED lighting, etc. The municipality tries to keep the environment in mind with all resources and to preserve it.
- 2026 Olympic Games will be held in the province. Mayor Scaramellini attends all meetings so that it is known what infrastructure will be used and what impact it will have on Sondrio. No events will take place in Sondrio, but access to the venues affects the city.

Ingrid thanks Marcella Fratta for the presentation and asks Gerhard Leeb as jury member to speak.

Gerhard Leeb: Sondrio was Alpine Town of the Year very early on and met the requirements. Sondrio has developed positively! The city now radiates a calmness. It calms everyone who comes here. He thinks it is good that the city can experience the Olympic circus with all the background. By coming here, he has been able to experience the traffic problems that already exist. He hopes that Sondrio will have a louder voice in the Alpine town family against the plans of the regional government regarding the Olympics.

See slides, link page 2.

4) Closing of the Accounts 2022

In 2022, the Alpine Town of the Year Association received 92,801.00 euros and spent 176,309.61 euros, closing with an annual result of -83,508.61 euros. Of the expenditure, 75,000 euros (rounded) relate to the Climate Action in Alpine Towns project. These funds, financed by the Swiss



Federal Office for Spatial Development, were set aside for this purpose in 2021. A further 10,000 euros of expenditure relates to an unpaid outstanding receivable for AlpWeek 2020 (out-of-period expenses), received from Région Sud, France. The remaining expenses (91,335.38 euros) relate to the regular operations of the association. The association's assets at the end of the 2022 financial year amount to 54,002.20 euros.

The income came from membership fees and project-related funding from the EU Erasmus+ funding programme (Alps2030). The Board of Directors and the Secretariat would like to express their sincere thanks to all Alpine towns and funding bodies for making the ongoing activities of the Association and the implementation of projects possible. The annual accounts are prepared by the tax consultant Christian Sprinkart in Sonthofen, who also advises the association on tax issues.

Auditor Christine Redlein, who participates online, confirms that as every year, the auditors received the documents. The invoices were checked on a random basis, as were the account sheets. Everything was complete and comprehensible. There are no questions.

5) Discharge of the Executive Board and the Secretariat

The auditors of the association "Alpine Town of the Year e.V." have audited the closing of accounts 2022 and found that:

- all necessary documents have been provided;
- the accounts have been properly kept;
- the balance sheet and the profit and loss account are correctly prepared and
- the supplementary explanations for the individual items are comprehensible and well-founded.

The net loss for the year 2022 amounts to -83,508.61 euros. The assets of the association amount to 54,002.20 Euro. As at 31 December 2022, the profit carried forward amounts to the same amount of 54,002.20 euros. Signed by Amina Bargach, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc and Christine Redlein, Villach. (See annexes to these minutes, access page 2).

The auditors Christine Redlein and Amina Bargach recommend that the General Assembly approve the 2022 annual accounts and discharge the Executive Office and the Board.

→ **11 out of 11 towns present at this time agree. There are no votes against and no abstentions.**

Resolution: The General Assembly approves the financial statement 2022 and discharges the Executive Board and the office.

6) Election of the Auditors

The auditors Christine Redlein and Amina Bargach stand for re-election. There are no further candidates.

Do you vote for Christine Redlein as auditor of the association?

→ **11 of 11 towns present at this time agree. The General Assembly unanimously elects Christine Redlein as auditor of the Alpine Town of the Year Association. There are no abstentions and no votes against.**



Do you vote for Amina Bargach as auditor of the association?

→ 11 of 11 towns present at this time agree. The General Assembly unanimously elects Amina Bargach as auditor of the Alpine Town of the Year Association. There are no abstentions and no votes against.

Both candidates accept their election.

7) Tax liability of our association: A) Updating the statutes: Non-profit status, B) Taxes and C) Insurances

A) Non-profit status: Proposed resolution

“Since it can be assumed that the "Alpine Town of the Year" Association is currently not a non-profit organisation, the Articles of Association in the current version of 18.3.2022 will be amended by this resolution in such a way that all regulations that mention a non-profit organisation are to be removed from the Articles of Association in order to comply with the tax law requirements of German association law. The texts that are to be removed are marked in colour in the Articles of Association, which are attached to these Minutes and which were also sent out with the invitation to today's General Assembly.

Article 15.1. shall also be removed and shall be replaced by the following:

"In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the General Assembly shall determine who shall receive the assets of the Association or whether they shall be distributed to the regular members of the Association." “

The general assembly will be asked at the second general assembly in 2023 whether it wants to become a non-profit association according to German association law or not, as this requires some preparatory activities. The association's board and office have been aware of this fact since the beginning of December. In principle, the association has always been a non-profit organisation. The development of statutes that are non-profit according to German association law requires a longer time than was possible until this first general assembly in 2023. According to our tax advisor, this step is necessary so that the annual financial statements of all previous years can be correctly processed for tax purposes. In detail:

Adapt: §1: It is a ~~non-profit~~-association with its registered office in Sonthofen (D).

Delete: §2.4 ~~The association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes in the sense of the section "Tax-privileged purposes" of the German Tax Code. The association is selflessly active; it does not pursue its own economic purposes. It does not seek economic gain or profit.~~

Adapt: §7.2.4. other income earned by the association from its activities, ~~while maintaining its non-profit status.~~



Delete: §13.3 In addition, the provisions of the tax code for non-profit organisations regarding further record-keeping obligations must be taken into account.

Delete: §15.1 In the event of the dissolution of the Association or the discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the Association shall be used for tax-privileged purposes. Resolutions on the future use of the Association's assets may only be carried out with the consent of the competent tax office.

New: See proposed resolution on page 6 of the minutes.

There are no questions. **Do the members of the Alpine Town of the Year Association agree with the proposed amendment to the Association's Statutes sent out 6 weeks before today's General Meeting?**

→ **12 of the 12 members present at the time voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.**

Resolution: The General Assembly unanimously adopts the proposed amendments to the Statutes and the proposed resolution.

B) Taxes:

Our tax advisor Christian Sprinkart will submit all annual financial statements from previous years to the tax office. This could result in a tax demand. According to our tax advisor's calculations, this will be small, as the association has never made large profits. There are no questions.

C) Insurance

We inform that the association will take out liability insurance for its board members. Here we are following a recommendation of our tax advisor. This decision is within the decision-making power of the Executive Board, which, however, wishes to inform the General Assembly of this. There are no questions.

8) Update of the statutes of the Association

In order to submit a well-founded proposal to the general assembly as to whether the association's non-profit status with all the associated tax and legal aspects is worth striving for according to the law applicable to us with the association's headquarters in Sonthofen, more time is needed than we have had since December up to the present general assembly.

In principle, we have always acted in a charitable sense, but German tax law imposes restrictions that could lead to fundamental changes: for example

- **the purpose of the association must not be to award a title -> title "Alpine Town of the Year**
- **or further, grants to members are only possible to a limited extent -> necessary for project funds**
- **or the accounting effort is higher, which ties up a lot of resources for a small association.**

Raphaël Castéra notes that European association law could be applied, as well as French association law as a possible variant.



Magdalena Holzer thanks for the information. **The Board and the office explain that "non-profit" sounds good and of course it is also our endeavour, but to award the title alone is not possible as a non-profit association according to German association law. There are some requirements there that need to be considered carefully. Therefore, the office and the board suggest taking time to clarify all questions, if necessary with external support from experts, and then to submit a well-founded proposal for the seat of the association and the statutes to the general meeting in autumn.**

Does the General Assembly agree with this?

→ **12 of the 12 members present at the time voted in favour. There were no votes against and no abstentions.**

The General Assembly unanimously agrees that the Executive Board should carry out the necessary clarification of the advantages and disadvantages of non-profit status and submit a proposal to the General Assembly in the autumn for a vote.

9) Report of the Executive Board

Since the 2nd General Assembly 2022 in Passy

- **Ingrid Fischer participated in the Alpine Conference in Brig-Glis. Some results: Simplon Alliance and a new multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Convention was elaborated and the Report on the State of the Alps, in which cities and municipalities play a major role.** The report is available in the conference room. It is about all towns, not only in our association, and it goes to the grassroots, to people who live in towns. Towns and cities are often the subject of conferences and workshops, but the people on the ground are too seldom dealt with. With the Report on the State of the Alps, something has been set in motion and they want to involve the people in the towns. Ingrid Fischer was allowed to speak there and report on the association, the exchange and the activities. **The presidency of the Alpine Convention was handed over from Switzerland to Slovenia at the end of the year.** The Secretary General of the Alpine Convention, Alenka Smerkolj, was recently a guest at the Alpine Convention Youth Parliament in Sonthofen and gave an insight into the Slovenian presidency programme.
- Clarifications on tax matters and non-profit status with tax consultant Christian Sprinkart, support from Manfred Maier.
- Board meeting in Passy and here in Sondrio the day before.
- **Barbara Greggio reports that the town of Cuneo is interested in applying for Alpine Town of the Year.** Biella supports Cuneo in its candidacy. The Italian classification of Legambiente has ranked Cuneo among the 10 most ecological towns in Italy. A possible candidacy for the association was discussed with a town councillor and river contracts were discussed. This is relevant for cooperation between the towns. In Passy, students from Biella were present, who brought their experience to a riverside in New Zealand, which was recognised as a legal entity. This could also be implemented in Biella, where white water systems are currently being assessed. In Cuneo it is similar, it is about a river landscape, water works and drought. **The UN has declared 2024 as the Year of Water.**



If there are other towns that want to work on this issue, they are welcome to collaborate.

Gerhard Leeb adds that Cuneo has been his favourite candidate for 15 years because it is very unknown in the Cuneo - Turin - Milano triangle. It does not benefit as much as the other two towns, although it is beautiful and architecturally interesting city. As a jury member, he could write to the mayor and encourage him to run. Regarding water: In Villach there is a generational contract that water must not be privatised.

Ingrid thanks them and discusses with the board, which is looking for interested candidate towns. The application deadline for 2024 is the end of May.

10) Report and Outlook of the Secretariat

- Projects

- **Climate Action in Alpine Towns has been completed.** The 8 towns of Annecy, Belluno, Brig-Glis, Chambéry, Idrija, Tolmin, Trento and Sonthofen have implemented climate change adaptation measures with citizen participation.
- Final webinar in December with reports from the towns, as well as examples of implementations, e.g. Sponge City concept. A follow-up report and the presentations can be found online: <https://www.alpinetowns.org/effective-climate-measures/>
- **Alps2030**, with the participation of the towns of Idrija, Tolmin and Belluno: final report was handed in, the project is **also completed**.
- Project development with CIPRA International:
 - **Biella is a pilot region in a project on unsealing.**
 - **SteinReich - Nature and Life in Heaps**
We are looking for 5 pilot regions that would like to carry out something with stones or cairns in peri-urban and rural areas. These provide habitats for insects, amphibians and birds. There will be workshops with young people and a final product with art school(s). There is funding for implementation, anyone interested please get in touch.
- **AlpWeek 2024:** there was a kick-off meeting of the consortium of the observers to the Alpine Convention. The Slovenian Presidency welcomes an AlpWeek, the topic and location are not yet fixed, probably in autumn 2024. The Alpine Conference is planned for January 2025.
- We are working on a **project proposal for a "Climathon"**, where young people develop ideas in pilot towns, which are then implemented together.

- Political activities

- Eusalp: **Presentation of Climate Action in Alpine Towns at the Spatial Planning Working Group at the Eusalp Forum in Trento in November 2022.**



- **Input to the presentation of the 9th Report on the State of the Alps on the topic of Alpine Towns**, handover of the presidency to Slovenia
- **10th Report on the State of the Alps of the Alpine Convention: topic is "Quality of Life for All"**; first meeting in February 2023, Next meetings: 17 April online and 20 June in Radovljica. **Anyone interested in participating, please get in touch.**

- **Administrative tasks**
 - Follow-up to the General Assembly in Passy
 - Preparation of the General Assembly in Sondrio
 - Tax clarifications
 - Questions about non-profit status
 - Annual accounts

- **Update on the results of the Master's thesis by Valentin Brunner**

The results of Valentin Brunner's master's thesis on "Added value of membership in an international town network using the example of the Alpine Town of the Year Association" are available. It will be sent to the members of the association.

For us, we draw the following tasks from the results:

- **Use website for internal use with password access** - for members only; e.g. for good examples
- **Setting a thematic focus -> we define for ourselves the theme of the Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention: quality of life for all**
- **Title "Alpine Town of the Year" has added tourist value -> Use of the logo by the towns, e.g. also by tourism associations**
- **The association is small, this is valuable -> promote informal time and live meetings**
- **Regional Alpine Town Meetings**, e.g. The groups can discuss a topic that concerns these towns. There is one person who supervises and moderates, but inputs from external people are possible. We would like to start or revive this this year.
 - In France with all French towns as well as Brig-Glis
 - in Slovenia with Villach,
 - in Italy, a group around Tolmezzo/Belluno/Bressanone and a
 - with Morbegno, Sondrio, Lecco and Biella.

- **Discussion on the topic of quality of life for the 10th Report on the State of the Alps of the Alpine Convention**

Question to members: What factors will influence the quality of life in the next 10 years, positively or negatively? (See also flipchart)

Tomaž Venčelj, Idrija: Could we address the **issue of population decline in Alpine towns in the coming years? We have that in Slovenia.**



Raphaël Castéra, Passy: this is not a problem here, but in other towns in France, in **Haute Savoie, the population is increasing, which leads to problems** (e.g. water resource management, employment, spatial planning...).

Oscar del Barba and Alberto Gavazzi, Morbegno: there is a distinction to be made - when it comes to cities or areas. In the largest cities within the Alpine region, we see a decline in population. You have **to apply double standards there**.

Paolo Luciani (Belluno): We see this phenomenon everywhere in the Alpine area, it is also related to the quality of life. Belluno is at the top of the classifications of popular towns. It is **not enough to provide existing services. Also for smaller towns. We have to do more, services are not enough**.

Giovanni Cattaneo, Lecco: two considerations: **after the pandemic we see that there is a greater demand for a better quality of life, this is related to the fact that we are close to Milan and attractive. Therefore, many have considered moving to us because they want to spend a large part of the week with us instead of in the urban area of Milan. This trend will continue in the coming years. We should ask ourselves how we react as an administration. People use our services but do not pay taxes here because they are not officially registered here. This is called "touristification"**. This devalues our area, we have many people here but they are not residents and have other demands. This has an impact on waste disposal, education services, transport concept, etc.

Secondly, it is about **safety in the mountain area, environmental damage, erosion, mudslides, but also in terms of education** in the Valtellina we have many holidaymakers and mountain visitors who have little mountain experience. Who don't know very much about safety in the mountains. That's what our mountain rescue service is concerned about. We should share our best practices. We could address these issues in the network by being a bit more coordinated, by training and pre-informing holidaymakers.

Barbara Greggio, Biella: I agree, **population decline is one of the issues that is closely related to other issues. In Biella we lose 500 people per year. The age composition is also changing, we have a lot of senior citizens. This affects the cityscape and services that are necessary for people of that age**.

Oscar del Barba, Morbegno: Population decline is an issue. **During the pandemic, the mountains were more populated than ever before. These fluctuations have an impact on the towns. We should address the issue at a conference where specialists have their say**. Finally we know what is happening in the mountains, people have always talked about sustainability and environmental problems, but sustainability includes the economy, the environment and society. You also have to take into account all strata of the population, holiday flows and many other things to keep this kind of scenario in mind. **The Alpine Convention has done preliminary work and published reports on the state of the Alps - there are many things and topics that can be taken up and elaborated**. I would not only talk about population decline, but also look at the variants and look at age composition. **In Valtellina we will have many visitors of the Olympic**



Games in 2026, we don't have enough accommodation for all of them. On the other hand, you can't design the capacities as if we always had such a rush.

Marcella Fratta, Sondrio: **Education goals, we need to teach young people how important the mountains are and how to love the mountains. Offer different opportunities, teach how to live in mountain areas and what to do there in terms of business opportunities. Young people hardly have the opportunity to work in our valleys, so it is also an economic problem. It is also a health problem, because there is a lack of doctors in our valleys.** We as an administration have committed ourselves to teach students outdoors as well, future adults who can further engage themselves to protect nature.

Michèle Rabbiosi: **In Chamonix, the issue of affordable housing is very important. There are tourist platforms like Airbnb, where there are flats only for tourists, which is a disadvantage for the locals. Tourist trends: many cars cause problems, air pollution...** these are many issues we have to deal with. We try to extend the stay of tourists and reduce day tourists.

Etienne Grillot, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc: **after the pandemic, the audience in the mountain world is shaped differently. The guests are different, we have to communicate our values of the mountains. In Chamonix, there is an institution that teaches content about the mountain world to people from the city who are not so familiar with mountains. Alpinism should be a world heritage, three countries are involved here (CH, F, IT), we are working together to achieve this. We are willing to cooperate with other alpine areas and present our good practices. We could make a platform.** Cooperation between security forces, police etc. working in the Alpine area. Tackling problems together and finding common solutions.

Tomaž Venčelj, Idrija: **It is also about commercial activities that were located in the Alpine town cores, which are disappearing. It is about the fact that we have good infrastructure connections with the bigger towns. In Slovenia this is not always the case. There are disadvantages for Alpine towns, with daily commutes to the centres and back.** Many people move to Ljubljana, for example, because the roads are not good enough.

Alen Červ, Tolmin: **it is important to emphasise that there should be less daily commuters. Covid has shown that we can also work at home. We should carry this good practice into the future.** It is our free time that we spend on the roads and the footprint is also smaller. Improvement for the environment, residents can stay in places and not migrate to big centres.

Ingrid Fischer, Sonthofen: I sometimes have the feeling that the **trend is going the other way round, that there is more life in the countryside again (especially through Covid) and home office. This is a big issue for us and it is important to raise awareness. We should take on this topic, we can gladly launch this as a topic for a video conference, for example.**

- **Communication**

Caroline Begle reports on activities since the General Assembly in Passy.



- Hot off the press: our **Annual Report 2022**. It offers a review of the year 2022, from the celebrations in Passy to our projects such as Climate Action in Alpine Towns and Alps2030, and an interview with Valentin Brunner, who wrote his Master's thesis on the association.
- **Media work**: the year before we sent out three media releases and counted over 50 media reports. **However, we do not have access to all newspapers and magazines in the Alpine region and are therefore very happy if you share media reports where the association is mentioned.**
- A central tool of our communication is the **website**. Here we make regular updates and at least once a month a news item in all Alpine languages. We are already recording **higher access figures**: in 2020, there were 17,000 page views from 5,5000 visitors; in 2021, with the new website, there were already 31,000 page views from 8,000 visitors. Last year, in 2022, we already had over 47,000 page views from 14,000 users. The numbers are rising continuously!
- One channel of communication is **social media**, where we regularly post news and activities on Instagram and Facebook. The number of followers is increasing continuously; the most recent posts on the Climate Action in Alpine Towns webinar, the report on the state of the Alps and the celebrations in Passy had the widest reach. The reel (short video) with impressions from Passy was even viewed by almost 1700 people. Caroline Begle is currently working on a social media strategy to optimise this area of communication.

One important point is to be a **community**, which is what social media thrives on. **Caroline Begle invites people to link the association's profile on the channels of the member towns and to use hashtags (#alpinetowns) so that we can share and spread each other's content. Posts that are interesting and relevant for the association can be reposted.**

11) Report from Passy, the Alpine Town of 2022

Raphaël Castéra presents the activities of Passy:

Why did we become a member of the town network? In 2017, we started awareness-raising activities on air quality in the valley. We had exceeded the threshold value. There was then an exchange with Bolzano because there were also problems with air quality. At that time, the town council saw that Bolzano could solve the problem with heating systems and district heating. When I was elected mayor in 2020, we already had a large catalogue of measures in front of us and wanted to join the network.

- We set a frame of reference and chose 4 thematic areas. There were committees for each area, there was a diary and we involved other authorities and people (e.g. culture, mountains).
- Two critical points: attracting young people is not easy. We set up a platform to get young people involved as well. To reduce the footprint, promote soft mobility, spread knowledge and promote renewable energy.
- Support for the people: they receive 4000 euros if they have the old chimney renewed and install a new heating system. We support Photovoltaic systems, we set up a solar system that will heat 30 buildings.



- Mobility: We will introduce a car sharing system. There will be 240 bike stations and we will use smaller buses, especially for students. On 18 June there will be an event about the CO₂ footprint.
- At the beginning of June we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Natural Art Museum.
- In the Mont Blanc area, we will create a Citizens' Eco-Institute, where we will work together with citizens, associations and federations and launch new projects, taking into account scientific knowledge.

See slides, link page 2.

12) Any other business

- Next General Assembly: **12-14 October 2023, Sonthofen. The events take place in the new AlpenstadtMuseum.**
- Mutual invitations: Alpine Towns are asked to think about possible events where they can invite other Alpine Towns to events with market stalls, lectures, sports teams, etc.

Josef Dennerl: on 20 May there will be an **Alpenstadt city and trail run in Bad Reichenhall. Bad Reichenhall will provide 2 spots for each town** (to be requested at boris@cityundtrail.de). He is looking forward to as many participants from the network as possible!

- Election of Board members: Candidatures are possible for the next election in autumn 2023
- Climate Hour on 5 June
What event could we do or participate in? "A ball for the planet. This would be a possible implementation of the idea we had in the Alps2030 project: to organise sports championships in Alpine towns, e.g. Orienteering. Peter Natter from Brixen-Bressanone had suggested to support this. The office will inform about this again.

Update on 13 April 2023: the Slovenian Presidency of the Alpine Convention will not continue the Climate Hour action. The Secretariat is looking into other synergy possibilities.

Ingrid Fischer thanks the translators, the technician and the office for the open ear and the good cooperation. She thanks all those present for the lively discussion. The General Assembly closes at 12:30 pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Caroline Begle and Magdalena Holzer on 17 March 2023

We confirm the completeness and accuracy of the present document

Ingrid Fischer
President

Magdalena Holzer
Director