

Editorial – Axel Borsdorf & Günter Köck



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Our Mission

With this edition we present the first issue of a scientific journal on research in protected mountain areas. Why such a journal? Mountain areas are subject to global change in specific ways. Global warming happens faster in these regions and globalization reaches places that until recently succeeded in warding off undesirable external influences because of their peripheral location, their subdivision into small units and their robust traditions. At the same time these places boast a rich natural and cultural heritage. Protecting and maintaining this heritage is an important task for mankind – but pure conservation means stagnation. No region can evade progress, nor should it, in its own interest. Mountain areas are faced with the challenge of developing strategies and models for sustainable development.

Protected areas take on this dual task: they want to preserve valuable natural assets for future generations, but they also want to allow and even promote developments with long-term positive effects. Research is a precondition for achieving this task. It provides the basis for decision-making processes in politics and the economy as well as indicators of the intensity of global change, the efficiency of ecological, economic and social systems and of the value of the natural and cultural heritage. In this way research helps to maintain the biological, cultural and economic diversity and to leverage it for future-proof developments.

The journal *eco.mont* is dedicated to the task outlined above. It particularly wants to encourage young scientists as well as eminent researchers in this field to publish high-quality research findings and to disseminate best practices in management. These in turn should trigger further research, spur on scientific debate and inspire the people who manage protected areas. At the same time *eco.mont* aims to provide impulses to visitors for identifying with the task of parks and eventually adapting their own behaviour to the goals of sustainable development in times of global change.

What's in a name?

The name *eco.mont* is our programme. “eco” is derived from the Greek οἶκος (oikos) meaning “house, household”. Ecology thus means the theory of natural housekeeping, economy the science of husbandry. House and household are symbols of how humans live together. All three meanings make sense for the concept of sustainability, which is why we included the syllable “eco” in the name of our journal. “Mont” comes from Latin mons, montis, meaning “mountain(range)”. Sustainability in mountain regions is put into practice mainly in protected areas and our journal wants to reflect that. Bringing together terms with their roots in different languages underlines the journal's claim to internationality. The full stop we put between the two syllables symbolizes our respect for the differences between nature and culture.

Regional dimension

In response to the challenges of globalization, *eco.mont* will document research in protected areas all over the world. The Alps are considered the most closely studied mountain area and many contributions will concern this European mountain range. Our attention must not remain focussed on Europe, however. All mountain regions across the world have their natural and cultural heritage that must be preserved. They all need to orientate their development on sustainability. And they all need to develop adaptation strategies for global change. Protected areas can act as models in these respects.

The diversity of national and international categories becomes clear in the maps of protected areas in the Alps and the Carpathians (Figures 1 and 2). Outside Europe there are numerous other designations. This journal does not distinguish by goals, labels or regions – any type of research is welcome and broadens our epistemological horizon.

Target groups

eco.mont is aimed at scientists from all disciplines, at inter- and transdisciplinary research groups and networks, at the managers of protected areas as well as at visitors and interested citizens. In addition it specifically addresses politicians and business people, provides teachers with material and hopes to find a use in university education. *eco.mont* is published in English, the lingua franca of science, to encourage worldwide dissemination and acceptance.

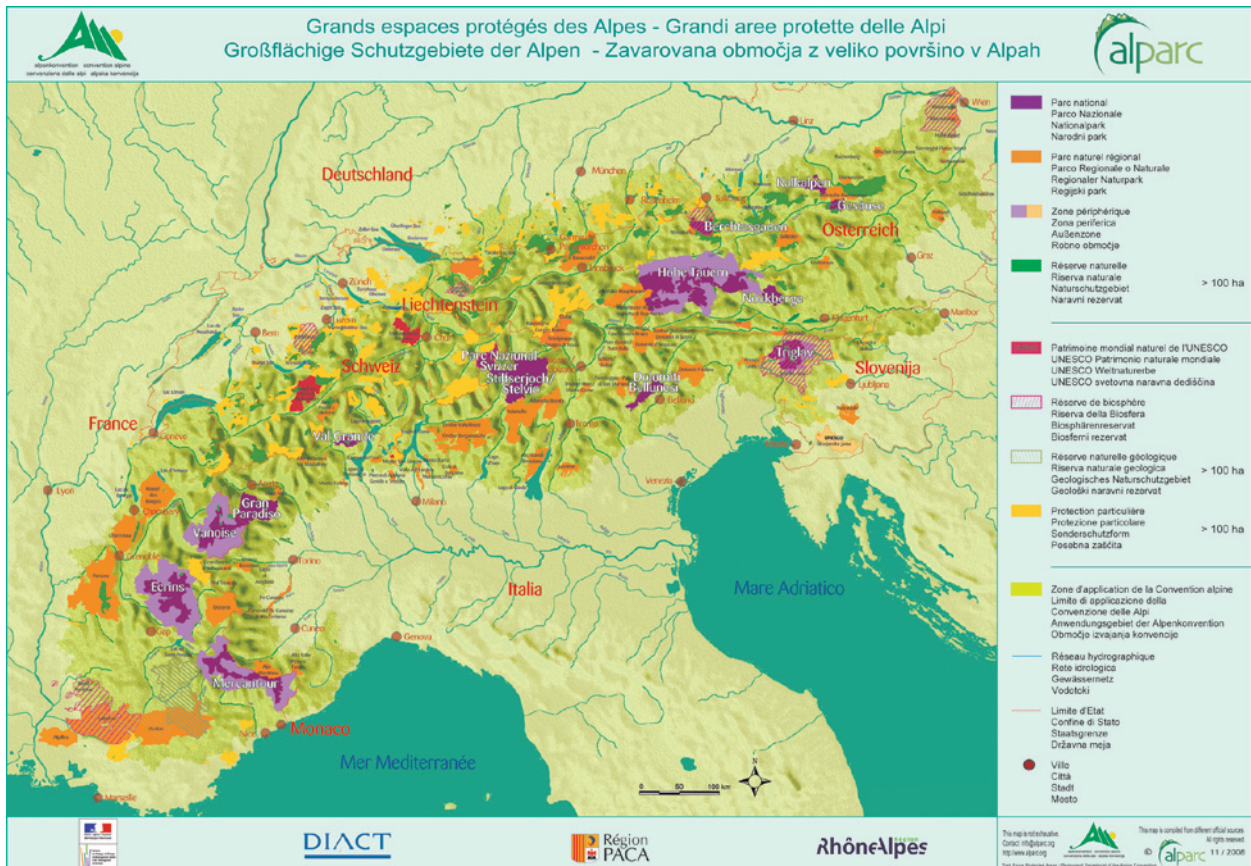


Figure 1 – Protected areas in the Alps. © alparc

Quality control

eco.mont is a scientific journal. To ensure a high standard we subject every scientific article to a double-blind peer review by two evaluators. One of them comes from the editorial board, which also meets regularly. In their discussions the members of the editorial board want to make sure that all contributions relate to the objectives of the journal. The editorial board is entirely made up of members of the International Scientific Committee of Research in the Alps – Protected Areas (ISCAR-P) of the Network of Protected Areas (alparc). They will introduce themselves elsewhere in this issue. The peer reviewers receive a specially designed evaluation sheet to ensure comparability of evaluation standards.

Dr. Valerie Braun is responsible for the layout and shares the editing with our English language editor, Dr. Brigitte Scott. Professor Axel Borsdorf (University of Innsbruck) and Dr. Günter Köck (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna) jointly head the editorial team.

Journal design

For easier navigation the articles in eco.mont are divided into categories. Peer-reviewed scientific articles on conservation, management and development issues make up one major section (Research). In addition the issue includes presentations of individual protected areas (A Case in Point), a section on management and policy issues (Management & Policy Issues), a section devoted to news about protected area aspects (News) and reviews of relevant publications (Book Review) (Figure 3). All contributions are richly illustrated and some include additional fact boxes. From time to time the journal may include interviews with key researchers and major stakeholders.

Funding and availability

The Austrian Academy of Sciences and the University of Innsbruck cooperate in funding and publishing the journal. The International Scientific Committee of Research in the Alps ISCAR (Bern) and the Alpine Network of Protected Areas ALPARC (Chambéry) support the journal and the Alpine Convention is also involved.

The journal is published twice a year. Innsbruck University Press (<http://www.uibk.ac.at/iup>) publishes the printed version, which is available by subscription but may also be bought individually. The Austrian Academy of Sciences Press is responsible for publishing the online version, which is available in full or as individual articles on the internet (<http://epub.oew.ac.at/ecomont>). Letters to the editor and replies will be published on the eco.mont website (<http://www.oew.ac.at/ecomont/comments>) to inspire scientific debate.

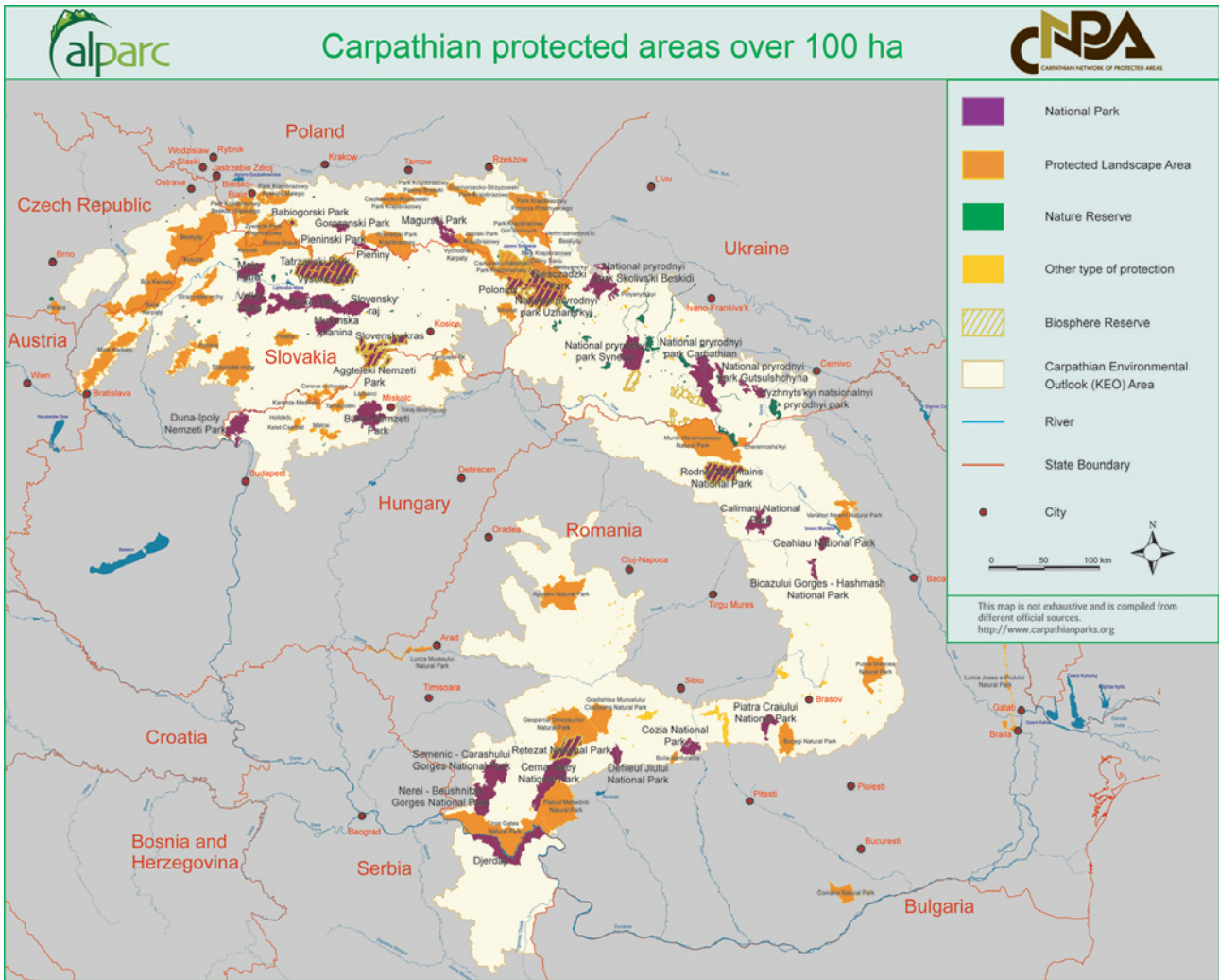


Figure 2 – Protected areas in the Carpathians. © alparc

Acknowledgements

The editors and the editorial office gratefully acknowledge the encouragement and financial support of the University of Innsbruck, especially in the person of Vice-Rector Professor Tilmann Märk, and the Austrian Academy of Sciences, particularly the Presiding Committee of the Section for the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Many thanks to the Institute of Mountain Research: Man and Environment, of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, which is providing the editorial offices, posts and technical infrastructure and pays for the English language editing. Thanks are also due to ISCAR and ALPARC as well as to the Alpine Convention for various kinds of encouragement and support. Our special thanks go to the authors of the first and all subsequent issues, to the peer reviewers, who provide their services for free, and especially to the members of the editorial board. Publishing a journal in a professional manner would not be possible without the publishing houses involved and we owe thanks to the directors and staff of those institutions.

Editorial	An introduction to the issue
Research	Up to 5 peer-reviewed articles on recent research findings
A Case in Point	Presentation of a selected protected mountain area
Management & Policy Issues	Reports on events, studies, training opportunities etc.
News	Conferences, training, policy, tools, information material etc.
Book Review	Reviews of recent publications relevant to the journal

Figure 3 – Journal design

Editors (both editors and the entire editorial board are members of ISCAR-P)

BORSODORF Axel

Born 1948. Studied geography, German literature, geology as well as prehistory and early history in Göttingen, Valdivia/Chile and Tübingen, PhD Tübingen 1976, habilitation and *venia legendi* for geography, Tübingen 1985, full professorship in Innsbruck since 1991, corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) 1995, full member since 1996. Director of the ÖAW Institute for Urban and Regional Research 1999-2006, director of the ÖAW Institute of Mountain Research: Man and Environment since 2006. President of the Austrian Geographical Society 2004-2006, vice-president of the Austrian Latin-America Institute since 2006. Guest professorships in Eugene/Oregon, Bangkok, Santiago de Chile and Bern.

KÖCK Günter

Studied biology at the University of Innsbruck. Since 1997 he has been leading projects of the Austro-Canadian research cooperation High-Arctic. In the year 2000 he was awarded the Canada Prize of the University of Innsbruck. In 2004 he became coordinator of the national and international research programs of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. From 2004-2006 he was Vice-Chair of the UNESCO MAB program. He is the Austrian delegate to the MAB International Coordinating Council (MAB-ICC) and member of the Scientific Council at the Venice-based UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (BRESCE). His extensive research focuses on biomonitoring studies of aquatic ecosystems.

Editorial Board



BAUCH Kristina

Kristina Bauch, staff member of the Hohe Tauern National Park Salzburg (HTNP, Mittersill) since October 1994, in charge of the operational area “science and research”. Main areas of work: (1) research coordination, planning and documentation; (2) design and implementation of various projects, activities and measures for initiating and supporting research on protected area, and (3) conservation (e.g. Natura 2000, biodiversity, assessments). She cooperates closely with HTNP Carinthia and HNTTP Tyrol.

In 1996 she initiated and ran the first symposium on research in protected areas. Since then she has organized an international symposium for research in protected areas every four years at Kaprun Castle. Kristina Bauch represents HTNP and the symposia in ISCAR-P (ALPARC).



BOCCA Massimo

Born 1959 in Aosta, Aosta Valley. Degree in agronomic science, University of Turin (1984); doctoral thesis in entomology. Director of the Natural History Museum of Saint-Pierre (Aosta Valley) and zoological consultant of public bodies (1985-1990). Director of the Mont Avic Natural Park (since 1991). Member of the Scientific Board of the Natural History Museum of Saint-Pierre (since 1985). Member of the CII of Alparc.

Author or co-author of more than 40 scientific zoological papers (entomology, herpetology, and particularly ornithology), published in reviews and symposium proceedings in Italy, Switzerland, Belgium and Germany; author or co-author of eight monographs on vertebrates.



BOURDEAU Philippe

Philippe Bourdeau, professor at the Institute of Alpine Geography (University J. Fourier, Grenoble), drives cultural geography researches on mountain tourism and outdoor sports. He also studies tourist utopias, crises and criticism of the tourist industry, and post-tourism phenomena.

He represents France within the International Scientific Committee on Alpine Research (ISCAR), and is one of the leaders of the French network www.sportsnature.org which brings together researchers and experts in mountain and nature sports.



BRUN Jean-Jacques

Jean-Jacques Brun, MSc PhD (Nancy, France), Research Professor at Cemagref. Heads the team “Ecosystem assessment and conservation” of the research unit “Mountain Ecosystems” in Grenoble. Former Research Fellow at the “Centre de Pédologie Biologique” of the CNRS in Nancy. From 1978-1980 Professor of Soil Science at the University of Niamey, Niger.

Works as soil ecologist in a landscape ecological perspective at CEMAGREF, Grenoble. Uses soil biodiversity in an above-ground/below-ground approach for assessing landscape dynamics. Studies the role of humus forms, organic matter and soil fauna as indicators of global change impact on mountain ecosystems.

President of the ISCAR for the period 2007-2011. Project partner in the European INTERREG IV B project ECONNECT “Improving ecological connectivity in the Alps”. Was involved in the European FP6 project GLO-

CHAMORE “Global Change in Mountain Biosphere Reserves”, which aims to develop an integrative working plan for environmental and social monitoring in mountain regions that will facilitate the implementation of global change research strategies in selected UNESCO MAB biosphere reserves. Works closely with the biologists and geographers at the University of Grenoble and the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland). Active member of the European Humus Research Group (EHRG) and in PEER-Soil Pillar (Partnership for European Environmental Research). Serves as Cemagref expert on ALTER-net (FP6 - A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network)

PLASSMANN Guido

Born 1965; studied alpine geography and history at the Joseph Fourier University of Grenoble. Professional training in market economy strategies and international business, Munich. PhD in alpine geography 1998. Since 1993 involved in the framework of the Alpine Convention (French presidency 1992-1994), since 1995 in charge of developing the network of alpine protected areas linked to the Ecrins National Park; since 2006 linked as Task Force Protected Areas to the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention. Since the official establishment of the Alpine Network (1997), director of this organisation and from 2006 onwards also of the Task Force. Coordinator of numerous international projects of protected areas in the Alps and the Carpathian mountains: European programmes, international events of the network, partnerships and exchange programmes for alpine protected areas, publications, exhibitions, scientific programs of the protected areas.



PSENNER Roland

Born in Bozen/Bolzano (I). After finishing his PhD in microbiology, limnology and biochemistry, he worked for international programmes focussed on environmental problems of lakes, as public officer in Italy and with the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In 1997 he became professor of limnology at the University of Innsbruck. He is an expert in water eutrophication and phosphorus cycling, biogeochemistry of acidification and global change effects on lakes, microbial food webs, snow and ice ecosystems, UV radiation, molecular biology of aquatic bacteria, image analysis and flow cytometry applications in microbial ecology. Special interest in alpine ecosystems. He participated in several framework programs of the EU, such as MICOR, AL:PE, MOLAR, REFLECT, EMERGE and CLIME, and has published more than 130 articles in peer-reviewed journals. In addition, he has written 12 book chapters and a large number of popular articles. He is a member of the editorial board of international journals in water science, limnology and hydrology. As a member of ISCAR Berne, CH, and speaker of the Research Platform “Alpine Space” of the University of Innsbruck, he has become interested also in social and cultural problems of the Alps. Since October 2008 he has been serving as Dean of the Faculty of Biology at the University of Innsbruck.



SCHEURER Thomas

Born 1953; studied geography, geology and anthropology at the University of Berne (diploma 1979); then scientific assistant in the Swiss UNESCO Man & Biosphere Project Grindelwald „Socio-economic development and ecological capacity in mountain regions“ (PhD thesis 1986 “Availability of agricultural resources in mountain regions”). For ten years part-time consultant in a private firm specializing in spatial planning and environmental impact studies. Since 1986 several mandates of the Swiss Academies of Sciences: scientific coordinator of Swiss National Park research, member of the Swiss Commission for Integrated Environmental Monitoring (1987-1991), Managing Director of the Swiss Interacademic Commission for Alpine Studies ICAS (since 1994) and of ISCAR (since 1999). Since 2007 several lecturships at Swiss universities.



SIEGRIST Dominik

Born 1957. PhD in geography. Head of the Research Center for Leisure, Tourism and Landscape at the Institute for Landscape and Open Space at the Hochschule für Technik (HSR) in Rapperswil, Switzerland. He teaches at the HSR Rapperswil and at the University of Applied Sciences HTW Chur.

From 1993-2003 he was founder and partner of the AlpenBüroNetz firm of consultants and spent 2003 as a guest researcher at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna.

Siegrist is President of CIPRA, the international commission on the protection of the Alps, and author of many publications. Recent examples include the book “Labelregionen – Strategie für eine nachhaltige Regionalentwicklung im Alpenraum” (vdf Verlag 2009) and the collected volume “Landschaft – Erlebnis – Reisen. Naturnaher Tourismus in Pärken und UNESCO-Gebieten” (Rotpunktverlag 2009).





STÖCKLEIN Bernd

Born 1950 in Nuremberg. PhD in Zoology, Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg. Scientific position within a Bavarian conservation administration (1976-1981), contributor to a species protection program of the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health. Professor for Zoology and Animal Ecology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan, Landshut campus, 1981-1990. Professor for Zoology and Animal Ecology at the Faculty of Landscape Architecture at the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan, Freising campus, since 1990. Member of the Institute of Landscape Architecture of the Research Institute for Horticulture (FGW) Weihenstephan; field research on animal ecology, esp. of amphibians and birds in connection with Natura 2000 guidelines; member of the working group at the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Bavarian Environment Agency in Augsburg for Red Lists of endangered species of amphibians and reptiles in Germany and Bavaria. Member of the Commission for Nature Conservation at the Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Public Health.



VOGEL Michael

Born 1952; studied geography (geo-ecology) and biology (ecology) at Phillips University Marburg (1974-1979). Doctorate rer. nat., thesis on: "Ecological investigations in a *Phragmites communis* stand." (Part of an International Biological Programme (IBP)). Research assistant in projects of the German Research Foundation (DFG) "Ecology of sub-antarctic insects" (Falkland Islands, South Georgia, Signy Island) 1981-1982. Scientific assistant, Biology Dept., Philipps-University Marburg (1983-1986); German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship for studies in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego (Instituto de la Patagonia, Punta Arenas, Chile). June 1985: Diploma in Biology. Head of the "Ecological Research and Teaching Station" at the Bavarian Academy for Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (ANL), Laufen, 1986-1996. Secretary General of the interstate working group on nature conservation, landscape management and recreation. (WG of the Conference of the Ministers for Environment). Bavarian Ministry for State Development and Environmental Affairs, Munich, 1996-2001. Head of the team for implementing EU directives (FFH and Birds Directive) for the district of Upper Bavaria. Consultant on several EU twinning projects (Czech Republik, Poland). Since 2001: Managing Director of Berchtesgaden Nationalpark.

Editorial Office



BRAUN Valerie

Valerie Braun was born in Styria/Austria and raised in Munich. While working as a tutor at the Institute of Botany in Innsbruck she finished her PhD in eco-physiology of alpine plants. After a short break to start a family she worked in a lab at the Department of Optometrics, Innsbruck General Hospital, and in private industry before joining the coordination team of the Alpine Space project DIAMONT (Interreg 3B) and is now responsible for the smooth implementation of eco.mont.



SCOTT Brigitte

Translator, trainer, editor.

Born in Salzburg, PhD in English and German Language and Literature from Salzburg University. General assistant at Residenz Verlag publishing house in Salzburg; assistant lecturer at Leeds University German department for two years; lecturer and organizer at an American college in Salzburg. From 1985-1999 translator and teacher in Oxford, Southampton, Bracknell and Norwich, UK. Full member (MITI) of the Institute of Translation and Interpreting since 1991. Back in Austria since 1999, working as translator, teacher of translation courses at the University of Innsbruck since 2006. In recent years focusing on translations about regional and/or urban development and branching out into editing. Co-editor of the Dorfzeitung Inzing since 2004. In 2007 she coordinated the translations for the atlas "Mapping the Alps" and edited the English version. Head of the editorial team for the Dorfbuch Inzing (published in 2008).