NENA - Network Enterprise Alps

Memorandum of Understanding

Bovec/SI, 12.02.2008

1. Background

The better use of endogenous resources, sustainable production and innovation along the production and distribution chain offer new perspectives for alpine enterprises.

Whereas cooperation platforms at regional, possibly national level exist, enterprises and their umbrella organisations only seldom cooperate with their counterparts across the boundaries. This is the chance that the NENA Network intends to offer its members: to raise competitiveness whilst orienting their activities towards more ecological and social sustainability. Therefore, NENA is a learning network. As for other alpine wide networks, the Alpine Convention is a framework for the network aims and activities. Details: http://www.alpconv.org/index

2. Network aims

The members of NENA desire to engage in cooperative activities towards more sustainability, for the mutual benefit of all. The parties have agreed upon the following:

- to **exchange experiences** and to **share knowledge** as well as to carry out long term **cooperation** on specific topics and projects within the Alps,
- to act result, output and benefit oriented
- to help alpine enterprises to raise their **innovation potential** and their **competitiveness**,
- to join in PR and marketing activities to increase the demand/market for products of the network enterprises
- to increase the contribution of alpine enterprises and their umbrella organisations to **sustainable development in the Alps**.
- to continually expand its memberships.

Network principles

The NENA network is based on the following principles:

- **Giving and taking:** The network lives on the input of its members. In return, the network members expect benefits and added value through the input of the others.
- **Continuity:** The network aims at a continuous development and expansion as regards members, activities and thematic fields.
- **Thematic focus:** During the present initial phase, NENA concentrates on the value added chain of wood, on renewable energies, on energy efficiency and on ecological building. In later stages, other thematic fields can be added according to the interests of the network members.
- **High quality and leadership:** In the thematic fields selected, the NENA members intend to take the leadership in the Alpine bow in order to bring forward innovation and their position on the market. This requires a high quality standard in all activities.
- The NENA network is **result- and output oriented.**
- **Good relations and a positive atmosphere:** having fun together is a motivation factor and therefore considered vital for NENA's success.
- The **network language is English.** If required, translation into national languages has to be provided by the national members.

3. Key topics

Following issues in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency and the wood production chain:

Energy efficient buildings
- Huts and tourism buildings in the upper mountains (energy efficient houses under extreme conditions, manual, product development and innovation)
- Passive House for the Alpine climate (Lobbying for PH (trainings), consumer management, craftsmen education, interface between craftsmen documentation)
- The evaluation of public buildings (public procurement, life cycle of materials, roll out)

Use of energy potentials in the Alps
- Roll-out of the eco power stock exchange
- Development of the roof stock exchange, farmer-field stock exchange

The key topics take into consideration the planned topics of the NENA 2 project.
According to the key topics different working groups can be established.

4. Activities

In order to reach the above aims, the network will carry out following activities:
- Providing relevant news and other information to the network members via the **NENA website http://www.nena-network.net/** and regular **emails**
- Promoting the network and its members via the *NENA website* http://www.nena-network.net/ and other media
- Offering opportunities for **experience and know-how sharing** through *meetings, workshops and excursions*
- *Participation at fairs* related to the network topics
- Awareness raising through the dissemination of *good practice examples*
- Offering a framework for developing and carrying out *joint projects* (with EU and other funding).
- Offering support for the network members with regard to the *search for funding* and with regard to *project management*.

The activities are described in detail in an annual plan.

5. Membership

Who can become a member of the NENA network?
- Innovation- and sustainability-oriented **enterprises** and their **umbrella organisations**
- Other intermediary institutions related to the NENA topics

Why should an enterprise or an umbrella organisation join the network?
- To be recognized as one of the innovation- and sustainability-oriented enterprises or umbrella organisations in the Alps
- To carry their voice further than their regional or branch-specific network in order to improve the frame conditions and to promote their activities and products
- To profit from the experience of other innovative enterprises and umbrella organisations in the Alps.

<u>Membership conditions:</u>

- Signing the Letter of commitment. The membership is valid until cancellation.
- Active contribution: based on the principle of giving and taking, the network members actively contribute to the different network activities. They provide relevant information to the network unit (for website and newsletter) and disseminate information to their own regional networks. Further the network members actively take part in the exchange of knowledge and experience through joining meetings, workshops and excursions.
- Each umbrella organisation is represented by a contact person. When it comes to projects, work groups etc., different persons from the umbrella organisations participate.
- The network members bring in 4 person days of their key competences per year.
    - o Attending the annual conference: 1,5 days
    - o Delivering content for homepage and newsletter and promoting the network: 2 days
    - o Other communication activities: 0,5 days
    - o Not included: work on joint proposals and projects
- Membership costs: for enterprises: 300 Euro p.a., for umbrella organisations up to 20 members 1.000 Euro p.a., above 20 members: 1.500 Euro p.a.

6. Network structure

The network structure includes the following elements:
- The ***Network core group (executive board)*** is formed by members who are willing to take responsibility to bring forward the network. The core group is the decision making board regarding strategy, activities, thematic focus, network rules, membership and financial issues etc. The core group elects a network chairman/chairwoman and a vice-chairman/chairwoman for 2 years.
- ***The chairman/chairwoman*** is the official representative of the network to the public. He/she acts in close co-operation with the network core group and the network office.
- ***The network office*** is responsible to prepare and carry out the activities described under 4. Hereby, the network office is supported by the network members as it is described under 5.