



Akademien der Wissenschaften Schweiz
Académies suisses des sciences
Accademie svizzere delle scienze
Academias svizras da las ciencias
Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences



International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps
Internationales Wissenschaftliches Komitee Alpenforschung
Comité scientifique international recherche alpine
Comitato scientifico internazionale ricerca alpina
Mednarodni znanstveni komite za preučevanje Alp

Dialogue Science - Policy (Alpine Convention)

The International Scientific Committee on Research in the Alps ISCAR

- A Swiss commitment

Dr Roger Pfister, Head International Cooperation, Swiss Academies
on behalf of Dr Thomas Scheurer, ISCAR Executive Secretary

Science at the service of society

Origin

- 1991: Art. 3 and 4 of the Alpine Convention: transnational cooperation in Alpine research
- Swiss Academies begin informal cooperation with partners from all Alpine countries
- 1994: 1st ForumAlpinum (international conference on Alpine research)
- 1999: Scientific Board of the ForumAlpinum is transformed into ISCAR (ISCAR Convention)

Composition



ÖAW

Bayerische
Akademie der Wissenschaften

- ISCAR Partners (1 from each Alpine country)
 - **Academies**: ÖAW, BAdW, a+, SAZU
 - FR: Pôle Grenoble, IT: formerly EIM
- **12 members**, 2 per partner -> attempt to represent various disciplines (interdisciplinarity)
Observer: Alpine Convention (DG Research)
- **Office** funded a+ / hosted SCNAT

Objectives

ISCAR Convention 1999

- promote **interdisciplinary research on the Alps** as well as the transfer of scientific knowledge to relevant authorities and the general public
- ensure the continuity and the scientific quality of the bi-annual **ForumAlpinum** to promote international cooperation in Alpine research
- stimulate scientific research of relevance for the Alps as well as their **implementation within international or mountain research programmes**
- take up research topics in the interest of the **Alpine Convention** and advises the responsible authorities for that Convention

Successes, Actions

- Official **Observer of the Alpine Convention** (2000)
- 9 issues of the **ForumAlpinum** (1994-2010)
 - rotation among Alpine countries
 - establish national committees / working groups for Mountain Research (CH, AU, Bavaria, IT)
- **Research Agenda** to the Multi-annual work programme of the Alpine Convention (2005-10)
- **Cooperation with Alpine networks**: Ecological Continuum Initiative; Research on Alpine Protected Areas (journal eco.mont, Kaprun Symposium)

Future plans

- ISCAR: become scientific **advisory board** of the Alpine Convention (scientific versus administrative expertise)
- Suggestion to ALLEA: Academies from countries with mountain areas could build up a **European network for mountain research**. Use the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) as structure (as Alps or Carpathians)

www.iscar-alpineresearch.org