

CREATIVE VILLAGES CONFERENCES

| Bled | Hinterstoder | Illingen | Marianka | Moosburg |
| Munderfing | Nenzing | Săliște | Zwischenwasser

CVC2 | Hinterstoder | 19 – 21 July 2013

Already 20 years ago, Hinterstoder has begun to use creative industries, civic participation, strategic development projects and project partnerships to change the future of the municipality to the better. During the Creative Villages Conference residents of six central European communities took a closer look on how Hinterstoder implements projects, they exchanged their own experiences on creative industries and got impulses from creative experts to learn how they can benefit from the creative industries in order to improve citizen participation and innovation processes.

A creative upgrade with a fine view

From 19th to 21st of July the Creative Villages Conference took place in Hinterstoder to discuss the role of creative industries in rural areas. Participants from Bled, Hinterstoder, Illingen, Marianka, Moosburg, Munderfing, Werfenweng and Zwischenwasser gained an insight in how design, building culture and public participation can influence a municipality like Hinterstoder. Guest speakers like the founder of the first co-working space in Austria, Stefan Leitner-Sidl, and initiator of the local TV station “dorf TV” Otto Tremetzberger, as well as the local public participation expert Julia Körber informed the participants about creative ideas, which have already taken shape in Hinterstoder.

Three leading topics could be identified throughout the discussion: urbanity, Europe and “upgrade”. The conclusion of the conference was that innovation needs scope for development, Europe has to become more aware and public participation can sometimes be started by a little provocation. Due to the ideas of Julia Körber, the “upgrade” initiative is very likely to be implemented in some of the Creative Villages. Other ideas produced at the conference include a new European landmark in Furx and co-working space as a centre of a rural municipality.

Another focus was the question of how to attract creative industries in a rural municipality and here the conference contributed valuable ideas and input to answer the question. Most important is that there is an open discussion of ideas and free space for innovation as well as a creative atmosphere.

The relaxed and productive atmosphere was a consequence of the charming municipality Hinterstoder and the hospitality of its inhabitants. The exchange of ideas from citizens with different backgrounds and branches raised awareness that flagship municipalities have to work hard for their status – but in the end there are more ideas than problems.