

CANCIAN

Photographic walk by KA and Mauro Lardi
Projection in LO SPAZIO, Via dal Poz 69, Poschiavo (next to the swimming pool)
Open 12 - 24 from 4th to 8th September 2012

Cancian is the name of the beautiful alp, the wild valley and the rocky pass where the chamois browse, the marmots play and the cattle find a paradise of alpine herbs and spring waters. It is located on the west side of the Valposchiavo and is reached from Quadrada (above Selva).

Cancian is one of the last side valleys of the Valposchiavo which waters are not yet captured by Repower, the electricity company based in Poschiavo. But this could change quickly with their pumped-storage hydroelectricity project "Lago Bianco" that foresees a pressure tunnel of over 20 km length that would connect the two dam lakes of Lago Bianco and Lago di Poschiavo.

In the context of this pumped-storage hydroelectricity project – budget 1.5 billions CHF – the plans are not only to capture the waters of the newly formed glacier lake Lagh da Caralin that was built by the retreating Palü glacier and lays in the protected area of the Swiss Inventory of Landscapes and Natural Monuments of National Importance, but also the untouched water resources of Cancian.

The environmental organizations – Pro Bernina Palü, Pro Natura, WWF Graubünden, Foundation Greina – have assisted this highly risky and destroying project, despite the fact that Repower plans to build charcoal stations in order to get cheap electricity from dirty power stations in Brunsbüttel, Germany (now failed because of serious resistance) and in Saline Joniche, Calabria, Italy where the mafia controls the investments and where the residents fight against Repower to protect their environment from pollution and their health from damage. Besides that the charcoal station would produce a high emission of the climate gas CO₂.

The pumped-storage hydroelectricity project "Lago Bianco" is based on the assumption that the costs for pumping (20–25% of the respectively produced energy) could be covered by higher prices of the peak energy, whereas pumping would occur using cheap band energy at nighttime. With the energy turn (increase of solar, wind and alternative energy) the market prices for electricity change drastically. Such a pumped-storage hydroelectricity project could turn out to be unrealizable or could also bear the risk of insolvency for Repower, and in consequence could provoke serious financial difficulties for the Community of Poschiavo (being dependent on the income from water concessions and taxes from Repower) and for the Canton of Grisons (being the main share holder of Repower shares of 46%).

Our exhibition CANCIAN in LO SPAZIO shows the beauty of this precious valley and is asking to protect the water resources and the nature of Cancian in addition to the Lagh da Caralin, Palü (2325m).

Cornelia Müller
Poschiavo 3. September 2012