

either to go back to Austria or to become an own state like e.g. Fürstentum Liechtenstein. The purpose of the programmes of Sudtiroler Rundfunk is to conserve the German language and culture in that region. So it does not surprise that Torggler has not only friends, but also a number of enemies, trying to fight against his station with acts of sabotage.

Radio Nord, a further German language station, does not have such problems, as it is definitely non-political. Radio Nord was transmitting formerly also in Italian, up to the making independent of the Italian collaborators who founded NBC Stereo Network in 1981.

In Meran/Merano

Leaving the capital Bolzano now to the northwest along the river Adige, we arrive in Meran/Merano, a well-known holiday place. All stations transmitting in Italian from here belong to one person, Mrs. Giuseppina Rohregger. Originally only the owner of Radio Maia, she recently bought Teleradionord and added Radio Blackout, an automatic station without direct transmissions, similar to Radio Ritmo. Meran is also the home of the oldest German language station in province, Freie Sudtiroler Welle. Furthermore the city is the base of Familienradio, a religious station with mostly German programmes, cooperating with Evangeliums-Rundfunk in West-Germany and other Christian broadcasters. Mainly for the native population broadcasts Burggräfler Landfunk, namely only folklore music.



In the countryside

Having featured some of the private stations in the two biggest cities Bozen and Meran, we will concentrate on a few broadcasters in the country-like places.

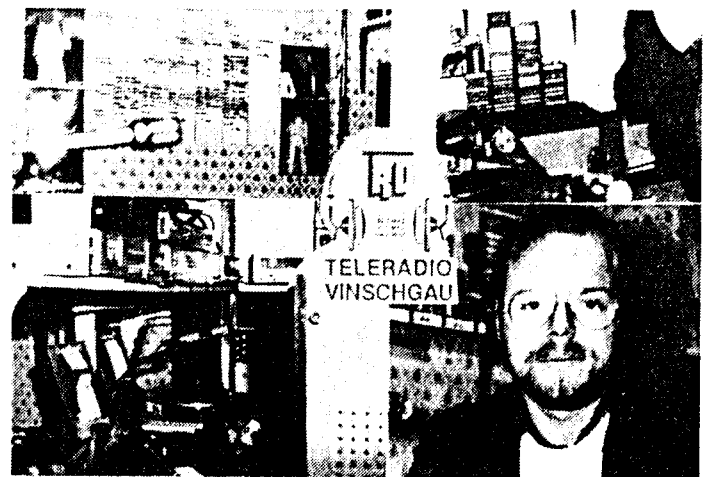
Only a few kilometers from Meran is the village Lana, where Radio Sonnenschein (Sunshine) is operating. The station manager Walter Wiedenhofer explained he had found a good compromise with English programming losing neither Italian nor German speaking listeners.

In Vinschgau, the valley to the west of Meran, we find three little stations: Teleradio Vinschgau at Schlanders/Silandro, operated and directed by Rudolf Lösch, a ham himself (I3LWR). Lösch, who repairs radio and TV sets, has built all transmitters himself.

A new station in Latsch/Laces is Radio Alpina. Station owner and director Ingo Stallmach, also the owner of the former station Teleradio Schenna, plans to introduce cable TV for the village.

The third station that can be found in this valley is Radio Oberland. While the main studios are in a hotel owned by station manager Hansi Klöckner, Radio Oberland has a second studio in a chalet on the 2606 m high mountain Ortler.

A bit less exotic but more professional are the stations which we find in the eastern part of the province, in the Puster valley. Radio Tele 3 located at Innichen/San Candido close to the Austrian border has also journalistic reports in its broadcasts in order to be a real alternative to the ORF stations in Austria, where private broadcasting is not yet allowed.



Top: Teleradio Vinschgau.

Left: Programme director Manfred Kessler in the recording studio of Sarner Welle.