



FIRST CONFRONTATION OF THEORY AND PRACTICE

Test of the Tools and Discussion of their Use
for Sustainable Regional Development in Five
Test Regions

Work package10



1 Objectives

1. testing the indicators and tools of sustainable RD;
2. assessing the impacts of activities performed on the spatial and socioeconomic structures of the population, environment and economy;
3. confronting the scientific results with practical attitudes;
4. evaluating indicators for relevancy, usefulness and validity;
5. analysing problems identified in each test region;
6. outlining strategies for the solution of the problems;
7. providing first recommendations for the improvement of the indicators and tools of sustainable RD.



2 Inputs from other work packages

- set of indicators of sustainable **RD**, set of concentrated indicators, and interim ranking of these indicators, determined in WP7, 8 and 9;
- classification of the municipalities in the entire Alpine region regarding the used indicators in cluster analysis from WP8;
- set of tools of sustainable **RD** determined in WP9.



3 Work steps in WP10

- 3.1 Selection of five characteristic test regions;
- 3.2 Testing selected indicators and developed tools in Slovenian test region first;
- 3.3 Extending and adapting results (taking into account cultural differences pronounced in WP5) to all other test regions;
- 3.4 Providing recommendations for the improvement of the indicators and tools;
- 3.5 Comparison and analysis of the test and workshop results;
- 3.6 Compilation of internal and external reports.



3.1 Selection of five characteristic test regions

2 possibilities:

1. test municipalities (or group of municipalities) will be chosen from the same cluster (**linkage distance???**) ;
2. test municipalities (or group of municipalities) will be chosen from different clusters (**linkage distance???**).

Municipality is a basic cell. Problems: difference in municipalities size.

On the basis of cluster analysis only the core municipality is chosen.

Then neighbouring municipalities are added in order to make a naturally coherent and complete region (a valley for instance).



1st possibility

- ◆ enables a comparison between similar test regions (according to selected indicators) in different countries;
- ◆ enables to encounter the problems and proposes solutions on international, i.e. Alpine level;
- ◆ enables to evaluate already completed or still on-going measures;
- ◆ enables to find out if selected indicators and tools of sustainable regional development are equally good or equally bad in those similar municipalities, as well as if there are some differences between the countries.



2nd possibility



- ◆ enables a comparison how selected indicators and tools of sustainable regional development response in different regions in different countries;
- ◆ enables to find out if they (indicators and tools) are equally (in)effective in those different municipalities and countries.



3.2 Testing selected indicators and developed tools

- ◆ INDICATORS and DEVELOPMENT TOOLS: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, utility, and sustainability
- ◆ DATA: availability, usefulness and simplicity
- ◆ 2 level testing:
- ◆ more theoretically using two fundamental principles; top-down (broader analysis and studies of the entire region: various input-output analysis, analysis of spatial and socio-economic structures) and bottom-up (studies of the outputs of the support provided to individual recipient).



3.2 Testing selected indicators and developed tools

more practically using different approaches (round-table discussions, in-depth interviews, semi-structured interviews, surveys, etc.).

The important role will play:

- ◆ confronting the scientific results with practical attitudes and
- ◆ including stakeholders, connected with the test region in different ways (for example mayors, local inhabitants, scientists, decision makers, etc.).

We expect to get answers to some of the questions related to implementation of a regional development policy in the context of visions, goals and objectives (norms, standards, levels to be achieved):



Questions?

- ◆ To what extent the set objectives are a reflection of needs and priorities on regional level?
- ◆ Should the vision, goals and objectives be changed, and if so how?
- ◆ What about resources, particularly finance?
- ◆ How successful is the program in achieving the set objectives, and the utility of the program?
- ◆ What is the impact of the program on the target group or population in relation to their needs and the sustainability of the program?



Questions?

- ◆ What is a regional policy expected to achieve?
- ◆ What effects should a regional policy have and by what methods should these outputs be measured?
- ◆ What instrument are the most effective for achieving the objectives of a regional policy
- ◆ What went wrong and what was successful, and why was this?



The expected outcomes of this “confrontation

1. defining “burning” problems;
2. showing new options and ideas (best practices);
3. getting bottom-up component (local or regional needs, expectations, etc.).

The decision how exactly the selected indicators and tools will be tested could be made after the final selection of the indicators and tools.



4 Tasks of the partners

- selection of 1 test region in each respective country (except Switzerland): Austria (UIBK), Germany (Bosch & Partner), France (CEMAGREF) and Italy (EURAC, UNCEM);
- applying methods used in Slovenian test region to other test regions;
- organisation of 1 workshop in the selected test region of each respective country;
- compilation of their workshop results and delivering the results to AMGI.



5 Outputs to other work packages

- results will help to assess suitability and usefulness of indicators;
- results will function as a basis for the improvement of the indicator based tools (for WP9);
- provided strategies for the solutions of regional conflicts will enable the organisers of WP11 to elaborate more problem focused and final aims oriented workshops;
- experiences and ascertainments of WP10 enriched by WP11 will enable the partner for WP12 to conceptualise an applied strategy in collaborating with SOIA and other organizations.