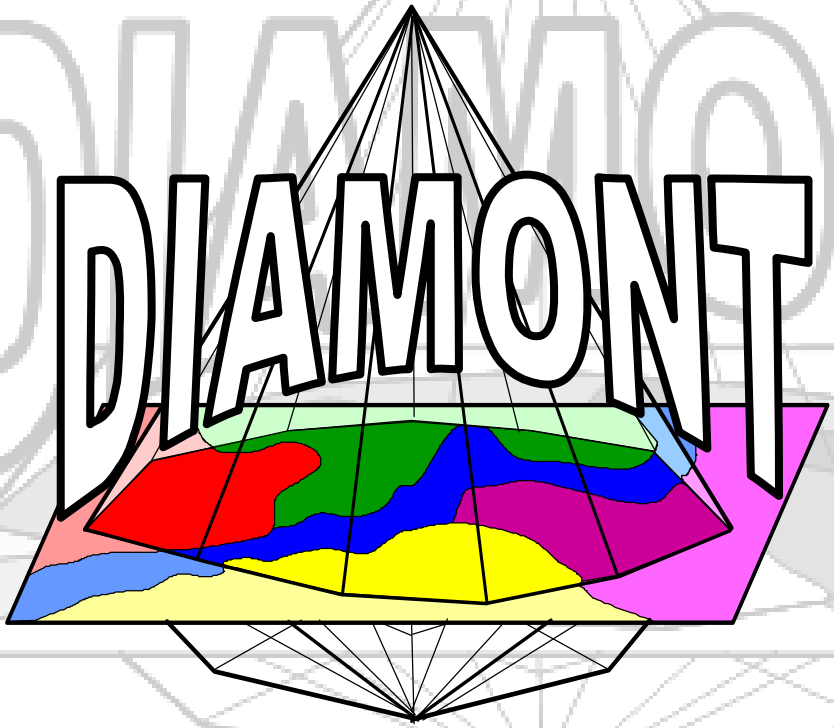
Introduction



Axel Borsdorf, Innsbruck

Co-ordinator

Ulrike Tappeiner Bozen/Bolzano Innsbruck

Scientific Director

Data Infrastructure for the Alps: Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Basic information

- **Funds:** Interreg IIIb, Alpine Space and co-funding
- **Duration:** 2005-2008
- **Costs:** 2,2 Mio Euro
- **Outcome:** Publication series DIAMONT with five books; Atlas of the Alps; Database on steering instruments for regional sustainable development and best practice models; 2 DIAMONT international and 2 national conferences; participation in 2 international conferences; many posters; scientific articles in international journals; 9 newsletters; WP-flyers; video; website; high impact in media (press and broadcasting).

Consortium

OPERATIVE LEVEL

Managing Committee

- **UIBK Universität Innsbruck** *Co-ordinator:* Axel Borsdorf
- **EURAC - Accademia Europea di Bolzano** *Scientific Director:* Ulrike Tappeiner

Project Steering Group

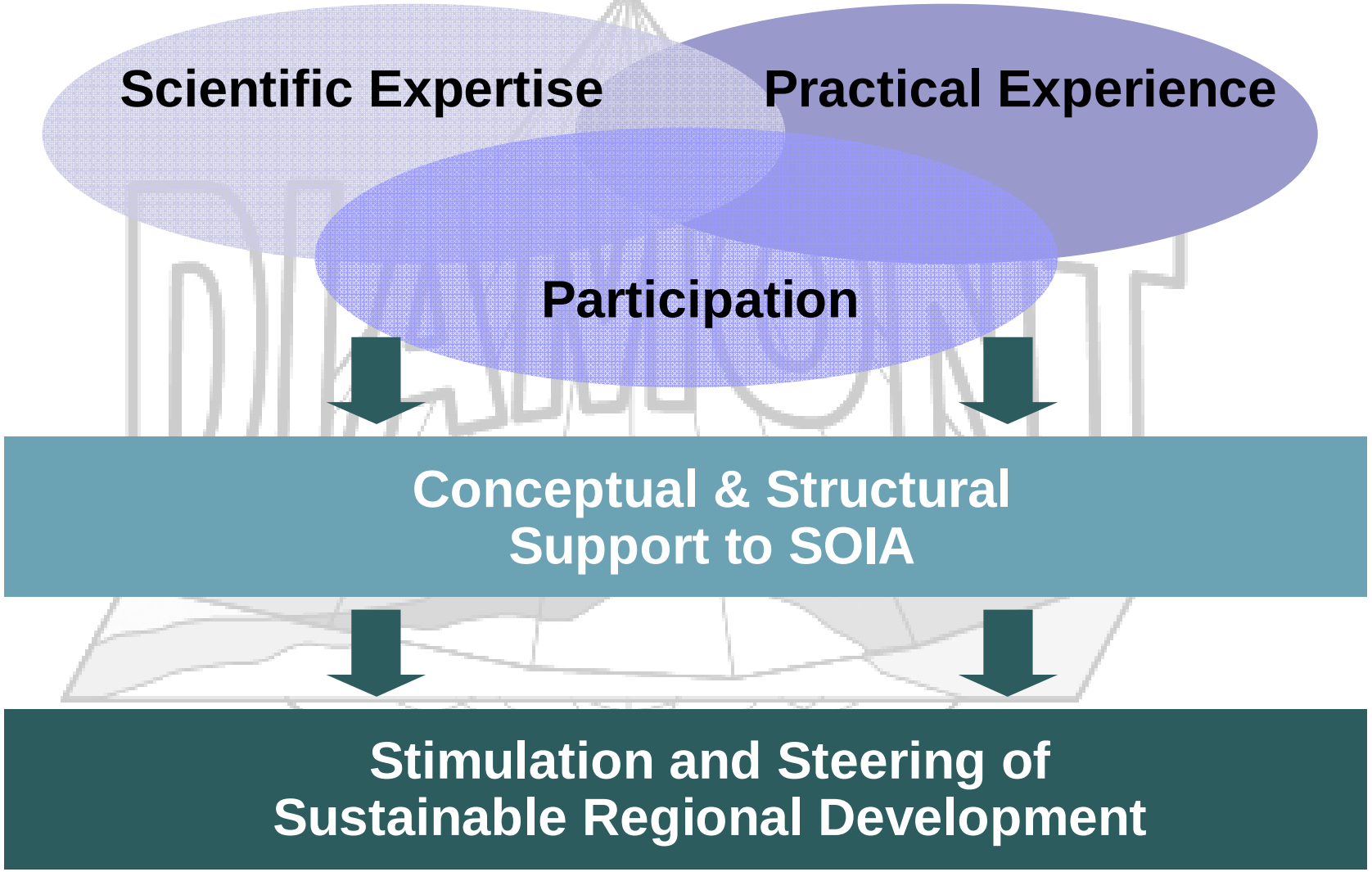
Information and Publicity (WP4)	**UIBK Universität Innsbruck** *Co-ordinator:* Axel Borsdorf	**FWR-HSG Wirtschaftsgeographie & Raumordnungspolitik** Martin Boesch
Survey of Experts' Estimations (WP6)	**CEMAGREF** Vincent Briquel	**Bosch & Partner** Konstanze Schönthaler
Data Tests (WP 8); Collaboration with SOIA (WP12)	**EURAC - Accademia Europea di Bolzano** *Scientific Director:* Ulrike Tappeiner	**Ifuplan** Stefan Marzelli
1st Confrontation of Theory and Practice (WP10)	**AMGI - Anton Melik Geographical Institute** Drago Perko	**UNCEM UnioneNazionale Comuni Comunità Enti Montani** Tommaso Dal Bosco

Impact of Cultural Differences (WP5)	
Identification and Selection of Indicators (WP7)	
Regional Development Instruments (WP 9)	
2nd Confrontation of Theory and Practice (WP11)	

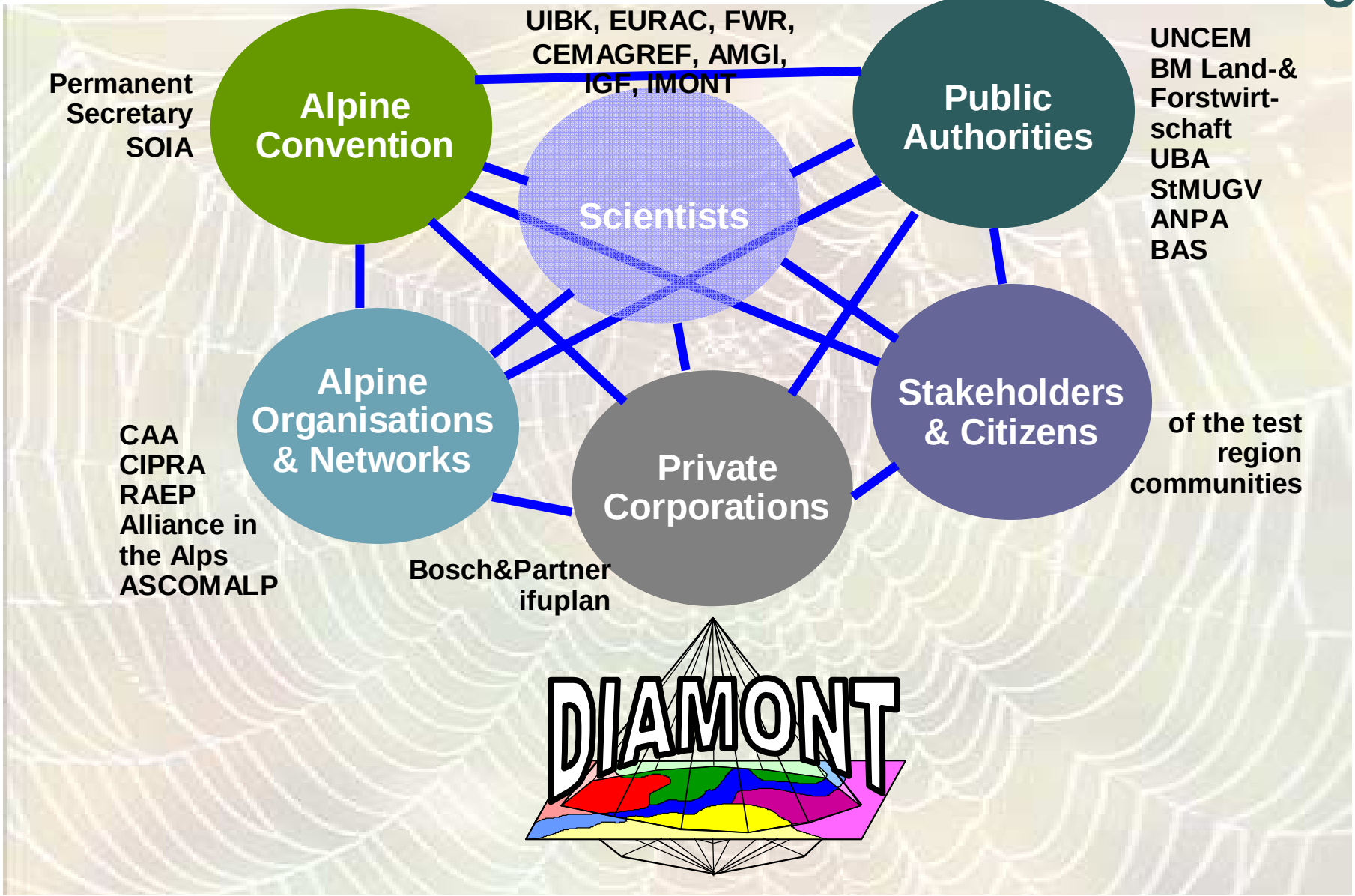
OBSERVER LEVEL

- **Alpine Convention**
- **Umweltbundesamt Berlin** Benno Hain
- **BM Land- & Forst-wirtschaft, Umwelt- & Wasserwirtschaft** Ewald Galle
- **TEO - Institut de Géographie Alpine** Marie-Christine Fourny-Kober
- **CAA Club Arc Alpin** Peter Haßlacher
- **ANPA BZ** Agenzia provinziale per la protezione dell'ambiente Walter Huber
- **CIPRA** Michel Revaz
- **BAS - Bundesamt für Statistik Neuchâtel** Peter Glauser
- **RAEP - Réseau Alpin des Espaces Protégés** Guido Plassmann
- **ASCOMALP** Associazione Commercianti Alpini Ettore Bonazza
- **StMUGV, Bayer. Staatsministerium für Umwelt etc.** Erich Weihs
- **Allianz in den Alpen** Gemeindenetzwerk Elke Klien

Objectives


Scientific Expertise
Practical Experience
Participation
Conceptual & Structural
Support to SOIA
Stimulation and Steering of
Sustainable Regional Development

Networking


Permanent Secretary SOIA
Alpine Convention
UIBK, EURAC, FWR, CEMAGREF, AMGI, IGF, IMONT
Public Authorities
UNCEM
BM Land-& Forstwirt-schaft
UBA
StMUGV
ANPA
BAS
Scientists
Alpine Organisations & Networks
CAA
CIPRA
RAEP
Alliance in the Alps
ASCOMALP
Private Corporations
Bosch&Partner
ifuplan
Stakeholders & Citizens
of the test region communities
DIAMONT

This project has received European Regional Development Funding through the INTERREG IIIB Community Initiative
Alpine Space
Interreg III B

Integration of Public Authorities

International level

Permanent Secretary AC
SOIA
CIPRA
RAEP
AiA

National level

UNCEM
UBA
BMLF
ANPA
BAS

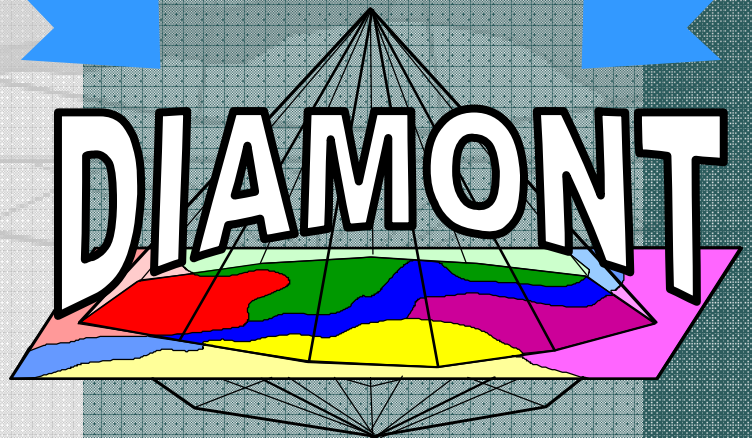
Regional & local level

StMUGV
Communities of the test regions
Local & regional authorities

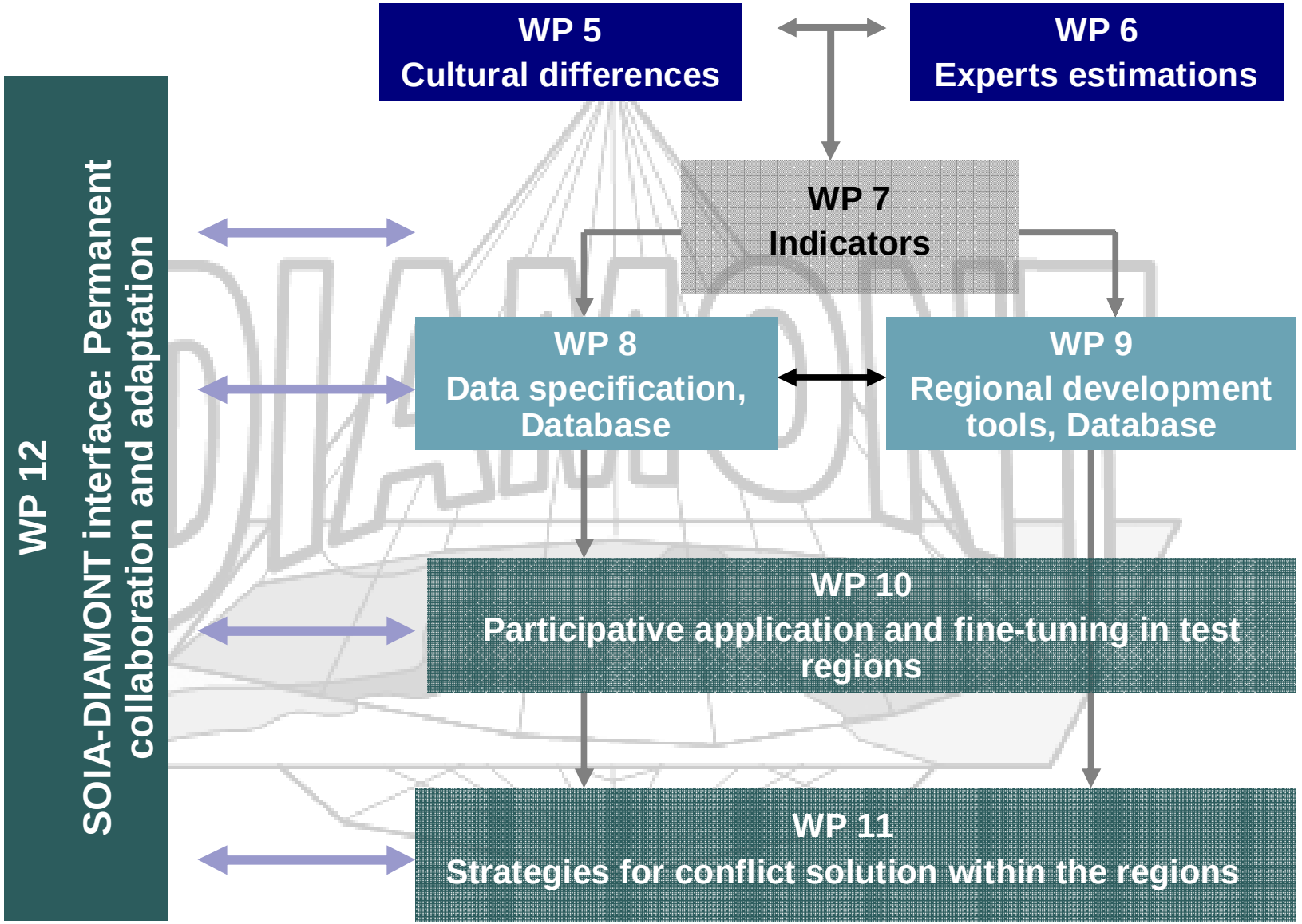
Information
Consultation
Collaboration

Information
Consultation
Collaboration

Information
Support
Participation



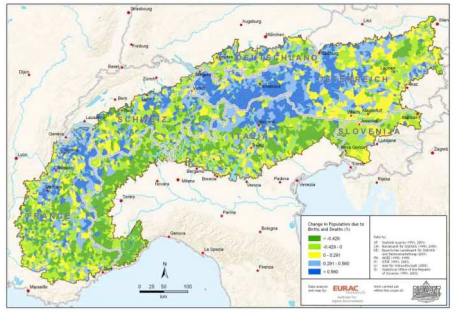
Activities


WP 5
Cultural differences
WP 6
Experts estimations
WP 7
Indicators
WP 8
Data specification, Database
WP 9
Regional development tools, Database
WP 10
Participative application and fine-tuning in test regions
WP 11
Strategies for conflict solution within the regions
WP 12
SOIA-DIAMONT interface: Permanent collaboration and adaptation

Tasks and organisation

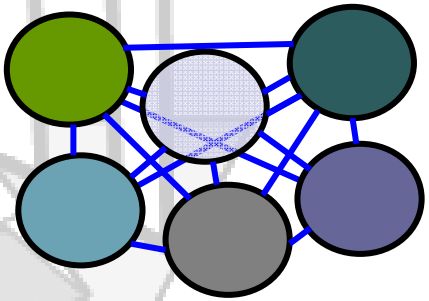
Task 1:
Data infrastructure

DIAMONT databases on the complete Alpine arc → indicators → classification → maps → atlas



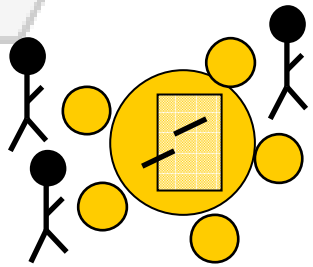
Task 2:
Networking

DIAMONT network → partners from 5 countries → exchange with alpine institutions → per-manent contact with SOIA → Alpine Convention

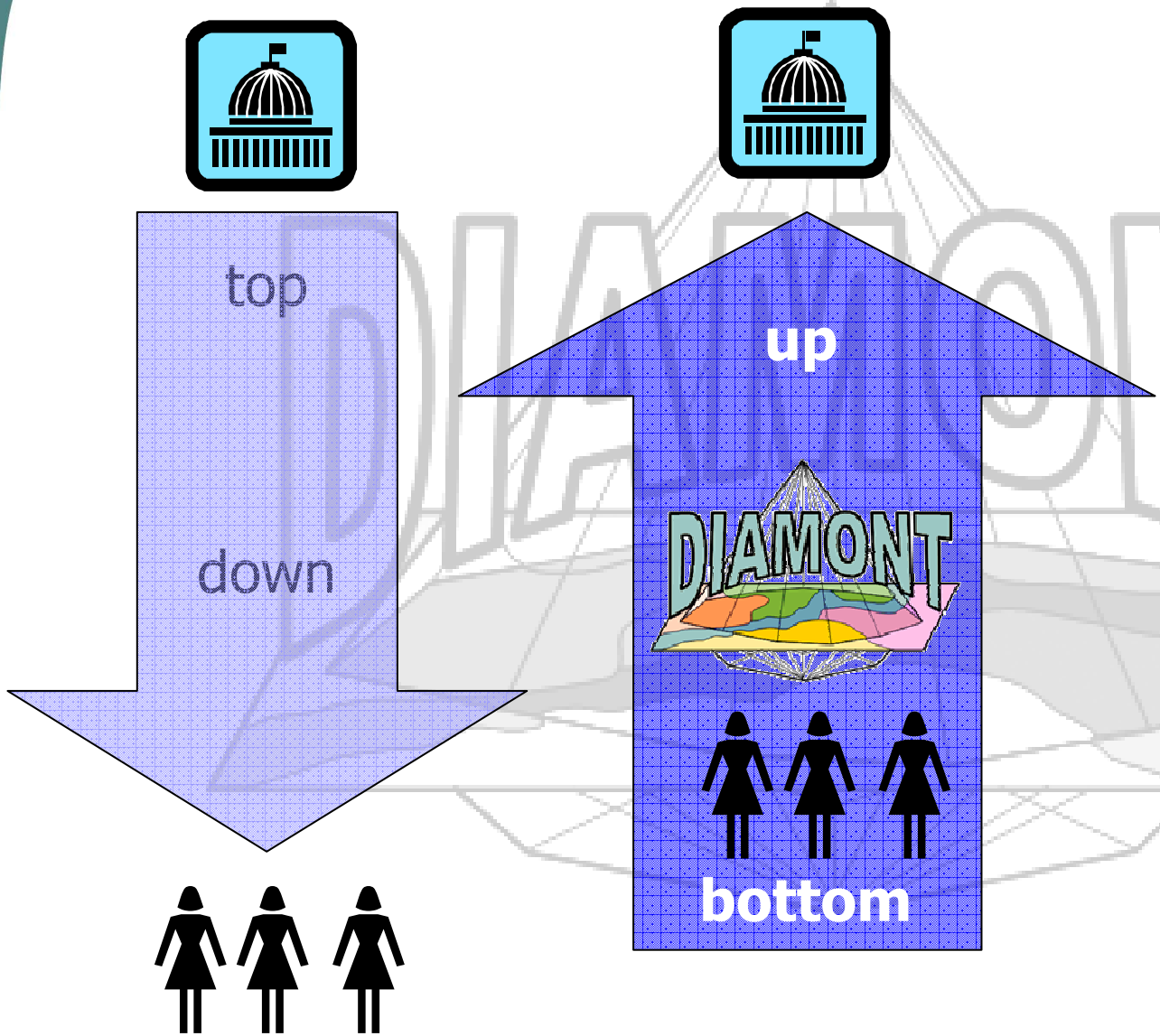


Task 3:
Steering sustainable development, based on participation

DIAMONT work in test regions → participation technology → new initiatives for regional development strategies



Main idea



The DIAMONT bottom-up approach elaborates databases orientated on the expectations, hopes and interests of the population. It also facilitates the identification of the alpine population with their region, with the objectives of the Alpine Convention and sensibilises for sustainable regional development.

Instruments

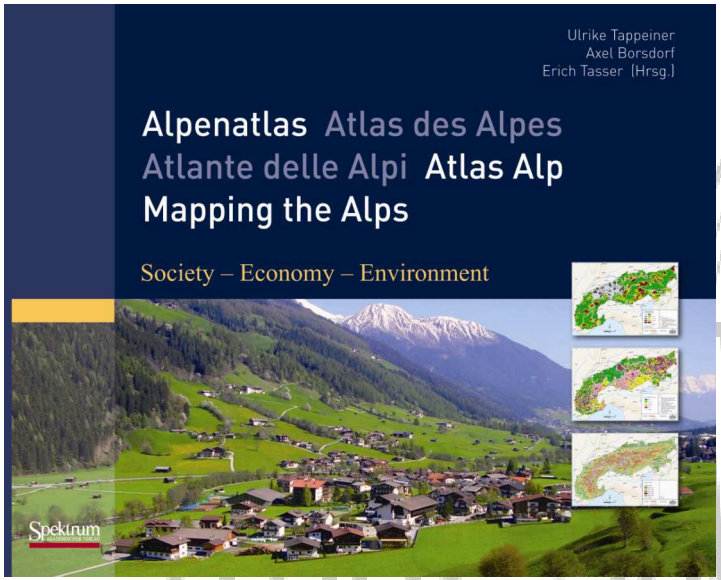
- Identification of cultural diversity and different planning milieus
- DELPHI enquiry detecting the key questions of Alpine development
- Indicator definition and database elaboration orientated to the real needs of the population and of planning practice (quantitative and qualitative data)
- Publications for the scientific community (monographs and articles) **and** for the public (atlas)
- Video production for the public

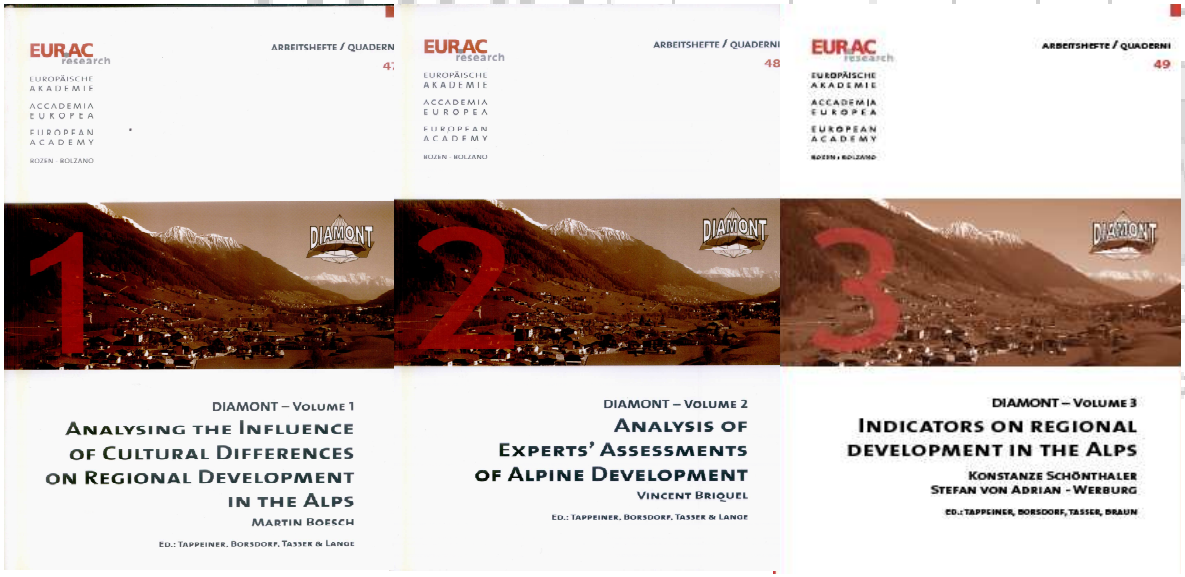
Co-ordination

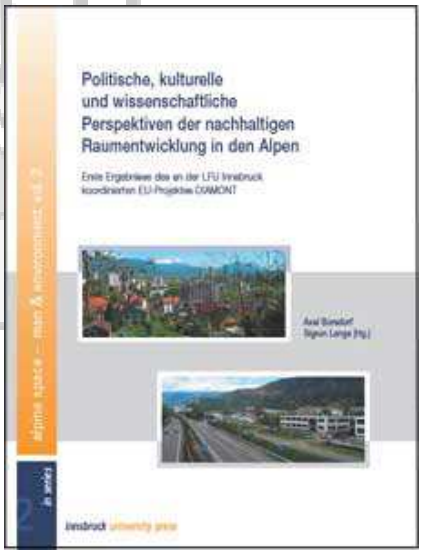
The job of the co-ordinating institution (UIBK: Axel Borsdorf, Sigrun Lange, Valerie Braun, Brigitte Scott, Vinzenz Mell) was:

- to facilitate the ongoing work
- to prepare the reports for the JTS (work done, cost-statements)
- to co-ordinate the working groups
- to organize the conferences and to guarantee a wide-spread public dissemination in press media and broadcasting

Outputs and products







This project has received European Regional Development Funding through the INTERREG IIIB Community Initiative

Alpine Space

Interreg III B

DIAMONT

Dissemination

Data Infrastructure for the Alps: Mountain Orientated Network Technology

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpenraum-Programm, kofinanziert von der EU

newsletter nr.1 *Mai 2005*

Die Alpen gehören zu den sensibelsten Regionen Europas. Um eine nachhaltige Entwicklung zu erreichen, bedarf es gründlicher Kenntnisse über die spezifischen Strukturen und Probleme des Alpenraums. DIAMONT berät SOIA (System for Observation of and Information on the Alps) bei der Erstellung eines gesamtalpinen Informationssystems und der Auswahl relevanter und verfügbarer Daten. Dabei werden die Erwartungen der Experten für regionale Entwicklung ebenso berücksichtigt wie die Bedürfnisse der alpinen Bevölkerung in den fünf Testregionen. Das Projekt begann im März 2005 und läuft bis Februar 2008. Insgesamt sind zwölf Arbeitspakete (WP) vorgesehen.

Startveranstaltung in Innsbruck

Im Beisein von Thomas Fleury, dem Verantwortlichen im Sekretariat des Alpine Space Programms und Ruggero Schleicher-Tappeser, designierter Generalsekretär der Alpenkonvention, versammelten sich die DIAMONT-Partner aus Österreich, Frankreich, Deutschland, Italien, Slowenien und der Schweiz zur Startveranstaltung im Gebäude des Österreichischen Alpenvereins in Innsbruck.

Ulrike Tappeiner, wissenschaftliche Leiterin des Projekts, skizzierte den wissenschaftlichen Ansatz. Sie wies darauf hin, wie wichtig es sei, schon in der Frühphase des Projekts Schnittstellen zwischen den Arbeitspaketen zu definieren. Sie forderte deshalb alle Partner auf, detaillierte Konzepte auszuarbeiten, die bei der nächsten Sitzung der Steuerungskommission am 4. Juli besprochen und gegebenenfalls angepasst werden können.

Die Koordinatoren Axel Borsdorf und Sigrun Lange schlugen interne Regeln für eine reibungslose Projektumsetzung vor, wie z.B. Terminpläne für die Vorlage von Fortschrittsberichten, Qualitätssicherungsmaßnahmen, Veröffentlichungsschritte und Fragen des Urheberrechts. In der ersten konstituierenden Sitzung der Steuerungskommission, die im Anschluss stattfand und in der jeder Partner durch eine Person vertreten ist, wurden diese Regeln besprochen und angenommen.

Die beiden Arbeitspakete, die bereits im April 2005 begonnen, WP 5 „Auswirkungen kultureller Unterschiede auf die regionale Entwicklung" und WP 6 „Analyse der Einschätzungen der Expertinnen," wurden vorgestellt und unter allen Teilnehmerinnen diskutiert. Die beiden verantwortlichen Leiter, Vincent Briquel und Martin Boesch, nahmen konkrete Vorschläge mit, wie sie ihre Konzepte an die gemeinsame Vorstellung vom Projekt anpassen könnten. Die Sitzung schloss in einer recht kooperativen und konstruktiven Atmosphäre, zu der alle TeilnehmerInnen beitrugen.

Auswirkung kultureller Unterschiede auf die Entwicklung (WP 5)

Das Projekt begann im April mit WP5, das darauf abzielt, den „Einfluss kultureller Unterschiede auf regionale Entwicklung" im Kontext einer nachhaltigen Zukunft für den Alpenraum besser zu verstehen. Sechs nationale Projektteams sollen feststellen, in welchem Ausmaß etwa Wertsysteme, sozialer Zusammenhalt, Betroffene, Governance, Planungsumgebung sowie Normen und

DIAMONT *hat begonnen...*

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Axel Borsdorf
Institut für Geographie,
Universität Innsbruck
Koordinator in DIAMONT-Projekt

Mit einer großartigen Eröffnungsveranstaltung in den Räumen des Österreichischen Alpenvereins in Innsbruck wurde DIAMONT ins Leben gerufen. Das neue Interreg IIIB-Projekt wurde initiiert, um das Umweltbeobachtungssystem SOIA (System of Observation of and Information on the Alps) während der Neukonzipierungsphase zu unterstützen, zu den gemeinsamen Perspektiven nachhaltiger Entwicklung im Alpenbogen beizutragen, die wichtigsten Aspekte und Ausschlüsse für die Entwicklung in den Alpen festzustellen und auf partizipative Weise indikatorbasierte und qualitative regionale Entwicklungswerkzeuge auszuarbeiten. Im DIAMONT-Konsortium arbeiten Institutionen aus führenden alpinen Wissenschaftszentren, die Alpenkonvention, öffentliche Behörden aller Alpenstaaten, alpine Organisationen, private Verbände und Bürgerinnen ausgewählter Testregionsgemeinden zusammen, um die Nachhaltigkeit in den Alpen zu fördern und Instrumente für Raumordnungsstrategien und Steuerungsmaßnahmen zu finden.

Der Projektstart ist gut gelungen und wir können DIAMONT nur eine glänzende Zukunft wünschen!

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpenraum-Programm, kofinanziert von der EU

newsletter nr.2 *August 2005*

Im ersten Halbjahr der Projektumsetzung hat DIAMONT bereits beachtliche Aktivitäten entwickelt: In Innsbruck fanden zwei Treffen zur Koordination der Tätigkeiten aller Partner statt; eine Delphi-Umfrage startete mit etwa 60 ExpertInnen aus sechs Ländern, und die Studie zu den Auswirkungen kultureller Unterschiede auf die Regionalentwicklung wurde von jedem Partner durchgeführt.

Sitzung der Steuerungskommission in Innsbruck

Ulrike Tappeiner, wissenschaftliche DIAMONT-Leiterin, berief für den 4. Juli eine weitere Sitzung der Steuerungskommission ein. Um die reibungslose Umsetzung des Projekts zu fördern, bat sie alle verantwortlichen Projektleiterlnnen detaillierte Arbeitskonzepte auszuarbeiten. Diese wurden im Rahmen der Sitzung vorgestellt, diskutiert und an die Anforderungen der entsprechenden Arbeitspakete und des alpenweiten Umweltinformationssystem SOIA angepasst, das von Ruggero Schleicher vertreten wurde. Die Sitzung fand in den Räumen des Sekretariats der Alpenkonvention in Innsbruck statt.

Ruggero Schleicher-Tappeser (AC), Ulrike Tappeiner und Ruth Laharner-Schnitzer (beide EURAC)

Begriffsdefinition

Alle Partner waren sich einig, dass es in einem interdisziplinären und internationalen Konsortium wichtig ist, sich für oft verwendete Begriffe auf eine Bedeutung zu einigen. So wurde etwa Entwicklung definiert als „Zustandsveränderung mit der Zeit, die beschrieben werden kann durch Angaben über Strukturen und/oder Prozesse" und Regionalpolitik als die „Anwendung von Maßnahmen zur Verbesserung der regionalen (wirtschaftlichen) Entwicklung." Die Partner einigten sich auf LAU II (= früher NUTS V) als niedrigste Ebene für die Datensammlungen. Axel Borsdorf unterstrich außerdem, dass Nachhaltigkeit nicht Hauptziel ist, das Projekt liefert vor allem Werkzeuge, um zu beobachten, ob das was in den Regionen abläuft, nachhaltig ist oder nicht.

Neue DIAMONT MitarbeiterInnen

Es heißt zwar „a diamond is a girl's best friend", doch Christina Seidl (EURAC, Italien) zog weniger der brillante Name des DIAMONT-Projekts an als der Wunsch, vertiefende Einsichten in den Alpenraum zu gewinnen, wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse, die auf Tatsachen und statistischen Verfahren beruhen, aber auch Einblicke in die unterschiedlichen Mentalitäten in den verschiedenen Ländern.

Christina Seidl

Nach einer Lehre im Hotelgewerbe und einer Stelle als Rezeptionistin begann Christina am Studium der Wirtschaftsgeografie an der Universität Regensburg. Sie machte ihre Diplomarbeit im Rahmen des europäischen Projektes "Routes for Tourism and Culture", an dem sieben Partner aus Portugal, Griechenland und Italien beteiligt waren. Nach ihrem Studium nahm sie 2004 an einem Graduiertenprogramm an der Universität Udine in Italien teil. Seit Juli 2005 ist sie Mitarbeiterin an der Europäischen Akademie in Bozen (Institut für Alpine Umwelt) und verantwortlich für das Projektmanagement bei DIAMONT.

Mimi Urbanc

Mimi Urbanc (AMGI, Slowenien) fand sich über die plötzliche Chance einer Mitarbeit bei DIAMONT seit dem Abgang von Borut Persoja im Juni. Trotz der unvermeidlichen Bürokratie möchte sie gern neue Horizonte entdecken. Als optimistischer Mensch – ein Glas ist für sie immer halb voll und nicht halb leer – traut sie sich auf die Mitarbeit in einem kontrastiven und viel versprechenden Konsortium.

In ihrer Jugend hatte sie die klare Vorstellung sich ihren Lebensunterhalt mit Sprachkenntnissen zu verdienen. Später verloren die Fremdsprachen für sie jedoch an Attraktivität und sie landete bei Geografie und Geschichte, weil sie schon seit Jahren von Landschaften fasziniert gewesen war. Während des Studiums war sie sehr aktiv und umrundete die Erde als Fremdenführerin. Seit 1996 arbeitet sie als Forschungsassistentin am Science Research Centre in Ljubljana und war an verschiedenen Projekten auf nationaler Ebene beteiligt, z.B. über Kulturlandschaften, illegale Deponien, den Triglav Gletscher, den ersten slowenischen Weltatlas und vieles mehr. Sie ist Mitglied der Vereinigung geografischer Gesellschaften von Slowenien und Vertretern ihres Landes in der Ständigen Europäischen Konferenz zur Untersuchung der ländlichen Räume in Slowenien. Seit Juni managet sie das DIAMONT-Projekt für AMGI.

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpenraum-Programm, kofinanziert von der EU

newsletter nr.3 *November 2005*

Nach nur einem halben Jahr Projektlaufzeit, wurden die ersten beiden Studien planmäßig durchgeführt: Die nationalen Analysen der jeweiligen Projektpartner zum Einfluss der kulturellen Unterschiede auf die Regionalentwicklung im Alpenraum wurden in einem Endbericht zusammengestellt. Der Bericht durchläuft momentan die Projekt-interne Qualitätskontrolle. Im Rahmen einer Delphi-Umfrage wurden weiterhin etwa 60 ExpertInnen hinsichtlich Ihrer Einschätzung der zukünftigen Entwicklung im Alpenraum befragt. Darüber hinaus fand zwischen 8. und 9. September 2005 das zweite interne Projekttreffen in Bozen/Italien statt.

Projekttreffen am 8./9. September in Bozen

Gastgeber für das zweite Projekttreffen war großzügigerweise die EURAC. Die Projektgruppe nutzte den Tagungsort Bozen und besuchte das Archäologische Museum, in dem die Eisnmmie des „Ötzi" vom Tisenjoch aufbewahrt wird. Das Treffen galt jedoch nicht dem beeindruckenden Kulturerbe, sondern vor allem der Delphi-Umfrage. Diese Untersuchung der Hauptaspekte zukünftiger Entwicklung in den Alpenregionen ist nun in ihrer Kernphase. Vincent Briquel, der verantwortliche Leiter, präsentierte die Ergebnisse der ersten Runde, die Antworten von mehr als 60 Fachleuten beinhaltete. Briquel verwies auf das breite Antwortspektrum und die dabei zutage getretenen, äußerst heterogenen Informationen. Nach fruchtbaren Diskussionen einigte sich die Gruppe auf die Struktur des Fragebogens für

DIAMONT-Projektgruppe mit Ruggero Schleicher-Tappeser.

die zweite Runde: formuliert werden drei Thesen für jeden der acht ausgewählten Makroaspekte (Land- & Forstwirtschaft, Mobilität & Verkehr, Freizeit & Tourismus, Bevölkerung und Gesellschaft, Energie, Industrie & Dienstleistungen, urbane & ländliche Besiedelung, Natur- & Kulturerbe und Gesundheit & Lebensqualität). Nach dieser im Grunde sektoralen Analyse, die von 51 ExpertInnen beantwortet wurde, sollen integrative Aspekte im Rahmen der dritten, für Januar 2006 geplanten Runde vertieft werden. Die Studie soll bis Ende Februar 2006 abgeschlossen sein.

Konstanze Schönthaler stellte die ersten Arbeitsschritte von WP 7 vor, das im August begonnen hatte. Um die Hauptproblemfelder alpiner Entwicklung zu analysieren, wurden relevante nationale und internationale Dokumente über nachhaltige Regionalentwicklung und verfügbare Indikatorsysteme untersucht. Schönthaler berichtete von einer großen Vielfalt an Informationen und Indikatorsystemen und betonte, dass es dringend notwendig sei, die verfügbaren Indikatoren für das alpine Umweltbeobachtungssystem SOIA zusammenzuführen und besser zu nutzen.

Ruggero Schleicher-Tappeser, verantwortlich für den Aufbau von SOIA, nahm ebenfalls an der Sitzung teil. Er berichtete, dass das Ständige Sekretariat der Alpenkonvention ein Abkommen mit dem bayrischen Umweltministerium hat, eine xml-Datenbank zu betreiben, in der SOIA verfügbare Daten speichern kann. Die Datenbankstruktur muss noch weiterentwickelt werden, könnte aber auch als vorläufige Struktur für die DIAMONT-Datenbank dienen, die von der EURAC in WP8 eingerichtet wird. Um die Anstrengungen zu koordinieren, wurde eine Sitzung für den 7. Dezember im bayrischen Umweltministerium in München angesetzt. Außerdem ist eine formelle Absnachung mit der EURAC bezüglich der Nutzung von SOIA-Daten in WP 8 zu treffen.

Entwicklungstrends und relevante Fragen im Alpenraum: ein kurzer Überblick über die Ergebnissen einer EU-Studie und den Einschätzungen der Delphi-ExpertInnen im DIAMONT-Projekt

Im August 2005 wurde der letzte Entwurf der "Prospective Study on Sustainable Territorial Development in the Alpine Space" des Alpine Space Programms veröffentlicht. Sechs inhaltsbezogene Expertlnnen aus jedem Alpenland sollten wichtige Aspekte und strategische Hauptakteure für eine länderübergreifende Kooperation im Alpenraum nach 2006 nennen.

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpine Space Programme, co-financed by the EU

newsletter no.4 *February 2006*

After nearly a year DIAMONT is able to present the results of the first two studies, the survey on the impact of cultural differences on regional development (WP5) and the experts' opinion on the key issues of Alpine development (WP6). The third and the last round of the Delphi study in WP6 is being analysed at the moment. Its results and the related decision on which specific development trend will be analysed in more detail in the course of the project.

Cultural differences and regional development

The mission of DIAMONT work package five (WP5) was to enhance the understanding of the influence of cultural differences on regional development in the context of a sustainable future in the Alps. In times of increasing influence of globalisation processes on social, economic and also ecological matters there is a growing evidence of common development behaviour, whereas the original regional differences seem to diminish as decisive factors of regional development. Public and private investments, production and consumer behaviour (especially in tourism) are considered to be the main driving forces of regional development in general. Specific measures have to be implemented to meet the challenge of global competition. Regional policy can therefore be understood as a regional answer to globalisation.

The WP5 study revealed that in all Alpine countries there is a general and common endeavour (however different in the details) to reduce regional socio-economic disparities by improving economic competitiveness; general socio-economic factors such as innovation and productivity are increasingly relevant in regional policy. There is a common tendency to strengthen the focus on regional strengths and potentials, as well as a common pledge for a „sustainable development" (whatever this means in a specific case), normally connected with efforts to increase the impact of participatory and integrative processes and to search for an optimal mix of bottom-up and top-down decision-making in regional policy. But then, looking closer at the institutional aspects of regional policy, we come across some major differences within the Alpine countries: although it is mainly government bodies or agencies that are in charge of implementing regional policy, there are quite marked differences in terms of the „territorial geometry", i.e. which levels of government are responsible for such measures. Also, in spite of a general tendency for increasing involvement of civil society, there are relevant differences in the degree of participation and the involvement of private partnerships.

Concluding, one can say that the traditional influences of several cultural factors on regional policy are decreasing. Thus for monitoring regional development we have to consider indicators measuring sustainable progress in a globalising world. However, this may well include information on regional identity, provided it means no mere leftover from times past or folklore, but a conscious profile and strategy for future challenges.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrike Tappeiner
EURAC and Institute for Ecology, LFU
Scientific leader of DIAMONT project

DIAMONT after nearly a year

DIAMONT started in March 2005. Where are we after nearly a year of hard work and what will be our next steps?

How do experts assess the development of the Alpine Space, which trends do they consider important and which ones are the key issues for future development? These are the questions which had to be answered by 50 pure-Alpine experts within the framework of work package six. Naturally, even the perception of experts is marked by their personal experiences and their cultural background. For such a complex issue like sustainable development it is especially true that "you only see what you know". For a common vision of the development of the Alps it is crucial to understand which factors are considered important and which culturally motivated differences in weighting can be expected. This topic was taken up by work package five.

Currently we are searching for a set of indicators that covers all relevant aspects of sustainable development and is appropriate for reproducing its dynamics. There are libraries full of theories

11 Newsletters, each in five languages

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpine Space Programme, co-financed by the EU

newsletter no.5 *May 2006*

Currently, the first "Report on the State of the Alps" is prepared by an international expert team – it has to be submitted to the Conference of Contracting Parties in November 2006. The availability of Alpine wide harmonised data is one of the major problems and Enrico Borghi, president of UNCEM/I, finds fault that some countries did not yet ratify the protocols of the Alpine Convention. However, Ms Silvia Reppe, German contact for the Alpine Convention, believes that DIAMONT can make a methodological contribution to overcoming such problems. This may be realised for example by means of the revision of the existing indicator system (WP7) as well as through clustering Alpine regions with comparable development potentials and trends and the analysis of the differing perceptions of sustainability in the Alpine space (WP8). Additionally, Ms Reppe, interviewed by Stefan Marzelli, delivered insights in the development of other mountain regions which depends to a larger extend on cultural influences than, according to the results of WP5, this is the case in the Alps.

Indicators as instruments for monitoring (sustainable) development in the Alpine regions

Over the last few weeks, as part of a DIAMONT study (WP6, Cemagref) experts were conducting intense discussions on key questions of sustainable regional development within the Alpine area (see Newsletter No. 4). One major aim of DIAMONT for the remaining project period is the search for concrete data to map such developments (WP8, EURAC). In an attempt to link the thematic level with the data level, WP7, led by Bosch & Partner (Konstanze Schönthaler), is discussing indicators that would enable simplified imaging of sustainable regional development.

What is so special about the DIAMONT indicator system?

One can start with the justified question why another system is needed at all, given the wealth of existing indicator systems. In their preliminary work before the start of the DIAMONT project, Bosch & Partner carried out extensive research on national and international indicator systems in the course of other projects. What transpired was that

- the Alpine space is indeed covered by European indicator systems, but because of their focus on the European context, these systems are not always suited to map differentiation within the Alps;
- the national indicator systems of the individual Alpine states do not yield results that can be compared across the entire area covered by the Alpine Convention. Moreover many of these systems are not even implemented (yet).

New DIAMONT collaborator

Dr. Manfred Perlik

Manfred Perlik joined the DIAMONT-team to work specifically on the issue of **"Urban centres and fringes between competition and cooperation"** which was identified as one of the main trends in Alpine regional development at the DIAMONT conference in Ljubljana in March 2006. Educated as a **physical geographer** at the universities of Frankfort/M. and Berne, he turned to **economic geography** after his diploma in 1990.

Since the early 1990ies he has undertaken broad **empirical research in many regions of the Alps and in Switzerland** treating urban topics as well as regional ones. His thesis in 2001 dealt with the **processes of urbanisation and metropolisation in the Alpine area with its peri-Alpine fringe**. He then collaborated at the Swiss national report of DG Regio's "Analysis of mountain areas in the European Union" (Nordregio Report) and realised projects of urbanisation and regional development in Switzerland. Since 2005 he is a **member of the new founded research unit "Mountain Research: Man and Environment" of the Austrian Academy of Sciences at Innsbruck**.

Manfred Perlik is also involved in two other Alpine Space projects: he worked as an external expert for **MONITRAF** and is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of **AlpCity**.

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpine Space Programme, co-financed by the EU

newsletter no.6 *August 2006*

This autumn numerous conferences deal with climate change issues (see page 7). This may suggest that global warming is the most urgent topic in the Alpine Space. Nevertheless, DIAMONT decided to concentrate on another key issue, namely on urbanisation processes, with a special focus on the relation between local centres in the Alpine valleys and their fringes. To compete with peri-Alpine metropolises they have to come to a fruitful cooperation which avoids wasting resources. In future, best practice examples may be funded by the latterly initiated Austrian programme on „Rural Development 2007 – 2013 (Grüner Pakt)" which specifically comprises a chapter on the successful implementation of the Alpine Convention.

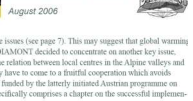
Participation of DIAMONT in the Alpine Space Summit in Stresa/I, 19th/20th of June

In June, the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat organised a summit meeting to present the activities of the projects financed by the Alpine Space Programme. The close cooperation between DIAMONT, the Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention and the national SOIA contact persons was presented as one of the success stories in the plenary session of the meeting.

Additional side events dealt with typical Alpine products, transport issues or natural hazards. DIAMONT coordinated a session on spatial development in the Alpine space: "Marginalisation versus urbanisation: How to achieve a balanced development in the Alpine space?" This side event was realised in cooperation with PUSEMOR, QUALIMA and GENDERALP.

The Alps are facing a significant polarisation of spatial development. Urban centres and suburban areas in the valley floors are growing whereas unfavourable areas are increasingly marginalised. Following different approaches, the four Interreg IIIB projects try to figure out how a balanced development could be achieved. DIAMONT, for example, attaches great importance to strengthen the cooperation between urban centres, its fringes and the remote mountainous areas. For PUSEMOR and QUALIMA it is likewise important to improve public services in sparsely populated areas. Broadband internet access and mobile unserties shall be provided in remote areas. Cooperative efforts are needed to concentrate services in polyfunctional centres. Finally, it was highlighted by GENDERALP that instruments integrating the different needs of women and men have to be implemented.

Cooperating projects:
PUSEMOR – www.pusemor.net
QUALIMA – www.qualima.org
GENDERALP – www.genderalp.com



Axel Borsdorf (left) presented DIAMONT in the plenary session of the Alpine Space Summit; Manfred Perlik (right) moderated the side event on spatial planning.

DIAMONT stand in Stresa.

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpine Space Programme, co-financed by the EU

newsletter Nr.7 *November 2006*

In spring the DIAMONT partners decided to dedicate its work to urbanisation processes in the Alpine space. So far it cators were selected to differentiate between dynamic and stagnating development types and to assess which ecologic economic and social risks may occur. In the course of the project regions with similar development will be delineated and test regions will be selected. During next year on workshops will be held to discuss instruments for sustainable reg nal development with regional stakeholders.

Indicators for urbanisation processes in the Alpine space (WP7)

Why Alpine towns?

The spatial development of Alpine regions nowadays is highly polarised: Remote mountain villages without any touristy potential suffer a decline of inhabitants and economic power. However, urban centres and suburban areas expand along the valley floors. Land-use conflicts flare up as residential and commercial areas, traffic infrastructure, agricultural activities as well as recreation and landscape protection compete for the limited spatial resources.

The basic processes of urbanisation take a similar course in the Alps as in the flatlands, except that the problem of limited space is exacerbated in the mountains. This makes it necessary for Alpine towns to seek close cooperation both with their environs and with other towns in order to achieve a feasible spatial distribution of functions and services. In the light of the tendencies described above it is hardly surprising that Alpine towns and their development are beginning to receive more interest within the context of Alpine spatial development. Within the Alpine Convention and its protocols, Alpine towns have not received any attention so far. In 2005, however, the Standing Committee of the Alpine Conference chose "The socio-economic dimension of the Alpine Convention with particular attention to the role of Alpine towns" as the theme for its 30th meeting. CIPRA, too, is calling for measures to support towns in their responsibility for nature and landscape as well as their efforts at improving the quality of living and to encourage regional strengths and solidarity.

In the light of the scant attention that Alpine towns have received so far, the DIAMONT partners have agreed to concentrate on studying Alpine towns and urbanisation processes more thoroughly for the remainder of the

New DIAMONT collaborator (UNCEM)

Loredana Alfieri

Loredana Alfieri joined the DIAMONT team of UNCEM in November. Her role in the project is to organise the workshops in the test regions and to support UNCEM in applying the participatory process. She is working for IMONT (Italian Mountain Institute) as researcher. She is specialised in coordinating and applying the participation process in the following three INTERREG projects:

- "Innoalf – Innovation and Resources Efficiency as Driving Forces for Sustainable Growth" in the frame of INTERREG III C. The project has financed eight sub-projects for a total of 31 partners establish regional networks for a total of 550 members.
- "Prospeco – Protection du territoire par le biais du genie ecologique à l'échelle du bassin versant» in the frame of INTERREG III B MEDOCC.
- «VARAEMA – Water resources management in protected areas" in the frame of INTERREG III B – CADSES.

She is also a member of the Scientific Committee in ALPCI project. The project involves 12 partners from the Alpine regio Her task is to help partners implementing this project propos and to assist in particular the Italian regions located in north-as part of the country.

She also has been designated as expert by the Ministry Infrastructures and Transports for writing, on his behalf, seve chapters of the INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space Programme Co plement (in particular the "Measures descriptions").

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Interreg IIIB-Projekt, Alpine Space Programme, co-financed by the EU

newsletter Nr.8 *February 2007*

The main focus of the DIAMONT activities in 2007 is the selection of test regions for each participating state. These test regions will be chosen with the help of specific indicators revealing similar structural development related to urbanisation processes. In spring, workshops are going to be held in situ with stakeholders and the local population to discuss land use management issues. Instruments steering regional development are being collected for the whole alpine bow. They will be presented in the form of a workbook towards a sustainable development.

DIAMONT project meeting in Grenoble

In the last week of January 2007 participants of all six partners of the DIAMONT project met in Grenoble for their fifth project meeting. After a late start caused by the brake down of the international transport network due to "heavy" snowfall in the middle of Europe, the participants were kindly welcomed by CEMAGREF.

The main topic of the meeting was to find a time table for the partners which will enable them to be well prepared for the workshops with the stakeholders in the test regions (WP 10 and WP 11). Within the workshops the data, indicators and instruments resulting of WP 7, 8 and 9 shall be discussed. The final as well as the preliminary results of WP 7, WP 8 and 9 were presented in Grenoble. During these presentations fierce different approaches on how to select the test regions were presented. In a subsequent meeting in Innsbruck two weeks later selection criteria were finally determined. The next step is additional national analysis of the test regions shall be made for each country, based on the presented analysis for France by Vincent Briquel and subsequently in order to characterise the selected test region more thoroughly a context analysis will be accomplished. Until the middle of June the workshops should have all been held and a final analysis of the results is expected by July.

Madame Lenoitre, who is closely linked to SOIA France, has participated in the meeting. She acknowledged the interest of SOIA France in the results and publications of DIAMONT. A new election within the Alpine Convention makes Mrs. Regula Imhoff, now deputy general secretary of the Alpine Convention, the new contact person for DIAMONT. A new arrangement has to be made between DIAMONT and SOIA on how the results of DIAMONT shall be made available for SOIA.

Finalizing the meeting was very work intensive and released the partner with many new ideas. Furthermore a few participants who decided to stay a few days longer in Grenoble were able to do some sightseeing.

The DIAMONT project group ...

... discussing urban areas in Grenoble.

DIAMONT: Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain Orientated Network Technology

Alpine Space Programme, co-financed by the EU

newsletter Nr.9 *May 2007*

s May and June 2007 six workshops in selected test regions are going to be held in five alpine countshops represent work package 10 within the DIAMONT project where selected regional instruments to development in the test regions are going to be tested. Whereas the next set of workshops - being held ctober 2007 within work package 11 - will go a step deeper in fine-tuning selected instruments. The test ed by these workshops will be accomplished in three countries (France, Germany and Austria).

n of a theory

not want to stay on a theoretical level. ork packages (WP10 and WP11) were er to gain usefulness and appropriate- regional development instruments as a ment of regional policy in six selected he workshops representing work pack- nd instruments of land resource manage- cussed in view of sustainable regional ile WP11 will go a step further in fine- l instruments and solving detected prob- e second workshop we will provide and s for the solution of problems brought by the stakeholders. In mid May in rticle was written the WP10 has already g; the preparatory phase was ended and about to take place.

e main aim, workshops will be per- get an opinion of the main stakehold- instruments provided for better regional the selected alpine areas. Stakeholders ortunity to utter their views on the use tools in their regions. Furthermore, the promote public participation in policy ving stakeholders and citizens and thus ness for these issues.

ise

time consuming and difficult tasks to efore confrontation with stakeholder zas: selecting test areas and analysing ask was carried out by EURAC from within the work package 8 (see article r work referring to test areas selection eement between partners on an integra- end for DIAMONT, which was "Urban es between competition and co-opera-

First workshops successfully being held in Waidhofen / Ybbs (Austria)

On the 12th of May 2007 stakeholders of the labour market region Waidhofen / Ybbs in Austria met for a workshop organised by the Austrian partners within the DIAMONT project. They discussed very enthusiastically about regional development in their region and the provided instruments. More workshops will take place in Germany (Ilmenustadt and Traunstein), Italy (Tolmezzo), Slovenia (Idrija), and France (Gap-region).

tion - Steering towards sustainability". In the next steps this issue was narrowed to labour market regions which were defined as centres with more than 10.000 inhabitants and more than 5.000 employees. Having a positive commuter balance was an additional criterion. The map and the data provided by EURAC collaborators were the starting point for partners to select the appropriate test area. Additionally partners from Germany, Austria and France carried out extensive national analysis in order to select a suitable and sensible test area with the help of additional indicators.

Problems

Not feasible!

Data delivery by AC

EURAC
WP 8: Data handling, Data base

Data by former EURAC projects

Only indicators to partners, no access to the basic data

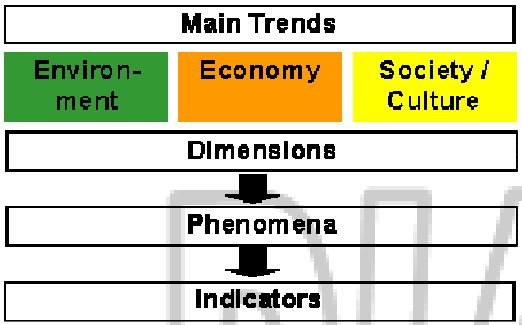
All data processing at EURAC

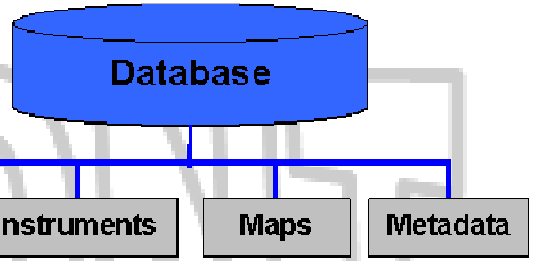
No Copyrights for DIAMONT!

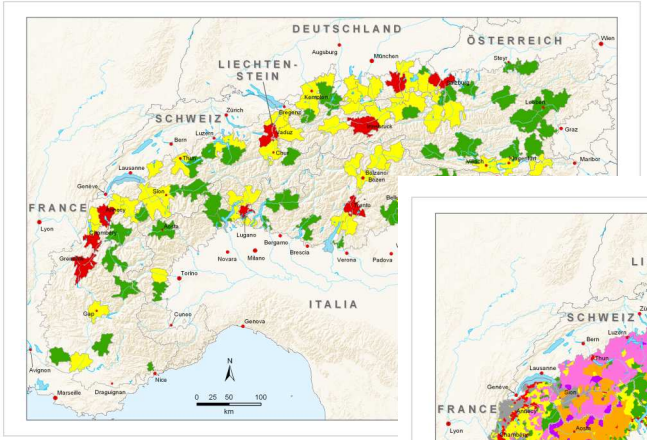
No basic data delivery to the AC!

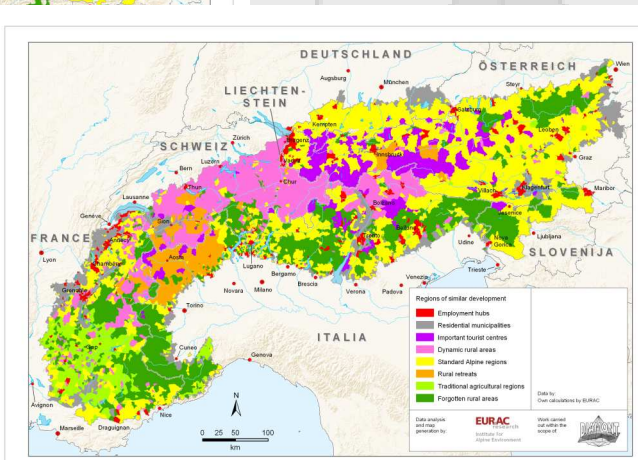
A consequence of copyright and data protection law in Europe!

DIAMONT results

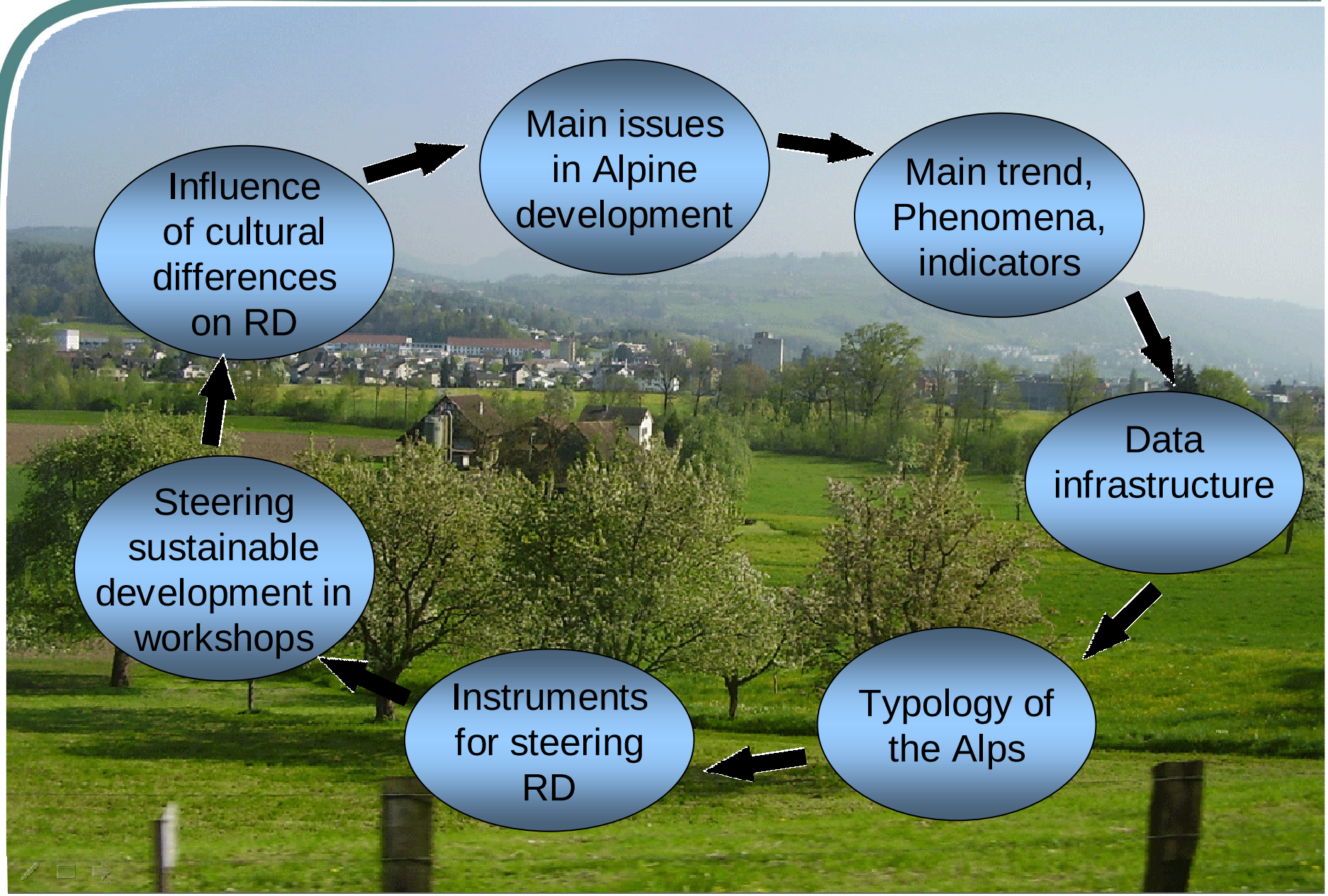




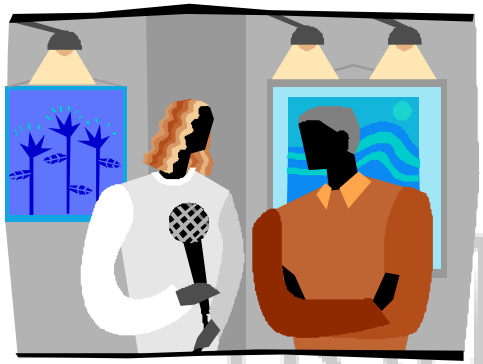




This project has received European Regional Development Funding through the INTERREG IIIB Community Initiative
Alpine Space
Interreg III B
DIAMONT



Influence of cultural differences on RD



Method:

Expert interviews to identify cultural planning milieus and to better understand them

Main result:

Decreasing impacts of cultural differences on regional development, although still present in our perception

Main issues in Alpine development

DELPHI-survey

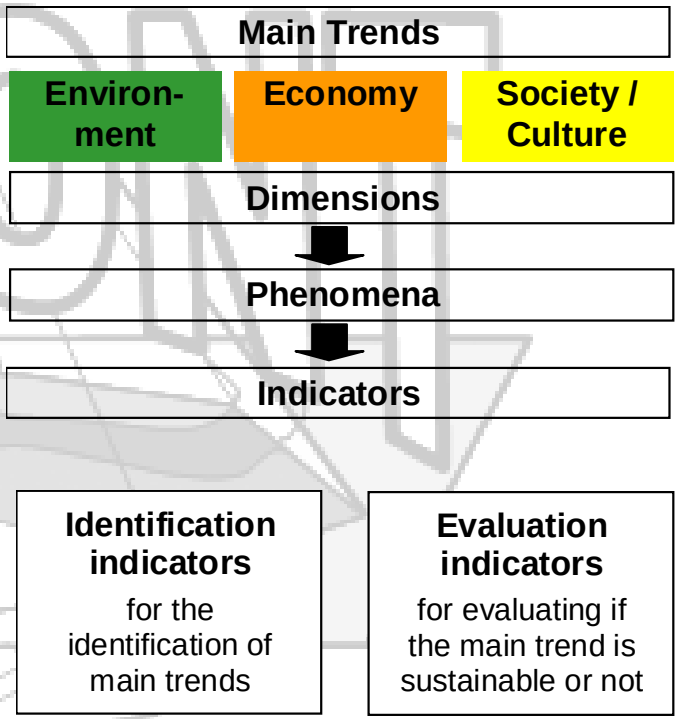
Key questions future Alpine development

- **Urbanization processes**
- Marginalization of rural peripheral areas
- Tourism sustainability
- Transport pressures
- Innovative and competitive economic activities
- Maintenance and development of natural and cultural heritage
- Climate change effects
- Maintenance of Alpine forests

Indicators of regional development

Main trend, phenomena, indicators

- **Theory-driven approach**
- **Indicator development:**
  - Indicator set for 4 main trends (urbanization, transport, agriculture, energy)
  - Documentation in a web-based XML-database
- **Evaluation:**
  - Test (urbanization) – German Alpine Convention Area



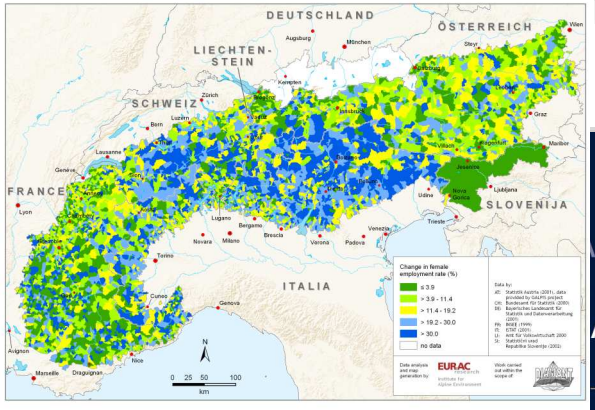
Data infrastructure

Problem: Alpine-wide data availability and harmonization

Solution: Data driven approach, based on theory-driven indicator development

Results:

- 81 indicators
- 12 aggregated features



Aggregation

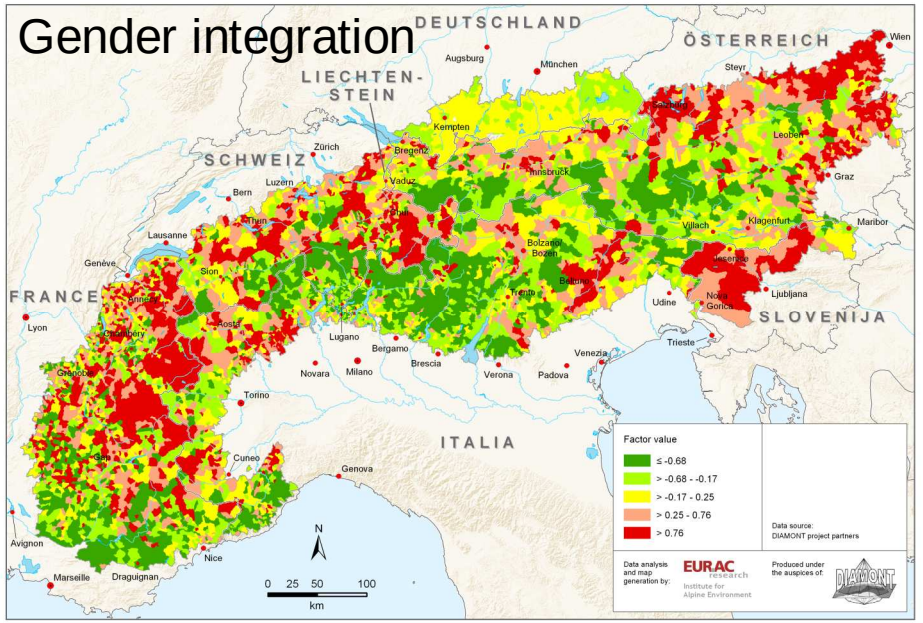
Data infrastructure

Data pool:
81 indicators

Factor analysis

Factors

- Tourism
- Labour market
- Fragmentation
- Ageing
- Household structure
- Remoteness
- Cultural landscape diversity
- Labour market dynamics
- Gender integration
- Transport connection
- ...

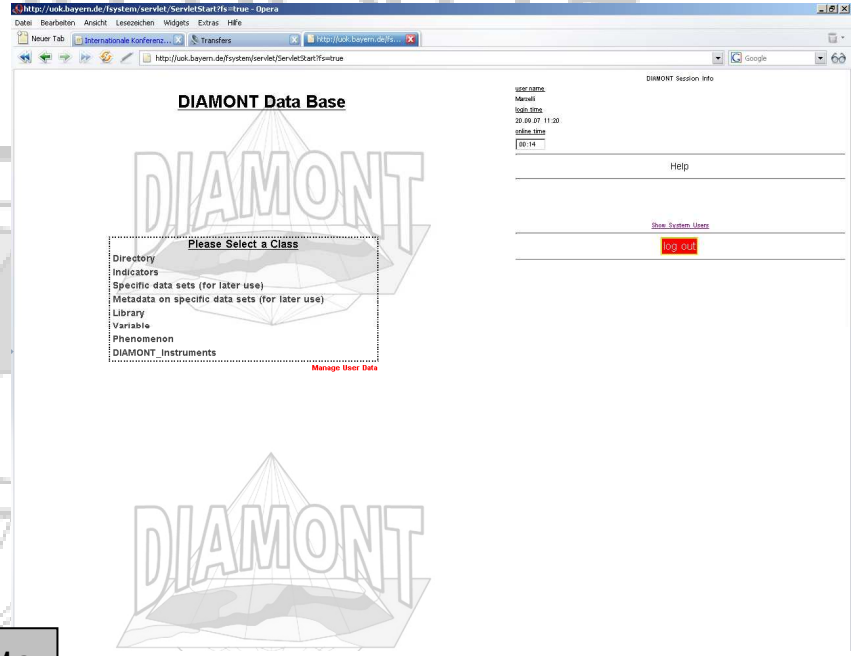


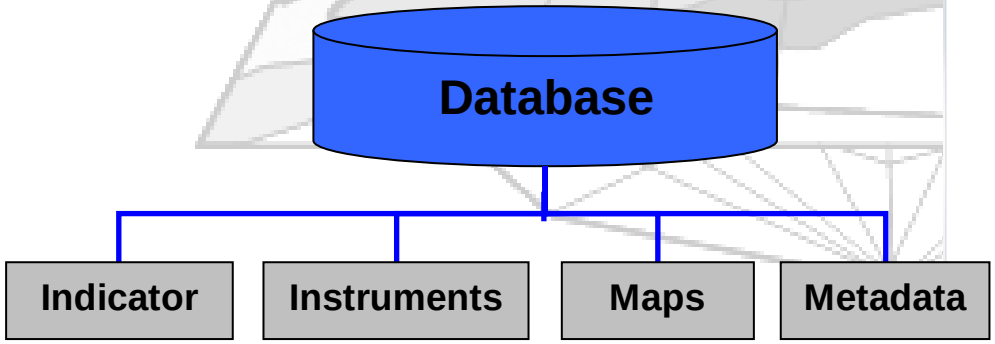
Data infrastructure

DATA BASE

Data Infrastructure for the Alps – Moutain Orientated Network Technology

- Documentation of DIAMONT results on indicators, instruments and maps in different data base „classes“
- Online data base
- Results from data analyses are documented with basic metadata
- Link to Alpine Convention / SOIA will be established





This project has received European Regional Development Funding through the INTERREG IIIB Community Initiative
Alpine Space
Interreg III B

DIAMONT

Task: identification of similar development

Typology of the

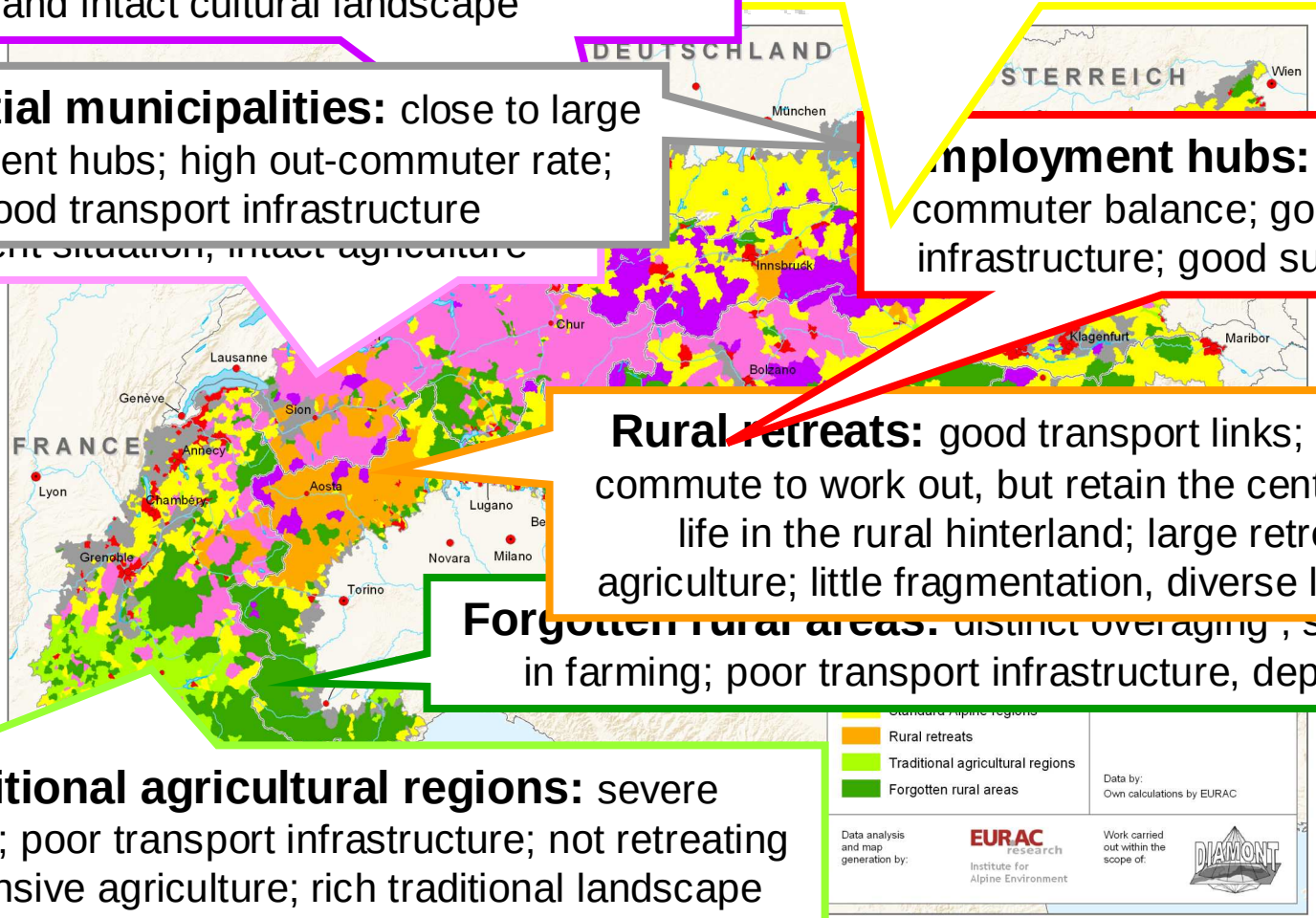
Important tourist centres: rural municipalities with very well developed accommodation facilities; good employment situation in the service sector and intact cultural landscape

Standard Alpine regions: low tourist intensity; decline of agriculture; negative commuter balance; no overaging

Residential municipalities: close to large employment hubs; high out-commuter rate; good transport infrastructure

employment situation; intact agriculture

Employment hubs: high positive commuter balance; good transport infrastructure; good supply of jobs



Rural retreats: good transport links; residents commute to work out, but retain the centre of their life in the rural hinterland; large retreat of agriculture; little fragmentation, diverse landscape

Forgotten rural areas: distinct overaging; sharp decline in farming; poor transport infrastructure, depopulation

Traditional agricultural regions: severe overaging; poor transport infrastructure; not retreating but extensive agriculture; rich traditional landscape

Poster

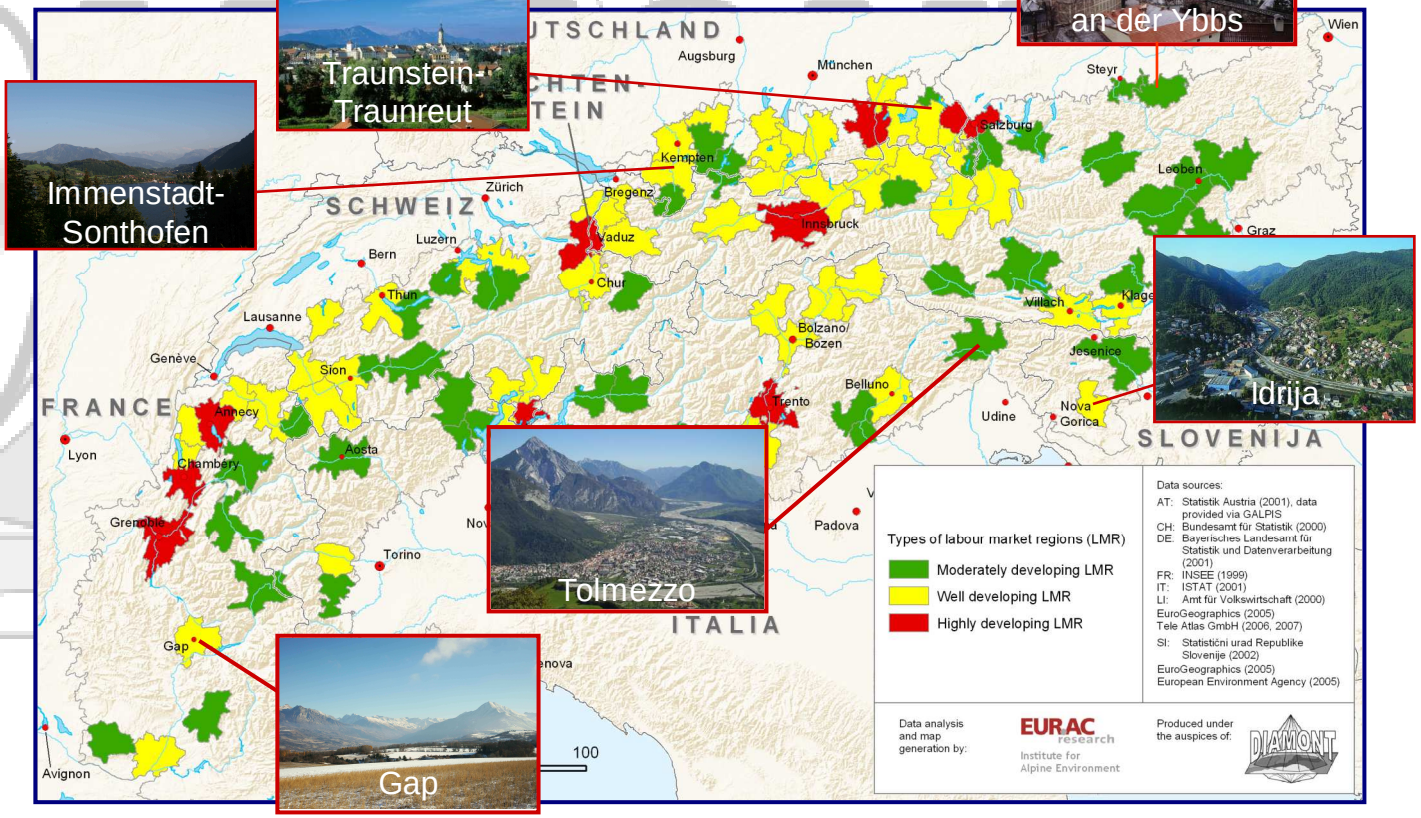
Main trend: urbanization

Typology of the Alps

Task: defining Labour Market Regions (LMR's) as starting point for the selection of test regions

LMC:
> 10,000 inhabitants, or > 5,000 jobs, and a positive commuter balance

LMR: *Labour Market Centre (LMC) and the respective hinterland municipalities*



Poster

Instruments for steering RD

Managing alpine land resources – approaches and instruments

- Deepening the focus for the workshops in the test regions
- Alpine wide collection of 110 instruments for land resource management,
- assessment of instruments and data input in an online data base
- feed back on instrument categories from an Alpine wide survey of mayors and from workshops

Task: Steering sustainable development, based on participation

Steering sustainable development in workshops

- **Development of participative workshop methods,**
- **incorporating the expectations, hopes and fears of stakeholders and citizens and**
- **Benefit from their detailed knowledge for sustainable regional development policies**

12 workshops in
6 test regions in
5 Alpine countries

Poster

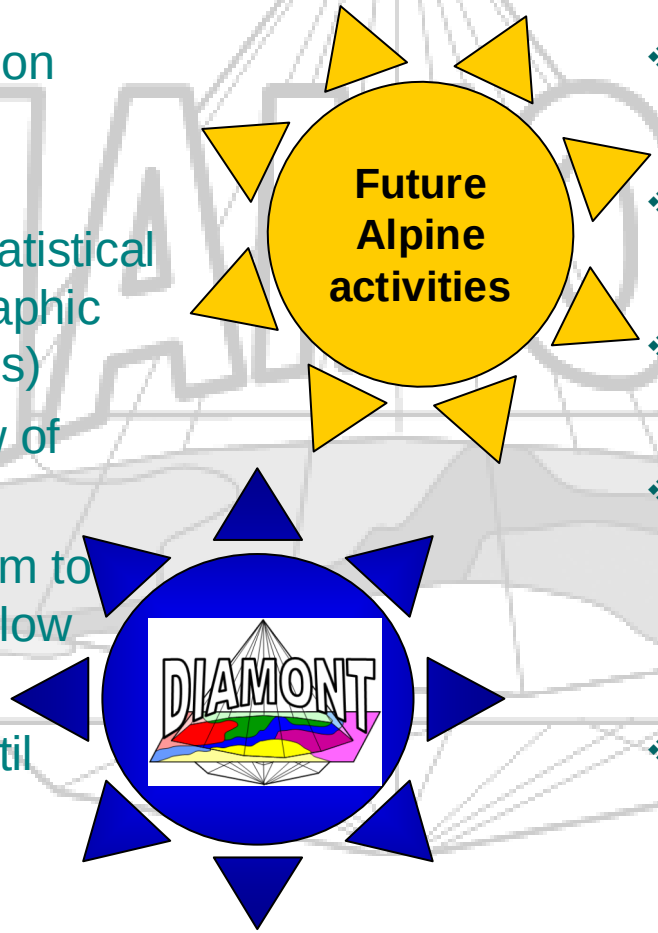
Conclusions

- ☑ A new insight into cultural differences and planning milieus over the Alpine bow
- ☑ Definition of key questions about future Alpine development
- ☑ Set of indicators for monitoring sustainable development in the Alps
- ☑ Classification of the Alps into regions of similar development
- ☑ Overview of instruments for steering regional development and best practices
- ☑ Insight into the importance of participative decision processes and governance systems

Wrapping up our results

What has been achieved ?

- In-depth knowledge on transnational data treatment
- Transformation of statistical analyses into geographic entities (LMR-regions)
- Systematic overview of instruments
- Feedback mechanism to establish a counter flow principle
- Online data base until 2012



Challenges for the future ?

- How do functionalities work in and between regions
- Capitalization of Alpine wide data sets
- Identification of Functionally Coherent Regions (FCR)
- Common instruments between Alpine countries in view of other problem areas
- Revitalization of participation culture with regional stakeholders

Thanks

- To the **Managing Authority** and the **Joint Technical Secretariat** of Alpine Space for all their support
- To the **Secretariat of the Alpine Convention** for their kind attention and valuable inputs
- To all **partners of ALPCONET** for their enthusiasm, their many contributions, and always reliable and punctual collaboration
- To **Dipl. Biol. Christian Braun**, who took care of the administration of the project
- To the Scientific Coordinator **Prof. Ulrike Tappeiner**, for her engagement to secure the scientific value of the project.