Indicators on Regional Development

Aims and Questions

WP8: Data-driven approach - which data are available for characterizing processes of regional development?

WP7: Theory-driven approach – which thematic aspects shall be tackled and are there data to characterize them?

Important questions:

- What is sustainable regional development?
  ⇨ many different thematic aspects to be tackled
- How can we make the selection of indicators transparent?
- How can we assure that the indicators will be calculable?

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Setting priorities – defining the thematic focus

➔ Selection of a main trend to be discussed and analysed in detail, based on WP6 results

“Urbanization”

Where does urbanization take place in the Alps?

How do urban areas and surrounding municipalities develop (dynamically or stagnating)?

Which consequences have urbanization processes with respect to sustainability?

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Making the selection process transparent - Conceptual Model

➔ Designing a conceptual model in order to specify the objects for indication (“indicandum”)

Main Trends	Environ-ment	Dimensions	Phenomena	Indicators
	Economy	Analyzing a broad spectrum of thematic fields within the pillars of sustainability	Describing the important characteristics of the main trends	Measuring the phenomena and analyzing the occurrence of the main trend
	Society / Culture			

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Proposing and calculating indicators

➔ For the selected main trend 43 indicators covering the economic, ecological and social sector have been proposed and documented.

➔ We concretely worked with 19 indicators assigned to the following sectors:

- Demographic development
- Labour market
- Representation of branches
- Municipal finances
- Election behaviour

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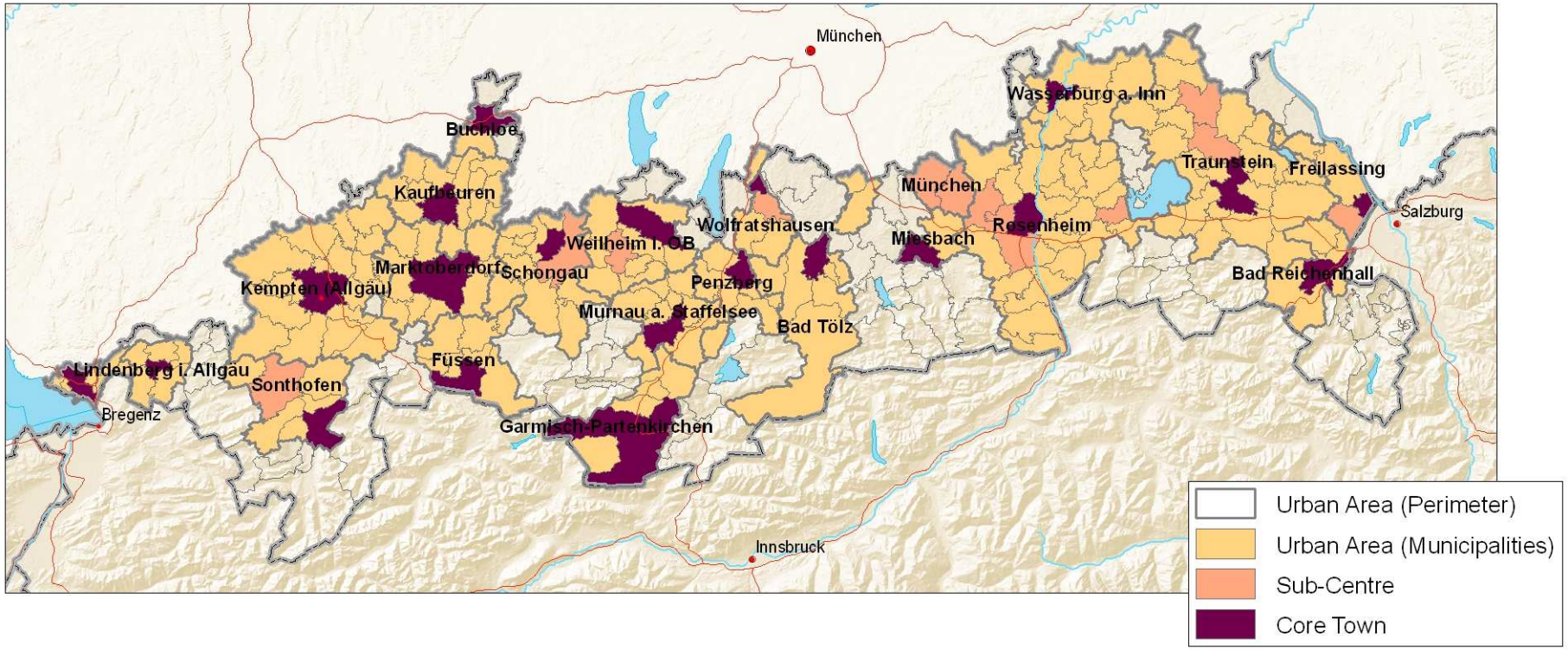
Implementation – the example of the German Alpine area

Closing up on “urban areas”

⇨ Most of the municipalities are assigned to “urban areas”

⇨ German situation differs strongly from other Alpine countries



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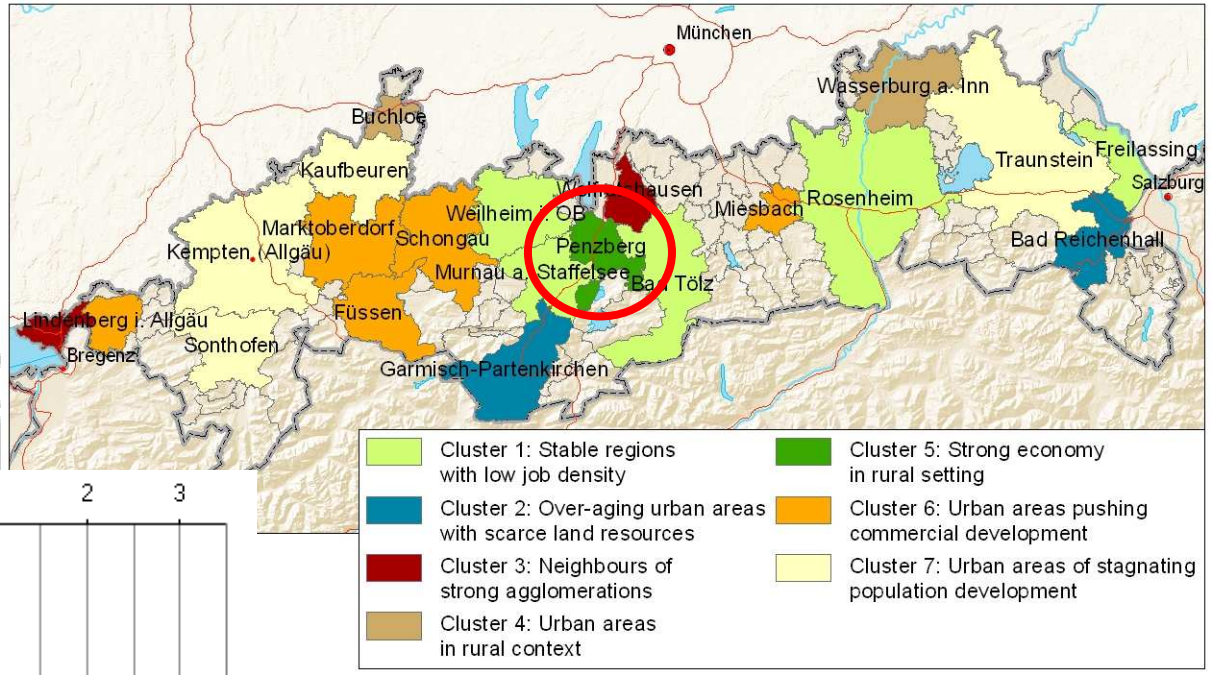
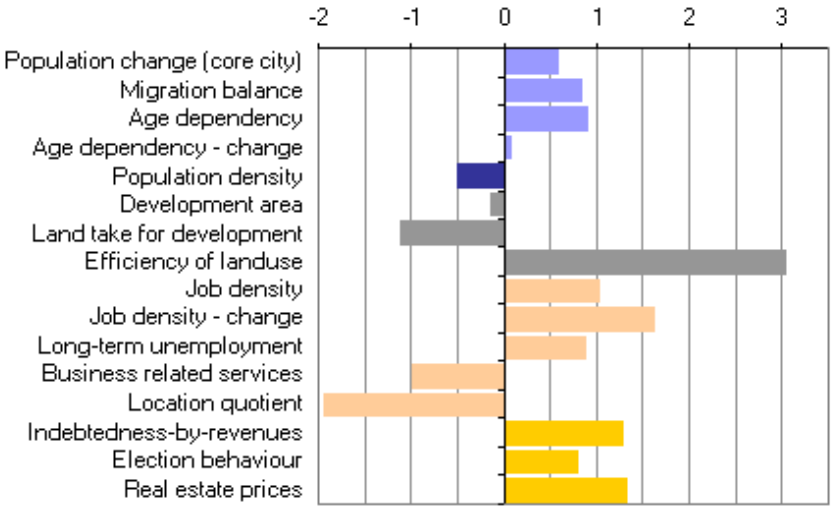
Implementation – the example of the German Alpine area

Characterization / clustering of "urban areas"

⇨ Not all indicators can unambiguously be interpreted against "dynamics"





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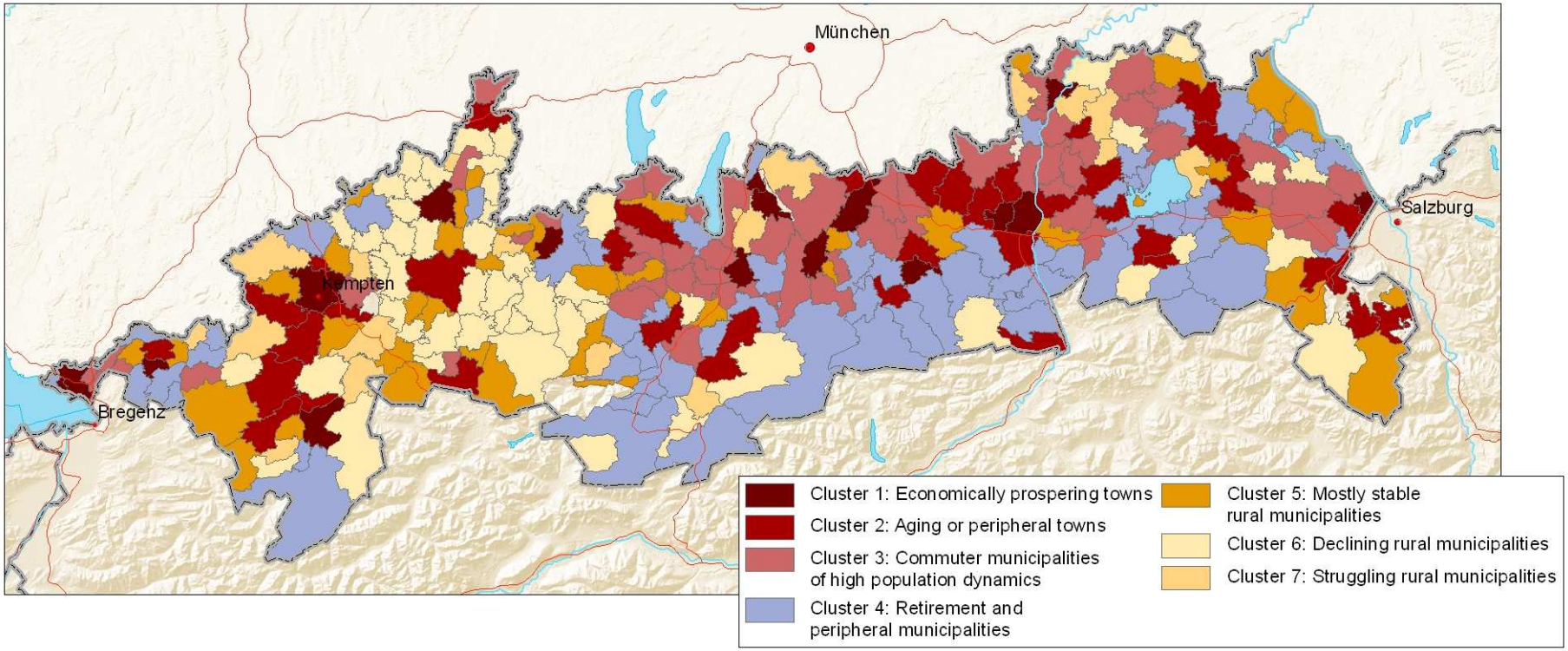
Implementation – the example of the German Alpine area

Characterization / clustering of municipalities - Comparing municipalities within and outside of “urban areas”

⇨ North-South gradient, influence of the Munich metropolitan region

⇨ Special situation of the Allgäu



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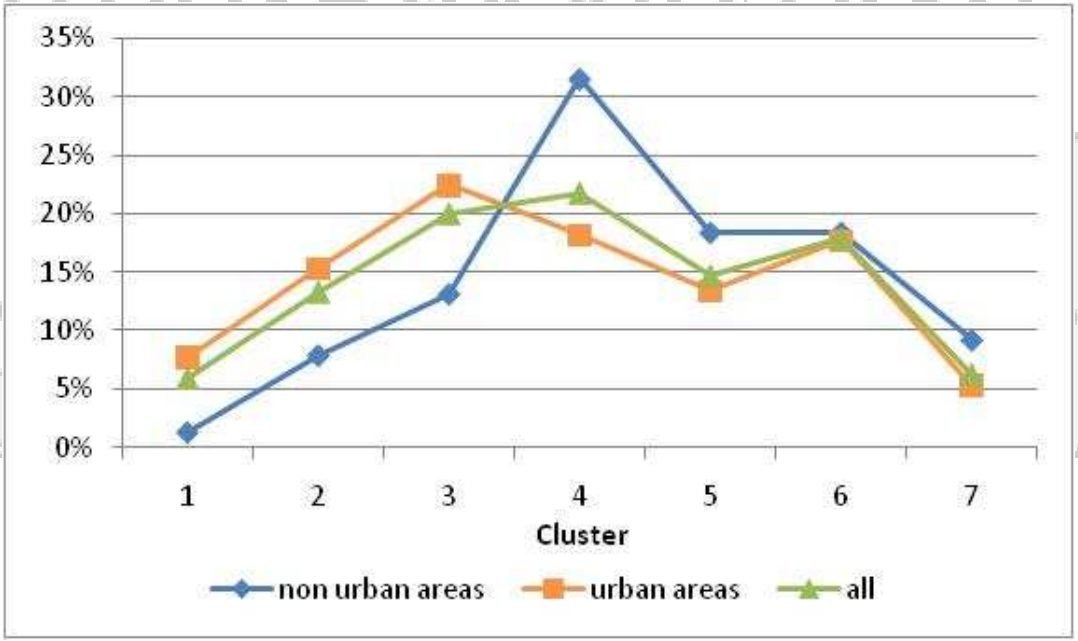
Implementation – the example of the German Alpine area

Characterization / clustering of municipalities - Comparing municipalities within and outside of “urban areas”

- ⇨ North-South gradient, influence of the Munich metropolitan region
- ⇨ Special situation of the Allgäu
- ⇨ Municipalities outside the urban areas have their own characteristics



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Conclusions

- Theory-driven indicator development and data research need to go hand in hand – data availability and data harmonisation
- “Plenitude of data does not mean information”
  “Parameters ≠ Indicators”
  main objective: defining a limited set of precise indicators
- Spatial level – due to strong functional relations between municipalities the municipal level is not always the best for characterizing and interpreting (regional) development trends
- Look over the rim of the own tea cup – high interest of local actors in supra-regional comparisons
- Comparisons to other mountain areas, to the European and national level – what is the actual situation of the Alps?
  Which indicators allow for such comparisons?

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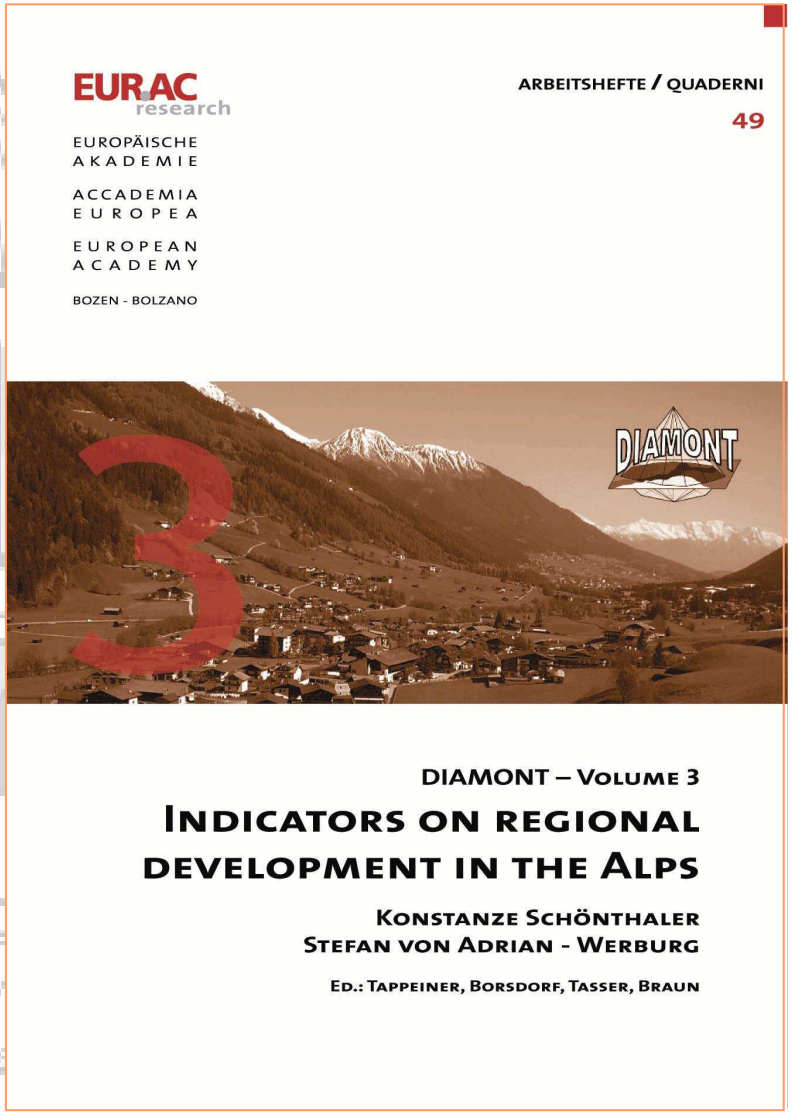
Thank yor for your attention!