



## **Work Package 5: Analysing the Influence of Cultural Differences on Regional Development in the Alps**

### **Reporting LJ-meeting 060310**

1. Methodological considerations
2. Enquiry & national reports
3. Results
4. Conclusions





**Interreg III B “Alpine Space”**

**DIAMONT**

**Data Infrastructure for the Alps / Mountain Orientated  
Network Technology**

**Work Package 5:**

**Analysing the Influence of Cultural Differences on Regional  
Development in the Alps**

**Final report (revised version MAR-06)**

**Author:**

**Martin Boesch, FWR-HSG, CH-St. Gallen**

**Supported by:**

**Marco Aufderegg, FTL-HSR, CH-Rapperswil**

**Igor Jelen, Univ. Trieste, I-Trieste**

**Dominik Siegrist, FTL-HSR, CH-Rapperswil**

**CH-St. Gallen, March 2006**





## Methodological considerations

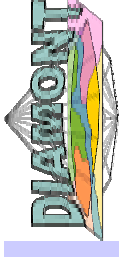
### ➤ Hidden agenda??

Axel Borsdorf: \*)

"Die entscheidende Frage ist doch, warum die Alpenkonvention so unterschiedlich wahrgenommen, bewertet und umgesetzt wird und was getan werden kann, um die (wie wir vermutet haben, kultur-spezifischen) Hindernisse in der Perzeption um Umsetzung zu beseitigen. Dies war ja das Motiv für WP 5. Würde deine These stimmen, dann hätten wir überall die gleiche Situation: Ablehnung oder Umsetzung, aber keine Unterschiede. WP 5 sollte ermitteln, wo die Probleme liegen und wie die AC sich darauf einstellen kann."

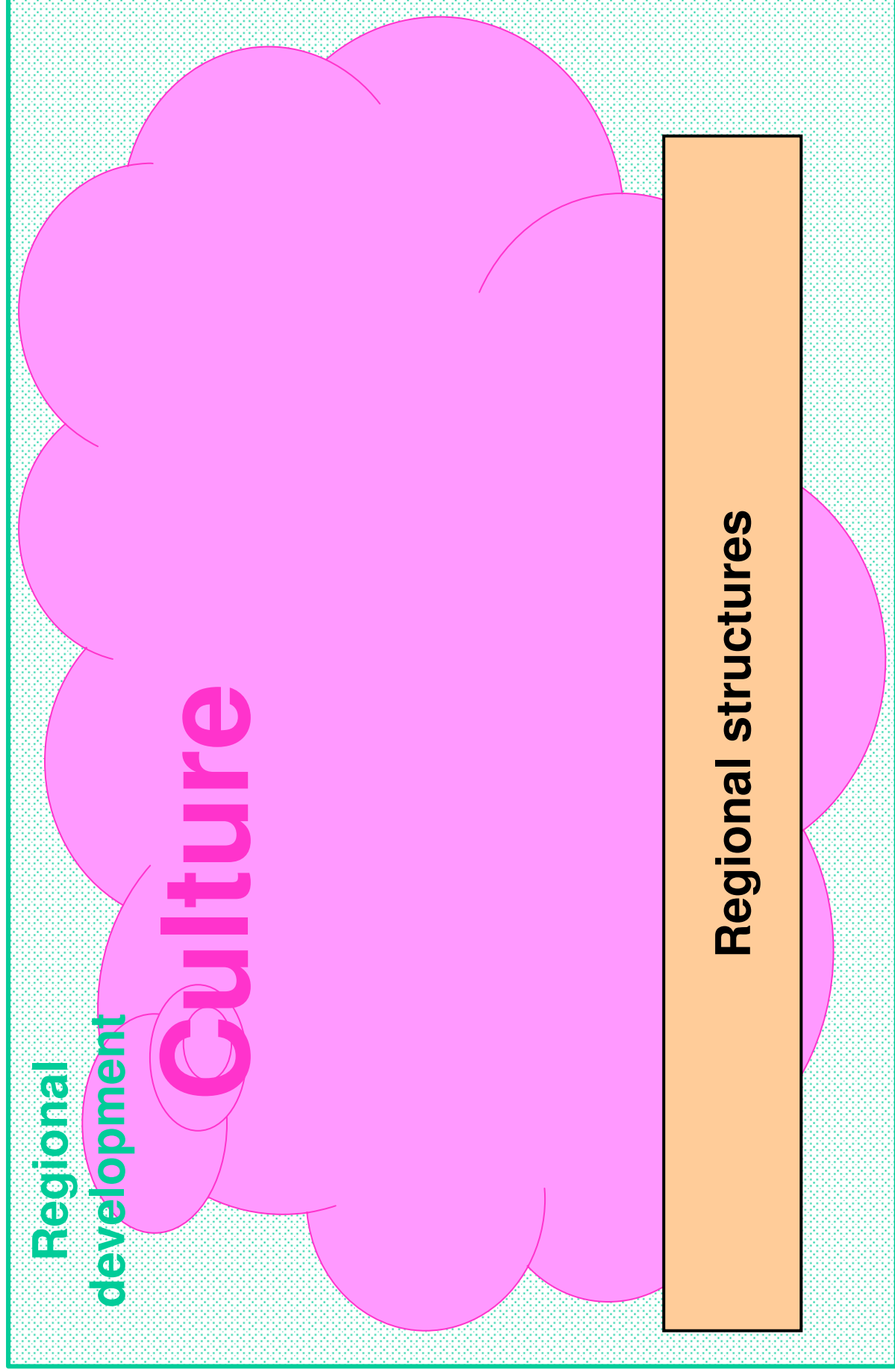
\*) Mail of 060209

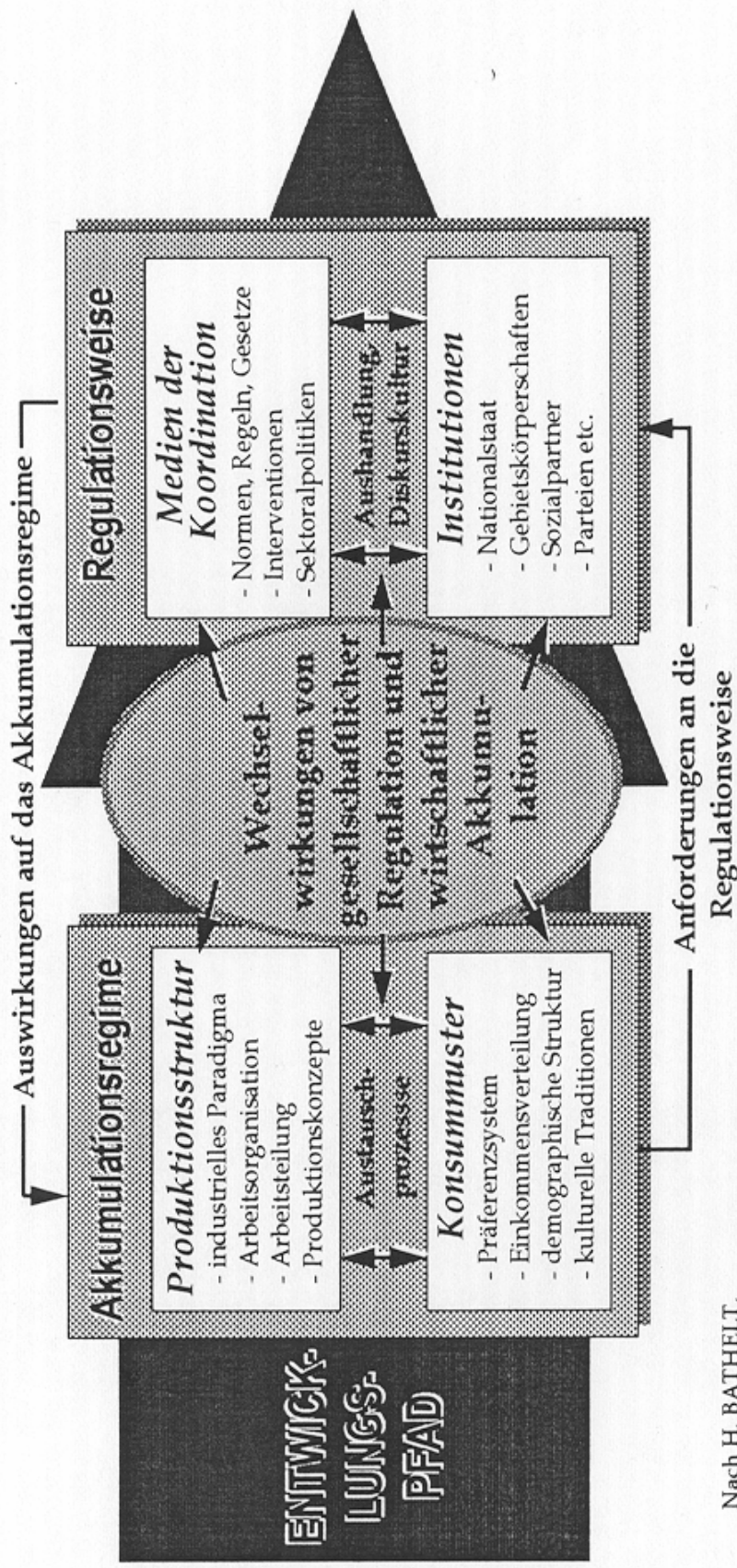




## Methodological considerations

- Hidden agenda??
- Culture?
  - region = language = culture?
  - structures & traditions?
  - values & attitudes?  
(how to handle differences)
- (Regional) development?
  - UNDP: HDI? EU: LSI?
  - economic indicators?
  - demographic indicators?
  - land use? ecological indicators?
- Sustainable regional development?
- Relations between Culture & Regional development?
- Differences among and/or within nations?
- Tautological trap: Impact of regional differences on regional differences?

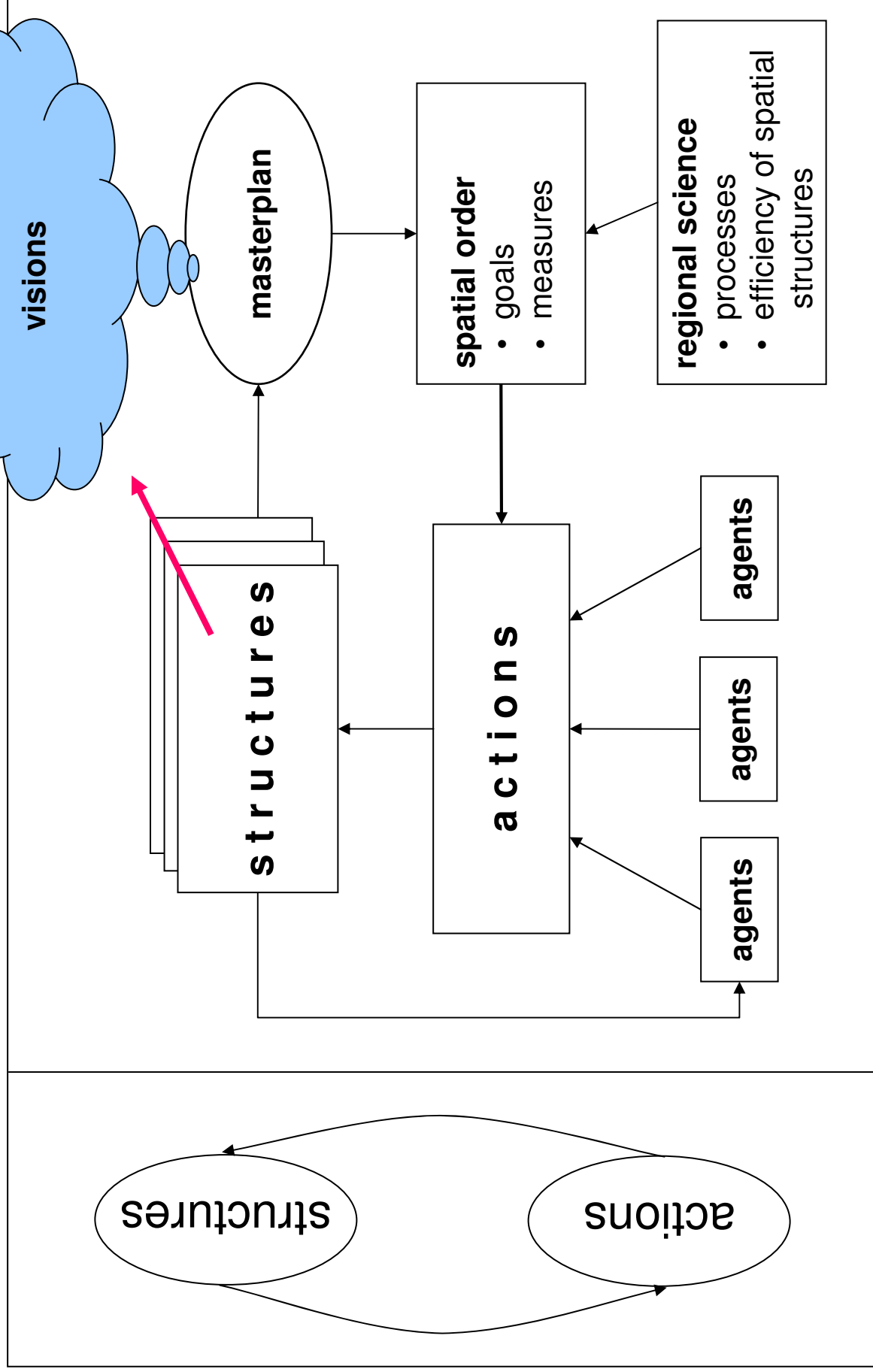




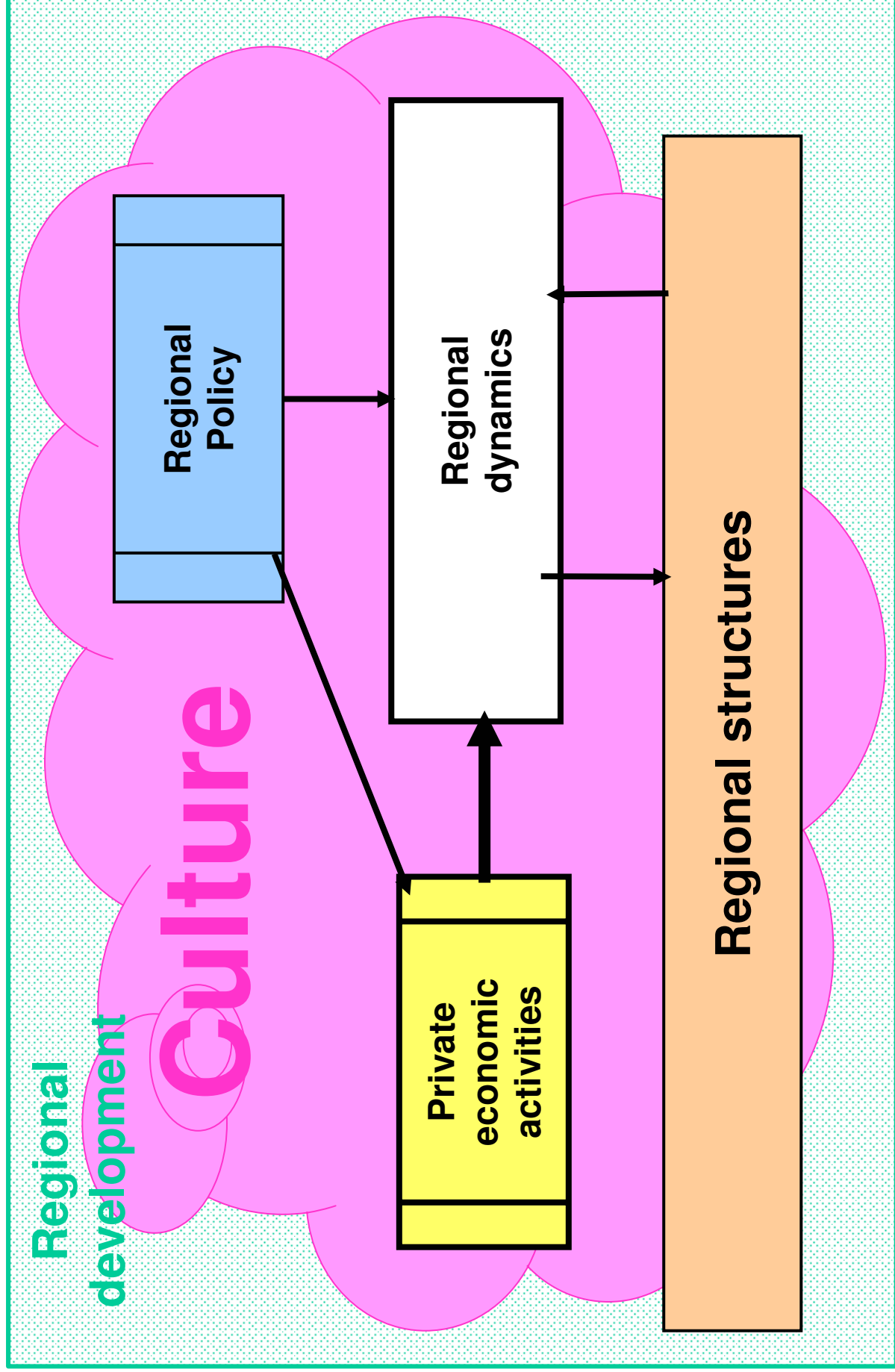
Nach H. BATHELT,  
1994, verändert

## Das Basiskonzept der Regulationstheorie













## Results

- The experts view:
  - Different approaches to regional policy in the Alps (Q I)
- Influence of formal cultural factors (Q VI)
- Influence of specific values and attitudes (Q VII)
- Strategic aspects of regional policy (Q II)
  - structures, tasks and objectives
  - main approaches and governance
  - relation between intra- and extra-alpine realm
  - trends and future orientation

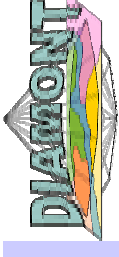


The experts view:  
 Different approaches to regional policy in the Alps (Q I)

Approaches / Characteristics	A	F	D	I	SLO	CH
importance of "territorial geometry" (e.g. level of decentralization or urbanization), administrative structures		X		X	X	X
centralized vs. decentralized political and administrative structures, influence of the central state authorities, type of governance: top-down or bottom-up (F & I vs. D-A-CH)	X	X		X		
"Latin" approach (in F & I) vs. approach in D, A & CH				X		
perception of the Alps, meaning or importance of Alpine perspectives, in relation to the territorial structure (" <i>Alpenzentrismus</i> ", " <i>Alpenmythos</i> ")			X	X		
formalized planning procedures vs. case-to-case decisions (CH / A)	X					X
tremendous regional diversity, gradient between centres and periphery (I & SLO)				X	X	
importance of urbanization, neglecting the rural areas (SLO vs. CH & A)				X	X	

Fig. 2-1a: Different approaches to regional development

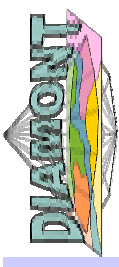




Characteristics	A	F	D	I	SL O	CH
Historical context	X		X			X
Political and administrative structures and traditions, type of governance: top-down or bottom-up (F & I vs. D-A-CH)	X		X	X		X
Size and shape of territory	X		X			
importance of "territorial morphology": portion of alpine areas (A & CH vs. I & F); perception of the Alps, meaning or importance of alpine perspectives, in relation to the territorial structure			X	X		X
convergence of problem perception and solving, cultural factors with only minor influence, diminished influence of internat. borders		X			X	
pragmatic vs. rigid administration (F & I / A & CH)			X			
cultural retardation of the Alps, mountain oriented mythology			X			

Fig. 2-1b: Cultural reasons of regional differences





### Influence of cultural factors (Q VI)

	Importance		
Language		SLO CH	D A I F
Minorities		SLO A CH	D I F
Indigenous cultures / traditional values		SLO I D A	CH F
Networks	SLO F CH I	A D	

Fig. 2-2a: Importance of cultural factors I

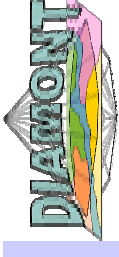




## Influence of cultural factors (Q VI)

	Importance		
		D I	A
cultural & natural heritage / regional identity			
sustainable development	<b>D</b> ↓		
marginalization / lack of interaction		<b>I</b> ↓	
urbanization			<b>F</b>
confidence to authorities			<b>F</b>

Fig. 2-2b: Importance of cultural factors II

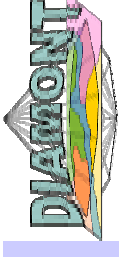


Influence of specific values and attitudes (Q VII)

	Importance		
Economic progress at large / extra-alpine growth	F	<del>A</del> <del>D</del>	<del>SLO</del> <del>I</del> <del>CH</del>
Economic innovation / regional productivity	CH	<del>A</del> <del>F</del> <del>D</del>	<del>I</del> <del>SLO</del>
Strengthening the regional economy	A	<del>CH</del> <del>D</del> <del>F</del>	<del>SLO</del> <del>I</del>
cooperation with extra-alpine partners	F	<del>I</del> <del>A</del> <del>D</del>	<del>SLO</del> <del>CH</del>

Fig. 2-3a: Importance of economic attitudes





Influence of specific values and attitudes (Q VII)

	Importance		
Ecological sustainability	A I SLO D	CH F	
Cultural identity & social sustainability	A I SLO	CH F D	
Minority rights		SLO A I	CH F D
Good education of local population	CH A I SLO D F		
Good public services for local population	I SLO A D	F CH	

Fig. 2-3b: Importance of environmental & social attitudes







### Strategic aspects of regional policy (Q II)

Strategic Approaches to Regional Policy	A	F	D	I	SL	CH
Bottom-up (federalized or decentralized) implementation	X		X			X
Top-down (centralized) implementation		X	( X )	X	X	
Specific Alpine perspective	X		X			X
Alps perceived as marginal spaces		X	X	X		
Influence of EU policies & provisions	X	X	X	X	X	( X )
Trend towards regional competences	X	X	X	X	X	X
→ down from national level	x	x	x	x	x	x
→ up from communal level					x	

Fig. 3-1a: Strategic approaches to Regional Policy

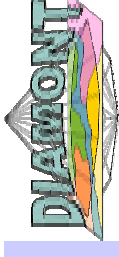




Objectives & trends of Regional Policy	A	F	D (*)	I	SL O	CH
Diminishing disparities / Equal living conditions	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stopping (slow down) out-migration		X		( X )	X	X
Strengthen urban centres for European/global competition	X	X	X	X	X	X
Improving rural areas by providing infrastructure	X	X		( X )	X	X
Protection of nature / cultural landscapes / environment	X	X	X		X	X
Sustainable development / Economizing resources Keeping balance between development & protection		X	X		X	
Improving public-private partnerships Improving soft factors		X	X	X	X	X
Improving coordination, integrated planning & development	X				X	X

Fig. 3-1b: Objectives & trends of Regional Policy

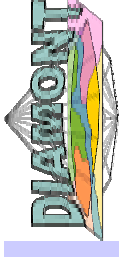




## Conclusions

Concluding, we remark that the traditional influences of most cultural factors on regional development are decreasing (while still intuitively present in our perception), leaving an open trail to a generalized development, which generates its peaks and shallows more from globally determined location qualities (like easy access and urbanization, i.e. along the village-metropolis gradient) than from local or regional culture, which in itself tends to become more uniform. Traditional cultural differences then are more an expression of time lags and bound to diminish on the long run.





## **Conclusions (cntd.)**

This in turn is a clear signal to DIAMONT: For monitoring regional development in the Alpine Convention context we must not spend too much effort on indicators based on traditional cultural differences, but more on indicators measuring sustainable progress in a globalizing world, based on attitudes and values.

However, this may well include information on regional identity, provided it means not a mere leftover from times past or folklore, but a conscious profile and strategy to future challenges.

