



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

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As DIAMONT will be completed by the end of March 2008, the focus is now on evaluating the results of the second round of workshops on supporting sustainable regional development in the selected test regions. In addition, a short documentary film is being made about the test regions. Another ambitious project that is nearing completion is an atlas on the spatial structures in the Alps that will map the work on Pan-Alpine indicators. In October 2007, a project meeting was held on the Klosterberg in Andechs. Current results were presented there and a lot of organizational details needed to be sorted in preparation for the final DIAMONT conference on the 1st of February, 2008.

### Project Meeting in Andechs

In October 2007 the DIAMONT project partners met in the seminar rooms of the Benedictine monastery of Andechs near Munich for their sixth project meeting. One main theme were the workshops held in five Alpine states in six test regions. To kick off, the partners presented the workshops that had already taken place and the problem areas identified in the various regions in the first round of workshops. The problem areas vary greatly from one test region to the next and this will lead to quite different solutions suggested by the partners in the second round of workshops. The two rounds of workshops are thematically linked but are held within the framework of two separate work packages (WP10 and WP11). Therefore all partners agreed on aggregating the results and presenting them in one final report. The individual test regions, the

### Project Partners

workshops held there and interviews with stakeholders from the region will be presented in a short documentary film. The concept of this documentary was developed by collaborators from the University of Innsbruck and explained to the partners who agreed to collaborate on the script.



Mr Weißgerber, representative of the Bavarian State Ministry for Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, and member of the Permanent Committee of the Alpine Convention, who had followed the presentations on the workshops in the individual test regions, expressed a keen interest in the workshops as manifestations of different development concepts in the various Alpine regions. He said that the experiences gained in these workshops and the developments in these regions were of great significance for the Alpine Convention and should be documented accordingly.

### New DIAMONT collaborator in Innsbruck

**Vinzenz Mell** joined the DIAMONT project in September and is working on an interactive DVD which will be included in the project deliverables. Currently he is putting together a short film about the six test regions and the workshops and interviews held there.



After working in Munich as a photographic assistant for almost four years, he decided to study geography in Innsbruck and has already completed the first section of the course. Alongside his studies he is working as a freelance photographer. His main interest is in photo reportage. He likes to share stories taken from everyday life. In recent times he has begun working with moving images. In future he would like to bring a geographer's perspective to his reporting work.

He is enthusiastic about the idea in DIAMONT to communicate the results of complex research through the medium of a film and is keen to contribute to this project.

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Another theme was the future of the database and the entries created so far. Currently it contains all indicators that were developed within WP7 plus Alpine-wide instruments put together by all partners. These instruments are supported by practical examples that should facilitate the search for adequate instruments

to encourage sustainable regional development. It is planned to make this database available to the public after the end of the project.

The meeting ended with an elaborate tour of the monastery and in general good spirits.

## **Second Workshop in the Gap test region, France on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2007**

Strategic guidelines for more effective cooperation within the region

*Organized by Vincent Briquel, CEMAGREF*

The second workshop in the Pays Gapençais concluded the DIAMONT workshops. It took place on November 14<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 22 representatives from local politics and administration, notably by persons invited to report on their experience with the implementation of instruments tackling the problems of the region in a spirit of collaboration between municipalities.

The first workshop resulted in identifying problems that are the price of the development of the region. Newcomers and jobs come in, since the region draws its attractiveness from the articulation between an urban centre providing jobs, services, administration, and a periphery offering a desirable living environment, or even specific activities such as skiing or gliding. However, this development puts a strain on sustainability: for example, there are differences in reactions to land claims which result in tensions or even conflicts within the region. Besides, solutions to develop the region as a coherent unit without prejudice to the quality of the living environment strain relationships between municipalities. Most of them cooperate within local structures, but efforts to implement a single and powerful structure in the whole region have not been successful so far since mayors do not feel it necessary to experiment with larger structures where Gap could have a prominent role.

That is why the second workshop tackled mainly issues which call for active cooperation within the region, and focused on strategies that make it possible. Basically, two main complementary strategic guidelines emerged from the debates. On the one hand, the improvement of information tools and the knowledge infrastructure to address problems the region is faced with. On the other hand, the creation of a good climate for exchanges in the region, to make instruments in the hands of differ-

ent services more effective. Obviously, these guidelines would gain strategic importance in future actions, but even when they have a general character, participants illustrated them through some examples. For instance, information on real estate vacancies for enterprises could be pooled with information on sales of agricultural land pieces; with regards to exchanges on instruments, a good practice would be to develop networking between services concerned with instruments that complement each other to mutualize technical means and possibly to rationalize their implementation, with a central office and in closer contact with the needs of local population or enterprises.

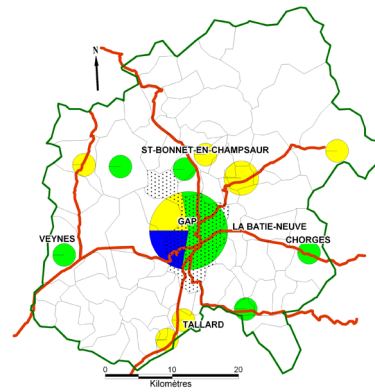
In fact, discussions centred on complementarities between instruments and ways to make them more effective. The strategic guidelines were seen as essential to prepare the implementation of integrated land planning and development instruments in the region, such as the Communauté d'Agglomération of Gap and the SCOT (regional integrated development plan) of the region, which are still in limbo due to local hesitations but were seen by the participants as highly desirable to steer sustainable development of the region.

The challenge is now to give an operational reach to the workshop results. Following the debates, one participant mayor proposed to put three priority actions on the stakeholders agenda: creating of a real estate observatory and developing a charter on land policy; establishing a mobility centre that would experiment with car sharing and other transport options in the whole Département; and finally, over 6 months, completing an expertise of solutions to attract high-level firms. A step in the direction of a follow-up to be decided after the next municipal elections, in March of 2008.

WP7 and WP8 were especially dedicated to indicator issues, but these issues, although less central, were not left out in ensuing WPs. For example, WP9 invited partners to provide information on the role assigned to indicators for monitoring the implementation of the studied instruments. First tasks in WP10 consisted of selecting possible test regions: the method set up to delineate labour market regions called for decision rules that would be applied to WP8 indicators. Context analyses completed in all test regions included WP8 indicators that might be complemented with national data, but were not restricted to quantitative information. However, the workshops focused on identifying main problems of land-use management, on possible solutions to combat these problems, and finally on the role of participative methods as a step in the direction of more efficient management of land resources.

In this discussion, data and indicators play a minor role because of their limitations. For example, available information necessitates the use of generic data as a base, which do not say a lot about specific Alpine issues, and to compare fixed time periods, which often do not reveal trend reversals for individual phenomena. Besides, DIAMONT indicators are established at the level of municipalities and ignore relevant phenomena which are revealed at an intra-communal level, as for example, in the French case, changes in land use and land grab, or a rise in real estate prices. Moreover, comparisons with the Alps as a whole or with other regions, which indicators facilitate, are not very relevant when the phenomena which they illustrate must be interpreted by taking into account specific characteristics of the region. Last but not least, the statistical definitions, e.g. what constitutes a resident, farmer, unemployed, etc. pertain to scientific knowledge; they can be opposed to more intuitive definitions that are in no way isolated from the socio-political context.

The first workshop held in the French test region, the Pays Gapençais, provided an opportunity to look more closely at some indicator issues that had been addressed before in WP7 and WP8, and to underline main problems and reasonable expectations in indicator-based diagnoses. Prior to the discussions short presentations were given of selected indicators included in a context analysis worked on in the form of an area diagnosis that could help reveal crucial development issues in the region. The indicator selection was inspired, among other things, by lists of 'phenomena' set up in WP7 to structure an indicator framework that would address major Alpine development trends. Thus national indicators were taken into account in cases where WP8 indicators could not be



Source : INSEE, répertoire SIRENE

**Results of the context analysis:**  
Mini- (yellow),  
Super- (green) and  
Hypermarkets  
(blue) in the Pays  
Gapençais

related easily to phenomena assumed to be relevant in the region.

Participants were invited to comment on these indicators, which had hitherto not been criticized because everyone had been aware of their limitations. At first, mapping main indicators proved effective for revealing spatial imbalances in a region composed of a single main centre plus sets of smaller rural communities, which confirmed intuitive opinions on territorial inequities. The reactions of the participants helped to go much further in analysing problematic issues, in certain cases in refining the indicators. In other cases, the absence of reactions led to some indicators being abandoned since they were not discussed. If they were not taken up by the participants, one must assume that they are not efficient in revealing important issues.

More generally, indicators helped to uncover complex linkages between thematic domains and topics focused on in the diagnosis. In order to understand a given phenomenon better, one must analyse other phenomena. However, this calls for a systemic approach to structuring this diagnosis, to identifying driving forces better that create change and to revealing the consequences of these changes. In this respect discussions resulted in general agreement on demographic attractiveness and space as major resources in the region. Since demographic attractiveness is an opportunity for the region, new inhabitants are welcome, but out of this arose two main issues: there is a need to organize and rationalize services and jobs, and besides not to jeopardize the quality of the living environment, which is the main factor for attractiveness.

Indeed, indicators seen as providing scientific knowledge risk remaining confined to an ivory tower. Since they pave the way for discussion processes to better identify and analyse problematic issues, they do penetrate the social sphere but cannot achieve this by themselves. This process needs to be stimulated and guided like in the first workshop.



## Second workshop in the test region of Idrija, Slovenia on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October, 2007

Long-term development strategy for the municipality of Idrija

Organized by Janez Nared and Nika Razpotnik, AMGI

The second workshop in Idrija was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007, with thirteen stakeholders from different public bodies. Half of them had attended the first meeting, so they already had certain expectations of this second gathering concerning conflict resolution with appropriate instruments. There were enough participants to use the »World Café« method, but in the second part of the workshop the debate between stakeholders was so intense and interactive that we returned to a plenary discussion, but made sure that everybody had an opportunity to speak their mind, not only the most vocal participants. The main topics were resolving the most evident problems and possible conflicts by means of different suggested instruments, assessing their applicability with regard to local conditions and defining the terms of their use. The instruments were suggested partly by stakeholders at the first meeting in June and partly afterwards by the Slovenian DIAMONT partner on the basis of the results of the first workshop.

### New DIAMONT Collaborator in Ljubljana

**Nika Razpotnik** joined the DIAMONT team just before the end of the project, in September 2007, but still early enough to meet other collaborators and to experience their positive thinking and effective team work at the last Andechs meeting. Her role in this project is to help organize workshops in the Slovenian test region and to take part in the preparation of the final report and publication of workshop activity results.



She has many interests and sometimes it feels like there are too many of them. She likes to explore, to combine, to join, to compare and to search for possible "hidden" relations between seemingly different things. That is the reason she became a geographer. What she loves about her profession is applicability and the opportunity to combine knowledge from different sciences. Her research activity focuses on socio-economic geography and spatial development.

Nika is a young researcher in AMGI and a postgraduate student of spatial planning at the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering in Ljubljana.

### Main topics:

In the first round we set out the starting points and framework for developing a *strategy of tourist development for the municipality of Idrija*.

In the second round stakeholders presented their visions and ideas for future development in Idrija in connection with developing a *strategy of long-term development for the municipality of Idrija*.



Participants of the second workshop held in Idrija

The third part of the workshop was dedicated to discussing and comparing different forms of interregional and intermunicipal cooperation, based on instruments proposed by DIAMONT, such as a *regional pool of commercial areas/industrial districts*, *intermunicipal business parks*, *public establishment of intermunicipal cooperation* and "*Contrat de Pays*".

Our last task was finding a way to resolve potential conflicts closely linked with weak regional identity, uneven relationships between town and rural hinterland, tensions between the two main firms in a municipality and geographical isolation. The stakeholders evaluated possible instruments for providing the necessary space for industry and housing: *urban redevelopment measure*, *cadastre of brown field sites and commercial vacancies* and *building land acquisition fund*. Special attention was given to the issue of unadjusted future development visions of the stakeholders, especially municipality, business sector and regional development agencies. The last topic we discussed was urban sprawl on less fertile agricultural and riverside areas and the presentation of *the standardized formula for assessing "organic development" for residential areas*.

### Main results:

The mono-structural economy in Idrija is very exposed to risk and in case of recession the municipality could be pushed into a critical situation. Therefore it is crucial to find and mobilize new economic opportunities to diffuse the social time-bomb. Idrija has great tourist potential based on its mining technology heritage, remarkable

natural sites and long tradition of lace making. Stakeholders would like to offer high-quality choice and attract quality guests that would stay in the municipality for several days, but the local residents need to be mobilized to contribute their share to promoting tourism. The connection with attractive neighbouring regions is necessary as well.

In the future Idrija should strive for a better care of the environment, creating a quality environment for younger people, increase the level of self-employment and create conditions for supporting enterprises. Idrija could also be a research and educational centre in the fields of mercury-based research and alternative psychiatry. The abundance of wood in the hinterland of the test area opens up the prospect of renewable energy production based on biomass.

Stakeholders are a bit sceptic about intermunicipal cooperation since their previous experiences were mostly negative. The municipality was historically always a marginal part of regions, so at present it is willing to cooperate only as an equal partner, having central functions located in the town of Idrija. Few fields are recognized as depending on intermunicipal cooperation: establishing intermunicipal business parks, as some neighbouring municipalities have available space and Idrija does not, promoting tourism and making communal use of equipment.

And who can help this test region achieve these goals in financial terms? The potential sources are the municipality, the government and the EU, but stakeholders mostly rely on their own sense of creativity and strong will to succeed.

### **Second workshop in the test region of Alpsee-Grünten, Germany on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2007**

Land resource management and commercial development

*Organized by Konstanze Schönthaler and Stefan von Adrian-Werburg, Bosch & Partner*

The second DIAMONT workshop in the Alpsee-Grünten region took place on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and was attended by 13 representatives from local politics and administration. Leading on from the results and discussions of the first workshop, it focused on developing guiding principles for a location profile in terms of commercial development and a rough evaluation of the current supply of areas for commercial and industrial development.

In the first round of the workshop the current position and profile of the region Alpsee-Grünten in terms of industry and commerce was assessed and existing ideas and visions for future development taken up. It appeared that expanding the existing industry sectors of electrical and mechanical engineering, which deliver high added value and provide a high number of jobs was seen as a major opportunity for the region. More use should also be made of the “rural” strengths of the region, i.e. mainly forestry and timber industry as well as dairy farming. In the course of the discussions it became clear however that existing proposals for the commercial future of the region lacked vision and were not very systematic.

In the second round, supply of and demand for commercial and industrial areas were assessed on the basis of a map of currently and future available areas. The participants discussed how and to what extent municipal land-use planning actually steers municipal development at present. The instrument is indeed used very actively to control housing developments, but there are gaps in strategic planning and in the supply of areas



**Participants of the second workshop held in the test region Alpsee-Grünten**



for commercial and industrial use in sufficient size and quality as demanded by enterprises.

It appeared that small municipalities are not alone in finding it difficult to develop long-term strategies for their further development as commercial and industrial locations. Against this background the municipalities want to concentrate their efforts in order to be competitive on a regional level. All participants were aware, however, that the proverbial devil of cooperation will lie in the administrative and especially the financial details.

In order to encourage closer municipal cooperation in the future, only instruments for steering regional development that included elements of intermunicipal cooperation were prepared for the discussions at the workshop. The participants were rather sceptical towards the idea of working out a regional land-use plan, an instrument which has been successfully applied in other German regions. Neither did they expect beneficial impulses for

closer coordination of municipal policies from regional planning. Of all instruments presented for municipal cooperation in the context of commercial development, the regional pool of commercial and industrial areas received the greatest interest. However, the participants agreed that all inter-municipal efforts in this area require a thorough analysis of actual demand and good public relations.

## **Second workshop in the test region of Tolmezzo, Italy on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2007**

Cross regional cooperation.

*Organized by Loredana Alfare and Marco Zumaglini, UNCEM*

The second Workshop was jointly organised with another Interreg project (WAREMA) seeking to encourage the participation of local authorities: so, in the second event, 17 participants were recorded, among them one mayor, representatives from three mountain communities and one local councillor. The common problem of insufficient intermunicipal cooperation had been identified through joint inter-partner screening of test regions conditions and Workshop 1 results. In Tolmezzo, it contributes to poor spatial management capacity and inadequate planning tools; combined with a lack of transparency in decision-making and ineffective participation, it frequently generates conflicts on land resource management.

We proposed a feasible strategy to tackle land resource management conflicts (including instruments and best practices to be possibly adopted):

1. Setting up a stakeholder committee (to address land resource management issues);
2. Setting up sectoral networks (to promote sustainable development); (Transnational instrument: Regional pool of commercial areas – Germany).
3. Establishing an intermunicipal spatial database (definition of a common knowledge base);
4. Providing expert contribution to shape prospect scenarios and shared vision; (Transnational instrument: Municipal land policy resolution – Germany).
5. Integrating the available planning tools into a common strategic spatial planning framework oriented towards sustainability; (Transnational instrument: SCOT – France).

Concerning the specific selected transnational topic, it was remarked, especially by planners and experts, that recent tentative voluntary agreements for cooperation between municipalities have not proved very effective so far, possibly due to competition among municipalities or valleys and lack of awareness: this results in their being more exposed to pressures and decisions made

At the end of the workshop a schedule was fixed for the next steps in cooperation. First the municipal councils will be informed about the results of the workshops and the activities initiated. A working group, for which a chair was already nominated during the workshop, will be installed and steer the next steps. The first meeting of the working group has been scheduled for November.



**Participants of the second workshop held in Tolmezzo**

at higher (FVG Region) level, and hinders definition and application of a common strategy for sustainable development. Local government stakeholders, however, stress the fact that as many as six intermunicipal associations have been established in the wider area of the upper Tagliamento river basin, and that successful instances of public participation in decision-making exist (actually, mostly dealing with less “economically sensitive” issues, such as social services planning). At any rate, citizens’ participation has already begun: numerous committees and voluntary associations have been established for protecting the threatened environmental assets of the area, especially the Tagliamento river ecosystem, and enhancing local sustainable economy through, among others, the recently proposed creation of a Biosphere Reserve.

According to stakeholders’ advice, besides overcoming the crucial drawback of the tiny size of single municipalities, a sound resolution strategy for the problem of insufficient intraregional cooperation should include the following:

1. An easily accessible standardized and updated knowledge base;
2. Formalized public participation structures, fully acknowledged by their counterpart local authorities;
3. A strategic spatial planning framework based on sustainability, unifying under a common vision the different sectoral policies to be implemented.



**Second workshop in the test region of Traunstein/Traunreut,  
Germany on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 2007**

Regional spatial management – from problem analysis to options for action  
*Organized by Stefan Marzelli, Florian Lintzmeyer and Claudia Schwarz, ifuplan*

Leading on from the results of the first workshop, the second workshop focused on exploring possibilities for inter-municipal cooperation. In the first round the debate centred on possible areas for cooperation and on defining objectives for such cooperation. The participants agreed that defining intermunicipal or regional objectives, while highly desirable in principle, was not possible in the short run but rather something to aim for in the medium or long term. Cooperation between municipalities in the interest of regional coordination of land use is important in terms of information exchange, equalization payments, regional transport and retail. Such a cooperation would mean loosening existing, sometimes obstructive set-ups. The obvious route would be an incremental expansion of existing intermunicipal cooperation, particularly in the areas of tourism and culture.



**Stefan Marzelli ifuplan, and participants of the second workshop held in Traunstein**

In the second round the debate centred on the issue of a suitable basis of information for spatial development. Several tools for a realistic assessment of future spatial needs were presented, including a register of brownfield sites, requirements analysis for businesses and residential buildings, population trends, etc. They should encourage a debate on which data to use when deciding on land resources and on whether existing data bases are sufficient for making such decisions. This round, too, took place against the background of intermunicipal coordination.

The discussion threw up strong interest in a GIS-based register of brownfield sites, which, so the dominant opinion, would best be set up at intermunicipal NUTS3 level. Currently there is no method in place to identify future demand for land systematically. The town of Traunstein is an exception here: for its land-use plan, it

extrapolated the demand of previous years, taking into account various scenarios. The designation of residential and business areas is usually done in the course of planning provision. Improving the basis for information, especially for certain central issues such as tourism and manufacturing would be an obvious next step.

In the third round, ifuplan presented the instruments „Gewerbeflächenpool“ (pool of enterprise zones) and „Schéma de Cohérence Territoriale (SCOT)“ (France) and sketched possible ways of cooperating on spatial resource management on an intermunicipal level in the region. The discussion threw up interest in voluntary cooperation, particularly on setting up a better basis for information, but binding arrangements in the region were considered unrealistic for the moment. Most participants were sceptical about common land-use planning as practised in France within the SCOT framework. Gathering enterprise zones together as in the pool of enterprise zones in Neckaralb which was presented here, was considered as currently not feasible for the region of Traunstein. For a start, it was proposed to lead on from existing cooperation, for instance in tourism and in the waste-water and environmental association Chiemsee.

The workshops held as part of the DIAMONT project were



**Participants of the second workshop held in Traunstein**

warmly welcomed in principle as a trigger for intensified intermunicipal cooperation and there was praise for the discussion process that cut across institutions and areas of responsibility. Essential for the future, it was felt, would be for a small group of “visionary mayors” to lead on from this impulse into a course of action. This would mean that basic and long-term objectives could be identified, the information basis expanded and better use made of regional resources.

After the workshop the Mayor of Traunstein opened the itinerant exhibition “Wie Wohnen? Wo leben? Flächen sparen – Qualität gewinnen” (How to live – where to live? Save space, improve quality) of the Bavarian Environmental Agency. The exhibition, which had been organized by ifuplan as a companion programme for the workshop, was greeted with great interest by the participants of the workshop. It was on display in the town hall of Traunstein until October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.



**Participants of the second workshop visiting the exhibition: „Wie Wohnen? Wo leben? Flächen sparen – Qualität gewinnen“**

### **Second workshop in the test region of Waidhofen / Ybbs, Austria on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2007**

Strategy of long-term development for the region.

*Organized by Axel Borsdorf and Valerie Braun, UIBK*

A total of eight participants attended this workshop. They met in the Museum of Iron Processing in Ybbsitz, an industry with a very long tradition in the region. The mayor of Ybbsitz made these rooms available for the second workshop. During the first workshop in the Labour Market Region Waidhofen an der Ybbs, four main themes had emerged. The participants of the first workshop then chose two of these themes in an email survey:

- 1) Cross-regional spatial planning
- 2) A cross-regional transport concept taking into account travel to work, travel to school/training and commercial traffic
- 3) Improvement of the education infrastructure including cross-regional cooperation and support and/or expansion of the regional public transport network
- 4) Adaptation of the tourist facilities and choices in the region to future demand in terms of climate change in the entire Alpine space.

The first presentation covered the topic „Improvement of the education infrastructure...“. It was suggested that the already very well developed education infrastructure should be expanded to counteract a brain drain particularly of young people to the university towns of Vienna and Linz and to create additional qualified jobs for the region. It was proposed to establish a university of applied sciences for care of the elderly. Such a university of applied sciences so far only exists in Germany. For Austria such a university in the region could take on a pioneering role.

The participants were enthusiastic about this idea and entered into a lively discussion after the presentation. The idea was then expanded into an „Engineering Centre Mostviertel“ with continuous professional development opportunities for skilled workers from local firms. In the next LEADER+ period (2008 to 2013), one theme will be „Teaching and learning in the region“ with 25 municipalities participating and it was thought that this idea should be included in the project application.

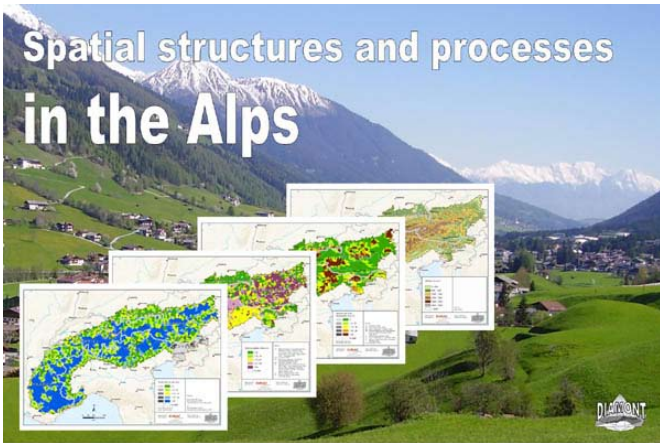
The next discussion had „cross-regional land-use management“ as its theme, with participants voicing different ideas. In some municipalities, for instance, efforts are being made to analyse the existing infrastructure, but it would be desirable to carry out a cross-regional analysis. New leisure facilities were cited as an example. They could be built for several municipalities and jointly used.

Altogether this workshop too found great interest and particularly the plan to pursue the idea of the university of applied sciences further counts as a success for the DIAMONT-Team.



**Participants of the second workshop held in Ybbsitz**





The Alps in the centre of Europe are the biggest and probably the most important mountain range on this continent. They are also the starting point for many debates: transit traffic, climate change, tourist trends and the impact of a global market economy are just some of the topics that come up repeatedly in the context of the Alps. All the more astonishing then that there is no „Alps Atlas“ as yet which could serve as an objective basis for discussing these topics. On reflection it soon becomes clear why this should be so: where do the Alps start? Where do they end? Does their orography provide sufficient information on the spatial structures of the Alps? Are the Alps a static area or does the mountainous region not rather experience multiple changes of its character, its cultural landscape, its demographic, economic and social structures? All these questions ought to be answered before you can start creating an atlas of the Alps. Add to this a series of methodological problems, of which harmonizing the data is the most resource-intensive. The official statistics of the Alpine states differ considerably in how they label their data, how they define them and sometimes in the points in time when they gather them. One can only conclude that it was high time to create a set of maps that would provide answers to these questions and encourage a closer look at the enormous structural differences and rapid change across the Alps.

The DIAMONT team is about to realize this ambitious project. The team is made up of scientists with relevant experience in pan-Alpine projects as well as experts and practitioners from the individual nation states. They all took part in gathering the data, creating and interpreting the maps and thus share the responsibility for this set of maps. The actual implementation however was only possible through co-financing from the EU and the nation states with Italy taking a leading role.

The atlas of the Alps contains over 90 maps covering social, economic and environmental aspects. Topics such as the employment situation, settlement trends, fragmentation of the landscape and the labour market situation are represented by several indicators each and integrated by the experts. In addition, these pieces of information are being analysed in terms of the debate on sustainability and consolidated into a few particularly meaningful maps. This means that the atlas will also provide a scientific basis for future decisions of the authorities, be it on local, regional, national or international level.

### **New DIAMONT Collaborator in Innsbruck**

Brigitte Scott joined the DIAMONT team in October. As a translator she supports her colleagues in producing the English versions of the reports, newsletters and the Alps Atlas.



Originally a language and literature graduate, Brigitte has lived in Great Britain for many years, teaching and translating texts on subjects ranging from IT to food. In addition to her language skills, she brings to DIAMONT an interest in sociology and politics and experience in translating texts on mountain agriculture. She has worked with individual members of the DIAMONT team on previous projects and translated the MAB publication of the Austrian Academy of Sciences „Leben in Vielfalt“ into English.



## Conference

How are the Alps developing? To what extent are they prepared to face the recent challenges of fragmented spatial development and related problems within regions? Which instruments exist or can be developed to steer development towards sustainability?

The Interreg IIIb Project DIAMONT was set up in close co-operation with the Alpine Convention and aims to help with the conceptualization of a pan-Alpine information system, to identify problems of regional development and to find solutions based on existing or innovative regional development instruments. For essential project elements, DIAMONT followed a bottom-up strategy, based on the assessment of experts, respecting the cultural differences and taking account of the hopes, concerns and expectations of the Alpine population and regional stakeholders.

The conference will present the project's achievements. It will also deal with the issue of Alpine regional development, particularly in terms of land resource management and look at a wider range of ongoing processes. Therefore, representatives from politics, public administration, academia, and civil society as well as the interested public are invited to contribute their expertise and comments.

**Duration: 8 am till 5 pm**

### Welcome

Axel Borsdorf, DIAMONT - Lead partner, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Tilmann Märk, Vice Chancellor for research, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Martin Coy, Dean Geo- und Atmosphärenwissenschaften, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Paolo Angelini, Italian Ministry of the environment / Italian focal point of the Alpine Convention

Thomas Fleury, JTS Rosenheim, Germany

### Introduction to the DIAMONT project and presentation of the results

Axel Borsdorf, Austria

Ulrike Tappeiner, EURAC, Italy / University of Innsbruck, Austria

### The importance of the Alpine Convention for regional development

Marco Onida, Alpine Convention

### Cultural differences and key issues of regional development

**Chair: Astrid Björnsen Gurung**

Martin Boesch, FWR-HSG, Switzerland

Vincent Briquel, CEMAGREF, France

Antonio Massarutto, University of Udine, Italy

Marie-Christine Fourny-Kober, France

### Plenary discussion

### Indicators of regional development

**Chair: Antonia Milbert**

Konstanze Schönthaler, Bosch&Partner GmbH, Germany

Erich Tasser, EURAC, Italy

Tobias Dietrich, ÖROK, Austria

Regula Imhof, Alpine Convention

### Plenary discussion

### From individual perceptions and statistical data to instruments for land resource management

**Chair: Ulrike Pröbstl**

Ulrike Tappeiner, Italy / Austria

Stefan Marzelli, ifuplan, Germany

Jernej Stritih, CIPRA International, Slovenia

**Expert: TBC**

### Plenary discussion

## **The bottom-up approach – a participative development?**

**Chair: Marc-Antoine Kleinpeter**

Janez Nared, AMGI, Slovenia

Loredana Alfaro, UNCEM, Italy

Bojan Sever, Mayor of Idrija, Slovenia

Duilio Cosatto, Mountain Community of Torre Natissone e Collio

Josef Hofmarcher, Mayor of Ybbsitz, Austria

Dieter Fischer, Mayor of Burgberg, Germany

**Gap: TBC**

Fritz Stahl, Mayor of Traunstein, Germany

**Plenary discussion**

## **Summary and outlook**

Axel Borsdorf, Austria

## **Hotel reservation**

We would kindly ask you to book your own accommodation. For hotel reservations please apply directly to the tourist office in Innsbruck.

Innsbruck Tourismus, Burggraben 3, A - 6021 Innsbruck

Tel. 0043 512 59850

Fax. 0043 512 59859 107

[www.innsbruck.info](http://www.innsbruck.info) - [office@innsbruck.info](mailto:office@innsbruck.info)

## **Conference venue**

**ICT, Technikerstraße 21a, Otto Hittmair-Platz 1**

**Conference management on behalf of the DIAMONT project partners:**

Axel Borsdorf and Valerie Braun

Institute of Geography, University of Innsbruck, Innrain 52, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

## **Languages**

**German, Italian, French and Slovenian**

(Simultaneous translation)

## **Poster session**

The participants are invited to present their research and results at the DIAMONT final conference.

**To register a poster, please mail an abstract (title, authors, main themes) in English to [valerie.braun@uibk.ac.at](mailto:valerie.braun@uibk.ac.at) before 01/12/2007. You will be informed by 31/12/2007 if your poster has been accepted.**

## **Registration**

Participation in the conference is free of charge.

**For organizational reasons we would kindly ask you to register for the final conference before 31/12/2007.**

**Please send your registration with your name, institution, address, phone and e-mail to the following e-mail or fax:**

**[Valerie.Braun@uibk.ac.at](mailto:Valerie.Braun@uibk.ac.at)**

**FAX +43-(0)512-507-289.**

### **diamond calendar**

October 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2007: 6th project meeting in Munich/G

November 12<sup>th</sup> 2007: Submission of 6th "progress report"

7<sup>th</sup> accounting period in DIAMONT: September 2007 - 31. March 2008

### **web-site**

The DIAMONT web-site provides up-to-date information on the project. <http://diamont.uibk.ac.at>

### **contact information**

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