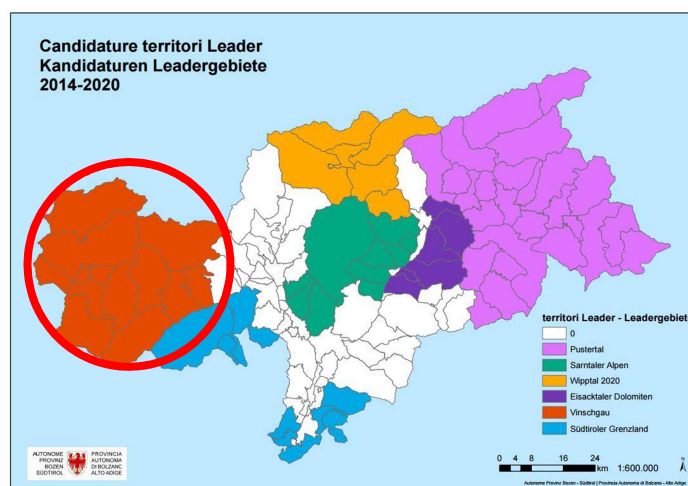# ALPJOBS

Anticipate Future Jobs on Alpine Remote Areas

Work package 3.2

Report on
Participatory modelling of desired futures for local systems

LAG Vinschgau

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Summary

1. The session of participatory modelling at Vinschgau

Session description: 3+2 participants (age from 23-34 (65), tourism, social services, industrial sector), met on the 29th of November 2018 in Schlanders/Vinschgau in the afternoon for about 3 hours, see list below:

1.1. Frames and definitions of desirable local futures

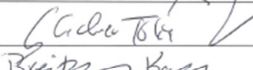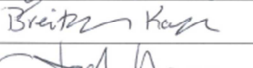"Good morning sir / madam, the pilot project is about the possible and desirable future for local young people in Vinschgau, especially the job opportunities from today to 2030.
Here we are going to practice and test an innovative approach. The purpose of this meeting and your contribution is a better understanding and definition of the local system that can offer the context and conditions that will support (or contrast) a desirable future.
Scope: sharing visions of desirable futures, considering local actors, processes and variables (= the local system)
The results will be the basis for a larger and more operational project.

Frame the modelling:
- **spatial = Vinschgau**
- **temporal = 2019 to 2030**

The **desirable local future** according to the analysis of the interviews is:

"With regard to jobs for young people in the Vinschgau (rural areas), the desired future scenario looks as follows:

- good jobs in the vicinity - also for academics,
- growth of companies through export,
- infrastructure maintenance and
- "high-quality tourism."
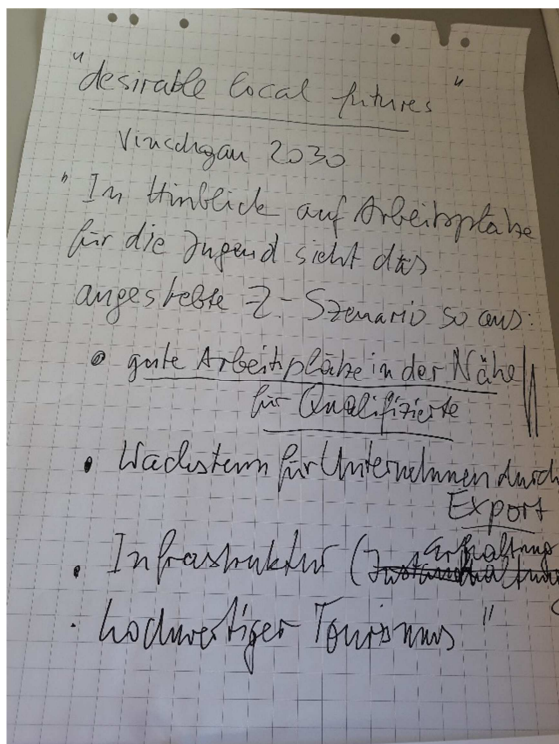
1.2.   Critical events and patterns
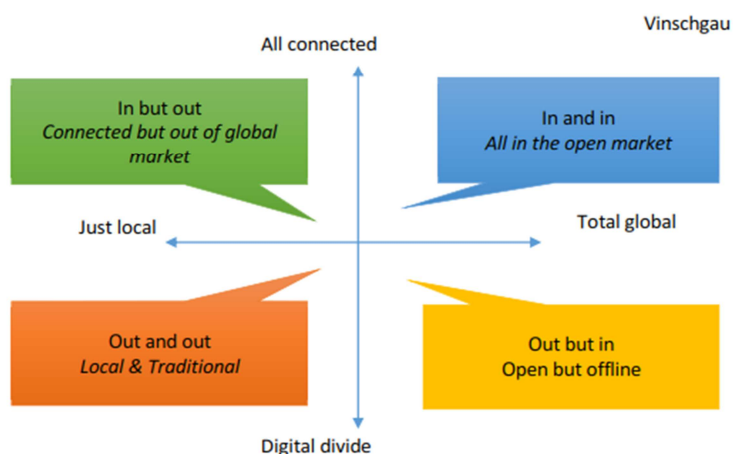
Critical Event (proposal): more jobs for (young) highly qualified people

The current trend is towards a migration of highly qualified workers, also due to the dismantling of public services (hospital Schlanders, district court).

The export sector is being held back by the still insufficient digitalisation (fast Internet) and by the overloading of the transport infrastructure (connecting technologies). There is also the danger of international relations being closed off.
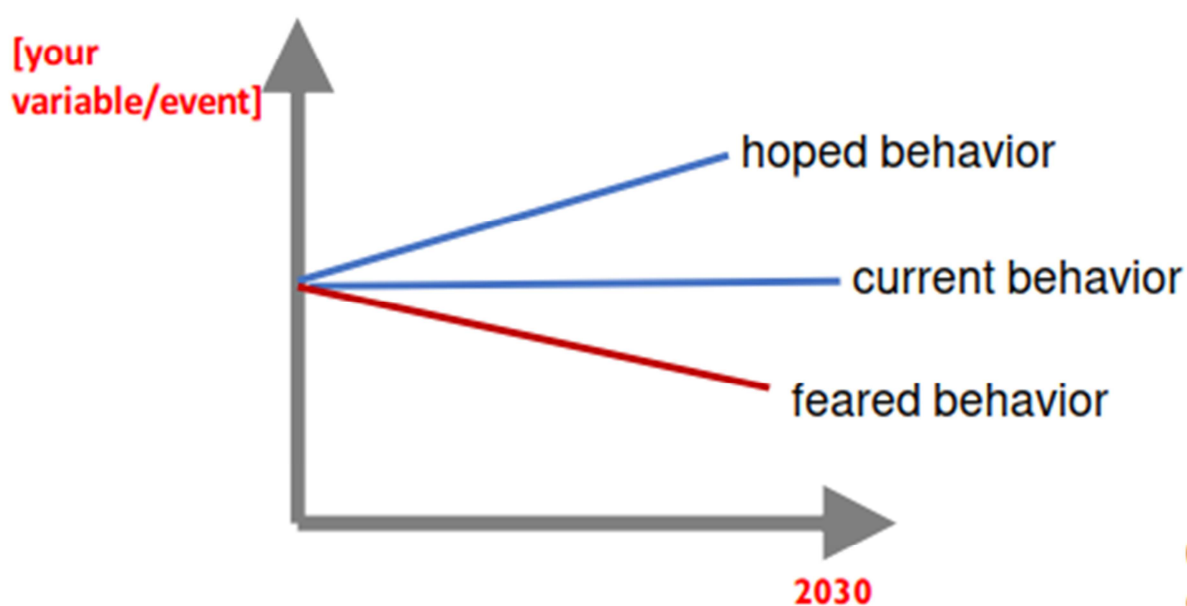
1.3.   Related variables and the system structures

Treasures: list of promising local capitals, values and competences

tangible capital

1. Bioregion Obervinschgau or "Obervinschgau cooperates smart" (Upper Vinschgau cooperates smart)
2. Business and Service Incubator Schlanders
3. Sustainable tourism in combination with natural and cultural heritage
4. Laas marble as ambassador of the region, stonemason school

intangible assets

1. Citizens' cooperative Obervinschgau (Obervinschgau Citizens' Cooperative)
2. Cultural activities and traditions

"Starting from the BASIS business incubator and social centre, a group of start-up companies, freelancers and creative people has formed which together offer innovative services that are important for the local economy but are also in demand outside the Vinschgau region.

Causal maps:

LOOPY: https://bit.ly/2Uvz9NX

1.4.   Mental models

Transcription and translations of extracts from causal maps with clarified related assumptions (pics of post-it or draws from the groups):

Open society - Innovative companies

At present, the Vinschgau region has a rather conservative cultural and social orientation. More openness would mean that innovative companies would be more likely to settle because they are supported by creative minds, who in turn need an open society. The more society closes itself off, the more dissuasive this becomes for innovative companies. Conversely, innovative companies also contribute to opening up society by attracting creative minds and radiating culturally and socially onto their environments.

Regional identity - Offers of (practical) education and experience (internships)

Educational institutions can strengthen regional identity in different ways: Vocational training courses ensure young talent in the key industries good educational institutions enable young people to find an identity-building occupation that binds them to the region Teachers are mostly culturally engaged and therefore promote regional identity.

Decentralization – Good and qualified work for young people

Public services offer good and skilled jobs, as they usually require higher professional qualifications and offer a good work-life balance. The expansion of public services through decentralization (at the expense of the urban areas of South Tyrol) therefore promotes good jobs for young people

2. Policy proposals through systems thinking

Starting points for changes (policies)

1. **education policy**
- To include formal/informal education
- More practical training is central, but in connection with local companies (internships abroad may broaden the horizon, but do not do much for the integration of young people into the regional labour market).
- Create experimental spaces for young people to facilitate their choice of career (where they do not have to be afraid of making mistakes). Workshops, taster internships, support in choosing a career
- In-service university courses should be established: Teaching rooms in Vinschgau, supervision from outside; the contents of the courses must cover suitable fields of competence: culture, agriculture, crafts, landscape conservation, etc.

2. **Mobility**
- Better integration with other regions. A railway tunnel to Switzerland would bring a lot.

3. **Promoting regional identity**
- Appreciation for the material and immaterial treasures of the Vinschgau that create identity; support for the willingness to cooperate (poorly developed, although there were many alpine pastures and irrigation communities in the past).

4. **Open society**
- Open culture (also for subculture)
- More flexible rules, e.g. for curfew, generally fewer standards
- Rooms for (sub-)cultural activities
- financial support in this area

5. **Securing jobs in public administration**
- Relocating public services to the periphery
- No closure of public facilities due to centralisation

3. The learnings

T. would have preferred clearer questions, but found the workshop as a whole stimulating and established important contacts (BASIS start-up center).

K. is very satisfied. She liked being able to think about and talk about these topics, her view grew. She now understands better where the development is going or could go (interesting insights). She would like to pass on her view and experience to future young people, so that they have it easier than they themselves with regard to their choice of education and career.

H. has received quick inputs. However, he found it difficult to develop a 360-degree view. It remains the feeling of having overlooked something important, especially braking factors. He spontaneously thinks of construction companies that are afraid of competition from innovative companies (not least because they want to continue building).