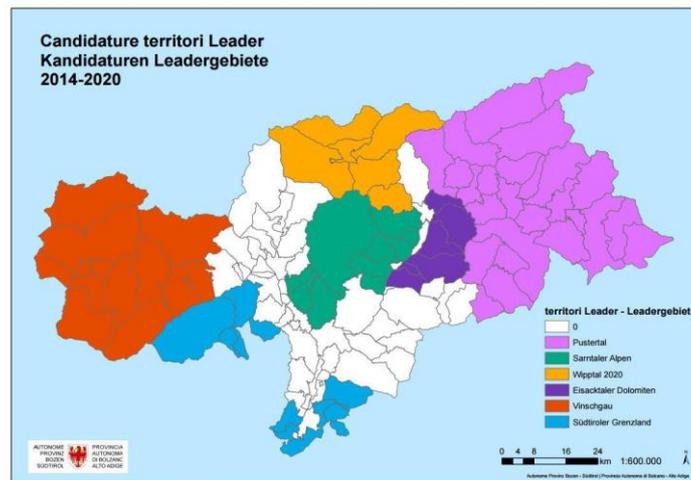




Anticipate Future Jobs on Alpine Remote Areas



Work package 4.3

Report on local roadmapping exercise

LAG "Vinschgau"

Author: Hermann Atz, André Mallossek



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1. The workshop: participants and related sub-systems

The workshop of roadmapping was held on the 12th of march in Schlanders-Silandro, Vinschgau and moderated by Dr. Hermann Atz with the assistance of André Mallossek

1. young employee (female, <35),
2. director of professional school (female, 50+),
3. LEADER Vinschgau coordinator (male, <35),
4. regional director of the association of merchants (male, 50+),
5. vice-director of secondary school (male, 50+),
6. mayor of Glurns (male, 50+).

All participants are resident in the district “Vinschgau”. The represent a variety of social sectors: politics, education, economy, labour force, regional development, youth culture. All of them have also their workplace in the district despite of the fact that most have a university degree – which is considered to be an obstacle of finding a job in the region.



Figure 1. Participants of the session, March 12th 2019, Schlanders (Silandro). Note: Two participants are missing on this picture



Figure 2. Participants discussing during the session, March 12th 2019, Schlanders (Silandro).

The roadmapping exercise was made immediately after the backcasting and with the same local representatives. Therefore there was no need to explain the AlpJobs projects in general, but the participants were introduced briefly to the scope and the methodology of the specific approach.

2. The vision 2030: long-term aspirations of the organization

The working group identified the following topics, regarding the defined five domains (community, education, job market, technology, resources):

- Community:
 - Conservation of nature.
 - Openness of mind.
- Education:
 - Good schools and companies, who are cooperating.
- Job market:
 - Fixed jobs but flexible working times as well as flexible models of professions (interchangeability).
 - Close by workplaces.

- Jobs refer to education and formation and offer chances to develop.
- Integration of local circuits.
- Cooperation of all sectors of the economy.
- Attractive jobs in comparison with Switzerland.
- Soft/slow tourism.
- Vinschgau marble.
- Export oriented.
- Technology:
 - Good connectivity by public transport as well as communication technology.
- Resources:
 - Natural and historical heritage is preserved.

3. The past: key influences and events

- Community:
 - intensive daily work,
 - more bureaucratic,
 - low appreciation of local treasures.
- Education:
 - establishment of the school centers in Mals and Schlanders.
- Job market:
 - establishment of the hospital of Schlanders,
 - small structured companies, sideline companies in agriculture,
 - weak tourism.
- Technology:
 - Vinschgau train,
 - [beginning introduction of] broadband internet.
- Resources:
 - promotion and subsidies for agriculture (fruit),
 - LEADER region,
 - tourism.

4. The now: current situation

- Community:
 - same as past.
- Education:
 - good education up to secondary school.
- Job market:
 - stable but questioned with regards to administration,
 - too few academics.
- Technology:
 - same as past.
- Resources:
 - same as past.

5. The short-term decision: 1-year or “budget” horizon

Concerning tangible plans and actions within the next year, participants identified the following points:

- Community:
 - concept for Vinschgau treasures and companies (like BGO = Citizen Cooperative Obervinschgau),
 - extend geo-analyses (a GIS based tool for simulation of visitors frequency as support for location decisions) together with chamber of commerce,
 - Plattform Land and Economy Forum Vinschgau.
- Education:
 - establishment of the Vinschgau education/formation forum by the professional school.
- Job market:
 - funding of BASIS Schlanders (business incubator, laboratory, cultural center) secured,
 - analysis of work forces needed and motivations to stay or to leave.
- Technology:
 - Vinschgau train electrified, no train change necessary for going to Bozen-Bolzano, fast train connection,
 - feasibility study for bus connection Mals-Landeck committed by Terra Raetica.
- Resources:
 - funding by INTERREG CLLD, LEADER and by Land South Tyrol.

6. The medium-term plans: 3-year or “strategy” horizon

The following points describe the imaginable strategies for local development in the next 3 years:

- Community:
 - combined fair of Vinschgau treasures and enterprises.
- Education:
 - participation of educational institutions on above mentioned fair.
- Job market:
 - BASIS Schlanders is well used by companies and organizations from all economic sectors, including culture, education and research.
- Technology: -
- Resources:
 - funding remains as before plus additional share by chamber of commerce

7. The long-term scenarios: 5-year or “radar” horizon

- Community: -

- Education:
 - modular courses are established and recognized
 - the Vinschgau education/formation forum has assumed a key role for adapting existing courses of professional qualification and developing new ones according to the needs of the local labor market
- Job market: -
- Technology: -
- Resources: -

8. Learnings

Was the approach new to you?

- The approach was new to everybody

What were the main difficulties in doing it?

- The main difficulties were to name the organisation responsible for future actions (and that the people had not enough time until the end of the workshop)
- It was also difficult for the participants to distinguish between the present and the more recent past from which the present conditions have grown.

What were the main interesting results/insights?

- The main interesting result was the common approach of the diverse actors to develop the roadmap together
- The cooperation between the diverse actors is foreseen to be used in future to establish the education/formation forum in Vinschgau

Would you be willing to use this approach in their activities or to further develop the exercise done?

- The approach was retained to be interesting but challenging. To be used properly a professional moderator from outside would be very helpful.

Final notes

As already stated in the report on the backcasting exercise, the Vinschgau region is characterised by natural and economic diversity. Many issues and problems therefore affect only a certain part of the whole territory or are of much greater importance to certain municipalities than to others. We find different types of agricultural production in the various parts of the region. And there is also no leading sector in crafts and industry and in the service sector, rather the Vinschgau is characterised by a sector mix in which no sector predominates. On the one hand, this makes it more difficult to agree on priorities for regional policy development; on the other hand, this diversity provides a good basis for the development of regional cycles. Agreeing on policy priorities in education or economic development is not easy in these circumstances. Moreover, a number of choices need to be made at a higher political level. This applies, for example, to wage policy as well as to the maintenance of public services in the Vinschgau region or even their relocation from the centre of the province to the district. It probably also applies to the expansion of the technical infrastructure. And also the responsibility for education lies with the province or even with the state and not with the Vinschgau region.

The group of stakeholders in the roadmapping exercise focused on educational offers taking account of the specific conditions of the local economy and job market. In agriculture, especially in traditional grassland farming, the farmers family very often cannot make their living just from breeding cattle and producing milk but relies on the possibility to combine it with additional or complementary professional activities like tourism at the farm, traditional and other crafts or employment in the service sector. Therefore it seems

very important to establish vocational training with special curricula that lead to a double qualification: agricultural know-how and professional skills of a specific craft or service activity.

Another aspect stressed by participants in the workshop on desirable futures is the entanglement of education/formation and internships in local companies. More practical training is considered to be 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). In addition experimental spaces for young people should be created to facilitate their choice of career. Also in-service university courses could 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.

Therefore the main challenge to reach the goals with regard to these innovative types of course is the creation of a stable core group composed of various stakeholders, including representatives of the provincial education agency and of the local economy, with regard to school-based education and vocational training: the “Vinschgau education/formation forum” (“Bildungsforum”). The Bildungsforum aims not only to coordinate the different types of educational offers and to develop new courses and programmes but it should also assure the permanent commitment of the stakeholders (“Integration creates responsibility”).

The directing board of the vocational training centre in Schlanders should assume a key role in the planned “Bildungsforum”. Another important partner could be the regional craftsmen association (LVH) currently engaged in a project called DuALPlus which is financed by the European Interreg Alpine Space Programme. According to its homepage DuALPlus pursues three objectives (<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/dualplus/en/home>):

improve the career guidance of youngsters and the public recognition of dual education as valuable learning path,

- promote innovation and quality in dual education,
- improve the framework conditions for innovation by increasing the horizontal and vertical permeability of the dual education system.

Of course the creation of the “Bildungsforum Vinschgau” is only one element of a genuine multiannual development strategy, but it can be considered as an important leverage point and it has the advantage that most of the relevant stakeholders have already been involved in our project. Therefore it is clear which institutions and persons have to be addressed and committed for the desired process. A further step is to identify and involve other possible allies – also on the level of local politics – in order to undertake together the imagined path.