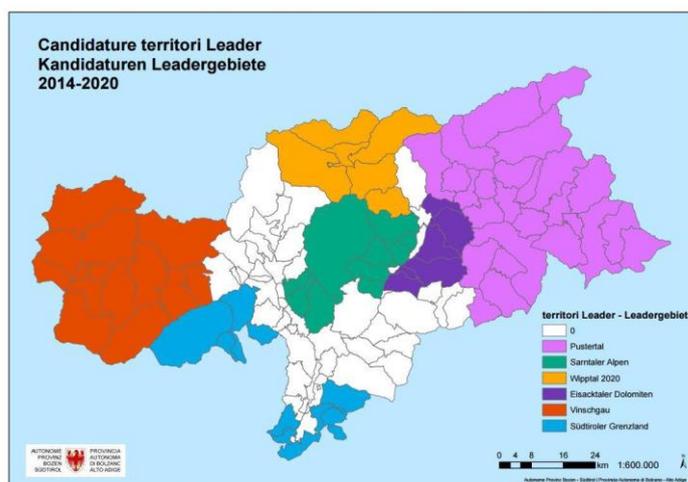




## Anticipate Future Jobs on Alpine Remote Areas



### Work package 4.2

# Report on local backcasting exercise

LAG "Vinschgau"

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This project is co-financed (ARPAF funds) by the European Union

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## 1. The workshop: participants and related sub-systems

The workshop of backcasting (and roadmapping) was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of march in Schlanders, Vinschgau and moderated by Dr. Hermann Atz with the assistance of André Mallossek

- Female, young employee (female, <35),
- Female, director of professional school (female, 50+),
- Male, LEADER Vinschgau coordinator (male, <35),
- Male, regional director of the association of merchants (male, 50+),
- Male, vice-director of secondary school (male, 50+),
- Male, 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.

After a short introduction about goals of ALPJOBS, participants were introduced briefly to the scope of the meeting.



*Figure 1 Participants of the session, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2019, Schlanders (Silandro).*

*Note: Two participants are missing on this picture*



*Figure 2 Participants discussing during the session, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2019, Schlanders (Silandro).*

2. The desirable future: "2030, everything is going well, I can see..."

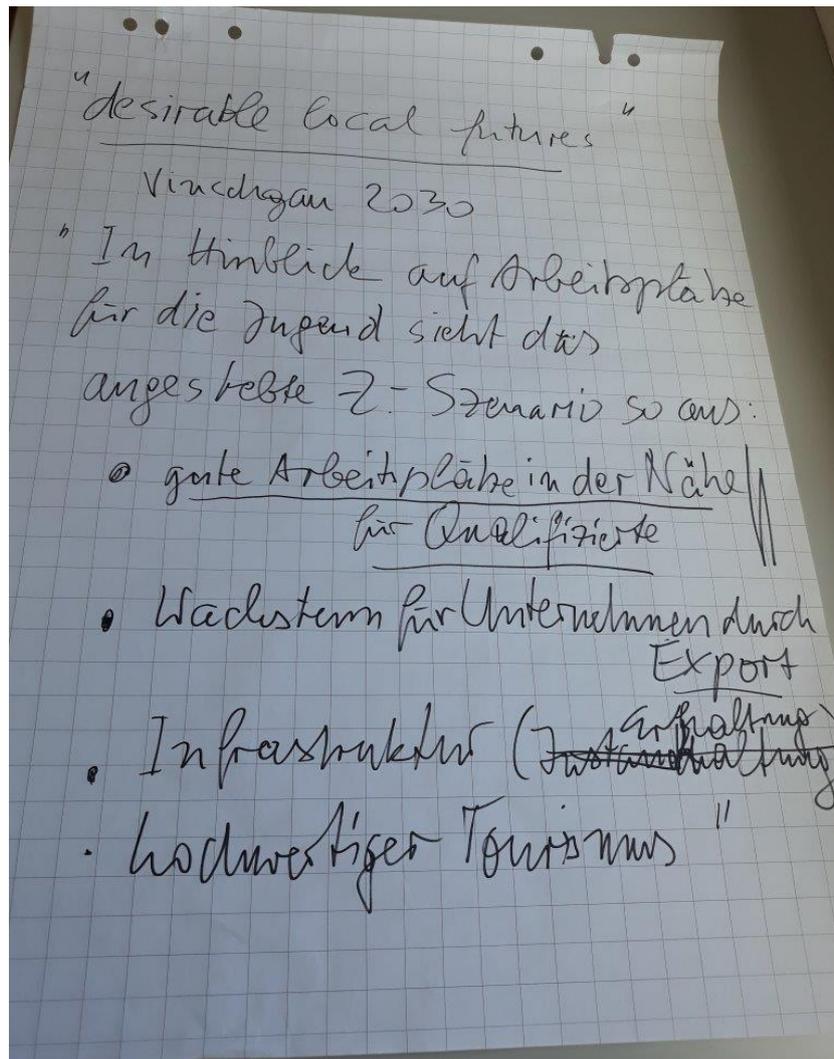


Figure 3. Recall of the results of the workshop "Desired futures for local systems".

Translation:

Desirable local futures Vinschgau 2030

The desired future scenario with regard to jobs for young people is the following:

- good jobs for qualified persons in the region (close by),
- companies growing through export activities,
- preservation of infrastructure,
- high quality tourism.

The STEEP approach of looking to 2030 was explained by the following slide:

## Backcasting – Zurück in die Zukunft

Zuerst die Vision, wo wollen wir hin?

Sozial:

Technologisch:

Ökonomisch:

Ökologisch:

Politisch:

2030



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### Participants could see in 2030:

- Good connectivity by public transport as well as communication technology (technology).
- Close by workplaces and conservation of nature (economy, ecology).
- Permanent employment but flexible working times as well as flexible models of professions (interchangeability) (social, education).
- Jobs correspond to education and training and offer development opportunities (social, education).
- Soft/slow tourism, [valorization of] Vinschgau marble (economy).
- Integration of local circuits (economy).
- Cooperation of all sectors of the economy (social, economy).
- Attractive jobs in comparison with Switzerland (economy).
- Good schools and companies, who are cooperating (social).
- Export oriented [economy] (economy).

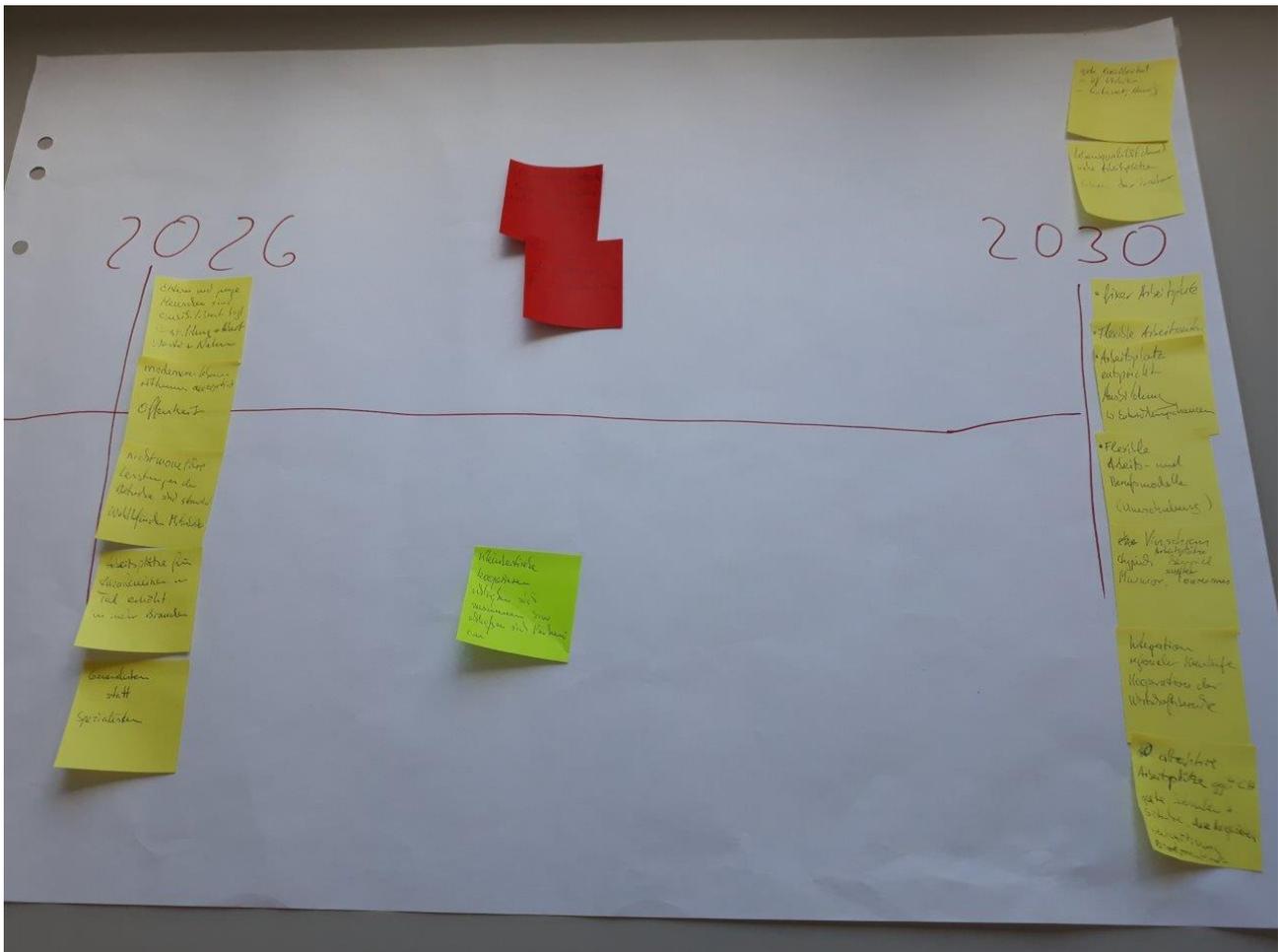


Figure 4. Group work results

### 3. Promising conditions in 2026 for the desired 2030 and related strategic issues

#### 3.1 Promising conditions (2026)

The promising conditions in 2026 for the desired 2030 are:

- Sensitization of young people and their parents in respect to education, jobs, nature and values.
- Openness, modern (diverse) ways of life are accepted.
- Non-monetary grants by companies to employee are standard, employees feel appreciated.
- More jobs for academics exist in several sectors.
- More generalists than specialists in the working force.

#### 3.2 Possible obstacles in between

Possible obstacles to promising conditions are:



- Start of new educations and formations.

#### 4.2 Possible obstacles in between

- Mismatch between offers (formation, jobs) and demands (by young people).

#### 4.3 Possible actions mitigating or preventing the obstacles

- Attraction of external workers and apprentices through special and good formations.

### 5. Learnings

#### *Was the approach new to you?*

- The approach was new to all participants. It gave results perceived as very interesting by the participants.
- The approach was also new to the facilitators. As a consequence not all points raised in the discussion are documented properly in this report.

#### *What were the main difficulties in doing it?*

- The main challenge was to refrain from focusing on immediate actions.

#### *What were the main interesting results/insights?*

- The main result was that the participants saw the diverse groups and the exchange between different partners as useful.
- The picture of the situation developed in common effort is close to reality.
- One characteristic of the local population seems to be their sense of individualism, sometimes they are quite stubborn. Therefore it is very important to teach and foster cooperation.
- It became evident that a closer integration of vocational training programs and general education programs is an important leverage point for empowering young people for the future labour market in the region.
- Generally there is a need for an integrated view on all types of education, not only programs for young people but also education and training offers for adults. It is more about influencing the minds of people not about creating new schools.
- Young people often tend to intuitive actions rather than rational decisions.
- Knowledge of foreign languages as well as practical skills and experience are essential competences.

- Local values should be more stressed in education and communication in order to convince temporary emigrants to come back to the region. How can it be done: by associations of civil society, by parents, by youth services, by peer groups ....
- Important measures to reach the desirable future cannot be taken on the local level, i.e. the wage level. Therefore the local actors should also try to influence decisions of the provincial government.

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

- The approach could be helpful in building up networks and developing a shared view of goals and measures to take.

## 6. Final notes

### **Natural and economic conditions**

The district of Vinschgau, with its approximately 35,000 inhabitants in 13 municipalities and an area of 1,400 km<sup>2</sup> (one fifth of the province of Bolzano), 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. The lower and middle Vinschgau are characterised by apple cultivation as the dominant agricultural culture, while apple cultivation is just entering the upper Vinschgau, leading to conflicts of use and protest. In the side valleys and on the slopes of the Adige Valley, on the other hand, traditional grassland farming predominates. 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.

### **(Missing) culture of cooperation**

However, it is repeatedly noted that the actors in the Vinschgau show little willingness to cooperate. This is all the more surprising as the traditional water management of the irrigation channels (“Waale”) and the community owned and managed forests and alpine pastures are a special feature of the cooperation in the region that goes back far into the past. It is therefore a matter of continuing old traditions and values. In other words, it takes cultural and educational efforts to make better economic progress.

### **Education**

In the field of education, the Vinschgau area is large enough to be able to offer all major types of education and vocational training up to upper secondary level, while a tertiary educational institution is lacking, which is one of the reasons for the strong migration of highly qualified young women and men from the region. Some compensation for this shortfall could be provided by particularly innovative, more generalist training programmes with a strong practical focus.

So that young people who have left the region for training or their first professional experiences are more likely to think of returning to the region, identification with the region should be strengthened from an early age: by communicating the natural and cultural heritage as well as by attractive leisure activities, integration in the life of associations and getting to know successful companies and concrete job opportunities, for example within the framework of internships in alternance to school-based training

### **Regional Identification**

The attractiveness of metropolitan and other urban areas is particularly felt by young people with university degrees. In addition, however, there is a large wage gap between neighbouring Switzerland and the Vinschgau region, which also affects all other levels of education. Since it is extremely advantageous to live in the Vinschgau and to work in Switzerland, where the wage level is much higher, almost all economic sectors in the Vinschgau suffer from a shortage of skilled workers, especially the building trade and industry, but also tourism and various service providers. In purely economic terms, it will hardly be possible to compensate for this gap in the foreseeable future. People must therefore be tempted by good working and living conditions and by strengthening their regional identification to look for and keep a job in the Vinschgau.

### **Technical infrastructures**

A good transport infrastructure (road and rail) as well as a widespread fast Internet are prerequisites for the settlement or retention of strong, export-oriented companies. Both, however, also benefit the population and therefore strengthen the attractiveness of the Vinschgau as a residential and living space.

## Politics

However, 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. Within the region, targeted cultural work seems to be an important key also for the economic development prospects of the Vinschgau. In addition, in the Vinschgau we find strong approaches of citizen participation and self-responsibility, which can support an intrinsically controlled development dynamic of society as a whole.