

REGALP

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ANNEX 3

to Work Package 5 Report

WP5 Making Public the View of Locals

Local Workshops

Pilot Region Visp-Saastal, Switzerland

Gregor Zajc

Hans-Rudolf Egli

Jenny Atmanagara

Simon Bratschi

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1 INTRODUCTION

The aims of the two workshops the GIUB team organised in the Swiss pilot Region Visp-Saastal were firstly to get to know the views of local representatives on regional development and cultural landscape change in the future. Secondly, the bottom up and the top down views were confronted by discussing a possible action plan for the future development.

The GIUB worked closely with regional representatives who helped with the organisation of the workshops. After making a selection of regional actors we invited them to take part at these two workshops.

The majority of the participants had experience with similar workshops as being a quite widely accepted working method. There are also other projects concerning regional planning and rural land running going on in the region and canton.

The role of the workshop was to gather different representatives and put them to work together and develop a realistic action plan which they should follow in the future. The outcomes can also be interesting for the new regional policy (by the state) and the new Local Agenda 21 (canton). The inputs given by the GIUB team can help the representatives finding the way to achieve certain aim but in depends on their will whether and how they want to reach these aims.

2 WORKSHOP STATISTICS

	Workshop 1	Workshop 2
Date	21 Mai 2003	18 June 2003
Place	TZO, Visp	TZO, Visp
Number of participants: Regional actors	13 (0 F, 13 M)	10 (0 F, 10 M)
Structure of participants:		
- locals/regional representatives	5	3
- reg. planing reps.	1	1
- tourism reps.	3	3
- economy reps.	1	-
- agricultural/forestry reps.	2	2
- educational reps.	1	1
Age groups (estimate) :		
- employed (40-50)	6	4
- employed (50-60)	5	4
- retired (60+)	2	2
REGALP Team GIUB	4 (1 F, 3 M)	4 (2 F, 2 M)
Total participants	17 (1 F, 16 M)	14 (2 F, 12 M)

3 TOOLS AND RESULTS

3.1 Workshop 1

3.1.1 Tools and techniques applied

Announcements of the workshop:

The regional representatives were first informed about both workshops already half a year before the first workshop took place. The GIUB team had a short presentation of the REGALP project in the pilot region in November 2002. Afterwards, several interviews with selected regional actors were carried out which have also been informed about the workshops. In winter 2003 letters with announcement of the first workshop were distributed. In April 2003 the invitations and the manuals were sent to selected regional representatives.

Agenda:

Workshop 1 followed the alternative B agenda proposed by UPIRS team:

<i>Time</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Working Method</i>
9.00-9.30	Opening by the research team and mutual introduction (name, institution and a statement about expectations from the workshop)	Plenum, everybody
9.30-9.35	Presentation of the workshop programme	Plenum, research team
9.35-10.00	Information about the project	Plenum, research team
10.00-10.15	Short presentation of previous cultural landscape development in the Alpine space and in the region Visp-Saas valley (facts from the regional portrait)	Plenum, research team
<i>10.15-10.30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10.30-11.30	Discussion about cultural landscape change in the region Visp-Saas valley in the next 20 years	Groups, everybody
11.30-12.00	Common valuation of future cultural landscape change	Plenum, everybody
<i>12.15-13.30</i>	<i>Lunch in KKZ La Poste</i>	
13.45-14.15	Presentation of development trends for the region Visp-Saas valley	Plenum, research team
14.15-15.30	Discussion of valuation, development trends, and realistic expectations	Groups, everybody
<i>15.30-15.45</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.45-16.15	Presentation of the groups' results	Plenum, group speakers
16.15-16.45	Common final discussion	Plenum, everybody
16.45-17.00	Summarising of results, prospect for 2nd workshop, (18.6.2003), thanking and goodbye	Plenum, research team

Tools and techniques applied:

The introduction and the presentation of the programme as well as the results was verbally using overhead, maps, pictures and posters in the plenum. At the beginning, everyone was asked about their expectations of the workshops which were written down on a poster. All the participants received a workshop manual with a concise introduction into the project, description of the region and its development trends as well as the scenario. The participants were divided into two groups.

The groups were using the metaplan technique in the morning and the nominal group technique in the afternoon. The presentation of both groups took place in the plenum using the posters from the group works. The workshop ended with a discussion and the round whether the expectation from the morning were fulfilled. The participants were informed about the next workshop.

Evaluation of accuracy of the applied tools and techniques:

- tools used proved to be accurate with the desired outcome
- the working material (workshop manual) in its concise form proved to be very useful
- the participants understood the procedure and were able to use it
- the participants expressed their satisfaction over methods used as being very accurate and interesting
- not always enough time to express all the ideas and discuss them with other participants
- most of the outcome can directly be used for the purposes of REGALP
- all the participants had equal opportunities expressing their ideas (the participants were informed at the beginning of the workshop that everyone is the same and that everyone can express him- or herself freely).

3.1.3 Main outcomes

List of major changes in RD and CL in the past 30 years as presented at the workshop based on the interviews and data analysis:

Regional Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase of tourism in the 1970ies and 1980ies, has led to...• ...more jobs, higher incomes, better educational opportunities, enhanced social security• ...increased range of cultural events• ...increase of road traffic• ...deterioration of public finances due to investments in infrastructure• ...change in lifestyle, less social cohesion• Stagnation of tourism in the youngest past• Industry modernisation, increasing demand for skilled and specialised workforces• Increase of tertiary sector also outside tourist industry• Modernisation of education

Landscape Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced and more extensive agriculture, has led to... • ... Increase of shrubland and forests • ... Loss of small-scale land-use patterns • ... Disappearance of traditional irrigation, thus drying out of vegetation cover, led to reduced slope stability • Virtually non-existent commercial forest-use, instead specific protective interventions • Interventions in high-mountain landscape: construction of ski runs and transportation facilities • Road extensions and new constructions • Construction boom in settled areas in the 1970ies and 1980ies, thus uncontrolled settlement spread; construction also in danger zones • Today, construction checked by regulations; stagnation due to economic downturn • Structural changes in traditional stable buildings due to restrictions concerning water protection and humane animal husbandry • Alternatively, construction of new, cheaper buildings; old stables thus left unused and falling into dereliction • Increase of gravitational mass movements, probably due to receding permafrost

During the first workshop we wanted to find out from the regional actors which developments are likely to happen in the next 20 years. Using the metaplan method, participants answered the following question: „**Which positive and negative developments/changes do you expect in the cultural landscape of Visp-Saas valley during the next 20 years?**“ The answers divided according to the intensity of the intervention in landscape and according to topics:

<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
<i>Different natural changes without direct human interventions</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change: more floods, global warming • Erosions, danger road access Saas • Receding permafrost • Receding glaciers => deterioration of summer skiing possibilities

<i>Forest</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing forest growth • Increasing forest landscape • Protective forests are preserved • Improvement of forests' protective function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing forest growth • Increasing forest landscape
<i>Agriculture</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape remains cultivated • Cultivation of agricultural land, summering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing dereliction of stables and alpine pastures • Overgrowth of slope pastures • Dereliction due to agriculture abandonment • Increasing dereliction => increasing risk of natural hazards • Diminution of biodiversity due to more intensive cultivation by full time farmers (increase of species on "red list") • Abandonment of traditional cultivation methods • Dereliction of pastures, buildings, irrigation ditches • More monotonous landscape • Construction permits for agriculture zones support destruction/dereliction
<i>Transportation/Accessibility</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bypass road extension • High degree of accessibility (melioration, streets) • Extension of transportation network „main access“ • NEAT takes us closer to Berne • Improvement of protection of roads against natural hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorway construction • Increase of through traffic in villages

<i>Tourism Infrastructure</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a landscape park in Saas valley • Creation of a range of new tourist activities (new + change in use) • Extension of ski area • Construction of golf courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal ski runs, large-scale cuttings in natural landscape
<i>Settlements</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement spread will be slowed down • Decrease of construction works • Decentralised settlement • Settlement concentrated in villages • Reintroduction of traditional building systems • Increasing maintenance of village cores • Attractive location for housing (NEAT) • Improvement of protection of core settlements against natural hazards • Increasing acceptance in spatial planning measures (reduction of constructing zones) • Diversity of landscape (Visp – 18 summits over 4000 m) • Potential: tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement spread due to large construction zones • Constructing even in high-mountain areas • Depopulation of mountain municipalities (Dereliction of buildings) • Dying out of smallest municipalities / hamlets • Emptied village cores • Renovation/use change of agricultural buildings • Building system is not traditional • Deterioration of basic infrastructure • Dereliction of agricultural buildings • Dereliction of settlement structure (landscape structure elements, construction zones) • Emigration of skilled workforces (NEAT)

Participants were further asked to value the single cards using stickers. The following question was answered: „**Which of these positive and negative developments are in their opinion the most important?**“

The following developments / changes are considered important for the next 20 years by the participants:

<i>Positive Valuation</i>		<i>Negative Valuation</i>	
Attractive location for housing	6	Increasing forest growth, increasing dereliction (dereliction of agricultural buildings, stables, alpine pastures, irrigation ditches) => (increasing risk of natural hazards)	24
Improvement of forests' protective function	4	Deterioration of basic infrastructure	7
Landscape remains cultivated	3	Dereliction of agricultural buildings	6
Bypass road extension	3	Increase of through traffic in villages	2
Settlement spread will be slowed down	2	Renovation/use change of agricultural buildings	2
Creation of a range of new tourist activities (new + change in use)	2	Further settlement spread and constructing even in high-mountain areas	2
Decentralised settlement	2	Diminution of biodiversity due to more intensive cultivation by full time farmers	1
Increasing maintenance of village cores	2	Climate change: more floods, global warming	1
Creation of a landscape park in Saas valley	1		
Construction of golf courses	1		
Reintroduction of traditional building systems	1		

Negative developments are with total 45 points more strongly valued than positive changes (27 points). The negative consequences of reduced agriculture are considered to have by far the highest value. In the participants' opinion, however, agricultural land will continuously be cultivated in the future. The fear from increasing natural hazards is of importance, too, and subsequently the forests' protective function is considered to be important. The importance of transportation is reduced to problems of increasing through traffic and expected village bypasses. Concerning settlement development, participants disagree whether settlement spread will continue or be slowed down.

For the people from the Saas valley, an intact landscape is important above all (because of tourism). For people from the Visp sub-region, more external factors are involved; tourism has virtually no importance here. In the two sub-regions, people have different opinions about landscape and they expect different developments. However, an intact landscape is of essential importance for the region as a whole. Participants consider a landscape to be intact when the work of mankind is discernible, when landscape is "living", and when structural elements exist. Landscape is shaped by agriculture. Maintenance of a traditional agriculture is problematic, though. If no development is conceded to agriculture, it will fold up. Landscape is considered to be intact when it offers living space for mankind, fauna, and flora. New developments can be allowed to take place. Money is an important

aspect: landscape-preserving work is considered to be insufficiently reimbursed. The question rises, whether the state shall employ landscape gardeners.

Local Scenario 2020

The local scenario for the year 2020 for the region Visp-Saastal was presented to the regional actors based on the overall alpine development trends, collected statistical data and interviews:

Development trends for the Region Visp-Saastal for the year 2020

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Trend</i>	<i>Trend for the year 2020 Explanation/remarks</i>	<i>Possible expectations</i>
Population	Total population		Increase in the centre (Visp) and in tourist areas Decrease in peripheral areas	
	Ageing	↗	Ageing in peripheral and tourist areas higher than in the centre where younger people prefer to live	
	Migration	↗	Positive in the centre and in tourist areas Negative in peripheral areas	
Economy	Workplaces	↗↘	Constant or slight increase (new jobs NEAT) Decrease only in peripheral areas (fewer job opportunities) (Problem: mainly seasonal jobs in tourist municipalities)	
Tourism	Tourist beds and overnight stays	→	Constant or slight decrease in the centre and in peripheral areas due to short stays and low demand	
		→↗	Constant or slight increase in tourist centres	
	Tourist infrastructure (ski lifts/runs, sports grounds, congress centres...)	→↗	Constant or slight increase in tourist areas (increasing demand, existing infrastructure in some areas)	
	„Quality“ in tourism	↗	Increase of „soft“ tourism	
		↗	Increase of 1-2-3 overnight stays and transit tourism (winter tourism more important than summer tourism)	
Agriculture	Agricultural businesses		Decrease due to global main conditions and technological working methods (Specialisation of businesses, only few part-time farms left)	

Land-use	Forest	↗	Increase due to overgrowth	
	Cropland		Decrease due to reduction of agricultural businesses	
	Intensive grassland (meadows mowed twice a year, intensive pastures)	→	Constant	
	Extensive grassland (meadows mowed once a year, extensive pastures, alpine pastures)		Decrease due to reduction of agricultural businesses	
Environment	Residential settlements	↗	Increase due to slight population increase Decrease in peripheral areas (emigration) (taking into account of traditional shaping/construction methods)	
	Land-use conflicts	↗	Increase of conflicts between settlements, transportation infrastructure, and tourism (partly also agriculture)	
	Measures of nature protection	↔↗	Constant or increase	
	Pollution	↗	Increase of air pollutants and noise by traffic, Increase of waste, sewage water	
	Biodiversity	→	Constant or decrease (alpine-wide extinction of plants and animal species; diseases, climate change...)	
Infrastructure	Natural hazards	↗	Increase of avalanches, floods, landslides... (climate change)	
	Rail network	↗	Increase (NEAT)	
	Road network	↗	Increase due to NEAT/new motorway	

Traffic	Road traffic	↗	Strong increase due to rising number of private vehicles, motorway and NEAT;	
	Motorisation		increase of commuter traffic	
	Rail traffic	↗	Increase (NEAT)	
Services for indigenous population	Public services	→	Constant or slight decrease	
	Commercial services	↔↗	Constant or slight increase	
	Leisure services (culture, sports, cinema, theatre...)		Decrease due to TV & Internet...	
	Public transports	↗	Increase in the centre	
		→	Constant or slight decrease in tourist and peripheral areas	
Regional identity	Regional resources / products	↔↗	Constant or increase of local/regional products (creation of new labels...)	

(↗ = increase; → = decrease; ↔ = stagnation)

Realistic development

The participants got some time to reflect about the question: „**Which development possibilities do you consider probable for the region?**“ As a basis, the list of regional development trends was used. Second, participants one by one named the realistic development trends which were collected and written down on cards:

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Trend</i>
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stagnating in tourist municipalities • Stagnating or increasing in the centre (Visp) • Growth of population is above all due to migration • Intra-regional concentration of population
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of jobs • Jobs in hydro-energy remain constant • Stagnation of seasonal jobs • Increase of commuters to Thun/Berne • Increasing attractiveness of Visp as a place of work
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of overnight stays in summer • Stagnation of overnight stays in summer • Summer tourism gets more important, winter tourism stagnates • Hiking is of increasing importance (summer tourism) • Tourism infrastructure in the periphery decreases • Existing facilities are extended • Better use of hotel businesses • Quality in tourism rises • Public and private indebtedness in tourism decreases • Construction works in tourism stagnate • More one-day tourism • Increasing concurrence between „hard“ and „soft“ tourism • Agri-tourism / event tourism get more important
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture without economic importance • Agriculture is important for landscape
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural hazards increase in number / in importance

Transport infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More traffic at total • Less traffic in centre due to bypass • New means of communication
Services for indigenous population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease of public service • Increase of leisure services • Loss of public and commercial services (centralised)
Settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement expansion in centre slightly increasing
Regional identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger valuation of regional identity (labels)
Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political planning increases • Attractiveness of Visp as a location to live and work rises • Loss of social contact opportunities • Associations fold up. Thus local village life dies out • Security has to increase; increasing importance of security (hiking)

Participants were asked again to valorise the different cards using stickers. The following question was answered: „**Which factors that are essential for future development are the most important (problematic)?**“ The following factors are considered important for future development by the participants:

Strong increase of traffic	8
Increase of overnight stays in summer	7
Summer tourism gets more important, winter tourism stagnates	6
Better usage of hotel businesses	6
Agriculture is important for landscape	4
Security has to increase	4
Tourism infrastructure in the periphery decreases	3
More one-day tourism	3
Loss of jobs	3
Increase of commuters to Thun/Berne	2
Existing tourist facilities are extended	2
Quality in tourism rises	2
Public and private indebtedness in tourism decreases	2
Natural hazards increase in number / in importance	2
Intra-regional concentration of population	1

Loss of social contact opportunities	1
Increasing concurrence between „hard“ and „soft“ tourism	1

Summary of discussion:

- Prerequisite for tourism development is the guests' security.
- Development potential is mainly seen in summer tourism.
- For summer tourism, an intact natural and cultural landscape is of most essential importance.
- Landscape changes in both a positive and a negative way due to active interventions and passive behaviour (omissions).
- Active landscape care presupposes a functioning agriculture (it is an open question whether it has to be full-time or part-time).
- Agricultural population is in any case not numerous enough to ensure maintenance of the necessary private and public services and trade; therefore non-agricultural population is of great importance.
- A large part of non-agricultural population does not work at the place of residence and therefore has to commute. Commuter distances grow increasingly.
- To cover ways to work, school, and shopping by public transports as far as possible, non-agricultural population should live in the villages.
- A concentration of residential population, trade, and services on the villages might lead to giving up some hamlets or at least to the loss of permanent inhabitancy.

3.1.4 Assessment of workshop 1

Summary:

- The first workshop in the pilot region went very well. The organisation run without problems according to time schedule and all the participants were very satisfied.
- More regional representatives were invited than actually took part at the workshop.
- The material prepared was of great help and use during the workshop. The participants were very satisfied with the materials prepared.
- The material produced during the workshop was a very good basis for the second one.
- The expectations of the participants about the future development were almost the same as presented in our "inertial scenario". Some others were added.
- Local teacher read some passages from the essays by the school children.
- The aims of the first workshop were reached.
- No media and press were present to make the participants feel free of speaking and expressing their thoughts.

3.3 Workshop 2

3.3.1 Tool and techniques applied

Announcements of the workshop:

At the first workshop the participants were informed about the second workshop and invited by mail. Some other regional actors were invited as well.

Agenda:

<i>Time</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Working Method</i>
9.00-9.30	Opening by the research team and mutual introduction, participants' expectations	Plenum, everybody
9.30-9.45	Presentation of the workshop programme and objectives. Looking back on 1st workshop (21. 5. 2003) – experience and results	Plenum, research team
9.45-10.00	Effects of most important policies on cultural landscape and regional development	Plenum, research team
10.00-10.15	Presentation of regional activities (Regional Development Concept, Multiannual Programme, Cantonal Structure Plan...)	Plenum, research team
<i>10.15-10.30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10.30-12.00	Back to the present I: VISION OF THE REGION What are the region's objectives?	Groups, everybody
<i>12.15-13.30</i>	<i>Lunch in KKZ La Poste</i>	
13.45-15.00	Back to the present II: MEASURES/ACTION PLAN Which measures have to be taken to reach objectives? What is expected from precedent politics (Confederation, Canton, Interreg)?	Groups, everybody
<i>15.00-15.15</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.15-16.15	Presentation of visions; discussion of measures, time planning, and responsibility in the region Visp-Saas valley; common final discussion	Plenum, group speakers, everybody
16.15-16.30	Summarising of results, outlooks and next steps, thanking the participants and goodbye	Plenum, research team

Tools and techniques applied

The introduction and the presentation of the programme as well as policies and regional activities were done in the plenum by the GIUB team. Later the participants were divided into two groups. There were representatives of agriculture and industry in the first group and representatives of tourism in the second. The method used in the group work was metaplan. Cards were distributed among the participants who wrote their ideas on the cards which were later put on the pin wall. In the second

session the groups were mixed. The presentation of group works followed in the plenum where groups' speakers presented the work and later a guided discussion rounded up the "formation" of an action plan for the region (structure was given). The workshop ended by thanking the participants for taking part at the workshops and informing them about the future steps.

Evaluation of accuracy of the applied tools and techniques:

- Tools used proved to be accurate with the desired outcome
- The participants understood the procedure and were used to the methods from the previous workshop
- Not sufficient time for discussing »regional problems«
- The outcome can directly be used for the purposes of REGALP
- All the participants had equal opportunities expressing their ideas.

3.3.2 Main results

Using the metaplan method, the participants split into two groups answered the following question: „Which are your objectives for cultural landscape and regional development in the region Visp-Saas valley during the next 20 years?“ One group consisted mainly of agriculture, forestry, and industry representatives, the other group of tourism experts. The answers were collected and subdivided according to topics:

Superior objectives

1. Coordination:

- Improved coordination of various interests
- Tourism/economy/agriculture co-operate
- Common strategy in tourism

2. Well-being of population (residential situation), enterprises (economic region) and guests (tourist region)

Cultural Landscape

- Revaluation and preservation of cultural landscape for our descendants
- To preserve intact landscape and eradicate committed errors
- Inventory of cultural landscapes
- Try to slow down dereliction of buildings
- Preservation of natural landscape
- Intact and well cared-for landscape

Agriculture

- Support of mountain agriculture
- To foster specific agricultural cultivation
- Area-covering cultivation of agriculture zones
- To stop ingrowth of meadows/pastures (Stabilisation of forest area)
- Motivation for mountain agriculture = higher financial support

Forestry

- Sustainable care of protective forests (structures, financial means)
- Area 100%, intervention interval: 20 years, quality aim: minimal caring measures

Economy

- Economy in symbiosis with cultural landscape
- To establish new industry/trade businesses: 10% increase of small enterprises
- To remain strongest economic region in Upper Valais
- Securing and reinforcement of economic living space (industry, trade, services)

Tourism

- Diversification of range of tourist activities
- Support/revaluation of summer tourism
- To foster people's conscience about tourism
- Increasingly try to make people conscious that every 3rd Swiss Franc comes from tourism
- Secure hiking paths

Settlement

- Preservation of hamlets in alpine summer pastures
- Preservation of existing year-round inhabited settlements (hamlets and villages)
- Preservation or creation of at least 20% local jobs
- Area-covering maps of danger zones, to be taken into consideration with construction works

Transport

- Attractive, co-ordinated transportation system

Socio-cultural

- Attractive range of socio-cultural events/facilities

- Stabilising of prosperity at least on today's level.

Participants valued the most important objectives using stickers. The following objectives are considered important:

Objectives	Points
Area-covering cultivation of agriculture zones	4
Preservation or creation of at least 20% local jobs	4
Sustainable care of protective forests (structures, financial means)	2
To establish new industry/trade businesses: 10% increase of small enterprises	2
To preserve intact landscape and eradicate committed errors	1
Motivation for mountain agriculture = higher financial support	1
Preservation of existing year-round inhabited settlements (hamlets and villages)	1

Since the discussion in the second group went on after valuation (i.e. additional cards were written down later), participants came to an agreement about an order of priorities. The following objectives were considered important:

Priority	Objective
1.	Revaluation and preservation of cultural landscape for our descendants (slow down dereliction of buildings)
2.	Diversification of range of tourist activities. To foster people's conscience about tourism
3.	Securing and reinforcement of economic living space
4.	Attractive range of socio-cultural events. Stabilising of prosperity at least on today's level
5.	Attractive, co-ordinated transportation system

A total of seven objectives were considered important for the region. Again, participants divided into two groups answered the following question using the metaplan method: „**Which measures have to be implemented to reach the objectives?**” The two groups are composed differently than in the morning with people of different backgrounds. The following measures were mentioned for being relevant for reaching certain objectives:

Objective 1: Preservation and Revaluation of Cultural Landscape

Measures:

- To create inventories and put up regulations. Responsible: Canton/municipality. Date: immediately (2-3 years).
- Co-ordinated landscape care. Responsible: farmer or gardener. Date: concept 2004, realisation from 2005.
- Repair of irrigation ditches and dry stone walls. Responsible: municipality.
- Inventory of facilities worth preserving (buildings, view of places). Responsible: municipality. Date: 2005.
- Common cultural landscape fund.
- Creation of a cultural heritage foundation with purpose of appropriations (purpose: to sensitise people for cultural values).
- Restoration of historical mountain crossings.

Objective 2: Area-covering Cultivation of Agriculture Zones

Measures:

- Revision of agriculture support law in tourist regions. Responsible: Great Council. Date: 2004.
- Co-ordinated landscape care (farmer or gardener). Date: concept 2004, realisation from 2005.
- Support of extensive cultivation. Responsible: Confederation/Canton.
- Cultivation = summering with heavy and small livestock. Responsible: interest groups.
- Preservation and renewal of basic infrastructure.
- Direct payments. Contribution of politics: Confederation and Canton (to be taken into consideration in agriculture policy 2007).
- Split off a so-called „landscape centime“ from visitors' tax.

Objective 3: Business Development (20% Local Jobs)

Measures:

- Creation of suitable land use zones to establish trade. Responsible: municipality. Date: 2005.
- Workplaces: Accelerate development/improved access of trade zones. Support of tourist cableways/ski lifts and enterprises.
- Creation of a work group „Economic Opportunities for the Region Visp-Saas Valley“. Responsible: Region/Canton. Date: 2005.
- System of incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises. Responsible: municipalities, private enterprises.
- Creation of a trade zone.
- To provide infrastructure.
- To create attractive training places for young people.

- To create incentives for businesses offering trainee places.

Objective 4: Securing and creation of a range of socio-cultural events/facilities

Measures:

- To secure a range of (further) training opportunities. To secure a precedent range of cultural events/facilities. Healthcare system extension. Responsible: TZO, private persons/enterprises, associations.
- Public services.
- Concept for supply with cultural events/facilities. Responsible: Region, Koordinationsstelle IKKO, „Radio Rottu“ radio station. Date: 2004.
- De-centralised supply – specialisation of municipalities.
- Sensitising in schools. Responsible: Canton, municipalities, valley organisation.
- Clarifying of needs. Co-ordination of activities.
- Reimbursement for specific centre problems.
- Study: Splitting up of centre services (culture, education, socio-cultural centres). Responsible: region. Date: 2006.

Objective 5: Tourism support (supply, conscience, summer)

Measures:

- Common marketing of (Upper) Valais in tourism. Valais Tourist Region. Responsible: Wallis Tourismus. date: 2007.
- Revision of the study „Summer Tourist Supply“. Responsible: region. date: 2004.
- To communicate favourable climatic factors. Responsible: local and regional tourist organisations.
- Support of tourist cableways/ski lifts and enterprises.
- Creation of supra-local tourist destinations (marketing + management). Responsible: Wallis Tourismus, Oberwallis Service-Zentrum, Conference of Destinations.
- Conscience about tourism should be fostered in schools.
- Attractive cost-effectiveness.
- Marketing of event tourism and agri-tourism (package travel).

Objective 6: To Ensure Transport System

Measures:

- Clarifying of effects of NEAT.
- Bus terminal Visp: to determine needs, coordination of timetables.
- To improve comfort.
- Timetable extension, also in the evening hours. Responsible: Personal transport suppliers.

- Coordination plan: public/private, municipality/region. Responsible: region.
- Transport system problems: demand – supply.
- Coordination and improvement of timetables in public transport.
- Extension of basic access roads/railways (secure access roads/railways). Responsible: Canton. date: 10 years.
- Upper Valais Transportation Concept (dial-a-bus system, day/night). Responsible: Canton. Date: 2007.

Objective 7: Preserving Hamlets and Villages

Measures:

- Hamlets: introduce „community works“ to preserve cultural landscape.
- Preserving via foundations. In the interest of indigenous people and guests. Responsible: region/Canton.
- Merging of small municipalities.
- Stimulating possibilities in the villages.
- In future, every municipality shall keep its own school (=eventually middle schools).
- Tax harmonisation. Financial equalisation.

In the first group, the following measures are additionally discussed:

- Measures concerning coordination:

- Successful only if the whole region co-operates, villages have to put aside their self-interest.
- Population (everybody).
- To create and communicate a system/method for overall coordination.

- Measures concerning public administration:

- „Virtual municipality counter“.
- Revision of land-use zone plans. Responsible: municipality.

Participants discussed the following additional question: **„What do you expect from precedent politics (Confederation, Canton, Interreg) to allow implementation of these measures?“**

- Confederation, Canton: Financial support for tourist cableways/ski lifts (cf. HKG).
- Canton: Creation of „Wirtschaftsantenne Oberwallis“ (“Economy Antenna Upper Valais”).
- Financial support to realise measures.
- Further federal inventories.
- De-centralisation of cantonal services in Upper Valais.
- Confederation: Preservation of mountain regions’ support and regional policy based on small-scale spatial entities.

- Faster decision-making processes (parliament, administration).
- More time for visions, less bureaucracy.
- Confederation, Canton: on-time information for regions and municipalities.
- Information/coordination of different studies.
- To preserve federalism.
- Project controlling on Cantonal level.
- Confederation, Canton: Contributions cultural heritage foundation.
- All levels: coordination of different sources of income to one „purse“ for cultural landscape funds.
- Cantonal education: Integration of tourism into the Cantonal primary school teaching plan.
- Canton: to implement and foster cooperation in execution of tourism law.
- Canton: Creation of a legal basis for (partial) use of visitors' tax for landscape purposes.
- Confederation, Canton: Agriculture Policy 2007.
- Confederation, Canton: infrastructure contributions for agriculture.

Later participants valued the most important measures using stickers. The following measures were discussed with regard to responsibility and time planning in order to draw up a possible action plan for the region:

Objective	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Preservation and Revaluation of Cultural Landscape	Area-covering Cultivation of Agriculture Zones	Business Development (20% Local Jobs)	Securing and creation of a range of socio-cultural events/facilities	Tourism support (supply, conscience, summer)	To Ensure Transport System	Preserving Hamlets and Villages
To create inventories and put up regulations (4)	Co-ordinated landscape care (3)	Jobs: Accelerate development/improved access of trade zones. Support of tourist cableways/ski lifts and enterprises (3)	To secure a range of (further) training opportunities. To secure a precedent range of cultural events/facilities. Healthcare system extension (4)	Common marketing of (Upper) Valais in tourism. Valais Tourist Region (6)	Bus terminal Visp: to determine needs, coordination of timetables (4)	Hamlets: introduce „community works“ to preserve cultural landscape (6)	
Measure	Common cultural landscape fund (4)	Revision of agriculture support law in tourist regions (2)	Creation of suitable land use zones to establish trade (3)	Clarifying of needs. Co-ordination of activities (3)	Creation of supra-local tourist destinations (marketing + management) (3)	Coordination plan: public/private, municipality/region (4)	Mergers of small municipalities (4)
	Co-ordinated landscape care (3)	Preservation and renewal of basic infrastructure (2)	System of incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises (3)	Public services (3)	Conscience about tourism should be fostered in schools (3)	Clarifying of effects of NEAT (2)	

Summary of discussion

- Today's needs of population and economy in the region Visp-Saas valley are approximately the same as in the Swiss midlands.
- Changes occur always and everywhere, in regional development as well as in cultural landscape.
- Nevertheless it is ascertainable that many objectives aim at preservation, not at development and change.
- Aiming at changes is without doubt more difficult than preserving existing situations. Nevertheless most of the preservation objectives are unrealistic.
- Development mainly deals with using existing potentials minimizing risks, and reduces deficiencies. Development may not be left to chance or to the self-interest of some few.
- To exploit existing potential as good and as efficiently as possible, the often-cited cooperation is certainly necessary in many sectors; i.e. common solutions have to be looked for, the limited means have to be co-ordinated, and priorities have to be set.

We have often – generally and not only within the framework of this project – ascertained that many problems become more and more complex, difficult, as well as long-term and large-scale effective, but solutions are often looked for within single policy sectors, in short-term periods, and locally. In this way, solutions are often not found at all or at least not for a long time.

3.3.3 Assessment of workshop 2

Summary:

- The organisation of the second workshop run very well and according to time schedule.
- Fewer participants took part as for the first workshop and less than invited.
- The participants listed many ideas for the vision of their region. Many aims were appointed as well.
- The main aim of the second workshop was to make a concrete action plan for the region but this aim was not entirely reached due to too many ideas.
- Participants did not always distinguish between aims and measures.
- Lack of time for discussion was a problem.
- No media or press were present at the second workshop as well so the participants felt free expressing their ideas. No press conference followed.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Did workshops prove to be an accurate tool for the national team/in the national situation?

The two workshops organised proved to be a very accurate tool in the pilot region. We managed to get together the most important regional actors. There are/were other workshops running in the region/canton where many important representatives did not take part. We established a close connection with these representatives, informing and asking them about the workshop. Although not all invited came to the workshop the outcome was sufficient and no further were needed. It was of advantage to work in smaller groups!

The workshops helped us to get the view of the locals and to see how their expectations for the future development look like. Our analyses as well as our forecasts showed to be more or less the same as the ones from the locals.

Which aims were reached completely? Which partly? Which not at all? Why?

Aims reached:

- Completely: get to know the views of the local actors and their estimation on future development, positive and negative developments, realistic developments, vision of the region. Technical organisation and time schedule. Materials.
- Partly: action plan: 7 aims were set what showed to be too many, also too many measures were written down. Time plan and expectations from the policies were not addressed enough. Picture material.
- Not at all: none.

What are positive sides? What are the reservations?

- Positive sides: very good organisation, good atmosphere, different profiles with a lot of experience. We received many positive feedbacks.
- Reservations: we wanted to make concrete statements concerning aims and measures. Some answers we received were not concrete enough. Many were the same as always. No detailed time plan and support from policies was addressed. None is prepared to take over the future actions. Not all local and regional actors invited took part.

Recommendations for other projects (if there was a next time, what would we do differently? Why?)

- Very strict time plan with only a few topics enabling enough time for discussion but still enough flexibility in the workshop programme.
- Only a certain (e.g. 3) number of aims for the action plan.
- More participants (different sectors).
- More press information.

5 ANNEX

List of participants:

	Name	Institution	Function	Field	WS 1	WS 2
1	Josef Indermitte	Region Visp/Westlich Raron	Managing director	Regional development	no	yes
2	Peter Ritz	Region Visp/Westlich Raron		Regional development	yes	no
3	Roland Zimmermann	Community of Visperterminen	President	Community	yes	no
4	Georg Anthamatten	Community of Saas Grund	President	Community	yes	no
5	Benedikt Schnyder	Community of Saas Fee	Community council	Community	yes	yes
6	Richard Zurwerra	Meliorationsamt Visp	Manager	Agriculture	yes	yes
7	Marc Wyer	Office for Forest and Landscape	Forest official	Forestry	yes	yes
8	Beat Abgottspon	EnAlpin AG Visp	Vice president	Energy/Industry	yes	no
9	Simon Bumann	Committee Wallis Tourism; Saas-Fee Tourism	Director	Tourism	yes	yes
10	Bernhard Andenmatten	Saastal Tourism	President	Tourism	yes	yes
11	Moritz Weissen	“Rund um Visp” Tourism	President	Tourism	yes	yes
12	Edmund Sterren	1. City-Manager Visp 2. Kultur- und Kongresszentrum La Poste	Director	Community of Visp, Tourism/Trade	yes	yes
13	Richard Heinzen	Techno-Zentrum Oberwallis	Managing director	Economy/Education	no	yes
14	Jörg Anthamatten	Orientierungsschule Saas Grund	Teacher	Education	yes	no
15	Eduard Bonani	Office for regional planing	Planner	Regional planning	yes	yes