



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



The Alps have been identified as one of the sensitive regions in Europe. To achieve sustainable development through knowledge on the specific Alpine structures and problems is needed. DIAMONT will advise SOIA (System for Observation of and information on the Alps) on the elaboration of an Alpine wide information system and the selection of relevant data considering their validity and their aptitude for harmonisation. It will take into account the expectations of experts for regional development as well as the needs of the Alpine population in five test regions. The project started in March 2005 and will last till February 2008. All together twelve work packages are foreseen within three years.

### Kick off meeting in Innsbruck

Under the presence of Mr. Thomas Fleury, the responsible officer from the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Alpine Space Programm and Mr. Ruggero Schleicher Tappeser, acting secretary general of the Alpine Convention, the kick-off meeting took place in the building of the Austrian Alpine Club at Innsbruck, joining all partners of DIAMONT from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Ulrike Tappeiner, scientific director of the project, gave an overview of the scientific approach. She indicated the importance of the definition of interfaces between connected work packages in a very early stage of the project. Therefore, she motivated all partners to elaborate more detailed work package concepts which will be discussed during the next meeting of the steering committee on 4th of July and – if necessary – adapted.


The co-ordinators, Axel Borsdorf and Sigrun Lange, suggested internal rules for a smooth project implementation, like time schedules for the submission of the progress reports, quality control mechanisms for the respective work package reports, publication procedures and copyright issues. During the first constitutional meeting of the steering committee (each partner is represented by one person) which took place subsequently, these rules were discussed and accepted.

The two work packages starting already in April 2005, WP 5 „Impact on cultural differences on regional development“ and WP 6 „Analysis of expert’s estimations“, were presented and discussed amongst all participants. The two work package leaders, Vincent Briquel and Martin Boesch, left with concrete proposals how to adapt their concepts to the common understanding of the project.

The meeting was terminated successfully in a quite cooperative and constructive spirit amongst all participants.

### Impact of cultural differences on development (WP 5)

In April, the project started with work package five to enhance the understanding of „the influence of cultural differences on regional development“ in the context of a sustainable future for the Alpine realm. Six national project teams shall determine to which extent for example value systems, social coherence, stakeholders, governance, planning milieu as well as norms and rules influence regional development. For a cross-country



**DIAMONT**  
*DIAMONT has started...*

**o.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Axel Borsdorf**  
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Co-ordinator of DIAMONT project

With a great opening in the building of the Austrian Alpine Club at Innsbruck DIAMONT started its life cycle. This new project in the Interreg III B Alpine Space Programme was initiated to support the „System of Observation of and Information on the Alps“ (SOIA) during the re-conceptualisation phase, to contribute to common perspectives of sustainable development in the Alpine bow, to identify key issues and prospects of Alpine development and to elaborate in a participative way indicator based and qualitative regional development tools.

Within the DIAMONT consortium – partners and advisors – institutions representing leading Alpine scientific centres, the Alpine Convention, public authorities of all Alpine states, Alpine organisations, private corporations and citizens of selected test region communities work together in order to stimulate the sustainability of the Alps and to find instruments for spatial strategies and steering policies.

So far, DIAMONT has started well and we only can wish DIAMONT a brilliant future!

comparison, the actors and activities which are relevant for this analysis, are structured along the major sectors like agriculture, tourism or public transportation. A special challenge is the fact, that all partner countries have (to some extent) a hierarchical political structure, with different layers of decision making, fiscal sources, funding, etc. Therefore, the relevant levels of regional policy measures have to be identified by the respective project partners. Knowledge and information may come from administrative reports, statistics, legal records, assessments, benchmarking documents or interviews with experts in the respective fields. Deadline for the submission of the national reports is end of August 2005. The final report will be prepared by the Swiss partner Martin Boesch (FWR-HSG) until end of October.



*Kick off meeting of DIAMONT project in Innsbruck.*

### Experts estimation on development (WP 6)

WP 6 also started in April. It aims at analysing the estimations on the key issues for the future regional development in the Alpine Space. By means of a Delphi survey, international experts for regional development – carefully chosen by each partner – are interviewed in three rounds: an explorative phase in May, an analytic phase in June and an evaluation phase in September 2005. The Delphi survey is co-ordinated by Vincent Briquel, CEMAGREF, and Tommaso dal Bosco, UNCCEM, with the collaboration of Matteo Pippa (Emmeerre) and Stefano Campostrini (University of Pavia). Six national project teams have selected approximately ten experts each (scientists, decision makers and stakeholders) and will attend them during the surveys. An internet platform was installed by UNCCEM to collect and analyse the results of the questionnaires. The final report is expected till the end of October 2005. The results will be the basis for the selection of one sensible sector for regional sustainable development which will be examined in more detail in course of the project.

## news relevant for alpine space

**CIPRA - Six prizes of 25.000 Euro:** Within the scope of „Future for the Alps“ a competition is announced to reward any practical project, initiative or activity in alpine regions which seeks to harmonise ecological, social and economic interests. Closing date for the submission of projects is July 20th 2005.

More information: <http://www.cipra.org/future/0>

**EURAC - Photo competition:** How do you perceive life in the Alps between past and presence? Present your photographic story with a short explanation until August 31st 2005.

More information: [www.eurac.edu/alpconfoto](http://www.eurac.edu/alpconfoto)

## diamont calendar

15.07.05: First progress report to MA/JTS

04.07.05: Meeting of steering committee

30.06.-01.07: LP-Seminar in Salzburg

02.05.05: LP-Workshop in Vienna

11.-12.03.05: Kick off meeting in Innsbruck

## website updates

The DIAMONT website is online since March 15th 2005: <http://diamont.uibk.ac.at>. You will find information on the project's structure, partner organisations, time schedule and the status of the currently running work packages.

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