

# Labour Market Region Traunstein

The Labour Market Region of Traunstein/Traunreut is located halfway between Munich and Salzburg. In a way, the region represents a microcosmos of the Alps and their main issues: In the south, it features alpine landscapes of high ecological and touristic value, in the center it is transected by the highway A8 - the most important West-East road connection in the German Alps. Lake Chiemsee is well known for its landscape and amenity values, while the north is dominated by industry and large-scale agriculture.

The influence of large agglomerations is posing an opportunity as well as a threat to the region. Employment opportunities and shopping facilities are abundant, yet at the same time, the drain of purchasing power is posing a threat to local businesses.

Limited land resources are increasingly under pressure (Fig. 1).



Like for many Alpine labour market regions, the question remains how to sustain the high quality of life under changing spatial framework conditions.

## Regional characteristics



Size: 554 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 83.000

Population density: 151 person/km<sup>2</sup>

Main towns: Traunstein, Traunreut, Siegsdorf

Percentage increase of area for settlement and infrastructure between 1992 and 2004 (in %)

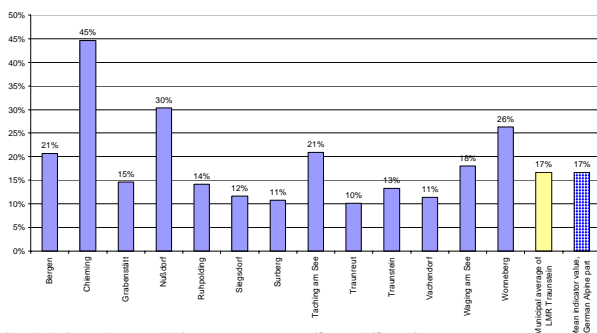


Fig.1 Increase of land take for settlement and infrastructure 1992-2004 (Source: LIS 2007)



## Identified problems

Within the DIAMONT workshops, local stakeholders discussed the following topics:

- Retail and settlement development – between local supply and competitiveness
- Spatial effects of demographic change
- Residential housing and spatial development
- Institutional framework



Awareness for the need of land resource management exists among stakeholders, but cooperation among relevant (public) institutions on regional level is perceived as insufficient and ineffective. Land use decisions are currently often following an ad-hoc procedure.



## Necessary steps...

In regard to sustainable management of Alpine land resources, participants identified the following elements to be of crucial importance:

- Definition of development objectives
- Improvement of the knowledge base for land-related decision-making (status quo and future demand)
- Appropriate regional framework conditions in terms of institutions and balancing mechanisms

Beyond traditional sectors of inter-municipal cooperation, the issue of coordinating spatial development in functionally interrelated regions of the Alps such as Traunstein still poses a major challenge for local stakeholders. Instruments need to be developed and implemented that safeguard local decision-making and at the same time acknowledge the increasing regional scope of everyday activities of the Alpine population.

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