

Transport infrastructure, tourist behaviour and spatial structure in landscapes and habitats of the Alps

(NRP 48 Project)

Background

The relationships between

- the transport system
 - to the alpine tourist regions (railroads, highways, airports)
 - and within the alpine tourist regions (rack railways, cablecars, chair and ski lifts; installations for artificial snowing etc.)and the leisure infrastructure
 - and the tourist usage of the alpine landscapes
- are to a surprising extent not documented and not explained.

An improved knowledge of these relationships will improve the impact-analyses of public and private investments within transport and regional planning process.

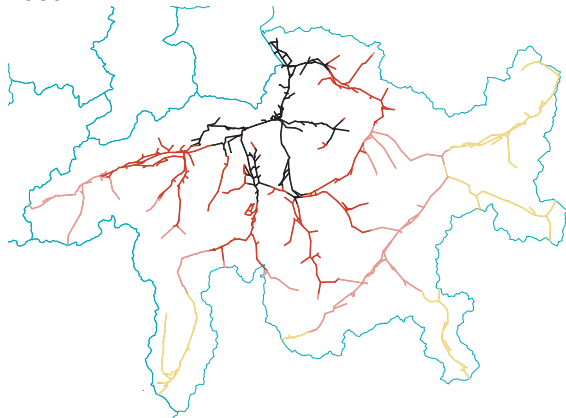
Aims of the project

The following points will be answered by this research project:

- The relationship between the transport system (all modes of transport) and the accessibility of the different alpine tourist regions (at a national scale)
- The relationship between the local accessibility of the landscape (supply of lifts, roads, railroads etc.) and its usage by the tourists
- The relationship between the accessibility and the spatial structure of the communities (leisure infrastructure)
- The influence of the interaction of the large-scale and local scale accessibility on the number and type of visits to the tourist regions
- The feedback mechanisms between usage and the improvements in local and large-scale accessibility

*Development of the accessibility in Graubünden due to improvements of the road network (incl. Vereina tunnel):
45-min-isochrones from Chur*

1950



Approach

The basic approach is that the usage of the alpine landscape depends on – among others - two main factors:

- The transport and leisure infrastructure provided nationally and locally, i.e. the accessibility of the regions and the available local facilities
- The behaviour of the tourists

Therefore, we formulate the following hypotheses:

- The transport system at a national and a local level determines the accessibility of the tourist regions.
- The accessibility of a region at the national and the local scale is one element in tourist decision making process.
- Differences in the regional infrastructure are connected with differences in tourist behaviour, i.e. different regions are suitable for different groups of tourists.
- The transport system at a national and a local level influences the supply of facilities and the spatial structure in the alpine regions.

Implementation

The present situation as well as the developments and the changes since 1950 will be investigated.

The large scale issues will be studied using national data, the local questions will be addressed using a small sample of typical tourism locations.

The case study regions will be selected to contrast the levels of local and national accessibility, the style of the resort and the language area.

Duration of the project: 1.4.2002 – 31.3.2005

2000

