



## Diamont Database online help

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### 1. Overview of the Diamont Database

The DIAMONT-database on Alpine-wide indicators, data, maps and policy instruments has been established within the INTERREG IIIb-project [DIAMONT](#) (Data Infrastructure for the Alps - Mountain-Orientated Network Technology).

DIAMONT aimed inter alia to advice the Permanent Secretariat of the [Alpine Convention](#) on the elaboration of the *System for the Observation of and Information on the Alps* (SOIA), the database is an important impulse for this. Through an in-kind contribution, the Bavarian Ministry for the Environment, Health and Consumer Protection (StMUGV) is kindly hosting and programming the database.

The database is structured in [indicators](#), [data](#), [metadata](#), [maps](#) and [instruments](#) which refer to central deliverables of the DIAMONT project.

The use of the database is self-explanatory in most parts. A help function is provided where needed.

### 2. Information about the different data classes

In this section the different data classes are described and help is provided.

#### Indicators

Indicators have been an essential element of the DIAMONT project. Work package (WP) 7 developed a system of indicators describing and evaluating basic issues of sustainable regional development in the Alps. Basing on the results of the preceding WP6, the conceptual framework of the indicator system is structured along main Alpine development trends such as marginalisation of rural areas, urbanisation etc. The sustainability paradigm forms an underlying structure of the framework. In total, the conceptual framework consists of the following components:

- Main trends: the overall "indicandum" to be described and analysed,
- Dimensions: differentiating the pillars of sustainability to make the sustainability concept manageable,
- Indicators displaying the main trend.

From this basis a detailed set of indicators was developed for the selected main trend: "Urbanisation - local centres and their hinterland between competition and cooperation". Indicators resulting from this approach can be identified in the database by the grey background colour of the title.

Workpackage (WP) 8 followed a more practical approach by collecting statistical and geographic data and calculating indicators for each municipality within the Alpine Convention area. These indicators can be identified by the green background colour of the title. For all of them data and metadata are stored in the database.

The results from both approaches form the content of the class “indicators” of the database. They are documented in the form of “fact sheets”, providing information on title and unit of the indicators as well as calculation formula used and background information. The fact sheets can be downloaded as pdf-files.

## **Data**

Data are stored as „result data“ in the DIAMONT-database, which represent calculated indicator values with a spatial resolution of single municipalities. These data have been produced in the DIAMONT project through data processing and formula calculation out of raw data delivered by statistical agencies.

As data from statistical offices are often subject to legal restrictions and privacy protection, it was necessary to process raw data towards aggregated data for public access. Therefore the publicly accessible results respect legal constraints and at the same time meet public demand for a high level of information.

The DIAMONT database now offers a coherent data base for the entire Alpine Convention area. Search functions in the database allow the selection of data for administrative divisions down to the level of single municipalities or thematic issues. Additionally, indicator and metadata fact sheets are available for all data in the database.

A more general information about the indicator (e.g. the formula, unit, references etc.) can be found in the database class “Indicators” (via Title) or also by selecting one spatial entity in the list of data and selecting “Indicator” in the respective line.

## **Metadata**

Metadata provide important information on the presented data following the requirements of the ISO 19115 standard. Its documentation has been adjusted to the planned metadata documentation of the Alpine Convention for the first Report on the State of the Alps and SOIA. Metadata can be downloaded as pdf-files.

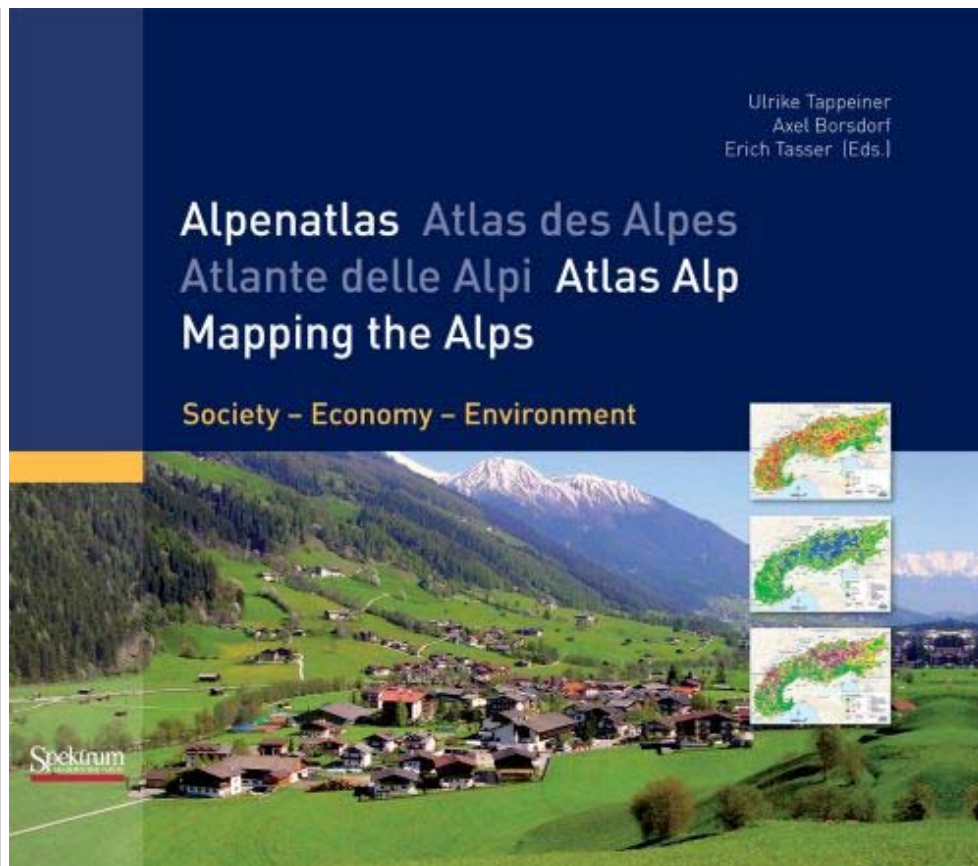
The metadata sheets contain a short explication of the intention as well as important information about the data sources used for calculation, GEMET (General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus) keywords and contacts.

## **Maps**

In the course of DIAMONT, result data have been linked to Geographic Information Systems, visualising the distribution of indicator characteristics in the Alps in maps.

These differentiated maps make information more perceptible and reveal interlinkages between geographic conditions and the subjects in focus.

The maps presented in the DIAMONT-database are examples for the spatial representation of some selected indicators from the database. They were elaborated in the frame of the DIAMONT-project and are made available with the license of the publisher of “Mapping the Alps” (Spektrum-Akademischer Verlag, May 2008):



Available at: [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com)

About "Mapping the Alps":

The Alps are the largest and most significant high mountain area in Europe and the starting point for numerous debates on transit traffic, climate change, tourist trends or the impact of a global market economy, to name but a few. What has been lacking so far is a sound basis of cross-national data, as well as comparative maps generated from such a basis. Editors Ulrike Tappeiner, Axel Borsdorf and Erich Tasser, together with well-known experts and practitioners from the respective nation states, were thus confronted with the task of compiling an up-to-date and solid basis of information that would support stakeholders from the fields of research, politics and the economy in dealing with issues and decisions involving the Alpine region. This is how "Mapping the Alps" came about. It contains more than 100 four-colour, pan-Alpine maps on social, economic, and environmental aspects, presented in an intuitive format with concise interpretations.

### Instruments

Within the DIAMONT-project "instrument" is referring to any approach that is designed to intentionally stimulate and steer land resource management at regional level in a sustainable manner.

The collection of instruments presented in the database provides an overview of the existing manifold possibilities how to handle land resource management in the Alps. Through this information pool, stakeholders shall be put in the position to look beyond the national context and to assess problem-solving approaches and lessons-learned in other countries.

The collected instruments are presented in the database including categories, keywords and assessments. Through the option to select policy fields of interest, users will be able to identify relevant instruments for their purpose. All information on individual instruments can be downloaded as pdf-file. As far as available, best practice information and further links are attached to each instrument.

The instruments can be accessed either by listing them all or by performing a specific search. There are several different options to search within the instrument class of the database:

Country, Spatial level (meaning the administrative level where an instrument can be implemented), Type and/or Subtype (following the typology of instruments developed within WP9 of the DIAMONT-Project), Responsible (meaning the stakeholders responsible for the implementation of an instrument) and a free full text search.

**Further Information about the detailed description of the instruments:**

“Spatial level”: the spatial level at which the instrument is implemented (supra-national, national, federal state, regional, local)

“General objectives”: the idea why a certain instrument shall be implemented;

“Stakeholders involved”: the stakeholders who participate in the implementation process of the instrument

“General assessment of strength and weakness”: free text field to give some information about the properties of the instrument

“Legal status”: information whether an instrument is mandatory or not

“Extension”: an estimation of how widely an instrument is implemented (all municipalities to pilot status)

“Type of monitoring”: short estimation whether the instrument is monitored

“Preconditions for implementation”: free text field to give an impression what is needed to implement the instrument

The section “Assessment” is a subjective estimation performed by the authors with the intention to provide a qualitative evaluation of each instrument. It intends to allow easier selection of appropriate instruments, better understanding of instruments and their suitability and to facilitate a better transnational understanding and benchmarking of instruments for sustainable land resource management.

In the course of the assessments it turned out that a sound assessment for such an ample collection of instruments is not feasible in a satisfactory way within the scope of the project. Therefore all collected instruments have been assessed qualitatively according to the most decisive questions in order to provide basic selection functions for users of the instrument collection. Even if not comprehensive in terms of arising criteria, this assessment delivers a coherent Alpine-wide estimation of all collected instruments.

Individual assessments were carried out through a desk analysis based on the instrument's description in the database; they are provided for the following five criteria, each related to a key question:

- Relevance,
- acceptance,
- implementation,
- feasibility and
- effectiveness.

The assessment was carried out by grading each single instrument according to five suggested criteria from 0 to 5 (effectiveness only 0 to 4), “0” indicating that the criteria

does either not apply to the respective instrument or an assessment was not possible for another reason indicated. A high grade is indicating a high level of fulfillment of the respective criteria. The ranking can additionally be supplemented by a short explanation and further comments in a comment field in the database.

### Relevance

Key question: How relevant is the instrument in regard to managing land resources?

The relevance is differentiated in direct relevance and indirect relevance. Direct relevance refers to instruments with land resource management as their core intention, while indirect relevance refers to instruments having other policy objectives at their core, but which nonetheless have a certain effect on land resource management.

### Assessment of the instrument's relevance in regard to land resource management

Ranking	0	1	2	3	4	5
Explanation	Criteria not applicable	Weak indirect relevance	Strong indirect relevance	Weak direct relevance	Strong direct relevance	Very strong direct relevance

### Acceptance

Key question: To what extent do the following stakeholders and institutions accept the instrument? For the implementation and long-term effectiveness of an instrument, the degree of acceptance among relevant stakeholders is of crucial importance. The broader its acceptance, the more likely it is that the instrument is not being opposed from influential stakeholder groups.

The following range of stakeholders was taken into account:

- Municipal administration/local politicians,
- local economy/lobby groups,
- environmental NGOs,
- municipal residents/individuals,
- super-ordinate administrations and authorities (Regional Planning, Water Management etc.).

### Assessment of the general attitude of above-mentioned stakeholders towards the instrument

Ranking	0	1	2	3	4	5
Explanation	Criteria not applicable	Accepted by one of the above-mentioned stakeholders	Accepted by two of the above-mentioned stakeholders	Accepted by three of the above-mentioned stakeholders	Accepted by four of the above-mentioned stakeholders	Accepted by all of the above-mentioned stakeholders

## Implementation

**Key question:** How broad is the instrument implemented? The degree of implementation in practice allows to draw conclusions on the applicability and “user-friendliness” of the respective instrument. Therefore, the database instruments have been ranked according to their percentage of spatial entities in which they are already being implemented.

### Assessment of the instrument’s degree of implementation

Ranking	0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Explanation</b>	Criteria not applicable	No practical example yet due to complex requirements	Pilot projects requiring substantial staff and budget input, but no application outside of project areas	Less than 25% of spatial entities have endorsed the instrument	Most stakeholders and administrative structures are familiar with instrument, implementation in 25-50% of spatial entities	Broad implementation in almost all spatial entities, huge number of successful best practices

## Feasibility

**Key question:** What significant requirements are necessary for the implementation of the instrument? The underlying consideration regarding this criterion is that the more preconditions need to be fulfilled, the more difficult it is to implement an instrument. In this context, six types of preconditions have been differentiated, namely:

- Budget/hardware,
- staff,
- legislation,
- know-how,
- political will,
- participation/support.

### Assessment of necessary preconditions of the instrument

Ranking	0	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Explanation</b>	Criteria not applicable	Provision of five of the aforementioned requirements necessary	Provision of four of the aforementioned requirements necessary	Provision of three of the aforementioned requirements necessary	Provision of two of the aforementioned requirements necessary	Provision of one of the aforementioned requirements necessary

## Effectiveness

Key question: Given that the instrument is having an impact (effects from the instrument can be isolated against other processes), to which extent do the expected outcomes of the instrument correspond to its objectives? The core aspect of this criterion is the theoretic assessment of potential negative side effects and interdependencies with other instruments and processes. Particularly for this criterion, the significance of the assessment is rather limited due to the complexity of interactions between the multitude of regional development instruments. E.g. in the case of the national housing aid, the effects of this instrument depend on its funding guidelines (new construction vs. existing housing stock) and the macroeconomic framework. If interest rates in the regular money market are already low, a further impact on land resource demand through this instrument is not likely to be measurable. On the other side, if funding guidelines of housing aid are too strict, individuals will avoid taking advantage of these state subsidies and again, an impact on land resource demand will not be detectable.

Expected outcomes in regard to the criterion effectiveness include:

1. Direction of effect ✎ Is the instrument capable of avoiding negative effects in the sense of the instrument's objectives
2. Type of effect ✎ Can the range of possible effects be controlled by the instrument?
3. Acceptability ✎ Is the process easy to steer or are outcomes heavily depending on local circumstances?
4. Perpetuity ✎ Is the instrument having a long-lasting effect?

#### Assessment of the instrument's effectiveness

Ranking	0	1	2	3	4
Explanation	Criteria not applicable	Instrument is fulfilling one of these outcomes	Instrument is fulfilling two of these outcomes	Instrument is fulfilling three of these outcomes	Instrument is fulfilling four of these outcomes