



## Lead Partner



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### **BMLFUW; Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Forest Department**

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#### **main focus of institution and department**

- Protecting the population as well as their living and economic environment against natural hazards taking in consideration the potential impact of climate change.
- Ensuring sustainable, multi-functional forest management and strengthening the competitiveness of the forest sector.
- Securing and strengthening the environmental dimension of sustainable forest management under climate change.
- Promoting the development of an innovative framework, necessary for ensuring all forest functions as well as strengthening the competitiveness of the forest an forest industries sector.
- Supporting the generation of new knowledge on forest ecosystems and promoting their dissemination.
- Improving the provision of services for the concerned stakeholders as well as the public at large.

#### **short description of PP activities**

- Preparation and coordination of strategic concepts for landscape development.
- Participation in the coordination and evaluation of instruments for the management of natural risks, strengthening of the trans-regional efforts for spatial planning as well as establishment of a platform for natural hazards.

#### **short description of test area**

The considered research area (Arlberg region) is located in Western Austria between Bludenz in the west and Landeck in the east. The Arlberg (Arlberg Pass at 1793 m a.s.l.) forms the divide of the two main valleys in the research area: the Klostertal in Vorarlberg and the Stanzertal in Tyrol. Furthermore, the west-east oriented Arlberg route provides access to several important tourism regions.



The two main valleys are characterized by different climatic conditions. Comparing data from the climate-stations in Langen at the Arlberg (Klostertal) and St. Anton (Stanzertal), only 10 km apart, but divided by the Arlberg Pass, reveals that the east side of the Arlberg is drier in winter and in summer.

The Arlberg expressway, access roads to local communities and railway tracks between Landeck and Bludenz are endangered by natural hazards like avalanches, rockfall, debris flow or flooding over wide parts of the distance. Permanent and temporary mitigation measures for protection against damages by natural hazards have been installed by the Austrian Railway Services, the Austrian Avalanche and Torrent Control Service and other institutions responsible for the safety along the transportation corridor.

### what does the partner bring into the project?

The Forest Department of the Federal Ministry is representative for ensuring the public interest on forest functions, which are beneath the productive function first of all the protective function. This is mainly focused on the protection against natural hazards (avalanches, mud streams, rockfalls and floods) and has strong relation to hydrologic circumstances, influencing the quantity of water run off.

The Forest Dpt. and his services have a broad experience on leading and managing studies and projects within the INTERREG and other EU funded programmes e.g. ROCKFOR(FP5), DOMODIS(IDNDR), DIS-ALP(IIIB) (disaster documentation), ILUP(IIIB, land use modeling and simulation), CLIMCHALP(IIIB, scenarios of climate-change impacts), MONITOR (IIIB, monitoring methods and early-warning risk communication).

### benefits for the partner by participation in the project

- Transnational harmonization in the existing measures aiming at the prevention of natural hazards.
- Consolidation of the information on risk assessment for the improvement of the measures to be applied in the case of emergency.
- Development of new concepts for the preparation of contingency plans.

### main contact



#### Hubert Siegel

Preparation and coordination of strategic concepts for landscape development. Participation in the coordination and evaluation of instruments for the management of natural risks, strengthening of the trans-regional efforts for spatial planning as well as establishment of a platform for natural hazards.

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