

Regional Development Concept "Gotthard" Switzerland

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Vision for a sustainable development of the region "Gotthard" in connection with the project "Porta Alpina"

Introduction

Switzerland's "Gotthard" region is presently strongly inclined towards winter tourism. This seasonal activity is characterized by a distinctive movement of emigration and an idle infrastructure, which restrains the undoubted potential of the alpine region and leads to economic loss. If these tendencies continue, the whole territory runs the risk of being interest and thus become abandoned.



Concepts

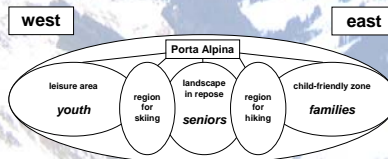
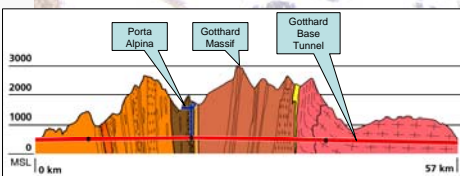
The purpose of this research is to show potential solutions for the region and synergies in connection with the project "Porta Alpina" to counter the ongoing observed trends. Two completely different concepts were elaborated and compared to the present situation and to the realisation of the "Porta Alpina" alone, in order to point out the potential prospects for a sustainable regional development.

1st concept „Swiss Gotthard Area“

This concept includes and underlines the potential for tourism by creating an interconnected larger area, bringing together communities which so far have operated independently, promoting a sustainable development of the entire region. The area shall be divided into three different sectors based on topographic boundaries and individual site criteria and cater for distinct groups of people belonging to different age-groups. The improved accessibility, also within the area itself, enhances the region's attractiveness and creates new jobs. Synergies comprising society, transport, the environment, tourism and project management can be generated and activities spread out through the entire year.

The project „Porta Alpina“

The project "Porta Alpina" evolved from the already planned emergency-station of the "Gotthard Base Tunnel". The hoist currently used for construction shall be equipped with an elevator carrying tourists up from 800 meters below surface, from where one steps directly into the Swiss alpine region.



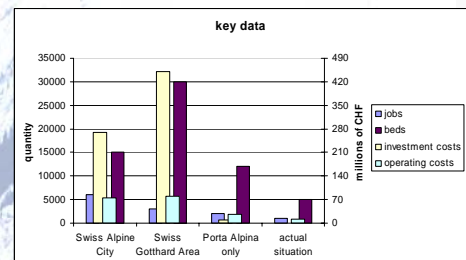
2nd concept „Swiss Alpine City“

"Swiss Alpine City" is a vision of creating a pleasant alpine city with a relaxing atmosphere nestling directly in the mountain scenery at the heart of Europe, attractively connected to the nearest international centers. An efficient transportation network based on ecological criteria shall be realised, which further contributes to an improved quality of life. Because of its geographic location, the newly built town is an ideal place for the creation of new jobs, especially in the tertiary sector. The ecological load can thus be contained. With a long-term time horizon of more than 30 years, urban planning can be optimized by immediately applying the latest technical expertise and ecological standards. Moreover, the required energy can be derived directly from the surrounding area, i.e. waste heat from the tunnel and hydroelectric power.



Evaluation

A "value-benefit-analysis", supplemented by a "sensitivity-" and "risk-analysis" comparing all variables indicates that the concept "Swiss Gotthard Area" promoting tourism in the region achieved the best results. Because of its economic equilibrium, it would be the most promising and at the same time most sustainable solution.



Conclusions

The research underlines that the realisation of the "Porta Alpina" alone, without a parallel regional development concept, will not be sufficient to create the necessary momentum for a sustainable development in the examined region. The paper includes recommendations for a future procedure, such as models of financing, the further course of action and political steps at the different levels of development. The financing will have to be assured by the authorities involved and could be obtained through models such as Public Private Partnership. Finally, it is not necessarily one concept which should take preference over the other, but rather a balanced combination of both, insofar as their elements are compatible with each other.

Abstract

因经济而导致的移民和无用的基础设施建设对瑞士的“歌塔德”阿尔贝斯山区产生了负面影响。得予以与“珀塔·阿尔贝斯山”项目的合作，该地区获得了缓解这个问题的不可多得的机遇，以改善通达性，增加地区合作，来达到可持续发展。

Chances for the region

With this project the entire area is given a nonrecurring chance of significantly improved accessibility with a comparatively marginal effort, an essential requirement to reach the goal of the region's ongoing sustainable economical and social development. Although this project meets with general acceptance in politics and among the population, it is essential to look at it in connection with its surroundings. To reach the desired increase in prosperity for the local economy it is indispensable to take the necessary measures for a long term development, to conserve the natural environment, to carefully evaluate regional impacts and to include the different stakeholders in the planning process.

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