

The Municipality of Scharnstein

**SWG Study Tour on
Forests and Water in Rural Development**

June 13, 2013



Agenda

- **Vision**
- **Stats**
- **Forests and Water**
- **Examples**



The Austrian Forests in the rural development

The „ALMTAL“
A role model



The Almtal – a remote, mountainous but wooded area



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Vision (of local government)

- **Attractive living environment**
 - For young, old and working residents
- **Local value added**
 - For the economy of municipality
- **Healthy and clean environment**
 - Water, air & natural resources
- **Safe environment (disaster vulnerability)**
 - Local land use planning, torrent, avalanche and floodplain control



Attractive living environment

- **16 Assisted living accommodation flats**
- **1 Retirement Home**
- **57 Associations and Clubs**
- **7 Kindergarden Groups**
- **2 Crawling groups**



Local value added

- **120 km municipality roads**
- **110 companies**
- **1800 local jobs**
- **Regional tourisms association since 2013(members are five municipalities along the river Alm)**



Healthy and clean environment

- **Since late 1960ies municipality has started to build the waste water system**
- **1969 the waste water plant was built**
- **As of today the waste water grid is 66 km**
- **Drinking water pipe grid was started in the 1950ies**
- **As of today the drinking water grid is 57 km**



Safe environment (disaster vulnerability)

- **Land use and Land Development Plan**
- **Flood prevention**
- **Torrent and avalanche control**



Agenda

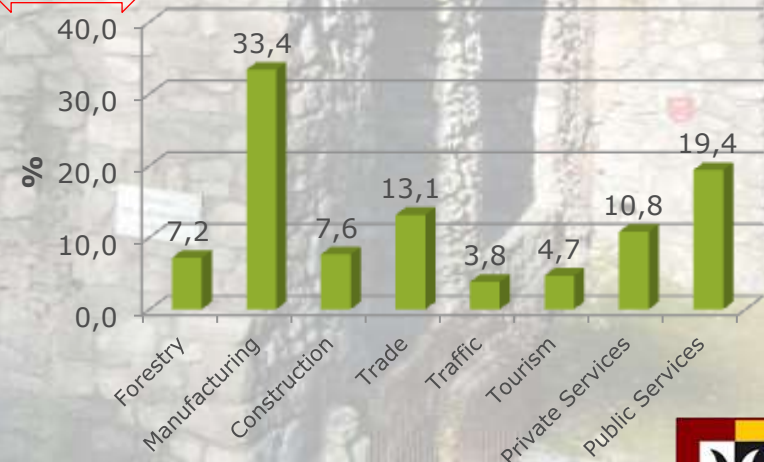
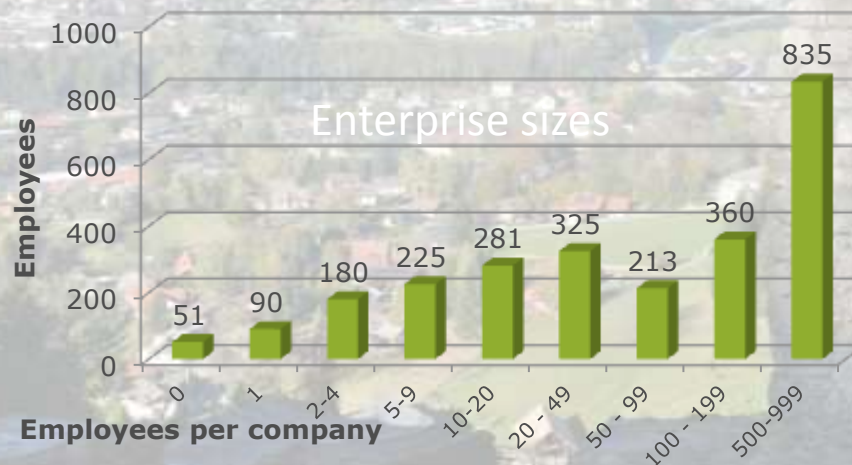
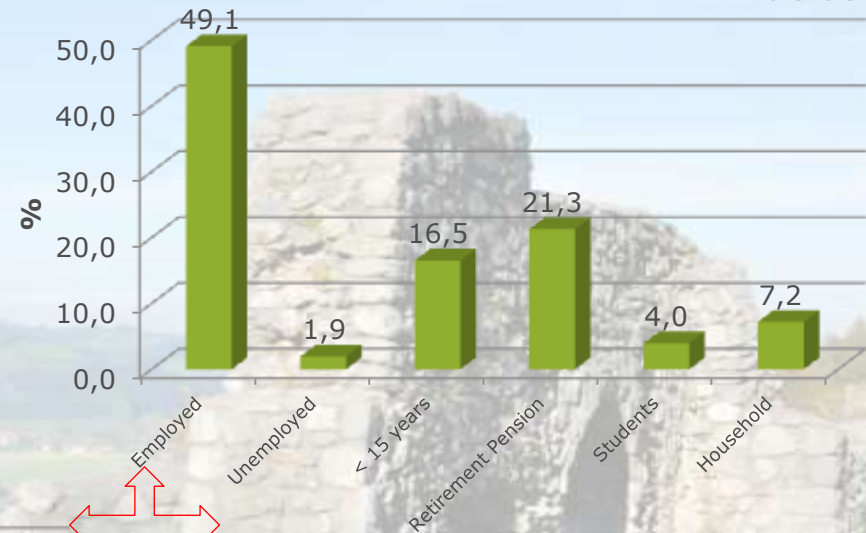
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The Almtal – a heavily forested remote area

- ~ 7.000 inhabitants
- 280 km² total Area → 25 inhabitants/km² population density
- 70% or 200 km² is forests
- Only 10% of total area is flat – 90% is mountainous region

ALMTAL – the role model



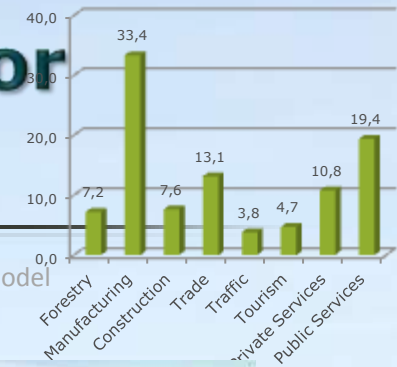
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Industries related to forest sector in the Almtal

ALMTAL – the role model



- **Forestry**

- Directly related to forestry → mainly forest owners but also harvesting and maintenance contractors

- **Manufacturing & Construction**

- Saw milling
- Industrial timber engineering and construction for dwelling, stables and public housing
- Carpentry for house construction
- Carpentry for furniture

- **Traffic**

- Timber (round wood) logistics

- **Private services**

- Tourism

- **Public services**

- Biomass powered district heating
- Power supply from small hydropower

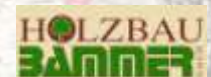


80% of the people are employed in the region

ALMTAL – the role model

- **Direct Forest Sector related enterprises in the region employ ~ 40% of the local workforce**

- 1 international timber engineering & construction company (800 employees)
- 1 industrial carpentry for school furniture
- 7 saw mills (specialized to certain timber products)
- 1 round wood logistics company (30 trucks)
- 5 carpenters for furniture
- 4 carpenters for housing



- **Indirect Forestry related – Tourism**

- Skiing Resort Kasberg
- Wildlife Park
- Wildlife Research Centre
- Forest school „forest paedagogics“

- **Indirect Forestry related - Energy**

- 1 Biomass powered district heating system with 8 MWh/a
- 30 small hydropower plants total to 20 MWh/a ~ 70% of the total energy consumption



The regional environmental record

ALMTAL – the role model

- **Freshwater supply - Groundwater**

- Even in a geological sensible area in terms of tap water supply the region is supplying tap water for all of the local people and also for the people of the cities of Linz and Wels (~ 250.000 people)

- **Constant water supply to the river ALM**

- The river ecosystem as well as the small hydropower plants need a regular and constant water supply which is secured since centuries by the Forest management

- **Protective functions against natural hazards**

- Despite the fact of a growing number of extreme weather events the number of floods and floodplains is very low in the region; mudflows, landslides and avalanches haven't happened since centuries

- Tourism is an important factor to the region as well

- Winter tourism is relying on alpine skiing
- Summer tourism is relying on all forms of hiking (by foot, by horse, by bicycle, ...); most of this type of tourism takes place in the forests



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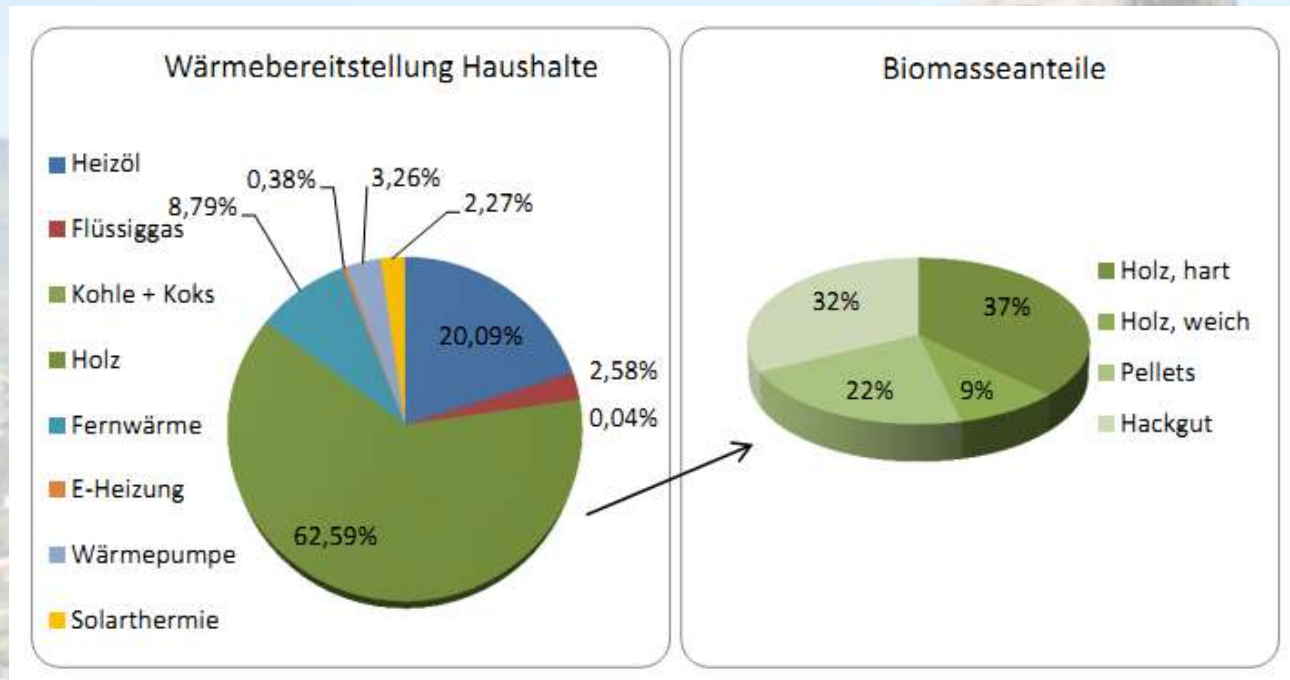


Renewable Energy – electric power

- **70% of the electric power consumption is produced by local small hydro power plants**
- **70% of local value added**



Private household heating



Biomass (heating of households)

- Biomass (private boilers): 62%
- Biomass (district heating): 8%
- Oil: 20%
- Other: 5%
- 80% of local value added !



Kindergarden!

Proof of the truth – the new

ALMTAL – the role model



- **As the old Kindergarten was bursting at the seams the local government found itself constraint to build a second one**
 - **Fact 1:** increase of population is a matter of fact
- **The new Kindergarten was completely built with regional timber**
 - **Fact 2:** local forests contribute to local value added
- **The Kindergarten was planned and built by local companies**
 - **Fact 3:** local forests contribute to local employment
- The Kindergarten will source the power from the local utility
 - **Fact 4:** local forests contribute to power consumption
- The Kindergarten is heated via biomass driven district heating system
 - **Fact 5:** local forests contribute to local energy consumption



Thank You!

