

European Commission



oxenweg.net

Leader subcommittee, 25 November 2009

**An emerging project:
The Oxtrail (DE, AT, HU, SK, RO)
Thomas Müller, LAG Sauwald / Austria**



Background & Objective



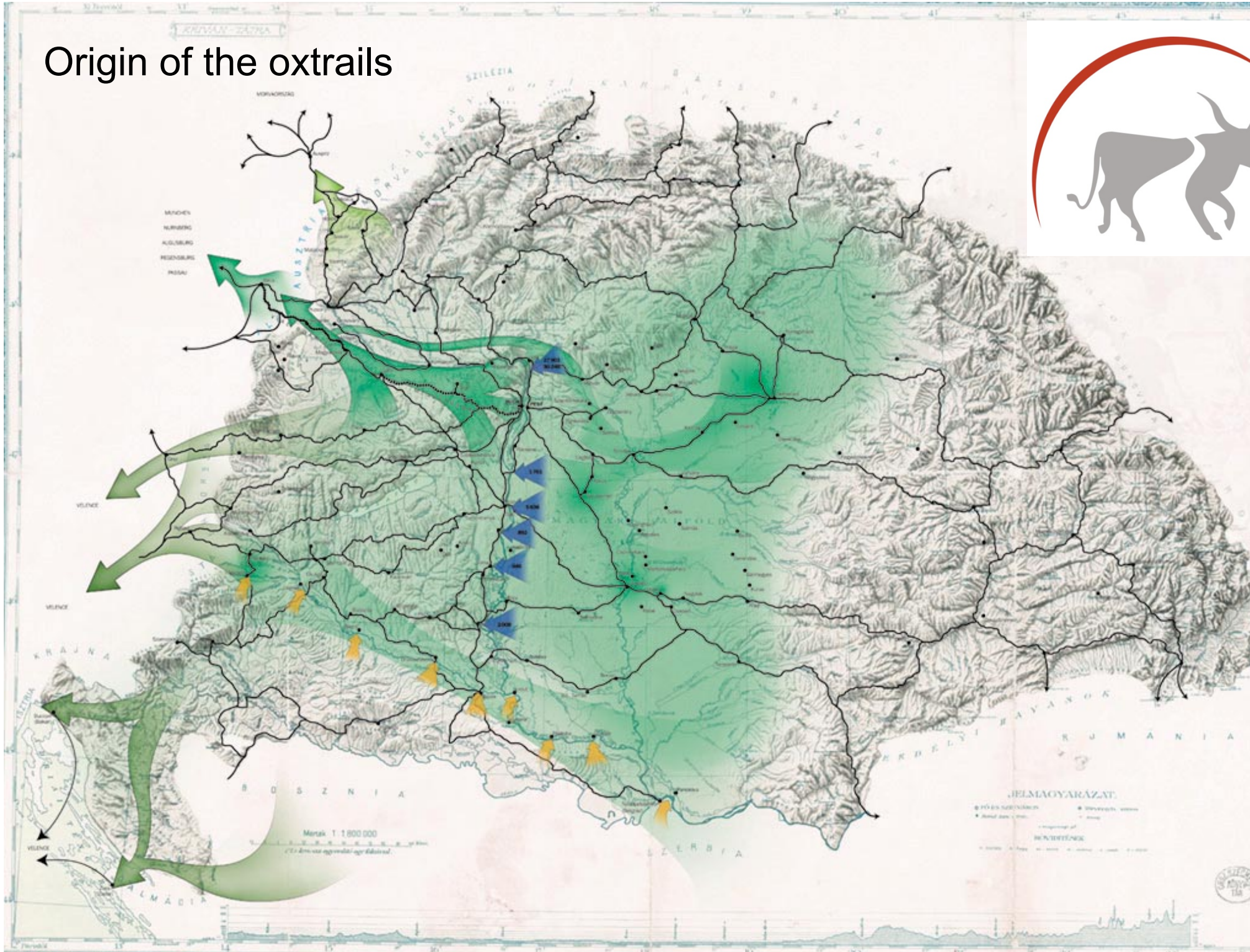
- Some historical evidence of the existence of oxtrails (1250-1750), originating from the Hungarian/ Romanian Plain, securing the food supply of emerging cities in Germany and Italy.
- Researching 500 years of history in partnership, leading to the implementation of joint projects in agriculture, tourism, crafts and other areas of common interest.

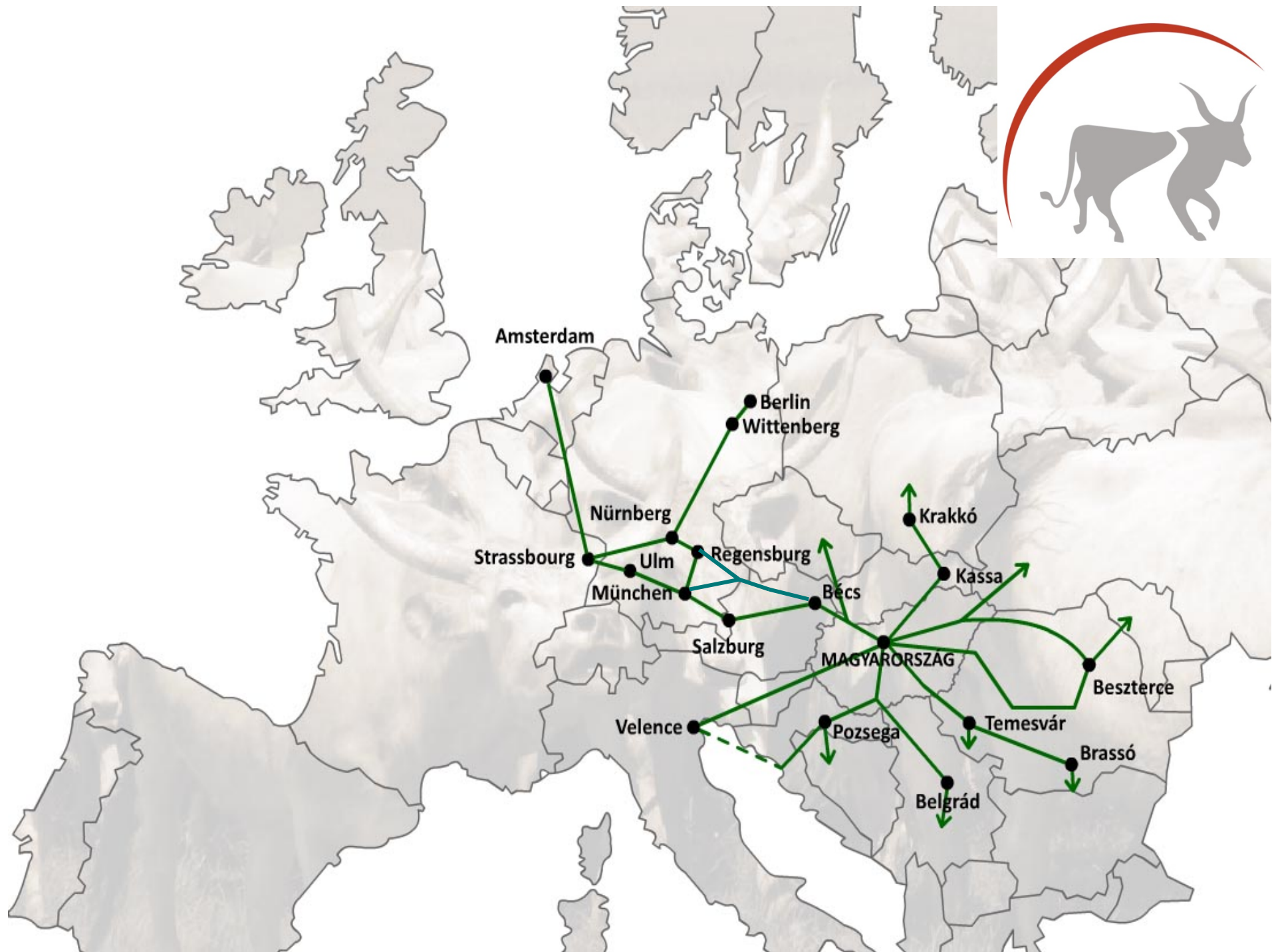




W. G. S. 1900

Origin of the oxtrails





Nürnberg



Augsburg



OMNIA HABENT ORTVS SVAQVE IN
CREMENTA SED ECCE
QVEM CERNIS NVNQVAM BOS FVIT
HIC VITVLVS

Venice, Hungarian grey oxes arriving by ship



Relevant themes with project implementation potential

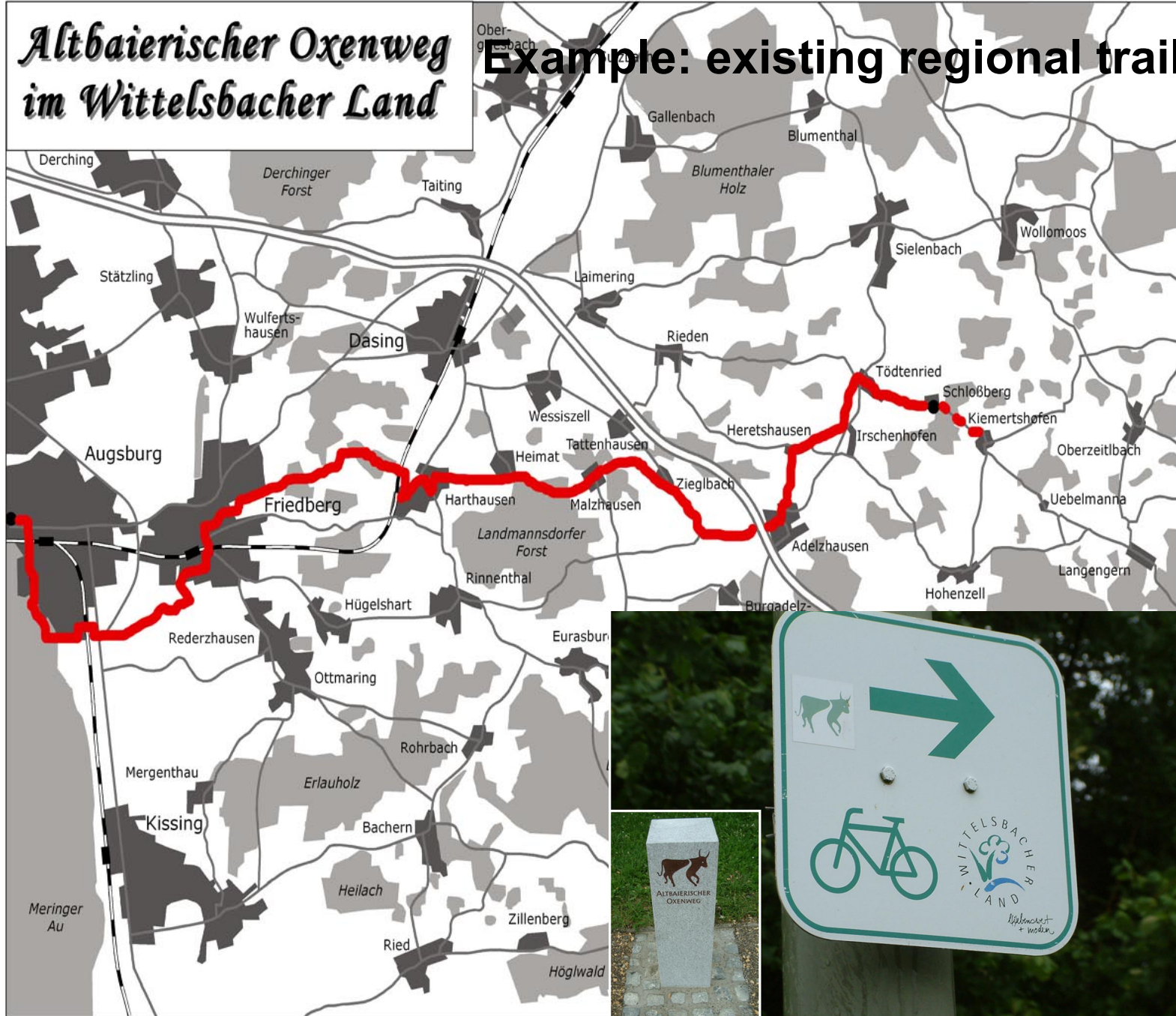








- Generation of new tourist attractions and destinations;
- New regional and transeuropean thematic trails/ thematic routes;
- New culinary products;
- Access to the art of traditional craftsmanship;
- Promotion of cultural and historical heritage;
- Development of new trade relationships;
- Promotion of intercultural partnership and friendship;
- Visionary projects offering new perspectives;
- ...



Altbaierischer Oxenweg im Wittelsbacher Land

Example: existing regional trail



-  Oxenweg
-  Straßen
-  Autobahn
-  Eisenbahn
-  Siedlung
-  Wald

Kartengrundlage:
Radwegkarte
Wittelsbacher Land

Kartenentwurf:
PD Dr. Markus Hilpert,
Dipl.-Geogr. Peter Schürholz

Kartographie:
Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Jochen Bohn



Example: „Vision / new perspective“



Launching the process & developing the project



- *Idea*: LAG „Wittelsbacher Land“ (DE);
- *Partnersearch* in DE and HU;
- Support by *external expert*;
- Implementation of *Leader-Strategy* of 3 DE, 2 AT and 4 HU LAGs;
- *Initiation* of project preparation by German lead partner LAG „Wittelsbacher Land“ (following completion of LAG selection process by MAs in participating countries);
- *Confirmation* to continue preparatory efforts (partners' conference, July 2008);
- *Expert input*: excursion to Hungary (September 2008);
- Signature of *cooperation agreement* (partners' conference, July 2009);
- *Completion of external expertise*, LAGs take over lead and further development of the project.



First lessons learned



- The project development phase proved difficult / sensitive, which justified the pursuit of a „*Top-Down-Approach*“ and the involvement of external expertise;
- Solely a „*Bottom-Up-Approach*“ is relevant to project implementation: backing by LAG secures active participation in the project;
- Successful project development requires intensive and active learning by all parties involved (*capacity-building*).



RDP funding 2007-2013



- Despite the existence of a single regulation the rules governing transnational cooperation are *interpreted differently* by Managing Authorities;
- At the beginning of the programme period neither local actors nor Managing Authorities had the necessary *know-how*, which therefore was *jointly developed*;
- Managing Authorities are not clear about the importance of transnational cooperation, which is why it *often is not considered a priority*.



RDP funding 2007-2013



- Some Managing Authorities only consider project implementation eligible, others do only support project development/preparation activities;
- The LAG-Management mainly facilitates project development/preparation through its own available resources;
- *Therefore, single (clear and uncomplicated) European rules, for the financing of project preparation/development activities are highly desirable.*



Next steps



- **...according to the cooperation agreement:**
 - Historical Research/Analysis – establishment of *Expert Commission* (Csorvas, 4.-7. November 2009);
 - Analysis of *agricultural and tourism potential*, based on the results of historical research/analysis activity;
 - Project *implementation*;
 - Training and *knowledge transfer*.



Additional information



- Currently employing „own available resources“ to develop a *joint multilingual web portal*.
- Online soon:

www.oxenweg.net

