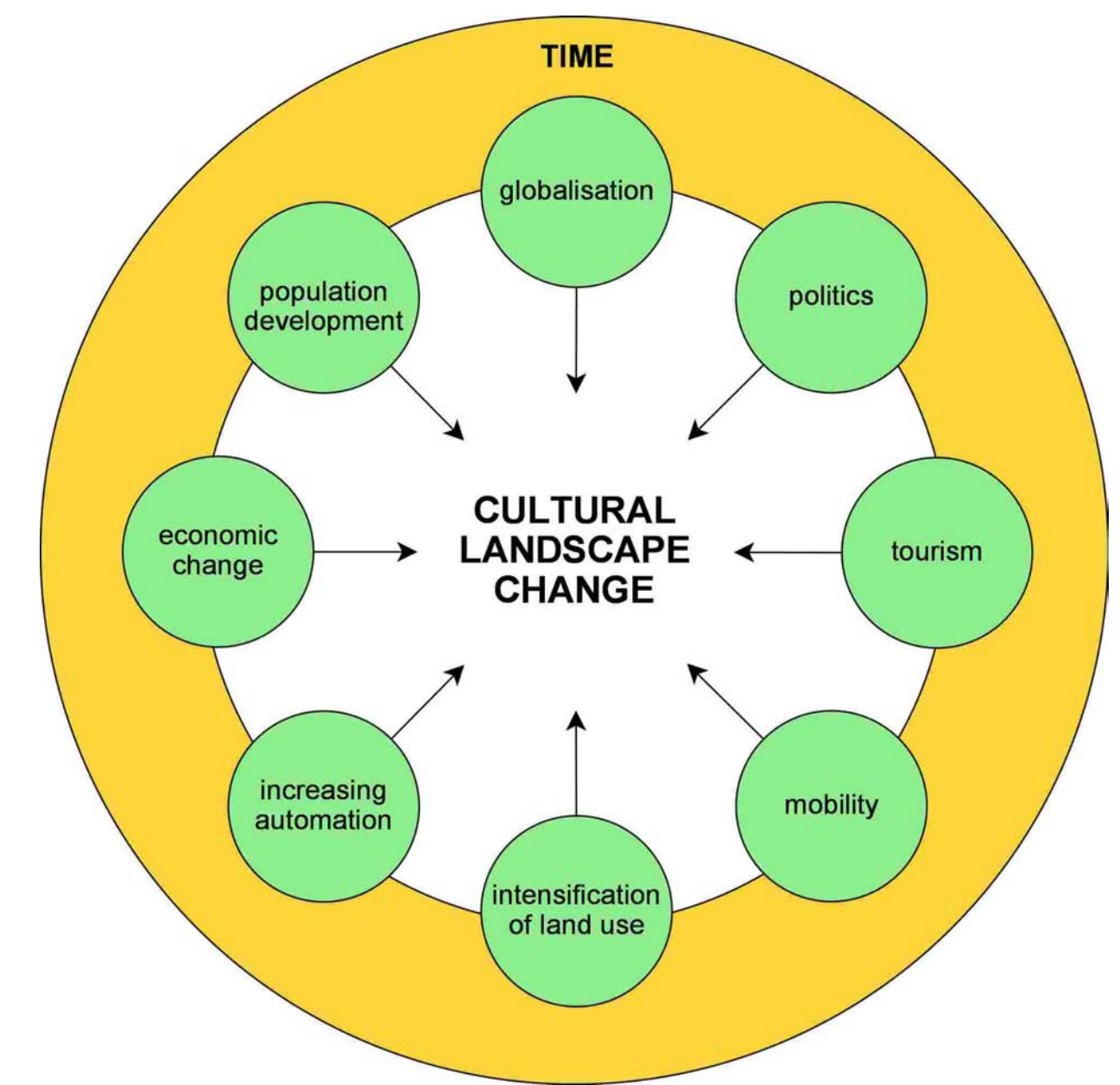


# Cultural landscape change in South Tyrol since the 1950s

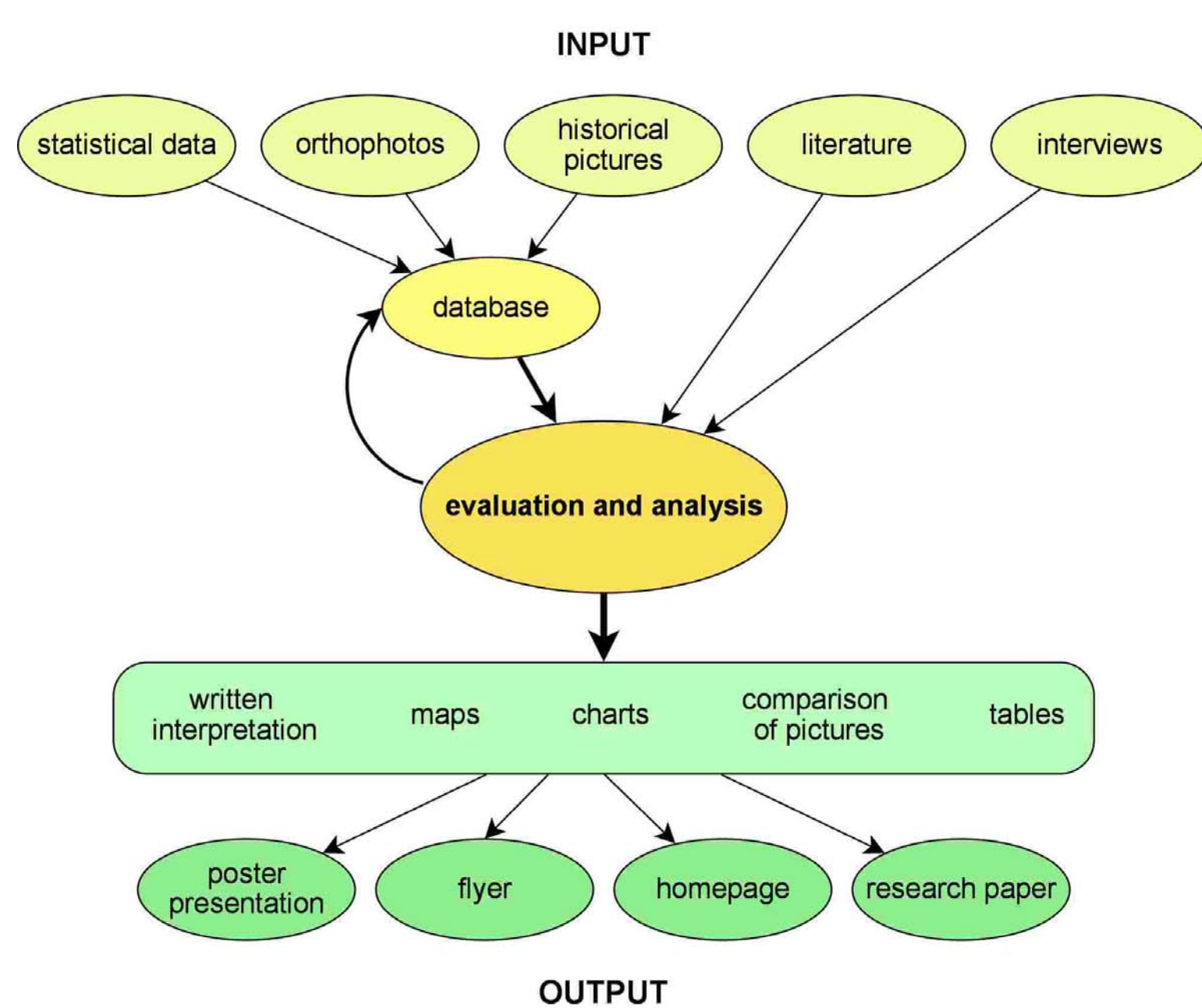
## Project description

Cultural landscape is subjected to a continuous change, but the intensity and dimension of the changes depend on different factors. Over the years physical processes and human actions lead to variations of geographical regions. A research project funded by the Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano - South Tyrol and elaborated by the Institute of Geography of the University of Innsbruck principally deals with the impacts of human actions on landscapes.

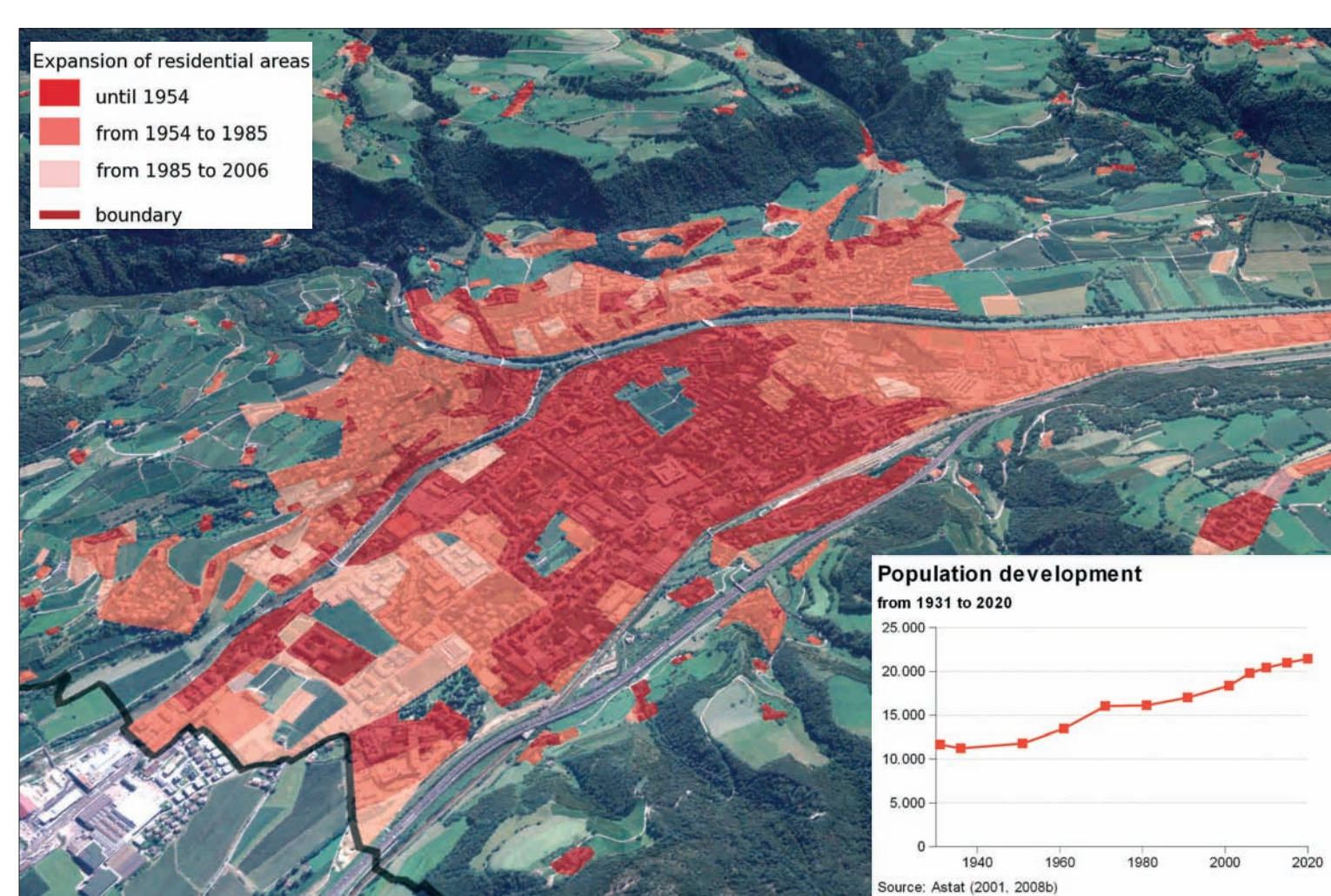
The aim of the project is to visualize and analyse the cultural landscape changes in ten municipalities of South Tyrol since the year 1950 in order to sensitise the local community to the impact of human actions on landscapes. If the sensibility of the population grows, this might be positive for the future development of this alpine region. Furthermore, the results can be a useful tool for planning processes on regional and communal level.



Factors that lead to landscape changes



Workflow



The development of the residential area in Brixen



Panorama of the city Brixen from Klerant



## Important landscape changes

- changes in land use and land cover (e.g. fewer grainfields, more grassland and intensive fruit growing)
- higher tree-density in the forests
- growing residential areas
- larger road network
- more tourist facilities

## Research questions

- What kind of cultural landscape changes occurred during the last 50 years and how intensive were these changes?
- Do the cultural landscape changes in South Tyrol mainly depend on regional factors or are they a consequence of the global change?

## Methods

The changes of the cultural landscape are shown by different methods. One important method is the **comparison of historical pictures** with current photographs of the same area. By the use of this technique the changes can be observed and perceived in a direct and immediate way.

A second important source of information are **aerial photographs** of the 1950s and orthophotos of the 1980s and of the year 2006. The aerial photographs are used to show the development and the extension of the settlements in a map at three different points in time. In addition, the orthophotos of the 1950s and of the year 2006 are used, in combination with the digital terrain model, to produce digital landscape scenes, which depict the changes in areas that are not easily accessible.

Charts and tables generated out of **statistical data** concerning population, agriculture, tourism and economics, information out of **technical literature** and **interviews** with annalists and historians supplement the already mentioned methods.