SmartVillages aims to create opportunities for a smart transition of Municipalities and Regions in mountainous areas through new forms of stakeholder involvement facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies.

Innovative 2,685,381 EUR From 17.04.2018 to 16.04.2021

www.alpine-space.eu/projects/smartvillages  www.facebook.com/project.SmartVillages/
UPDATE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR TEST AREAS

Municipality of Löffingen – Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein (Germany)

The regional stakeholder group, the municipal council and the city of Löffingen are making progress on their joint work to improve the quality of life in all villages. The first four pilot activities are (1) a digital town hall, (2) a call a car-service, (3) a social hub and (4) a corporate mobility management. Furthermore, it has been decided to start a strategy process in 2020 including all citizens. Two local and one ongoing digital workshop will help to formulate a vision for Löffingen, to come up with new ideas for pilot activities and to promote pilot services among the citizens as well as the idea of SmartVillages in general.
Bodensee area and Lake Constance Region – Bodensee Standort Marketing GmbH (DE)

The city of Tengen in the district of Constance includes the formerly independent communities of Beuren am Ried, Blumenfeld, Büßlingen, Talheim, Uttenhofen, Watterdingen, Weil and Wiechs am Randen, which are now incorporated into the city of Tengen.

In order to simplify existing administrative processes for the citizens and the city, the mayor of the city of Tengen, Marian Schreier, organized a citizens workshop at which the process of digital garbage can management was discussed. Until now, citizens had to visit the office personally to order, change or cancel refuse garbage cans. In the future, this process can be carried out online and comfortably at home.

In a first step, the existing analogue processes were surveyed and optimization potentials were identified from an administrative point of view.

Within the workshop, the citizens worked out an ideal process flow of the digital garbage can management on the basis of different cases (e.g. garbage can is to be exchanged or a new order of a garbage can).

In addition, the previous drafts of the later form masks were checked linguistically and visually. Finally, the ideal process flow was compared from the point of view of the citizens and the administration.

Then the practical technical implementation of this process took place in the Smart Villages project in cooperation with Bodensee Standort Marketing GmbH. The service of exchanging, reordering or cancelling garbage cans is offered to the citizens of the city of Tengen on the nationwide platform www.service-bw.de.

Afterwards, the citizens from the workshop were invited again to test the tool as pilot users and to give corresponding feedback, whereby the process was adapted again. Currently, the Ministry of the Interior is responsible for the approval process. It is expected to be available at www.tengen.de and www.service-bw.de in the beginning of December. The Municipality of Tengen will report on this once again on its homepage and in the city’s newsletter.

This is the first digital process in Germany in which the citizens were actively involved in the development. The implementation was consequently designed according to the bottom-up principle. This ensures that the citizens of the city of Tengen are prepared to use the digital service because they can identify themselves with the process.

Picture caption: Mayors Marian Schreier and Carolin Schnaidt of Bodensee Standort Marketing GmbH are pleased about the successful project for the digital garbage can management of the city of Tengen.
Padna – Šmarje, Solčavsko and Kungota Municipality - University of Ljubljana (SLO)

University of Ljubljana organized an exchange meeting between RSG from two test areas: Šmarje and Kungota. The meeting took place in Kungota on 18 October 2019.

More information on the meeting are available here: http://blog.ltfe.org/2019/10/24/sharing-is-progress_kungota/?fbclid=IwAR0KPbTIpXBuba7-Nw-bsK8irojP3CukS5637ixGrjkrrF5SasK0sgSKy2w

Valli del SOL – Development Agency Gal Genovese - Italy

New meetings were held with the regional stakeholder group, involving, in addition to the Metropolitan City of Genoa, the public transport company and the Union of Municipalities, also local associations and cooperatives. The goal of the meetings was to find synergies and integrations between Smartvillages project and the funds of the rural development plan for the territory and managed by the Genovese LAG. In particular on the issue of smart mobility, the RSG is thinking about the possibility of managing innovative services for community cooperatives that will be created in the area through calls for tenders activated by the LAG.
Royans-Vercors Intermunicipality - Association pour le Développement en REseau des Territoires et des Services (FR)

Royans-Vercors local actors deeply involved in Smart Villages actions!

For these past 6 months, ADRETS supported the launch of the first action decided by local actors within Smart Village project of the Royans-Vercors territory: the co-design and implementation of an open source local collaborative platform. The goal is to strengthen local cooperation between actors, ease local governance, and help out local actions to be more efficient and collaborative. In addition, this virtual place will host short videos in order to highlight local inspiring initiatives and sustainable activities, taking part within the Transition Contract established between the territory and the French State. The shootings and film making will respect the framework suggested by our Slovenian Partner the University of Maribor with the #LocalHero videos.

Aiming at a deeper mobilization of local actors around the SV project, ADRETS organized individual meetings and took an active part in local meetings organized by the Natural Regional Park of Vercors, or the Digital Festival organized by Les Tracols NGO. As a result, more than 20 different people from organizations of all kind are now engaged to be part of the process (Local mayors, Intermunicipality, NGO’s dedicated in transition process, in culture, social care, citizens...). The next step consists in co-designing and building the platform, followed by the dissemination of good practices both locally and at a regional level, highlighting the attractivity of the territory.

In the meantime, ADRETS supported good practices exchange among the French Alpine Regional Stakeholder Group, thanks to the organisation of a web conference organized in collaboration with the Grenoble Planning Agency, and focusing on the topic of Smart Mobility in rural areas. See more info and replay online: https://adrets-asso.fr/?VisionnezEtDecouvrezLaWebconferenceSmart
Pomurje Region - Smart& Sustainable Agriculture – University of Maribor (SI)

The test area of Pomurje and the project "Smart Villages" was presented at the stand of the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food at the AGRA fair in Slovenia in August 2019, one of the most important agriculture and food fairs in this part of Europe. More information in the “News & Events” below.

Maribor/Pohorje Region – University of Maribor (SI)

On the 14th of October, University of Maribor hosted a workshop with regional stakeholders in Maribor/Pohorje Test Area (TA). The workshop was guided by dr. Muhamed Turkonović, dr. Tina Beranič from the University of Maribor and Bernarda Karo from Maribor - Pohorje Tourist Board, which is actively involved in the project’s actions in the TA Maribor/Pohorje. The participants were greeted by Doris Urbančič Windisch, the director of Maribor - Pohorje Tourist Board, followed by the presentation of a SmartVillages project, i.e. Dimensions of smartness, Digital Exchange Platform, Toolbox, Good Practices, Smartness Assessment etc. Lastly, the core of the Workshop was an active discussion with local stakeholders in the tourism domain. Together we addressed the challenge of connecting the local tourist offers to offer comprehensive and connected tourist packages, which would be available, visible and promoted by the tourist domain of the TA. The following representatives were present at the Workshop: local caterers, the regional chamber of craftsman, local wellness, tourist agency and regional tourist board.
Pomurje Region - SmartIS City, d.o.o. SIC (SI)

SmartIS organised several meetings in the test area Pomurje with aim to present and boost an adoption rate for usability of different data aggregation into SmartCity platform. We are waiting for feedback which will be then further analysed in terms of further actions. Digital Twin of Smart buildings was recognised as an opportunity for local developers and industry. Digital Twins are part of future EU Horizon Programme: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/future-and-emerging-technologies-horizon-2020-nearly-1-beu-still-be-spent-technologies-future

Region Luzern West (CH)

The main topic of the delegate assembly of the REGION LUZERN WEST was high broadband. In the project SmartVillages the REGION LUZERN WEST got in touch with the project „la fibre pour tous“ at a project meeting in St.-Jean-En-Royans. This let to a pilot project in the community of Luthern to establish high broadband. Now the REGION LUZERN WEST wants to go on and try to establish high broadband in the whole region.
The Mid Term Conference (10. – 12.9.2019) was hosted by University of Ljubljana and took place in Koper, Slovenia.

The three day event combined the 4th PSC meeting, Study Visits and a Mid Term Conference entitled **Smart Villages – a key for development in rural areas**.

Study visits were organized in order to observe some of the good practices available in the TA Padna-Šmarje. We visited both villages (Padna and Šmarje), tested free Wi-Fi points installed in the main square in Šmarje and listened to the presentations of three good practices: wine cellar Santomas, microbrewery and coffee roasting plant Emonec, and olive mill Lisjak. All the practices were very inspiring.

The Mid Term Conference was held on the 12September, 2019 in the premises of Faculty of Humanities (University of Primorska) in Koper. The conference was internationally recognized and accepted more than 120 participants Europe-wide. More information on the programme and some post – conference materials are available at the conference web-site: [http://blog.ltfe.org/sv-conference/](http://blog.ltfe.org/sv-conference/). Some thoughts of our participants on the definition of Smart Village are also available in a blog post *What does a ‘smart village’ mean to you?* ([http://blog.ltfe.org/2019/09/18/what-does-a-smart-village-mean-to-you/](http://blog.ltfe.org/2019/09/18/what-does-a-smart-village-mean-to-you/)).

**NEWS&EVENTS**

**VIDEO TUTORIAL**

The project foresees the creation of a VideoTutorial on the Open Digital Smart Village Exchange Platform. This tool enables the transnational knowledge sharing of the overall project findings and European best practices between PPs and the wider public and, therefore, a main pillar of the project-specific objective. The VideoTutorial will explain the main important functions of the tool supported by animations conveying the most important content in an attractive way.
MEET OUR LOCAL HERO

Our website has been implemented with a new tab dedicated to our local heroes. Here you can find the interviews carried out with our local stakeholders who, through their daily actions, make our communities ever smarter! More information https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/smartvillages/en/test-areas/local-hero

SV DIGITAL TOOLBOX UPDATE

Digital Smart Village Toolbox that is being developed by University of Ljubljana is gaining more and more contents. At the 4th PSC meeting the state-of-the-art was presented and explained on some practical examples.

In the following months the contents of the Digital Smart Village Toolbox and Digital Exchange Platform (DEP) will be integrated to offer the best solutions using date collected through both channels.

Tina Beranič, a representative of the ERDF Lead Partner of the SmartVillages project (University of Maribor) participated in the 30th Central European Conference on Information and Intelligent Systems (CECIIS 2019), which took place in Varaždin, Croatia, from 2nd to 4th October 2019. She represented to the audience the accepted scientific paper “Facilitating the digital transformation of villages”.

The paper was coauthored by three project partner members (UM, Poliedra, SCCH): Tina Beranič, Aleš Zamuda, Lucija Brezočnik and Muhamed Turkanović from Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor, Gianluca Lentini, Francesca Polettini, Alessandro Lue and Alberto Colorni
Vitale from Poliedra-Politecnico di Milano, and Jorge Martinez Gil and Mario Pichler from Software Competence Center Hagenberg GmbH.

The publication addresses the concept of smartness within rural areas and presents the functional requirements and architectural backbone of a Digital Exchange Platform, currently being developed within the SmartVillages Project under the Work Package 2.

On 17th October Dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh of the University of Ljubljana participated at the event »The engaged university: Linking the global and the local«. She has presented activities in the field of Smart rural development and amongst other projects, also Smart Villages.

Here is a link to the conference website https://acaevents.events.idloom.com/the-engaged-university-linking-the-global-and-the-local

Going digital

Our Alpine Space SmartVillages project has been represented at the “Smart Villages: an intelligent concept” seminar organised by ERSAF and the Region of Lombardy in the mountain village of Esino Lario, located in the mountains surrounding Lake Como, Italy, on 25th October 2019. Gianluca Lentini has presented the project, the smartness assessment procedure and some of the Test Areas, whereas the Region of Lombardy has described the international framework around the concept of Smart Villages.
Partners from all over Italy have described their own projects dedicated to innovation in mountain areas. The seminar was also hosted by Euromontana.

https://www.ersaf.lombardia.it/it/b/447/focussuglismartvillagesalseminarioannualeersafdedicatoaiterr

On **8th October 2019**, the Alpine Space SmartVillages project has been represented at the European Week of Regions and Cities by Gianluca Lentini, of Poliedra, who co-managed a thematic corner in the session “Smart Villages: overcoming the divide between rural and urban areas”. The session was organised by DG REGIO, and attended by about 100 people coming from, among others, DG AGRI, Euromontana, and several rural and mountain areas from all over Europe. Main outcomes regard smart villages being conceived as active players in envisioning and drafting their own future, and becoming possible Equalisers, Linkers or Partners of urban areas.

On 21st October 2019 Tino Blondiau participated at the 8th EUSALP Action Group 9 meeting in Bergamo (Italy) and presented the outcomes of Lower Austria’s work on smart villages, in particular the new brochure “The village of the future”.

How will we be living in the countryside in the future? Will rural communities structurally disperse even more, so that people’s everyday lives consist of long commuting with traffic jams and traffic noise? Or can we shape our lives in such a way that the energy revolution and climate protection can provide opportunities that have a very positive influence on the future of everyday life?

On the 26th of August 2019, the project "Smart Villages" was presented at the AGRA fair in Slovenia. AGRA 2019 was one of the most important agriculture and food fairs in this part of Europe. Its focus was on digitalization in agriculture and the agri-food sector. Furthermore, the international fair exhibition showcased innovations (including world premieres), cutting-edge technology and technology for agriculture, livestock, forestry, and the food processing industry as well as viticulture, winemaking, and organic farming.

The project "Smart Villages" was presented at the stand of the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, which had one of the largest stands at the AGRA fair. In addition to this, Daniel Copot at the
presentation area gave a brief overview of the project and its objectives, presented good practices and test area of Pomurje.

At one of this year’s most exciting higher education conferences, The engaged university. Linking the global and the local, co-organised by ACA and CMEPIUS, which took place between 17th and 18th of October in Bled, Slovenia, drawing an audience of 150–200, including central actors and decision-makers from universities and colleges, as well as practitioners and policy-makers from government departments, international institutions, non-governmental organizations and think tanks. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, assistant Professor from Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, amongst others spoke about Smart digital transformation of villages in the Alpine Space. (Available here: http://blog.ltfe.org/2019/10/21/go-digital-engaged_university/)

Veronika Zavratnik from University of Ljubljana, attended the event organized by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food that took place in Laško on 26 November, 2019. Some project from European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) were presented as well as chosen EU projects were presented on posters.
SmartVillages Leadpartner SAB participated to the EUSALP Annual Forum **28/29th of November 2019** and presented the actual status quo of the project during the AG5 meeting and in a poster exhibition. 

https://www.alpine-region.eu/events/8th-ag-5-meeting

**From 25 to 29 November 2019** the fifth edition of the Genoa Smart Week was held in Genoa. The event was promoted by the Genoa Smart City Association and the Municipality of Genoa.

During this week, Genoa hosted a series of conferences, exhibitions, meetings and networking events that involved professionals and operators of the sector and highly prestigious speakers from the business, scientific and academic world.

In particular GAL Genovese participated to the event dedicated to “e-mobility & Smart Mobility”.

The use of electric vehicles for people and goods in urban areas is now one of the cards played by the administrations to reduce the environmental impact of mobility on the cities. Electric vehicles include not only cars and vehicles for public transport, but also vehicles for micro-mobility such as scooters, pedal assisted bicycles, mopeds and electric propulsion gyroscopic vehicles that are now part of the panorama of many European cities. Urban mobility, however, goes beyond the vehicular aspect and means more and more services to which citizens and logistic operators access for their own needs by delegating to the service provider the management of technical aspects (placing vehicles / passages, recharging, reservations, compensation among operators).

On 9 December the Development Agency GAL Genovese took part via skype in the conference "Leader: tool for the promotion of a collaborative and community economy" organized by the GAL Alto Molise and the National Rural Network. In particular, the GAL Genovese presented the SmartVillages project and the synergy with the theme of community cooperatives through an intervention on "Smartness "to prevent and counter depopulation"
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The Newsletter#04 – March 2020 will inform about the meetings that every project partner is organizing with the regional stakeholder group, about all events that will take place in the EU on smart villages topic and about the next SmartVillages meeting!

Newsletter developed by Development Agency GAL Genovese – GENOA (IT)