Smart Digital Transformation of Villages in the Alpine Space

Newsletter #02 – August 2019

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/
**Municipality of Löffingen – Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein (Germany)**

The regional stakeholder group in Löffingen has decided to promote its first pilot activity. The City will buy an electric car which will be run by volunteers. The idea is to drive old people to the doctor or to a super market for example. Other pilot activities regarding smart governance, smart living and smart people are still under development, but will be presented soon. The regional stakeholder group also works on a smart long term strategy for Löffingen and a digital collaborative platform in order to include more and different people into the stakeholder process.
Pitzal Valley - TirolerZukunftsstiftung (Standortagentur Tirol) (AT)

On the 23rd of May, the stakeholder group had a meeting with the majors and politicians in the Pitztal Valley. Three speakers have been invited, who talked about digitalisation and concrete projects in the field of digitalisation:

1.) Manfred Riedl: Digitalisation in General
2.) Klaus Stingl: Communication with the inhabitants (Gem2Go)
3.) Johannes Steiger: New app for mobility (Ummadum)

It was an informative evening with interesting discussions. In the next steps the communities have to decided, which apps they want to install in the region.

Bodensee area and Lake Constance Region – Bodensee Standort Marketing GmbH (DE)

In Bodensee test area, the Location Guide Bodensee was set up in the SmartVillages project in cooperation with regional stakeholders. The platform www.standort-guide-bodensee.com contains important information about the Lake Constance region, the structures, the valuable references to cluster initiatives and startup and founder scene. In a first step, offers from regional stakeholders, such as business parks for potential investors or prospects, were linked and interactively presented on the platform by means of attractive 360° panoramic photos. Without extensive explanation, the user has easy access to important information and relevant contact persons in the Lake Constance region. In a next step, lighthouses from the entrepreneurship are to be won to represent companies who want to represent them in a diverse region and want to show what the region can offer. These lighthouses show users the first great impressions of the region. As a result, further development of the Standort Guide Bodensee can be promoted. More info: https://www.standort-guide-bodensee.com/

Caption: The Bodensee region as 360° view. © Achim Mende
University of Ljubljana has made short presentational videos of their test areas – Municipality Kungota, Municipality Solčava, Village Padna. Furthermore, activities in each test areas are also picking up the pace. In Kungota, Wi-Fi access points will be set up in different locations to enable internet access to all inhabitants and visitors. In Solčavsko, activities enabling more sustainable mobility practices for the Nature Park Logarska Dolina have started. In Padna, RSG has been expanded by including the nearby village Šmarje to the test area.

GAL organized the first meetings in the Test Area, involving Municipalities, politicians and stakeholders. Our Regional Stakeholder Group which includes the two strategic subjects for the elaboration of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, the Metropolitan City of Genoa and the Provincial Transport Company, is discussing how to implement the pilot activities in the Test area. We are evaluating the possibility to integrate different EU funds in order to support activities of sustainable mobility in a wider perspective and directly managed by the local bodies.
Royans-Vercors Intermunicipality - Association pour le Développement en REseau des Territoires et des Services (FR)

Royans-Vercors is taking action on innovative solutions implementation! ADRETS is supporting Smart Village initiative of Royans-Vercors territory since January 2019. From then, a local RSG has gathered including local representatives, social care actors, digital stakeholders... Let’s point out that this territory achieved his Smartness assessment in March, revealing an existing taskforce around innovation and a strong networking within the local community. Interviews, documents and strategies analysis and first meetings led the territory stakeholders to achieve a first iteration through the 4 first phases of Smart Villages methodology: where are we now? Where are we going? Where do we want to be? And how to get there?

Here are some operational TA achievements that are already in place:
- SGIs House ans digital support in Saint Jean en Royans and La Chapelle en Vercors
- Third place ‘La Place des possibles’ integrating training sessions, cultural activities,…
- Strategy for local feeding and agriculture
- Global social plan for the territory, leading to different coordination tools
- Transportation innovation with carpooling, on demand electrical transport

Pomurje Region - Smart& Sustainable Agriculture – University of Maribor (SI)

The Pomurje Region (Smart& Sustainable Agriculture)RSG performed a self-assessment of smartness, where the agriculture domain is recognized as the most promising. After the establishment of a Digital Innovation Hub AGRIFOOD it is much easier to identify priorities and focus areas, as well as to expose some of good practices with special focus on Short Food Supply Chains. The DIH was identified as an important good practice. With the help of the DIH a visiting tour was organised for some members of the EUSALP AG5 group, where some details of further good practices were recorded in order to produce a promotional video, which will be launched in autumn and spread across the EUSALP and its members. The RSG thus analysed and collected two good practices which were described and inserted into the Digital Exchange Platform, so they can already be accessible and useful for other Alpine regions and communities (https://smartvillages.informatika.uni-mb.si/good_practice/dih-agrifood/; and https://smartvillages.informatika.uni-mb.si/good_practice/kultnatura/).

Maribor/Pohorje Region – University of Maribor (SI)

The Maribor/Pohorje test area identified two good practices based on performed analysis of their activities. Good practices are related to the smart tourism – Maribor Wine Road (https://smartvillages.informatika.uni-mb.si/good_practice/maribor-wine-road/) and Drava Bike Trail (https://smartvillages.informatika.uni-mb.si/good_practice/drava-bike-trail/).
mb.si/good_practice/drava-bike-trail) and are already presented in the Digital Exchange Platform. The service providers on the wine road successfully managed to put the providers together in multiple integral tourist packages, one of those had become the most popular tour for the tourists. On the other hand, the Drava bike trail’s natural beauty, scattered along the river Drava, runs through 4 countries (Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia) and offers a total length of about 710 km of cycling routes.

At the beginning of October, Maribor/Pohorje test area will organize an event involving participating RSG. The final preparations for the meeting are currently coming to an end. The event aims at presenting RSGs the common goals and, in cooperation, gather the possible ideas and extensions originating from different perspectives.

Author of photography: Aleš Fevžer

Pomurje Region - SmartIS City, d.o.o. SIC (SI)

SmartIS City was building up smart solutions with RSG for TA area Pomurje. Smart services were defined and preparation for a national tender has begun - where TA will propose apply for funding the solutions (mobility and tourism).
SmartVillages project will therefore already transfer the knowledge to the practice.

Region Luzern West (CH)

The REGION LUZERN WEST in central Switzerland has already some disadvantages concerning traffic. The major national roads as well as the fast Railroads do all lead around our region. Thanks to the survey, developed in this SmartVillages project and the consultations of different, independent experts we could now determine, that we risk to have the same minus development in digital traffic. This becomes apparent in most part of our region, because of the lack of a connection with fiber optics. Fibre optics, and therefore highspeed internet, are the key infrastructure for a digital future in our region. Without it, we will fall back in the digital development.

But we are working on it. In april 2019 we could initiate a meeting with the local council of the community of Luthern concerning the improvement of their internet connection. This led to a separate project which we
support and which has just finalized the second phase (rough concept). This “Luthern-project” is some sort of a pilot project for us. We hope it will lead to a project in a much bigger scale, our whole region.

First Meeting to assess the situation in Luthern in April 2019

Start Meeting to develop the rough concept in Luthern in June 2019

DISCOVER THE PROJECT RESULTS


DISCOVER OUR NEXT MEETING

In September, University of Ljubljana will organize the third project meeting and the Midterm Conference under the name Smart Villages – the key for development in rural areas.

The conference will be held on 12 September 2019 in Koper, Slovenia. The aims of the conference are, firstly, to put Smart Villages in the wider European perspective by addressing the role of the Smart Village approach for sustainable development of European rural areas, and, secondly, to present the test areas and main planned outputs of the project to the wider public. More details are available here.
NEWS&EVENTS

On line our **SV PROMOTIONAL VIDEO!!!**

How could your rural community become smart?


**SV DIGITAL TOOLBOX**

University of Ljubljana has developed the first prototype of the Digital Smart Villages Toolbox.

The prototype is built upon the insights from previous research on participatory tools, methods and techniques and aims to enhance the participation of communities in development processes. Besides integrated participatory tools and techniques the Toolbox meaningfully connects two other outputs of the project – i.e. smartness self-assessment and the collection of good practices.

The prototype has been presented on the 32nd Bled Conference – Humanizing technology for a sustainable society that was held in Bled, Slovenia (June 16 – 19, 2019). The title of the presentation was Smart Villages: Digital tools for community engagement and sustainable rural development.

University of Ljubljana will further develop the prototype according to partner’s comments and recommendations and present the updated version of the toolbox on the next project meeting that will be held in September 2019 in Koper, Slovenia.

![Image 1: Front page of the Digital Smart Village Toolbox.](image1.png)

❤️ The publication “**Framework for Assessing the Smartness Maturity Level of Villages**”, by Jorge Martinez-Gil, Mario Pichler, Tina Beranic, Lucija Brezocnik, Muhamed Turkanovic, Gianluca Lentini, Francesca Polettini, Alessandro Lue, Alberto Colorni Vitale, Guillaume Doukhan and Claire Belet has been recognized as an academic document

It will be presented in the First international workshop on Qualitative Aspects of User-Centered Analytics to be celebrated in Bled, Slovenia on 8th of September.
On 11 July 2019 a review paper on “Living Labs for Rural Areas: Contextualization of Living Lab Frameworks, Concepts and Practices” authored by Veronika Zavratnik, Argene Superina and Emilija Stojmenova Duh of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, has been published in the special issue of the journal Sustainability: The Governance of Social Innovation for a Sustainable Economy: Requirements, Actors and Approaches. The theme is strongly connected to both Smart Villages and the digitalization aspects. The paper is available here: https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/14/3797

On 12th-13th March 2019 ADRETS has organized the project’s Steering Committee in Saint-Jean en Royans, hosted in a Hotel situated in the heart of this Alpine village. The two days were been highly interactive and participative: the Partnership particularly worked on the progression of the Digital Exchange Platform tool expected to be fully operational by mid-2019. The partners worked in a collaborative process to stabilize the platform functionalities in order to give this deliverable a high potential to enable transnational exchange about Smart Villages initiatives, issues and solutions, both between partners and the representatives of the Test Areas’ Regional stakeholder groups. Also a dedicated presentation have been processed by University of Ljubljana on the SV Toolbox progress, expecting an official launch for the Mid-Term conference that will be held in Slovenia. Finally, partners have lived a very enthusiastic and fruitful exploratory trip through Royans-Vercors Test Area, with the visit of three places of interest already involved in the smart transition of the territory.

11th - 13th of April took place in Trento the "EURO Working group on Multicriteria Decision Aiding 2019 meeting" organized by the MCDA and the University of Trento. In this occasion SmartVillages partner Poliedra presented an abstract entitled "Assessing and rating the level of smartness of mountain areas by the use of Electre Tri: the pilot case of the ongoing Alpine Space project SmartVillages" by Lentini, Polettini, Luè and Colorni Vitale. The abstract has been accepted as a 'discussion paper' in the section 5 - Multicriteria Decision Aiding applied to territorial and Urban Planning.

On the 9th of May 2019, the representative of the ERDF Lead Partner dr. Muhamed Turkanović (University of Maribor) participated in a public event “Smart city platform of the University of Maribor and the presentation
of the European Smart Village concept”, hosted by the Center for smart cities in the community and the University of Maribor (UM:CPMS).

The key speaker at the event was Mr. Franc Bogovič – Member of the European Parliament, which presented the European concept of a Smart village and the activities on the EU level connected to this concept (legislative, financial, organisational). The basic idea of the event, was to present to the public the work done on the Smart City initiative as well as the possible connections with the Smart Villages concept.

Muhamed Turkanović presented the Interreg Alpine Space SmartVillages project, its core elements, anticipated outcomes, methodologies and current results. The gathered public comprised local and regional representatives of the government, business, media and academia. He outlined the possible linkages between the activities on the Smart Cities projects and those of the Smart Villages, while focusing on the Digital Exchange Platform and its functionalities, which will be able to gather and accumulate good practices and guide possible stakeholders towards a smart transition.

On the 23-24th May, 2019 the event « Smart Villages as a common perspective through different visions » has been organized by Regione Valle d’Aosta, as part of the Italian presidency of EUSALP in Courmayeur (Italy). Particular attention was paid to the development of the Smart Village concept and how it relates to the themes concerned in the Action Groups involved.

In the framework of the module “Alps are doing Smart” Peter Niederer from SmartVillages Lead partner SAB presented the status quo and perspectives of the SmartVillages project. Darja Kukovic from SmartVillages financial Leadpartner University of Maribor has been interviewed on the challenges of digitalisation in peripheral areas. The event was the perfect opportunity to bring together EUSALP Action Group members and different implementing teams applying an SV approach.

On Saturday 25th of May 2019 the Energy and Environment Agency of Lower Austria organized an E-Mobility workshop. Beside of presentations of international e-mobility experts, participants had the opportunity to test a wide range of e-vehicles at one of Europe’s biggest e-mobility-test-events.

On 26th of June 2019 University of Maribor hosted the EUSALP AG5 Meeting, where the Smart Villages approach was discussed through activities within SmartVillages Alpine Space project. Next day a visiting tour of one of the project’s Test Area was organised, specifically the Slovene Pomurje region, where examples of good practices in smart agriculture with special focus on Short Food Supply Chains has been presented, as well as the connected work of the Digital Innovation Hub AGRIFOOD. EUSALP communication team was invited to record some details in order to produce a promotional video, which will be launched in autumn and spread across the EUSALP and its members.
The Newsletter#03 - November 2019 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 conference!

www.facebook.com/project.SmartVillages/
www.linkedin.com/in/smartvillages-alpine-space-592601177/
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