

# First SmartAlps webinar

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Alpine Space

SmartCommUnity



## The SmartCommUnity approach and definition

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# General overview

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## Who are we? What are we doing?

We are **12 partners** coming from **6 Alpine countries** (AT, CH, DE, FR, IT, SI) who are '*building on the concept of **Smart Villages** towards a transnational and **EUSALP-integrated Smart Community in the Alps***'. See the project website here:

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/smartcommunity/>

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## Some key words and key concepts:

- **EUSALP**: the Macroregional Strategy for the Alps. We aim at strengthening the **SmartAlps** network thanks to our **Test Areas**.
- **Smart Villages**: a 2018-2021 Alpine Space project, that yielded good, effective results for 12+ Test Areas and contributed to creating the European discourse on smart and sustainable rural/mountain areas
- **Community**, beyond village: our approach underlines the wider 'community' concept, beyond the technicalities entailed by the 'smart village' approach, to highlight the importance of the social aspect, the identities, culture and local pride as one of the main assets of the Alps.
- **Test Areas**: we work with a structure composed of **Lighthouse** Test Areas and **Follower** Test Areas, and we have created a system of knowledge exchange both at transnational and at national levels.

# A common language, a common understanding?

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Do we really **understand** each other? Are **'smart'** and **'community'** and **'Test Area'** the same in all our languages? And would our **local communities understand us?**



Creation of a shared methodology, a shared approach and a shared definition.

# The Smart Community shared definition (in English)

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Smart communities are communities of people, in mountain or rural areas, that are proud and aware of their **identity, their territory, their craftsmanship, their products and their close-knit social fabric**, and that want to become **active players in determining their own future, owning and driving the changes that the future, and any digital transition, may entail**. Smart communities are open to **innovate, to learn and to inspire**, and to work holistically towards **smart and green** rural and mountain areas, that are **lively and lived**, that aim to become carbon-neutral and that can be or become **attractive to live and work for all age groups**.

# The Smart Community shared approach (being tested)

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- The **Smart Community definition** is being tested in French, German, Italian, Slovene in all our Test Areas: a shared approach towards a sense of ownership of change.
- **Regional stakeholder groups** have been formed in all Test Areas and are starting to work in local smart transition: the transnational and national knowledge exchanges guarantees the cross-fertilization of ideas.
- **Test Areas** are working in Smart Economy, Smart Environment, Smart Governance, Smart Living, Smart Mobility and Smart People.

# The Smart Community approach more in detail

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- **Experiment innovative solutions** for the smart transition of the Test Areas and inspire additional areas in the partner and other Alpine regions to follow suit, via a strong regional approach of Lighthouse Test Areas working closely with selected Follower Test areas;
- **Closely work with all Test Areas at EUSALP level**, facilitating the uptake of the smart community concept in regional, national and European policies and fostering a sense of a structured Alpine community with common challenges and visions;
- **Develop new digital tools** to facilitate matchmaking, networking, and engagement activities in search of locally-tailored and led smart solutions, such as gamification and civic tech (WPIT);
- **Change perceptions** and create a smart vision for the Alps, and effectively communicating the opportunities and results in the Alps and beyond for more areas to join in.

# The Smart Community and EUSALP SmartAlps

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The SmartCommUnity project aims to support Alpine rural areas, using all the benefits of digitalization, embracing smart transitions and creating a **functional transnational community within EUSALP AG5 Smart Alps**. AG5 is EUSALP Action Group dedicated to connectivity and accessibility.

The SmartCommUnity **Test Areas** want to inspire more Alpine territories to join in SmartAlps. Be inspired!



# SmartCommuUnity: where are we now and why today?

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- We started on November 1 2022: **activities are well under way** as regards EUSALP, the Test Areas and the digital tools.
- Today we'd like to present a **smart area**, the **community approach** and the concept of **local heroes**
- Today we'd like to start **promoting and building the smart community definition and network** beyond the box of the project itself.

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# Thank you for your attention!

**Gianluca Lentini, Poliedra**

