

**Interreg**  
Alpine Space



# **Smart villages: Policies needed for a smart transition of rural areas**

**Policy conference of the SmartVillages  
Interreg Alpine Space Project**

10th of November 2020, online

## **AGENDA SmartVillages policy conference**

**Date and time:** 10th of November 2020, 09.15 am to 12.20 pm

**Location:** online via ZOOM

**Languages:** English

### **Context:**

The term Smart Villages refers to the networking of different sectors (housing, mobility, supply, administration, etc.) by means of new information and communication technologies in order to make the best possible use of synergy potentials. Smart Villages projects involve partnerships of decision makers, service providers, citizens and other relevant actors. Since 2018, the Interreg project SmartVillages has initiated about a dozen projects in 9 test regions throughout the Alpine Space, ranging from village coworking spaces to car-sharing applications and from digital village platforms to the installation of public Wlan transmitters and the realisation of fibre optic networks. The interim conclusion of this project phase: new technologies can indeed trigger a revolution in rural areas, but only if the technical component and the social component are well combined. Which means, firstly, that the digital infrastructures must be available and secondly, projects must be organised in such a way that citizens and residents can actively participate in the development of new services. Politicians at local, regional, national and European level are called upon to create good framework conditions for this. The conference offers participants the opportunity to learn more about good SmartVillages examples and to contribute to policy recommendations aimed at improving the conditions for digitisation and social innovation in mountain regions.



<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>
9.15h-9.20h	Opening by Thomas Egger, Director Center for mountain regions (SAB)
9.20h -9.35h	Official welcome by Maria Lezzi, Director of the Swiss Federal office for Spatial Development)
9.35h – 9.50h	The SmartVillages Story: From Eusalp to SmartVillages and back (Thomas Egger, SAB)
9.50h – 10.15h	The Interreg Alpine Space SmartVillages Project, an overview (Peter Niederer, SAB)
10.15h- 10.40h	Presentation of a SmartVillage, the local hero concept in Slovenia (Emilija Stojmenova, University of Ljubljana)
10.40h – 10.50h	Break
10.50h – 12.10h	Participatory plenary : Bring together the policy recommendations forward. Plenary participants : Franc Bogovič, Member of European Parliament, a representative of DG Agri (European Union), Eric Jakob, Head of Economic Promotion, Swiss federal state secretariat for Economy, Esther Schlumpf, Regional economic agency Oberwallis (Switzerland), Moderated by Thomas Egger (SAB)
12.10h – 12.20h	Conclusions and outlook (Thomas Egger, SAB)

### **Notes:**

No later than 2 November 2020 you will receive a ZOOM link and a short description of how to participate and contribute to the online conference. In the same mailing you will also receive the draft of the SmartVillages policy recommendations for review. We would be pleased if you could give us your opinion on the draft and additions in one of the following ways. 1) in writing by email (to [peter.niederer@sab.ch](mailto:peter.niederer@sab.ch)) before the conference or 2) by chat during the plenary discussion in the framework of the online conference on 10 November 2020.

### **Registration and deadline:**

Under <http://www.sab.ch/dienstleistungen/internationale-zusammenarbeit/smart-villages/meeting-10112020-english.html> till the 2nd of November 2020.