Smart villages – a strategic priority for EUSALP

10 November 2020

Thomas Egger, Swiss Centre for mountain regions SAB – Co-Leader AG5/EUSALP
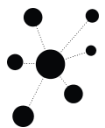
80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions, mountains and plains addressing together common challenges and opportunities

European Commission

Interreg Alpine Space
EUROPEAN UNION
AlpGov

This project is co-financed by the European Union via Interreg Alpine Space

What is EUSALP?

A macroregional strategy strives to find common solutions for common challenges in a defined area. It is a strategic approach at transnational level.

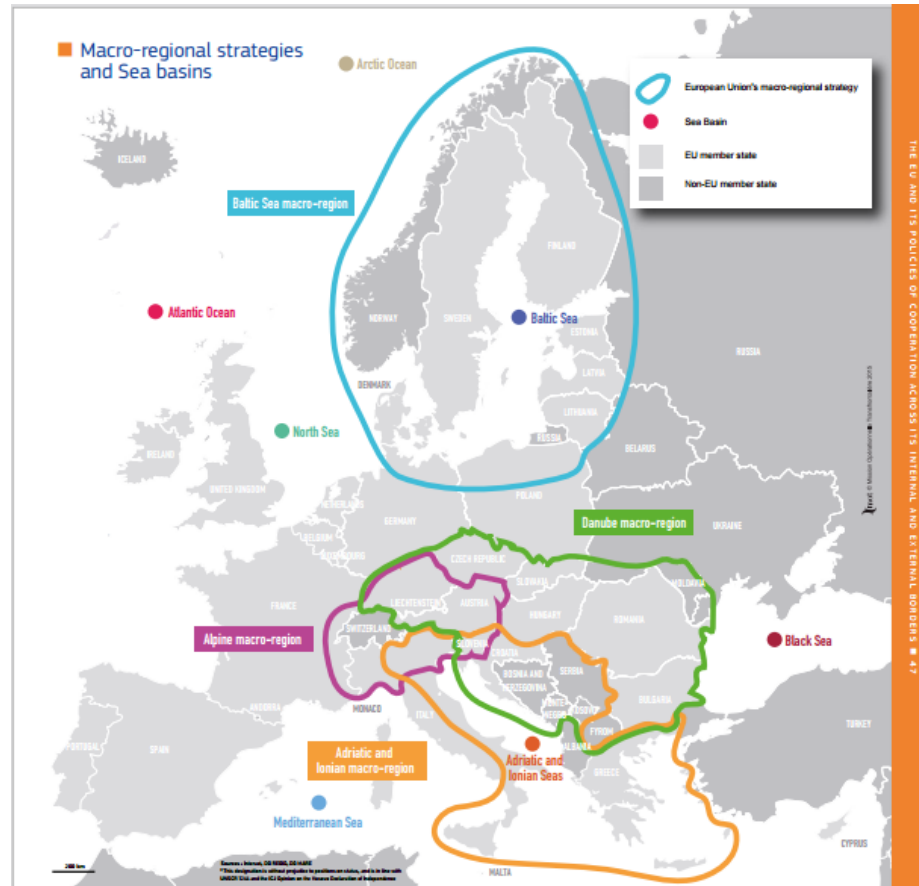Turn the 3 No's of the EU-Commission into opportunities:

- No new structures -> better cooperation in a mulitlevel-governance approach.

- No new legislation -> better alignement of exisiting policies.

- No new funding -> better coordination of existing fundings

A bit of history:

- Initiated by impetus from the alpine regions starting from 2011 («bottom up»).

- Elaboration of an action plan and adoption of this action plan in 2015.

- Start of implementation based on the action plan in 2016. Rotating presidencies: SLO (2016), BAY (2017), Tyrol (2018), RLO (2019), FR (2020-21), …

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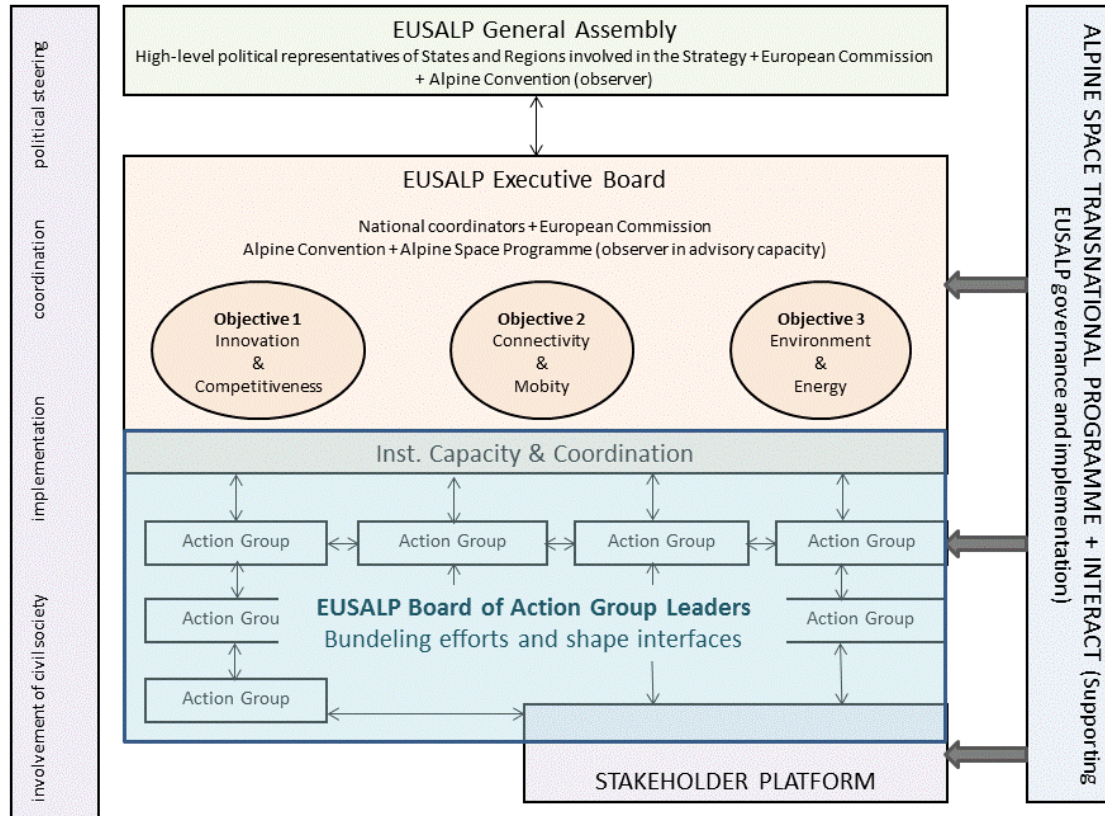
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Alpine Convention

Alsace
Baden-Württemberg
Bavaria
Niederösterreich
Wien
Oberösterreich
Franche-Comté
NW-Schweiz
Zürich
Steiermark
Burgenland
Espace Mitteland
Vorarlberg
Tirol
Salzburg
Zentral-schweiz
Liechtenstein
Ostschweiz
Bolzano/Bozen
Kärnten
Région Lémanique
Ticino
Friuli Venezia Giulia
Trento
Slovenija
Valle d'Aosta
Rhône-Alpes
Lombardia
Veneto
Piemonte
Liguria
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

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political steering

coordination

implementation

involvement of civil society

EUSALP General Assembly

High-level political representatives of States and Regions involved in the Strategy + European Commission + Alpine Convention (observer)

EUSALP Executive Board

National coordinators + European Commission
Alpine Convention + Alpine Space Programme (observer in advisory capacity)

Objective 1
Innovation
&
Competitiveness

Objective 2
Connectivity
&
Mobity

Objective 3
Environment
&
Energy

Inst. Capacity & Coordination

Action Group | Action Group | Action Group | Action Group

EUSALP Board of Action Group Leaders
Bundeling efforts and shape interfaces

Action Grou | Action Group

Action Group

STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

ALPINE SPACE TRANSNATIONAL PROGRAMME + INTERACT (Supporting EUSALP governance and implementation)

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EUSALP PILLARS AND AGs

Pillar 1: Economic growth and innovation

Objective: Fair access to job opportunities, building on the high competitiveness of the Region

Pillar 2: Mobility and connectivity

Objective: Sustainable internal and external acessibility to all

Pillar 3: Environment and energy

Objective: A more inclusive environmental framework for all and renewable and reliable energy solutions for the future

AG1: To develop an effective research and innovation ecosystem

AG2: To increase the economic potential of strategic sectors

AG3: To improve the adequacy of labour market, education and training in strategic sectors

AG4: To promote inter-modality and interoperability in passenger and freight transport

AG5: To connect people electronically and promote accessibility to public services

AG6: To preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources

AG7: To develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory

AG8: To improve risk management and to better manage climate change, including major natural risks prevention

AG9: To make the territory a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy

CROSS-CUTTING POLICY AREA: GOVERNANCE, INCLUDING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY
Objective: A sound macro-regional governance model for the Region (to improve cooperation and the coordination of action)

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EUSALP is strongly supported by the Alpine Space Program

- **AlpGov 1: 2016 – 2019**
  Focus: Capacity building of AG's, Implementation of strategic implementation intiatives (at least 1 per AG), enhancing govenance and financial mechanisms, encouraging cross-AG-coooperation through ARPAF-Funds.
  -> **Build-up-phase, mostly in a (sectoral) project logic.**

- **AlpGov 2: 2020 - 2022**
  Focus: Capitalisation, Cross-sectoral strategic implementation initiatives, entering into the policy cycle, building up a lerning environment.
  -> More strategic approach, consolidation, more work across AG's, focus on policy and embedding.

Smart villages – a strategic implementation initiative of AG5

- Motto of AG5: **«To make the Alps the forerunners of Digitalization in Europe»**

- **Main activities of AG5 in the period 2016 – 2019 (AlpGov 1)**
  - INTESI (Alpine Space Program project, 2015 – 18)
  - Smart villages (Alpine Space Program project, 2018 – 21)
  - Fibre optics backbone in the alpine area (study carried out in 2018-19)
  - Crossborder Mobility (ARPAF project 2017 – 18)
  - Smart SME's (ARPAF project 2019 – 21)
  - Think Tank on SGI (since 2016)

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AlpGov 1: final results

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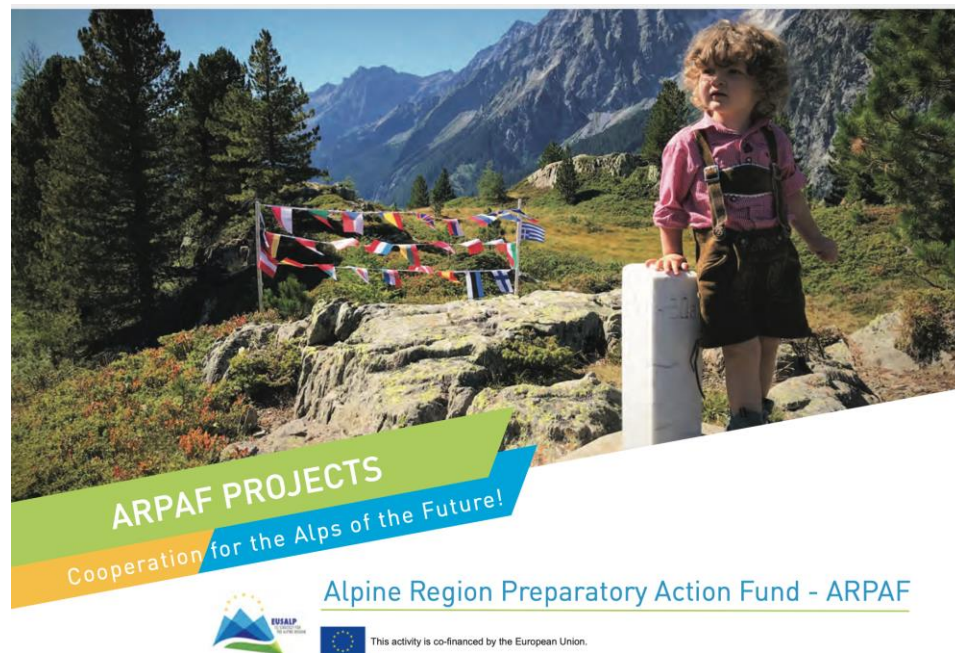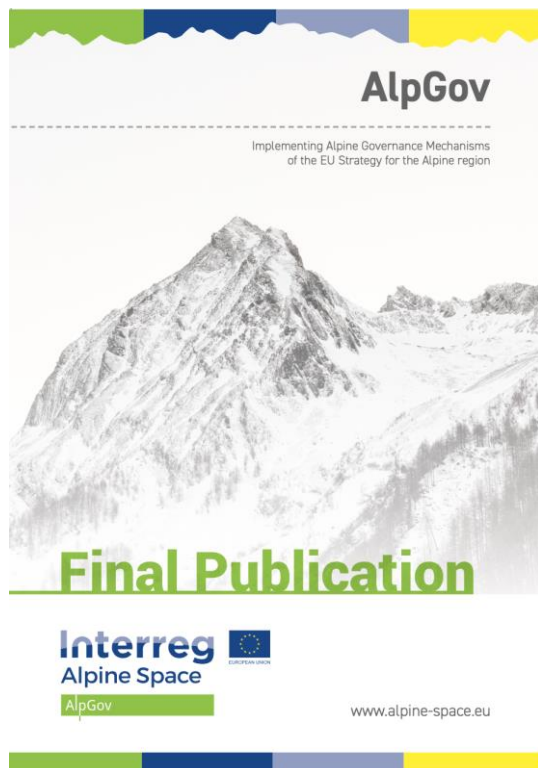
AlpGov 1: Strategic implementation initiatives

1. Interacting tool to explore the governance in the field of research and development (AG1)
2. Mapping research centers and labs in the alpine region (AG1)
3. Building bio-based value chains in the alpine region through cross regional cluster cooperation (AG2)
4. Performing dual systems for youngsters in the alpine space (AG3)
5. Facilitating crossborder commuting (AG4 and 5)
6. Implementing modal shift policies with a focus on toll systems (AG4)
7. Smart villages (AG5)
8. Improving (digital) crossborder connectivity (AG5)
9. Knowledge network for agri-food and forestry value chains (AG6)
10. Sustainable land use and soil protection (AG6)
11. Linking urban and inner alpine green infrastructure (AG7)
12. Fostering the natural risk governance dialogue (AG8)
13. Increasing energy efficiency in the enterprises (AG9)
14. Transforming the alpine region into a model region for energy efficiency and renewable energy (AG9)

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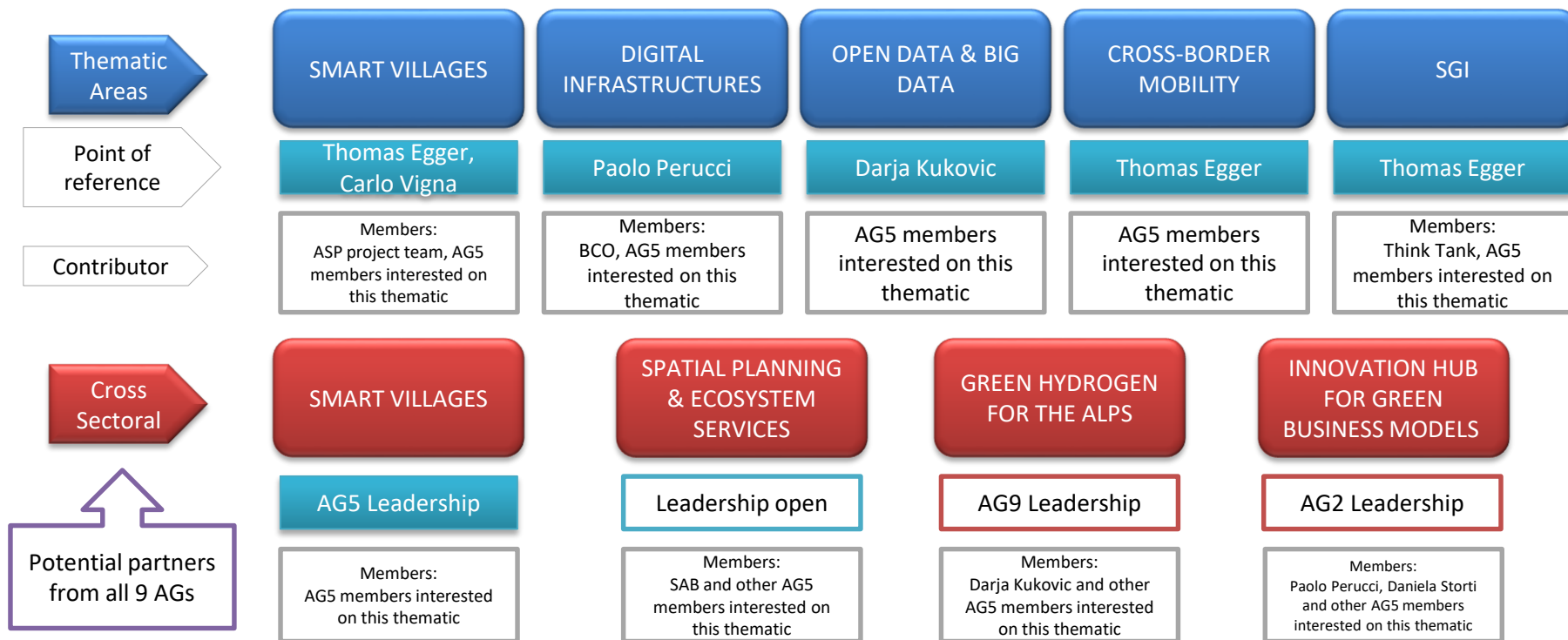
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AlpGov 2 – Cross-sectoral Strat. Impl. initiatives

- Spatial planning (to elaborate a common spatial development perspective)
- A carbon neutral alpine region (focus on green hydrogen)
- Innovation Hub for Green Business (Wood and timber value chains, sustainable tourism, green and digital industry)
- Smart villages (to transform as many as possible alpine villages into Smart villages and to create a network of them)
- EUSALP Innovation Facility (supportive tool)

- + at least 1 strategic implementation initiative per AG

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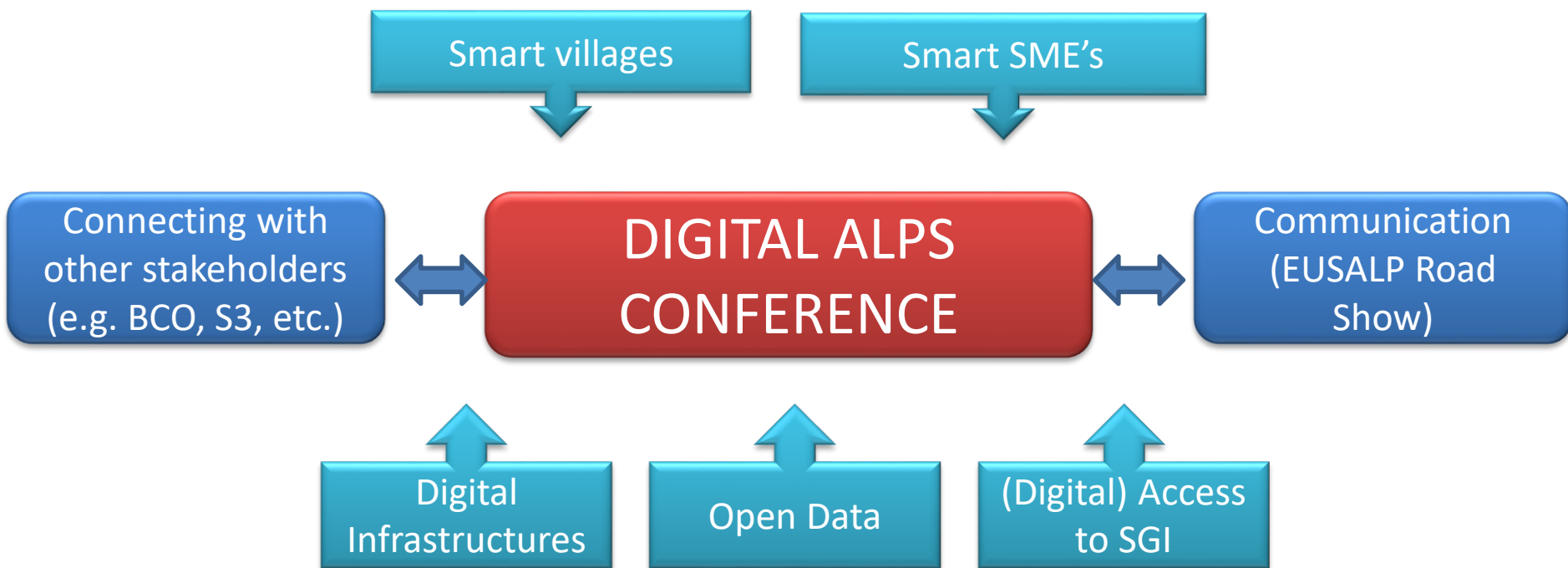
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AlpGov 2 – organization of AG5 in focus areas

Smart villages – a strategic priority for EUSALP

- The Smart villages project (2018 – 21) was important to make the Smart villages approach known and to develop a common understanding, methodology and transferable tools (DEP) and to test them in practise. The Covid-19-crisis proofed, that the Smart villages approch helps to strenghten the resilience of mountain villages.

- The Smart villages project has to a great extent contributed to the profile of EUSALP and to its visibility.

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Smart villages – a strategic priority for EUSALP

- In the period 2020 – 22, Smart villages is a strategic priority for EUSALP. The focus lies on capitalisation of the experiences from the ASP-Smart villages project. The aim is to turn as many as possible mountain villages into Smart villages. Foreseen activities are:
  - Survey on exisiting Smart villages in the Alpine area (✓)
  - Survey on existing financial support mechanisms for Smart villages (✓)
  - Promoting the Smart villages approach in the whole alpine area
    -> Flyer, mainly based on the ASP-project, to be disseminated in 2021.
  - Creating a network of Smart villages in the alpine area to encourage the exchange of experiences
  - Launch of the new network planned for the Digital Alps Conference on 27/28 May 2021 in Trieste.

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Specific for CH – Launch of new initiative to develop Smart villages

- Agreement between the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO and SAB

- Support for mountain villages to become Smart villages:
  - Use of the Smartness Self Assessment Tool and the DEP of the ASP Smart villages project.
  - Financial support for villages or regions to elaborate an action plan in a participatory process, involving all relevant stakeholders.
  - Obligation to take part in a national exchange meeting in 2022.
  - Follow-up measures (implementation) to be financed by other, existing instruments.

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Eidgenössisches Departement für
Wirtschaft, Bildung und Forschung WBF
Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO

Neue Regionalpolitik **nrp**
Nouvelle politique régionale **npr**
Nuova politica regionale **npr**
Nova politica regiunala **npr**

SAB

Schweizerische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für die Berggebiete
Groupement suisse pour les régions de montagne
Gruppo svizzero per le regioni di montagna
Gruppa svizra per las regiuns da muntogna

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