



**EUSALP** EU STRATEGY FOR THE ALPINE REGION

[www.alpine-region.eu](http://www.alpine-region.eu)

# Action Group 5

Presentation by EUSALP Action Group Leader on main needs, priorities or projects on accessibility and digital connectivity

WORKSHOP 2: synergies on mobility and connectivity  
Brussels - 20th February 2020



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<https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-5>

80 million people, 7 countries, 48 regions,  
mountains and plains addressing together  
common challenges and opportunities



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

## Aims of the AG5



AG5 strives to “**make the Alps the forerunners of digitalization in Europe**” working to improve the e-connectivity and the accessibility to services of general interest in the Alpine Area.

Therefore AG5, co-led by Aosta Valley Autonomous Region and Swiss Group for Mountain Regions (SAB):

1. constitutes **the focal point for discussion on the potentials of digitalization** in the Alpine area
2. gives **a strategic dimension** to
  - the **accessibility of services of general interest** by a permanent alpine think tank and
  - the **development of digital infrastructures** for growth, sustainability and competitiveness of the Alpine region;
3. encourages **the exchange of experiences in the EUSALP-perimeter** through the cooperation with various Alpine Space Programme projects, cross-border cooperation projects and stakeholders networks at European and Alpine level;
4. coordinates it's work with the other Action Groups of EUSALP to develop **common technological solutions based on ICT** for joint initiatives.

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## Examples of relevant activities developed

### ASP Smart Villages



*Apply a SV approach (\*) to improve the framework for innovation through new forms of stakeholder involvement facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies*

6 countries, 9 regions involved, 13 partners, 12 test areas based on regional stakeholder groups

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/smartvillages/en/home>

### Fiber Optic Feasibility Study

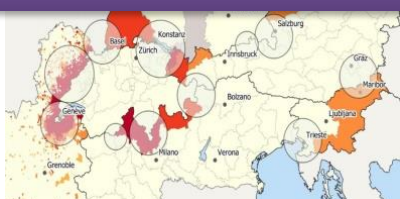


*Develop infrastructure of cross border fiber-optics backbones to fulfill the connectivity gaps in the Alpine area*

Priorities survey and infrastructure analysis with possible models of intervention, 14 cross-border gaps found, 4 possible applications

<https://www.alpine-region.eu/publications/cross-border-connectivity-alpine-region>

### ARPAF Crossborder Mobility



*Increase cross-border mobility across the Alpine Region, identify gaps in the infrastructure and facilitate sustainable cross-border commuting, avoiding negative impacts on economy, society and the environment.*

12 cross-border case studies, analysis on incoming and outgoing commuters and cross-border infrastructures, innovative solutions and models of cooperation, 9 policy recommendations to improve cross-border mobility

<https://www.alpine-region.eu/projects/arpaf-crossborder>

(\*) Smart Villages are communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities. They rely on a participatory approach to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and/or environmental conditions, in particular by mobilising solutions offered by digital technologies

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## 3 main priorities

1

### Digital transformation

Transform Alpine villages into **Smart villages** starting from the needs of local communities on different smartness dimensions (smart mobility, smart energy, smart economy, smart government, smart people,...)

Better and sustainable public services in Alpine area

Tackling depopulation of villages and improve quality of life

Improve economic, social and environmental conditions

Improve resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities

2

### Digital infrastructures

Develop **future-proof digital infrastructures** in the whole Alpine area filling the gaps in connectivity and distributed facilities for sustainability, long term development and competitiveness

Increase resilience of TLC networks and coverage of territories by Wi-Fi

Better 5G coverage of «Alpine corridors» and connections to cities

Improve Digital inclusion and access to Digital market

Enable IoT for tourism, agriculture, natural hazard monitoring, etc.

3

### Cross-border mobility

Make borders “disappear” to **solve commuting issues** through common policies, innovative mobility solutions and potentials new technologies

Better mobility between borders

Reduce commuting through the use of new technologies

Abolish artificial administrative barriers

Permanent political dialogue on crossborder-mobility

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## 3 concrete projects or initiatives to be funded

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Digital transform.</b></p>	<p>Spread and speed-up the Smart Villages approach on a wide scale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Boost implementation in the EUSALP regions (first adoption where not already started, wide-scale diffusion otherwise), preserving territorial approach and flexibility about local priorities on smartness dimensions</i></li> <li>• <i>Coordinated approach at different levels (regional/municipality/village) to help villages on digital inclusion and digital transformation on the different thematics (eHealth, Sustainable Mobility, Digital Skills...)</i></li> <li>• <i>Support activities to further develop forerunner projects, share the knowledge and experiences of the Smart Villages approach in the Alps</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Digital infrastructures</b></p>	<p>Reach critical mass of future-proof digital infrastructures starting from connectivity issues in mountain areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implement new fiber optic backbones connections to close cross-border gaps starting from those identified in Feasibility study under a "common blueprint" at macro-regional level with "rewarding schemes"</i></li> <li>• <i>Set up a public neutral infrastructure in white areas for 5G connectivity and facilities (e.g. pylons, POP,...) on cross border links (not covered by TEN-T), main connections to the cities, local innovation hubs, touristic assets (ski resorts, natural parks, bike paths,...) and increase the coverage of the Alpine villages</i></li> <li>• <i>Launch relevant IoT applications enabled by new future-proof digital infrastructures by public-private consortium developing digital ecosystems based on common standards</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Crossborder mobility</b></p>	<p>Make borders disappear to solve commuting issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implement new solutions of cross-border commuting in various areas as identified in ARPAP project and assure their financing</i></li> <li>• <i>Create a homogenous statistical database via Eurostat</i></li> <li>• <i>Abolish artificial administrative barriers</i></li> <li>• <i>Establish a permanent political dialogue on cross-border mobility ("Suivi de Zurich" for cross-border commuting)</i></li> </ul>

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