

SIMRA - Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas – and Smart Villages in the Alpine context

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www.simra-h2020.eu

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- A few words about SIMRA
- Challenges addressed in the Alpine context
- Social innovation in the Alps and beyond
- SIMRA & Smart Villages

What is SIMRA?

Horizon 2020
+
SIMRA = Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas
+
April 2016 – March 2020
+
26 partners
=
to advance understanding of social innovation and
innovative governance

“Marginalised”:

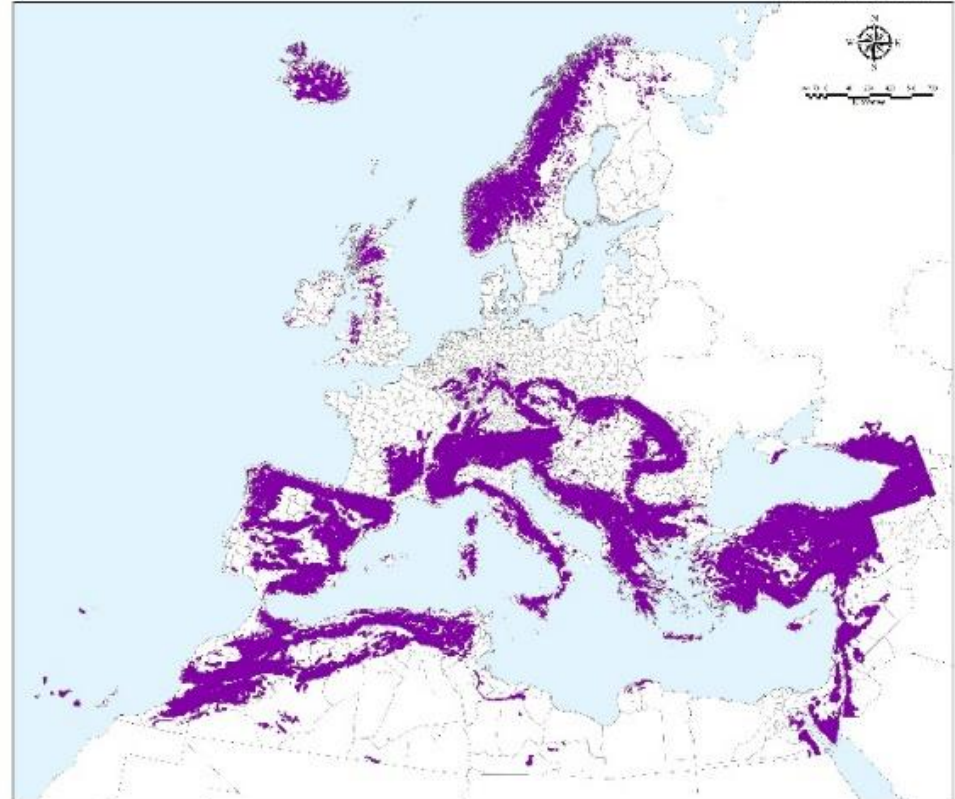
- Physical constraints
- Limited access to infrastructure
- Marginalised populations



Mountain Areas



EUROPEAN UNION
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Mountains ca 25% of SIMRA's study area



- mobility
- social services
- population and demographics
- identity
- entrepreneurial spirit
- agricultural and forestry areas

The first Italian rural hackathon! Valbelluno, Italy



Mit Bäuerinnen
lernen - wachsen - leben
SOZIALGENOSSENSCHAFT

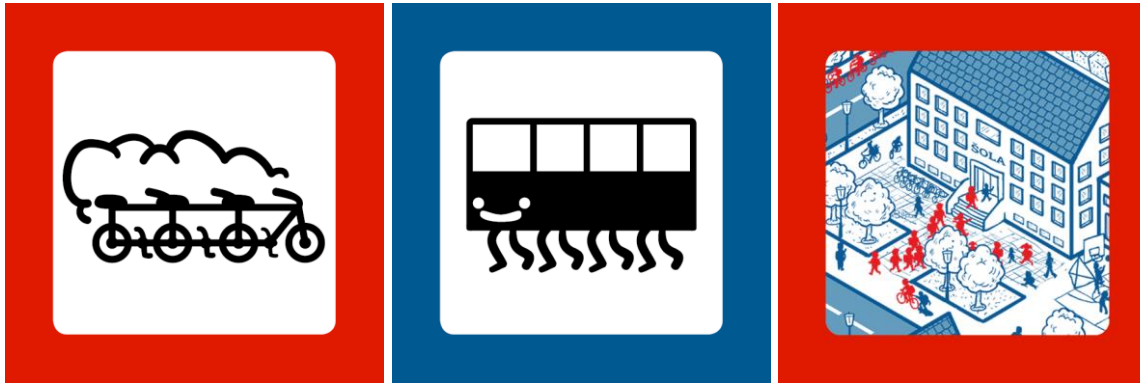
eurac
research



Learning-Growing-Living with women farmers Trentino Alto-Adige, Italy



Social Innovation in the Alps (2/2)



« Akt!vno v šolo » sustainable mobility schemes
Slovenia



ZEITBANK55+ time bank
Austria



« Réseau des Fleurons », a watchmakers'
network to support local development
Switzerland





1. Social capital
2. Community-led provision of services of general interest
3. Scale of Smart Villages strategies

1. start up costs
2. institutional barriers
3. risk aversion
4. human capital - leadership
5. social capital - trust
6. engagement



(Where) can policy make a difference?

1. capacity building/training
2. community engagement
3. community hubs/anchor organisations
4. non-statutory village development plans
5. sector-specific policies
6. asset transfers
7. explicit support in RDPs and OP

1. **one cross-cutting principle** in the new framework
2. to be used with any **RDPs** measures along **CLLD**
3. **as a policy accelerator** complementing initiatives such as Smart Villages

Smarter and more effective policies to support social innovation in rural areas have a vital contribution to make rural areas more resilient, innovative and attractive, including the mountains & the Alps

Thematic good practice and case studies for inspiration

12 case studies

Rural services

In the Balkans

In mountain areas

Forestry (soon)

Innovation actions (soon)



A public database of examples for learning and discovery

Policy briefs to understand where we are and what we are after:

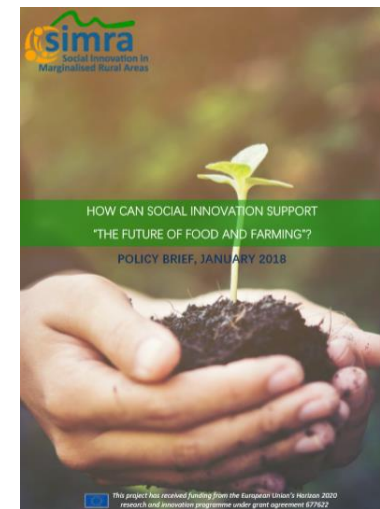
How can social innovation support the future of Food and Farming?

A policy guide (soon)

A practitioner guide (soon)

Scientific articles and presentations for informed discussions

Newsletters /website / social networks for raising awareness



A man in a dark blue jacket and black pants is hiking up a grassy mountain trail. He is carrying a young child in a grey and red backpack. The child is wearing a black beanie and dark pants. They are both looking towards the right, where a range of blue mountains is visible under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish grass.

Thank you !

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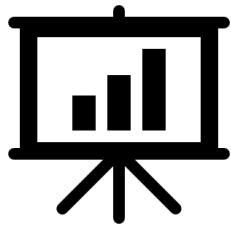
Place du Champ de Mars, 2
1050 Brussels

Let's keep in touch



Theoretical approach

- Defining social innovation
- Mapping rural areas
- Mapping related policies
- Analysing data from case studies & database
- Creating an evaluation framework
- Etc.



Practical approach

- Multi-actor approach
 - NGOs, networks, LAGs
- Stakeholder consultations
- Innovation Actions



1. Understand social innovation (SI) dynamics in marginalised rural areas
 - SI definition, case studies
2. Create methods to identify and evaluate SI
 - Indicators, database of examples
3. Support and sustain SI initiatives to bridge the gap between research, policy and practice
 - Innovation Actions