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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Plan

• 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
Mountains as Marginalized Rural Areas

“Marginalised”:

- Physical constraints
- Limited access to infrastructure
- Marginalised populations

Mountains ca 25% of SIMRA’s study area
Structural challenges in the Alps by SIMRA

- mobility
- social services
- population and demographics
- identity
- entrepreneurial spirit
- agricultural and forestry areas
Social Innovation in the Alps (1/2)

The first Italian rural hackathon!
Valbelluno, Italy

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

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“Alps doing Smart” Session
Smart Villages - A common perspective through different visions
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

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“Alps doing Smart” Session
Smart Villages - A common perspective through different visions
HOW CAN SOCIAL INNOVATION HELP VILLAGES BECOME SMARTER?
1. Social capital

2. Community-led provision of services of general interest

3. Scale of Smart Villages strategies
Barriers’ assessment

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
Our message for the future of Social Innovation

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
Useful tools for YOU - www.simra-h2020.eu

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

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Thank you!

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Let's keep in touch
Challenges addressed by SIMRA

**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

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Smart Villages - A common perspective through different visions
Challenges addressed by SIMRA

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