SMART MOUNTAINS

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How to make our territories attractive and future- oriented?

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SMART VILLAGES IN MOUNTAIN AREAS

Experiences from the Interreg Alpine Space project «Smart Villages» (2018-2021)

Interreg Alpine Space
EUROPEAN UNION
SMARTVillages

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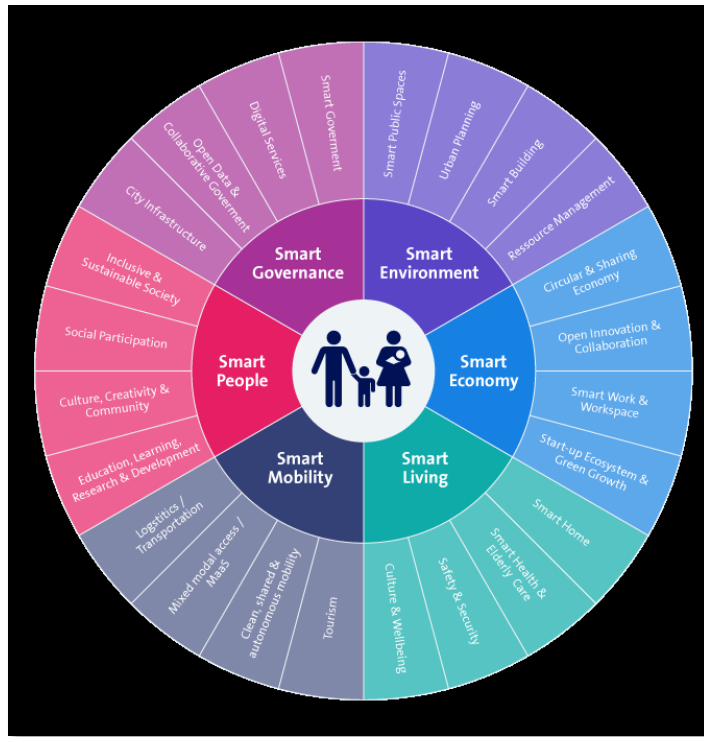
Poliedra

SMART VILLAGES IS A SMART CONCEPT!

- **13** partners from **6** Alpine countries

- **11+** Test Areas

- A **common methodological framework** for the involvement of stakeholders and the assessment of smartness

- **Recommendations** for policy makers

The literature defines **indicators** and **methodologies** for Smart Cities. Can we work with the same framework for sparsely populated areas too? Well, **yes and no.**

ASSESSING SMARTNESS, SETTING PRIORITIES, KICKSTARTING ACTIONS

An **ad-hoc methodology** was **co-designed with all partners** and applied to **all Test Areas** with local stakeholders: this is key for an effective work, and for ushering a transformation that is effectively **owned by local people**.
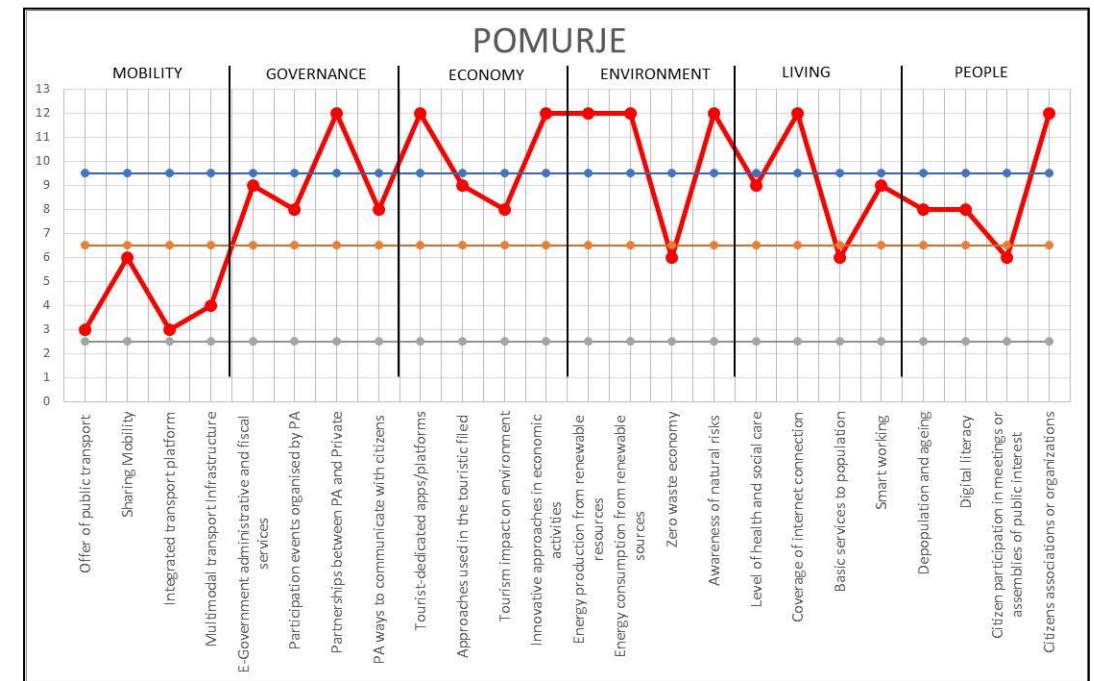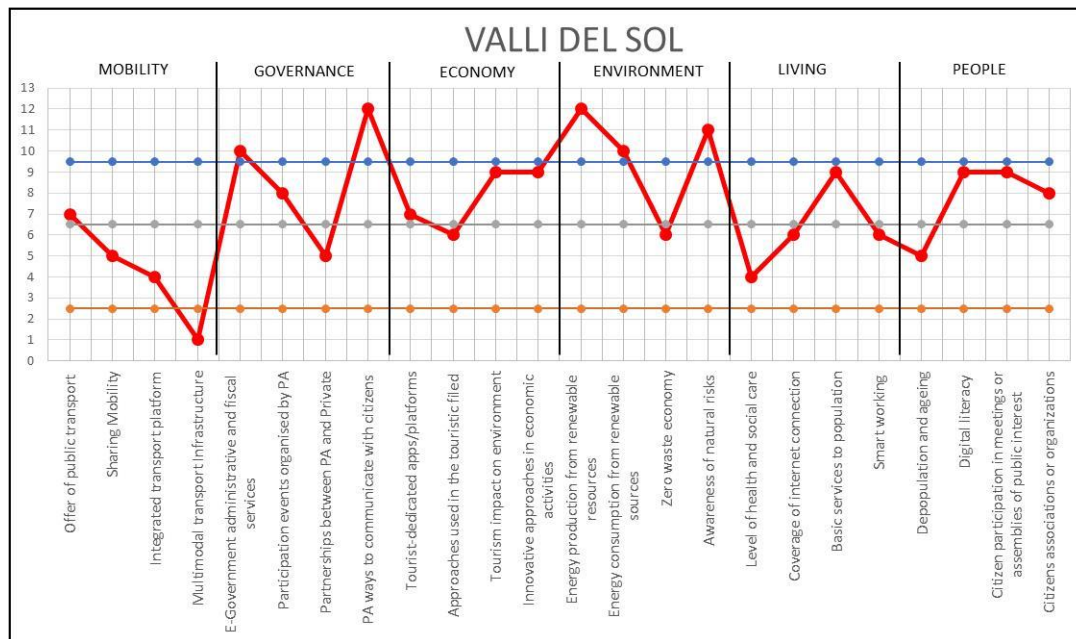
- **Electric 'valley' car-sharing**, matching the demand for transport of an Alpine valley with the need to commute, reduce congestion and reduce environmental impact (Austria)

- **Public transport on demand**, matching the need to counter the lack of transport services with the opportunities that IT and smartphones allow (Italy)

- **Creation of digital labs and hubs**, areas of innovation and services to the population, from the most basic services (transport) to the most innovative ones (3D printers, robotics) (France)

- **Smart and sustainable agriculture**, strengthening networks between producers and customers, creating digital shops, innovating towards blockchain (Slovenia)

SUCH ACTIONS INCREASED THE RESILIENCE OF THE AREAS DURING THE PANDEMIC AND THE LOCKDOWNS

SMART VILLAGES CAN BE:

- **'Equalisers'**, or areas aiming to offer opportunities akin to those offered by urban areas

- **'Linkers'**, or hubs for the aggregation of services to the population.

- **'Partners'**, or areas supporting urban areas in the provision of services and/or economic opportunities.

In any case, the smart villages are **'Players'**, active in all respects in shaping their future, to keep rural and mountain areas attractive, liveable and lived in

- **R1**: Consider the smart transformation of mountain, rural and peripheral villages as a strategic priority

- **R2**: Embed Smart villages in existing and future strategies and policies

- **R3**: Allocate funds to integrative approaches such as the Smart villages

- **R4**: Allow room for innovation and experimentation

- **R5**: Encourage networking and the exchange of experiences around the Smart village approach within rural and mountain areas and with urban areas

- **R6**: Use the potential of the Smart villages approach to communicate the innovation potential and attractiveness of mountain and rural areas and to link urban and rural areas

- **R7**: Develop digital infrastructures and skills according to the needs and to the technological possibilities

WHAT THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE HOLD

- Smart Villages policies HAVE entered the new CAP, Pillar II

- Smart Villages are one of the cross-sectorial strategies in EUSALP AG5

- Smart Villages can be expanded to the concept of **Green Communities**

- Smart Villages are entering, more and more, in the **regional programming logic**, namely **ERDF**, **EAFRD**, other **Local Development Strategies**

- The **pandemic** has made it clear that livable, attractive mountain (and rural) areas are not only an opportunity, but a **necessity** for all countries.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

- Website: https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/smartvillages/en/home
- Smart Villages Platform – smartness assessment: https://smart-villages.eu/language/en/smartness/
- Smart Villages Platform – good practices: https://smart-villages.eu/language/en/good-practices-submission/
- Smart Villages' Poliedra pages:
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zj3yxuOhOb8&ab_channel=ConsorzioPoliedra
  - https://www.poliedra.polimi.it/en/project-category/smart-cities-and-communities-en/
- European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2021/03/29-03-2021-eusalp-policy-recommendations-from-the-%C2%AB-smart-villages-%C2%BB-project

THANK YOU / MERCI / GRAZIE !