



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

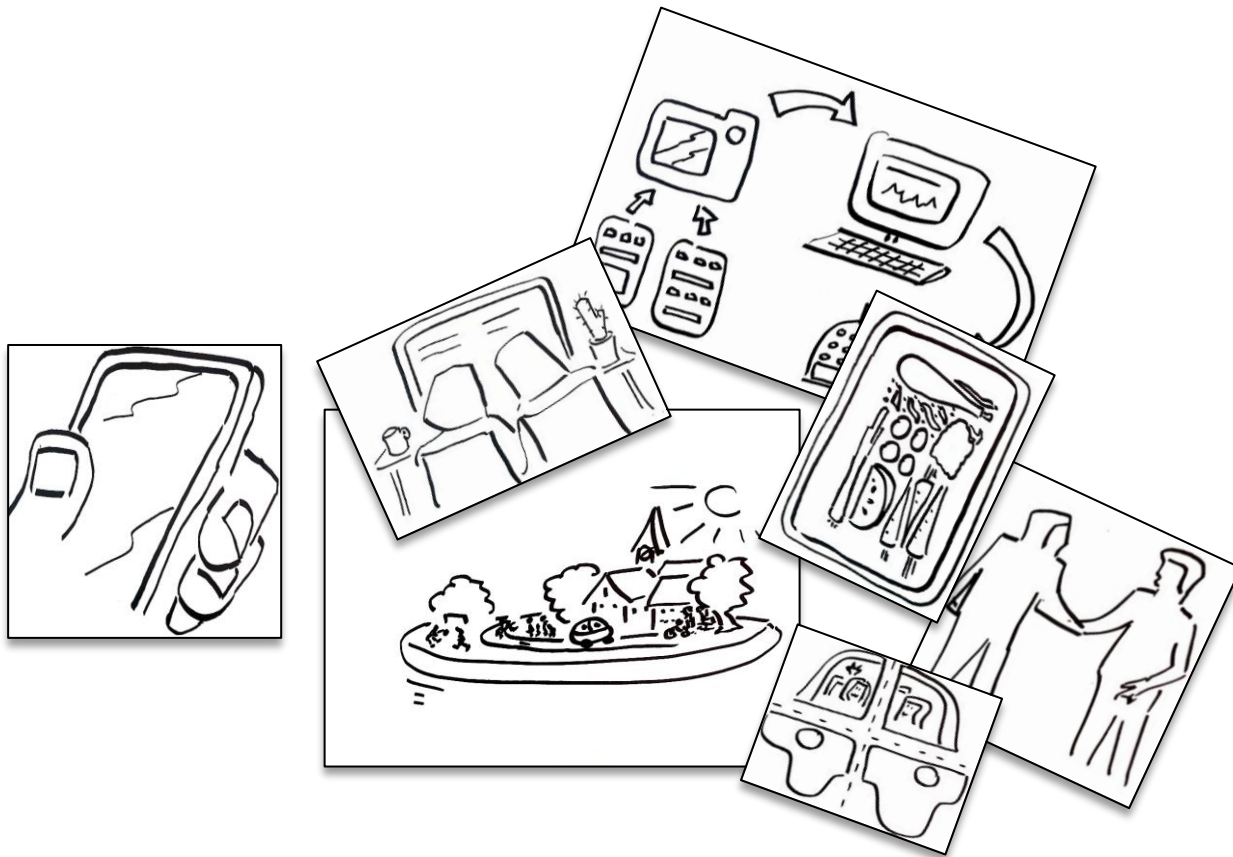
Cross-macro-regional cooperation for Smart Villages

HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02-01

“Smart solutions for smart rural communities: empowering rural communities and smart villages to innovate for societal change”

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importance to build on **existing local strengths** and opportunities to engage in a
process of sustainable development of their territories. The project relies on a **participatory
approach** to develop and implement strategies to **improve economic,
social and environmental conditions**, in particular by promoting
innovation and mobilizing solutions offered by **digital technologies.** The test areas benefit from
cooperation and alliances with other communities and actors in rural and urban areas.





EU MRS week 10.03.22

First macroregional exchange between EUSALP, EUSDR, EUBSR

[3rd EU MACRO-REGIONAL STRATEGIES WEEK | Teamwork \(tw.events\)](#)

How do rural communities benefit from digitalisation?



develop new business models

to get even more connected

Access to services

be more attractive for new residents

saving time

improve communication and social cohesion

Shortened distances.

service access

less remoteness



Horizon application Smart Era

SMART ERA's main ambitions are:

- a) data collection and analysis in rural territories
- b) adopting the Smart-Village approach to involve residents and stakeholders to be validated in lighthouse rural areas across Europe
- c) providing recommendations to upgrade European policy instruments
- e) fostering cooperation on smart villages among the EUSALP, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regional Strategies.



Partners and Pilot areas

More than 20 PPs all around Europe among which:

Baltic Institute of Finland, Policy Area Innovation EUBSR and
City of Vienna, PA10 of EUSDR



Partners and Pilot areas

Slow Food Trebinje, Hercegovina, Pilot 4 - Remote rural area –
Trebinje (BA),

Sector(s): Agrifood; Tourism; Young/women entrepreneurship

Devetaki Plateau Association, Bulgaria, Pilot 6 - Remote rural area,
Sector(s): Participation in decision-making; Access to social and
cultural services; Access to education.

What is the biggest benefit of cooperation across Europe?

Understanding each other

Understanding differences

Biggest benefit is the possibility of collecting knowledge and good practices aimed at solving common problems across Europe

balanced sustainable development

embed the smart villages approach into policies and strategies

Leverage through shared experience

Founding :)

learning from one another, sharing strategies and tools, improving through sharing and learning

sharing good practices and also mistakes



e) fostering cooperation on smart villages among the EUSALP, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regional Strategies.

The objectif is to moderate a **process of know how exchange and mutual learning on digitalisation and participation between EUSALP, the Danube Macroregional strategy and the Baltic Sea Region and to analyse where the 3 strategies stand in terms of digitalisation and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and practices so that member municipalities and regions can benefit to the maximum possible extent.**



e) fostering cooperation on smart villages among the EUSALP, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regional Strategies.

The project should also address the question **on how to better connect efforts undertaken by thematic coordinators of the MRS, the EU and national institutions** active in the field of digitalisation/smart villages (policy cycle) to influence the policy level.



e) fostering cooperation on smart villages among the EUSALP, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regional Strategies.

Step 1 :

Comparative study on smart villages sensitive activities in EU macro-regional strategies (thematic issues, methodology, microfinancing ADA, municipalities to be analysed, network cities, Espon 21-27).

Step 2

Brainstorming sessions on which potentials the cross-MRS smart villages collaboration could be further developed (expected results, outcomes, activities and ressources needed).



e) fostering cooperation on smart villages among the EUSALP, Baltic Sea and Danube Macro-Regional Strategies.

Step 3

Workshops on joint transnational **development of potentials in the field of smart villages and its implementation on the base of ongoing project pilots** (Capitalisation and Communication , role out particularity Danube region – restricted ability of municipalities, to reflect the recommendations in the context of other MRS).

Step 4

Definition of new MRS priorities (strategic level) in the field of Smart Villages. Reflections on how the **Policy level could be better mobilised**, who shall participate in the network to act as a multiplier (city network, national contact points, citizen participations forum) for SV matters

- Preparation for second step
- Meetings with relevant SV contacts (DG AGRI, DG CNCT, DG EMPL, DG AGRI, ENRD) together with Policy Area Innovation EUBSR and PA10 of EUSDR