

The Future of Social Innovation in Interreg Alpine Space 2021-2027

How will the Interreg Alpine Space Programme support transnational cooperation on social innovation in 2021-2027

14 | 20

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Overview

- **About the timeline**
- **About the content**
- **About new projects**

When?

What?

How?



When? The timeline

- Alpine Space programme final version in August 2021
- Approval by EC end of 2021 or beginning of 2022 (?)
- Kick-off event – 22/23 November 2021 (Salzburg and online)
- Launch of the first call – November 2021 (?)
- Application Package – October 2021 (?)

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<https://www.alpine-space.eu/about/eu-and-asp-post-2020/asp-2021->
<https://www.facebook.com/EUAlpineSpace/>



What? General content

- New programming period - concentration on green and CO2 neutral approach, digitalisation and governance

” *Why are we here?
We are at the forefront of the transition to a
unique, carbon neutral and climate resilient
European territory: the Alpine region.*

(The “mission statement” of the Alpine Space Programme 2021-2027)

- Strong alignment to EUSALP > strategic and operational
- Link with Alpine Convention and other networks and strategies (e.g. European Green Deal, UN Sustainable Development Goals)



What? Our specific objectives

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Priority 1: Climate resilient and green Alpine region (PO 2) | | Priority 2: Carbon neutral & resource sensitive Alpine region (PO 2) | |
| SO iv: promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience | SO vii: enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution | SO i: promoting energy efficiency | SO vi: promoting the transition to a circular economy |
| Priority 3: Innovation and digitalisation oriented green Alpine region (PO 1) | | Priority 4: Cooperatively managed and developed Alpine region | |
| SO i: enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies | SO ii: reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments | Enhance institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders to implement macro-regional strategies and sea-basin strategies ("Interreg specific SO") | |

Policy objectives (PO) and specific objectives (SO) come from the EU (draft) regulations. Priorities are defined by the programme.

PO 1: A smarter Europe - innovative and smart economic transformation

PO 2: A greener, low-carbon Europe



What? Social Innovation

- No specific objective dedicated to SI
- Still, well reflected in the programme
- The Alps are undergoing several social challenges related to demographic changes (e.g. aging population), economic polarisation and uncertainties related to the COVID crisis.
- Reflect social topics and contribute to the Territorial Agenda 2030 second pillar “a just Europe”.
- Overcome territorial imbalances and open new chances to shape solutions for a more just territorial development during the green transformation process.
- **Social innovation rather seen as a horizontal topic and reflected in different priorities and specific objectives.**



What? Social Innovation


SI mainly reflected in **Priority 3: “Innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region”**

SO: “Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies” and “Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies and governments”

”” *digital transformation is linked to a broader approach to social innovation... Social innovation has a large potential to further develop economic and social structures in the Alpine region and accommodate the societal changes – also including the perspective of citizens as “beneficiaries of digitalisation”*

”” *Promoting and exploring application of social innovation to SGIs, improve mobility with advanced technologies (such as green hydrogen), health and medical innovations, sustainable tourism with particular consideration of bottom-up and open, inclusive approaches such as co-creation and living labs*

”” *Testing ideas for transnational innovation activities and entrepreneurship with a view to reducing territorial imbalances in all sectors, processes and ecosystems in the Alpine region, as well as solutions for identifying and mitigating adverse social impacts;*



What? Social Innovation

” A particular focus on the *digital divide* and on regions that are lagging behind in terms of digital innovation, territorial cooperation will ensure the cohesion of the Alpine region. It is particularly important that activities tackle the digital divide between less and more advanced regions as well as between fluent users and people without sufficient knowledge and/or physical access to information and communication technologies.

” Developing and testing solutions to support *e-learning*, new working structures (home-office and other forms of flexible working) in order to provide more attractive living possibilities in remote areas to different social groups;

” Developing and testing solutions to support *flexible SGI provision* in all types of areas and for all types of users with regards to *e-health/smart health*, *e-government* as well as *telemedicine*, to be applicable in general and not only in times of health crises;



What? Social Innovation

- Also in other objectives covering circular economy, energy efficiency, biodiversity/green infrastructure

” Developing cooperative and sustainable solutions to improve energy poverty policies concerning adequate and healthy heating, cooling, lighting and energy-to-power-appliances to enhance social inclusion, social innovation and encourage common policies for the Alpine region;

” Developing or supporting pilot projects or activities as well as joint solutions (e.g. policy instruments and management tools) to support reaping the benefits of digitalisation in different fields to bring about socially and environmentally sustainable change

” Implementing pilot projects that support multifunctional Green and Blue infrastructure networks (“TEN-G”), Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and innovative planning methodologies ... taking into account their impacts on social, cultural and economic systems.



How? The projects

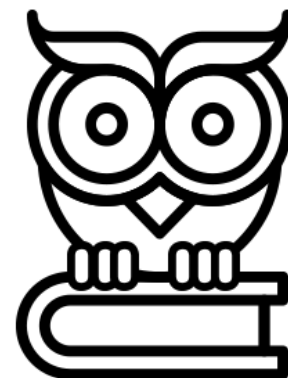
- Step forward from (only) standard 3 years projects
- The ambition is to offer new approaches
 - Small-scale projects (e.g. “set the scene” or “capitalization” projects)
- Simplified administrative approaches
 - E.g. flat rate for travel and accommodation
 - Small-scale projects based on SCO (e.g. flat rates and lump sums)



Current projects on SI

- Discover how **CoNSENSo** helps make the dream of ageing at home a reality
- Discover how **SmartVillages** helps make the smart village dream come true
- Discover **HEALPS2** helps make the Alpine health tourism dream come true
- Etc.

Check out our **project output library** to explore the main results of our projects



**PROJECT
OUTPUT
LIBRARY**



QUESTIONS?

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