



INNOVATIVE

The Alpine Space programme is an Interreg European transnational cooperation programme involving seven countries (AT, CH, DE, FR, IT, LI, SI). It co-finance projects to make the region more innovative, develop low carbon solutions, valorize the cultural and natural heritage, and improve transnational governance. With this **project brief** the Alpine Space Interreg volunteer introduces highlights from projects of the priority 1: Innovative Alpine Space. More at: www.alpine-space.eu

How can innovation and entrepreneurship be sparked among Alpine Space SMEs? For the project partners of **S3-4AlpClusters**, whose field of action is **smart specialisation strategies** (S3), the answer lies in the *interplay between clusters and S3*. Indeed if S3s are key drivers to help regions prioritise their efforts to create an innovative economy, the crucial role of clusters as tools for S3 implementation should be acknowledged. To make use of this interplay, though, what is needed is knowledge and alignment between regional strategies for a coordinated approach. *StressTest* exercises and *Entrepreneurial Discovery Workshops* were conducted to this purpose in the 11

partner regions, delivering valuable results: synergies and complementarities in regional approaches to implementation and innovative transformative activities were identified enabling substantiated discussion and policy improvement. This marked a first significant step towards improving framework conditions for innovation in the Alpine Space.

C-TEMAIp combines the concept of innovation with that of continuity. Indeed one of the biggest challenges for the Alpine Space is maintaining its attractiveness, partly hampered due to ineffective business transfers and the lack of business renewal. Services dedicated to business transfer and renewal are exactly the solution offered by the project. The starting point was that of comparing different regional contexts to develop a common cooperation model

among partners. The results were, once again, revealing of similarities but also local differences as for the concept of “business transfer”, the regional sectors interested by business transfer, the incentives supporting it and the obstacles and opportunities it offers.



More efficient services, adjusted to the demographic change taking place in the Alpine Space and the migration situation is the necessity some of the projects of this priority address. **PlurAlps** for instance aims at developing and promoting innovative services for the integration of mi-



© HIT Hub Innovazione Trentino

grants so that they can become an opportunity for social innovation and development in the Alpine Space rather than one of the challenges to tackle. In this framework, a key role is that played by municipalities, SMEs and social organisations in their cooperation for the provision of these services. PlurAlps project partners want to strengthen this cooperation and, with this in mind, have started to set out requirements and criteria for the development of the *Social Planning Instrument*, a tool which will benefit both sides: municipalities by providing essential information (eg: demographic data, action fields and topics to be covered) and migrants thanks to the assessment of the performance of municipalities through specific indicators.

“Home is a better place to grow old”. Building up on this motto, **CoNSENSo** is moving to ensure that all elderly in the Alpine Space receive better health and social assistance so that they are able to live at home as long as possible. How? The innovative care model revolves around the figure of the Family and Community Nurse whose role goes beyond that of traditional nursing, through focusing on prevention, enabling com-



Walking activity ©CoNSENSo

munity involvement in supporting the elderly and their families, and by connecting health and social services. Specific training has been held for all nurses involved in the project, providing a forum for precious information on health policy and family nursing in the different partner regions. The use of innovative devices for data collection will contribute to ensure the effectiveness of the service. By enabling older people to live longer in their homes, one of the impacts of CoNSENSo, is expected to be a reduction in health expenditure by cutting hospitalisation costs.

Services of general interest (SGI) are also the focus of **INTESI** project. Its specific aim is that of developing, improving and promoting strategies for a delivery of SGI in the long run. Setting off from the idea that SGI are a crucial element for the accessibility and connectivity of Alpine areas, the project partners work

on the approach to it: a *more integrated approach* and a *better horizontal and vertical coordination* are needed to benefit from potential synergies and to optimize public expenditures. How to achieve this? First of all, a *dedicated think tank* was created. The collection and analysis of all strategies in the Alpine Space relevant for SGI delivery was the following significant step taken. Thanks to this, several differences in national approaches were identified (e.g. SGI integration into policies, funds available for implementation, stakeholders involved in strategy implementation). The next move is already under way: the elaboration of recommendations for integrated, innovative and multilevel strategy development in the field of SGI .



This **project brief** has been written in December 2017 by Kelly Kocks, volunteer at the Alpine Space programme, in the framework of the Interreg volunteer youth initiative (IVY). More about IVY: www.interregyouth.com

