

SmartCommUnity Project

Concept on the wider integration into EUSALP

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Introduction

The integration of the SmartCommUnity project into the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) represents a significant step forward in aligning local innovation with macro-regional policy frameworks. EUSALP, as the Alpine macro-regional strategy, brings together Alpine states and regions to address shared challenges and opportunities, with a particular focus on sustainable development, innovation, and digital transformation across mountain territories.

From the outset, the Autonomous Region of Valle d’Aosta (RAVA), as leader of EUSALP Action Group 5 (AG5), played a pivotal role in embedding SmartCommUnity within EUSALP’s structures and priorities. The project’s Lead Partner and WPEU co-leaders were regularly invited to AG5 meetings to present SmartCommUnity’s progress and ensure close alignment with the AG5 workplan. This collaboration enabled SmartCommUnity to become a flagship initiative within EUSALP’s Cross-cutting Priority 1 (CCP1) “Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps,” specifically under the “Smart and Sustainable Communities” pillar. As a result, the project benefited from strong synergies with AG5 activities and was highlighted as an AG5 Success Story, receiving dedicated communication and visibility within the macro-regional strategy.

Throughout the project, SmartCommUnity partners actively participated in key EUSALP events, including thematic workshops at the Digital Alps Conference, which fostered collaboration with other macro-regional strategies and similar projects (see also Deliverable D.1.2.1). The involvement of young people was a central element: RAVA, as AG5 leader, ensured that the EUSALP Youth Council was engaged from the beginning, involving youth in AG5 meetings, major events such as the Digital Alps Conference, and SmartCommUnity study visits. Thematic workshops for youth, led by the external expert Skopia, were designed to raise awareness of megatrends and their local implications, and to build synergies with initiatives like Montagna 4.0.

As a final outcome, the SmartAlps network has been fully integrated into AG5 and will become a core action in the next AG5 work plan, supporting the digital transformation of mountain areas. The results of SmartCommUnity will be presented at the EUSALP Annual



Forum (Innsbruck, 26 November), in the workshop “Promoting the Digitalisation of the Alps,” where CCP1 outcomes will be discussed. Furthermore, the results of youth workshops on impactful megatrends will be compiled in a scientific article, and a toolkit was handed over to the Youth Council at the SmartCommUnity Final Conference, enabling the replication of megatrends workshops with other young people across the Alps and ensuring ongoing dissemination and awareness beyond the project’s end.

This deliverable sets out the conceptual framework, activities, and lessons learned from the wider integration of SmartCommUnity into EUSALP, with a particular focus on governance, youth engagement, and the mechanisms that will sustain and amplify impact in the years ahead.

Background: EUSALP, the Macro-regional strategy for the Alps

The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is one of the European Union’s four macro-regional strategies, officially launched in 2015. EUSALP brings together seven countries (Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, and Switzerland) and 48 regions within the Alpine arc, creating a unique platform for cross-border cooperation and coordinated action on shared challenges and opportunities in the Alps.

EUSALP’s overarching goal is to promote sustainable development, innovation, and competitiveness in the Alpine region, while preserving its rich natural and cultural heritage. The strategy addresses key issues such as economic growth, social inclusion, environmental protection, climate adaptation, and digital transformation, recognizing the interconnectedness of these themes in mountain territories.

EUSALP is structured around three main Thematic Policy Areas (Pillars) and one Transversal Policy Area.



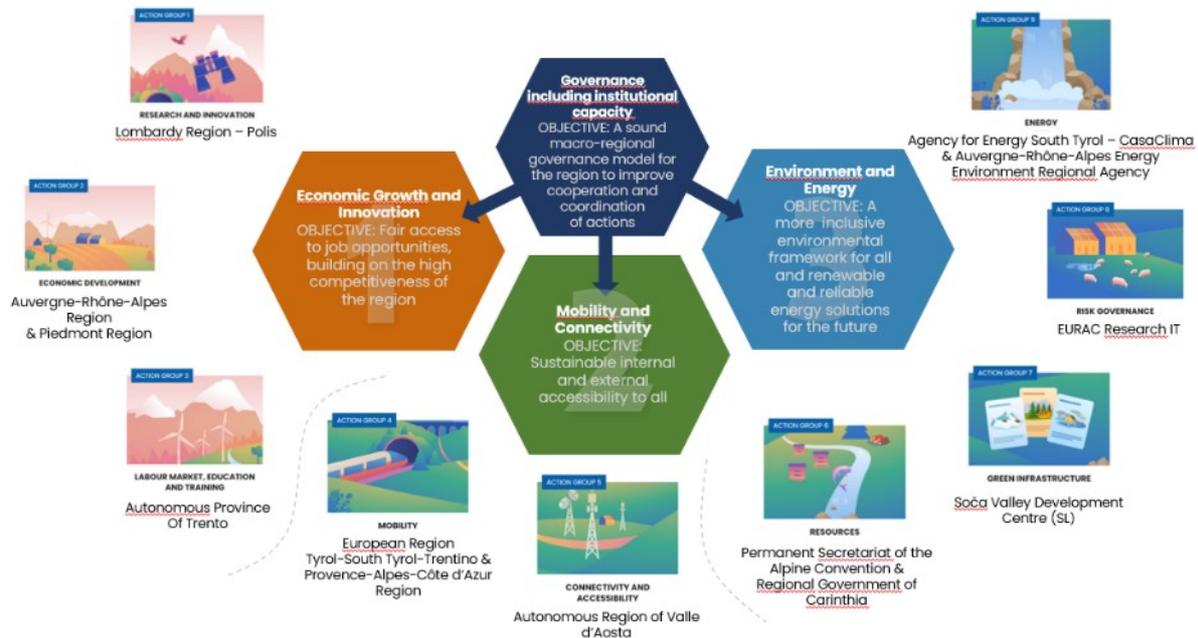


Figure 1. Thematic and Transversal Policy Areas of EUSALP and related Action Groups

In addition, EUSALP has established Cross-cutting Priorities (CCPs) to address horizontal challenges, such as digitalisation, energy transition, water management and circular economy. The strategy is implemented through nine Action Groups (AGs), each focusing on a specific theme and led by representatives from participating countries and regions. EUSALP provides a framework for aligning regional, national, and EU policies, fostering multi-level governance, and supporting projects that deliver tangible benefits for Alpine communities. By facilitating dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint initiatives, EUSALP strengthens the region’s capacity to address complex challenges and seize new opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

For more information, see the official EUSALP website: <https://www.alpine-region.eu/>.

The governance model of EUSALP

EUSALP (EU Strategy for the Alpine Region) is built on a robust and innovative multilevel governance model that ensures both political leadership and effective, territory-driven implementation. This structure enables EUSALP to address the complex challenges of the Alpine region through coordinated action, cross-border cooperation, and the direct involvement of regional and local stakeholders.



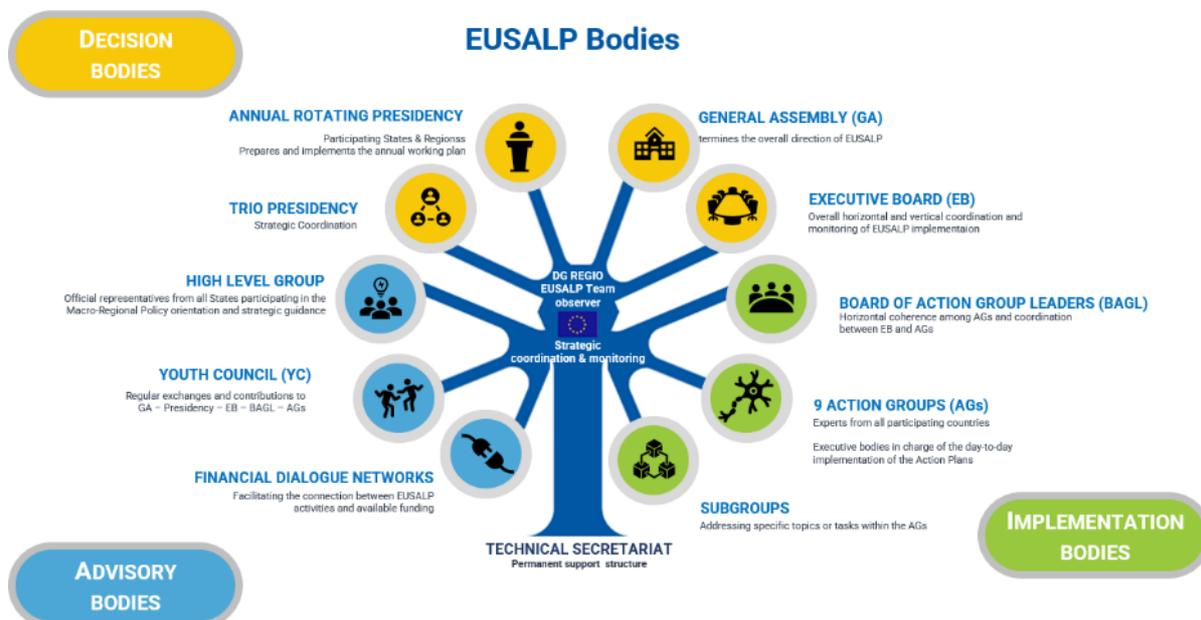


Figure 2. EUSALP Governance Bodies

At the political level, the General Assembly is EUSALP’s highest decision-making body. Composed of ministers and presidents from the participating Alpine countries and regions, the General Assembly sets the strategic direction, adopts political declarations, and ensures that EUSALP’s priorities are aligned with the needs and ambitions of the Alpine territories. Its political weight gives EUSALP the capacity to influence national and European policies, making it a key actor in shaping the future of the region.

The Executive Board acts as the steering body, translating the General Assembly’s decisions into operational guidance. It is responsible for monitoring progress, coordinating activities across the strategy, and ensuring coherence between the different thematic and cross-cutting priorities. The Executive Board brings together representatives from all member states and regions, as well as the European Commission, ensuring that all voices are heard and that actions are well coordinated.

Another important advisory body is the Youth Council, composed of young representatives from across the Alpine region. The Youth Council provides a platform for the institutional involvement of young people in all EUSALP bodies, ensuring that their ideas and views are heard and taken into account. Thanks to the legitimacy conferred on them by the official nature of their mandate, young participants can discuss the objectives of the overall EUSALP strategy and contribute their ideas.

Implementation is driven from the bottom up by nine Action Groups (AGs), each focused on a specific theme or policy area. These Action Groups are composed of experts, practitioners, and stakeholders from across the Alpine region, who work together to develop projects, share best practices, and propose policy recommendations. This bottom-up approach ensures that



EUSALP's activities are grounded in the realities of Alpine territories and that innovative solutions can emerge from local experience.

For SmartCommUnity, Action Group 5 (AG5) is of particular importance. AG5 focuses on "Connectivity and Accessibility," with a strong emphasis on digitalisation, smart communities, and the digital transformation of Alpine territories. By engaging with AG5, SmartCommUnity has been able to align its activities with EUSALP's strategic priorities, benefit from a powerful platform for dissemination and policy influence, and contribute directly to the digital transition of the Alps. AG5's workplan (2023–2025) includes priorities such as smart villages, future-proof digital infrastructure, data spaces, digital skills, and citizen participation, all central to the SmartCommUnity approach.

This multilevel governance model, combining political leadership, strategic steering, and bottom-up implementation, has been essential for the success of SmartCommUnity's integration into EUSALP and for maximising its impact on Alpine territories.

The Youth Council of EUSALP

Purpose

The EUSALP Youth Council was created to ensure that young people have a formal and influential role in shaping the future of the Alpine region. Its main purpose is to provide a platform for institutional involvement, enabling youth to contribute ideas and viewpoints directly within EUSALP bodies. This initiative responds to the demand for co-determination raised during the youth.shaping.EUSALP workshops and reflects the conviction that youth play a key role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, digitalization, and sustainable development. By participating in decision-making processes, the Youth Council helps integrate fresh perspectives into EUSALP's macro-regional strategy and strengthens democratic engagement among younger generations.

Organisation

The Youth Council is an official body of EUSALP, adopted by the General Assembly in December 2020. It consists of representatives from the seven EUSALP states and 48 Alpine regions, ensuring balanced geographic representation. Members are selected through an open application process and commit to a one-year mandate, which includes participation in 4–5 physical meetings, virtual exchanges, and collaborative work in small groups. The Council operates under the support of the Interreg Alpine Space program and works closely with EUSALP's Executive Board, General Assembly, and nine Action Groups. This structure guarantees that youth representatives have access to institutional platforms and resources to influence policy and projects.

Operation

The Youth Council functions as a consultative and participatory body within EUSALP. Its members can:



- Propose concrete actions and projects aligned with EUSALP's Action Plan.
- Participate in strategic meetings (Executive Board, General Assembly) in an advisory role.
- Collaborate with Action Groups and the Presidency to integrate youth perspectives into thematic priorities.
- Engage in events and initiatives, such as the Annual Forum, Pitch Your Project competition, and Youth Camps.
- Optionally, implement small-scale projects with support for funding and coordination.

Through these activities, the Youth Council acts as a bridge between youth and policymakers, ensuring that young voices influence decisions on topics like sustainable mobility, digital connectivity, climate resilience, and cultural heritage preservation. It also serves as a multiplier by representing EUSALP in external youth networks, thereby widening integration across the Alpine space.



The involvement of Youth Council within SmartCommUnity

RAVA's Role in Youth Engagement

From the outset, the Autonomous Region of Valle d'Aosta (RAVA) prioritized youth participation in SmartCommUnity activities. As leader of EUSALP Action Group 5 (AG5), RAVA ensured that the EUSALP Youth Council was actively involved in AG5 meetings, thematic events and flagship initiatives. This included direct participation in AG5 meetings, contributions to AG5 events, and a prominent role in the Digital Alps Conference (DAC) series, as well as SmartCommUnity study visits.

Youth Involvement in Digital Alps Conferences (2023–2025)

DAC 2023 (Courmayeur, Italy)

Youth representatives attended DAC 2023 as speakers on:

- Remote Working and Digital Skills for New Mountain Jobs workshop
- Political round table



Figure 3. EUSALP Youth Council intervention during “Remote Working and Digital Skills for New Mountain Jobs” workshop





Figure 4. EUSALP Youth Council intervention during the Political round table

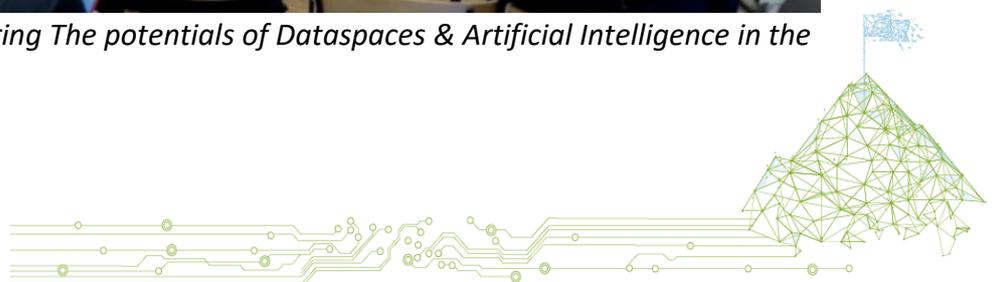
These sessions allowed young participants to interact with experts and policymakers, contributing their perspectives on digitalization and sustainability.

DAC 2024 (Izola, Slovenia)

Youth representatives attended DAC 2024 as speakers in two workshops:



Figure 5. YC participation during The potentials of Dataspaces & Artificial Intelligence in the Alpine area workshop



- The potentials of Dataspaces & Artificial Intelligence in the Alpine area workshop
- New ways of work to encourage the settlement of youth in mountain area workshop



Figure 6. EUSALP Youth Council intervention during New ways of work to encourage the settlement of youth in mountain area workshop

Youth Council members were invited to interactive sessions on AI and digital skills, sharing ideas on how to bridge the digital divide in rural Alpine areas.

DAC 2025 (Lienz, Austria)

Youth representatives attended DAC 2025 as speakers in two workshops:

- Artificial Intelligence, Dataspaces & future challenges in the Alpine area
- Discovering Hidden Treasures: Enabling Open Platforms on EUSALP Key Priorities





Figure 7. EUSALP Youth Council intervention during Artificial Intelligence, Dataspaces & future challenges in the Alpine area workshop



Figure 8. EUSALP Youth Council intervention during Discovering Hidden Treasures: Enabling Open Platforms on EUSALP Key Priorities workshop

Two Youth Council members acted as speakers in parallel workshops on Data & AI and Open Platforms for Alpine Governance.



Their contributions emphasized youth-driven innovation and the importance of inclusive digital policies.

Youth Participation in SmartCommUnity Study Visits and Final Conference

Study visits across the Alpine region integrated youth engagement through:

- Interactive foresight and systems-thinking workshops (Aosta Valley, March 2024; Valence, March 2025; Lienz, October 2024).
- Direct exchanges between youth and project partners during visits in Aosta Valley, Valence and Freiburg, fostering dialogue on smart transition strategies.
- SmartCommUnity Final Conference in Freiburg, participating in the presentation of the results of the workshops on megatrends with students and participating in the political round table discussion.



Figure 9. Study visit in Aosta Valley, March 2024





Figure 10. Interactive foresight and systems-thinking workshops in Valence, March 2024



Figure 11. Political round table at SmartCommUnity Final Conference, October 2025



Synergies with FuturAlps – Montagna 4.0

Through its partner Poliedra, RAVA connected SmartCommUnity with FuturAlps – Montagna 4.0, an initiative involving 200 Italian high school students. These students presented innovative business ideas for sustainable mountain development and received guidance from SmartCommUnity partners on implementation strategies. This collaboration strengthened the link between education, entrepreneurship, and territorial innovation.



Figure 12. FuturAlps – Montagna 4.0 event in Aosta, March 2024

Workshops on Megatrends in Alpine Schools

To get young people even more involved, the partners, during monthly WPEU meetings, developed the idea of organising workshops on megatrends in Alpine schools in conjunction with SmartCommUnity events and study visits. An external expert from Skopia was contracted to design and facilitate these sessions, ensuring methodological rigor and engaging formats. The Youth Councillors were invited to participate in workshops to present the EUSALP Youth Council and raise awareness of issues relevant to the Alps. This initiative is detailed in the following chapter.



Raising awareness of change among young people: workshops on megatrends in schools and their local implications

Origins and Conceptualisation

The idea for megatrend workshops in Alpine schools emerged during monthly WPEU meetings, where partners identified the need to engage young people in understanding the long-term changes affecting their communities. The initiative was conceptualised with the support of Skopìa Anticipation Services, leveraging their expertise in futures studies and participatory foresight. The workshops aimed to:

- Prepare students to anticipate and adapt to multiple possible futures.
- Foster proactive attitudes and systems thinking.
- Connect local realities to global megatrends, making change tangible and relevant.

Implementation and Collaboration

The workshops were implemented during SmartCommUnity study visits in collaboration with local partners, who played a crucial role in identifying suitable schools and providing logistical support. The events took place in several Alpine regions:

- Italy (Aosta and Cogne, Aosta Valley, Italy)
- Austria (Sillian, Lienz, Austria)
- France (Valence, France)
- Germany (Elztal, Freiburg, Germany)

Skopìa designed the methodology, facilitated the sessions, and provided training for local facilitators. The workshops were integrated into broader SmartCommUnity activities, ensuring alignment with project goals and local educational priorities.

Tools and Methods

A variety of interactive tools were used to engage students and stimulate discussion:

- **Megatrend Cards:** Each student or group received cards representing different global megatrends (e.g., climate change, resource scarcity, migration, technological change). These cards served as prompts for ranking, discussion, and scenario-building.



- Mentimeter: An online polling and brainstorming platform allowed students to submit responses, rank megatrends, and generate word clouds in real time. This tool facilitated anonymous, collective input and visualisation of group perspectives.

Summary of Workshops Held

A. FutureAlps – Montagna 4.0 (Aosta, Cogne, 2023–2024)

Participants: 156 (Aosta, 2023), 92 (Cogne, 2024), aged 16–17.

Activities: Introduction to megatrends, group ranking, scenario-building, Mentimeter polls.

Key Insights: Students identified climate change, resource scarcity, and migration as the most impactful megatrends. Negative impacts included environmental degradation, loss of tourism, and job decline; positive impacts (if anticipated) included ecological transition, renewable energy adoption, and revitalisation of mountain villages.



Figure 13. Final group photo at the end of the workshop on megatrends in Cogne - March 2024

B. Mittelschule Sillian (Austria, October 2024)

Participants: 13 students, aged 13–14.

Activities: Megatrend card ranking, Mentimeter group discussion, scenario mapping.

Key Insights: Climate change and technological change were top concerns, with students noting risks to tourism, agriculture, and biodiversity. Opportunities included new crops, warmer tourism seasons, and improved schooling.

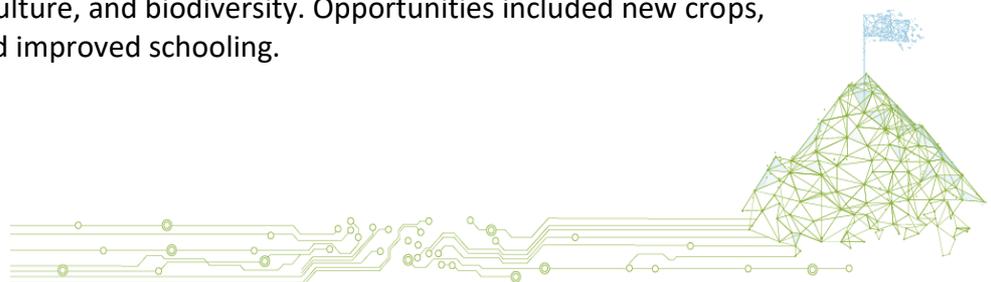




Figure 14. Workshop on megatrends in Sillian - October 2024

C. Lycée Agricole le Valentin (Valence, France, March 2025)

Participants: 22 students, aged 15–18.

Activities: Megatrend cards, Mentimeter, group reflection.



Figure 15. Workshop on megatrends in Valence - March 2025

Key Insights: Climate change, health challenges, and inequalities were ranked highest. Students discussed risks of pollution, water shortages, and social conflict, but also saw potential for improved crop management, solidarity, and safer communities through anticipation and adaptation.



D. Schulzentrum Oberes Elztal (Elzach, Germany, October 2025)

Participants: 29 students, aged 13–16.

Activities: Megatrend ranking, scenario-building, digitalisation relevance assessment.

Key Insights: Climate change, resource scarcity, and health challenges dominated concerns.

Students proposed digital solutions for connectivity, safety, and community support, such as volunteer coordination apps and smart infrastructure.



Figure 16. Workshop on megatrends in Elzach - October 2025

Workshop Outcomes

Across all workshops, students demonstrated a strong awareness of the challenges posed by climate change, technological advancement, and demographic shifts. They proposed practical solutions for adaptation, emphasised the importance of digital skills, and expressed a desire for more inclusive, resilient communities. The use of interactive tools fostered engagement and collective learning, while systems thinking exercises helped students connect individual actions to broader societal trends.



The results presented during the Final Conference, including comparative analysis and recommendations, will be discussed in the next chapter.



Figure 17. Megatrends ranking with Mentimeter



Presentation of results and handover to the Youth Council during the SmartCommUnity final conference

Context and Event Overview

The results of the megatrend workshops held in Alpine schools were presented at the SmartCommUnity Final Conference, which took place at the Historisches Kaufhaus in Freiburg, Germany, on 2 October 2025. The session was organised by the Autonomous Region of Valle d’Aosta and Skopìa Anticipation Services, with active participation from the EUSALP Youth Council.

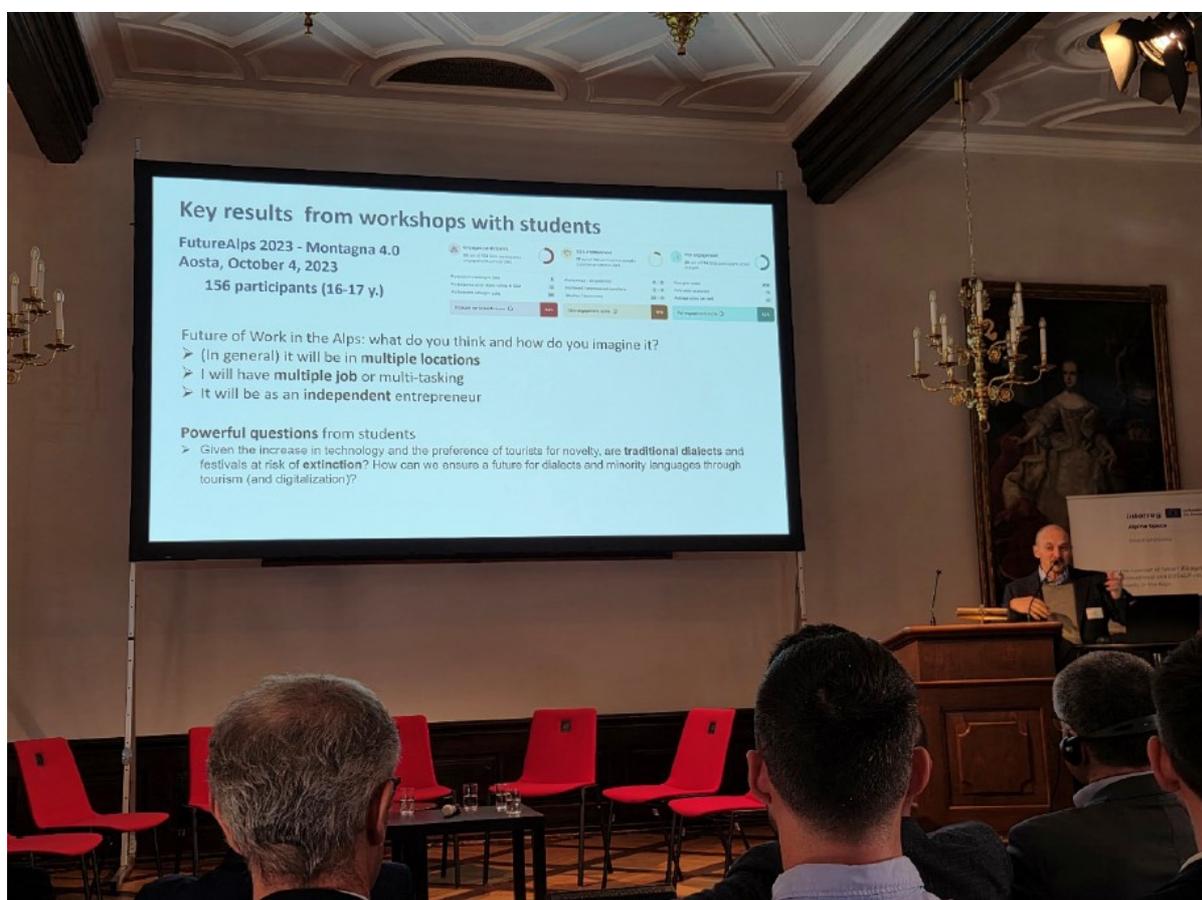


Figure 18. Presentation of key results from workshops with students during the Final Conference

Aggregated Results of School Workshops

The workshops involved students from Italy (Aosta, Cogne), Austria (Sillian), France (Valence), and Germany (Elztal), engaging them in foresight activities to explore the local implications of global megatrends. Key findings include:



- Climate Change was consistently ranked as the most impactful megatrend across all regions, with students highlighting risks such as environmental degradation, loss of snow, reduced tourism, and threats to local agriculture and biodiversity.
- Resource Scarcity and Migration were also prominent concerns, with students noting potential socio-economic consequences, including job losses and community decline if these trends are not anticipated.
- Technological Change and Digitalisation were viewed both as challenges and opportunities. Students proposed solutions such as improved connectivity, digital tools for safety and community support, and innovative approaches to tourism and local production.



Figure 19. Presentation of desirable futures by EUSALP Youth Council during the Final Conference

- Positive Impacts (if anticipated): Students identified opportunities for ecological transition, renewable energy adoption, revitalisation of abandoned villages, and increased community resilience through proactive adaptation.



Key Insights

- **Awareness and Engagement:** The workshops demonstrated a high level of awareness among young people regarding the challenges and opportunities facing Alpine communities. Students showed critical thinking and creativity in proposing solutions.
- **Systems Thinking:** The use of interactive tools (megatrend cards, Mentimeter, systems mapping) fostered collective learning and helped students connect individual actions to broader societal changes.
- **Youth as Change Agents:** The results underscore the importance of involving youth in strategic planning and decision-making for the Alpine region's future.

Presentation and Handover

During the final conference, the methodology, tools, and results of the workshops were presented in collaboration with the EUSALP Youth Council.

The session concluded with the handover of the workshop toolkit—including megatrend cards and facilitation materials—to the Youth Council. This handover marks a commitment to replicating and scaling the initiative across the Alpine region, ensuring that youth perspectives are integrated into EUSALP's ongoing strategy.

The next chapter will detail the handover of the toolkit to the Youth Council, outlining how the results and methodology will be disseminated and embedded within EUSALP structures to promote wider youth engagement and foresight-driven policy development.

Concepts for wider integration on EUSALP

Empowering the Youth Council as Ambassador for SmartCommUnity Topics

To ensure the long-term impact of SmartCommUnity's work on youth engagement and foresight, the project has positioned the EUSALP Youth Council as a key ambassador for the smart topics promoted throughout the initiative. The Youth Council is uniquely placed to act as a multiplier, raising awareness among young people about the megatrends shaping the future of the Alps and fostering a culture of anticipation and proactive adaptation.



Handover of the Toolkit at the Final Conference

During the SmartCommUnity Final Conference in Freiburg, the cards and toolkit developed for the school workshops were formally handed over to the Youth Council.



Figure 20. The handover of the “megatrend cards” for the Megatrends workshop at the EUSALP Youth Council

This toolkit includes:

- Megatrend Cards: Covering the most relevant global trends for Alpine communities.
- Facilitation Guides: Step-by-step instructions for running participatory foresight workshops.
- Digital Engagement Tools: Templates for interactive polling and scenario-building (e.g., Mentimeter).



By transferring these resources, SmartCommUnity ensures that the Youth Council can independently organise and facilitate similar workshops in schools and youth groups across the Alpine region.

Sustaining and Scaling Youth Awareness

With the toolkit in hand, the Youth Council is empowered to:

- Continue raising awareness among young people about EUSALP's strategic priorities and the megatrends affecting their communities.
- Adapt and expand the workshop methodology to new contexts, languages, and age groups.
- Integrate youth perspectives into EUSALP's ongoing policy development and project activities.
- Promote peer-to-peer learning and foster a network of young foresight practitioners throughout the Alps.

A Platform for Ongoing Development

This approach ensures that the results and methodology developed by SmartCommUnity do not remain isolated within the project, but instead become a living resource for the entire Alpine macro-region. The Youth Council's role as an ambassador will help embed foresight and systems thinking into the culture of EUSALP, supporting the next generation of leaders in navigating complex challenges and opportunities.



Annexes

Report on Megatrends workshops

Attached the detailed reports on Megatrends workshops held by Skopja and a full example workshop held in Sillian on 15 October 2024.

WORKSHOP AT AOSTA, OCTOBER 4, 2023, 8:00 A.M. – 01:30 P.M.

Within the event of “Futurealps 2023 - montagna 4.0”, coordinated by prof. Maria Chiara Cattaneo (Società Economica Valtellinese, University Sacro Cuore in Milan)

This activity consisted of the following actions:

- co-ordination with speakers and agenda responsible and co-definition of ways to involve students (156 participants),
- preparation of online survey
- collection and synthesis of results.

A set of questions of the survey may be relevant for the further development of the project: <Future of Work in the Alps: what do you think and how do you imagine it? (*Futuri di Lavoro nelle Alpi cosa ne pensi e come ti immagini?*) – Please, answer by marking a grade from "not at all agree" to "very agree">

- In general, will it be multi-location (*In generale, sarà multi-sede*)
- I will multi-task or be multi-tasking (*farò più lavori o sarà multi-tasking*)
- mine will be as an independent entrepreneur (*il mio sarà da imprenditore autonomo*)
- Mine will be in a local company, or maybe glocal (*il mio sarà in un'azienda locale (o magari g-locale ;)*)
- Mine will be in a non-local company, e.g. national or multinational with multiple locations (*Il mio sarà alle dipendenze di un'azienda non locale (es. nazionale o multinazionale con più sedi)*)

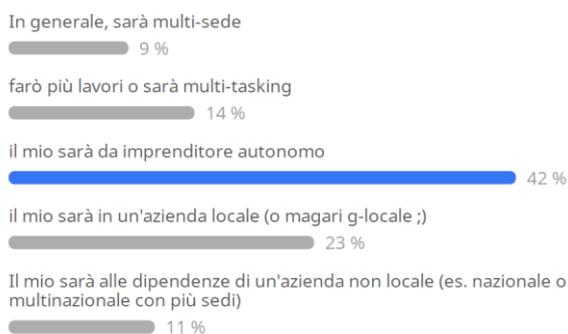
Here is a summary of the results, in terms of **Powerful questions from students and some graphs from Sli.do:**

- Considering that the originality and cultural identity of the Alpine valleys are an asset/capital, given the increase in technology and the preference of tourists for novelty, are traditional dialects and festivals at risk of extinction? How can we ensure a future for dialects and minority languages through tourism (and digitalization)?
- Mass tourism is generally negative, how could it be positive?

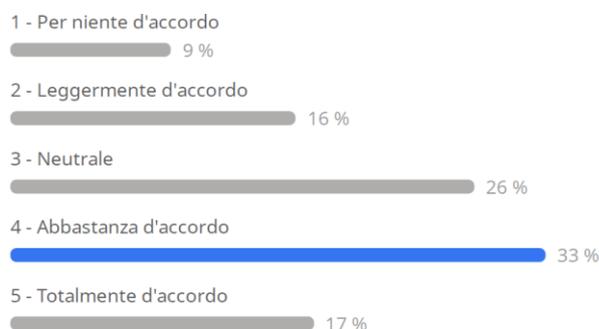


- How can we reduce the use of raw materials, pollution and overproduction, and thus the ecological footprint, without decreasing the number of tourists and the interest in going to the Aosta Valley? (What is the role of digitalization in this challenge?)
- Regarding how the Aosta Valley could be enhanced and its products promoted worldwide through digitalization, given that the products and nature are unique, what is the maximum potential in terms of maximum and sustainable quantities of local production?
- Bearing in mind that very often social and website amplify the desire for a carefree experience, with strong emotions, with even environmentally damaging activities, how can we educate the tourist or mountain sports people to an ecological sensitivity?
- By digitising everything in the mountains, how will we cope with a poor connection or interruption?
- Don't too many sites or apps risk create confusion? (Same locations many sites/apps/etc.)

Futuri di Lavoro nelle Alpi cosa ne pensi e come ti immagini? 0 6 4

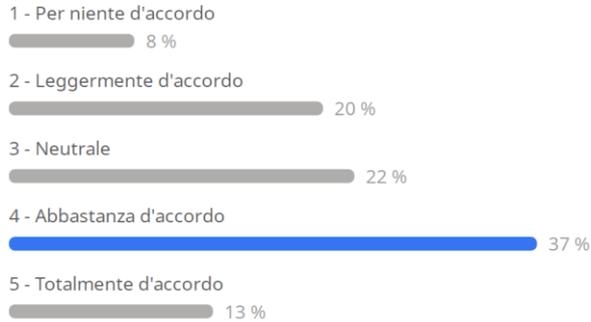


Futuri di Lavoro nelle Alpi cosa ne pensi e come ti immagini? Farò più lavori o sarà multi-tasking 0 5 8



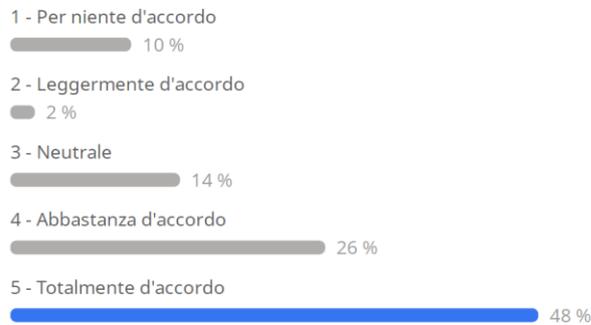
Futuri di Lavoro nelle Alpi cosa ne pensi e come ti immagini? In generale, sarà multi-sede

060



Futuri di Lavoro nelle Alpi cosa ne pensi e come ti immagini? Il mio sarà da imprenditore autonomo

058

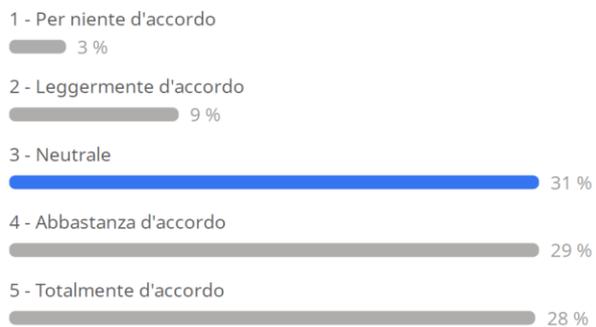


 Engaged participants 82 out of 154 Slido participants engaged with polls or Q&A.	 Q&A engagement 15 out of 154 participants asked a question or voted in Q&A.	 Poll engagement 80 out of 154 Slido participants voted in a poll.
Participants asking in Q&A: 5 Participants up or down voting in Q&A: 13 Participants voting in polls: 80	Anonymous / all questions: 5 / 5 Answered / unanswered questions: 0 / 5 Upvotes / downvotes: 32 / 0	Total poll votes: 456 Polls with responses: 11 Average votes per poll: 41
Engaged participants score  53%	Q&A engagement score  10%	Poll engagement score  52%



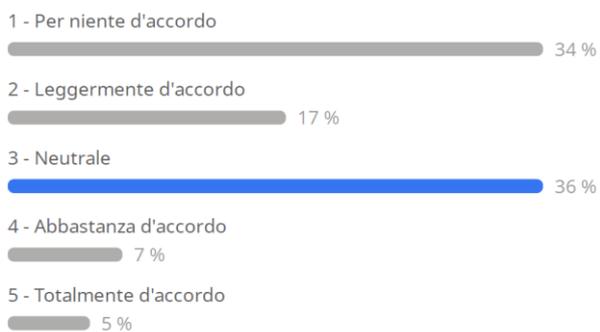
**Il mio sarà in un'azienda locale (o magari g-
locale ;)**

0 5 8



**Il mio sarà alle dipendenze di un'azienda non
locale (es. nazionale o multinazionale con più
sedi)**

0 5 8



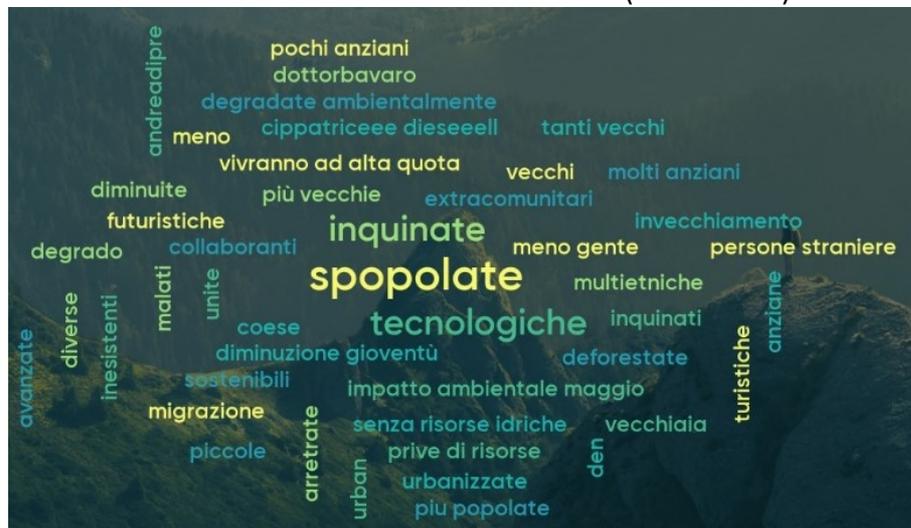
WORKSHOP AT COGNE MARCH 6, 2024, 02:30 P.M. – 04:30 P.M.

This workshop consisted of the following activities with students from the Mountain 4.0 project

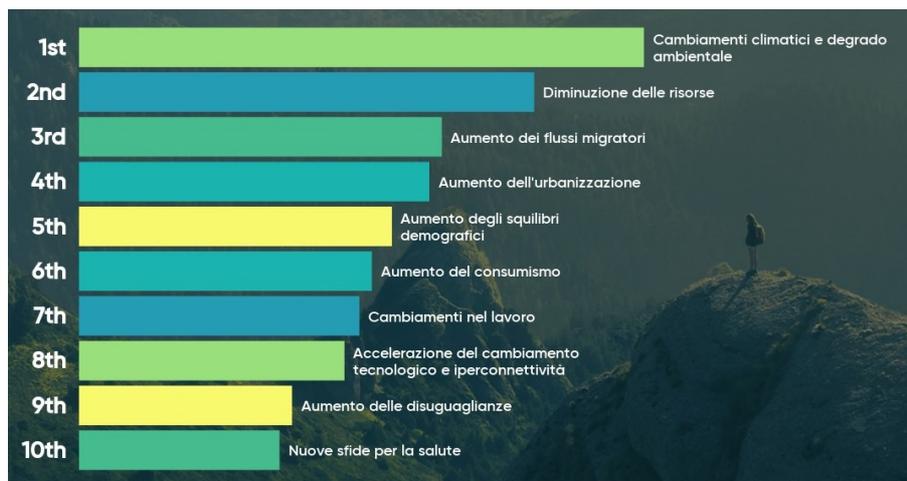
- Introduction to megatrends (with Megatrend cards individually assigned)
- Group discussion and interaction with Mentimeter
- Debriefing and conclusion

A total of 92 students were involved. Here are the questions asked by Mentimeter to small group of students (5-6 each) and a summary of the results:

a) Valle d'Aosta mountain communities in 2050 will be ... (word cloud)



b) Put the megatrends in order in terms of their impact (positive or negative) on mountain communities



c) What NEGATIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if not anticipated)?



The concerns related to the climate change and environmental degradation, above all in terms of increase in temperatures and the melting of glaciers. Additionally, there are mentions of the negative effects on primary resources from desertification, pollution, and changes in seasonal activities. There are also socio-economic consequences, including a decrease in tourism, loss of jobs, and a decline in the economy. Other concerns involve the effects on local communities, such as the need to choose where to live due to landslides and floods, as well as the potential extinction of animal species.

- d) What POSITIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if anticipated)

The ideas and proposals related to investing in renewable energy, exploring new opportunities in tourism, dealing with the effects of climate change, revitalizing abandoned mountain villages, increasing production, cultivating olive trees, introducing new animal species.

- e) What relevance will digitisation, virtualisation (RV, RA), AI applications (chatbot, generative) have on the following activities:
- e.1. cultural valorisation (museum innovations)
 - e.2. valorisation of the natural heritage (parks)
 - e.3. local agricultural production
 - e.4. the promotion and offer of tourism
 - e.5. citizen participation
 - e.6. recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)



- f) Imagine the most useful and urgent digitisation for daily life in local mountain communities, what is it about?

The ideas includes various ideas related to improving connectivity (Internet everywhere, even at high-altitude Alpine huts), enhancing transportation and delivery services in remote areas (e.g. shuttle service and geolocated transportation 24/7), digitalization of safety-related infrastructure (such as alert systems and environmental monitoring), could be crucial for improving daily life in local community.



WORKSHOP AT SILLIAN (LIENZ), OCTOBER 15, 2024, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.

This workshop was part a initiative of local school (Mittelschule Sillian) on Circular Economy, consisted of two parts, first one conducted by Anna Köhler, second one by Rocco Scolozzi. A total of 13 students were involved.

The workshop consists of the following activities with students:

- 10.15: Introduction to megatrends (with Megatrend cards individually assigned)
- 10.30 Interaction and group discussion Mentimeter (students used tablet in small groups)
- 11.15 Debriefing and conclusion

Key Insights from the Workshop:

Participants ranked the megatrends in terms of their potential positive or negative impact on Alpine communities. The most impactful megatrends identified were: Climate change and environmental degradation, Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity, Changing nature of work, Increasing demographic imbalances.

Climate change was particularly concerning loss of snow and tourists due to warmer winters, environmental degradation (e.g., deforestation, reduced agricultural fields), negative effects on local biodiversity (dying animals, reduced food production).

If managed properly, some participants believed megatrends could lead to: increased tourism due to warmer weather, opportunities for new agricultural practices (e.g., growing new or tropical crops), improved schooling and technology integration in daily life.

Participants reflected on the role of digitisation, AI, and virtualisation in different sectors: the highest perceived relevance was for cultural valorisation (e.g., museum innovations) and local agricultural production, AI applications (e.g., chatbots, drones) were highlighted for their potential in various uses, such as improving tourism and saving wildlife.

Concerning the future of digitisation in daily life, there were mixed feelings about the need for digitisation in local mountain communities: some saw potential in faster travel, AI tools like ChatGPT, and using drones for wildlife protection, others felt that digitisation was less necessary in their valleys, emphasizing a preference for preserving traditional ways of life. The workshop successfully engaged participants in considering both the challenges and opportunities posed by megatrends and technological advancements in their communities.

Questions from Mentimeter and results:

- g) The Alpine Communities of the Lienz District in 2050 will be ... (word cloud)





h) Rank the megatrends in order of impact (positive or negative), placing the one with the greatest impact on Alpine communities first.

(The students first discussed and created a ranking with the cards, then entered the order into mentimeter)



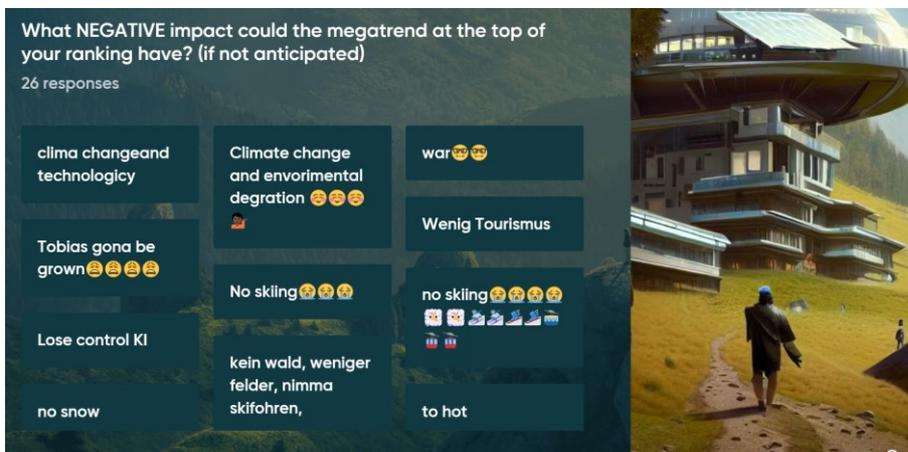


i) What NEGATIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if not anticipated)?



(some students answered in German for convenience, here we report translated answers)

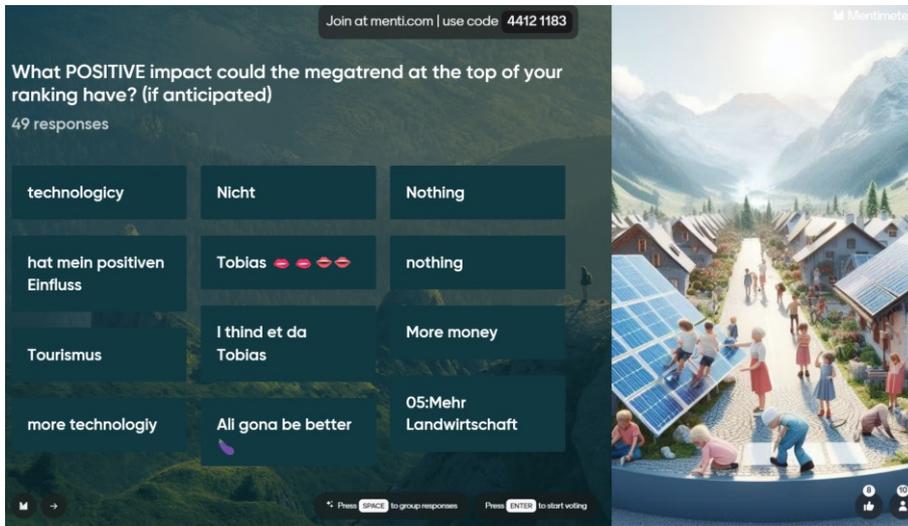
clima change and technology Climate change and envorimental degradation War No skiing, no snow Less Tourists Lose control no forest, fewer fields	hot summer animals die Nature is probably dying Air is no longer so wowwww Less Food no snow and no tourists less nature
---	--



j) What POSITIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if anticipated)

More technology Nothing my positive influence Tourism – more tourists – because it’s warmer All gonna be better	More agriculture – more crop/harvest – plant other things because it's warmer-tropical fruits in Sillian - More farmers school is better for the kids school will be more important than nowadays
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- k) What relevance will digitisation, virtualisation (RV, RA), AI applications (chatbot, generative) have on the following activities:
- k.1. cultural valorisation (museum innovations)
 - k.2. valorisation of the natural heritage (parks)
 - k.3. local agricultural production
 - k.4. the promotion and offer of tourism
 - k.5. citizen participation
 - k.6. recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)

Study and work here	4.3
Cultural valorization (museum innovations)	3.7
Local productions (agriculture, crafts, industries)	3.7
Valorization of natural heritage (Parks)	3.4
Promotion and tourist offer	3.3
Citizen participation	3.3
Recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)	3.1





l) Imagine the most useful and urgent digitisation for daily life in local mountain communities, what is it about?

Travel faster
snapchat AI - ChatGPT for questions they were really important
I think we don't need digitization in our valley
Fairies
Google Maps
find dead animals with the drone and save young animals from danger
Flying cars



WORKSHOP AT BOURG LÈS VALENCE (VALENCE), MARCH 19, 2024, 09:00 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.

The workshop has been held at the Lycée Agricole le Valentin¹ (Bourg lès Valence, March 19th 2025), the format was consistent with that used in other schools in Cogne (ITA) e in Lienz (A) to have comparable experimentation.

A total of 22 students between 15-18 years old participated in the workshop, consisting of the following activities:

- 9.00: Introduction to megatrends (with Megatrend cards individually assigned)
- 9.15 Interaction and group discussion with Mentimeter app (students used smartphone individually, in couple, in small groups depending on different questions)
- 10.15 Debriefing and conclusion
- 10.45 End

Key Insights from the Workshop:

The first words associated by the students with the future (2050) of Valence community were in order of frequency: *automated* (4 times), *OK* (3 times), *dangerous*, *diversified (vehicles)*, *durable*, *touristic*, and *polluted* (2 times), *ecologic*, *bigger (population)*, *autonomous*, *green building*, *eventful*.

Among the most impacting megatrends, students included: Climate change and environmental degradation, shifting health challenges, and widening inequalities. aggravating resource scarcity and continuing urbanisation.

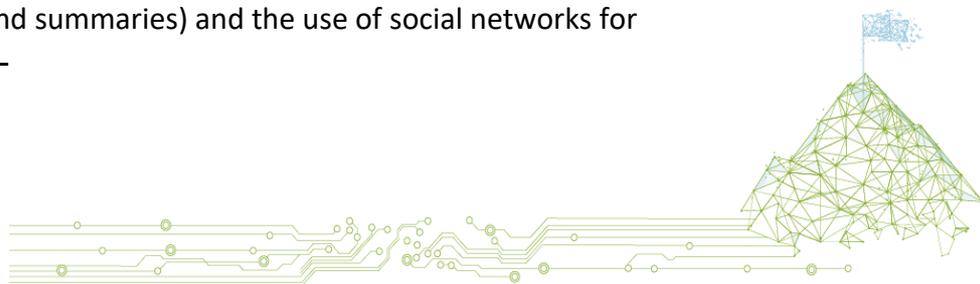
If not anticipated, according to the students, climate change will lead above all to environmental degradation in urban areas, including pollution, hot temperatures and water shortages; while the increase in inequalities risks fuelling social conflicts, such as protests, demonstrations, and even “civil wars”.

If anticipated, according to the students, megatrends could lead to positive changes, e.g. ‘continued urbanisation’ could lead to a reduction in long journeys. The challenge of climate change could motivate better crop management, in terms of reducing water consumption and damage caused by elevated temperatures. Growing consumerism can be positive if channelled correctly, for example defining monthly or annual quotas to regulate consumption. In general looking at the future and paying attention to the local change we can have less surprises and orient resources to make people more comfortable to go out in the streets without fear and people more willing to express their own personalities without fear of being judged or abused

Participants reflected on the role of digitisation, AI, and virtualisation in different sectors relevant for their life territory: the highest perceived relevance is for “study and work here”, at the second position is “tourism promotion and offer”, at the third position there is the “citizen participation”.

Concerning the future of digitisation in everyday life, there was agreement on the potential of AI tools, such as chat-bots, for help at school during courses (including homework, revision sheets, definitions and summaries) and the use of social networks for

¹ <https://levalentin.education>



entertainment, communication, viewing friends' lives and searching for information. Some students also mentioned the function of digitisation for communication, such as translation tool and 'hearing aid'.

At the end, the students were asked to recall the concepts they had heard and found most interesting in the workshop: the distinction into different types of futures (probable, plausible, possible and desirable) was mentioned by most, the concept of megatrends itself seemed to have been understood and found useful: they were able to define the concept and possible applications for their own contexts.



Questions from Mentimeter and results:

m) The Valence Communities in 2050 will be ... (word cloud)



n) Rank the megatrends in order of impact (positive or negative), placing the one with the greatest impact on Alpine communities first.



(The students first discussed and created a ranking with the cards, then entered the order into mentimeter)





o) What NEGATIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if not anticipated)?

<p>More villages in the countryside More pollution More traffic More degradations in city No water, hot temperature More demonstrations</p>	<p>Changing mentalities The development of weapons risks creating new civil wars or systems of terror within a city. High temperatures Civil wars between the different ethnic groups living in Valence</p>
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(students answered in French, here we report translated answers)

p) What POSITIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if anticipated)

<p>Fewer long journeys If anticipated, better crop management in the agricultural environment Fewer surprises if we are careful Over-consumption can be positive if properly channelled Over-consumption can be regulated by monthly or annual quotas Can fight the lack of water, and the hot temperatures, Demonstrations Changing mentalities Solidarity between social classes</p>	<p>Military development can have the opposite effect of calming populations, limiting internal and external conflicts, and stopping some of them. Less violence and problems Greater security for everyone More people comfortable going out into the streets without fear More people expressing their personalities without fear of being judged or abused</p>
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(students answered in French, here we report translated answers)

q) What relevance will digitisation, virtualisation (RV, RA), AI applications (chatbot, generative) have on the following activities:

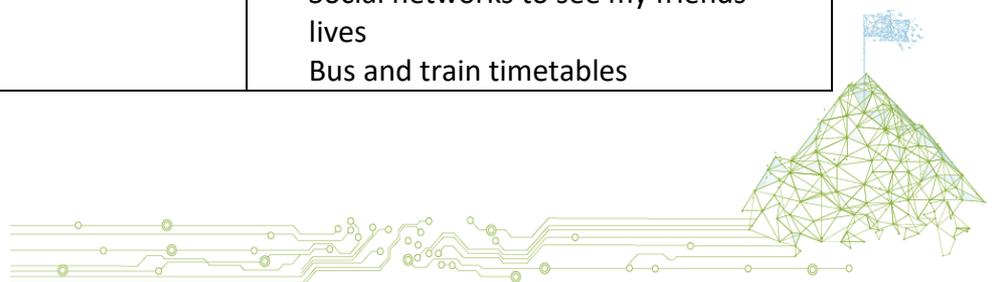
- q.1. cultural valorisation (museum innovations)
- q.2. valorisation of the natural heritage (parks)
- q.3. local agricultural production
- q.4. the promotion and offer of tourism
- q.5. citizen participation
- q.6. recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)

Choices	Weighted average
Study and work here	4
Tourism promotion and offer	3.92
Citizen participation	3.58
Recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)	3.25
Local productions (agriculture, crafts, industries)	3.17
Valorization of natural heritage (Parks)	2.83
Cultural valorization (museum innovations)	2.75



r) Imagine the most useful and urgent digitisation for daily life in local mountain communities, what is it about?

AI-chat bot (Chat GPT, Gemini)	Chat GPT to do my revision sheets (summary)
Search engines (Google)	Translation
Social media (entertainment + communication)	To communicate
Hearing aid	Press release
Face time	Social networks to see my friends' lives
	Bus and train timetables



<p>Chat GPT for everything to do with lessons, homework and to help us understand each other better</p>	<p>Browser for all sorts of searches Find information for homework</p>
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(students answered in French, here we report translated answers, eliminating the repetitions)



WORKSHOP AT ELZACH (FREIBURG) OCTOBER 1, 2025

The workshop was held with the support of Filippo Benedetti, representative of the EUSALP Youth Council, at the Schulzentrum Oberes Elztal, Elzach (1st October 2025), and the format was consistent with that used in previous workshops.

A total of 29 students aged between 15 and 16 participated in the workshop, which included the following activities:

- 8.00: Introduction to megatrends (with Megatrend cards assigned individually)
- 8.15 Group interaction and discussion with the Mentimeter app (students used tablets in small groups)
- 9.30 Debriefing and conclusions
- 10.00 Closing

Key Insights from the Workshop:

The first words associated by the students with the future (2050) of Elzach community were in order of frequency: *bigger, better and modern, then creative, digital, educated, established, great, more connected.*

Among the most impacting megatrends, students included: *Climate change and environmental degradation, shifting health challenges, and aggravating resource scarcity,* followed by *demographic imbalances* and increasing *significance of migration* follow.

Regarding Climate & Environment, key worries include the inability to continue skiing, severe impacts like floods, heatwaves, and crop failures that strain local infrastructure, less snow, resource scarcity, and air mist. The changing climate is also causing warmer winters, leading to suffering for animals in colder regions.

Concerns about Economy & Technology center on job losses (people being replaced by machines or AI), the misuse of data harming local economies, and excessive overregulation.

Health & Social Challenges: Issues mentioned include overdose and medicine challenges, a weaker immune system due to too much medication, and the loss of family and friends due to new diseases. A challenge related to maintaining infrastructure is highlighted: repairs are difficult because there are too few people living there. The overall tone reflects an anxiety about an uncontrollable future and a reduction in quality of life, with mentions of "less jobs" and "fewer green places."

A positive vision from anticipated megatrend, highlight potential benefits and opportunities across various sectors:

- Economy & Technology: The future could bring reduced working hours with the help of AI ("You could work less with the help of AI"). The economic gap is expected to narrow ("The difference between poor and rich is smaller"), and the economy would get stronger by having everything needed in one place. Additionally, there will be more jobs for digital services, and work will be done quicker and more efficiently.
- Climate & Environment (Positive Adaptation): While climate change is a factor, the positive outlook is that it will drive green innovation and a shift to sustainable economies, along with more renewable energy. Interestingly, one response



expresses a desire for "long winters with a lot of snows and white Christmases" and "warmer summers."

- Health & Social Well-being: The community envisions being prepared for new diseases and future situations. Socially, the community will be more connected and stronger due to centralization. There is also a focus on learning "more about different countries and cultures" and why people choose to live in the area.
- Infrastructure & Safety: Future improvements include more chances for buildings, e.g., bridges (likely better infrastructure maintenance), and a focus on "no slippery ice," suggesting improved safety and urban planning.
- New Government Systems will promote innovation, citizen participation, and more adaptive, responsive governance.
- Tech & Hyperconnectivity boosts efficiency, global collaboration, and new work models.

Participants reflected on the importance of digitalisation, artificial intelligence and virtualisation in various sectors relevant to their local area: the highest importance was attributed to "studying and working here", followed by (joint second place) "citizen participation" and "local production", followed by "recreational activities and outdoor experiences".

Concerning the digitisation in everyday life, the proposals center on implementing smart technology to boost efficiency and convenience, including AI-powered traffic lights and an increase in helping-robots for domestic tasks. Key digital service needs are a local app for government services and reporting issues, a volunteer coordination app for the elderly, and a system for real-time local health alerts. Other ideas focus on consumer convenience, like a smart refrigerator that automatically orders groceries, and improved outdoor navigation via QR codes on hiking signs, alongside the need for better digital school calendars and websites.

Questions from Mentimeter and results:

s) The Valence Communities in 2050 will be ... (word cloud)



t) Rank the megatrends in order of impact (positive or negative), placing the one with the greatest impact on Alpine communities first.



(The students first discussed and created a ranking with the printed cards, then entered the order into mentimeter)

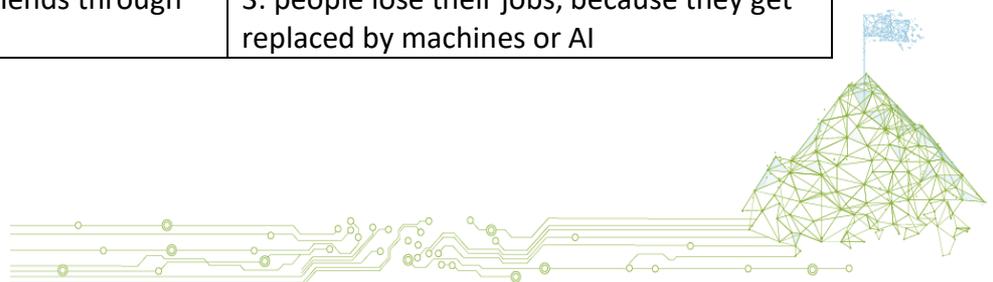




What NEGATIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if not anticipated)?

"5: climate change,
3: less jobs,
6: to few Green places"
We can't go skiing anymore(05). We can't control the future if we don't learn about it(07). We lose family and friends through new disease(14).

Number14 weaker immune system due too much medication
Number10 resources are being used and the food supply is getting smaller"
"13: bigger population
3: people lose their jobs, because they get replaced by machines or AI



<p>"Climate change: Floods, heatwaves, and crop failure strain local infrastructure. Technical AI: Job loss and misuse of data harm local economies and trust. Growing governance systems: Overregulation." "Nature of Work: too much Homeoffice Health Challenges: overdose medicaments Climate change: no more skiing, no more Snow Resource scarcity: too much air mist"</p>	<p>5: winters are getting warmer and animals who live in colder areas are suffering" "5: we don't have Snow in Winter anymore 6: no Parks 3: less jobs because of AI" Number 6 no repairs because there are too little people living there</p>
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u) What POSITIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have (if anticipated)

<p>You could work less with the help of AI. The difference between poor and Rich is smaller. Warmer summers :) We have long winters with a lot of snows and with the Christmas (05). We are prepared when the future brings new situations (07). We are prepared for new diseases (14). Climate Change: Drives green innovation and a shift to sustainable economies. Health shifting: Make people Health Nature of Work: More Jobs for digital Services Climate change: More renewable Energy Resource scarcity: More chances for buildings e.g. bridges</p>	<p>14 better medication for diseases which can be lethal 6 more connected and stronger communitys easier because everything you need is in one place 10 the economy would get stronger 13: you learn more about different countries and cultures and why they chose to live in our country 3: the work is getting done quicker and it's efficient 5: no slippery ice Tech & Hyperconnectivity: Boosts efficiency, global collaboration, and new work models. New Government Systems: Promote innovation, citizen participation, and more adaptive, responsive governance.</p>
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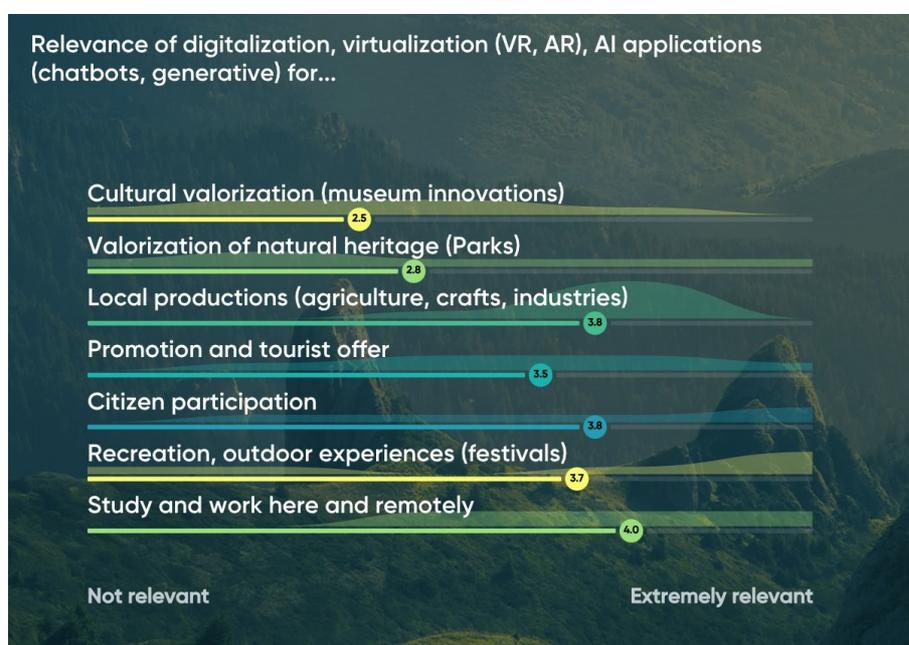
v) What relevance will digitisation, virtualisation (RV, RA), AI applications (chatbot, generative) have on the following activities:

- v.1. cultural valorisation (museum innovations)
- v.2. valorisation of the natural heritage (parks)
- v.3. local agricultural production
- v.4. the promotion and offer of tourism
- v.5. citizen participation



v.6. recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)

Choices	Weighted average
Study and work here and remotely	4
Local productions (agriculture, crafts, industries)	3.83
Citizen participation	3.8
Recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)	3.67
Promotion and tourist offer	3.5
Valorization of natural heritage (Parks)	2.83
Cultural valorization (museum innovations)	2.5



w) Imagine the most useful and urgent digitisation for daily life in local mountain communities, what is it about?

A digital calendar, school websites like sdui
 A local app to book public services, report issues, and get updates—bridging citizens and local government digitally, where such tools don't yet exist.
 Real-time local health alerts via SMS/app for outbreaks, vaccinations, or emergencies.
 Volunteer coordination app for helping elderly with shopping, errands, or visits nearby.
 AI Traffic lights that can detect if there are few Cars and Switch faster to Green. When there is a big Traffic Jam the lights help out
 Shared smart gardens with sensors & booking—locals co-grow food with real-time data support.
 Refrigerator that analyses the inside of your refrigerator and always orders products that you programmed into the AI of the refrigerator. The food gets delivered to your doorstep
 More Helping-Robots for example cooking and cleaning



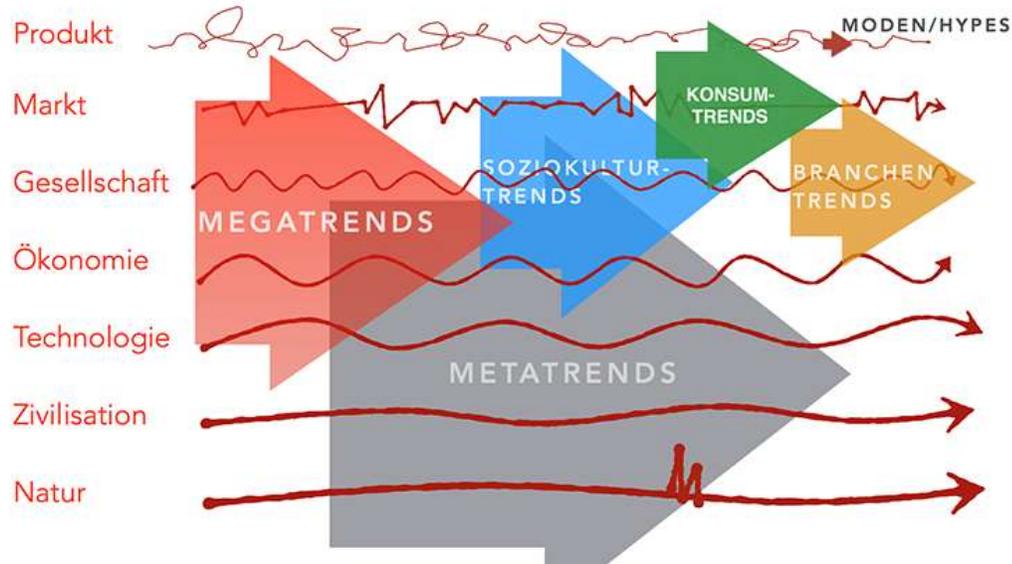
When you're hiking, there should be signs that have a QR Code and when you scan it you would see the map with the hiking tour that would help you to reach your destination and navigate you



SmartCommunity Project Meeting

October 15, 2024

Sillian, Austria



Megatrends workshop

Interreg
Alpine Space



Co-funded by
the European Union

SmartCommUnity

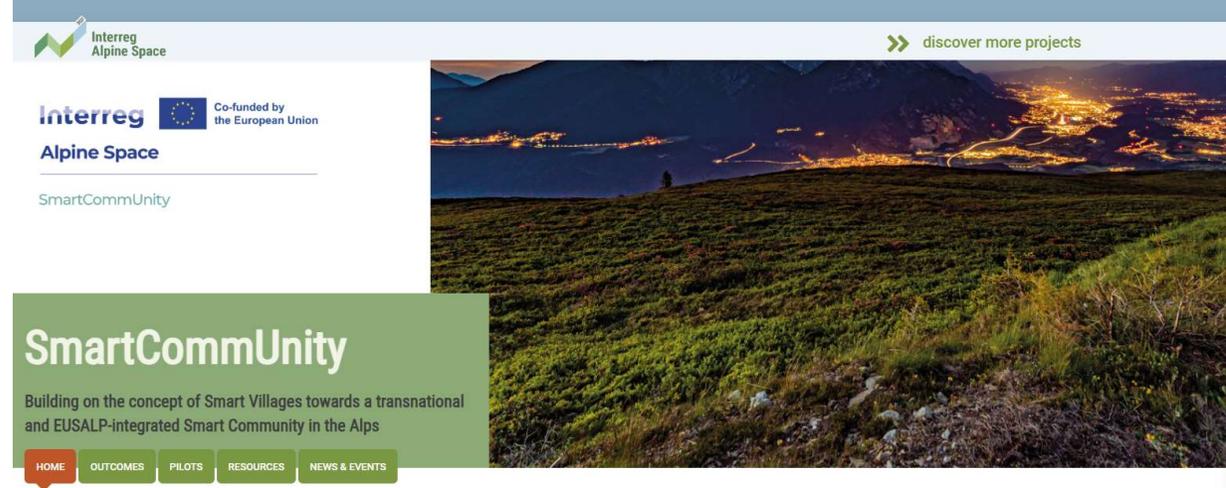
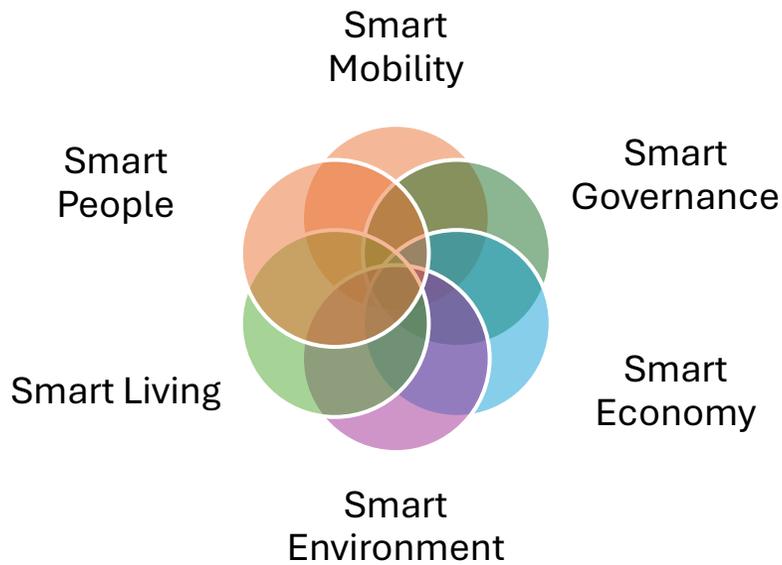


SmartCommUnity

Building on the concept of Smart Villages towards a transnational and EUSALP-integrated Smart Community in the Alps

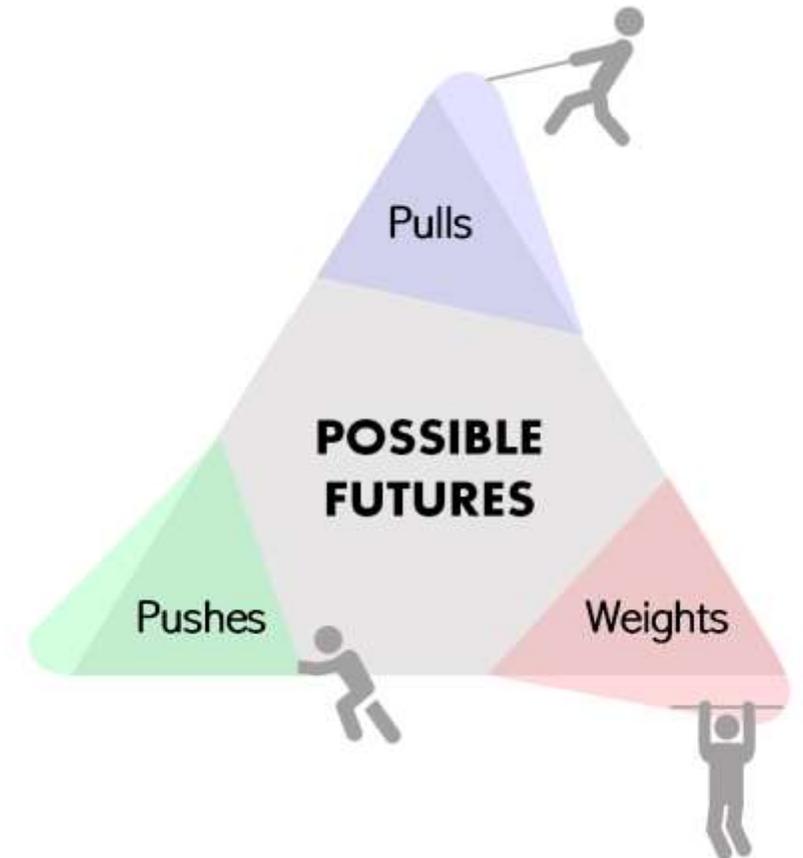
[HOME](#)[OUTCOMES](#)[PILOTS](#)[RESOURCES](#)[NEWS & EVENTS](#)

The SmartCommUnity project supports Alpine rural areas through **digitalization**, fostering **smart transitions** and **transnational cooperation** within EUSALP AG5 Smart Alps. By using interactive tools and promoting leading-by-example practices, it helps communities adopt sustainable, resilient, and attractive development approaches.



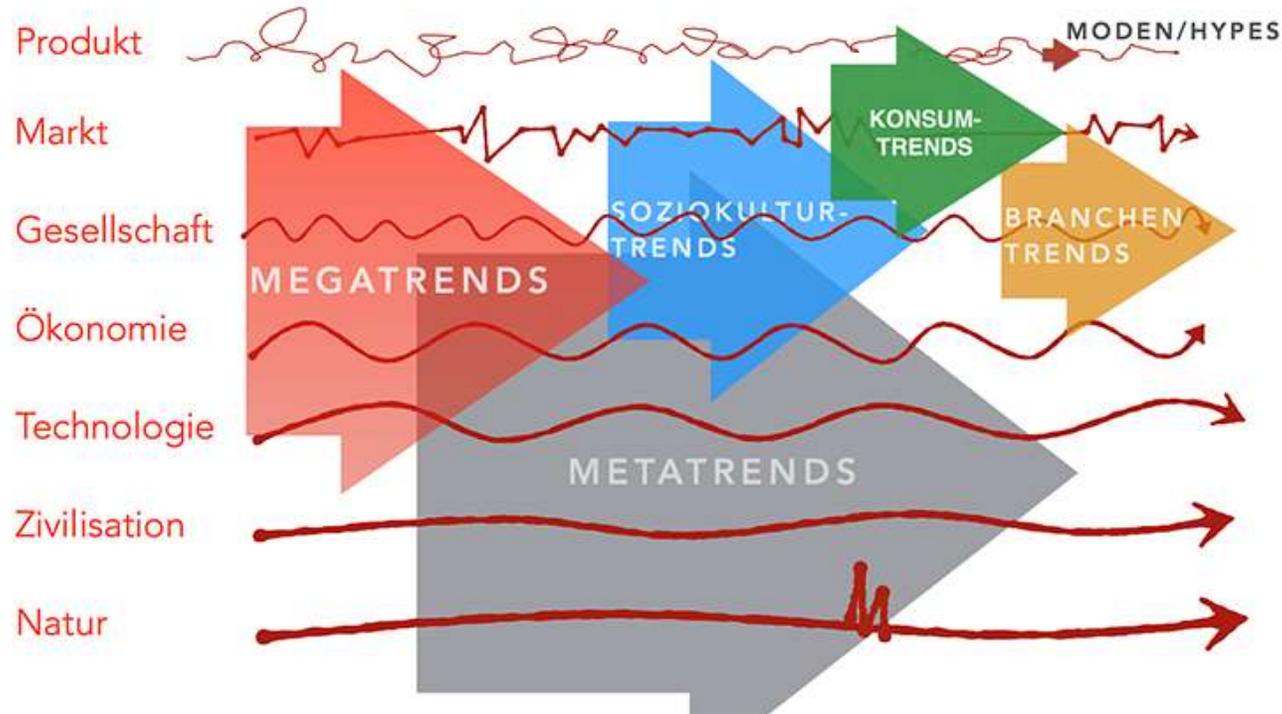
The purpose of today's workshop is:

- to introduce you to the concept of **megatrends**, they are what we know about the future, but often ignored
- to use it to think about the **local impacts of global trends**
- to invite you to keep them in mind in choices and discussions about the **futures of your community**



Megatrends

push the local futures



They are what we know about the future

A megatrend is a set of changes characterized by great inertia:

- It proceeds over decades or generations
- It is practically impossible to change in the short period



The only thing that can be done:
**recognize them and adapt
(anticipation)**

Working with megatrends

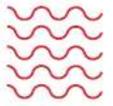
DESCRIPTION:

The EC [Megatrends Hub](#) is a curated repository of foresight-related information created by the Joint Research Centre and structured around 14 Global Megatrends (long-term driving forces that are observable now and will most likely have significant influence on the future).

https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/foresight/working-megatrends_en

Climate change

Derris analysed **7 of the main climate perils** that strike or could strike a significant number of businesses in various areas of Italy.



Flood



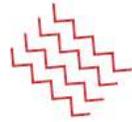
Lightning



Rain



Hail



Landslides



Wind



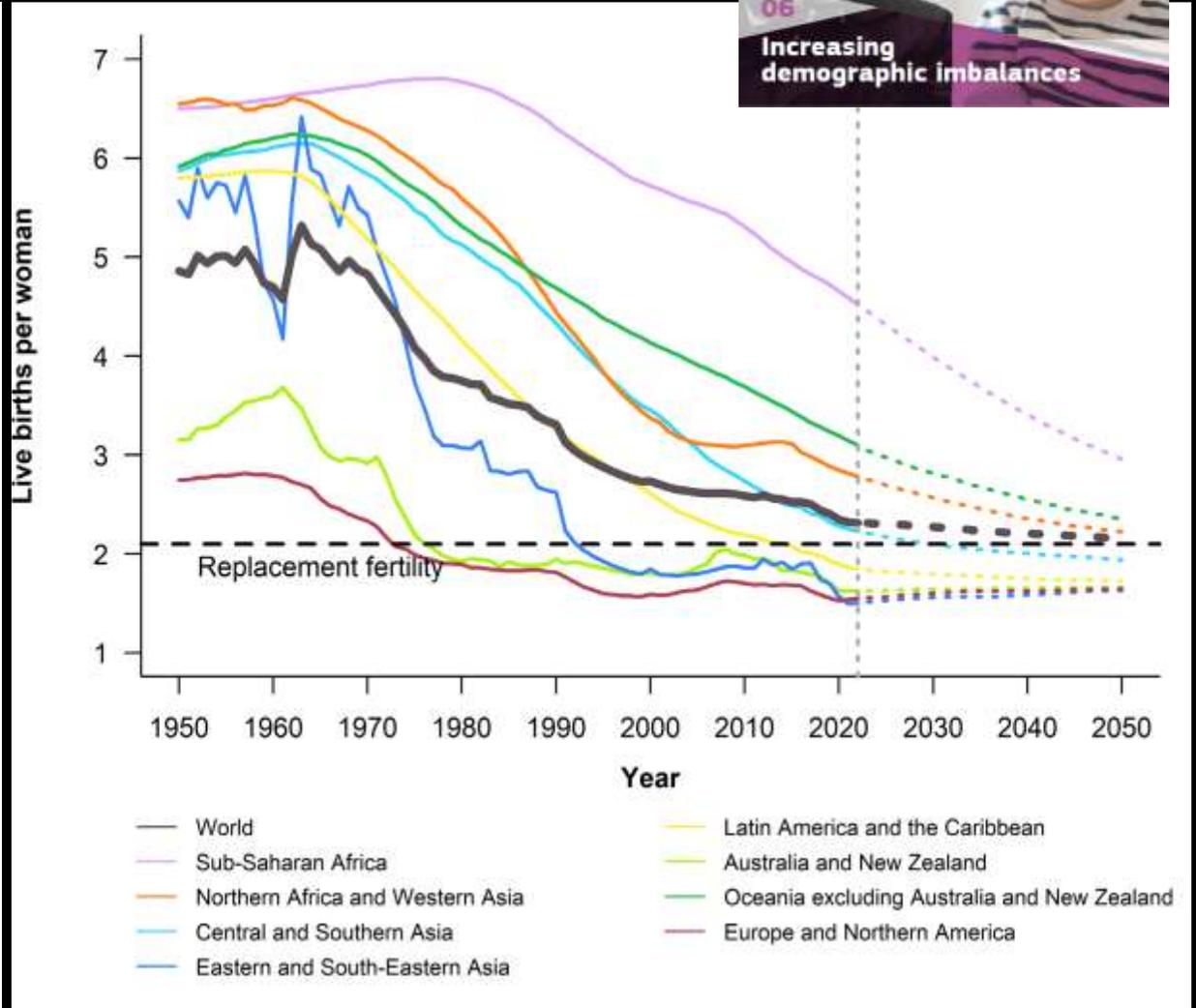
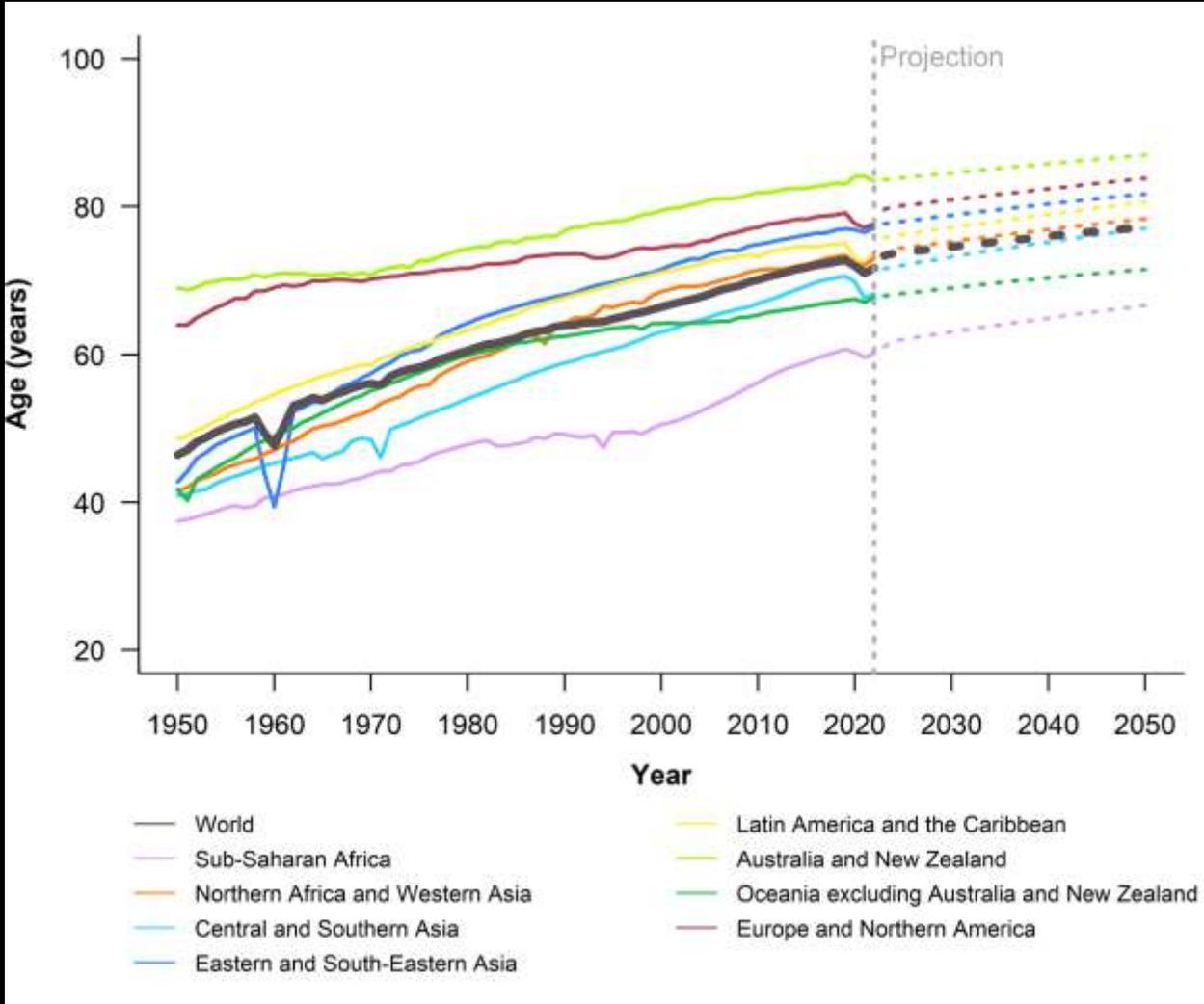
Temperatures



02

Climate change and environmental degradation

Demography



Demography

By 2100, Africa's population is projected to be second only to Asia's

Population by region



1950

Total world population:
2.5 billion



Note: Regions follow United Nations definitions and may differ from other Pew Research Center reports.

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, "World Population Prospects 2019."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



Expanding influence of East and South

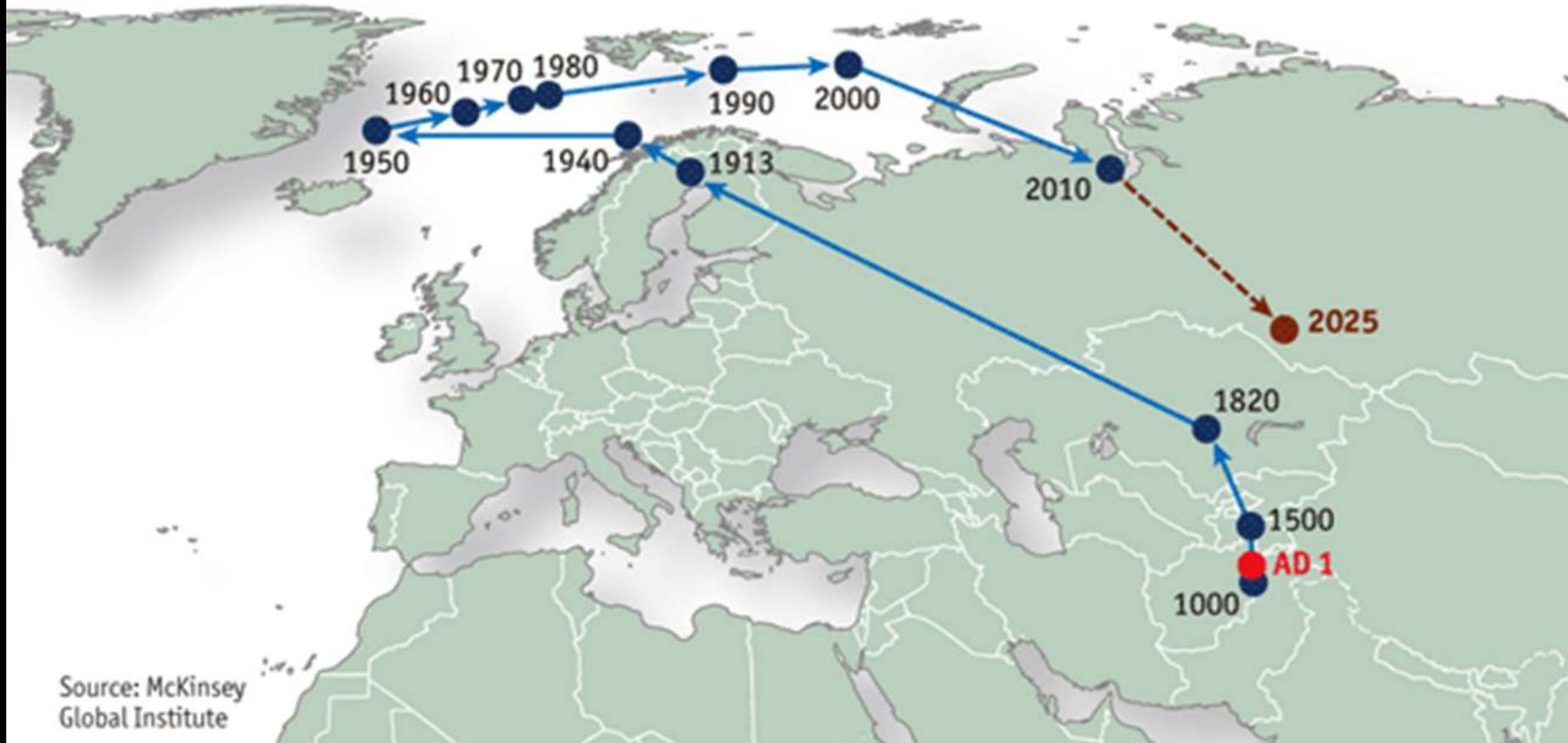
中國景德鎮
MADE IN
CHINA

07

Expanding
influence of east and south

Evolution of the earth's economic centre of gravity

AD 1 to 2025



Source: McKinsey
Global Institute

The future will be something different

2040

The new generations have lost the taste for ownership and prefer to share goods.
There will be no (or almost no) cars owned or used individually.



Autonomes Fahrzeug in HafenCity angekommen

<https://www.hamburg.de/its/12778698/news-heat/>

The future will be something else

2040

Climate change makes it even more difficult to live permanently in the most remote valleys or in the mountains.

Virtually the entire population lives on the valley floor.



<http://www.meteoweb.eu/2013/05/emergenza-frane-sullappennino-emiliano-approfondimenti-in-tv-al-tgr-montagne-di-rai2/202157/>

The future will be something different

Overtourism

the tourism sector is relevant and constantly growing (e.g. from 929 million arrivals in 2008 to 1.4 billion in 2018, in 2030 it will involve 1.8 billion people*).

Overcrowding, mobility congestion, spatial concentration (in few places) and temporal concentration (in few periods) are already causing negative impacts to numerous destinations.

In the Alps some places could lose their quality or even their identity.



The future will be something different

2040

Professions based on intermediation have disappeared.

For example, bank employees, travel agency employees, insurance consultants-car insurance salesmen, financial-banking consultants, notaries, lawyers, ...

they are replaced by intelligent web platforms based on artificial intelligence.



<https://youtu.be/cgYhRZ14zhA>

SmartCommUnity - Sillian

Go to

www.menti.com

Enter the code

1667 0678

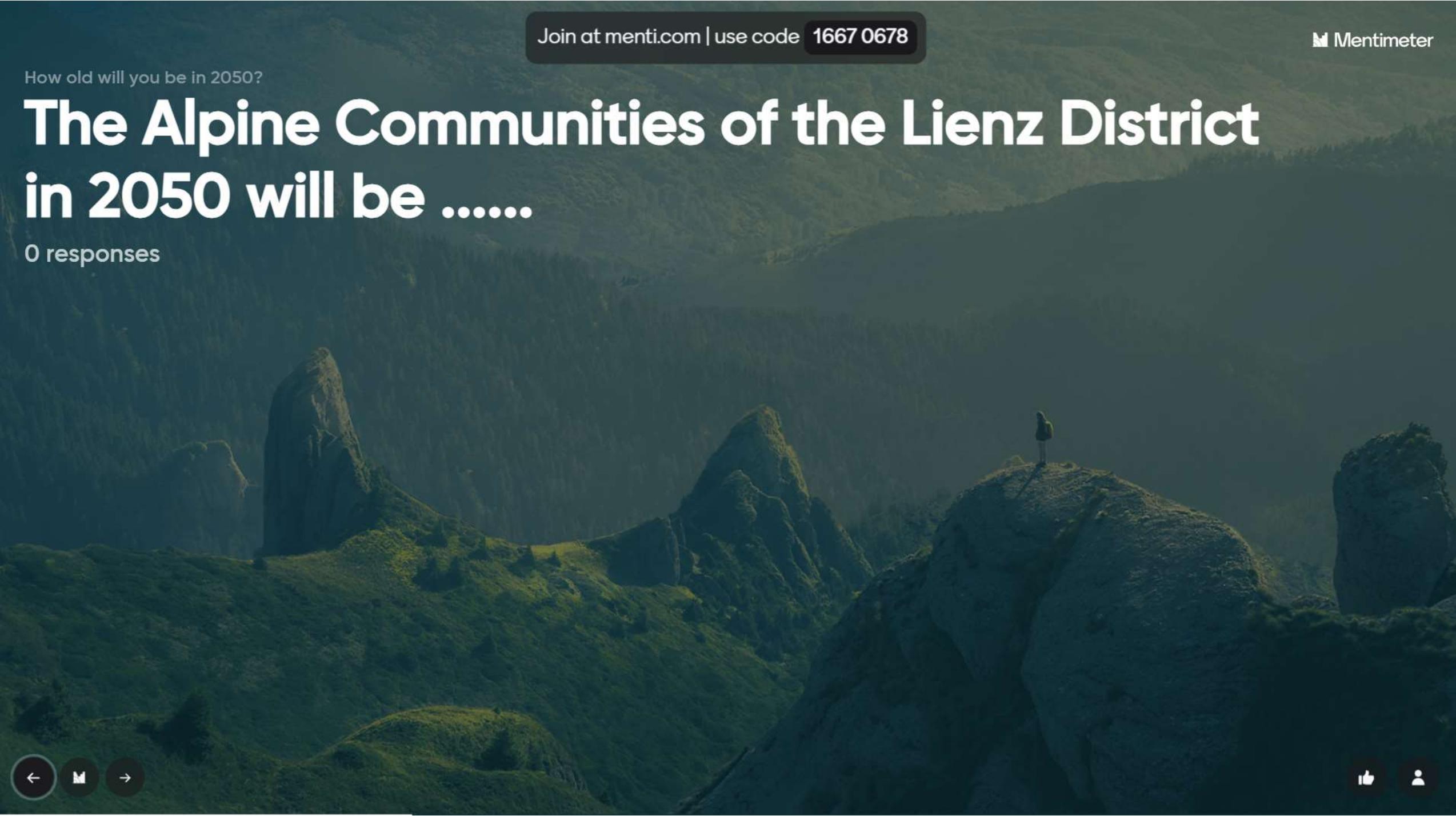


Or use QR code

How old will you be in 2050?

The Alpine Communities of the Lienz District in 2050 will be

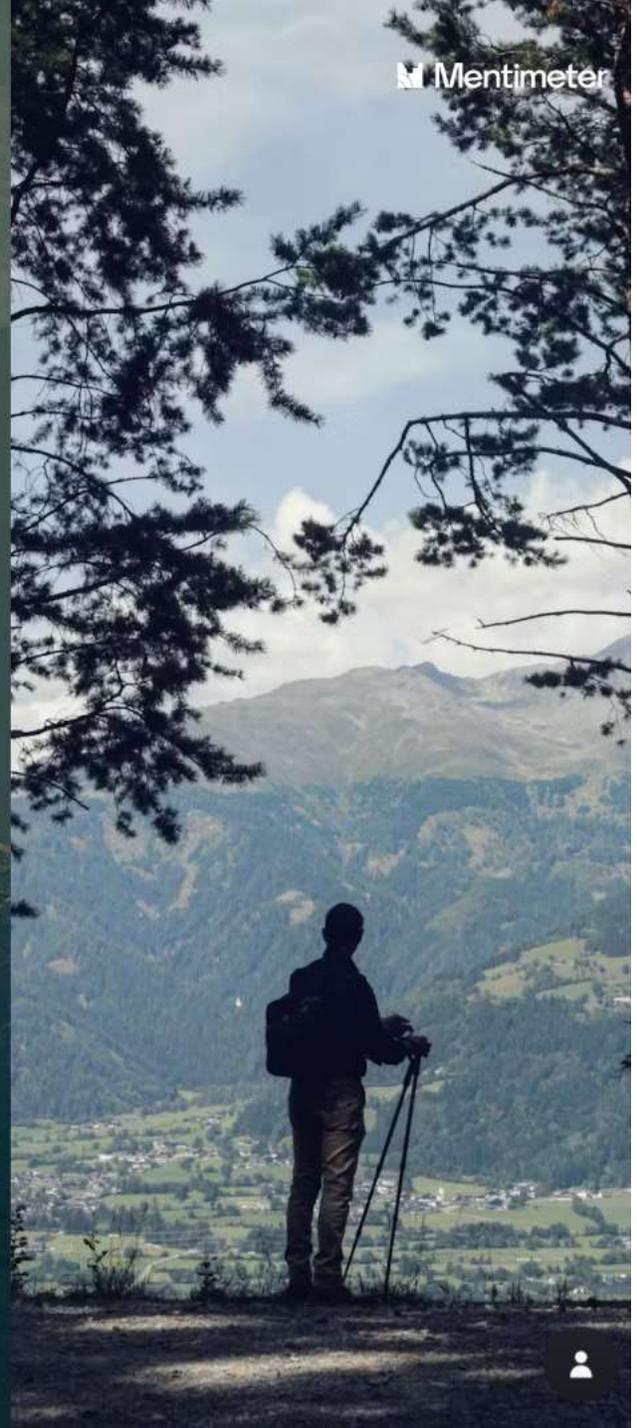
0 responses



SmartCommUnity - Future Alps

Megatrend ranking

- 1st** Climate change and environmental degradation
- 2nd** Aggravating resource scarcity
- 3rd** Increasing significance of migration
- 4th** Continuing urbanisation
- 5th** Increasing demographic imbalances
- 6th** Growing consumption
- 7th** Changing nature of work
- 8th** Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity
- 9th** Widening inequalities
- 10th** Shifting health challenges



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What NEGATIVE impact could the megatrend at the top of your ranking have? (if not anticipated)

0 responses



Mentimeter

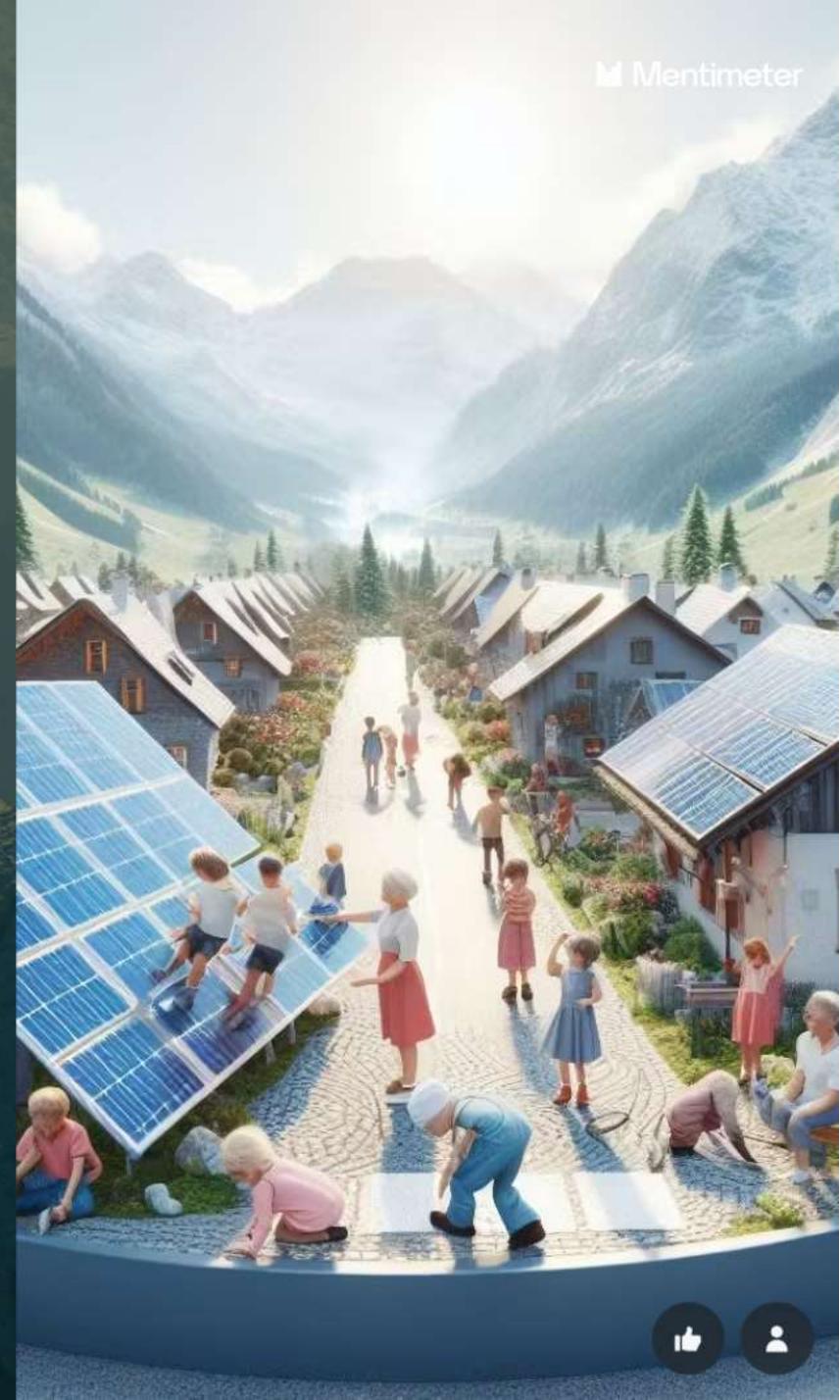


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**What POSITIVE impact could the megatrend
at the top of your ranking have? (if
anticipated)**

0 responses

Mentimeter



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Mentimeter

Relevance of digitalization, virtualization (VR, AR), AI applications (chatbots, generative) for...

Cultural valorization (museum innovations)

Valorization of natural heritage (Parks)

Local productions (agriculture, crafts, industries)

Promotion and tourist offer

Citizen participation

Recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)

Study and work here

Not relevant

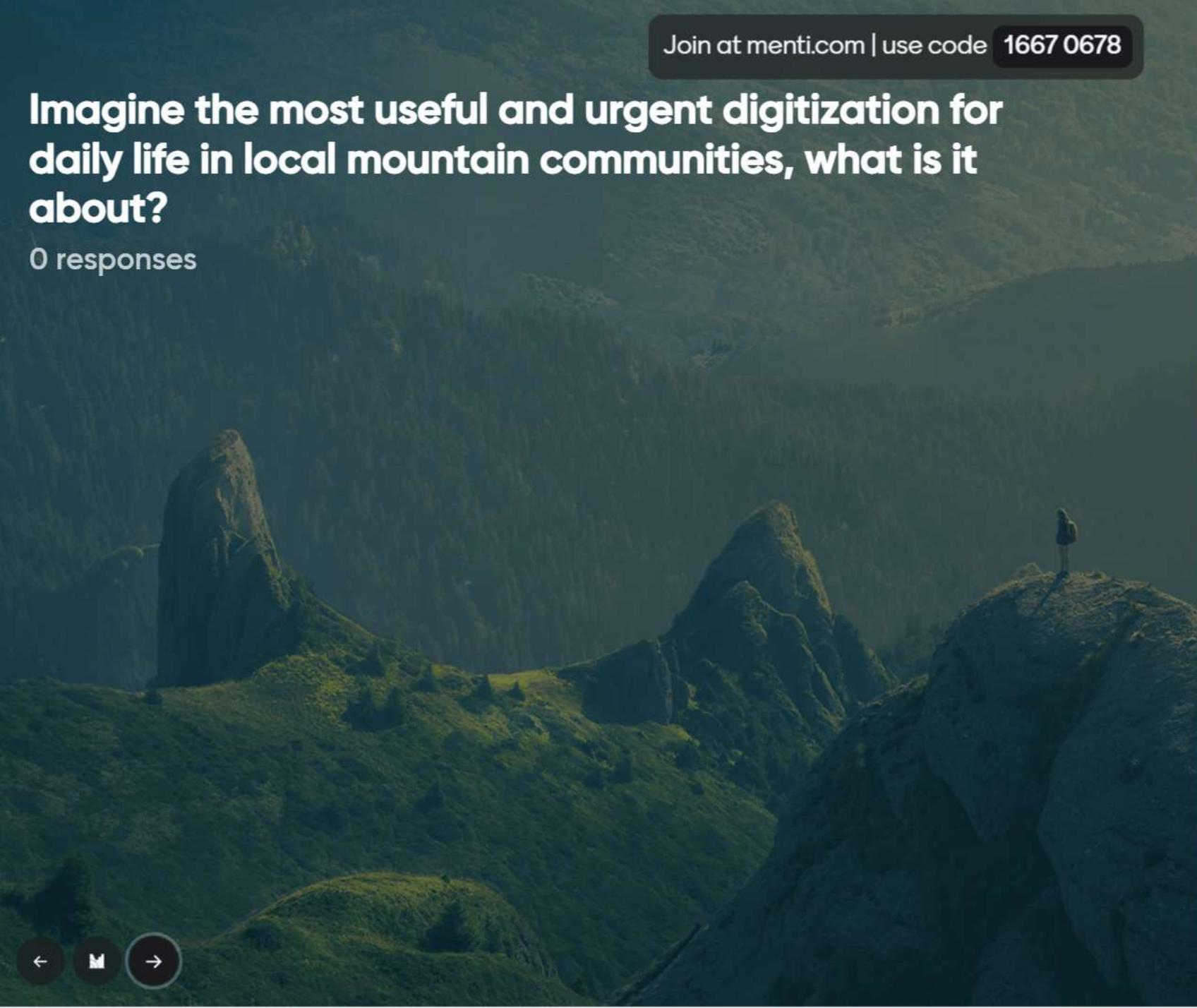
Extremely relevant



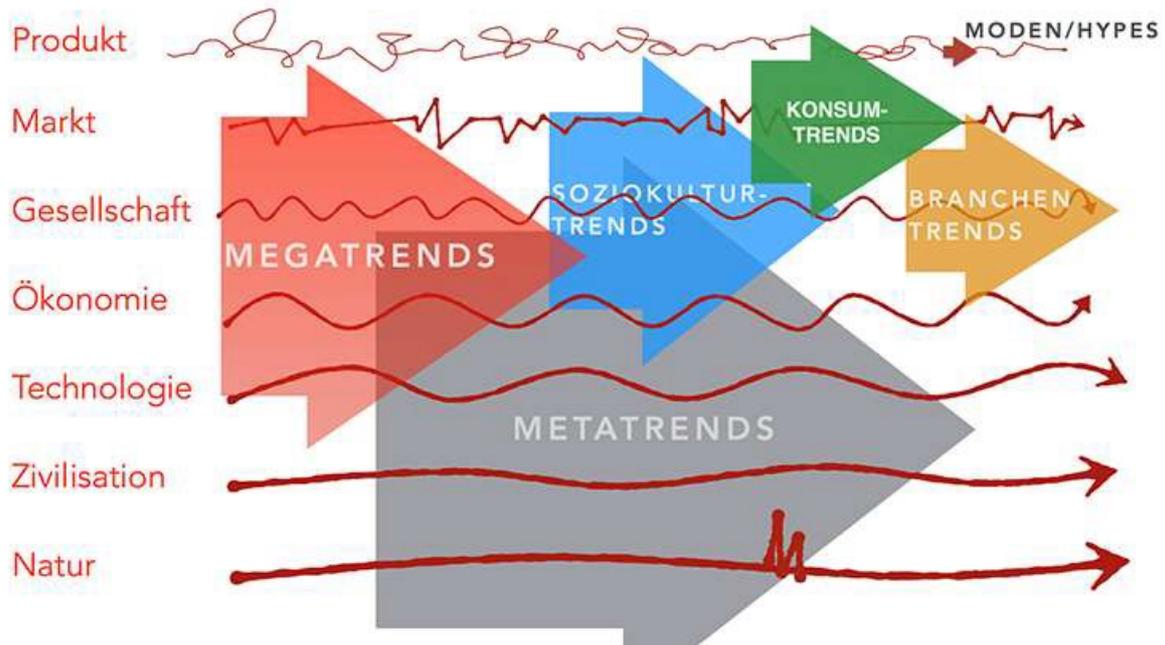
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Imagine the most useful and urgent digitization for daily life in local mountain communities, what is it about?

0 responses



Megatrends workshop toolkit



The Megatrends Workshop Toolkit has been designed to help Alpine communities, schools and youth groups explore the local impacts of global trends and promote forward thinking for sustainable regional development.

The toolkit was inspired by the Megatrends Assessment Tool, which was developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre's Competence Centre on Foresight. It was developed and tested as part of the SmartCommUnity project, which involved workshops with young students of various ages from different schools in Italy, Austria, France, and Germany.

This toolkit includes:

- Megatrend Cards: selected from the 14 Megatrends defined by the JRC Megatrend Hub, they cover the global trends most relevant to Alpine communities.
- Facilitation Guide: detailed instructions for conducting participatory foresight workshops.
- Guidance on digital engagement tools: question templates for interactive surveys and scenario creation (e.g. Mentimeter).



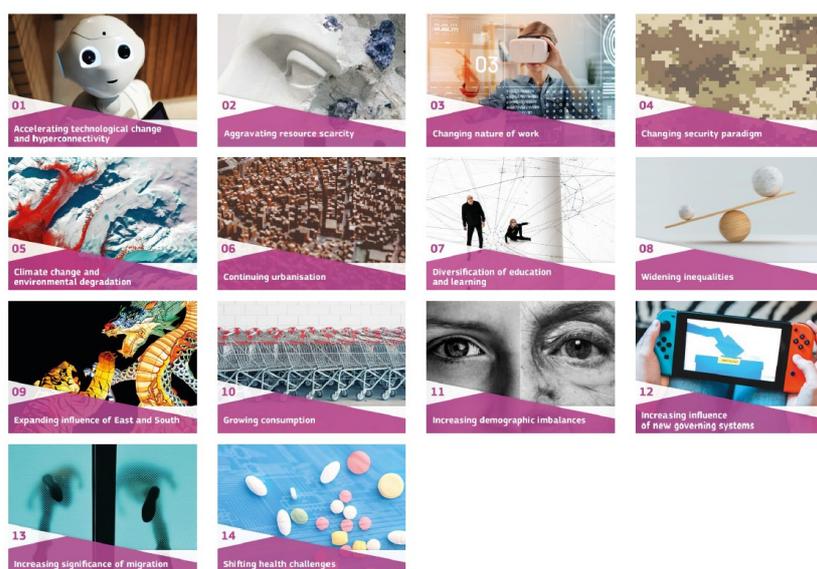
1. Megatrend Cards

Megatrend Cards introduce participants to the major global trends shaping the future of Alpine regions. Each card presents a megatrend definition and short description.

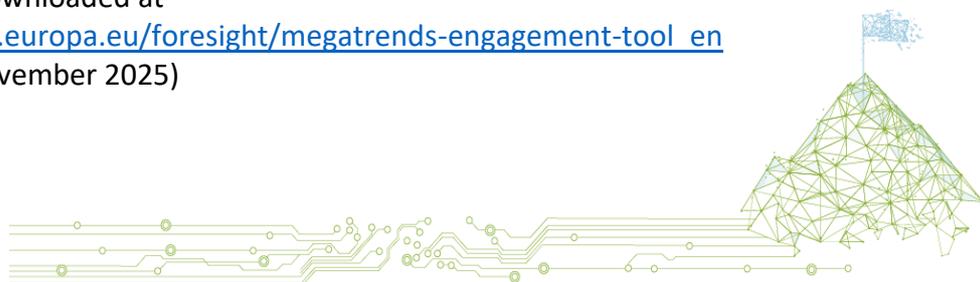
Here is the list of the 14 megatrends:

1. Climate change and environmental degradation
2. Shifting health challenges
3. Aggravating resource scarcity
4. Increasing demographic imbalances
5. Increasing significance of migration
6. Accelerating technological change and hyperconnectivity
7. Continuing urbanisation
8. Growing consumption
9. Changing nature of work
10. Widening inequalities
11. Changing security paradigm
12. Diversification of education and learning
13. Expanding influence of East and South
14. Increasing influence of new governing systems

To simplify the reflections of students encountering the concept of megatrends for the first time, only the first 10 megatrends out of 14 were selected. Discussing the excluded megatrends would have required specialist knowledge usually found at university level, not at secondary or middle school level. In situations involving citizens, administrators or university students, these megatrends may be included.



Sources: The cards can be downloaded at https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/foresight/megatrends-engagement-tool_en (version 2024, last access November 2025)



2. Facilitation Guide

Below are step-by-step instructions for conducting the workshop with students.

Preparation:

Print or display a set of [Megatrend Cards](#) for each group.

Prepare digital engagement tools (e.g., Mentimeter, see below).

Set up a comfortable, interactive space for group work.

Workshop Steps:

Step 1 introduction to the discussion on futures and to the megatrends

Create an atmosphere of mutual exchange by inviting participants to complete the statement: **'My community in 2050 will be...'** (asking them to specify the most significant differences compared to the present).

Start by looking at different ways we can think about the future. **Metaphors** like trains, kayaks, sailing boats and dice can help us understand this (see slides attached).

Explain what megatrends are: long-term global forces that shape everyone's future, even in small Alpine communities. They cannot be changed in the short term; they are something we know about the future.

Emphasise the importance of anticipation and adaptation: **realising the futures we want will require our efforts while taking these forces into account.**

Step 2: Localising Global Trends

Divide the students into groups of 4-6 people and give each group a set of megatrend cards. Ask to distribute the megatrend cards among all group members.

Ask participants to reflect on how each megatrend could affect their community.

Each megatrend can be a **threat** (if we are caught unprepared) but also an **opportunity** (if we are prepared).

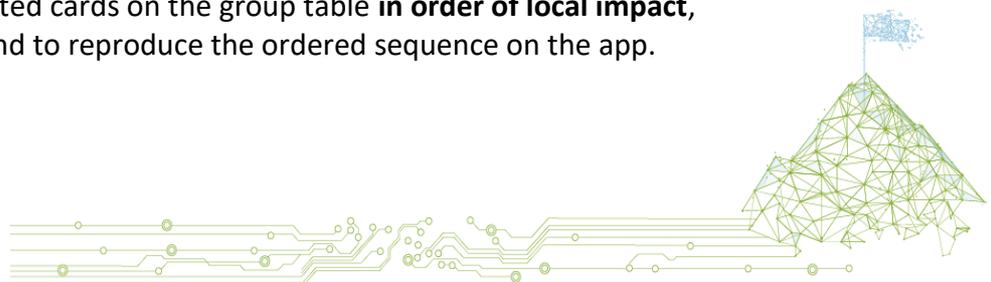
Use examples (e.g., the effects of climate change on mountain valleys, demographic imbalances, technological changes in local workplaces).

Optional, if time permits: Each member should imagine one threat and one opportunity arising from each of the megatrends they have in their hands and write them down on a sticky note.

Step 3: Interactive Ranking

Use paper cards and a digital tool (e.g. Mentimeter) to allow participants to rank megatrends according to their perceived local impact.

Ask them to arrange the printed cards on the group table **in order of local impact**, explaining their reasoning, and to reproduce the ordered sequence on the app.



Discuss the results as a group, asking for the reasons behind the ranking (for the top places).

Step 4: Exploring Impacts

For the megatrend at the top of the ranking, ask the groups to discuss together the **threats and opportunities for the local community**, answering the following questions:

What negative impacts could occur if the trend is not anticipated? (threats)

What positive impacts could be realised if the trend is anticipated and managed? (opportunities)

Collect responses via app or on flipcharts.

Step 5: Digitalisation for local innovation

Considering the megatrend 'Acceleration of technological change and hyperconnectivity' (related to the SmartCommunities project), ask the group to discuss the **role of digitalisation, virtualisation and AI applications for local community development**. (e.g., cultural heritage, tourism, citizen participation).

Invite participants to imagine the most useful and urgent digital solutions for their community.

Step 6: Scenario Building (Optional)

Invite participants to create short **scenarios** for the future of their community, considering the megatrends discussed.

Step 7: Reflection and Next Steps

Summarise key **insights**.

Ask what word or idea they take away from the experience.

Encourage participants to keep megatrends in mind in future choices and discussions about their community.

Tips for Facilitators:

Use real-life examples and visuals to make trends tangible.

Promote open discussion and respect all points of view.

The approach is that of collective brainstorming, where there is no single answer, where answers are not "right" or "wrong", but any idea is welcome (as long as it is consistent with the question).

Adapt the depth and complexity to the age and background of participants.



3. Digital Engagement Tools

To make the workshop interactive and gather feedback in real time, we recommend using apps to ask questions and collect answers.

We used [Mentimeter](#), but there are many other apps available online with similar functions, such as: [Slido](#), [AhaSlides](#), [Kahoot!](#), [Vevox](#), [Wooclap](#), [PollEverywhere](#).

Here the questions used:

- 1) (word cloud) *The [location name] Community in 2050 will be ... (write the first 3 words that comes to mind)*
- 2) (ranking) *Which megatrend will be more relevant for [location name] – (rank the megatrends in order of impact (positive or negative) on your community, placing the one with the greatest impact first)*
- 3) (open text) *What local NEGATIVE impact could the 3 megatrends at the top of your ranking have? (if not anticipated) – (Focus on concrete, visible, plausible, meaningful change for the community in which you live)*
- 4) (open text) *What local POSITIVE impact could the 3 megatrends at the top of your ranking have? (if anticipated) - (Focus on concrete, visible, plausible, meaningful change for the community in which you live)*
- 5) (scales) *Relevance of digitalization, virtualization (VR, AR), AI applications (chatbots, generative) for...* (use a scale from 1-not relevant to 5-Extremely relevant)
 - a) *Cultural valorization (museum innovations)*
 - b) *Valorization of natural heritage (parks)*
 - c) *Local productions (agriculture, crafts, industries)*
 - d) *Promotion and tourist offer*
 - e) *Citizen participation*
 - f) *Recreation, outdoor experiences (festivals)*
 - g) *Study and work here and remotely*
- 6) (text) *Identify the most useful and urgent digitization for daily life in local communities, what is it about?* (open question, free text answer)

References and Further Reading

https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/foresight/megatrends-engagement-tool_en

https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC136444/JRC136444_01.pdf

