



## FACTSHEET

- *Programme Period: 2021-2027*
- *Priority: Innovation and digitalisation supporting a green Alpine region*
- *Specific Objective: SO 3.2 - Reaping the benefits of digitalisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities*
- *ERDF Grants: 1.582.631 €*
- *Partners & Countries involved: University of Passau (DE - Lead Partner), German Alpine Club - Oberland Section (DE), Redmint (IT), Dolomiti Bus (IT), Municipality of Maribor (SL), University of Maribor (SL), Università della Svizzera Italiana (CH), BePooler (CH), Municipality of Šmartno pri Litiji (SL), Climate Alliance Styria (AT)*

## REPORTING PERIOD OVERVIEW

In March, DEGREE4ALPS entered the second half of its running time. During the last six months, the partners have been engaged in the preparation of the pilot activities around the digitalisation of inclusive mobility services and the greening of their operations.

The main elements to be tested have been co-designed with the active participation of local stakeholders, and among others technology providers and civil society representatives are onboard to be part of experimental services and enhanced mobility experiences for all citizens.

Across the engaged regions, it is becoming clear that digitalisation is an enabling factor to improve the accessibility of peripheral and rural territories, but also to prevent vulnerable groups from the risk of exclusion.

On 4 and 5 of November 2025 we gathered in Graz (AT) – hosted by our partner [Climate Alliance Styria](#) – to exchange knowledge, review ongoing progress, and plan further steps towards digital, green, and inclusive mobility solutions for Alpine regions.

In Graz, we also witnessed the effects of digital and green solutions being implemented within a vision dating back in 1992, and continuously sustained by the solid collaboration between planners, decision makers and citizens.

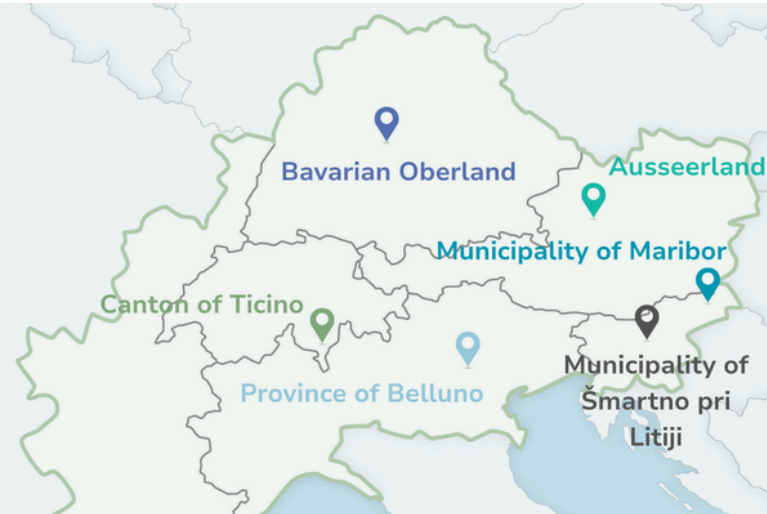
Furthermore, we had the chance to strengthen our cooperation with the [Interreg Central Europe DREAM\\_PACE project](#) – focusing on making mobility more demand-responsive – whose partner responsible for six pilot areas in Italy, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Croatia shared their knowledge on how to build Local Action Plans maximising the impact of innovative mobility solutions beyond the project perimeter.

DREAM\_PACE was successfully completed in February, and its solutions toolbox dedicated to Demand Responsive Transit (DRT) is now available on the [drt4all.eu](#) platform. Our project partners, engaged in planning and testing innovative flexible mobility services in their regions, will build on this legacy to deliver sustainable and inclusive mobility networks for the Alpine Space citizens.

# 6 PILOT AREAS: DEGREE4ALPS LIVING LABS

## Pilot Area 1 – Province of Belluno (Italy)

In the Belluno pilot area, Dolomiti Bus has focused its RP3 activities on the technical and operational preparation of the pilots foreseen within the DEGREE4ALPS project. During the period from September 2025 to February 2026, work continued on the preliminary design of digital mobility services, with the collection of additional inputs from the territory to better adapt service concepts to local needs and constraints. A key element of this phase was the ongoing coordination with the regional demand-responsive transport (DRT) provider, which was regularly updated on project progress and involved in discussions on operational feasibility, allowing early planning of vehicles and staff for future testing phases. In parallel, activities related to Pilot 2 focused on the analysis of existing data and tools for monitoring energy use in electric bus operations. Technical meetings were held with digital providers Andyamo and MyCicero to assess integration options and define data flows, with particular attention to the potential use of OpenStreetMap. These preparatory activities strengthened the technical foundations of the pilots and laid the groundwork for the upcoming testing phases, contributing to the development of more efficient, inclusive and digitally enabled mobility solutions for the Belluno area.



## Pilot Area 2 – Bavarian Oberland (Germany)

In the south of Bavaria, the German Alpine Club – Oberland Section is working to advance sustainable leisure mobility through its Mitfahrbankerl (tramping benches) project. With over 50 benches now installed throughout the pilot region, the project has focused on integrating them into widely used navigation and tour-planning apps such as Google Maps, Komoot, Moobly, and Outdooractive. The goal is for hikers to use public transportation to reach the mountains rather than cars, and then rely on the tramping benches to return from their hiking excursions to the nearest train stations after a day's hike. In Reporting Period 3, efforts have centered on boosting digital visibility, developing gamification features to incentivize usage, and finalizing the installation of new benches. Key lessons highlight the importance of strong partnerships with app providers and transport networks, while challenges remain in raising awareness and ensuring adoption. Next steps include launching the gamification system before the summer hiking season, together with major communication efforts, and deepening collaborations with Outdooractive and MVV to further embed the tramping benches into mobility planning for leisure activities in the southern Bavarian Alps.

## Pilot Area 5 – Municipality Šmartno pri Litiji (Slovenia)

During the RP3 of the DEGREE4ALPS project, the Municipality of Šmartno pri Litiji has made significant progress in developing and testing sustainable and digital mobility solutions for rural areas. Key achievements include the completion of a traffic count and school route analysis, providing valuable insights into local mobility patterns and needs. Based on these findings and stakeholder input gathered through Living Lab activities, several pilot elements have been co-designed and prepared for testing. In practice, two pilot activities are already being implemented: the use of an electric vehicle for on-demand transport by local associations and the provision of free shuttle services during major municipal events. These activities allow real-life testing of flexible mobility solutions while reducing traffic pressure and promoting sustainable alternatives. In addition, a dedicated mobility application has been developed and will soon enter the testing phase. The project continues to strengthen cooperation with local stakeholders and contributes to more accessible, inclusive, and environmentally friendly mobility in the region.

## Pilot Area 3 – Municipality of Maribor (Slovenia)

The DEGREE4ALPS pilot in Maribor is translating shared and flexible mobility concepts into concrete solutions tailored to rural and peripheral areas. A key step towards data-driven and evidence-based mobility planning is the analysis of passenger data, supported by Automatic Passenger Counting (APC) systems. These tools enable better demand estimation, monitoring of vehicle occupancy and optimization of service frequency. Within the pilot, a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) solution will be tested on bus line P10, selected due to its low passenger volumes and limited weekend service. In parallel, digital tools will be further developed by integrating the existing route planner with an accessibility-oriented planner to improve door-to-door journey planning, particularly for vulnerable users. Maribor is now moving from the preparatory phase to pilot testing, a key step towards validating the proposed solutions and advancing more accessible and efficient mobility services for Alpine and rural regions.

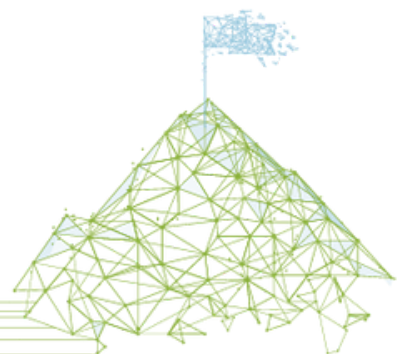
## Pilot Area 6 – Ausseerland (Austria)

In the pilot region Ausseerland Climate Alliance Styria in close cooperation with the municipality of Bad Mitterndorf is testing mobility workshops for residents in order to enable and empower them to use digital mobility service tools for public transport, demand-responsive transport (DRT) and carpooling. The first workshop took place on the 12 March and was open to all citizens of the municipality of Bad Mitterndorf, with a special focus on elderly people. Three additional workshops are planned for the Ausseerland region between May and December 2026.

By implementing these workshops, we expect participants to gain a broader understanding of the different mobility options available in the region and to develop the skills needed to use digital mobility tools effectively. Moreover, offering workshops on digital mobility tools is intended to contribute to improved accessibility and to reducing social exclusion in rural Alpine areas.

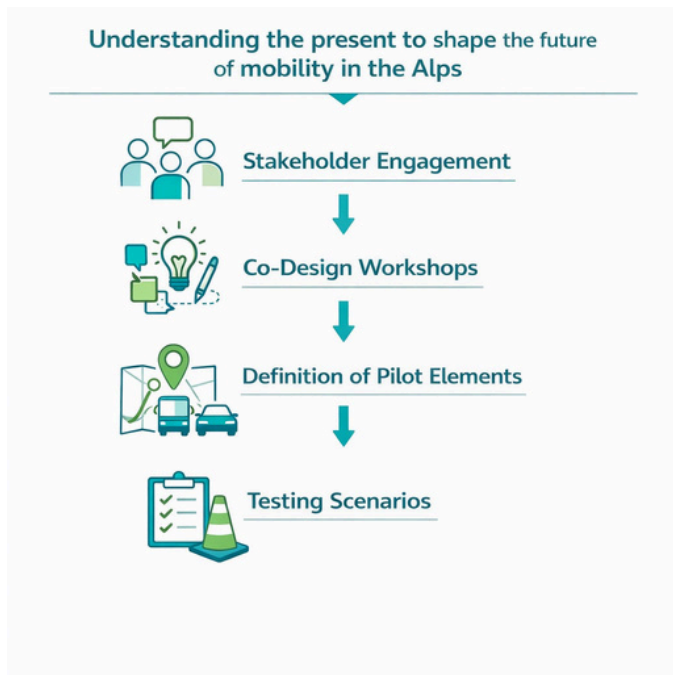
## Pilot Area 4 – Canton of Ticino (Switzerland)

During RP3, activities in Ticino focused on consolidating the pilot preparation phase in the municipality of Arogno. Key actions included organising the third Living Lab on 22 January, engaging local stakeholders and analysing mobility needs through field visits and discussions on a potential carpooling line. Project visibility was strengthened through a public article published in the municipal bulletin. Evidence collected during the Living Labs has been systematised and integrated with available public transport mobility data. A key challenge was coordinating different stakeholders and data sources while aligning local expectations with project objectives. The next phase will focus on finalising the pilot concept and preparing the implementation and testing phase.



## D.2.X.1 UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY IN THE ALPS

During the last quarter, partners completed the definition of pilot elements through a structured co-design process. Concrete use cases were identified, covering DRT, shared mobility and integration with existing services. This step translated initial concepts into actionable testing scenarios. The level of detail achieved is generally solid, although not fully consistent across all partners. This deliverable sets the basis for the implementation phase.



## D.1.2.3 CO-DESIGNING ELEMENTS FOR TESTING

Work on this deliverable has focused on consolidating the outcomes of the co-design phase into a structured description of what will be tested in each pilot. The deliverable ensures alignment across partners in terms of scope, objectives and methodologies. It also clarifies how different services contribute to the overall project goals. The main challenge has been ensuring clarity and comparability between contributions.

## D.3.2.1 DEGREE4ALPS GUIDELINES ON DIGITALISATION AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Work on Deliverable 3.2.1 is currently ongoing, focusing on the setup of the DEGREE4ALPS Community based on a Quadruple Helix approach. Stakeholder mapping is being carried out across all partner territories, with the aim of identifying key actors in digital mobility and social innovation. In parallel, the structure of the community and its engagement tools are being defined. Initial inputs from partners are being consolidated into a shared database. The first community activation actions, including workshops and online channels, are planned in the coming months.

## START OF ACTIVITIES WITH ANDYAMO IN BELLUNO

Andyamo has started contributing to the project, particularly in relation to inclusive mobility solutions. Initial activities focus on aligning their approach with pilot needs and project objectives. Their role is relevant for testing user-centred and accessibility-oriented services. Coordination with partners is ongoing to define operational aspects. Their involvement adds practical expertise on inclusion within the project for the partner Dolomitibus.



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# WHAT'S NEXT?

Based on the pilot workplans elaborated by the partners, in the next months the tests of innovative and digital solutions improving accessibility and green mobility will start in the DEGREE4ALPS Regions. Among these, mobility workshops in Ausserland, experimentation with demand-responsive transport services in the Centro Cadore Area (province of Belluno), Maribor and Šmartno pri Litiji, initiatives aimed at encouraging the use of shared and digital mobility tools in Bavarian Oberland, planning of carpool lines in Ticino will be carried on across the Alpine Space regions.

In Maribor and Belluno the preparatory works for the testing of digital tools to optimise the energy flows in electrified public transport will continue, and a study on the synergies between e-mobility and Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) will be launched in spring. The insights collected monitoring the progress of pilot activities during the testing phase will play a key role in refining the proposed mobility solutions and identifying approaches that can be replicated in other Alpine territories.

Furthermore, under the lead of Passau University, two open access training e-courses on digital inclusive and green mobility will be designed and delivered to reach a broad audience of decision makers and mobility operators with insights and recommendations on how to enhance their mobility networks.



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DEGREE4ALPS Project



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## PROJECT PARTNERS

