

UNIMONT

UNIVERSITÀ DELLA MONTAGNA

# Smart Villages for a lively future in remote areas

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The experience of UNIMONT was set up 20 years ago by the **University of Milan** and **five local authorities**, with the establishment of the Degree Course in “**Conservation & Sustainable Development of Mountain Areas**” with the aim of **preventing the abandonment of mountain territories**, promoting territorial valorisation by investing in young people and providing specific education and research activities.



# The results - UNIMONT

## EDUCATION



- BACHELOR'S DEGREE
- POST-DEGREE CLASSES
- SEMINARS - LIFELONG LEARNING
- HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES

45  
GRADUATES

76  
%  
GRADUATES IN  
EMPLOYMENT

38  
TOTAL  
STUDENTS  
PER YEAR

60  
CONTRIBUTIONS AND  
CONGRESSES

80  
ON INTERNATIONAL  
PAPERS  
SINCE 2011

## RESEARCH



- AGRI-FOOD SECTOR
- SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR
- ADMINISTRATIVE-LEGAL SECTORS

6  
RESEARCH  
PROJECTS

25  
ON NATIONAL PAPERS  
SINCE 2011

105  
SCIENTIFIC  
PUBLICATIONS

42  
PROJECTS

10  
EUROPEAN  
PROJECTS

08  
NATIONAL PROJECTS

## THIRD MISSION



- INTERACTION WITH THE TERRITORY  
(Conferences, workshops, dissemination of knowledge)
- NETWORKING
- COMMUNICATION

381  
SEMINARS

73.468  
PARTICIPANTS TO  
THE SEMINARS

12  
MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTERS

23  
NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTIONS

9  
PARTICIPATION  
TO  
CONFERENCES  
AND DEBATES

14  
PRESS  
RELEASES  
YEAR

560.0  
WEBSITE VISITS PER  
YEAR

30.00  
CONTACTS IN THE MAILING  
LIST



# Leveraging specific resources of mountain areas to generate local value: case studies

Our team is active on territorial development projects which entail accompanying local authorities and communities in order to draw up strategic programmes for the enhancement and development of Lombardy's mountains



**Cevo -  
Valsaviore**



**Mortirolo – Pian  
di Gembro**

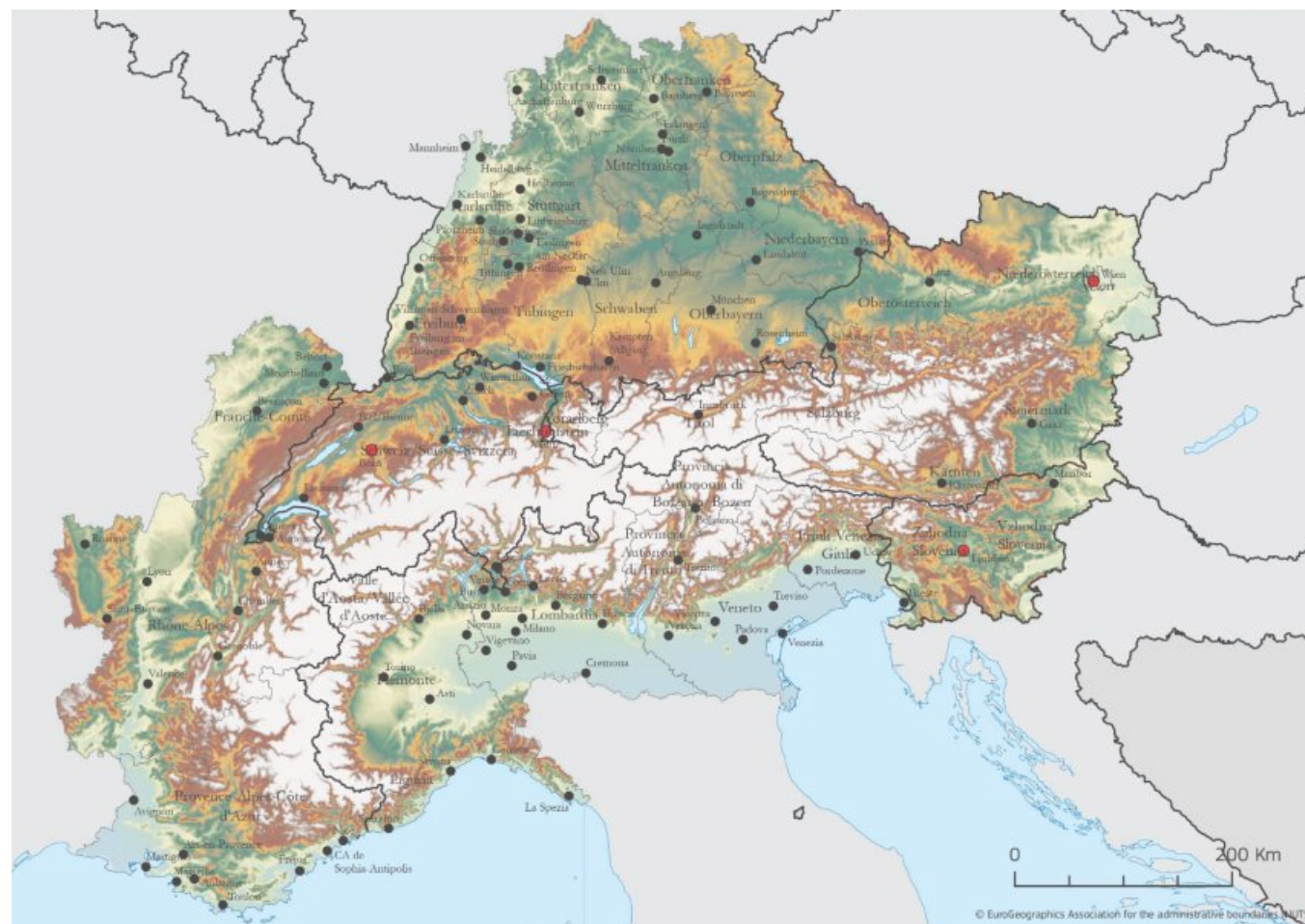


**Monte Isola**

# The Smart villages approach in the context of EUSALP

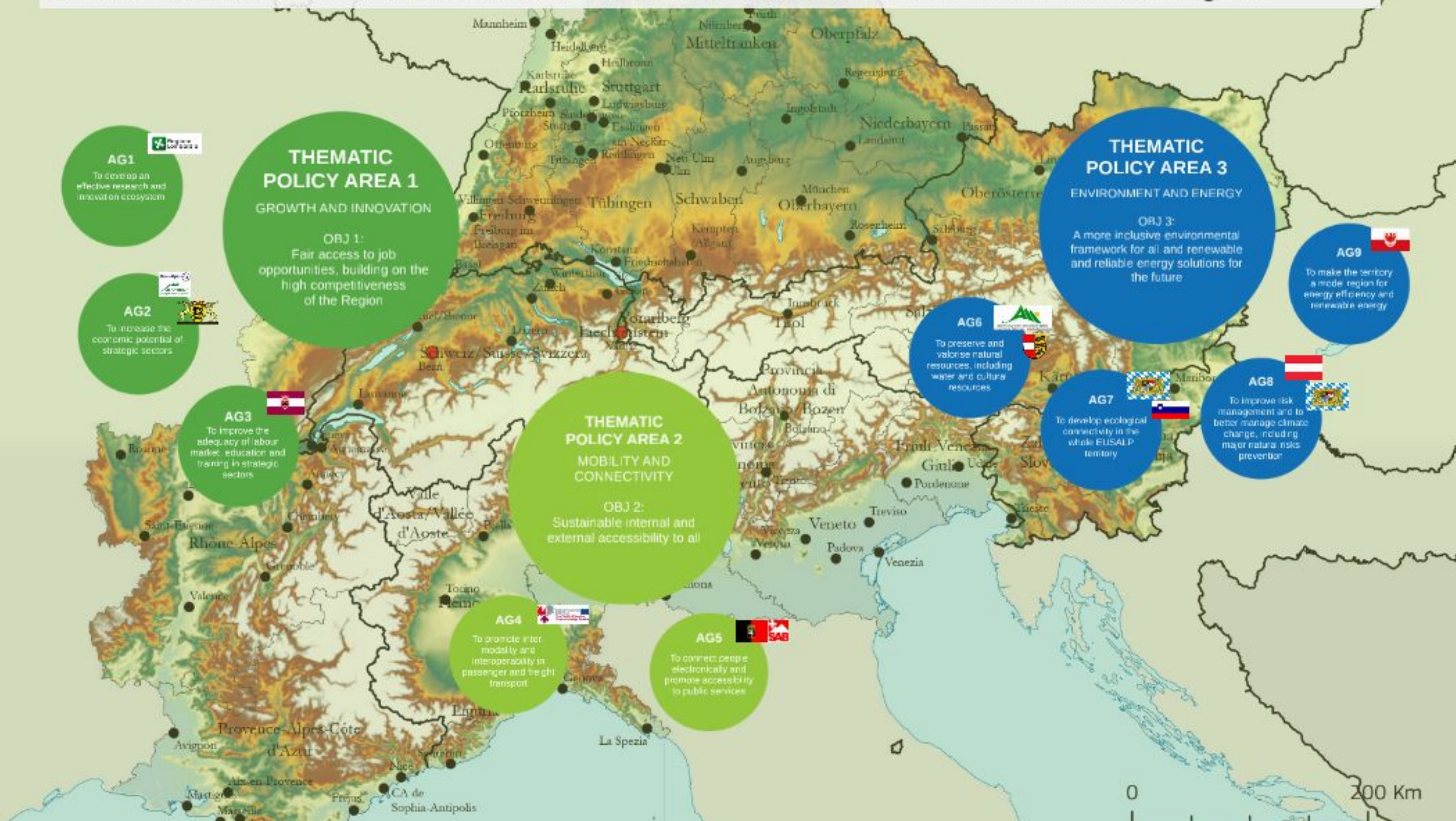
The EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) is the **fourth macro-regional strategy**, which aims to promote sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Alpine Region.

This Strategy concerns **7 Countries**, of which 5 EU Member States (**Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia**) and 2 non-EU countries (**Liechtenstein and Switzerland**), **48 Regions** and around **80 million people**.

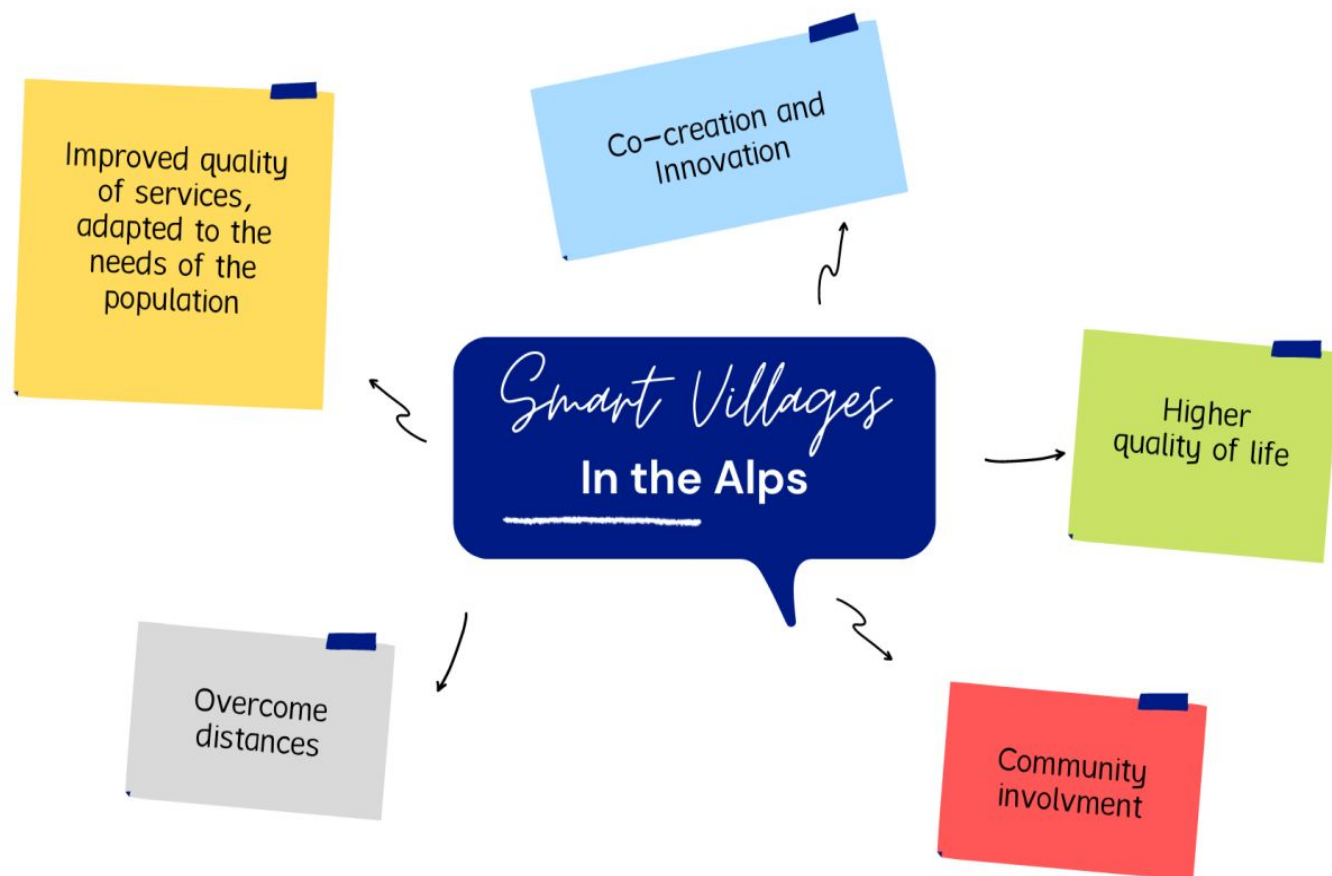




# EUSALP is based on three THEMATIC POLICY AREAS and GOVERNANCE as a cross-cutting axis



# The Smart villages approach in the context of EUSALP



- The Interreg Alpine Space Smart villages project (2018/21) was important to make the Smart villages approach known and to
  - develop a common understanding and methodology
  - proof the smart villages approach in practise (also during Covid-19-crisis)
  - elaborate transferable tools (DEP)
  - formulate policy recommendations
  - lay the basis for further capitalization (charter)
- The Smart villages project has to a great extent contributed to the profile of EUSALP and to its visibility.



# The Smart villages approach in the context of EUSALP



<https://smart-villages.eu>

# The Smart villages approach in the context of EUSALP

## Good practices

Select the category of your interest.



Enviroment



Mobility



Governance



People



Economy



Living



<https://smart-villages.eu>



# Smart Villages: Policy Recommendations

- Consider the smart transformation of mountain, rural and peripheral villages as a strategic priority
- Embed Smart villages in existing and future strategies and policies
- Allocate funds to integrative approaches such as the Smart villages
- Allow room for innovation and experimentation
- Encourage networking and the exchange of experiences around the Smart village approach within rural and mountain areas and with urban areas
- Use the potentials of the Smart villages approach to communicate the innovation potentials and attractiveness of mountain and rural areas and to link urban and rural areas
- Develop digital infrastructures and skills according to the needs and to the technological possibilities



**EUSALP**  
Policy Brief



**Interreg**  
Alpine Space  
AlpGov



# The Smart villages approach in the context of EUSALP



## Smart Villages

*Using the potential of digitization  
in Alpine villages*



In the period 2020 - 22, Smart villages is a strategic priority for EUSALP. The process is led by AG5. The focus lies on capitalisation of the experiences from the ASP-Smart villages project. The aim is to turn as many as possible mountain villages into Smart villages. Foreseen activities are:

- Survey on existing Smart villages in the Alpine area (✓)
- Survey on existing financial support mechanisms for Smart villages (✓)
- Promoting the Smart villages approach in the whole alpine area (✓)
- Create a network of alpine Smart villages to encourage the exchange of experiences (✓)
- Launch of the network at the Digital Alps Conference on 27/28 May 2021 (✓)



# SMART ALPS - The alpine network of Smart villages and regions



An informal network of alpine smart villages and regions, which aims to:

- disseminate the Smart Villages approach and foster the smart transformation in mountain and rural areas in the Alpine arc,
- encourage the exchange of information and experiences among Smart Villages and Smart Regions within the Alpine area,
- transmit a modern image of mountain and rural areas,
- foster contacts with similar networks and initiatives for mountain and rural areas all over Europe.



**Please contact the AG5-Leaders to join the network:**

- **Thomas Egger** - Swiss Centre for mountain regions - SAB
- **Carlo Vigna** - Valle d'Aosta Region



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

Thanks for the attention!  
[www.unimontagna.it/en](http://www.unimontagna.it/en)