Smart Villages

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Recommandations from french partners

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Preamble : Better understand what a Smart Village is

- The notion of Smart Villlage needs to be better defined. How to determine the strong elements in the notion? A triptyc: services that meet a need; in a collective approach; and that rely on digital resources ;
- Prefer the use of a national translation of the "Smart Village", that appears finally to be not that effective towards both population and local decidors, that can even find it controversial or mainstream, that implicates too much of the strict application of the Smart City to the rural areas. The designation "Village of the future" would be more suitable and would find better resonance at the French level for instance.

1st recommandation : Reverse population trend

- The challenge is to think about how to reverse the trend of people moving to the metropolis to go to work, and to make it a model of development in rural areas as much as a vector of local social ties.
- Living and working in the country, a somewhat dated concept but one that is highly topical in terms of envisaging a transition chosen by our territories, reconciling the needs of the inhabitants, infrastructure requirements and uses.

2nd recommandation : Work together

- For very rural and sparsely populated areas, it is essential to come together, to work together, to rely on intermunicipality and to form partnerships. Smart Villages pilot activities and places have shown that beyond the drivers, rural territories have the strength to work together, between local authorities, private players, associations, and to build ambitious projects.
- The economic, ecological, but also civic and political transitions will require greater cooperation between players so that everyone becomes a "reciprocal resource".
- Residents are often the architects of these innovative solutions, calling for a change of stance towards cooperation and organizational innovation.

3rd recommandation : Innovate and reuse

- The notion of innovation today is at the heart of the history of our mountains, which have been able to adapt constantly to the environment, and to find solutions, far from the cliché of isolation of these areas.
- It is a question of capitalizing on what has been achieved, of sharing our experiences, in order to continue, to amplify and to innovate on the basis of alpine demonstration projects.

4th recommandation : Enter in a long term and sustainable approach

- To think about the quality of life and the preservation of spaces and landscapes, because we can change jobs, but not the environment;
- Thinking about the approach and long-term vision is necessary for Alpine territories, both in terms of integrating infrastructures into society and landscapes, and in the deployment of uses in the daily lives of the inhabitants;

5th recommandation : Rely on new forms of mobility and accessibility

- Mobility is the most important issue to work on, since it is the first use of everyday life that has been revolutionized by the arrival of digital technology, and we need to be able to think about and support its renewal.
- Beyond the necessary deployment of infrastructures and broadband access for all and in mountain areas, it is a question of supporting local authorities in developing digital uses in the territories.
- New vision of rural mobilities should develop services of general interest based on the needs of the territories, involve public and private partners, and suppor the dynamic of creating multifunctional connected places, also called Third Places.

Smart digital transformation of villages in the Alpine Space
sConclusions of french RSG and 5-6th october event
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