

Interreg Alpine Space



EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



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SMART-SPACE Strategic Brochure

Alpine Space Strategic Cluster partnership for digital transformation: toward an Alpine Space Digital Innovation Hub

The strong traditional manufacturing activities in Alpine Space are the mechanical, chemical, wood, textile sectors with a low rate of highly digitised SMEs. It is strategic to support SME to become more competitive in their products, processes and services by using digital technologies. Smart Space strategy and the Alpine Space Digital Innovation Hub.

1. The present situation in Alpine Space area

- A lot of actions, initiatives, instruments, organisations and services are on the topic of the digital transformation of the SMEs, performance can be improved with better coordination and networking
- Almost all the Alpine Space regions have dedicated policies and specific regional and/or national programs for industry 4.0.
- European projects on digital transformation and industry 4.0, such as Alpine Space Interreg projects (e.g. Smart Space, Bifocalps) or Horizon 2020 projects with Alpine Space organizations (e.g. ICT innovation for Manufacturing SMEs)

Join us as the future Alpine Space Digital Innovation Hub member or as a Strategic partner of Alpine Space Strategic Cluster. Contact your National Alpine intermediate or go to www.alpine-space.eu/projects/smart-space.



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2. The 4 pillars of the Smart Space strategy

1.

Horizon Europe programme including the Factory of Future PPP and the EFFRA Strategic Research Agenda:

- i) Improve collaborations between Research & Innovation centers / Digital Innovation Hubs and SMEs;
- ii) Support SMEs for digital transformation through experiments and test of new digital innovations;
- iii) Encourage exchange of experiences and good practices for Industry 4.0 between organisations and SMEs.

Outputs for the Smart Space Strategy:

- Promotion of the networks and the technology providers toward Alpine SMEs,
- Collaborative Horizon 2020 projects with Alpine Space SMEs to develop, test and experiment digital solutions for new products/ processes/ services
- Coordination and support actions in Horizon 2020 for organisations including networking of Alpine Space Hubs
- Vouchers for Alpine SMEs to support funding

2.

Digital Europe programme:

- i) Network of the Alpine Space DIHs. Identify synergies of the SME needs and between digital expertise in the Alpine Space organizations;
- ii) Provide to the SMEs the best competences and infrastructures for digital transformation;
- iii) Capacity building and training on digital technologies;

Outputs for the Smart Space Strategy:

- Qualified intermediaries and high quality services
- Network of hubs to share complementary ex and good practices,
- Set up and Alpine Space digital innovation hub catalogue;

3.

Strategic partnership and Smart Specialization Strategies (S3):

- i) Rationalize and encourage investments for digital equipments and infrastructures;
- ii) Smart specialization strategies drive interregional cooperations by exploiting complementarities in the digitization, including investments through European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) post H2020

Outputs for the Smart Space Strategy:

- Co-investments (interregional investments) in digital technologies and in development of digital skills
- Invest in infrastructures to test digital technologies.

4.

EUSALP strategy:

- i) Develop dedicated policies and initiatives that will encourage digital transformation of companies and for facilitating transnational collaborations;
- ii) Boost the matching between SME needs and the digital technologies providers and expertises;
- iii) Complementarities between the Alpine Space strategy and the European, national and regional policies.

Outputs for the Smart Space Strategy:

- Alpine Space transnational events on industry 4.0
- Transnational directories of digital expertise, technologies and infrastructures,
- Put digitization and Industry 4.0 as priorities of the agenda of the next presidency of the Alpine Space area and of the next Alpine Space program
- Develop instruments to support the collaboration on regional and transnational level on digital transformation
- Sustain the SMARTSPACE Hub, implement and enlarge it.

3. The SMART-SPACE Strategy for Smart Industry

Smart Space Strategy and Alpine Space strategic partnership at the crossroad of all the above initiatives/programs. Alpine Space SME should benefit of all these outputs. All the traditional Alpine Space SMEs should get access to the necessary resources to digitize their products, their processes and their services.

The Alpine Space Digital Innovation Hub should provide to each Alpine SME an effective and sustainable ecosystem for digital transformation with access to the best capacities and infrastructures available in the Alpine area.

- Information on digital technologies, and how to get the best support/expertise at Alpine Space level;
- Expertise, specialists and infrastructures available in the Alpine Space;
- Funding instruments and financial supports for digital transformation
- Alpine Space network of digital innovation hubs to support the cooperation of the Alpine Space manufacturing innovation ecosystems, to help SMEs in their digitalization processes at local, regional and transnational levels.
- Shared vision and common understanding of the challenges for digitization of SMEs among the AS region
- Filling the gap of tools, knowledge and networking for a transnational innovation ecosystem for digitization - AS Digital Innovation Hub as a network of the DIHs in the Alpine Space area (Interreg Alpine Space and ERDF may be financial instruments)
- Develop the partnerships with the existing S3 platform strategic partnerships, including the ones on industrial modernization and the on advanced manufacturing

SWOT of SMART- SPACE STRATEGY

STRENGTHS	Strong network of industrial SMEs in the Alpine Space	No existing strategy on digital transformation for a large range of traditional SMEs	WEAKNESSES
	High R&D and technologies resources and expertise (competences, equipment, infrastructure ...) in the Alpine Space ecosystem	Reluctance of some SME to be involved in transnational cooperation for expertise due to cultural, distance and language barriers	
	Alpine Space area as a relevant geographic area in Europe for economic development and industry	Low rate of the highly digitalised SMEs	
	Large panel of intermediaries and infrastructures to assist traditional SMEs to foster digital innovation		
OPPORTUNITIES	Increase the competitiveness of traditional SMEs from the industrial sectors through adoption of digital and industry 4.0 technologies	Regional governments focus on regional approaches first, no priority for transnational collaborations and for interregional co-investments.	THREATS
	Alpine Space area to become more competitive and innovative territory with digital technologies adoption through a network of intermediaries/hubs to assist SMEs (a network of DIHs at Alpine area level)	Numerous and fragmented initiatives in the Alpine region	
	Shared policy through EUALPS to develop cross-border cooperations in the Alpine Space regions for digital transformation. Reduce fragmentation between regional, macro-regional, national, european initiatives.	Transnational support difficult to set in place for an SME	
	Existing connections and networks thanks to H2020/Interreg projects	Transnational sustainable model for a network of Digital Innovation Hubs at a macro regional level (Alpine Space)	
	A group on Digital Industry in the EUSALP implementation strategy working groups		

