Lessons learned by regions and cities during the COVID-19 crisis

Gianluca Lentini
Poliedra – Politecnico di Milano
The SmartVillages project

Our aim is to facilitate the **smart transition of mountain and rural areas by making full use of the opportunities provided by the ICT**. We also aim at creating a **mutually beneficial network** of smart cities and smart villages.
Smart villages and the pandemic

✓ Covid-19 and the national lockdowns have inspired creativity and entrepreneurship in our mountain and rural areas. Linkages with cities have been important on an equal footing.

✓ The pandemic has been a terrible challenge, but also an opportunity to kickstart long-delayed transformation in our way of interacting with each other and our social and work environments. True in the cities, as well as in rural areas.

Covi-19 Mountain Good Practices

✓ **French Alps (by ADRETS):** Alpine fablabs produced **visors** and gave all the information to its makers’ network to produce visors with their own 3D-printers. They also started a project to protect cleaners using **hooks** to open doors or manipulate different types of objects. Several municipalities produced locally and distributed **tissue masks**, with patterns approved by health authorities.

✓ **Fieschertal, Switzerland (by SAB):** Local app with events, infos, news, including regulations, public alerts, local food supply, health care and transport news. Push and feedback functions enabled.
Covi-19 Mountain Good Practices

✓ **Campo Ligure, Italy (by LAG Appennino Genovese):** Collaboration between the Municipal Administration and the cooperative that manages the Filigree Museum has led to the preparation of **films and multimedia material for interactive lessons** aimed at discovering the Museum itself and this particular form of craftsmanship that characterizes the area.

✓ **Pomurje, Slovenia (by SmartIS):** Jemlokalno – Eat Locally. Slovene farmers, producers and hospitality workers in Pomurje joining in a Jemlokalno **e-commerce app and platform to promote and deliver goods.**
Take-away messages

✓ Mountains and rural areas are full of creativity and assets. The main asset is the local population and local knowledge, also in challenging times.

✓ Mountain and rural areas are well placed to become attractive places to work, live, study, enjoy life and services: the lessons from covid-19 (and the climate-change context) are an example of this. Places to stay well and feel safe.

✓ ICT, where suitably available, are crucial to make the mountain and rural areas as attractive as urban areas.

✓ Sometimes a small transition (an app, a platform, an e-commerce site) can already provide huge benefits.
Thank you for your attention!


http://www.poliedra.polimi.it/en/homepage/

gianluca.lentini@polimi.it