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4 Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia www.uirs.si

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SPHERA

aims to enhance territorial governance in the Alpine Space, focusing specifically on the policy areas of health and spatial planning. It addresses issues like demographic change and accessibility to services of general interest in order to improve social cohesion and quality of life.

The capitalisation approach of SPHERA builds on current and finalized Alpine Space projects within the thematic field of "inclusive growth". Learning from the results of these projects, SPHERA has the ambition to contribute to Cohesion Policy through the development of health and spatial planning policies. The project will also help to prepare the ground for the new generation of projects in the programming period 2014 – 2020 by identifying gaps and supporting synergies.



Regione Lombardia General Directorate for Health

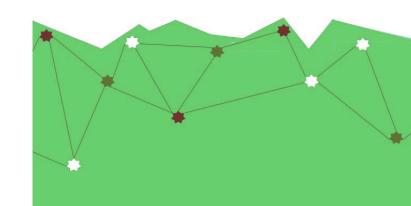
Contact:

Natalia Allegretti (natalia.allegretti@cnt.lispa.it) Roberto Zuffada (roberto.zuffada@cnt.lispa.it) www.spheraproject.eu





Spatial planning and health systems: enhancing territorial governance in the Alpine Space







Strategy

Territorial governance is one of the main strategic policy themes addressed by the current programming period of the Alpine Space Programme (ASP), which has explored concepts such as spatial development, urban planning, accessibility to services of general interest, actions for social inclusiveness and demographic change, and models for an inclusive and sustainable growth. A number of ASP projects have reached valuable achievements resulting in methodologies, tools, ICT based instruments, guidelines, and policy orientations.

The theme of the future of urban and rural areas is central in the perspective of a sustainable development within the Alpine Space area. To ensure a realistic approach which takes life-styles of urban and rural inhabitants and their wellbeing into account, new models need to be envisaged. Equally the healthcare systems are facing a number of critical challenges interlinked with the need of re-designing sustainable health models and governance of health systems in a territory under evolution in terms of provided services, change of resident population, and budget constraints.

Method

To leverage on results already accomplished by projects in the current programming period of the ASP, SPHERA will target the territorial governance and its possible entailments focusing on two specific dimensions: spatial planning and healthcare, in order to investigate the status of the policy development in areas such as:

- accessibility to services of general interest
- · quality of life
- · territorial development
- social inclusiveness

The output of this analysis will drive the definition of priorities of intervention, where the EU/national and regional level programmes should still intervene, to prepare the ground (move forward) for setting the scene for the ASP 2014+ projects generation in the **thematic field of "inclusive growth"**, in coherence with the goals of the Europe 2020 strategy.

Objectives

The overall SPHERA project objective is to improve the territorial governance in the Alpine Space with respect to spatial planning and health systems by:

- taking up the experiences and results attained by Alpine Space projects in terms of policy development
- valorising and capitalising the projects main quality achievements through dissemination activities targeting the relevant policy level/ actors to impact on regional, national and European policies
- providing/elaborating the foundations for setting up the new generation of ASP projects in terms of strategic vision and priorities to bring forward

The objectives of the SPHERA project will be achieved within the official project duration, which started in September 2013 and will conclude by the end of 2014.