

ACCESS

Improving accessibility of services of general interest – organisational innovations in rural mountain areas



- AS priority area: Accessibility and Connectivity
- Duration: 01/09/2008 - 31/08/2011
- [Project webpage](#)
- [Project on the website of the Alpine Space Programme](#)

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Project summary

ACCESS was an INTERREG IV B project developed in the framework of the Alpine Space Programme (ASP). It involved eleven PPs from Austria, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland. The partners had come together to improve the accessibility to services of general interest in sparsely populated mountain regions.

The maintenance of a spatially and socially equal accessibility to services of general interest (SGI) is a core issue to the functionality of mountain areas. However, the ongoing territorial concentration of SGI leads to a vicious circle of further deterioration in the quality of provision which in turn causes a decreasing demand of the existing services. The withdrawal of SGI has many negative consequences for the affected regions of which a reduced functionality, competitiveness and a higher amount of

motorised mobility are the most pertinent.

The ACCESS project therefore aims at improving the accessibility to SGI in sparsely populated, mountain areas. This will be done mainly by finding new forms of organisation of SGI, using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and fostering demand oriented, integrated mobility systems. To achieve these ambitious goals, ACCESS builds on a transnational approach and on participatory methodologies to assess the specific demands of stakeholders on different levels.

Hypotheses

- [Coordination of sector policies to prevent exploitation of natural resources and single-sector economies](#)
- [Sensitive Alpine territory requires appropriate and diversified measures \(consensus-oriented multi-stakeholder approach\)](#)
- [Rural-urban partnership requires vital networks and processes](#)
- [Cross-sectoral and integrated approaches are needed to slow down impacts in rural areas](#)
- [Rural areas need to cooperate and complement each other](#)
- [Ageing population requires adaptation and offers opportunities for Alpine areas](#)

Keywords

- [accessibility](#)
- [public services](#)
- [urban-rural partnership](#)
- [governance](#)

Topics

- [unspecific](#)
- [Balanced accessibility](#)
- [peri-alpine relationship](#)
- [Developing access to information and knowledge](#)

Results

[Results](#) of a project can be differentiated in [outputs](#), [outcomes](#) and [impacts](#) of an intervention.

Source: [OECD Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results Based Management](#).

Outputs

Output	Category	Language(s)	Target group	Remark
Final Report	Report	EN	Policy makers, civil servants / administration / planner / scientists / specific institutions	Final results of the ACCESS project and recommendations

Output	Category	Language(s)	Target group	Remark
Regional Intermediate Reports	Report	EN	Policy makers, civil servants / administration / planner / scientists / specific institutions	Regional Analysis on pilot areas on status quo with regard to different indicators (connectivity, population density etc.).
Transnational Intermediate Report	Report	EN	Policy maker; civil servants / administration; Planner; Scientists; Specific institutions	Transnational comparison on situation in different pilot areas with regard to services of general interest.
25 implemented pilot projects	Report	EN	Policy maker / civil servants / administration/ planner/scientists/specific institutions	25 implemented pilot projects which serves as model on how to improve service of general Interest in mountain areas.
8 strategies for better accessibility to services of general interest	Report	EN	Policy maker; civil servants / administration; planner; specific institutions;	on the basis of the pilot projects, the ACCESS partnership developed 8 strategies for better accessibility to services of general interest in mountain areas.
Regionalplanung für den Ländlichen Raum - Neue Wege zur Grundversorgung in Ländlichen Räumen	Report	D	Policy maker; civil servants / administration; planner; specific institutions;	Description of new ways of service delivery in the rural area (Region Südlicher Oberrhein).
Verbesserte Erreichbarkeit von Einrichtungen und Dienstleistungen der Daseinsvorsorge im Alpenraum - Strategien und Gute-Praxis-Beispiele	Brochure	D	Policy maker; civil servants / administration; planner; specific institutions;	Description of ACCESS results.

accessibility, public services, urban-rural partnership, governance]

Synergies

- Internal and external costs of living and commuting
- Sustainable settlement development
- Regional analyses
- Toolbox for analysing mobility, settlement patterns and service provision
- Decline of services in remote areas
- Pilot action database

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