

Alpine Space

PRESS RELEASE

BeyondSnow Project Introduces Innovative Vulnerability Map to Assess Alpine Communities' Climate Resilience

BeyondSnow, a European Interreg Alpine-Space project, involving Slovenia along with 13 partners from the Alpine Arc, is set to release a vulnerability map. This map will assist alpine communities in assessing their vulnerability to Climate Change. The interactive map will undergo testing in 10 pilot areas before being released free of charge for all alpine communities.

[Jesenice, Nova Gorica, 14.03.2024] - The drastic reduction in snow coverage duration seen over the past century, represents a critical challenge especially for Alpine communities dependent on snow tourism. In response, BeyondSnow, an Interreg Alpine Space Project, has initiated the **development of a comprehensive Vulnerability Map aimed at assessing and addressing the susceptibility of Alpine communities to climate change impacts**, particularly in relation to snow coverage diminishment and its cascading effects on winter activities.

The Vulnerability Map, a key component of the project's efforts, represents a collaborative endeavor to provide viable insights for Alpine communities. Leveraging data-driven methodologies, the map integrates factors such as exposure to climate variability, sensitivity of local systems, and adaptive capacity to construct a comprehensive assessment framework. The map will be available online and will integrate climate, economic and social indicators.

"The BeyondSnow project recognizes the **urgent need for tailored solutions to address the vulnerabilities of Alpine communities in the face of climate change**," remarked Andrea Omizzolo of Eurac Research, lead partner of the project. "Our Vulnerability Map serves as a vital tool to **empower communities with a nuanced understanding of their climate resilience**, enabling informed decision-making and the development of targeted adaptation strategies."

BeyondSnow's commitment to transparency and accessibility is further exemplified by the forthcoming release of the Vulnerability Map as a freely available resource for Alpine communities. This initiative reflects the project's overarching goal of democratizing climate resilience efforts and facilitating knowledge exchange across borders.

In the words of Jelke Popović Guživić from The Development Agency for Upper Gorenjska, "The Vulnerability Map represents a significant milestone in our collective journey towards building climate-resilient Alpine communities. By equipping stakeholders with actionable insights and fostering collaboration, BeyondSnow strives to chart a sustainable path forward for snow tourism destinations in the Alps."

For more information on the BeyondSnow project, please visit: <u>BeyondSnow Official Website</u> <u>Facebook</u> <u>Instagram</u>



Alpine Space



Contact: The Development Agency of Upper Gorenjska, Jelka Popović Guživić, <u>jelka.popovic@ragor.si</u> Arctur d.o.o., Katarina Ceglar, <u>katarina.ceglar@arctur.si</u>

BeyondSnow is an Interreg - Alpine Space project co-funded by the European Union. It aims at decreasing the snowdependency of Alpine Space snow tourism destinations, strengthen their resilience to climate change and retain/increase the viability for residents and their attractiveness for tourists.

