**Model Region „Škofja Loka Hills“**

**Key Issues**

**Vigorous population** Škofja Loka hills are outstanding for high fertility rate, substantially above Slovenian average, and municipality Gorenja vas Poljane for highest in the state 2.0; nevertheless, due to increased life expectancy, population is getting older.

**Substantial household size** There were 3.1 persons in average household, which is significantly above Slovenian average – 2.8; this could be explained by traditionally large, cross generation rural families.

**Dispersed settlements** Outstanding feature of Škofja Loka Hills is dispersed settlement. Due to improved infrastructure, population in most of the settlements is increasing, except for the settlement in the most remote and hilly areas. In spite of traditionally firm attachment to the homestead, peoples are moving to valleys because there are better opportunities for young families to buy or build a new home.

**Lack of social events for youth and loneliness of elderly** is the most noticeable characteristic for the hilly part of the region.

**Negligible migration** Except for the daily commuting, there are virtually no migrations, or are, in some cases, even negative.

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**Pilot Actions**

**Title:** Improving basic services in remote areas.

**Objective:** To enhance life attractiveness in remote areas by improving living conditions for elderly population.

**Description:** Frequent motive for decision to set up one's existence in bigger settlements with good infrastructure is anticipation of elderly population related problems in remote areas. Loss of mobility due to age, combined with remoteness of a living place results in loneliness and problems of how to obtain daily essential articles and services. Loneliness was partially mitigated due to the project “Elderly for elders”; lead by senior’s association, project attracted substantial base of volunteers that are visiting older retirees on regular basis.

Pilot project we will lean on existing volunteers base to upgrade their project by setting up mobile services and stores in remote areas. We expect that, with the help of volunteers, these services could be set up in a sustainable manner.

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**Title:** Enhancing social cohesion in alpine settlements.

**Objective:** To define attractive contents for social gatherings of various age groups in remote areas.

**Description:** Regardless infrastructure availability for larger group meetings, social life in remote settlements is in decline. This is true even more for younger peoples: being generally more mobile, they have better choices of social events available.

Finding contents that will attract older as younger generations is therefore of an paramount importance for maintaining cross-generation cohesion.

Pilot project will consist of creating sub-projects or events that will be carried out in remote communities, using existing infrastructure. Emphasis should be given on cross-generation projects, like passing knowledge and experience from one generation to another, on both directions or to attract younger to participate as volunteers in “Improving basic service project”.

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**Responsible Project Partner:**
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