ESPON BRIDGES
Key findings on innovation

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Rethinking territorial balances between urban and rural areas in the European Mountains: How can innovation support win-win solutions?
Social innovation dimensions
Framework for the assessment of social innovation initiatives

- Inland of Côte d’Azur (FR)
- Maisons des services au public (MSAP)
- Top-down social innovation
Framework for the assessment of social innovation initiatives

- Isernia (IT)
- Strategy for Inner Areas
- Top-down social innovation
Framework for the assessment of social innovation initiatives

- South Tyrol (IT)
- Gaalaxy project
- Bottom-up social innovation involving local administration
Critical factors for technological innovation

- Network relations between knowledge creators and users
- Knowledge absorption capacity of firms
- Entrepreneurial state of mind
- Number of skilled entrepreneurs
- Capacity to counter brain drain
- Openness to change
- ICT access
- Usage of ICT
Specificity of mountain innovation processes

- High profile
- Industrial traditions
- Small communities
- Challenges in service-provision
- Specific vulnerabilities
Challenges and opportunities

▪ Innovation needs are specific
▪ Regional smart specialisation strategies fail to reflect the specific challenges and opportunities of mountain areas
▪ Building on local entrepreneurial traditions
▪ Quality of living environment as a lever to attract talents
Policy perspectives

- Identifying innovation bottlenecks precisely
  - Infrastructure, usage, skills, attitudes, institutional frameworks
- Building mountain innovation networks
  - Sub-regional, cross-border or transnational
- Policies targeting flows of talents and workers
  - Transitional labour markets
- Better integrating social and technological innovation
  - Innovation centred on the specific needs and aspirations of mountain communities
Thank you

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