



## „Sustainable and Social Inclusion: Empowering Women in Mountainous Regions through Mobility and Gender Equality”

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# Role of Women in Local Economy & Community



- ▶ Women are essential to local economy and social life
- ▶ Active in:
  - ▶ Agriculture (gardening, livestock, food production)
  - ▶ Service sector (education, healthcare, retail)
- ▶ Significant role in unpaid caregiving
- ▶ Strong involvement in community activities
- ▶ Challenges:
  - ▶ Lower wages Limited career opportunities
  - ▶ Underrepresentation in decision-making

# Mobility Patterns of Women



- ▶ Daily mobility = complex trip chaining
  - ▶ School → Work → Shopping → Caregiving
- ▶ Heavy reliance on public transport
- ▶ Limited flexibility due to bus schedules
- ▶ Seasonal differences:
  - ▶ More travel during agricultural periods
  - ▶ Reduced mobility in winter
- ▶ Compared to men:
  - ▶ Women's travel is more fragmented and time-sensitive

# Main Barriers to Transportation



- ▶ Physical barriers:
  - ▶ Poor infrastructure, distant bus stops
- ▶ Economic barriers:
  - ▶ Lower income, limited access to cars
- ▶ Cultural barriers:
  - ▶ Traditional gender roles
- ▶ Temporal barriers:
  - ▶ Care responsibilities vs fixed schedules
- ▶ Barriers reinforce each other → greater inequality

# Impact of Limited Mobility

- ▶ Restricted access to better jobs
- ▶ Limited education opportunities
- ▶ Difficult access to healthcare services
- ▶ Increased social isolation
- ▶ Creates dependency and reduces independence
- ▶ Reinforces long-term gender inequality

# Existing Initiatives & Lessons



- ▶ Regional transport improvements (integration, ticketing)
- ▶ Social transport for vulnerable groups
- ▶ Targeted programs (e.g., support for marginalized women)

## Key lessons:

- ▶ Mobility ≠ only infrastructure
- ▶ Social support is also needed
- ▶ Digital solutions must include non-digital alternatives

# Proposed Solution

- ▶ On-demand community transport system
- ▶ Booking via app or phone
- ▶ Flexible routes based on demand
- ▶ Benefits:
  - ▶ Time flexibility
  - ▶ Better accessibility (remote areas)
  - ▶ Lower costs (shared rides)
  - ▶ Increased safety
- ▶ Can connect villages to main transport hubs



# Engaging Women in Planning



- ▶ Use participatory approaches:
  - ▶ Workshops & focus groups
  - ▶ Surveys (online + paper)
- ▶ Include marginalized groups:
  - ▶ Elderly, low-income, minorities
- ▶ Methods:
  - ▶ Participatory mapping
  - ▶ Community outreach
- ▶ Ensure women are part of decision-making bodies

# Indicators of Success

- ▶ Higher female employment rates
- ▶ Reduced travel time and stress
- ▶ Improved healthcare and education access
- ▶ Increased community participation
- ▶ Greater decision-making power
- ▶ Combine data + real user feedback



# Policy Recommendations

- ▶ Local level:
  - ▶ Gender-sensitive transport planning
  - ▶ Support flexible services
- ▶ National level:
  - ▶ Invest in rural mobility
  - ▶ Ensure affordability
- ▶ EU level:
  - ▶ Fund inclusive and innovative transport
- ▶ Improve coordination across all levels



Thank you for your  
attention!



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