



Digital transformation for cohesion and resilience in mountain regions

Emilija Stojmenova Duh · University of Ljubljana · Digital Alps Conference, Brussels 2026

80 million people.

7 countries.

One roof.



**The places we treasure most
are the hardest to reach.**

The valleys are emptying.

Weak signal. Brain drain. Services in retreat.

2x

The Alps are warming about twice as fast as the global average.



Marmolada, 2022.

No warning. **11 lives lost.**

**The tools that connect a valley
can also protect it.**

Digital is the great equaliser.

Clinics. Classrooms. Careers. Without leaving the mountains.

Then there is AI.

It can watch the mountain when we cannot.

The difference a warning makes.

11

MARMOLADA 2022

no eyes on the slope — lives lost

everyone

BLATTEN 2025

village watched & evacuated — all got out

Eyes on every slope.

Snow. Ice. Water. Rock. Read in real time.

But technology is only half the answer.

Connectivity.

Skills.

Public value.



Fund the last mile.

Build public-value AI.

Keep people in the mountains.

**Keep them
alive.
Keep them
safe.
With the right
digital
foundations,
both.**



 **NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC**
SLOVENIJA

FOTOGRAFIJA: ARNE HODALIČ IN KATJA BIDOVEC
National Geographic Slovenija, februar 2019