

The linkages of Smart Villages & LEADER in practical terms



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19 December 2023

LEADER Congress

Supported by the



Objective of Smart Rural 21

To support rural communities in developing Smart Village Strategies and implement smart actions (including renewable energy, digital services, local entrepreneurship, rural mobility, etc.).



Overall objective of Smart Rural 27

To prepare Member States and rural communities for the implementation of the CAP post-2020 as well as other policies and initiatives which could potentially support the emergence of Smart Villages across the EU.



EU Definition

Smart Villages are **communities in rural areas** that develop **smart solutions** to deal with challenges in their local context. They build on existing local strengths and opportunities to engage in a process of sustainable development of their territories. They rely on a **participatory approach** to develop and implement their **strategies** to improve their economic, social and environmental conditions, *in particular* by promoting innovation and mobilising solutions offered by **digital technologies**.

(Pilot Project on Smart Eco-Social Villages, 2019)

The magic “R40”

Number of supported Smart Village Strategies

Dilemmas

- What is Smart?
- What is a Village?
- What is a Strategy?

Food for thoughts based on the Smart Rural experiences
(...not the official position of the European Commission)

Key features of Smart Villages

- **Smart:** Hardest to “pin down” - making the most of modern technology, knowledge & innovation (but not only technological digital) with a social impact
- **Village:** Local rural community level – no sharp limit in population (consider also DEBURGA)
- **Strategic approach:** holistic/ integrated approach –(format is flexible) – Addressing contemporary challenges (climate, social...): Vision for the future
- **Participatory:** Engagement of community in planning & implementation (consider what it means in lagging behind communities) – local ownership / community-level impact

Ostana (Italy)

- They have had a **vision**: to reverse depopulation in a sustainable way (strategic thinking)
- They work on several themes in an **integrated way** (culture, environment, mobility, youth, tourism, newcomers...)
- They actively work with the local community
- They **reversed a negative trend** (kids born, school reopened) & starting **sustainable residency programme**
- They are modern but **digital / technological is not at the core** of their smartness



Stanz (Austria)

- They have had a **vision**: to create a sustainable living for the local community
- They work on several themes in an **integrated way** (energy, local services, mobility, housing, tourism...)
- They managed to maintain services and are **becoming energy self-sustainable** through community engagement
- They engage the community ... **but not everybody** (challenge in communities with more than 1000 people)
- They use modern technology (blockchain, energy, digital token system...) **but not in all of the smart solutions** (e.g. in housing/ shop / mobility)



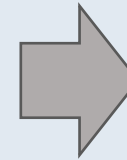
Tomaszyn (Poland)

- They have had a **vision**: to build regenerative agriculture & sustainable food production & invest in local community.
- They care **both for the environment and the local society**.
- They **keep experimenting with new old and new technology** (from re-using traditional irrigation system to investing in robotics)
- They are trying to engage local people (e.g. through employment) ... **but it's extremely hard to do "participatory"** in lagging behind depopulating areas



Common in all...

- LOCAL COMMUNITY (VILLAGE)
- VISION (STRATEGIC APPROACH)
- SOMEONE(S) TO LEAD
- OPEN-MINDED TO NEW/ EXPERIMENT
- CREATIVE
- COMMITTED
- SUSTAINABLE
- ... OFTEN FEEL NEGLECTED & BEING ALONE



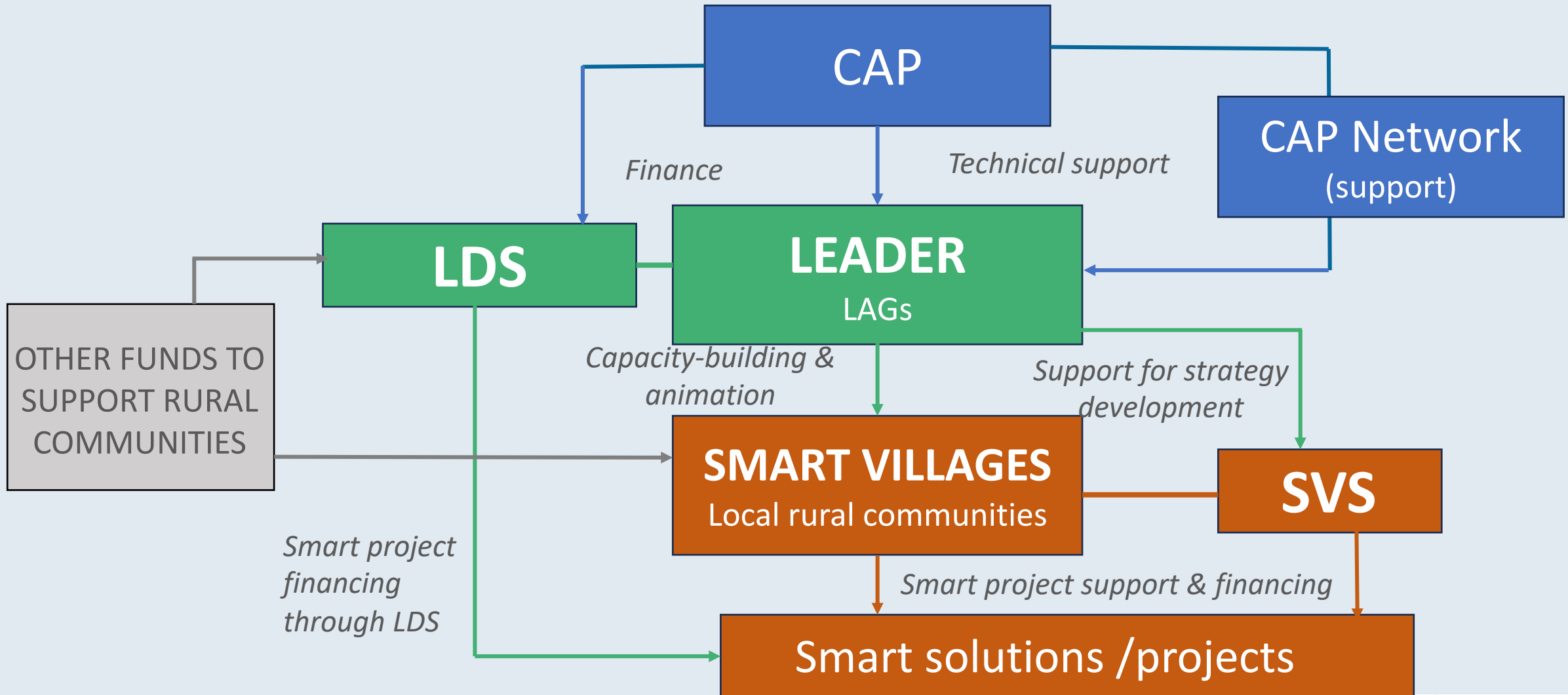
IMPORTANT &
STRONG COMMON
FEATURES BUT ...
CAN'T BE EASILY
CAPTURED THROUGH
DEFINITION OR
INDICATORS.

Lessons ...

- Don't look for a more precise definition at this stage.
- We have to **TAKE ACTION** – Experiment (just like in LEADER in the old days).
- Get ready **to support the local communities** that have the potential.
- Be **flexible in administration**/ be open-minded: Don't start to push the burden downwards (EC -> MA -> LAG -> Local communities)



The programming framework

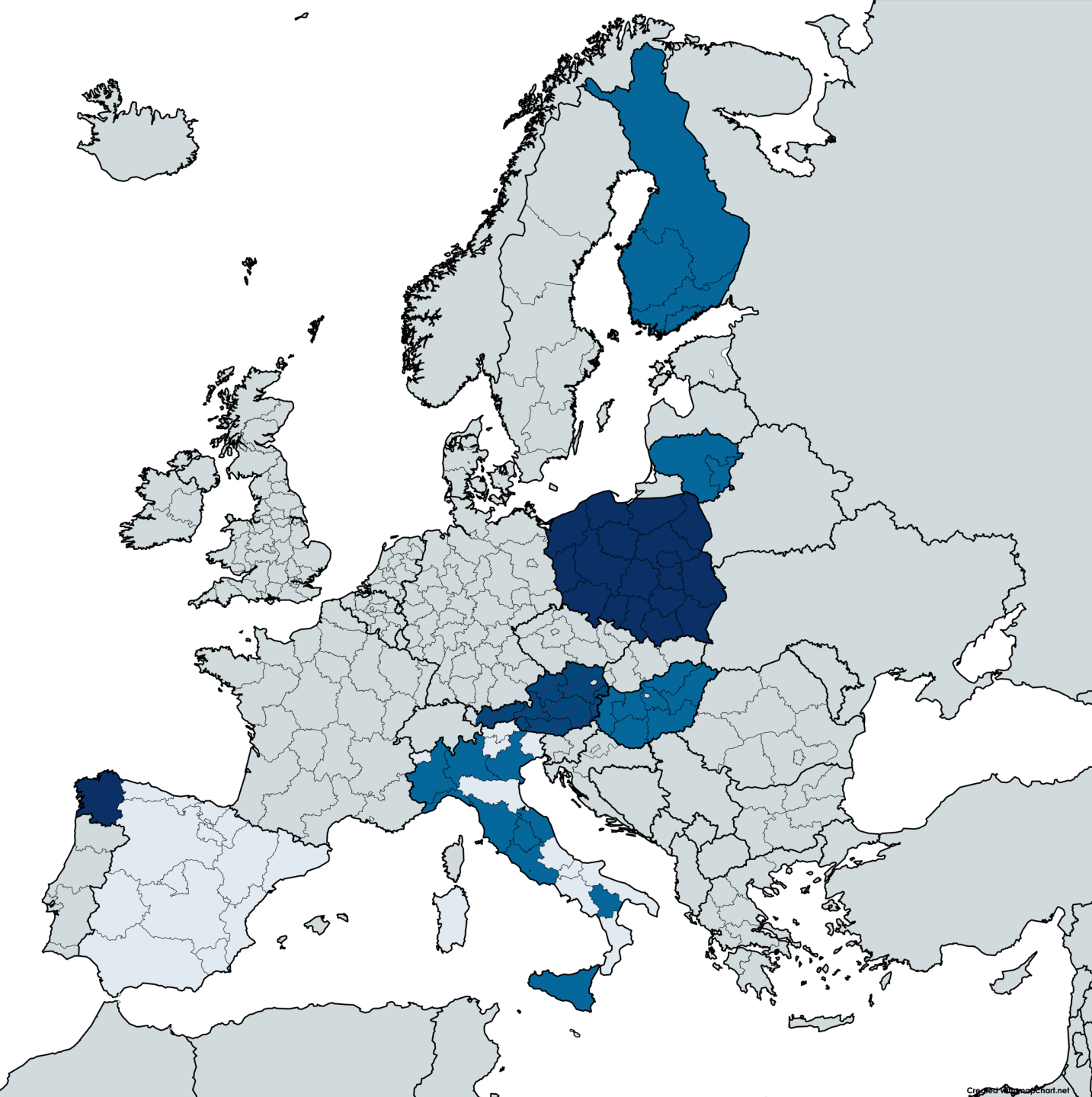





What we'd like to discuss today?

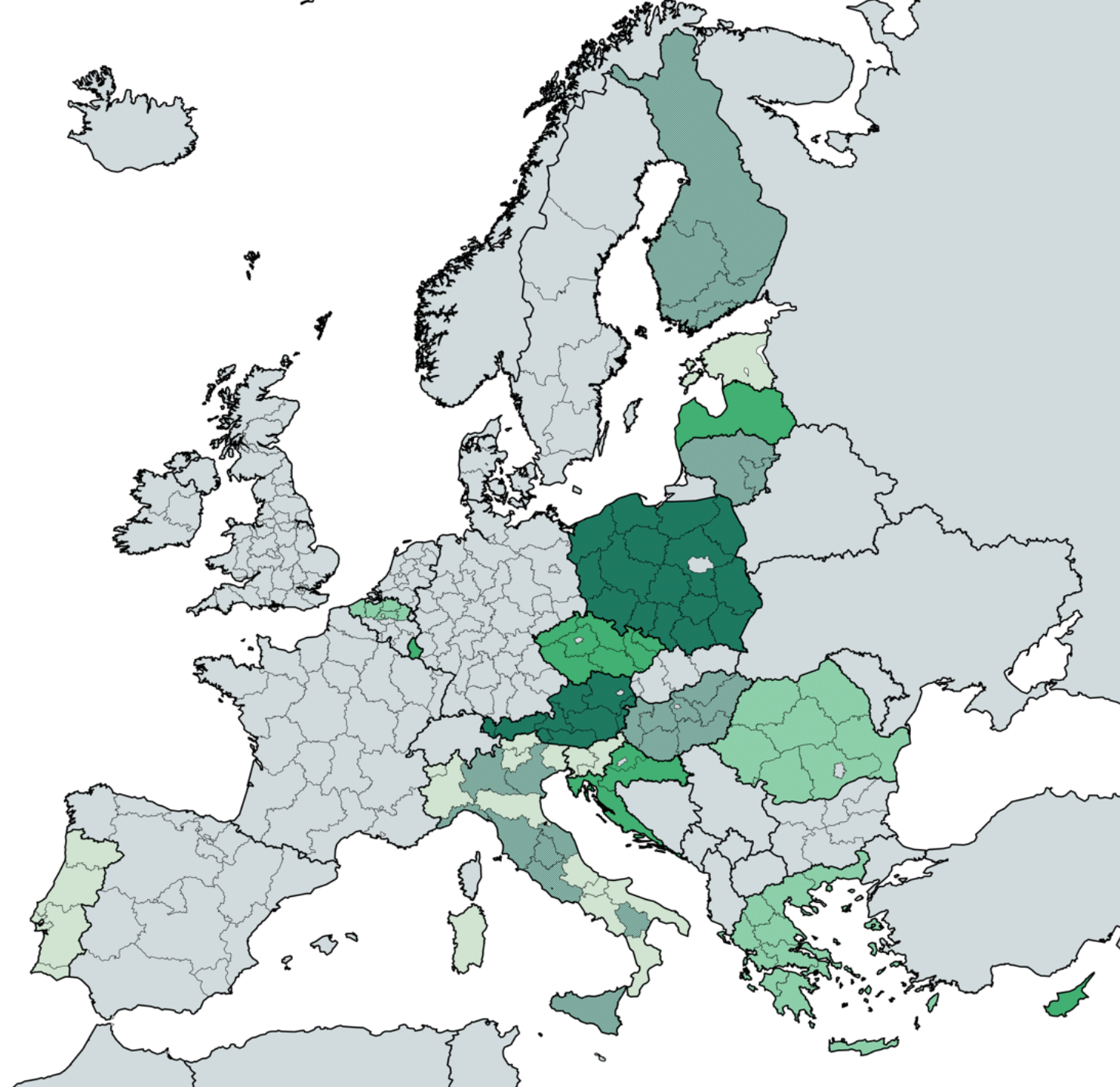
- How **SV is programmed in the CAP** and through LEADER in MSs?
- What **tools SR21 & SR27** offer to LAGs and communities?
- Example from Piemonte Region on **programming Smart Villages in the LDS**
- **The Rural Toolkit**: Tool by JRC to identify various funding sources

Identified ways of programming Smart Villages (SV) in the CAP SP

- A dedicated SV intervention under COOP or INVEST interventions *(7 MS)*
- SV programmed under LEADER with a graduality of specifications *(16 MS including → LEADER supporting a direct SV intervention (5 MS))*



-  Dedicated intervention in the Member State/ Not taken up by the region
-  Dedicated cooperation intervention
-  Dedicated investment intervention



- Fairly specific provisions/ specifications on how Smart Villages will be implemented & R.40 programmed under LEADER (no such CAP SPs identified);
- **Some provisions/ specifications** on how Smart Villages will be implemented, & R.40 not programmed;
- ▨ **Limited provisions/ specifications** on how Smart Villages will be implemented but R.40 programmed;
- **Very limited provisions/ specifications** on how Smart Villages will be implemented, & R.40 not programmed under LEADER - although it might be mentioned in the descriptive part that R.40 will be achieved through LEADER.

A variety of supported actions under LEADER

- Capacity building and animation for villages
- Supporting Smart Villages initiatives
- Supporting smart projects that are part of Smart Village strategy implementation

Questions: strategies/projects, villages/communities....

Smart Rural 21 support tools to make SV happen



Smart Villages in the LDSs

A

Local-level capacity building: cooperation with local community/ village leaders, supporting municipality/ village, needs assessment...

B

Local SVS: help develop local smart village strategies
– help communities to think in holistic way

C

Supporting smart solutions (implementation of LDSs
– projects in relevant thematic areas)



CAPACITY-BUILDING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

https://www.smartrural21.eu/roadmap/

The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo for 'SMART RURAL 21' and the text 'PREPARATORY ACTION ON Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century'. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Smart Rural 21', 'Villages', 'Roadmap Toolbox', 'Smart solutions', and 'Smart Villages Support'. The 'Roadmap Toolbox' dropdown menu is open, listing the following items: 'Getting started', 'Mapping context & stakeholders', 'Engaging stakeholders', 'Designing a strategy', 'Smart Village strategy', 'Planning actions', 'Finding solutions', 'Generating actions', 'Financing', and 'Monitoring'. Below the navigation, a dark green banner reads 'The Smart Rural 21 Project'. The main content area features a section titled 'About the project' with a paragraph describing the project's goals and a 'More information' button. To the right, there is a 'Final conference' section with a date of 'November 9, 2022' and a photograph of the conference event. The footer includes the 'European Commission' logo.



PREPARATORY ACTION ON
Smart Rural Areas
in the 21st Century

Home

Smart Rural 21

Villages

Roadmap Toolbox

Smart solutions

Smart Villages Support

English

The Smart Rural 21 Project

About the project

The Smart Rural project was a two and a half-year project supported by the **European Commission** (DG AGRI) with the overall aim to promote and inspire villages to **develop and implement smart village approaches** and strategies across Europe, and to draw conclusions and support future policy interventions on smart villages.

[More information](#)

Previous

- May- Jun 2022 - Cross-visits
- Jun 2022 - Strategic action support completed in supported villages
- 17-18 Oct 2022 - Final conference

Final

the Smart Rural 21 project

November 9, 2022



European
Commission



SMART VILLAGE STRATEGY SUPPORT

B

Smart Village Strategy support

- No common template
- Future-oriented vision. Integrated approach – *Not individual project(s)*
- A **Smart Rural 21 project** developed an indicative template
<https://www.smartrural21.eu/roadmap-step/designing-a-strategy/>
- Flexibility in this period (experimentation)

Smart Village Strategy Template



Access to the Tool :

[Smart Village Strategy Template](#)

Purpose of the tool

The smart village strategy template is a tool to help local communities to develop a local development strategy that is adapted to the 'smart village' concept. The template aims to help creating a vision and a development path for the village in the medium to long term.

Smart village strategies have to be S.M.A.R.T. (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound). However, the type of measures taken, their timing, etc. will much depend on the local context and, are therefore, not pre-defined. The smart village strategy template is not developed to respond to a specific funding stream or programme

The strategy template consists of:

Standard local development strategy components, such as

- Description of assets and opportunities of the village as well as challenges and needs and a SWOT analysis;

Several Examples:

<https://www.smartrural21.eu/roadmap/smart-village-strategy/>

Roadmap Toolbox – Smart Village Strategy

Many rural communities have developed or are in the process of developing 'smart' local development strategies. This 'Smart Village Strategy' page provides direct access to the strategies developed by the Smart Rural 21 project's selected villages.

- Alsunga (Latvia)
- Ansó (Spain)
- Babina Greda (Croatia)
- Dingle (Ireland)
- Kythera (Greece)
- Mouans-Sartoux (France)
- Mukařov (Czechia)
- Ostana (Italy)
- Penela (Portugal) – Ferraria de São João
- Penela (Portugal) – Cumeeira
- Profondeville (Belgium)
- Raudanmaa (Finland)
- Remetea (Romania)
- Šentviška Gora Plateau (Slovenia)

Smart Village Strategy of Alsunga – Latvia



[Download](#)

Smart Village Strategy of Ansó – Spain



[Download](#)

Smart Village Strategy of Babina Greda – Croatia



[Download](#)

C SMART SOLUTIONS - INSPIRATION

Smart Solutions Database

<https://www.smartrural21.eu/smart-solutions/>

Smart Solutions

The Smart Solutions Database gives access to a wide range of innovative practices adaptable to various local contexts.

Smart solutions list :

Countries

Please select

Free text search

Which thematic area?



People

- Education (schools, children, youth) (5)
- Engaging youth (2)
- Improving eSkills (2)
- Improving other skills (3)
- Social inclusion of disadvantaged groups (6)
- Supporting elderly people (4)
- Volunteering (3)
- Work-life balance (1)



Economy

- Entrepreneurship/ business support (5)
- Farming and agri-food business (11)
- Inward investment & FDI (1)
- Research, innovation & knowledge development (2)
- Social enterprise (4)
- Supporting job seekers (1)
- Tourism/ recreation (6)



Living

- (e)health/ healthcare services (2)
- Arts & music (2)
- Community space (5)
- Culture & heritage (1)
- Housing (3)
- Liveable & Tidy Towns (2)
- Other public services (6)
- Safety & crime (1)
- Sports, hobbies & interests (1)
- Support to newcomers (2)



Environment

- Bioeconomy (3)



Connectivity & mobility

- Broadband connection & infrastructure (2)



Governance

- Communication (2)

A range of examples – from specific village contexts



Smart Waste Management

Electronic monitoring of residual waste collection and the level of recycling using digital and technological innovation.

Implemented in : Košeca

Country : Slovakia

Initial investment : 11,000 €



Drones in Agriculture

The use of drones for precision agriculture, efficient application of weed control or fertilisers and optimised field management.

Implemented in : Marathon

Country : Greece

Initial investment : 40,000 €



Sustainable Village Foundation

A group of motivated village residents working together to connect people and initiatives on energy transition, biodiversity, climate adaptation and circular economy.

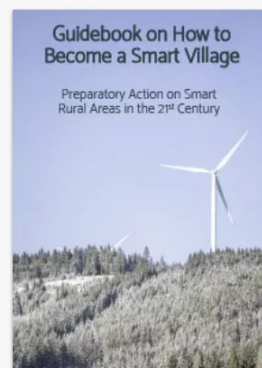
Implemented in : Molenlanden

Country : Netherlands

Guidebook (Final Draft)

- English guide (EN)
- Bulgarian Guide (BG)
- Czech Guide (CZ)
- German guide (DE)
- Danish guide (DK)
- Estonian guide (EE)
- Greek guide (EL)
- Spanish guide (ES)
- Finnish guide (FI)
- French guide (FR)
- Croatian guide (HR)
- Hugarian guide (HU)
- Italian guide (IT)
- Lithuanian guide (LT)
- Latvian guide (LV)
- Dutch guide (NL)
- Polish guide (PL)
- Portuguese guide (PT)
- Romanian guide (RO)
- Swedish guide (SE)

English guide (EN)



Download printable version

Bulgarian Guide (BG)



Download printable version

Czech Guide (CZ)



Download printable version

German guide (DE)



Danish guide (DK)



Estonian guide (EE)



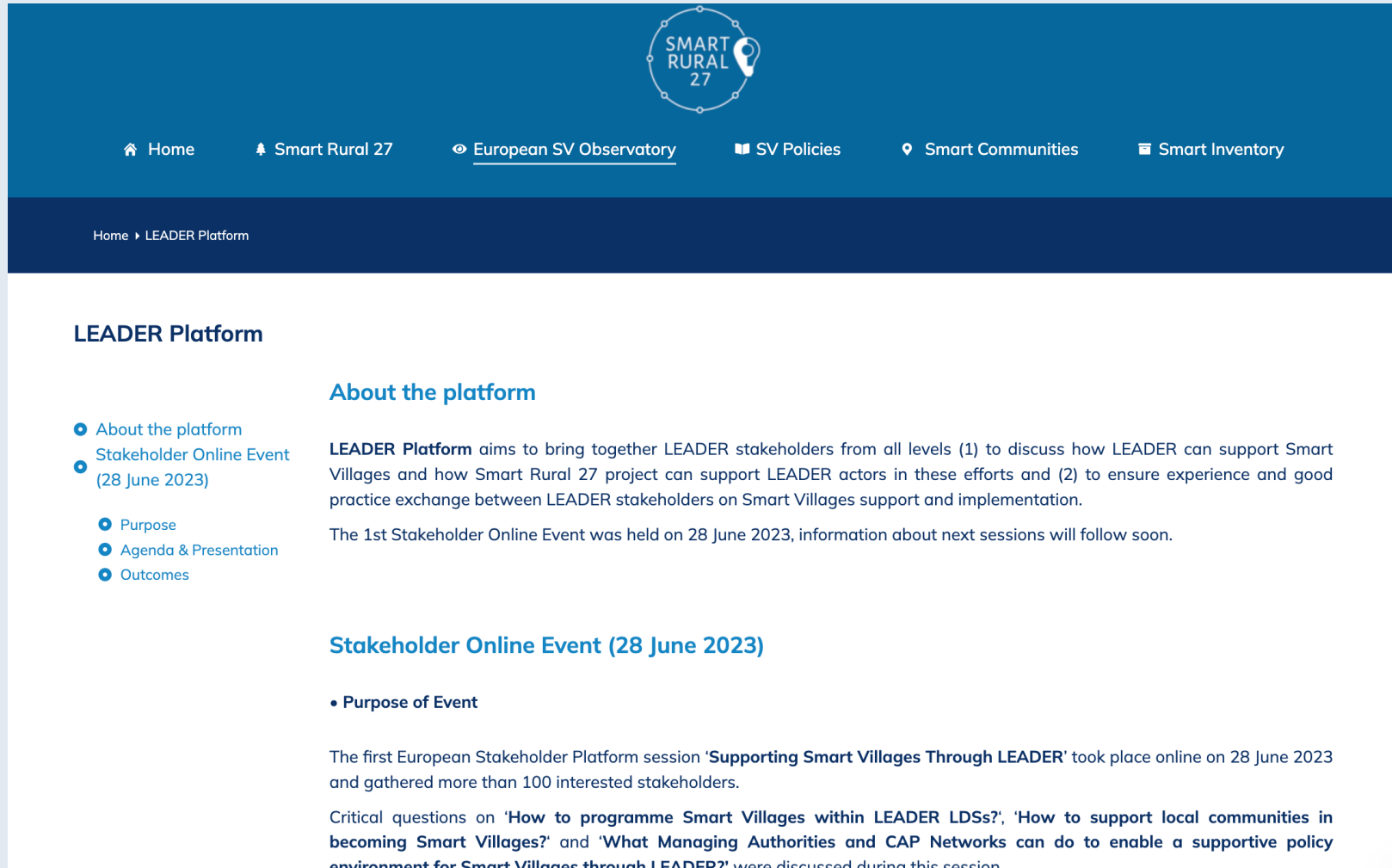
Smart Rural 27: EXCHANGE



Exchange among LAGS:

Continued exchange among LAGs – SR27

The Pilot European Smart Villages Observatory



The screenshot shows the website for the LEADER Platform. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the 'SMART RURAL 27' logo and several menu items: Home, Smart Rural 27, European SV Observatory (which is underlined), SV Policies, Smart Communities, and Smart Inventory. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Home > LEADER Platform. The main content area is white and features a section titled 'LEADER Platform'. On the left side of this section is a vertical list of links: 'About the platform', 'Stakeholder Online Event (28 June 2023)', 'Purpose', 'Agenda & Presentation', and 'Outcomes'. The 'Stakeholder Online Event' link is highlighted. The main text area contains a sub-section 'About the platform' with a paragraph explaining the platform's aim to bring together LEADER stakeholders and a sub-section 'Stakeholder Online Event (28 June 2023)' with a bullet point for 'Purpose of Event' and a paragraph describing the event. At the bottom right, there are logos for the European Union and the European Commission.

LEADER Platform

- About the platform
- Stakeholder Online Event (28 June 2023)
- Purpose
- Agenda & Presentation
- Outcomes

About the platform

LEADER Platform aims to bring together LEADER stakeholders from all levels (1) to discuss how LEADER can support Smart Villages and how Smart Rural 27 project can support LEADER actors in these efforts and (2) to ensure experience and good practice exchange between LEADER stakeholders on Smart Villages support and implementation.



The 1st Stakeholder Online Event was held on 28 June 2023, information about next sessions will follow soon.

Stakeholder Online Event (28 June 2023)

- Purpose of Event**

The first European Stakeholder Platform session '**Supporting Smart Villages Through LEADER**' took place online on 28 June 2023 and gathered more than 100 interested stakeholders.

Critical questions on '**How to programme Smart Villages within LEADER LDSs?**', '**How to support local communities in becoming Smart Villages?**' and '**What Managing Authorities and CAP Networks can do to enable a supportive policy environment for Smart Villages through LEADER?**' were discussed during this session.



Relevant activities

- LEADER Stakeholder Platform meeting: early February 2023 (online)
- Final Conference of Smart Rural 27: March 2023 (face-to-face)
- Analyses of LDSs according to SV by SR27
- Rural Pact Smart Villages Communities Platform

The project is funded by the European Commission. The opinions expressed in this presentations are that of the Contractor only and do not reflect the official position of the European Commission.



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