



European Network for  
Rural Development



# 5<sup>th</sup> Thematic Group Meeting on Smart Villages

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4 Octubre 2018, Brussels



# AGENDA OF TODAY

## MORNING

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10.00  
10.15 **Introduction to the day**

10.15  
11.15 **State of play of Smart Villages  
in the EU**



*Coffee (11.15-11.45)*

11.45  
13.00 **The potential *scope* and *spatial*  
scale of Smart Village strategies  
in different countries**



*Lunch (13.00-14.00)*

## AFTERNOON

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14.00  
15.15 **What is needed for delivering  
Smart Village Strategies at *local*  
level**



*Coffee (15.15-15.30)*

15.30  
16.45 **What *policy instruments* are/will  
be available for supporting SV?  
What needs to happen to ensure  
they do this**

16.45  
17.00 **Concluding remarks**



# TG Objectives

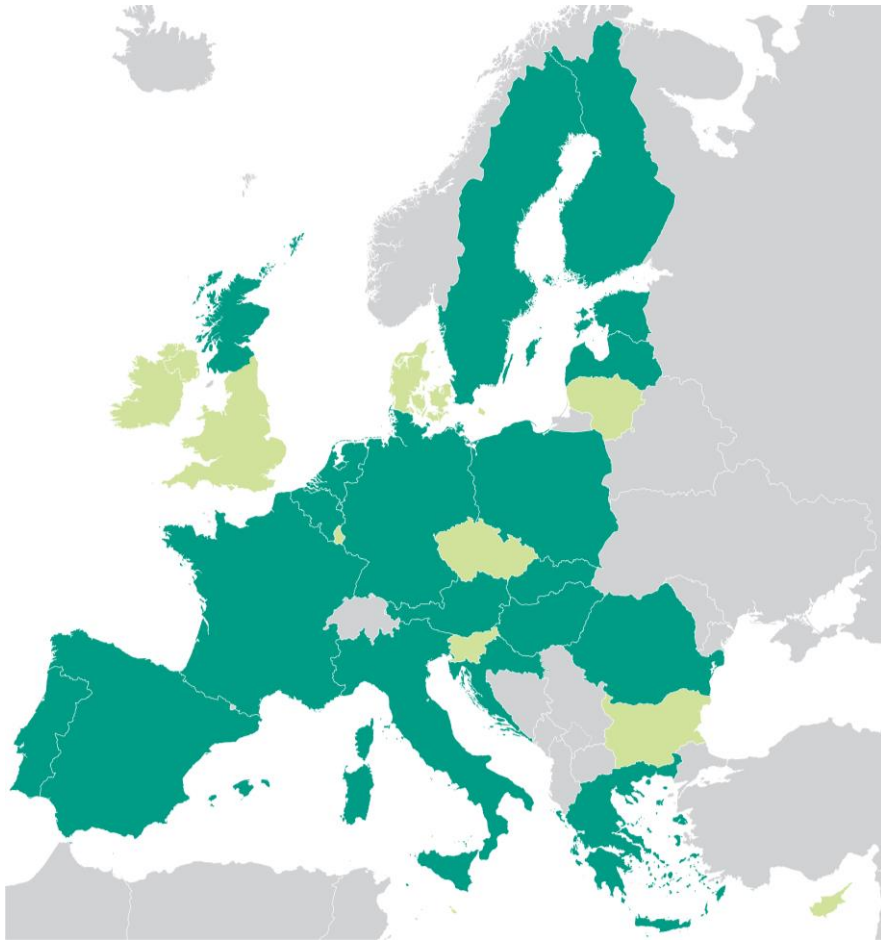
- a) To act as a sounding board for **developing practical orientations** for using all the policy tools available to help Smart Villages emerge and develop – now and in the future;
- b) To continue to provide a **platform for linking the initiatives** taking place across Europe.

# High interest accross EU

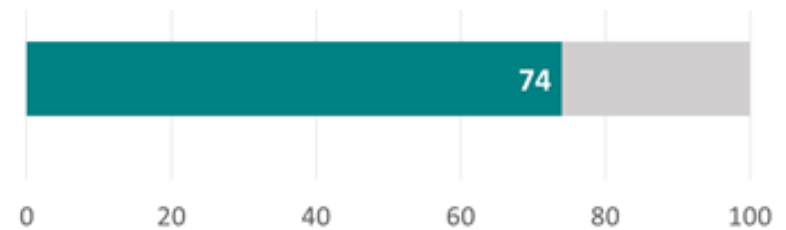
**1- High interest** in the concept of Smart Villages in different parts of Europe and this interest seems to be growing.



The TG should continue *to act as platform to connect and support this momentum;*



Average level of interest in Smart Villages



# Wide range of actors involved

## National and Regional Ministries and agencies involved in SV approaches

- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Regional Development and EU Funds
- Economy and Business
- Science and Innovation
- Digital Agencies
- Energy
- Transport and Communication
- Housing, Building and Planning

**2- Many different Ministries, Agencies and rural actors are involved at different levels in supporting Smart Village approaches.**

**Good coordination and governance is critical.**

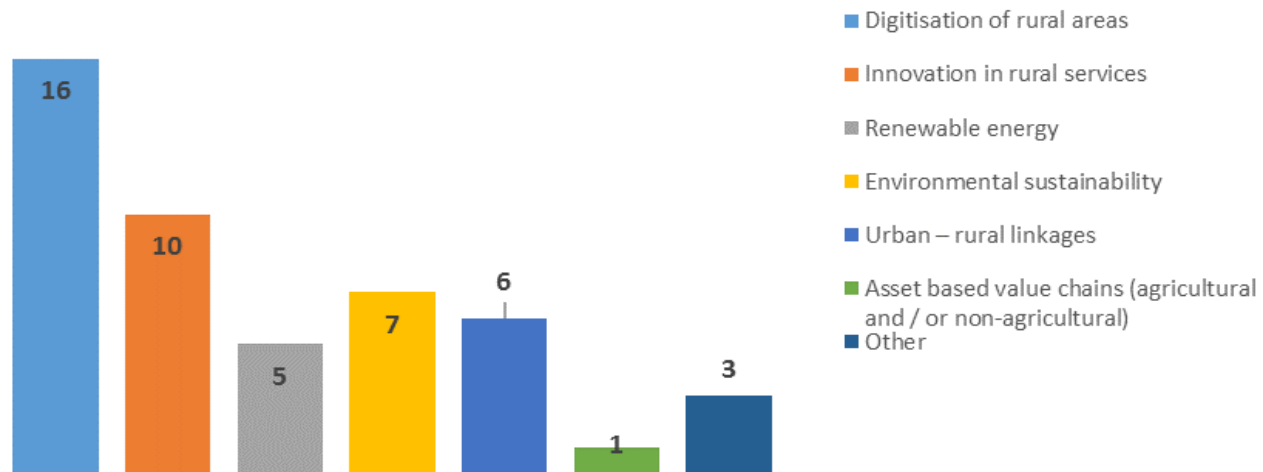
## Regional/local implementation

- LEADER Local Action Groups
- Village associations, movements, NGOs and Social Enterprises (e.g. Village Associations in Sweden and Finland, Community Development Trusts in Scotland)
- County and provincial boards and councils
- Municipalities and groups of municipalities



# Initiatives contributing to several thematic areas

**3-** A high proportion of the policies and national initiatives associated with Smart Villages contribute to more than one thematic area or priority.



*The TG should continue to **take a broad approach to Smart Villages** which does not exclude topics and issues which are relevant for particular rural communities.*

# Main driver: Digitisation of rural areas

4- The main policy driver for Smart Villages is clearly seen as being the **digitisation of rural areas**.



The Thematic Group can provide **evidence and examples** of how to put people at the centre of the 'digital ecosystem' in these emerging strategies.

# TG Work Packages

1. **Initial scoping** (A survey of NSUs , key experts, discussion with the Broadband Competence Office (BCO)) - Summer
2. Practical orientations for policy implementers about how to **develop Smart Villages strategies** – *5th TG meeting (4 October 2018)*
3. How to use certain **key policy instruments** to support Smart Villages – *6th TG meeting (5 December 2018)*
4. Main drivers of Smart Villages and in particular the **digitisation of rural areas** (*EIP seminar, Dec 18*)
5. How to **combine policy instruments** more effectively – *7th TG meeting (Feb, 19 – tbc)*
6. Building the **Smart Villages network**, encouraging **exchange** and **communicating** results



## Scope of SV strategies

- ✓ Inclusive – economic, social or environmental challenges faced locally
- ✓ Not necessarily comprehensive – not everything at once.
- ✓ Often but not necessarily digital.
- ✓ Contribute to a more sustainable vision of what the area could be in the future
- ✓ Benefit the community rather than simply an individual
- ✓ Have active support and participation of local people
- ✓ Build on what exists -avoid duplication

## Scale of SV strategies

- ✓ SV requires an enabling national or regional policy framework
- ✓ The lead policy and department can vary
- ✓ Implementation at local level.
- ✓ The geographical scale of local implementation can vary
- ✓ The higher level policy framework needs to empower or enable local implementation

## QUESTIONS

- Are these ideas appropriate in your context?
- Is anything missing?. Do you want to add or change any points?
- What are the distinctive characteristics of Smart Villages (strategies and plans) compared to standard measures?



## Delivering at the Local Level

- ✓ A participative local delivery mechanism/anchor organisation
- ✓ Can take a variety of forms
- ✓ Fast, simple and flexible access to support for preparing future orientated “lighthouse” projects
- ✓ Mechanisms to ensure sustainability over time
- ✓ Ongoing community engagement

## QUESTIONS


- What are the main local delivery mechanisms/anchor organisations?
- What do they need for effectively **preparing** Smart Village initiatives?
- What kind of support is needed for ensuring the **sustainability** of these initiatives and **ongoing community engagement**?



## Policy instruments

- ✓ Specific provisions in the RDPs/CAP plans (eg LEADER, Cooperation, M07..)
- ✓ Specific provisions in the Regional Programmes (Smart Specialisation, ITI's, CLLD,....)
- ✓ Specific provisions in certain Thematic or sectoral plans (digitization, renewable energy....)
- ✓ It is important to avoid duplication – flexible plans rather than strategies.
- ✓ The mechanisms for both vertical and horizontal coordination and governance are vital

## QUESTIONS

- 
- What are the main national/regional instruments available for supporting Smart Villages?
  - What are their strengths and weaknesses?
  - What sorts of provisions need to be included in order to ensure that they empower rural communities?



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# Thank you very much!



#SmartVillages



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