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# Smart Villages in Finland, Plans for the Future

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# Scope for the new period CAP27

- Useful Tools in CAP-plan after 2021 for Smart Villages
  - **Co-Operation** (art. 71)
    - Leader
    - Other forms of co-operation
  - **Knowledge exchange and information** (art. 72)
  - **Modernisation** Art 102
    - Digital strategy (description **how digital** technologies **will be used in agriculture and rural areas** to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the CAP Strategic Plan interventions.)
  - **Investments** (art 68)
  - **Networks** (art. 113)
  - **Installation of young farmers and rural business start-up** (art. 69)

## SWOT-analysis on chapter 2.8 in CAP strategic planning:

STRENGTHS:	WEAKNESSES:	POSSIBILITIES	THREATS:
<p>Abundant natural and water resources, EU's largest capacity for <u>bioeconomy</u>, Nature, everyman's rights to use forests, clean air and water, <u>spaciousity</u> (spacious population), silence and safety, Rich cultural heritage, Existing infrastructure and building stock, High level of education and skills, Communality, incl. active non-governmental and community activities, village activities and Leader</p>	<p>Long distances, sparsely populated areas and poor accessibility, Poor or non-existent infrastructure (roads, broadband, basic services), Unbalanced age structure and gender distribution, poor dependency ratio, Insufficiency of labor supply and demand: unemployment and labor supply, Weak marketing skills of companies, Regional development is already partially differentiated both within and between regions</p>	<p>Diversified businesses Local sustainable bio- and circular economy, industrial symbiosis (eg energy, raw materials, local food) Energy self-sufficiency: farms as energy producers, Sustainable Use of natural, natural resources and cultural heritage eg in tourism e-services and other new ways to organize services, New ways to participate via technology (online), Precise solutions for local needs Cooperation Internationalization Immigrants</p>	<p>Population age structure and dependency ratio are declining faster than expected Unable to undertake major, structural reforms, Centralization trends and the associated allocation of resources reduce the political weight of rural areas and undermine infrastructure and other conditions of vitality, Climate change and its global consequences, such as the refugee crisis add to global uncertainty</p>

# The current and potential scope and scale for smart villages

- **Local: Smart Villages projects (village-level), based on cooperation at very local level.**
- **Regional or subregional or local (one LAG or more) “rainbow” plans for strategies for Smart Villages, so called cover plan for local smart village plans. Activation, networking and knowledge and information transferring.**
- **National level: national rural network**

Possible scale for smart villages:

- **Economic** – investments and actions to support (business development in) emerging value chains and local economic clusters (both agricultural and non-agricultural) based on local assets and (potential) areas of comparative advantage (biocenomy, smart tourist destinations, etc.). Smart transport and logistic solutions, smart local services and service chains and smart food chains, digitalization and co-operation of enterprises. And **connectivity** (broadband) and different models for businesses (for example social entrepreneurship)
- **Social** – innovations to ensure sustainable and good quality social and cultural services. Investments in skills for the future. Urban-rural linkages. Sustainable wellbeing: preventing segregation and inequality between people, improve integration of immigrants and other new comers, community, living conditions, culture, safety. Knowhow, knowledge – also silent knowledge - of villages into operation.
- **Environmental** – innovations to improve resource efficiency, create local energy communities, reduce the carbon footprint, enhance biodiversity, both protect and valorize environmental assets. The municipal authorities, business representatives, local residents, research institutes and experts work together to devise and tailor new cost-effective solutions to reduce emissions, especially in the contexts of transportation, housing and food. Low carbon villages : circular economy, sustainable food production and local food,

# Possibilities for implementation of Smart Villages initiative:

Draft of the tool	Smart Village co-operation project	Smart Village / countryside activation project	Smart Villages networking in Finland and in Europe
What and how?	<p>Concrete plan and implementation of it. 2 or more villages together or a village and a municipality, an educational institution, operator or other expert working together to find a solution to the challenge (borrowing the good practices from EIP-funding)</p> <p>Using lump sum (draft budget, defined case by case) and/ or flat rate. Combined SCO (CPR 48)</p> <p>Preparation money for co-operation.</p>	<p>A long-term umbrella / thematic project that aimed at promoting digitalization, knowledge and know-how activating broadband connectivity, new cooperation, activating and networking small businesses, etc. A "smart village innovation broker" plays the role of 'matchmaker'.</p> <p>Activity - a clear increase compared to the current situation. Also includes communication! Common to one or more Leader groups.</p> <p>Flat rate, maybe also lump sum (draft budget, defined case by case). Combined SCO's (CPR art. 48)</p>	<p>Co-ordination group A "smart village innovation broker" plays the role of 'matchmaker' at national level. Guidance, activation, animation, sharing of information and know-how.</p> <p>Meetings, seminars and networking at local level and between groups.</p> <p>Multifund co-operation and information spreading.</p> <p>Technical Assistance.</p>
Indicator	<p>R.33 Digitizing the rural economy: Share of rural population covered by a supported Smart Villages strategy</p> <p>O.28 Number of other cooperation groups (excluding EIP reported under O.1)</p>	<p>R.?</p> <p>O.28 Number of other cooperation groups (excluding EIP reported under O.1)</p>	<p>NRN indicator</p>

## Local (very local) level: Smart village co-operation project

- Concrete plan and implementation of it.
- 2 or more villages together or a village and a municipality, an educational institution, operator or other expert working together to find a solution to the challenge (borrowing the good practices from EIP-funding)
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- Using lump sum (draft budget, defined case by case) and/ or flat rate. Combined SCO (CPR 48)
- Preparation money for co-operation.
- R.33 Digitizing the rural economy: Share of rural population covered by a supported Smart Villages strategy
- O.28 Number of other cooperation groups (excluding EIP reported under O.1)

## Sub-regional / regional level

- A long term umbrella / thematic project that aimed at promoting digitalization, knowledge and know-how activating broadband connectivity, new cooperation, activating and networking small businesses, etc. A “smart village innovation *broker*” plays the role of 'matchmaker'.
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- Activity - a clear increase compared to the current situation. Also includes communication!
- Common to one or more Leader groups.
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- Flat rate, maybe also lump sum (draft budget, defined case by case). Combined SCO's (CPR art. 48)
- Result indicator?
- O.28 Number of other cooperation groups (excluding EIP reported under O.1)



# National level

- Co-ordinator, A “smart village innovation *broker*” plays the role of ‘matchmaker’ at national level.
- Guidance, activation, animation, sharing of information and know-how.
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- Meetings, seminars and networking at local level and between groups.
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- Multifund co-operation and information spreading.
- Networking at EU level as well
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- Technical Assistance
- NRN indicator

[www.maaseutu.fi/en/the-rural-network/smart-villages/seutu.fi/suomenalykkain](http://www.maaseutu.fi/en/the-rural-network/smart-villages/seutu.fi/suomenalykkain)  
<https://www.rural.fi>

<https://mmm.fi/cap27>

