



European Network for  
Rural Development



# Smart Villages and LEADER

Lessons from the ENRD Thematic Group

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# Smart Villages - an inclusive definition - entirely consistent with LEADER

Pilot Project

<http://www.pilotproject-smartvillages.eu/>

- “Smart Villages are communities in rural areas that use ***innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities***.
- They rely on a ***participatory approach*** to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and/or environmental conditions, in particular by mobilizing solutions offered by ***digital technologies***.
- “***The use of digital technologies is not a precondition for becoming a Smart Villages***”.

# Smart Villages – ENRD TG Messages

There is no one model for Smart Villages  
Digital and social. Jobs and services

No duplication of strategies or structures  
Improve what exists

Not a mini-LEADER  
Cooperation to deal with specific challenges

It is demand driven by local people,  
Starts small – builds up via cooperation

Fast and flexible support for community-led  
innovative action – not words



**for a rural transition**

# Enabling a transition



Flexible tools to enable rural communities  
to make the transition



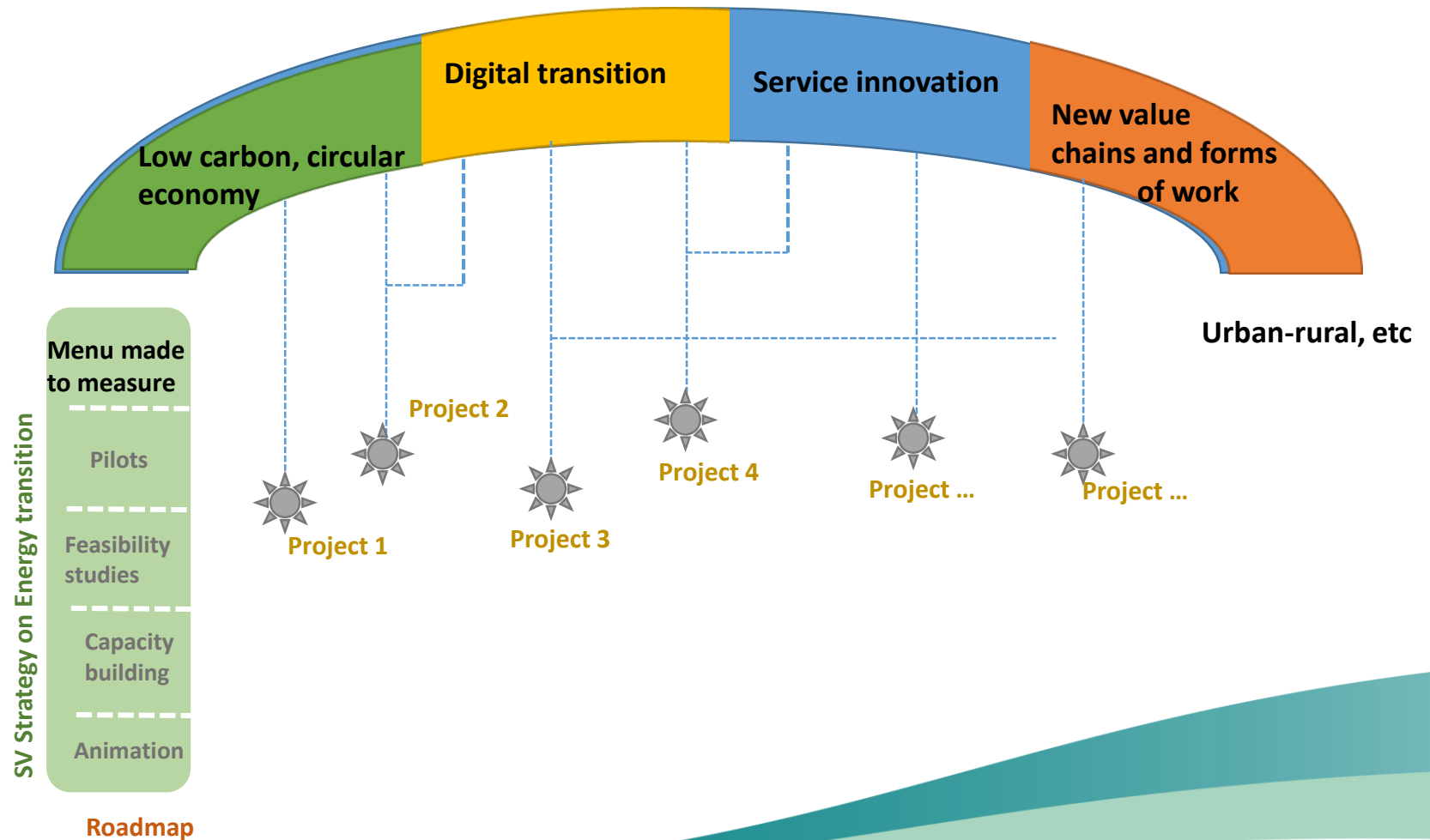
## Departure

- Declining jobs
- Inadequate Services
- Digital divide
- Depopulation

## Arrival

- Digital transformation
- Low carbon, circular economy
- service innovation
- New value chains
- Rural –urban cooperation

# LDS and SV strategies



# Imagining and building future

## Les villages du futur en Nivernais Morvan

Tentative de guide de « bonnes » pratiques  
pour les communes rurales

**1ers Constats:** La campagne attire à nouveau, demain sera différent d'hier, et surtout meilleur si nous savons nous prendre en main.

L'exode urbain a succédé à l'exode rural.

Depuis plusieurs années, le solde migratoire des territoires ruraux est positif.

Même s'il y a encore plus de décès que de naissances, certaines communes regagnent des habitants.

Ce mouvement net et nouveau doit être soutenu et accompagné (par l'Etat, la Région, le Département et l'intercommunalité).

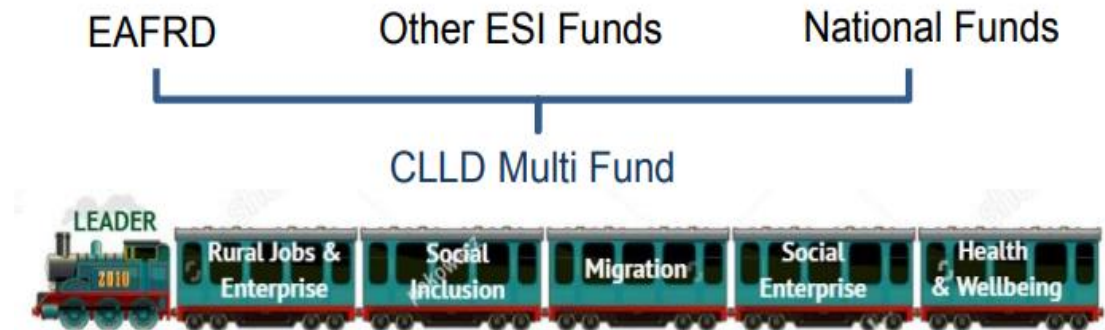
Pour cela, les propositions concrètes du bouvier rural et de l'appel pour des nouvelles ruralités, sont sur la table.

Elles ont d'ores et déjà permis des avancées concrètes et sont une référence pour construire une vraie politique publique de la ruralité.



- Jobs
- Youth
- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Mobility
- Connectivity
- Culture
- And many more

## LEADER as the engine

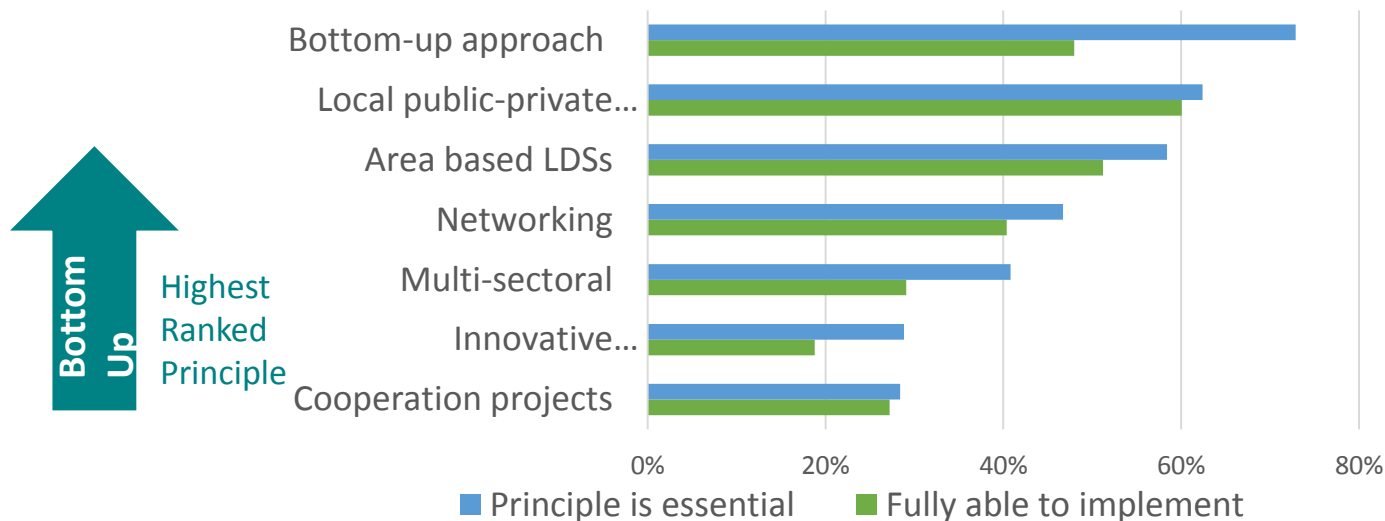


“LEADER/CLLD has it all for being one the main vehicles for driving Smart Villages

- as long as all the features (of the LEADER approach) are present.
- Yet, to play to its full potential, LEADER/CLLD needs to be complemented by an enabling environment (larger scale investments, regulatory environment, coordination)”.

European Commission 6th Meeting of the Thematic Group

# The importance and achievability of LEADER principles

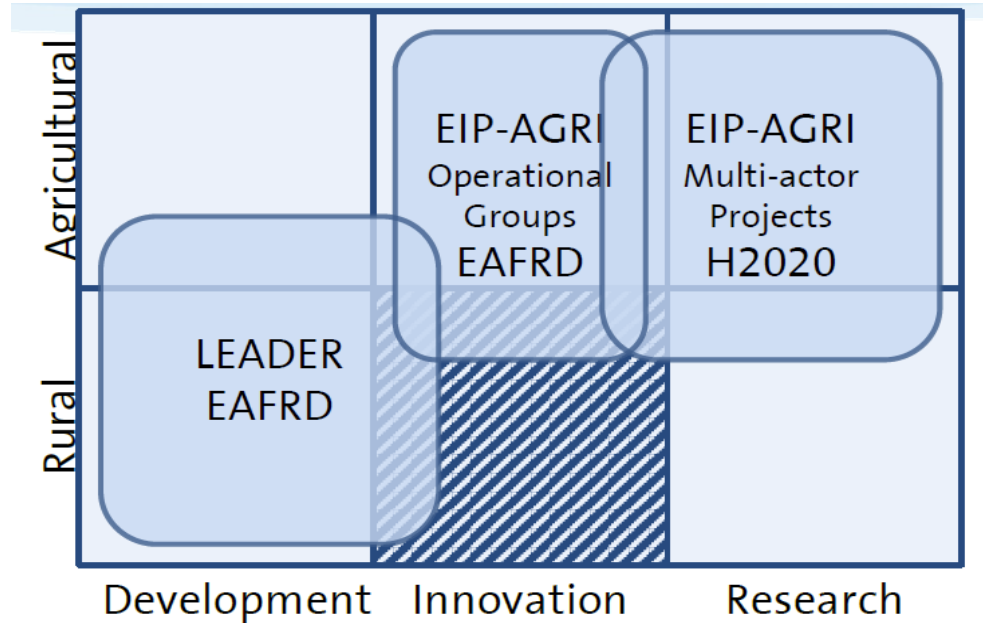


Implementation of LEADER principles (LAG Survey)	Best MS	Worst MS
Bureaucracy prevents the implementation of LEADER principles	43%	100%
LAGs are able to implement innovative solutions	100%	11%

[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/leader-resources\\_lag\\_survey\\_report\\_es.pdf](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/leader-resources_lag_survey_report_es.pdf)



# Gaps in knowledge and information systems



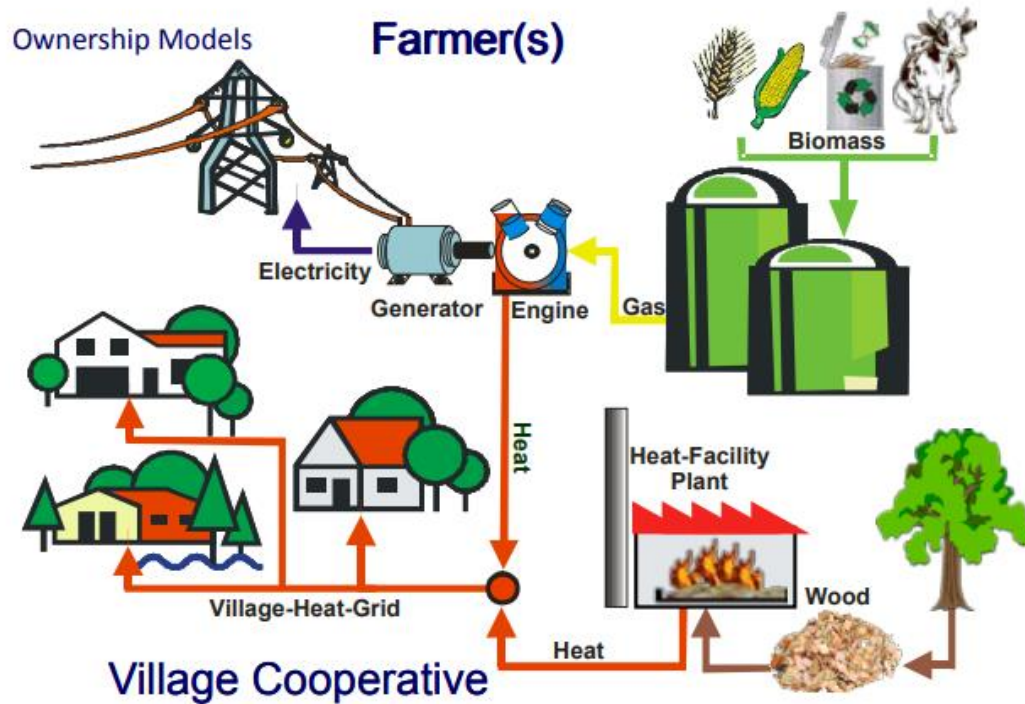
Source: Pertoldi, Muriel and Lopez (2016), page 5.

Pertoldi, M., Muriel, M., & Lopez, J. (2016). Smart LEADER: Challenging Smart specialization in the scope of rural development. Presentation at the conference on Smart Specialization and Territorial Development. Retrieved from [https://3ftfah3bhjub3knerv1hneul-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Pertoldi\\_SmarLEADER\\_final.pdf](https://3ftfah3bhjub3knerv1hneul-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Pertoldi_SmarLEADER_final.pdf). (Retrieved in January 2019).

# Support for Smart Village initiatives



# Bioenergy Village Germany



Source: Leader Göttingerland

Financing	EUR
Cooperative Shares	300 000
Cooperative Loans	1 500 000
Federal Government – <i>Subsidies</i>	500 000
LEADER	200 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 500 000</b>

# Success factors for effective Smart Village Strategies - potential value added for LEADER

- More strategic local facilitation/animation
- Better access to knowledge – knowledge brokers, connecting local hubs, ARKIS....
- Faster, more flexible finance for community led innovation
- Better alignment with investment measures
- Stronger and more flexible cooperation

# TG Recommendations for LEADER

1. A more flexible package of LEADER/CLLD support (eg. lump sums with draft budgets to support local cooperation?)
2. A broader scope of intervention
3. Better alignment of LEADER/CLLD with other policies
4. The use of indicators and metrics that better reflect the wider contribution of LEADER/CLLD to the longer term goal of transition

Smart Villages Thematic Group Policy Orientations “How can LEADER/CLLD support Smart Villages”

# TG suggested next steps

1. Meetings of all actors in delivery chain to jointly identify implementation barriers
2. Joint exploration of solutions
3. Joint exploration of how Smart Villages may be integrated into LDS
4. Co-design of wider Smart Villages support framework
5. Clarification of the role of the National Networks

Smart Villages Thematic Group Policy Orientations “*How can LEADER/CLLD support Smart Villages*”

# Sources of information

## SMART VILLAGES PORTAL

Follow our news & events on the online portal. Explore the latest policy developments, research, projects and initiatives.



<https://bit.ly/2kruagj>

## SMART VILLAGES COMMUNITY

Join us on Facebook and share your experience and thoughts on Smart Villages with a growing online community.



<https://bit.ly/2VG1UXo>

## SMART VILLAGES PUBLICATIONS

*No.26 – Smart Villages:  
Revitalising Rural Services*

*Digital and Social Innovation  
in Rural Services*



<https://bit.ly/2ODP1Kq>

# Sources of information



Orientations for using all policy tools available to help Smart Villages to emerge – now and in future:

- [How to support Smart Villages strategies which effectively empower rural communities?](#)
- [How can LEADER/CLLD support Smart Villages?](#)
- [Using non-LEADER/CLLD cooperation to support Smart Villages](#)
- [How to ensure that digital strategies benefit rural communities?](#)





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# Thank you very much!



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