

Smart Village Task Force in Finland

A Pathway to build a Smart Village framework

Graz 11.5.2023/SR27/Kim Smedslund



A process

- **Building the network: who is participating?**
 - Core group, invited experts, open for new members
 - Working methods developed during practice
 - **Setting the scene: objectives, scheduling, actions**
 - **Organising activities: webinars, studies, communication**
- To support a Smart Village policy framework in Finland

Purpose

- Analyse and support the development of the Smart Village concept
- Inform and support stakeholders
- Build bridges and connections between sectors
- Contribute to Smart Village policy and programming

Studies

CAP-analysis:

Own chapter in the CAP-plan. Smart actions can be funded through LAG's or the Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment

Programmes and financing

- Programme level synergies are lagging behind?
- Rural/villages/communities were not very present in any of the checked programmes. The keyword "local" seem to be much more present at a general level.
- NGO's, citizens were mentioned more often as target groups (capacity building) or potential partners in projects. NGO's are mentioned as potential applicants, but often in reality they do not have enough financial capacities or resources.
- "Innovations, smart, piloting" were strongly present in most of the programmes, "local" being often mentioned as the place for experimentation, piloting or being subject of capacity building measures.
- Overall, there seem to be forward looking and partnership processes, remains to be seen how policy and funding flows will reach local actors and economy

Studies 2 : programmes and financing suggestions

Suggestions

- Mainstream “Smart Villages” development in EU/national LEADER programmes. Increase funding.
- Include local participation and funding by earmarking.
- Finding policy solutions and funding for smart villages (eg. “Smart place programme or subprogramme”) through innovation partnerships tools (ref. EIP) or local consortium tools (Ref. Horizon, ERASMUS KA2) at a smaller scale.
- Simplified tools: (eg. lump sum model ESF-pilots)

Webinars supporting the action

1. Webinar on Energy communities 28.11.2022

- Especially the regulatory framework, The Irish Model, cooperation between relevant ministries

2. Webinar on the Digital transition 26.5.2023

- Eg. AI, Municipalities, Case studies (Digital Village, wellcoming policies/tourism, ageing.

3. Sectoral actors meet (in preparation)

4. Upcoming webinar / event SV policies and programming