

A stylized illustration of a village scene on a solid orange background. In the foreground, there is a light green house with a dark blue roof and a dark door. To the right of the house is a dark blue evergreen tree. Above the house, there is a large light green location pin icon. In the sky, there are two white clouds, two blue birds in flight, and a smaller white cloud on the left.

# Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plans

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**rural·fi**



Finland 95 %  
rural

- Inner urban area
- Outer urban area
- Peri-urban area
- Local centres in rural areas
- Rural area close to urban area
- Rural heartland area
- Sparsely populated rural area



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# Background of Smart Villages



are **communities in rural areas** that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths & 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 mobilising solutions offered by **digital technologies**.

# Finnish Rural Network (past)

- The years 2018–2020 competition for the title of Finland's smartest village.
- 34 villages applied for the competition. The village of Vuolijoki in Kajanaland won
- Workshops and innovation camps
- The years 2019–2020-Smart villages thematic group at Finnish Rural Network

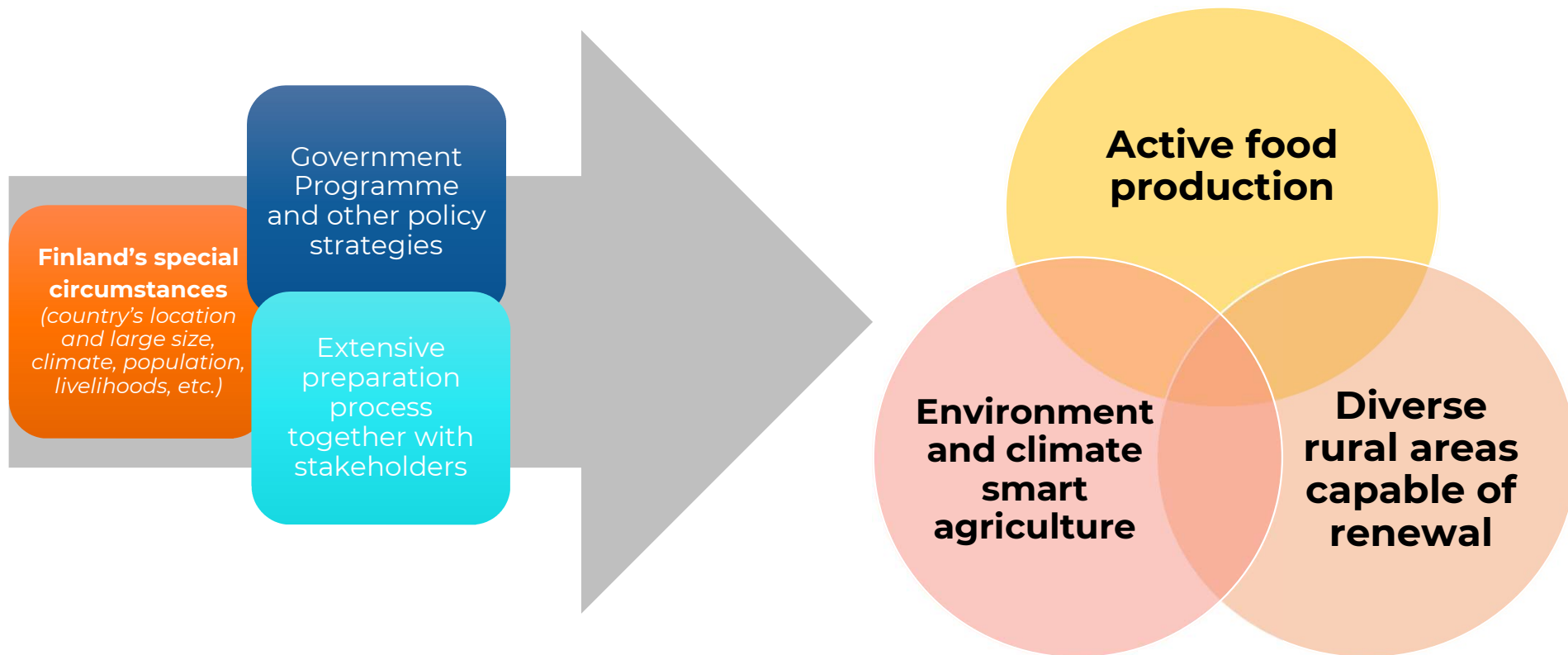


The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas





# National priorities in CAP reform





# The Smart Village Strategy

- *Measure in the Finnish CAP-plan*
- In the CAP Strategic Plan, the Smart village Strategy means a **concrete plan for seeking new solutions and new cooperation.**
- **The EU's long-term vision for rural areas** sets many objectives that support a sustainable future for rural areas.
- SV project is not just a strategy paper but a concrete thing/challenged to be resolved or promoted. A concrete implementation plan is drawn up and the measures directly linked to its implementation may be included in the project. The Smart village main project includes the **set short-term and long-term goals** and a plan on how to achieve them.
- The project may last for a maximum period, if necessary. 5 years



## **Indicator: *Smart transition of the rural economy: Number of supported Smart Villages strategies***

- To quantify the number of Smart Villages **strategies or projects** developed and/or implemented with CAP support
- Extra indicator: other actions linked to Smart Village strategy



# Possible phases of smart village project:



Preparatory phase (when needed)



Main project / strategy project



Actions / projects which implement the plan (investments)





# Preparatory funding

- Max. 5000 euros, **lump sum**
- Certain criteria for funding – not automatic
- Some kind of feasibility study, testing of potentiality, partnerships
  
- As a **result** needed: **letter of intent** or a **report**
  - formulation of an idea
  - Searching for partners, exploration of partnerships
  - translating the objective into concrete terms
  - Communication, networking, participating of different actors



# (At least) Two actors / partners = group

- Importance of co-operation between every spatial scale cannot be underlined too much
- Cooperation projects eligible when at least two actors
  - Basic rule of co-operation intervention
  - Basic rule of smart planning: You can't do it by yourself!
- Partners may be from the village or municipality nearby, from other part of country or from another country
- Partner may also be some research institute or educational institution or other specialist organisation
- Peer to peer learning and brave use of different kind of specialists
- Working together towards the big picture



# Implementation

- **Smart Village project:**

- Co-operation project of at least two actors: concrete plan and the implementation of it. **The model is partly from EIP-funding from RDP 2014-2020.** Actors seeking solutions together to common challenges. Use of know how of specialists or other.
- Beneficiaries: village association or other association, co-operative or municipality
- Aid % may be 100 %
- Eligible costs:
  - salary and fee costs;
  - travel costs;
  - costs of purchased services;
  - rental costs; and
  - Other necessary costs arising from the implementation of the project
- Support for investments related to the project is applied separately.



# Examples:

- A joint biogas plant in a village or a few villages or municipalities. **Joint planning, networking of companies, farms, food services, etc.** Investments as it's own project (different intervention).
- **Joint working space/remote working office**/joint digital innovation point for companies in villages or a few villages. Planning and cooperation agreements in the project. Investments as it's own project (different intervention).
- Joint **circular economy** plan for villages or a few villages and its implementation. For example, a baling plastic or other difficult waste can be material used by someone else. Plan and cooperation models for the project. Funding for businesses and investments from their own measures/interventions.
- **Mobile service experiment** in the village or in couple of villages (Finland's health and social services reform requires new co-operation especially in sparsely populated areas)
- **Environment and climate innovations:** Environmental ambition must be increased
- **Digitalisation service and experiment**, planning of broadband investment (fiber) or 5G for Smart Communities (CEF)
- **Security**, preparedness, security of supply, self-sufficiency in region

# Supporting Smart Villages concept

- Promote capacity building and information
- Seminar, webinar, workshops, innovation camps
- Networking, building partnerships
- CAP-plan, LEADER-LAGS (52+1)
- National Rural Parliament 2024/National Rural Policy Council (FIN)
- European cooperation and exchange
- Ideathon, hackaton, new cooperation concept
- Agents of change –education

# Dubravka Šuica

“It does not depend on where you are, it depends on how well you are connected”

- EU-Vice-President
- Commissioner for Democracy and Demography

A stylized illustration on a brown background. It features a light green house with a dark blue roof and a white chimney. To the right of the house are two stylized trees, one dark blue and one light green. Above the house is a large light green location pin icon. There are several white clouds and two blue birds flying in the sky.

# Thank you for your attention!

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