

## Annex II: Meeting Reports

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Smart Villages Taskforce Meeting – AUSTRIA

#### Purpose of the meeting

Interim report on the different taskforce activities (especially feeding back developments in Styria to the whole taskforce) and planning further steps.

#### Date of the meeting

[22/05/2023 – 22/05/2023]

#### Location

Online

#### Participation

8 members participated from the following organisations: federal ministry of agriculture, forestry, regions and water management, FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency, administration of Styria, LEADER LAG/ AT LEADER association

#### Main outcomes & lessons learnt (including deviations from initial plan)

- **LEADER LDS analysis:** SV approaches in 16 Styrian LEADER local development strategies for CAP 2023-2027 were analysed and findings were presented in the taskforce meeting – the taskforce confirmed that the applied methodology should also be used for screening the remaining LDS.
- **Translating the EU definition for Smart Villages to the AT context and define quality criteria:** representatives from Styria presented their approach for smart municipal- and city center development. This “5-step-model” can act as a translation of the broader smart village principles and thus ensure more integrated development on local level, smart investments of the municipality and a new quality of citizen participation. This is supported by “smart governance” of the regional authorities, who ensure cross-linkages between all responsible departments (housing, regional development, municipal affairs, etc.). They also identified gaps that needs to be worked on: especially to ensure “smart processes” on local level, competencies of process facilitators need to be updated. So Styria is planning “care-taker trainings” and also trainings for local politicians. The latter is vital to change the mindset to a more integrated local development (“beyond single object developments”). There was a consensus, that digitalisation can act as an instrument both during a development process (e.g. digital models that help imagining and planning municipal center development) and as a final product (e.g. a digital loyalty card to support local circular economy). Nevertheless the taskforce meeting showed the need for a clearer understanding, in how far digitalisation can enhance development opportunities – in relation to municipal/city center development but also for other topics. The federal ministry together with the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) plan to launch a Smart Village challenge with a focus on digitalisation. Additionally this topic should be further elaborated in the taskforce. Therefore the taskforce members suggested to enrich the upcoming taskforce meeting with dedicated expertise – Michael Fischer will take care of a inviting an expert from upper Austria.
- **Clarify the roles within a governance and implementation system and sharpen support mechanisms (especially on federal state and regional level)**  
Styria as the pilot region within the taskforce presented their approach for the upcoming workshop with LEADER LAGs and regional managements (scheduled 24.05.2023). The federal ministry will also have an active part in this workshop so

that communication across governance levels is ensured. The results of the workshop will be presented in the next taskforce meeting.

### Next steps

Analysing the remaining LEADER LDS, analysing the workshop with LEADER and regional managements. Deriving necessary support so that LEADER and regional management can act as care takers for smart villages.

### Supporting documents

[Please provide any agenda, presentations, videos/ recordings, training material as separate files – if applicable]

The Styrian “5 step model” for smart municipal and city center development:

<https://www.landesentwicklung.steiermark.at/cms/beitrag/12910893/172099343/>

### The event in pictures

Please paste some images here if possible (and send them as separate files if possible).

