



Smart Villages in the context of LEADER in Austria

Pilot-Analysis of 16 LEADER Local Development Strategies for the CAP 2023-2027 as part of the AT Smart Village Taskforce Action Plan

Main Findings

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Pilot analysis of 16 local development strategies (LDS) for the CAP 2023-2027 in Styria

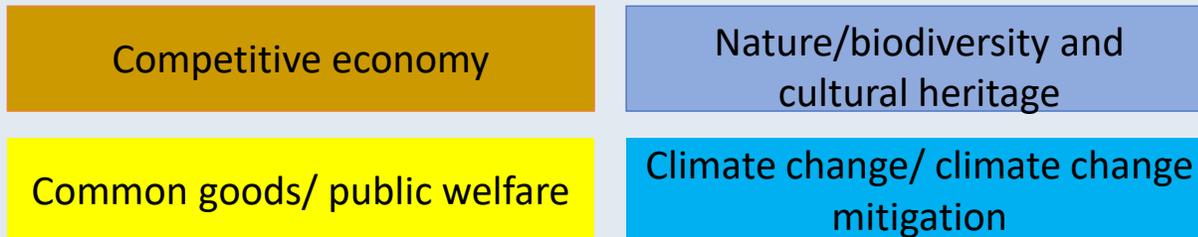


Pilot analysis of 16 LEADER LDS in the federal province of Styria – main findings

- All 16 LDS contain the Smart Village approach
- In 13 of 16 LDS **1-3 Smart Village Strategies** (R.40) are foreseen
- In 10 out of 16 LDS **more than one village/municipality** is involved in one SV strategy
- TOP topics:
 1. village and town center development
 2. enhancing quality of living
 3. climate protection/ climate change mitigation
 4. preservation of valuable building fabric
 5. reduce vacancies in buildings
- 14 out of 16 mention citizen **participation as important part** of their SV-approach
- 12 out of 16 describe how they are planning to use **digitalisation**

Context: Smart Village Implementation via LEADER 2023-2027

- SV as a tool for the LAG to address local challenges
- digital technologies should play a role in the implementation of Smart Village → distinction to “classic” LEADER projects
- BUT: digital technologies are not understood as an end in itself, but rather as a "means to an end"
- no thematic restrictions– the smart village approach can be applied in all 4 fields of action



Context: Smart Village Implementation via LEADER 2023-2027

- implementation not mandatory, but incentives when selecting Local Action Groups (integration of Smart Village approach is a factor for scoring in the application process)
- clear recommendation from the MA to take up the concept
- if integrated in the LDS, then commitment in local development strategy → indicator
- beneficiaries: all possible beneficiaries in LEADER
- Fact Sheet for LAG: <https://www.zukunftsraumland.at/seiten/215>