

# LEADER & Smart Villages Stakeholder Platform Meeting



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Supported by the



# THE SMART RURAL 27 PROJECT

# Overall objective of SR27

To prepare Member States and rural communities for the implementation of the CAP post-2020 as well as other policies and initiatives which could potentially support the emergence of Smart Villages across the EU.

# The European Smart Villages Observatory



YOU SAID IT...

# Motivations

- Understand more the Smart Villages concept
- Learn about the experience of other LAGs
- Support for drafting the LDS & how to programme SV under LEADER
- Better understanding on how it's programmed in the CAP SPs
- Understand how LAGs can support communities through Smart Village approaches
- Thematic approach – more peer-to-peer learning (cooperation) - “outside expertise” on the territory

# LAGs

# Are LAGs selected (when)?

The short answer:

We don't know from the answers.

In most countries not selected/ Sept – end of Year.

*We are selected / Call ongoing (Bad news ☹️)*

*We are not selected / Call ongoing (Good news! 😊)*

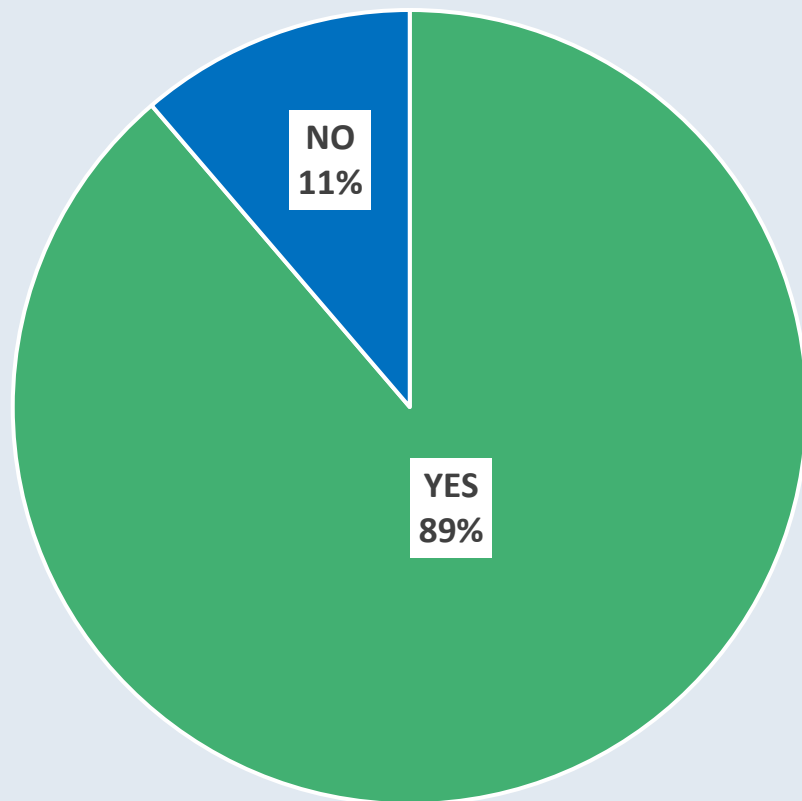
*Selected / Not selected (within same MA answers) - You need to talk to each other!*

...



# Do LAGs programme Smart Villages?

Have you planned or are you planning to programme Smart Villages in your LDS?



## Why not?

Need more information & project ideas

Lack of knowledge

Want to learn and get inspired

No interest from municipalities/ no smart villages

“We do not have enough practical experience with this method, we want to be inspired and learn at the workshop. Maybe in the future we will change our mind and become actively involved in Smart Villages.”

# How to programme SV in LDS?

- **Thematic approach (project-based)**  
– approx. 33% of answers (half of which refers to digital as well): wide range of themes (services, health, education, tourism, transport, etc.)
- **Support, animation and capacity-building** for communities – approx. 22% of answers (c. half of which refers to strategy development at the local/community level)
- **Other aspects (e.g. cooperation)**
- **Don't know.**

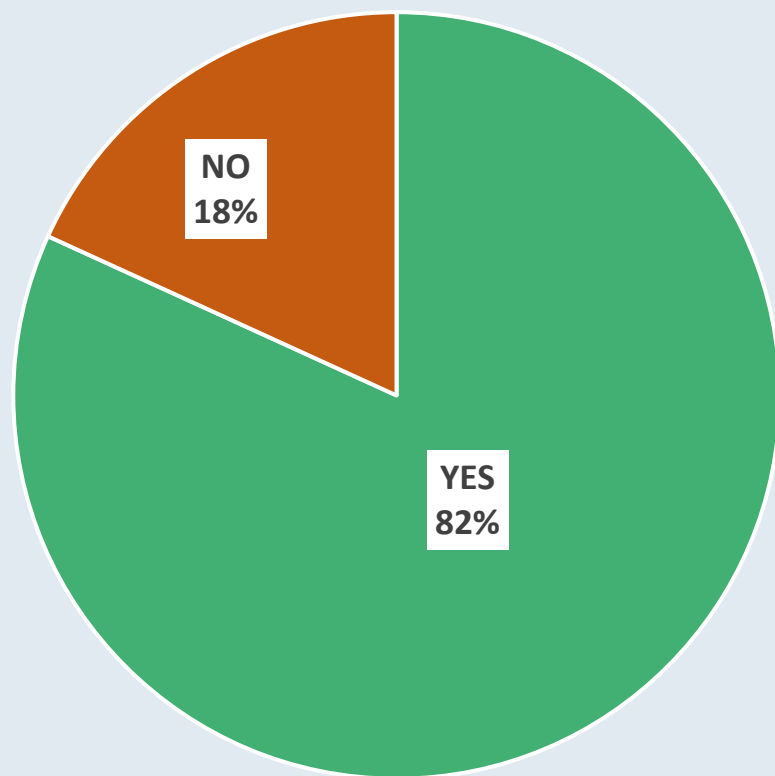
“We would love to incorporate ideas and initiatives around revitalising rural services through digital and social innovation. Health, social services, education, energy, transport, retail – can be improved and made more sustainable through the deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and through community-led actions and projects.”

“We are planning to develop 12 smart village strategies in our area. And also have a capital budget to deliver on innovative actions that arise from these strategies.”

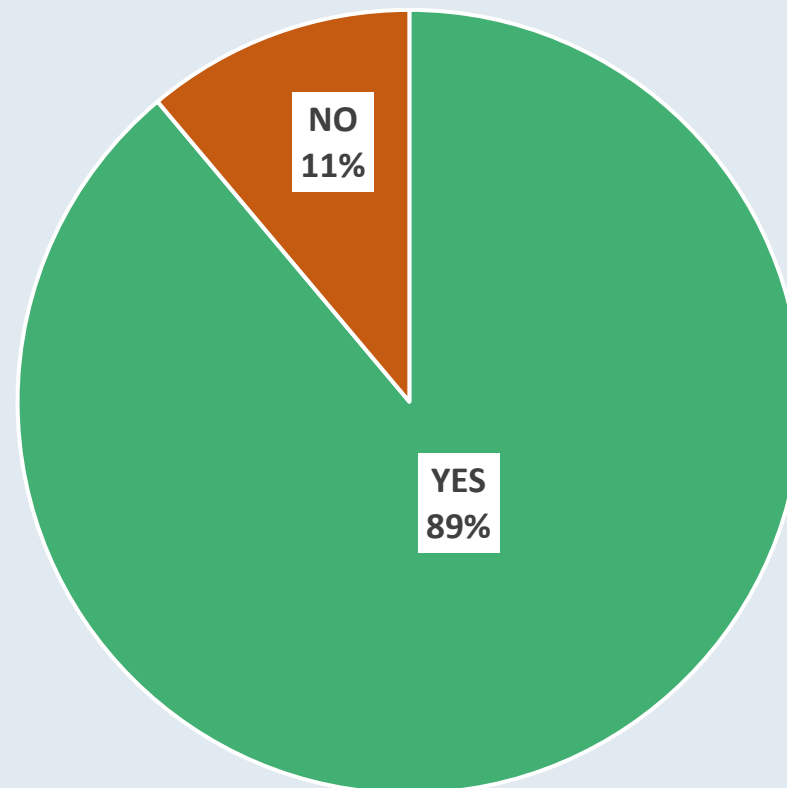
“We are planning to programme SV via cooperation projects to inspire communities to develop them in the rural territory of our LAG.”

“We are not sure, therefore want to learn more.”

As a rural community, are you  
part of a LAG? (9 vs 2)



If yes, are you actively collaborating  
with LAG? (8 vs 1)



# MANAGING AUTHORITIES

# What is the next step in supporting Smart Villages?

- Preparation of guidance
- Analysis of LDSs
- Working with LAGs
- Networking & cooperation
- Role of CAP Network

“We are preparing Guidelines to support LAGs and Rural Authorities including smart villages in the regional policies and implementing them through LEADER. Moreover, we are constructing Smart Villages Taskforces to improve policy through the CAP Strategic Plan interventions.”

“It depends on what LAGs put in their strategy”

“Cooperation with the stakeholders and elaborate a study.”

“Additional soft measures are identified as potentially needed, with CAP network being most suitable channel – this is to be further analysed.”

# NETWORK SUPPORT

## LEADER ASSOCIATIONS CAP NETWORKS

# What is the next step in supporting Smart Villages?

- LAGs support – cooperation support
- Training for LAGs on SV
- Events/ seminar
- Others: Information, expertise, advocacy, networking, communication, training programme

“We assisted the LAGs in the cooperation project when the Smart Villages project took place. We plan to continue to be involved in this topic.”

“Together with the national Leader organisation we have reserved a budget for Smart Villages but not decided what and how yet.”

“We are planning support measures for rural communities to promote the approach of smart villages in Latvia, for example informative meetings, recognition marks "Smart Village", mentoring, ensuring national publicity for smart village communities.”  
(Latvian Rural Forum)

# Exchanging experience/ hearing about others:

- ... how to support and engage communities
- ... how to build SV in LDS
- ... how to apply SV within LEADER
- ... inspiration
- ... how to support smart initiatives
- ... what networks can do
- ... methodology and type of support for SV
- ... what options are after smart village strategy developed
- ... standard projects vs smart projects



*“This new approach can foster engagement on local level and local action. Smart village could be a tool to give bottom up efforts within the LEADER region a new spirit! LEADER and Smart Village could work together very well!!”*

*(LEADER LAG respondent)*

*“The intention is to support Smart villages through LEADER, however, when thinking about it, vice versa could work as well. Finances aside, and from the previous experience, it seems both would benefit from tools assisting networking, participatory approach – including motivation of stakeholders to get involved, preparation and implementation of strategic documents, visibility of the group and the results, etc.”*

*(CAP MA/ CAP Network)*

# PURPOSE

# CLARITY



*Don't expect the full enlightenment.*





# EXCHANGE OF IDEAS!

*A burden shared is a burden halved.*

Photo by Patrick Tomasso on Unsplash

# Introductory presentations (10.00 – 10.40)

- Introduction to the European LEADER Stakeholder Platform, outcomes of the LEADER & Smart Villages Survey and the purpose of the meeting - *Edina Ocsko (E40, Smart Rural 27 Project Coordinator)*
- An overview on how the concept of Smart Villages is programmed in the CAP Strategic Plans using the LEADER intervention - *Katrina Idu (E40, Smart Rural 27 Assistant Coordinator)*
- The experience of Austria: How the Austrian CAP is supporting Smart Villages through LEADER & Lessons from the Austrian Smart Rural 27 Taskforce - *Michael Fischer (Smart Rural 27 National Expert)*
- Sharing of practical ideas and recommendations of the Smart Rural 27 project on how to support Smart Villages through LEADER in practical terms (Smart Villages in LDSs) - *Edina Ocsko (E40)*



# Group discussion: How to support Smart Villages through LEADER (10.40 – 11.40)

1-2: What LEADER LAGs can do: Initial experience of **LEADER LAGs** in programming Smart Villages: How to build capacity and support smart initiatives in rural communities through LEADER? **(2 Groups)**

3: What networks can do: How **LEADER Associations / Networks and CAP Networks** can support the emergence of Smart Villages through LEADER?

4: What **Managing Authorities** can do: How Managing Authorities can support LAGs in their efforts of supporting the emergence of Smart Villages at the local level?

# Conclusions & Next Steps (10.40– 11.00)

- Key messages/ action points from group discussions
- Wrapping up and next steps of the LEADER Stakeholder Platform

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