

# SUPPORT FOR SMART VILLAGES

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**THE MISSION OF LRF** IS TO PROMOTE  
BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF LATVIAN RURAL TERRITORIES IN  
ORDER TO CREATE IT AS A PLACE WHERE CONTENTED PEOPLE LIVE,  
ABLE TO MEET THEIR ECONOMICAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS IN THE  
PLACE OF THEIR RESIDENCE.

### **THE MAIN LRF ACTIVITIES ARE:**

- TO PROMOTE **SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT**;
- TO SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND  
MONITORING OF THE **LEADER PROGRAM**;
- TO STRENGTHEN **CIVIL SOCIETY** IN RURAL  
TERRITORIES, PROMOTING LOCAL INITIATIVES AND  
COOPERATION.

# RECOGNITION LABEL “SMART VILLAGES”

- To identify and support good practice of ‘smart’,
- To capitalise efforts of citizens and the solutions already in place,
- To build a more active and inclusive community as well as innovative solutions to existing challenges,
- To encourage building of common understanding of SV in Latvia,
- To mobilise support to SV and rural communities.

*Started in 2021 as part of LEADER TNC project.*

**#  
Viedais  
Ciems  
2023**

# **WHAT HAPPENS TO VILLAGES WHICH GAIN RECOGNITION LABEL?**

- improved opportunities for cooperation
- recognition at the national, regional and municipal level
- identified uniqueness (helps when is needed to "sell" the village and its' initiatives)
- improved confidence and faith in their own strength
- striving for growth and solving new challenges at different levels

**2021** all together 40 application  
The Recognition Label “ON THE WAY TO THE  
“SMART VILLAGE 2021” ” – **20 VILLAGES**  
The Recognition Label “SMART VILLAGE 2021”  
- **12 VILLAGES**

**2022** all together 21 application  
The Recognition Label “ON THE WAY TO THE  
“SMART VILLAGE 2022” ” – **6 VILLAGES**  
The Recognition Label “SMART VILLAGE 2022”  
- **6 VILLAGES**

**2023?**







## SMART VILLAGES IN LATVIA - [saite.lv/YVy](http://saite.lv/YVy)

For communication with villiges that have been recognised as Smart Villiges in Latvia, contact us - [info@laukuforums.lv](mailto:info@laukuforums.lv)

# JURY AND EVALUATION PROCESS

- Jury members from different sectors — media, environment, ministries, adviser  
Latvian president, academics, community representatives, etc.
- 5 evaluation criteria – European guidelines suited for Latvia's situation
- Regular jury meetings, joint evaluation decision-making
- Individual reviewing of applications
- Visits to the candidate communities
- Involvement of partners in all stages – LAGs, municipalities, active NGOs etc.

# BULDING NETWORK AND MENTORING

- Creation of SV community - mutual exchange of experiences between SV communities
- Regular circulation of information
- Smart Wednesdays
- Identifying needs and linking SV with mentors
- Catalogue of best practices (*Smart Villages & more*)
- Promotion of village experiences (*Living story libraries*)
- Collecting opinions and lobbying the needs on national level

**#ViedaisCiems2023**





# LIVING STORY LIBRARIES





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