



Taskforce CYPRUS



**SMART RURAL 27
FINAL CONFERENCE
18-19 MARCH 2024
BRUSSELS**

The SMART RURAL 27 logo is repeated at the bottom center of the banner. The banner also features two circular inset images: on the left, a coastal town built on a cliffside; on the right, a street with colorful buildings (yellow, red, green).

Purpose of the Taskforce



The specific aims of establishing the Taskforce have been:

- ✓ *Defining the state of play of the Smart Villages at national level*
- ✓ *Bringing together representatives of different EU funds, not only the representatives and stakeholders connected to CAP Strategy 2023-2027*
- ✓ *Proposing specific CAP policy interventions, securing that duplications are avoided.*
- ✓ *Capacity building at local level, where it is needed or asked.*
- ✓ *Promoting the SV approach in rural areas, as it is a new philosophy, not promoted yet in Cyprus.*
- ✓ *Integrate results into the regular work of the relevant ministries and agencies (desirably it should result in changes to the legislation, and to the method / procedures of defining and developing policies).*



Main Activities - Outcomes

1. Meetings of the National Taskforce, 12/01/2022
2. 5 Consultation and Promotional meetings at the villages / areas that are interested about SV approach (27/03/2023 – 05/04/2023), at national level
3. A survey was elaborated for Prioritising the needs of the Rural Communities on Smart Solutions (research to the ground)
4. A national definition for Smart Villages / Rural Areas was finalized and included in the CAP Strategic Plan
5. The Ministry of Research and Innovation has become the Formal Owner of the Smart Villages initiative





Main Challenges

- ✓ Engaging stakeholders at local level, but especially at national level (policy planners).
- ✓ Promoting the Smart Villages Approach as an important, sustainable and modern approach for local development in rural areas.

