



Smart Villages in the context of LEADER in Austria

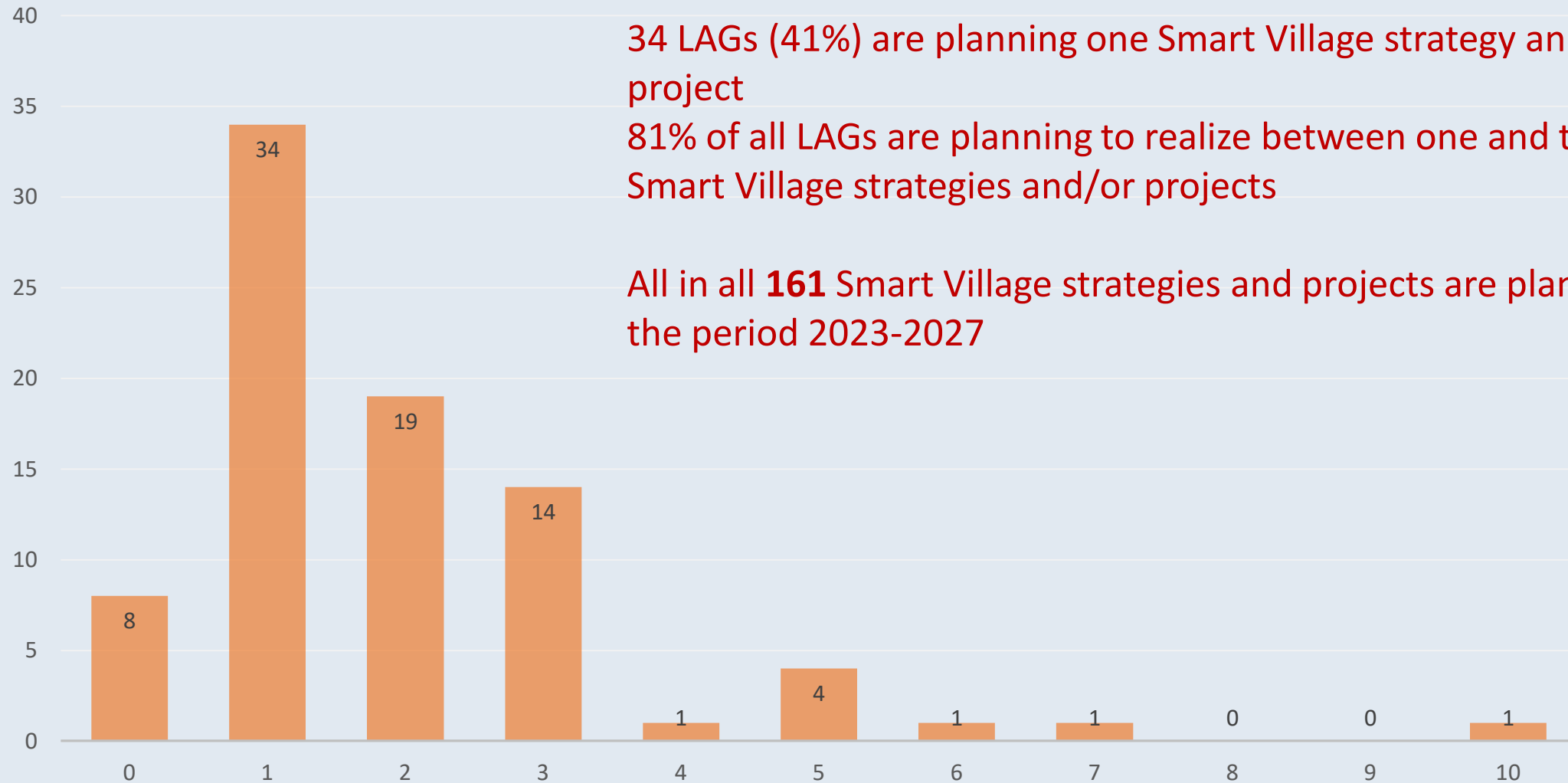
Analysis of 83 LEADER Local Development Strategies for the CAP 2023-2027 as part of the AT Smart Village Taskforce Action Plan

Michael Fischer, SR27 national expert

At a glance

- 82 of 83 LDS contain the Smart Village approach
- In 67 LDS (81%) the target of **1-3 Smart Village strategies/projects** (R.40) is foreseen
- In 46 LDS (55%) **more than one village/municipality** is involved in one SV initiative
- TOP topics:
 - strengthening village centers/ managing vacant buildings/ reducing surface sealing
 - mobility/ reducing the dependency on motorized private transport
 - basic services and social services
 - digitalisation as SV-feature/ enhancing digital services
 - strengthening economy (incl. tourism), labour market
- 90% of all LDS mention **digitalisation** as a key aspect of Smart Villages
- 62 LDS (75%) explicitly mention **citizen participation** as part of their SV-approach; 19 LDS (23%) explicitly mention the importance of **multi-actor groups** in Smart Villages
- 35 LDS (42%) explicitly or indirectly follow an **integrated** (cross-sectoral) approach

Distribution of the Result Indicator R.40



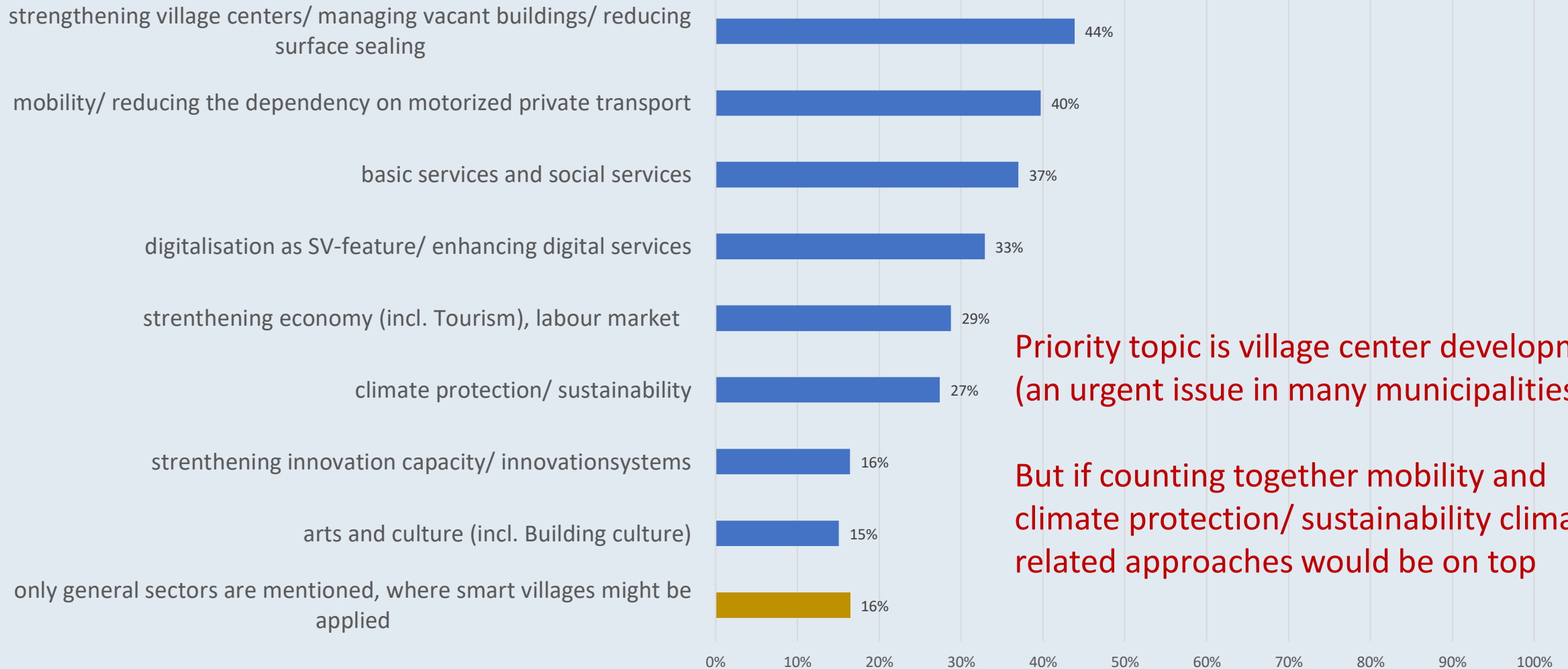
34 LAGs (41%) are planning one Smart Village strategy and/or project

81% of all LAGs are planning to realize between one and three Smart Village strategies and/or projects

All in all **161** Smart Village strategies and projects are planned for the period 2023-2027

Topics to be covered by Smart Village approaches

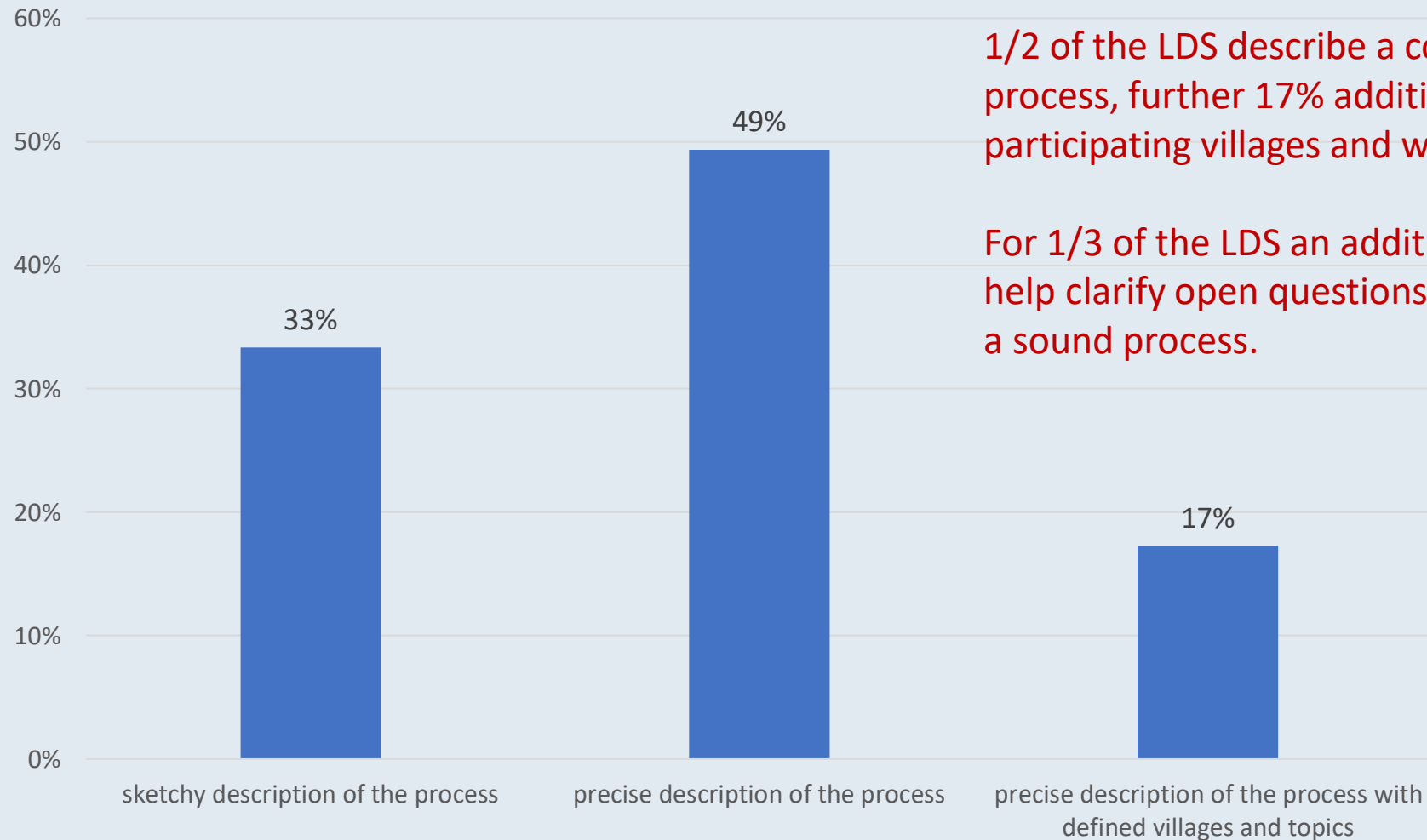
(Share of LDS that namend the topic in the description of their Smart Village approach/ multiple topics per LDS possible)



Priority topic is village center development (an urgent issue in many municipalities)

But if counting together mobility and climate protection/ sustainability climate-related approaches would be on top

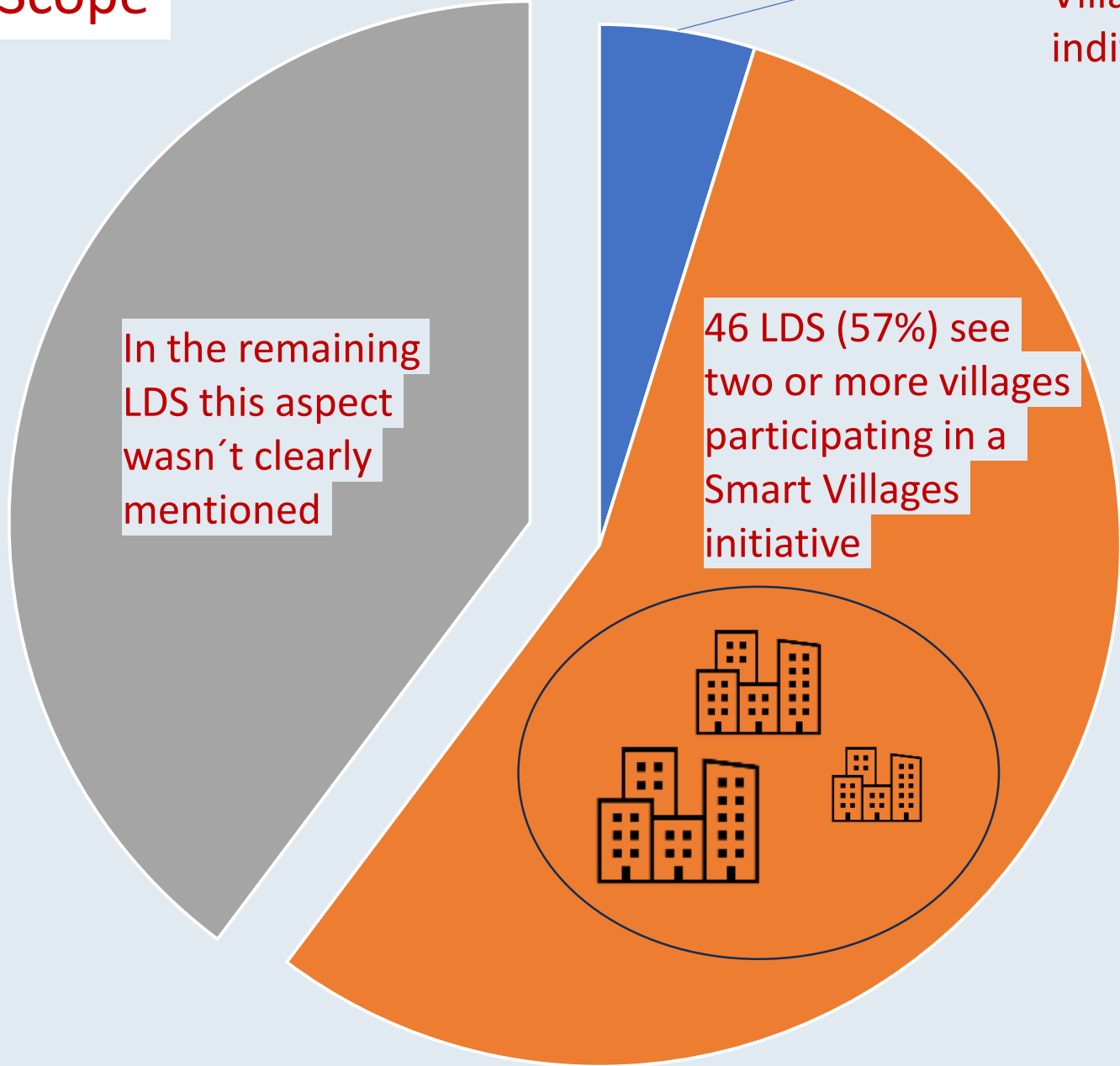
Development status of the approach



1/2 of the LDS describe a comprehensible Smart Village process, further 17% additionally already know participating villages and would be „ready to go“

For 1/3 of the LDS an additional offer for support might help clarify open questions or give impulses for setting up a sound process.

Geographical Scope

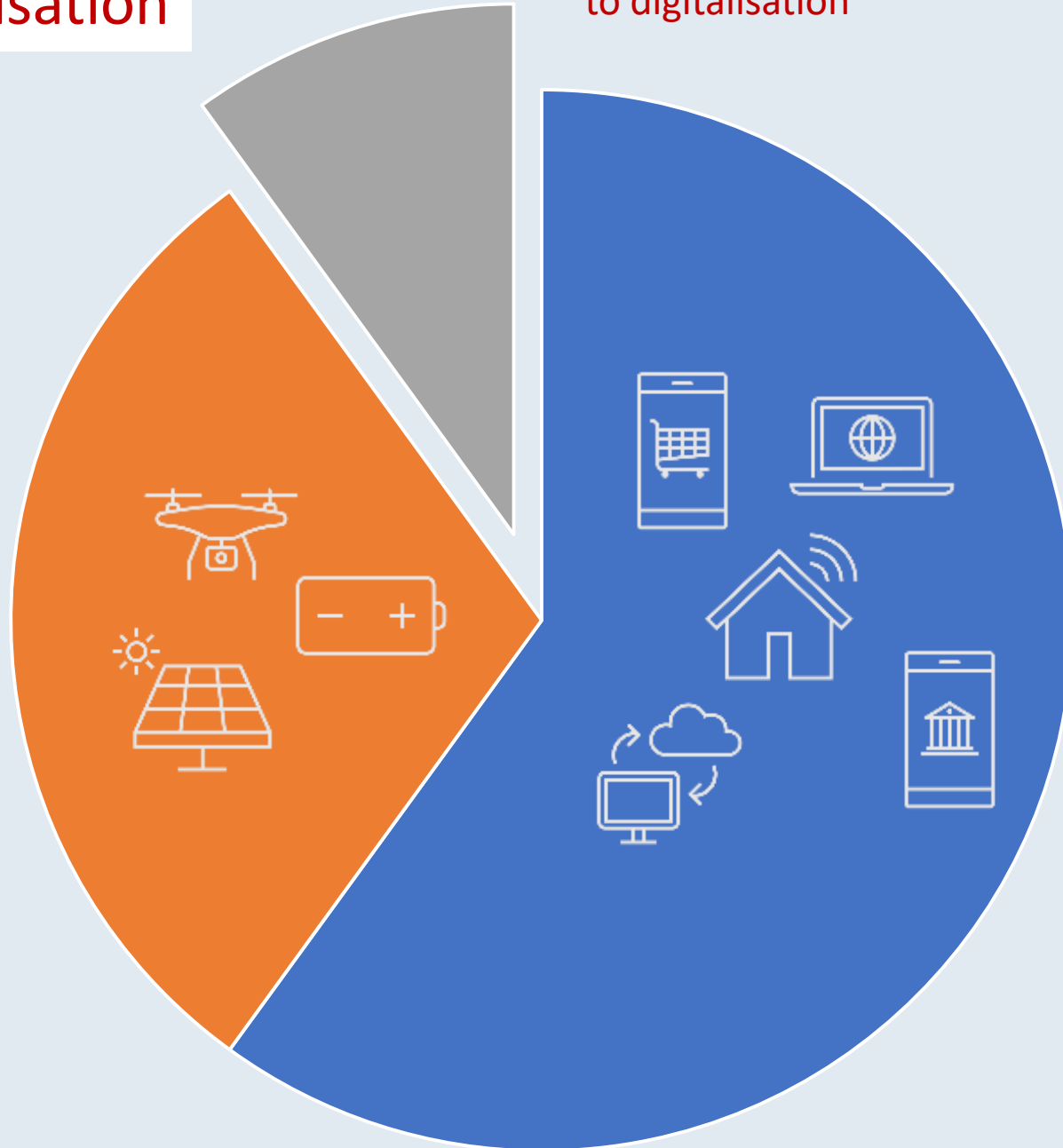


4 LDS plan Smart Villages for one or individual villages



The role of digitalisation

In further 30% digitalisation is implicitly mentioned, e.g. by approaches that are based on digitalisation, etc.

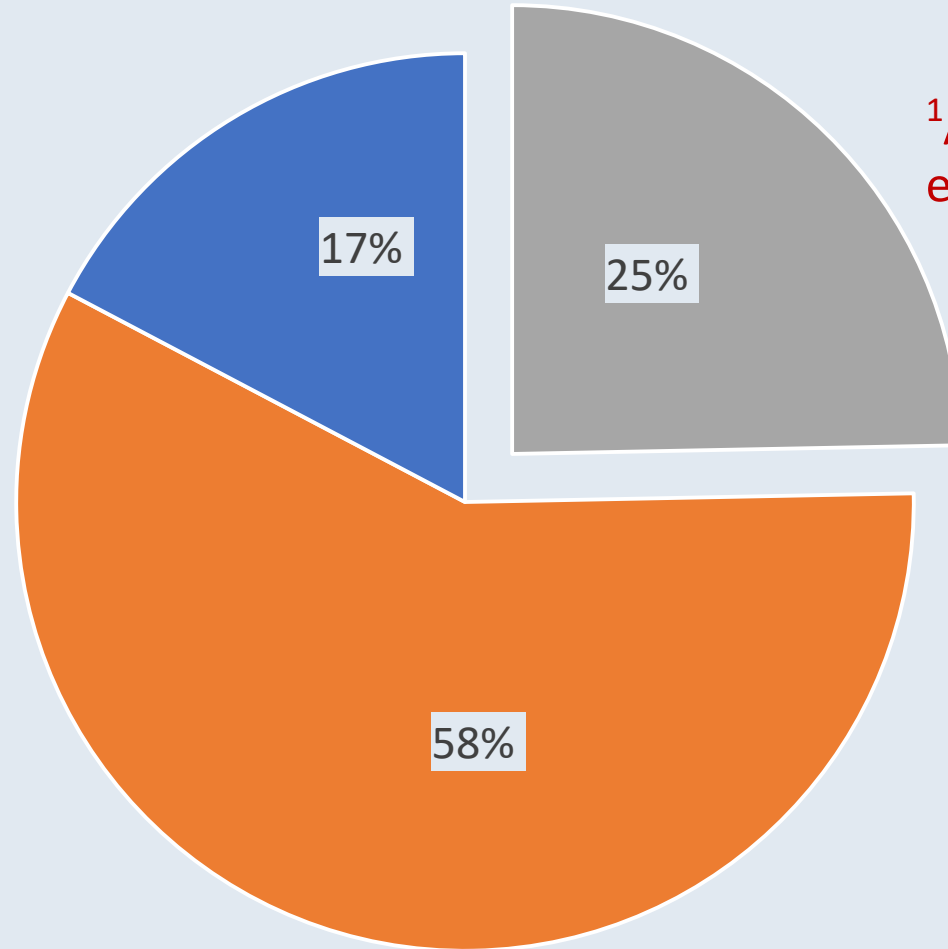


The remaining 10% did not refer to digitalisation

In nearly 60% of the LDS digitalisation is explicitly mentioned (mainly as a tool)

The role of participation

$\frac{3}{4}$ of all LDS mention participation in the context of Smart Villages, 17% with a direct reference to LA21 standards



$\frac{1}{4}$ does not mention participation explicitly

■ not explicitly mentioned ■ mentioned ■ mentioned with explicit reference to LA21

Learnings

- Smart Villages is visible in almost all LEADER LDS
- Smart Villages is often seen as a „regional topic“ involving several municipalities. This can be an advantage in terms of leverage but might blur the vision for local needs and integrated strategies as well as possibilities for ways to participate new actors that are mainly locally oriented.
- There are several LAGs that seem to have a clear vision how to use this new development concept – however a larger share of LDS integrated SV but it seems that the added value for their region/villages is not yet clear
- Digitalisation is an integral part in most of the approaches – but the solutions described do not reflect the full potential that lies within digitalisation. It might be useful to sensitize and qualify in that respect.
- The emphasis on digitalisation might affect participation: it provides additional opportunities for participation (new tools and new roles – like „prosumers“) but on the other hand participation might need a new quality.