

PORTUGAL TASKFORCE

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More information:



THE PURPOSE

The Taskforce aims to advance the Smart Villages concept, incorporating participatory design and governance to stimulate sustainable rural development, namely, by mobilizing several interventions with different funding sources.

- Develop an understanding of Smart Villages and their role in rural development, particularly in fostering innovation and finding sustainable long-term solutions for local development.
- Improve policy design and implementation – integrating the Smart Villages concept and fostering articulation and complementarity with existing strategies.
- Establish a Territorial Agenda Smart Villages PI.IN (conceptual framework for the implementation of Smart Villages strategies with tailored approaches to address key challenges).

MEMBERS

The Taskforce comprises a range of stakeholders, including representatives from:

Coordination of the ITBI PI.IN, Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro 2030, Tourism of Portugal, Local municipalities, Local Action Groups.

OUTCOMES

Territorial Agenda Smart Villages PI.IN

Establish a **network of Smart Villages** that envisions:

- promotion of social cohesion and community development
- fostering economic development and innovation
- enhancing territorial competitiveness, using local assets and resources.
- providing essential services to rural populations, particularly in isolated areas.
- enhancing the overall quality of life in rural areas.

MAIN CHALLENGES

- Integrate the Smart Villages concept in policy design: raise awareness of the importance of adopting it in the policy agenda and decision-making.
- Strategic vision: integrated planning that guarantees (i) an approach that facilitates the combination of territorial (multidimensional level) and sectoral (multisectoral level) policies; and (ii) a collaborative management shaped by governance systems based on a bottom-up / top-down balance.
- Local engagement (e.g., Local Action Groups and local civil society organizations): ensure participatory approaches in the development of rural communities.
- Alignment of interventions: pace and timings at which interventions, strategies and Programmes are being designed and implemented.
- Mobilization of resources: IIBT PI.IN has no financial allocation of its own, but rather an indication of potential funding sources).

ACTIVITIES

January – February 2023

Preparatory work for the constitution of the Taskforce

March - May 2023

Preparatory work for designing the conceptual framework for the integration of the Smart Villages concept and approach

June - July 2023

Preparatory work for designing a roadmap to implement Smart Villages initiatives in the scope of IIBI PI.IN

September - October 2023

Strategic discussions and adjustments on integrating Smart Villages into specific IIBT PI.IN interventions

January – April 2024

- Planning with key stakeholders, including a proposal for the arrangements for a call and an indicative structure for Smart Villages strategies.
- Face-to-face meeting with key-stakeholders (Turismo de Portugal, CAP Strategic Plan Managing Authority, Local Action Groups).
- Discussions on the creation of Smart Villages policy milestones, including a consolidated conceptual framework and a roadmap for its implementation
- Funding opportunities and partnerships, possible synergies and opportunities for collaborations (exploring areas of common interest).



IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY

The Taskforce

- Contributes to the definition of Smart Villages in national policy, advocating for its inclusion as a key element for sustainable rural development. This recognition could help institutionalize Smart Villages, ensuring continued support for these initiatives.
- Brings together representatives from various levels towards enabling the integration of the Smart Villages concept into regional and national policies. This integration would ensure that the activities developed by the Taskforce could be reflected in larger-scale planning and funding decisions.