



Annex II: Meeting Reports

4th Smart Villages Taskforce Meeting – [LATVIA]

Purpose of the meeting

The aim of the meeting is to re-emphasise and discuss the role of Local Action Groups in the development of Smart Villages. Participants were given a detailed insight into the EU Smart Villages concept, the role of Local Action Groups in the development of Smart Villages in various EU Member States, the European pilot projects “Smart Rural 21” and “Smart Rural 27”. Participants were presented and explained the guidelines (methodology) or steps to work with active communities willing to develop through the Smart Villages concept. Given insights into the Smart Villages Performance Assessment Methodology.

Date of the meeting

25 April 2024

Location

Online

Participation

The fourth meeting of the Taskforce meeting was attended by 32 representatives of local action groups, The Ministry of Agriculture, The Institute of Agro-Resources and Economics and The Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre.

Main outcomes & lessons learnt (including deviations from initial plan)

Although the Smart Village concept has been used for some time, it is still often understood and interpreted in different ways. With the participation of most of the Local Action Groups, we explored in depth the features of the Smart Village concept, including the definition.

Participants were given a detailed insight into the EU Smart Village concept, the role of LEADER Local Action Groups in the development of Smart Villages in different EU Member States, what is expected from Smart Communities, the European pilot projects “Smart Rural 21” and “Smart Rural 27”. The guidelines (methodology) or steps for working with active communities wishing to develop through the Smart Villages concept were presented and explained to the participants.

During the event we discussed the experiences and plans of other EU Member States on the implementation of Smart Villages in local areas. Approaches vary, but in general LEADER funding will be the main funding to support Smart Villages. During the event it was underlined that Smart Villages are also highlighted in other countries as a tool for sustainable local development and that they help to fulfil the LEADER guiding principles in the local area.

The challenge of developing Smart Villages is to provide specific, tailored support to each rural community. And it is important that it is tailor-made.



Key message: LEADER Local Action Groups need in-depth support and access to a Smart Villages methodology that explains step by step how to work with a Smart Community. It is also important to complement the methodology by offering different methods that can help to implement a specific step.

Main outcomes/conclusions of the objectives of the taskforce:

1. As the Smart Villages concept is complex and difficult to understand, depending on the target group, tailor-made guidelines for working with an active community willing to develop through the Smart Village concept should be adapted and offered to the specific target group. That is why capacity building and support for LEADER Local Action Groups is therefore very important. It is certainly very important to maintain the basic principles of the Smart Village concept.
2. LEADER Local Action Groups can play a crucial role in the development of Smart Villages in local areas.
3. Every community is different, and the understanding of the Smart Village concept is based on local needs and the understanding and interpretation of the Smart Village concept is shaped accordingly.
4. There is a strong need to promote the availability of funding (even on a small scale) for rural communities as this promotes growth, development, and prosperity in rural areas, benefiting both local people and the wider community. The availability of funding motivates people and creates an additional desire to engage in different activities.
5. It doesn't matter how much money have been spent or how much projects have been implemented in local territory. The question is – what has changed by doing it?
6. In the development of Smart Villages, both information and now guidelines are available today. This is much more than a few years ago. Learn by doing!
7. It is important for the LEADER Local Action Groups themselves to share their experience with each other!
8. LEADER cooperation projects – to support smart villages, to promote cooperation.
9. Monitoring is essential to understand the development and implementation of smart villages and to evaluate the results. Data is important!

Next steps

Further activities for the development of Smart Villages will be organised within the framework of the activities of the Latvian CAP Network in cooperation with other stakeholders.

Supporting documents

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The event in pictures



LEADER vietējo rīcības grupu loma Viedo ciemu attīstībā

Zanda Dimanta-Svilpe
Smart Rural 27 nacionālā koordinatore,
Valsts KLP tiks

| Viedie ciemi – pieeja, kā attīstīt vietējo teritoriju |

25.04.2024., tiešsaistē



Kas ir Viedais ciems?*

Inovācija un digitalizācija kā līdzeklis, nevis pašmērķis. Rezultāts ir konkrēti pielietojami risinājumi. Ir ietverti visi inovāciju veidi, taču sociālā inovācija ir īpaši svarīga.

Līdzdalība gan vizijas un pasākumu noteikšanā, gan arī to īstenošanā.

Neraugoties uz uzsvērtu «vietējo» kontekstu, Viedie ciemi gūst labumu no sadarbības. Tādējādi lokalitāte un supralokāla sadarbība nav pretrunīgi.

Supralokāls – plāns, kas (pilnībā vai daļēji) pārklāj vai ārkas pašvaldības.

Viedie ciemi ir **lauku apvidu kopienas, kas izmanto inovatīvus (radošus) risinājumus**, lai uzlabotu savu noturību un stātos preti izaicinājumiem, balstoties uz vietējām stiprajām pusēm un iespējām. Tās palaujas uz **līdzdalības pieeju**, lai **izstrādātu un īstenotu savu visaptverošu stratēģiju**, lai uzlabotu savus ekonomiskos, sociālos un/vai vides apstākļus, jo īpaši mobilizējot digitālo tehnoloģiju piedāvātos risinājumus. Viedie ciemi **gūst labumu no sadarbības un savienības** ar citām kopienām un dalībniekiem lauku un pilsētu teritorijās. Viedo ciemu stratēģiju uzsākšana un īstenošana var balstīties uz esošajām iniciatīvām, un to **var finansēt no dažādiem valsts un privātiem avotiem**.

«Uz vietu balstīta pieeja»: pielāgoti risinājumi, kas ir efektīvi vietējā kontekstā un mērķtiecīgi izmanto vietējo specifiku.

Viedām kopienām ir stratēģiskas spējas – tās koncentrējas uz (dažiem) specifiskiem izaicinājumiem un spēj ar tiem tikt galā integrētā veidā.

* Definīcija izstrādāta Eiropas Komisijas Pilotprojektā par viediem ekosociāliem ciemiem, 2018–2019.



Viedie ciemi – pieeja, kā ilgtspējīgi attīstīt vietējo teritoriju



CEĻĀ UZ VIEDO CIEMU

