

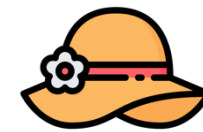


IDEAS FROM OUR SMART RURAL & OTHER WORK ON LEADER & SMART VILLAGES

EDINA OCSKO, VICE-CHAIR OF THE RURAL PACT COORDINATION GROUP

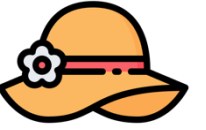
23 OCTOBER 2024

RURAL PACT COORDINATION GROUP SMART VILLAGE NETWORK SERVICES / E40 (VICE-CHAIR)



Funded by
the European Union





FORMER COORDINATOR OF THE SMART RURAL PROJECTS (SUPPORTED BY THE EC)



OBJECTIVE OF SMART RURAL 21



To support rural communities in developing Smart Village Strategies and implement smart actions (including renewable energy, digital services, local entrepreneurship, rural mobility, etc.).

www.smartrural21.eu



OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF SMART RURAL 27



To prepare Member States and rural communities for the implementation of the CAP post-2020 as well as other policies and initiatives which could potentially support the emergence of Smart Villages across the EU.





THE SMART VILLAGE NETWORK ANIMATOR – COORDINATOR (SVN SERVICES)

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[Read the Smart Village Network Declaration.](#)

The Smart Village Network is an open, independent, bottom-up network of villages, village groups and village associations across Europe that aim to exchange their views and experiences about smart solutions in response to rural challenges.

The Smart Village Network makes the voices of villages heard at local, national and European levels. It is an open platform to discuss and debate various issues related to 'smart villages' and the future of the rural development policy.

LINKAGES BETWEEN LEADER & SMART VILLAGES

- Put it simply: Smart Villages is implemented through LEADER-like principles (area-based, local communities, participatory, strategic, integrated...) but at a lower geographical (local / small community) level.
- Building capacity at the local level: Lack of capacity at the local level – local rural communities need support to develop plans/ vision, plan solutions, identify innovative approaches – ANIMATION role of LEADER.



SMARTNESS IN THE PROCESS...

- Future-looking **vision** ...
- **Strategic approach**... addressing contemporary challenges (climate, food & energy safety, depopulation, lack of services...)
- Making the **most of knowledge & innovation** to achieve this (inc. modern technologies, digital) ... but not only.
- Engaging the local people in planning & implementation (as much as possible) – [social innovation](#)
- **Ultimately achieve a change at local community level** in response to pressing challenges – [social impact](#)

OSTANA (ITALY)

- They have had a **vision**: to reverse depopulation in a sustainable way (strategic thinking)
- They work on several themes in an **integrated way** (culture, environment, mobility, youth, tourism, newcomers...)
- They actively work with the local community
- They **reversed a negative trend** (kids born, school reopened) & starting **sustainable residency programme**
- They are modern but **digital / technological is not at the core** of their smartness



STANZ (AUSTRIA)

- They have had a **vision**: to create a sustainable living for the local community
- They work on several themes in an **integrated way** (energy, local services, mobility, housing, tourism...)
- They managed to maintain services and are **becoming energy self-sustainable** through community engagement
- They engage the community ... **but not everybody** (impossible in communities with more than 1 000 people)
- They use modern technology (blockchain, energy, digital token system...) **but not in all of the smart solutions** (e.g. in housing/ shop / mobility)



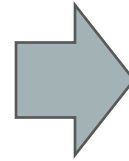
TOMASZYN (POLAND)

- They have had a **vision**: to build regenerative agriculture & sustainable food production & invest in local community.
- They care **both for the environment and the local society**.
- They **keep experimenting with new old and new technology** (from re-using traditional irrigation system to investing in robotics)
- They are trying to engage local people (e.g. through employment) ... **but it's extremely hard to do "participatory" in lagging behind depopulating areas**



COMMON IN ALL...

- LOCAL COMMUNITY (VILLAGE)
- VISION (STRATEGIC APPROACH)
- SOMEONE(S) TO LEAD
- OPEN-MINDED TO NEW/ EXPERIMENT
- COMMITTED
- SUSTAINABLE
- ... OFTEN FEEL NEGLECTED & BEING ALONE



CAN'T BE EASILY
CAPTURED
THROUGH
DEFINITION OR
INDICATORS.

LESSONS ...

- **Don't look for a more precise definition** at this stage.
- We have to **TAKE ACTION** – Experiment (just like in LEADER in the old days).
- Get ready **to support the local communities** that have the **potential**.
- Be **flexible in administration** / be open-minded: Don't start to push the burden downwards (EC -> MA -> LAG -> Local communities)



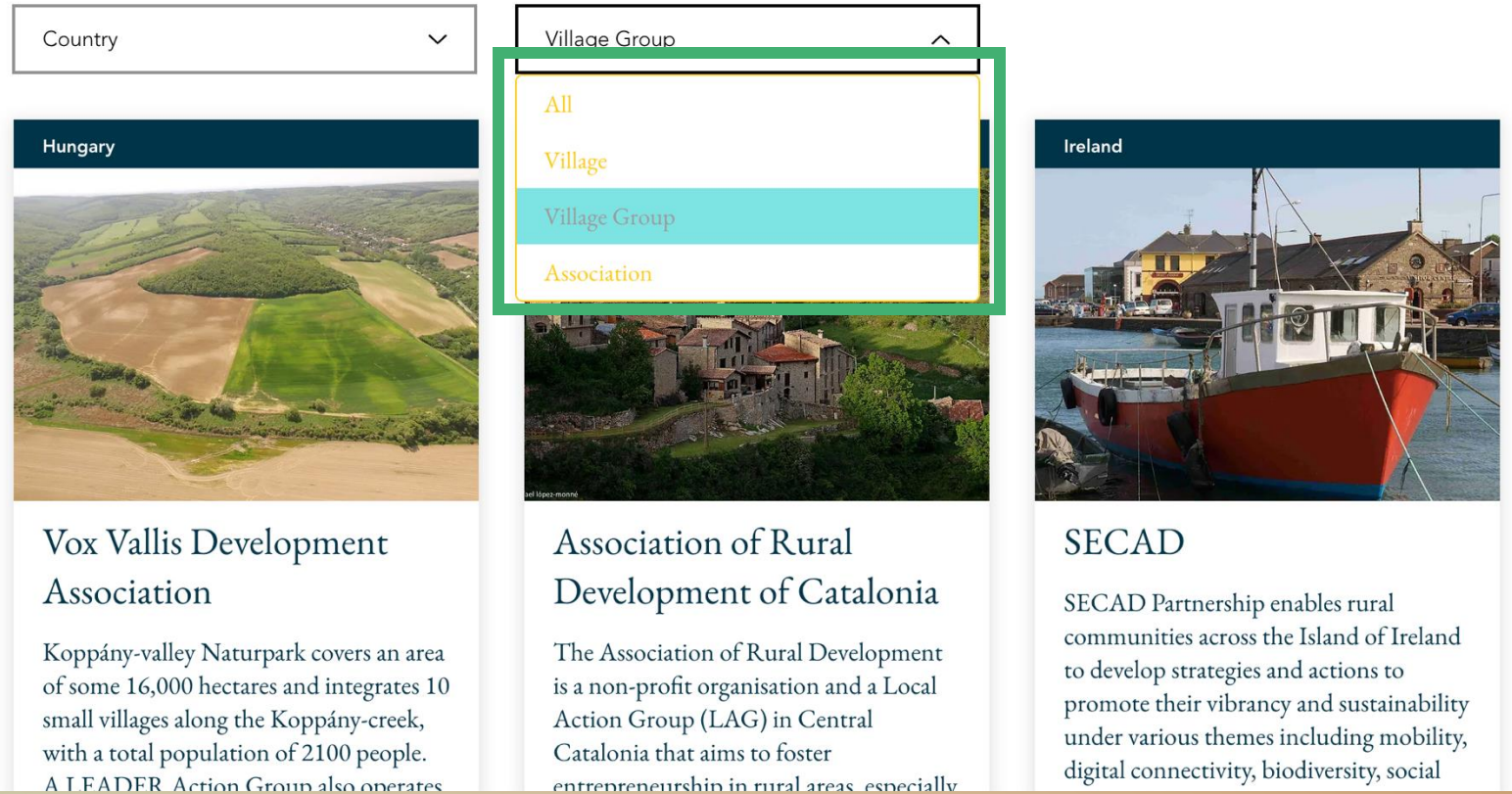
HOW WE CAN SUPPORT?

- LEADER LAGs are **members** of the SVN
- **Exchanges** – e.g. one TNC project on SV among LAGs in the past
- Condition of membership: **to bring at least one rural community** to the **network/ database**

The Smart Village Network is an open network with members of villages and associations of villages.

If you are interested in becoming a member or just want to tell us your ideas about the network and the concept of 'smart villages', please contact us through the form below or at info@smart-village-network.eu.

Our current members are:



The screenshot shows a web interface for filtering members. A 'Country' dropdown is set to 'Hungary'. A 'Village Group' dropdown menu is open, showing four options: 'All', 'Village', 'Village Group' (highlighted in teal), and 'Association'. Below the filters, three member cards are visible:

- Hungary**: Vox Vallis Development Association. Description: Koppány-valley Naturpark covers an area of some 16,000 hectares and integrates 10 small villages along the Koppány-creek, with a total population of 2100 people. A LEADER Action Group also operates...
- Ireland**: Association of Rural Development of Catalonia. Description: The Association of Rural Development is a non-profit organisation and a Local Action Group (LAG) in Central Catalonia that aims to foster entrepreneurship in rural areas, especially...
- Ireland**: SECAD. Description: SECAD Partnership enables rural communities across the Island of Ireland to develop strategies and actions to promote their vibrancy and sustainability under various themes including mobility, digital connectivity, biodiversity, social...



RURAL PACT COMMUNITY GROUP ON SMART VILLAGES

ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/groups/community-group-smart-villages_en

Official website of the European Union How do you know? ▾



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Rural Pact Community Platform

Rural Pact ▾ Rural revitalisation ▾ The platform ▾ Resources ▾ News and events ▾

Home > Groups > Smart Villages

GROUP Smart Villages

Login or Register to Join this Group

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Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

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English

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THANK YOU.

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