

LEADER cooperation project  
Smart Villages  
training programme

*State of art May 2021*

# Background

- Initiative of European Commission [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/smart-and-competitive-rural-areas/smart-villages/smart-villages-portal\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/smart-and-competitive-rural-areas/smart-villages/smart-villages-portal_en)
- Pilot project - Smart Rural Areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century - [www.smartrural21.eu](http://www.smartrural21.eu)
- Establishment of Estonian national working group on Smart Villages – Ministry of Rural Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonian Rural Network, Estonian LEADER Union, Estonian Village Movement, Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities
- Participation in the Open Call for Smart Villages in the frame of Smart Rural 21 project
  - Estonian villages actively participated in the Call – one village - Virtsu borough - was selected for the international programme, but the rest of 13 applicants didn't get selected
  - National working group proposed an idea to design a national Smart Villages training programme

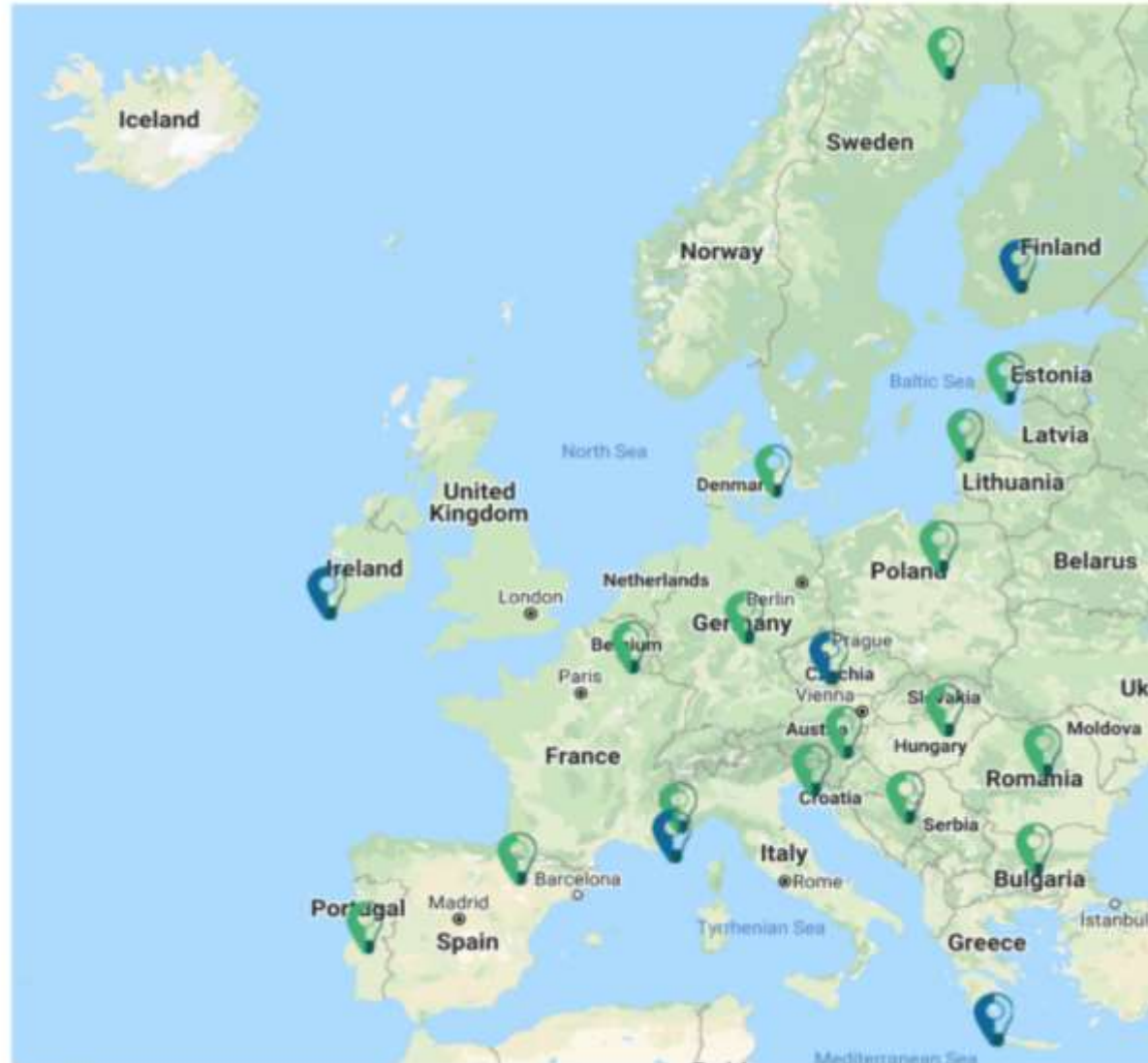
# Smart Rural 21 network of villages

## Newly selected villages

- Alsunga (Latvia)
- Ansó (Spain)
- Babina Greda (Croatia)
- Brestovo (Bulgaria)
- Ostana (Italy)
- Penela (Portugal)
- Profondeville (Belgium)
- Remetea (Romania)
- Šentviška Gora (Slovenia)
- Sollstedt (Germany)
- Stanz im Mürztal (Austria)
- Tomaszyn (Poland)
- Torup (Denmark)
- Uppony (Hungary)
- Virtsu (Estonia)
- Vuollerim (Sweden)

## Pre-selected villages

- Mukařov (Czechia)
- Dingle (Ireland)
- Mouans-Sartoux (France)
- Kythera (Greece)
- Raudanmaa (Finland)



# Clarifying the specific needs of Estonian villages – Google questionnaire

- In June 2020 villages responded to the specific questionnaire

## Expectations of villages to the national programme:

- balanced development of rural-urban
- international communication and competences
- tackle the needs of growing communities in rural areas
- increasing the capacity of the community to cope on its own
- designing village future – vision, aims, action plan
- overcome with the impact of administrative reform of local municipalities

# Which elements of training programme were considered important?

- Mutual experience exchange between Estonian and European villages
- Inspiring presentations from other communities/areas
- Mentor support and expert know-how in specific fields
- Creating a permanent national network between participant villages and building connections with international network
- Learning about methods to involve stakeholders from different sectors, minority groups, build rural-urban linkages, create a dialogue with local municipality
- Increasing innovation capacity in the community
- Opportunities to earn village own income

# What kind of expert know-how was considered important?

- Social innovation
- Digital solutions
- Networks building and further development of these, involvement and participation
- Attracting people to the area and housing
- Place marketing/branding – identity of the area and marketing
- Transport and logistics – smart solutions to move people, goods, services
- Investment projects

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# Estonian LEADER cooperation project Smart Villages development programme

- 13 LEADER LAGs (out of 26) with 24 villages are preparing a national cooperation project to start national training programme for Smart villages

Expected results of the programme are:

Each village/community drafts Smart Village strategy – 24 strategies

Each village/community implements pilot action in the frame of Smart Village strategy – 24 pilot actions

National Smart Villages Network will be established and linked with international Smart Rural 21 network

Communication activities to introduce Smart Village strategies and results of pilot actions will be implemented to enhance public awareness and the know-how of Estonian villages, governmental institutions, etc

LEADER LAGs will gain experience on how to implement the concept of Smart Villages at the local level and can, if necessary, plan follow-up activities into their LDS for the new programming period 2021-2027.



# 24 villages/13 LEADER areas

- ★ Luunja vald
- ★ Ulila alevik
- ★ Navi küla
- ★ Purtse küla
- ★ Taheva piirkond
- ★ Otepää valla külad
- ★ Taevaskoja küla
- ★ Uuesalu küla
- ★ Neeme küla
- ★ Lubja küla
- ★ Kilingi-Nõmme piirkond
- ★ Eassalu-Neitsi külade piirkond
- ★ Venevere-Paasvere-Laekvere...

- ★ Vajangu piirkond
- ★ Kiltsi-Ebavere-Väike-Maarja
- ★ Lääne-Harju kogukond
- ★ Raja-Kasepää piirkond
- ★ Kuremaa alevik
- ★ Kääpa küla
- ★ Paide valla külad
- ★ Ravila küla
- ★ Kose-Uuemõisa küla
- ★ Virtsu
- ★ Järva valla külad
- ★ Rohelise Jõemaa külad

## Tegevusgrupid

- 📍 Tartumaa Arendusselts
- 📍 Pärnu-Lahe Partnerluskogu
- 📍 Valgamaa Partnerluskogu
- 📍 Lääne-Harju Koostöökogu
- 📍 Jõgevamaa Koostöökoda
- 📍 Võrumaa Partnerluskogu
- 📍 Järva Arengu Partnerid
- 📍 PAIK
- 📍 Ida-Harju Koostöökoda
- 📍 Põlvamaa Partnerluskogu
- 📍 Rohelise Jõemaa Koostöökogu
- 📍 Põhja-Harju Koostöökogu
- 📍 Virumaa Koostöökogu



# Local action groups and villages

Google maps

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1AALNMVxnsLq-036ugtgSTb6QDWyseQIM&usp=sharing>

# The ideas about focuses and pilot actions (mapping 09.03.2021)

## Millise teemaga tahab tegelda minu piirkonna arukas küla?

Mentimeter



# 1,5 year training programme includes

- **6 training modules on different topics** (social innovation, digitalization, greening solutions, networking and people involvement, urban-rural cooperation, cross-border service development, local marketing and attracting people to the region, smart transport and logistics solutions, self-sufficiency and business services);
- **2-day study trip in Estonia** and **5-day study trip abroad** (the trip abroad is planned for spring 2022);
- **implementation of pilot activities** - each village carries out at least one pilot activity set out in the strategy, receiving a grant of € 5,000. The pilot action will be selected during the development of the strategy;

# 1,5 year training programme includes

- **Mentoring support** - each village gets its own mentor. A total of 5 working days of mentoring support has been calculated for each village;
- **communication and information activities** - sub-page of smart villages on the Estonian LEADER Union web and on FBs, articles, sharing information on good practices, sharing information with Estonia and the international community;
- **network coordination and project management** - coordination of all activities and information sharing, organizational issues. Coordination of cooperation with trainers, mentors, communities, international partners.

# Budget of the 1,5 year national programme

The proposed budget for the LEADER cooperation project is € 251,928, divided between the local action groups in proportion to the number of participating villages/regions per action group.

- LAG participates with one village/community - € 10,497
- LAG participates with two villages/communities - € 20,994
- LAG participates with three villages/communities - € 31,491

Additional financing for future activities from other EU funds, partners (NRN, ministries, etc)

# Activities, results, timeline

Activity	Expected results	Estimated timeline
TRAINING PROGRAMME, MENTOR SUPPORT, DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES	<b>*24 SMART VILLAGE STRATEGIES, *NATIONAL NETWORK OF SMART VILLAGES</b>	JUNE 2021-APRIL 2022
IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT ACTIVITIES	<b>24 ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED</b>	APRIL 2022-OCTOBER 2022
COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES (purchased)	<b>AT LEAST 10 ARTICLES, TV RECORDS ABOUT GOOD PRACTICE</b>	JANUARY-DECEMBER 2022
PROJECT MANAGEMENT	COORDINATED ACTIVITIES WITH VILLAGES, NATIONAL PARTNERS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS	JUNE 2021-DECEMBER 2022



# Future goals for LEADER/CLLD in national RDP

- Business development, especially new profitable through jobs and / or innovative solutions;
- Local communities, residents and young people, empowering future leaders;
- Improving the availability of services, including through community service development;
- Environmentally and climate-friendly solutions (incl circular economy) development and implementation;
- Maintaining a positive image of rural life and advocacy, **including the promotion of smart villages**. No of smart village strategies will be one monitoring indicator for LEADER strategies (among others).

# Thank you!

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