European Network for Rural Development

Smart Villages Seminar
22 May 2018, Brussels Belgium
'Revitalising Rural Services through Social and Digital Innovation'
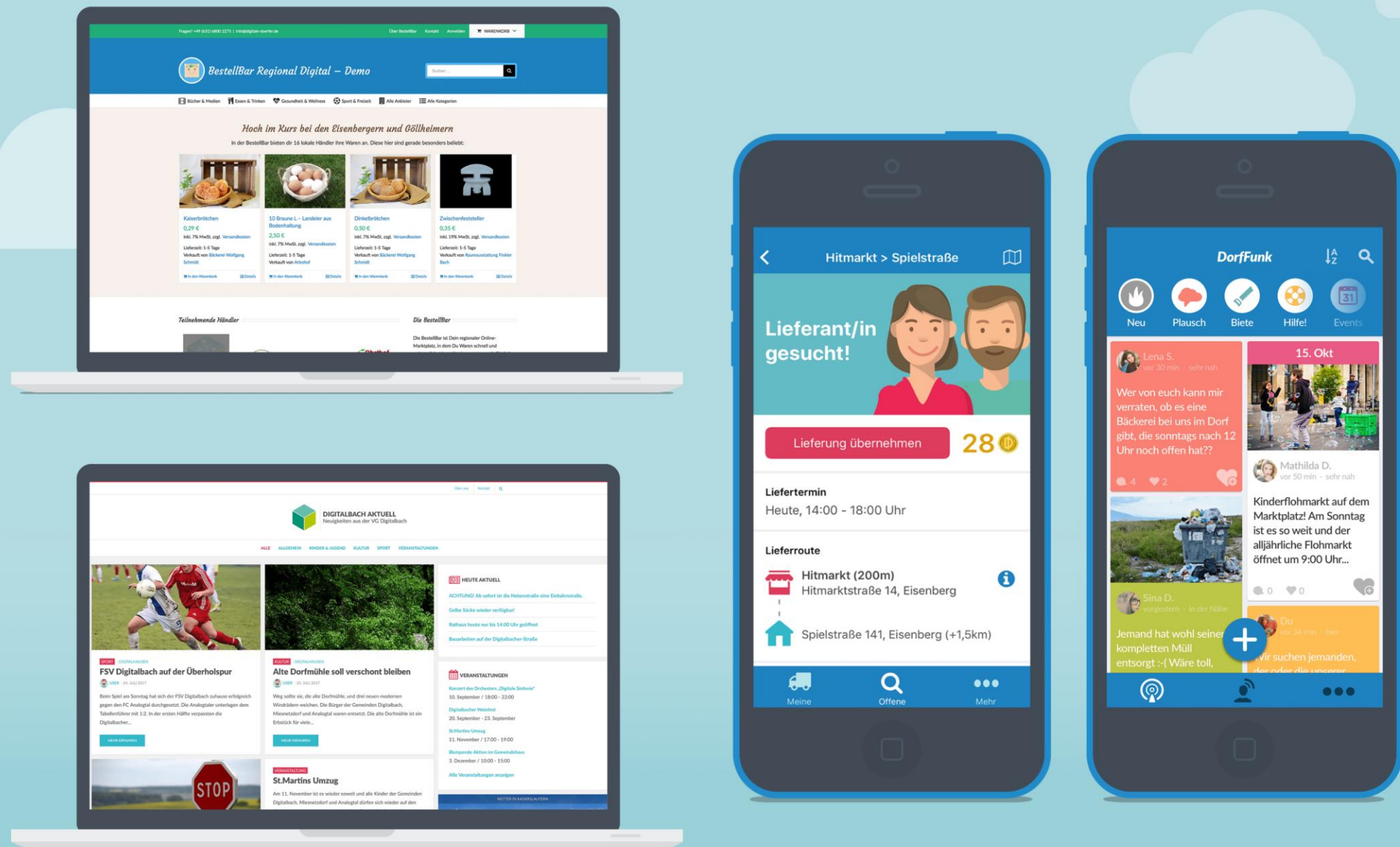Albert Borschette Congress Center

Digitale® Dörfer

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Digital Villages – promoting digital innovation in an integrated way at the village level
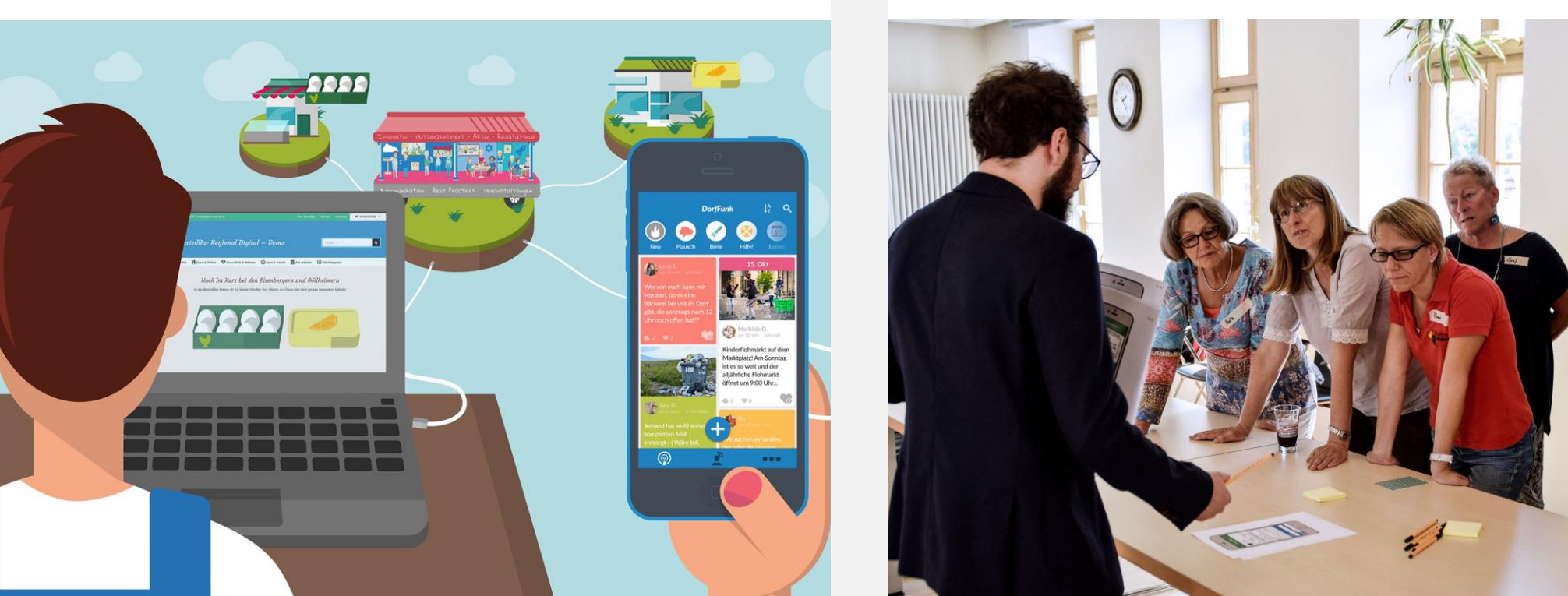
The **Digital Villages project** in the Rhineland-Palatinate region of Germany was initiated in the summer of 2015 with the support of the Fraunhofer Institute.

Villages were invited to submit project ideas to improve the quality of life in their area by the means of digital services. Three municipal associations were finally selected covering **33 municipalities with about 15 000 residents**.

Through a **common digital platform**, new solutions are being developed for the supply of local goods, communication, mobility and e-government.

The platform enables the **creation of shared services and common rules, and the incorporation of basic tools such as payments, login, data usage controls and partner networks**.

Local residents are working in **living labs** with interdisciplinary teams to pilot a range of **user-friendly apps**

Main results so far

1. **The living labs put the local at the centre of a digital ecosystem** involving digital innovation in specific services, a common platform, and the digital infrastructure. The project works at all levels to produce more affordable and sustainable solutions.

2. **BesttellBar an online market place for local vendors and service providers** with more than **1500 local products** available for online purchase and **700 residents** registered to deliver parcels.

3. **Communication tools such as DorfNews and DorfFunk** were developed to build a culture of collaboration between residents local authorities and local industry.

For more information visit:

https://www.digitale-doerfer.de