



European Network for  
Rural Development



# Thematic Group on Smart Villages: Revitalising rural services through social and digital innovation

ENRD Contact Point

26th October 2017



European Network for  
Rural Development



**@ENRD\_CP**  
**#SmartVillages**

# Agenda for the day



10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and introduction to the work of the TG and the agenda
10:30 – 11:15	Panorama of strategies, policies, and projects at EU level
<i>11:15 – 11:45</i>	<i>Networking Coffee break</i>
11:45 – 12:45	Key examples of integrated national strategies and approaches
<i>12:45 – 13:45</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
13:45 – 15:15	Group Work: Moving forward with smart villages
<i>15:15 – 15:30</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:30 – 16:15	Planning future activities of the Thematic Group
16:15 – 16:30	Concluding remarks & next steps

# Thematic Group Approach

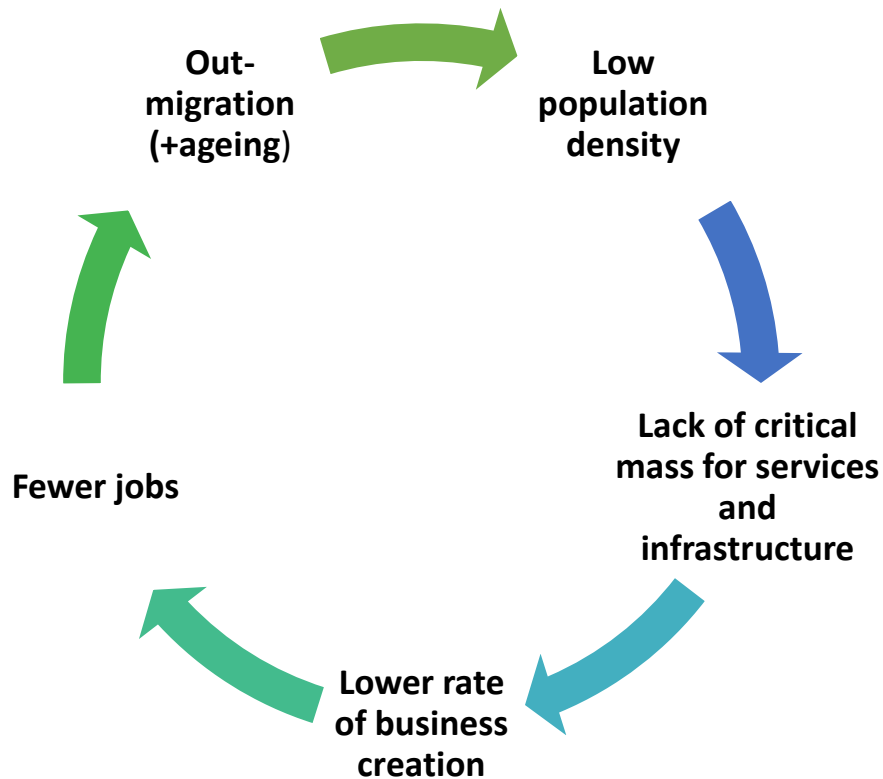
- **25-30 participants**
- **1 year – 4 meetings + seminar + outputs**
- **Stakeholder-oriented - coproduction**
- **Complements existing work and activities**
- **Focussed, action orientated, inspiring**



# Context for Smart Villages

Rural areas are locked into a “circle of decline” by two mutually reinforcing trends—

1. a shortage of jobs and sustainable business activity
2. **Inadequate and declining services.**



# EU Action for Smart Villages



*“Rural areas and communities which*

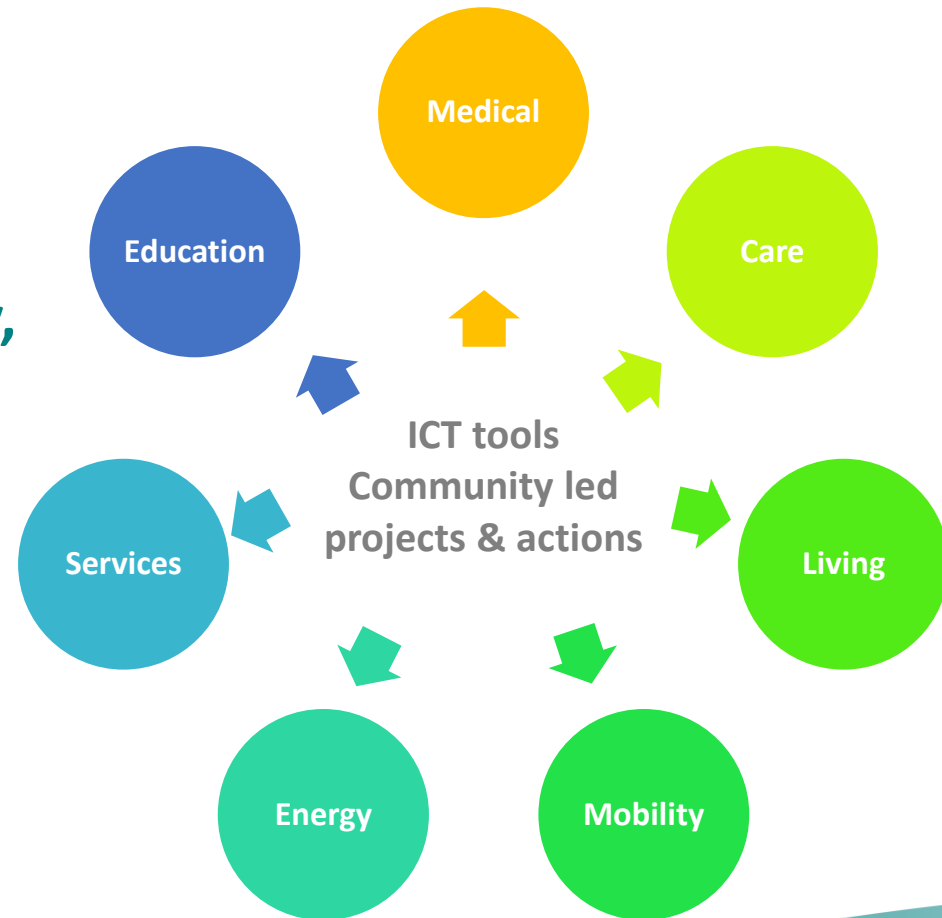
- build on their existing strengths and assets as well as new opportunities to develop added value*
- and where traditional and new networks are enhanced by means of **digital communications technologies, innovations and the better use of knowledge for the benefit of inhabitants**”.*

- Rural areas – not just villages
- Digital and social
- Economy and quality of life (services)

The WS will explore how rural services in areas such as **health, social services, education, energy, transport, retail and others**, can be improved and made more sustainable through

- a) by supporting **community led actions** and projects and/or
- b) the deployment of **ICT tools**

# Scope



# The scoping – many initiatives

## EU Institutions (*EC, COR, EESC, EP*)



Integrated strategies and planning

rural proofing



European Committee  
of the Regions

bottom-up multipliers

simplification

urban-rural,

infrastructure and

training

...

## EU Networks and Research



Sustainable Communities (ECOLISE),



Social Innovation in Marginalised Areas (SIMRA – H2020),



Enhancing Rural and Urban Digital Innovation Territories



European Rural Parliament (ERP)



...



# National and regional strategies



**Maintaining the quality of life in the face of depopulation**  
*(Italian Inner Area Strategy)*



**Overcoming the digital divide** *(Digital Village and Finnish Smart Countryside Initiative)*



**Dealing with cuts and the centralisation of services through urban rural linkages** *(French Contrats de Reciprocité)*



**All are just starting**



# Local projects

[Broadband Fibre in Östra Bräcke](#)



[Smart Village of the Future - Project Ruhtinansalmi](#)

[easy-to-access mobile medical service](#)



[An on-demand rural bus service in rural Wales](#)



[Local Computer Courses for young and old](#)



[On-line Support for Promotion of Local Businesses](#)



[Innovative rural learning facilities tackle youth depopulation](#)



[Socially Responsible Wine Tourism](#)



[Geoparks bringing together local business through quality parks](#)



[Quality of Life through Proximity](#)



# Local projects



## Community based initiatives

- *Environmental*
- *Social*



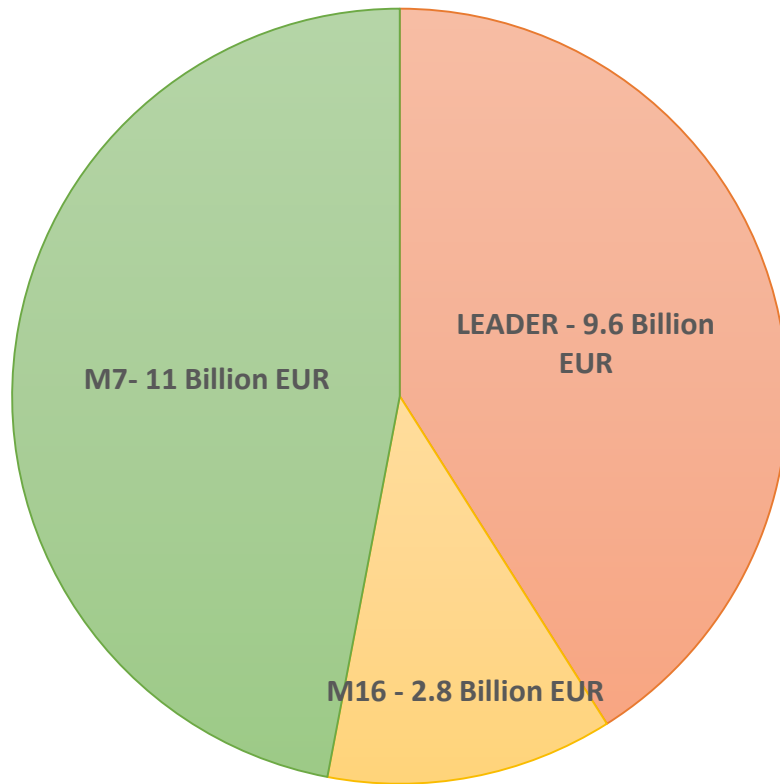
## Digital innovation initiatives

- *Single sector*
- *Integrated*

## Many databases:

- TESS (*Community climate action across Europe*)
- ACRE
- NORDREGIO
- ECOLISE
- SIMRA
- ERUDITE
- More...

# The role rural development policy



- LEADER/CLLD (M19)
- Cooperation Measure (M.16), specially M16.7
- Basic services and village renewal (M.7), specially M7.1 - 7.4

**Synergy – leverage with other ESI Funds and private finance**

**How to support targeted, strategic + integrated approaches?**

# General goal of the TG

To become a **focal point for sharing experiences** between these and other initiatives **and for building evidence and momentum for improvements** in the implementation of rural development policy

# Specific aims of the TG

- 1. To share examples of emerging strategies for the revitalization of rural services (digital innovation or social innovation or both).**
- 2. To make recommendations about how the RDPs can be used to support these strategies in coordination with other policies**
- 3. To provide links to guidance, tools and project examples which can help rural help rural communities improve rural services.**



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# Group Work: Moving forward with Smart Villages

# Group work: Questions

- 1. What are the key features (blockages or drivers) that have to be dealt with for a successful strategy for smart villages?**
- 2. What can be done to help overcome the blockages + unlock the drivers?**



# Groups distribution

## Plenary

Green

Red

## Breakout room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Blue



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# Planning the future activities

# Main activities and outputs of the TG

## 1. *Exploratory work and screening*

## 2. *Four TWG meetings, addressing:*

1. *Strategic approaches and the role of the EAFRD and ESI Funds in the regeneration of rural services.*
2. *Community-led initiatives for the revitalization of rural services:*
3. *The use of ICT for the improvement of rural services*
4. *Communicating the results and recommendations (tbc)*

## 3. *Case Studies to support TG themes*

# Main activities and outputs of the TG

## 4. *Rural Review & Projects Brochure*

## 6. *Tools for supporting innovation in rural services*

- *Dedicated webpages – links to other sources and activities*
- *Factsheets (by TG sub-theme?)*
- *Chapters of the review (by TG sub-theme?)*
- *Examples and projects brochure (by type of service?)*
- *Policy recommendations*
- *Videos???*

## 7. *Seminar*



# Timeline



**26/10/2017**

*1<sup>st</sup> TG meeting –  
Strategic  
approaches and  
role of*



**07/12/2017**

*2<sup>nd</sup> TG meeting -  
Strategies and  
tools to support  
community led  
initiatives to  
innovation in  
rural services*



**February 2018**

*3<sup>rd</sup> TG meeting -  
Strategies and  
tools to support  
digital  
innovation in  
rural services*



**April 2018**

*4<sup>th</sup> TG meeting  
– TBC*



**Mid-May  
2018**

*Seminar on  
Smart Villages*

# Planning future activities

*What are your ideas and suggestions for ensuring that the activities of the TG are really useful and add value to what is already happening?*



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# How to contact us

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