



European Network for  
Rural Development

# Smart Villages Thematic Group: first ideas

*Paul Soto*  
*ENRD Contact Point*

# Context

## **The challenge** – a perfect storm –

- centralization and cuts in public services
- population loss

## **The opportunities** – people + technology

- Community driven regeneration/innovation in services
- Innovations in connectivity

# Complementary initiatives

- Pilot Project on Smart eco-social villages
- ERP working group on rural services (ACRE)
- EESC opinion on “Villages and small towns as catalysts for local development
- ECOLISE good practices and publication on environmental aspects
- ECOVAST
- DG Connect – Digital Innovation Hubs
- Pilot project Smart rural transport áreas SMARTA
- Horizon 2020 – SIMRA, business models for modern rural economies
- EIP Agri work on agricultural digital hubs, Access to data
- COR, CEMR, PURPLE

# Scope

1. Examples of **community led regeneration of rural services** – retail, transport, health, care, education, culture
2. **Digital strategies** and tools for regenerating rural services
3. The strategic use of **selected RDP measures** – M7 Basic services and village renewal and M19. LEADER
4. Strategies for mobilising **other public and private funds** (proofing...).

OUTPUT: Web based community toolkit for regenerating rural services and and building smart villages.

# Questions

1. What do we want to achieve?
2. What should we focus on?
3. How should we do it and who with?.

# LISBON AGRI INNOVATION SUMMIT 12TH OCTOBER

## AM WS

- 1. Extending digital opportunities for rural businesses and communities.** Stimulating IT applications, hubs, training
- 2. Strategies and approaches for improving connectivity.** With BCO. Top down financial strategies. Local Community approaches to aggregating demand (NL, Sweden, LEADER)

# LISBON AGRI INNOVATION SUMMIT 12TH OCTOBER

## PM WS

- 1. Promoting innovation in rural áreas – now and in the future. How can the current support system be improved and simplified?** Contrast innovatory support mechanisms with what is being done in RDPs.
  
- 2. Supporting social innovation and new business models for service provision in rural áreas. Smart Villages TG**

# Thank you for your attention!

[www.enrd.ec.europa.eu](http://www.enrd.ec.europa.eu)

## ENRD Contact Point

Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat, 38 (bte 4)

1040 Bruxelles/Brussel

BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Tel. +32 2 801 38 00

[info@enrd.eu](mailto:info@enrd.eu)