



A wide-angle photograph of rugged, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky. The mountains are partially covered in snow and ice, with sharp peaks reaching towards the horizon. The lighting suggests either sunrise or sunset, casting a warm glow on the exposed rock faces.

# PILOT PROJECT SMART ECO-SOCIAL VILLAGES

# Outline

- 1 Brief introduction to the Pilot Project
- 2 Key findings from the first consultation
- 3 Next steps



Origin  
Diversity  
Territories

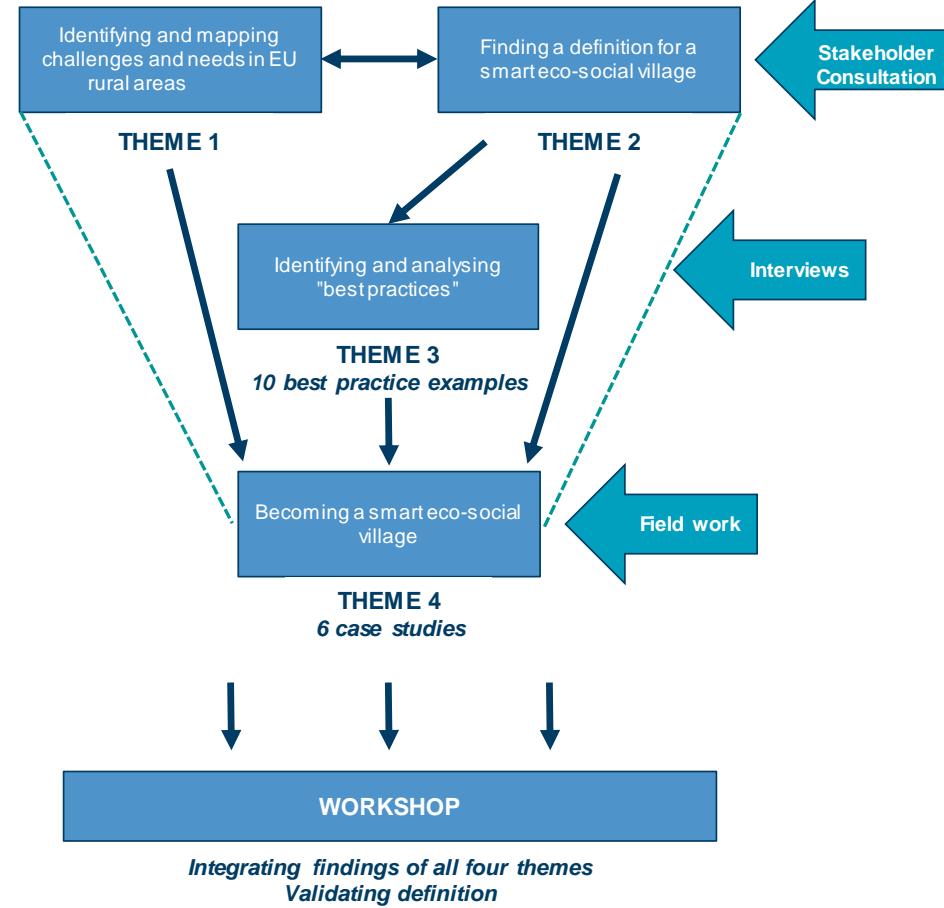


# Introduction to the Pilot Project

# Objectives of the pilot project

1. To map the **current challenges** of EU rural areas and how to boost **development in rural areas**
2. To develop a **definition** of Smart Villages and explore their **characteristics, drivers and factors of success**
3. To focus on **practical solutions** to overcome challenges and to improve the situation in villages
4. To present **practical, successful best practices** that could provide workable solutions for rural villages, using new and existing tools for promoting development

# | Approach





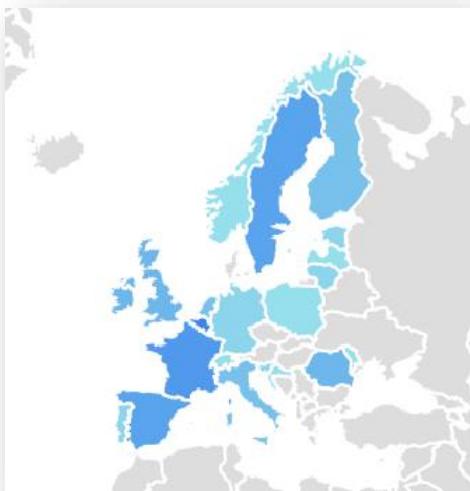
Origin  
Diversity  
Territories



# Key findings from the consultation

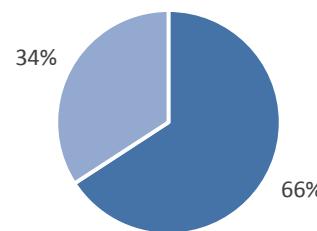


# Who answered?



- 79 replies of which 50 completed the survey
- 16% were French, 10% Belgian and 9% Swedish
- 8 MS were not covered

Worked on the topic?



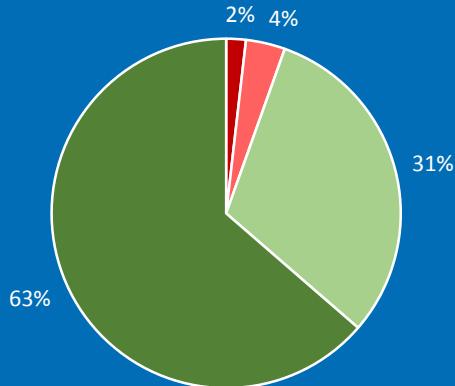
■ Yes ■ No

# Potential of “Smart Villages”

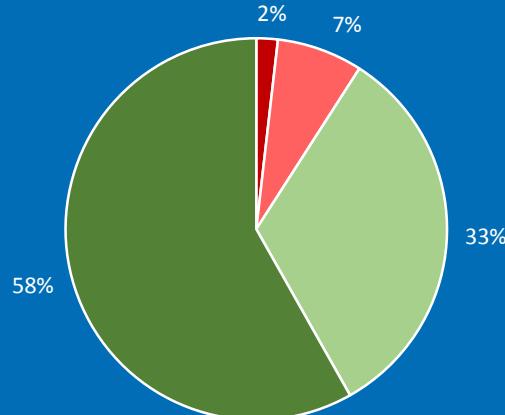
broader society  
place solidarit addressing agricultural agriculture  
including role keeping modern capacity give ensure integration  
developing framework livelihood possible want think address rules  
alive projects area promote approach support share way concepts natural perspectives link  
professional means attractive health economy innovative technological  
benefits helping key capital part important develop keep inspiration used  
fund identity issue policies communities connected outside aspects  
working lead energy tools resources help low services urban one opportunity often small  
find funds funding tool innovation access development may thus able citizens countryside  
availability main makers less economies also life well order jobs model assist markets  
active cohesion population live new areas social transport hope business networking  
structures two food systems mobility provide people use community companies fight  
vision potential sustainable seen policy local can economic europe measures experiences  
survive technologies models digital us opportunities level concept knowledge ideas priorities research  
particular sense innovations need education better environment wellbeing organising implemented  
regarding stakeholders common contribute solutions challenges european quality impact world present  
scale make using offer understand improve strategy activities create bringing example  
delivery enable countries scope public manage focus stronger sharing connectivity  
reputation initiatives led good approaches making individual basic oriented concerning  
added practices value group attract together already  
sustain current creating developments move general geographical

# What should be the scope? - In terms of themes

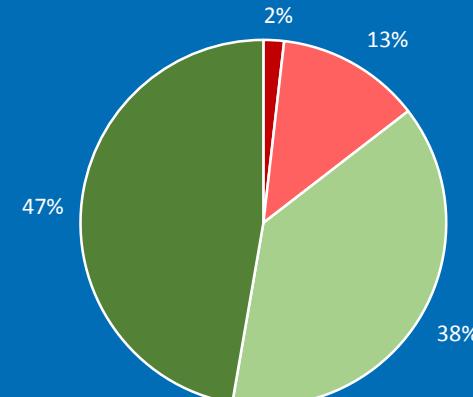
Socio-economic



Cross-cutting and horizontal



Connectivity and mobility

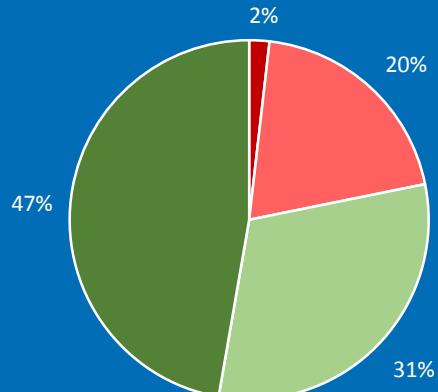


■ To a limited extent ■ To some extent ■ To a reasonable extent ■ To a great extent

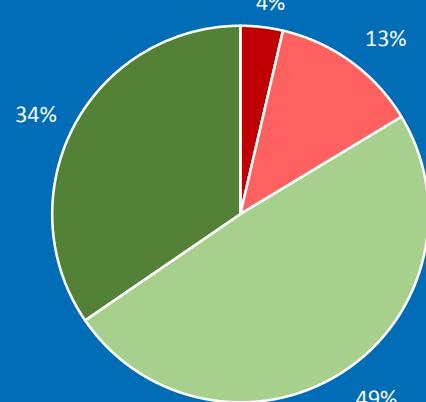


# In terms of themes

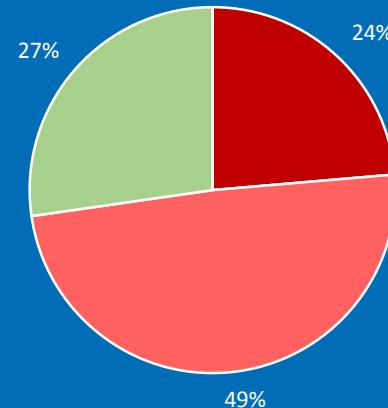
Environment



Knowledge-sharing and innovation



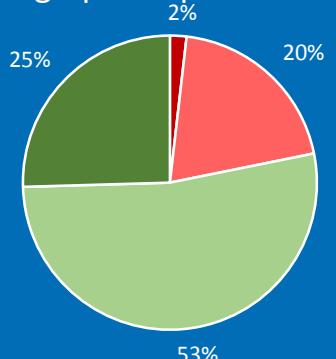
Other?



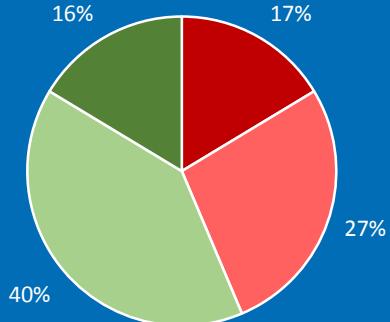
# In terms of themes

# Can there be different types?

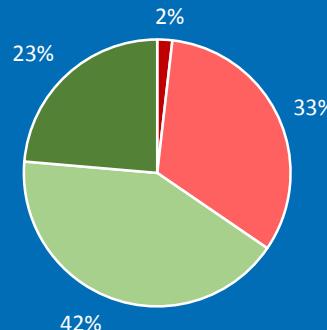
Geo-graphical parameters



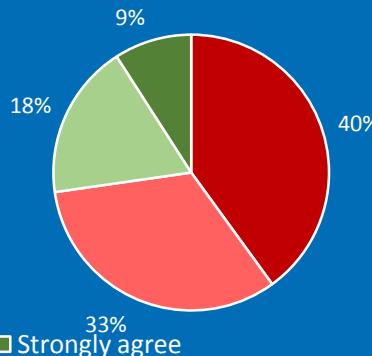
Number of inhabitants or population density



Maturity of the village



Participation in EU projects or use of EU funds

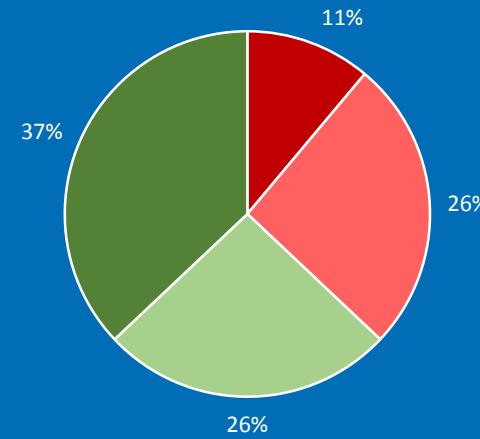


■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly agree

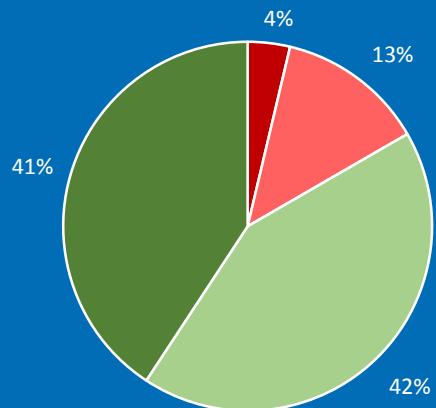


# Possible minimum criteria

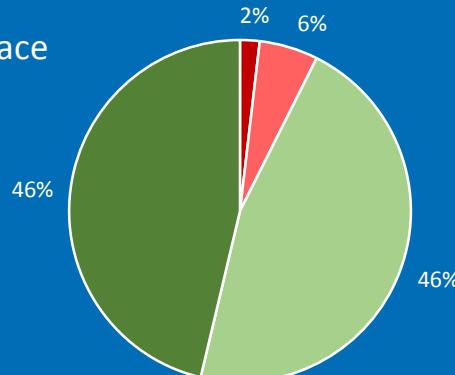
Access to broadband



Participatory governance structure in place



Integrated strategy or roadmap for future developments

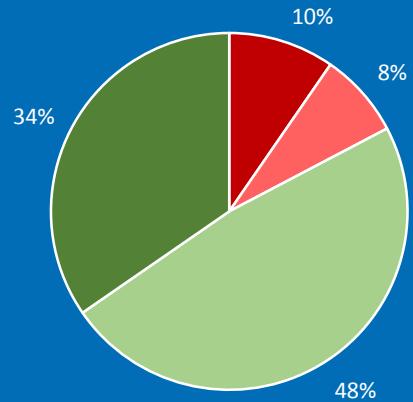


■ Strongly disagree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Strongly agree

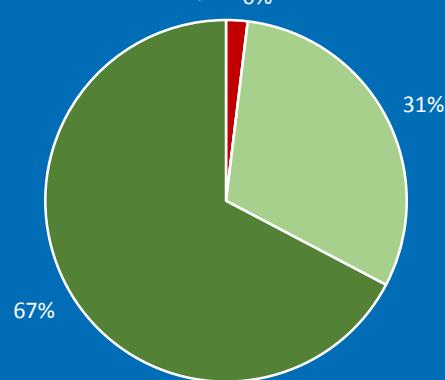


# Possible optional criteria

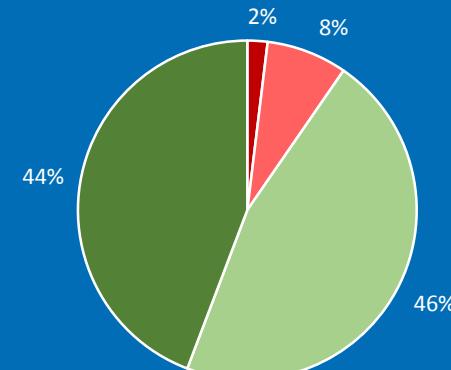
Use and application of digital technologies and ICT



Enhance cooperation between rural actors and sectors



Forge new partnerships



# Views on the added value of an EU definition

- Increasing awareness of these types of activities and on how to identify potentials (INSPIRATION)
- Opportunity to attract and target funding and to provide clarity on terms and conditions
- Opportunity to build networks between “Smart Villages” if the concept is clarified
- Can improve policy integration and capacity-development
- It should not be a status of an “elite”//exclusive
- Tools/policies should go hand in hand with this

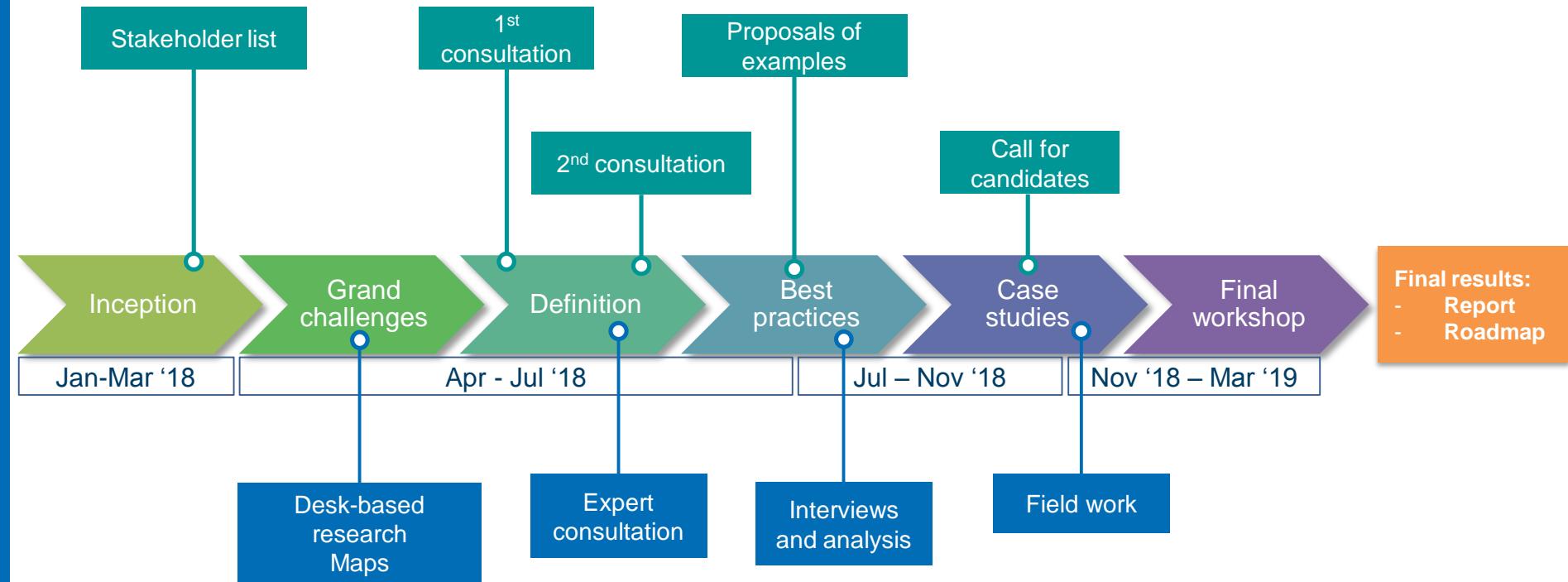
# Key findings

Three main messages from the consultation:

- 1) The definition should not be restrictive but rather aim to inspire and to aspire to
- 2) The access to broadband can be both a result from and a precondition for “Smart Villages” (chicken and egg)
- 3) Key point: strategic framework, long term development framework, integrated, etc.



# Next steps |





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Origin  
Diversity  
Territories

