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Smart Villages in Finland

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Actions for Smart Villages in Finland

- 2008 the first national strategy for Fast broadband, **national funding** for rural broadband -> 2018
- 2016: Study for Smart countryside, governmental project
- 2017: New governmental decision for **Rural Digitalization**
- 2018: Governmental alignment: Priority of digital services (public sector)
- **Co-operation** between national administration and other actors → **Broadband Competence Office** Finland www.bco.fi
- National Rural policy council: **target setting** for rural areas
- **Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**, regional and local actions (Leader),
 - **Broadband funding (village broadband)**
 - **Digitalisation projects**
 - **Smartest Village of Finland -competition 2018-2019**



The current and potential scope and scale for smart villages

- **Regional – multi fund co-operation - “rainbow” plans or strategies for Smart Villages, so called cover plan for local smart village plans.**
- **Local Smart Villages plans, based on cooperation at local level. Leader strategies**

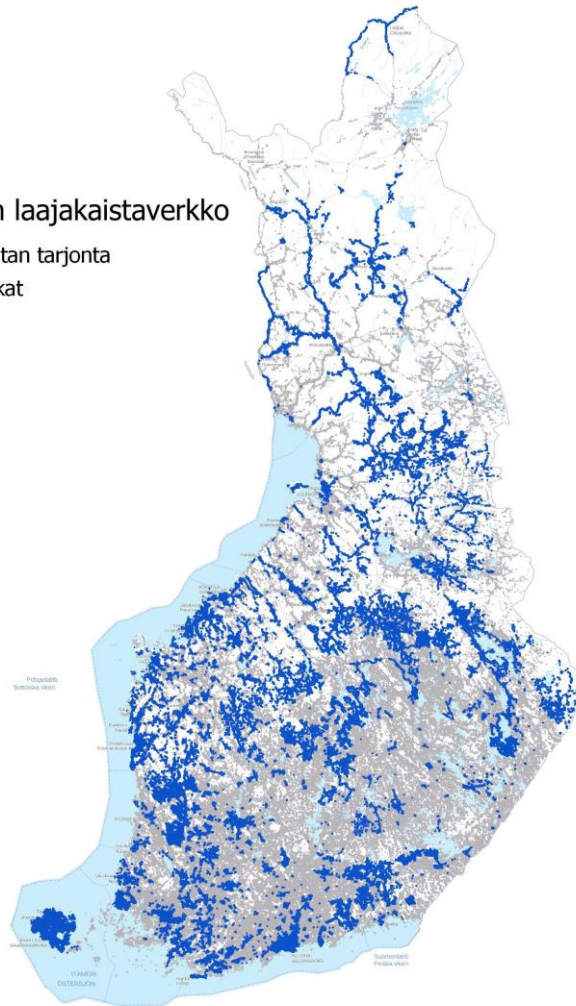
Possible scale for smart villages:

- **Economic** – investments and actions to support (business development in) emerging value chains and local economic clusters (both agricultural and non-agricultural) based on local assets and (potential) areas of comparative advantage (biocenomy, smart tourist destinations, etc.). Smart transport and logistic solutions, smart local services and service chains and smart food chains, digitalization and co-operation of enterprises.
- **Social** – innovations to ensure sustainable and good quality social and cultural services. Investments in skills for the future. Urban-rural linkages. Sustainable wellbeing: preventing segregation and inequality between people, improve integration of immigrants and other new comers, community, living conditions, culture, safety. Knowhow, knowledge – also silent knowledge - of villages into operation.
- **Environmental** – innovations to improve resource efficiency, create local energy communities, reduce the carbon footprint, enhance biodiversity, both protect and valorize environmental assets. The municipal authorities, business representatives, local residents, research institutes and experts work together to devise and tailor new cost-effective solutions to reduce emissions, especially in the contexts of transportation, housing and food. Low carbon villages : circular economy, sustainable food production and local food,
- **Importance of co-operation between every spatial scale cannot be underlined too much.**

What is needed for delivering smart village strategies at a local level

Valokuitupohjainen laajakaistaverkko

- 100 Mbit/s laajakaistan tarjonta
- Asunnot ja toimipaikat



- Broadband infrastructure (fast broadband)
- The activator, “the priest” is needed and a lot of work. Somebody to collect and co-ordinate actors and work
- New attitude and know-how
- **CO-OPERATION**
 - Strong communication and interaction in the region and between regions,
- Quality and reliability of services, Know-how and knowledge transfer
- Change in attitudes towards technology – information gap, knowledge
- New people and young people. Amount of elderly people: dependency ratio 146 in 2016 in Finland

What policy instruments need to be available for supporting Smart Villages

- Political will
- Funding:
 - EAFRD funding for rural broadband investments
 - There is a need for public funding also in the future, EAFRD for rural areas, EFRD for other areas that are not covered by market based actions
 - Along a study (Rural Policy Council, 2016), 25 % of enterprises said, that fiber connection has played an crucial role in choosing the location of their business.
- Tools for development of digitalisation
- Knowledge transfer
- Known and reliable tools, new co-operation
- The Health, social services and regional government reform
 - Digitalisation of services