



Key components of Smart Village Strategies-Italian contribution

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Inner Areas National Strategy: main features



State of play for SV strategies in Italy pre and post reform 2020

Present conditions

- Possibility of integrating EU Funds in the Partnership Agreement (PA)
- This possibility is reflected at the lower territorial scale, through local multi-fund strategies (including EARDF and national Funds)
- Leader must be coordinated with local Inner areas strategies
- Spatial scale is well-defined at national and regional level: interventions are focused on areas with high-depopulation rates and declining services

After reform post 2020

- Programming design and implementing rules are separated in two different documents: CAP National Strategic Plan (NSP) and the Partnership agreement
- Coordination between EU Funds more complicated. Narrow space for manoeuvre for SV strategies
- Integrated policies such as Inner Areas Strategy will be designed within the territorial priorities of the PA, no contribution of EARDF
- Need to explore all opportunities for SV strategy within the NSP

Policy instruments supporting SV in the future

Local strategies in the most de-populated rural areas

- Focusing on economic and social gaps, declining services
- a series of actions (collective projects) around a “motor” project
- Policy mixes: interventions supporting services’ provision together with economic activities start-up

Agri-food chains development

- SV concepts extended to agri-food chains:
 - territorial competitiveness (through circular economy, renewable energy and social inclusion)
 - resilience of agri-food systems to climate changes,
 - alternative food chains, through the cooperation between producers and consumers
- New “filiera” approach in the RDP (experiences in Italian RDPs)

Policy instruments supporting SV in the future

Rural Networks

- SV strategy, priority for NRNs activities' post 2020
- Communication: avoid that SV remains only a “mere issue for few experts”
- Training: for RDPs' public officials and animateurs at territorial level
- Co-learning: networks and actors working together in the field on SV strategies
- Gather experiences and co-learning in agri-food chains

Horizontal governance

- SV strategies need more inter-sectoral visions and freedom in the use of rural development instruments:
 - LDS not constrained by MAs
 - Part of LDSs of LAG focused on SV means dedicated animation and human resources,
 - Global grant for SV means dedicated financial resources
- Coordination issue within NSP and PA: how to coordinate EARDF with other funds in LDS (CLLD and initiatives designed by Member States)