How can LEADER/CLLD support Smart Villages?
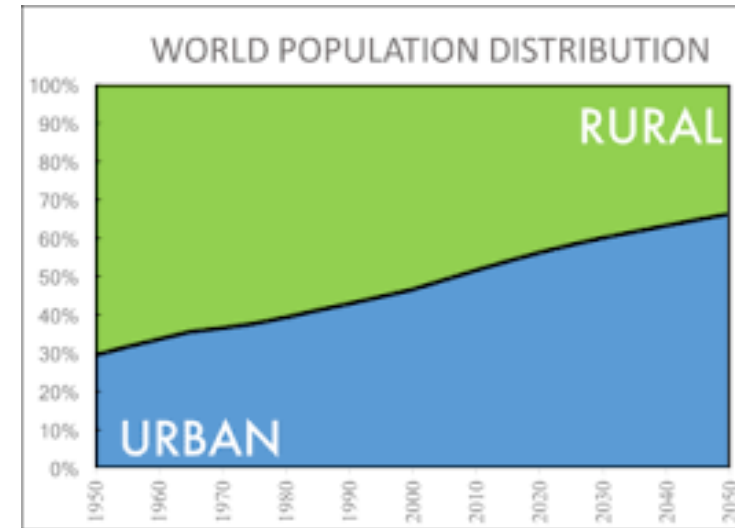
Eamon O'Hara, December 2018

#SmartVillages

Smart Villages: main elements

- **Starts small**
- **Local people take initiative**
- **Vision of future**
- **Action on emerging challenges, opportunities**

- **Sustainable business models**
- **Cooperation at different scales**
- **Flexible packages of finance and soft support**
- **Access to knowledge**

What does it add?

- **Goal oriented concept**

- **Counterweight to Smart Cities**

- **Emphasis on sub-local/communities**

- **Opportunity to broaden scope**

- **Framework to support 'transition' to +1.5° future**

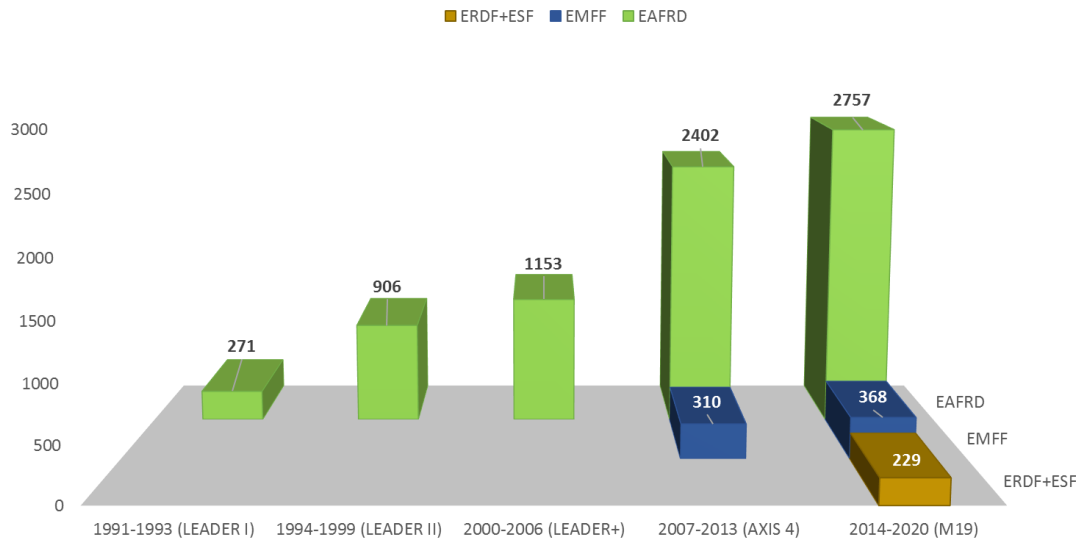- **Could strengthen LEADER principles**

WORLD POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

RURAL

URBAN

How can it strengthen LEADER principles?

LEADER principle	Smart Villages
Local territorial approach	Resources for sub-local areas, villages or groups of village communities
Bottom-up approach	Additional support for enabling community initiatives and collective action
Integrated approach	Stronger mandate to work on rural services + framework conditions
Innovation	Additional support for social innovation. Flexible, package to support structural change and transition
Cooperation	Additional support for cooperation between stakeholders within and outside the area

What could be the role of LEADER?

- **In many places LEADER can and is doing this**

- **LEADER has the framework and reach to facilitate quick and efficient roll-out**

ERDF+ESF ■ **EMFF** ■ **EAFRD**

BUT…. barriers and potential barriers exist…

Barriers and potential barriers

- **Pressure to spend on measurable short term economic results**
- **Restricted to standard measures/fields: collective, small and risky projects difficult to fund**
- **Lacking resources/capacity for deeper animation at village/community level**
- **Heavy administrative burden**

- **Hidden voices and emerging stakeholder groups not always represented**
- **Often no systematic link with mainstream policy/funding**

Recommendations: taking ownership

- **Integrate SVs within LEADER (sub-programme or similar)**

- **Put transition/structural change at the centre of LAG/SV strategies (revise indicators/metrics)**

- **Effective multifunding**

- **Increase resources for animation**

- **Increase and simplify access to funding for collective/small/risky projects**

- **Strengthen LAG mandate and links with partners**

- **Strengthen leverage/alignment with other funds/policies**

To sum up:

- **SV can add value**

- **SV can strenghten certain LEADER principles**

- **LEADER/CLLD has the infrastructure/reach**

- **LEADER/CLLD can take ownership; identify and address needs to support successful delivery…**