Working draft

ENRD Smart Villages Thematic Group: 'From ideas to implementation'

Year 5 Scoping Paper and Workplan

September 2018

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1. Introduction

'Smart Villages' is the current sub-theme of the broader ENRD thematic work on 'Smart and Competitive Rural Areas'. The Thematic Group (TG) has been working on this topic since July 2017 and will continue until July 2019.

During its first year, the TG explored ideas and initiatives for revitalising rural services through digital and social innovation. It looked at how rural services – such as health, social services, education, energy, transport, retail – can be improved and made more sustainable through the deployment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools and through community-led actions and projects. Thirty-nine examples were submitted by TG members and many more were collected during the four meetings and the seminar held that year. These contributed to a projects brochure and an edition of the ENRD Rural Review on Smart Villages

Since the launch of the ENRD Thematic Group in 2017, the momentum and interest in Smart Villages has been growing at all levels. The ENRD video and the information gathered on the ENRD Smart Villages portal provide some clarification of the concept of Smart Villages. The Smart Village portal now showcases a range of initiatives that can form part of Smart Village approaches in fields such as digitisation, innovation in rural services, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, urban-rural linkages, asset-based value chains (both agricultural and non-agricultural) and so on.

Consequently, in its second year of operation, the aim is to shift from showcasing and sharing the wide range of policies and initiatives that are emerging – towards exploring in more depth how these initiatives can best be supported. The TG proposes to act as a sounding board for developing practical orientations for using all the policy tools available to help Smart Villages emerge and develop – now and in the future – while at the same time continuing to provide a platform for linking the initiatives taking place in different parts of Europe.

2. The state of play of Smart Villages in Europe. Updated scoping analysis

During the summer of 2017, the ENRD carried out an initial scoping exercise to identify national and local approaches to innovation in rural services in different parts of Europe. The findings of this exercise together with some background desk research informed the work of the TG in its first year of operation (see here for more information). As mentioned, since that time many more countries, regions and rural communities have started to explore approaches related to Smart Villages – often from different angles.

In order to start its second year of operation with a more up to date picture of the state of play, the ENRD sent an exploratory questionnaire to all the National Rural Networks over the summer of 2018 (see scoping questionnaire in Annex 1). The aim was to collect the following information:

1. To identify those Member States / Regions that are interested in developing policies and/or related initiatives on Smart Villages;

2. To identify the key national institutions / stakeholders engaged in policy development and in the implementation of policies / strategic initiatives under the scope of Smart Villages;

3. To identify integrated policies / strategic initiatives that are being implemented or developed within the scope of Smart Villages approaches (e.g. in areas such as digitisation of rural areas,

innovation in rural services, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, urban-rural linkages, asset-based value chains - agricultural and/or non-agricultural).

In addition, the ENRD CP organised discussions with a series of experts on the subject. The analysis led to five key messages which should be taken into account in the TGs activities during the second year.

1. There is high interest in the concept of Smart Villages in different parts of Europe and this interest seems to be growing. The TG should continue to act as platform to connect and support this momentum

A total of 20 out of 32 NRNs[1] (either through the scoping questionnaire and / or discussions with national experts) indicated that in their Member State there are initiatives being implemented on Smart Villages or there is a strong interest in developing them – indicated in dark green in figure 1. Moreover, 18 of the NRNs rated the interest on Smart Villages in their areas, giving on average a score of **74** (on a scale of 0 to 100).

However, it is important to note that this measure is very subjective. As well, there is likely to be a lower level of interest in those countries that did not reply – but even so these results show that there is considerable traction in the concept of Smart Villages. This is also backed up by the high interest in the ENRD Thematic Group - with over 300 people registering to be involved in this year`s activity.

The general impression is also that most countries are at an early phase of trying to piece together the different policies and initiatives

Figure 1 : *Member States implementing or interested in developing initiatives on Smart Villages*

Average level of interest in Smart Villages

that might support Smart Villages. In fact, in many cases, the term Smart Villages is not used explicitly

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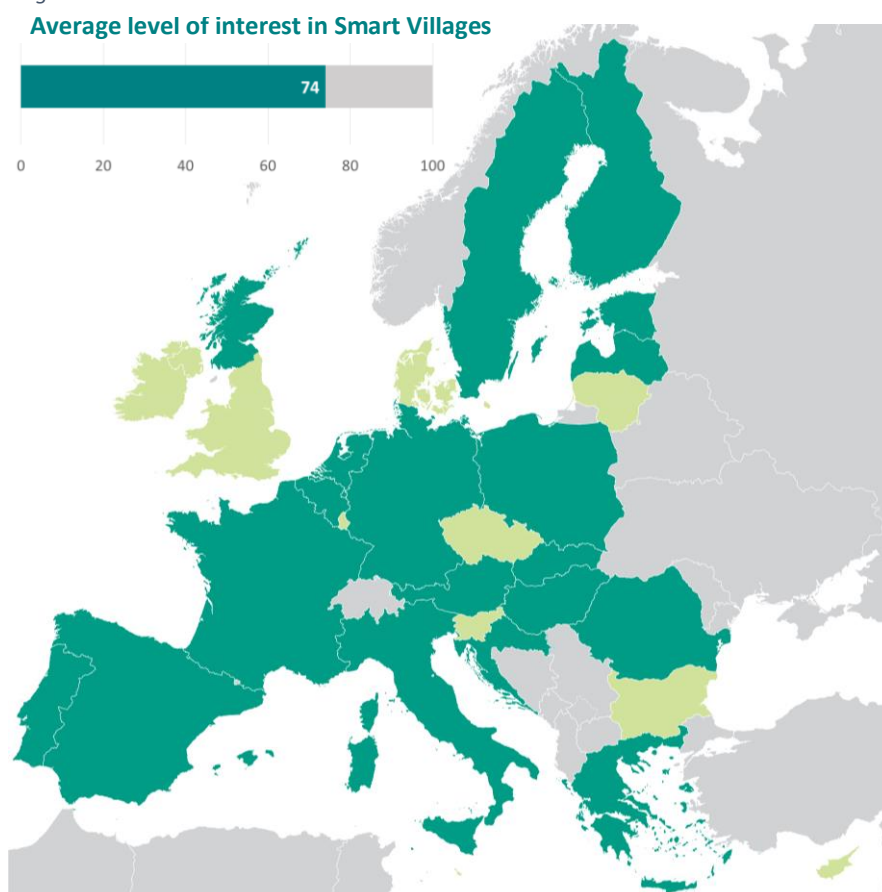
[1] AT, BE (Flanders & Wallonia), DE, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, UK (Scotland).

or has been adapted to national circumstances (for example, 'intelligent territories' in both Spain and France). There is a major opportunity for improving the links between these approaches and learning from each other. The TG should continue this work through its portal, audio-visual products, meetings and other products.

2. Many different Ministries, Agencies and rural actors are involved at different levels in supporting Smart Village approaches. Good coordination and governance is critical.

The scoping exercise identified the wide variety of institutions and stakeholders driving policies and strategic initiatives related to Smart Villages across the EU. This is understandable given the number of thematic areas and entry points for Smart Villages in different contexts – for example, digitisation, innovation in rural services, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, urban-rural linkages, asset-based value chains (both agricultural and non-agricultural) and so on. At national and regional levels, the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural development policy may play a crucial role in knitting together these different elements and ensuring that they meet the needs of rural areas. However, depending on the priority theme or entry point, the lead actor may be another ministry, department or agency.

At a local (or sub-regional) level, different types of stakeholders can also play a lead role in making Smart Villages happen. LEADER Local Action Groups are frequently mentioned as a key player although their involvement often depends upon the size of the areas they cover. In some countries grassroots village associations and various forms of NGOs and social enterprises are the drivers – especially LEADER groups cover very large geographical areas and populations. Finally, county and provincial boards and municipalities can take the lead in certain parts of Europe. Once again, the links between these more local stakeholders and their national and regional counterparts is critical.

These results show that the lead actors and the policy architecture for supporting Smart Villages will vary significantly according to the context. Rural communities themselves may be faced with a complex and bewildering array of plans and agencies. The TG needs to take these differences into account and explore ways of ensuring that the various policies and initiatives enable and empower rural communities to develop future-oriented solutions based on their needs.

Table 1 : Main rural stakeholders driving Smart Villages in some MS

National and Regional Ministries and agencies involved in SV approaches	Regional/local implementation
•Agriculture and Rural Development •Regional Development and EU Funds •Economy and Business •Science and Innovation •Digital Agencies •Energy •Transport and Communication •Housing, Building and Planning	•LEADER Local Action Groups •Village associations, movements, NGOs and Social Enterprises (e.g. Village Associations in Sweden and Finland, Community Development Trusts in Scotland) •County and provincial boards and councils •Municipalities and groups of municipalities

3. **A high proportion of the policies and national initiatives associated with Smart Villages contribute to more than one thematic area or priority. The TG should continue to take a broad approach to Smart Villages which does not exclude topics and issues which are relevant for particular rural communities.**

A total of 24 policy and strategic initiatives related to Smart Villages were identified by the ENRD during the scoping exercise. Half of these contribute to more than one of the thematic areas mentioned.

Figure 2 : Examples of topic/thematic priorities addressed by policy and strategic initiatives accross the EU
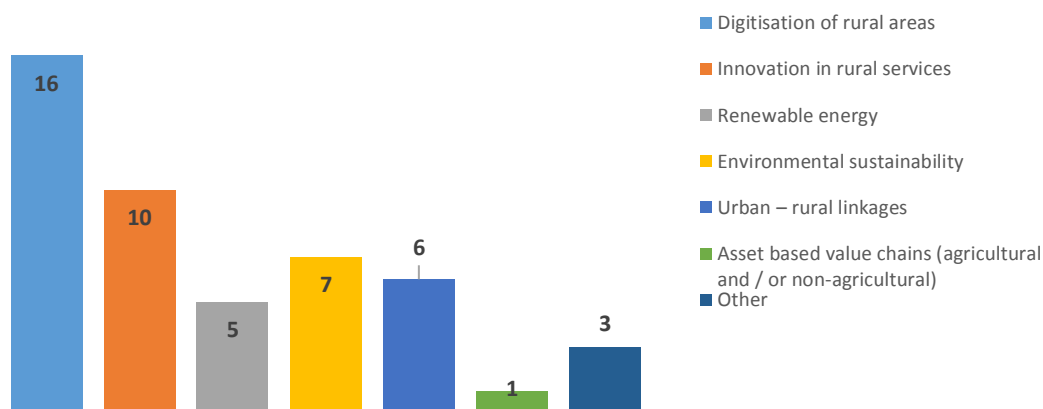
The graph above shows that, in the opinion of the NRNs, the national strategies and initiatives associated with Smart Villages cover the digitisation of rural areas, innovation in rural services, environmental sustainability and renewable energy, urban rural linkages and asset-based value chains – in that order. Apart from digital approaches, there is clearly an important group of strategies focusing on innovation in rural services and the environment. Economic approaches to support asset-based value chains are seen as less important entry points for Smart Villages.

4. **At present, the main policy driver for Smart Villages is clearly seen as being the digitisation of rural areas. The TG can provide evidence and examples of how to put people at the centre of the "digital ecosystem" in these emerging strategies.**

National and regional strategies to overcome the digital divide and support the digital transformation of rural areas are evidently at the centre of what many countries perceive as smart or intelligent territories. At this point in time, it seems that Smart Village strategies are more closely associated with digital technologies - as in Smart Cities – than with the economic and asset-based innovation of regional Smart Specialisation Strategies.

However, this may evolve. Many countries are concluding that simply putting in a high-speed broadband connection to a rural area is important but not sufficient. They are recognising that there need to be complementary initiatives to improve digital skills and ensure that digital technologies are actually applied – often in the other fields mentioned above. So 'multilevel strategies for digitising rural areas' have to be designed to match the needs and capacities of local communities. This is where Smart Villages come in. The ENRD Thematic Group can help to identify and share knowledge between rural communities that are putting into place digital ecosystems with people in the centre.

5. **Two main types of supporting strategies or frameworks for supporting Smart Villages have been mentioned. The TG should explore how these (and other policy frameworks) can provide an enabling environment for rural communities.**

As mentioned, the most prominent policy and strategic initiatives involve a range of different strategies for digitising rural areas. In addition, several countries have established their own broad rural development strategies which focus on place-based approaches and empowering rural communities.

Digital strategies include some initiatives that explicitly refer to smart or intelligent villages or territories, usually with an emphasis on holistic and people-centred approaches. Other initiatives focus on investment in broadband infrastructure – often with the community playing a role in 'demand aggregation' through local networks. Finally, there are some more sectoral approaches which focus on food and agriculture or specific services.

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL STRATEGIES WITH A FOCUS ON THE DIGITISATION OF RURAL AREAS

- Initiatives which specifically refer to Smart/Intelligent Villages or Territories:

    • **Governmental plan of Smart Countryside (Finland):** This plan will support the development of digital services and promote experiments and pilots in rural Finland. It aims to provide working conditions for rural citizens and businesses and create a new vitality and growth prospects for the business community in rural areas. Measures will develop extensive telecommunication links at the regional level and accessible e-services, rationalise transport and create the conditions for new rural mobility services, promote remote access and support the conditions for rural digital business. (link)

    • **National Plan of Smart Territories (Spain).** This plan aims to transfer the concept of smart cities to any territory (urban or rural). It focuses on sensorisation of public services (lighting, waste collection, buildings, etc.) and on offering digital public services to citizens (link). Also in Spain, there are two other initiatives carried out at the regional level: i) deployment of a Smart Territory Platform in the Castilla y León region, which aims to implement a software platform of Smart Rural Territory common to all local administrations and ii) the Provincial platform of smart management of public services.

    • **Territoire Intelligent (France):** The National parliament has commissioned a study to assess the implementation of Smart Territories ('Territoire Intelligent') at the local level, in order to potentially develop a common national framework for their consistent implementation.

There are many initiatives implemented at the local level following this approach such as i) Communauté de Communes du Pays du Haut Val d'Alzette (link), ii) Saint-Sulpice la Forêt, focusing on smart grids and energy saving (link), iii) Ayen, a village in Correze initiating a lot of innovative actions (link). Many French regions try to support innovative actions in different fields such as energy, mobility, broadband, start-ups, cooperation between university and local companies…).

In addition, other Member States are at the initial stages of developing specific policy / strategic initiatives on Smart Villages. This is the case in Germany, where the National Rural Network is organising a high-level conference to discuss implementation approaches for the digitisation of rural areas, which could result in the development of a national framework.

- **General broadband and ICT initiatives for rural areas**

  • **Sweden's national broadband plan (Sweden):** Adopted in 2016, it has the vision of an entirely connected Sweden and has goals for both mobile coverage and for high-speed broadband connections for households and businesses. By 2020, all households and companies should have access to broadband at a minimum capacity of 100 Mbps, and by 2025 all of Sweden should have access to high-speed broadband. Local broadband networks play a significant role.

  • **Digital Agenda 2020 (Estonia):** It aims to create an environment that facilitates the use of ICT and the development of smart solutions in Estonia, including in rural areas. The ultimate goal is to increase economic competitiveness, people's well-being and the efficiency of public administration.

  • **Plan 300 x 100 (Spain).** The Plan 300 x 100 is a four-year plan that will deploy 300 Mbit/s optical fibre to 100% of the villages of Spain, guaranteeing coverage to 95% of the population of each province in 2021 (link).

  • **The Next Generation National Broadband Access Plan (Greece):** It is the roadmap for developing the availability of modern broadband infrastructure in the country, as well as the adoption of high and ultra-high-speed broadband services by citizens and businesses. The plan includes a set of interventions at legislative and regulatory level, as well as practical support actions for the development of modern broadband infrastructures.

- **Sectoral approaches to digitising rural areas:**

  • **Digital roadmap (Austria).** The "digital roadmap" is a strategic paper covering various strategic approaches and concrete measures on digitisation. This roadmap functions as a guideline for different policy areas in Austria, including e-government (link).
  • **Transition priority smart housing and living (vision 2050 in Belgium -Flanders).** It is a strategy for smart living in the future.
  • **Smart Farming Wallonia (Belgium - Wallonia):** Development of projects and partnerships aimed at raising awareness and supporting the agricultural sector in the digital transformation.

Within the second category strategies - broad rural development strategies which focus on place-based approaches and empowering rural communities - the scoping analysis identified a series of countries and regions which have put in place their own integrated rural development policies. These draw on both national and EU measures and resources to support rural communities to develop their own future-oriented solutions, which fit very closely with Smart Villages. Some examples are provided in the box below:

EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATED POLICY INITIATIVES ON SMART VILLAGES

- **The Inner Area Strategy (Italy):** The Strategy for Inner Areas is one of the most comprehensive and integrated strategies for tackling the problems of depopulation and low access to services in Europe. All four European Structural and Investment Funds are combined with national finance to support strategies for both local development and service innovation in 72 pilot areas. A targeted investment of around 1 billion EUR is planned, using a 'place-based approach' which brings together different sectors and levels of government. Associations of mayors are usually in the driving seat while LEADER Local Action Groups can play a variety of roles, ranging from supporting project design to implementing directly EAFRD measures in the area (link).

- **National plan for digitisation (Finland):** Implemented with the support of the finish RDP, it aims at developing rural digital services and promoting experiments. Solutions take into account the digital and territorial local and regional features, to improve the working conditions of rural citizens and businesses and create new vitality and growth prospects for the business community in rural areas - and thus for the whole of Finland. The measures will develop regionally extensive telecommunication links and accessible e-services, as well as their prerequisites for use; rationalise transport and create the conditions for new rural mobility services; promote remote access and support the conditions for rural digital business. A total of 212 projects are being supported on digitalisation of rural areas (about 23M EUR) and more than 1 400 projects supporting rural services (funded from measure 7.4 and LEADER, accounting for 68 million EUR) (link).

- **Master plan for rural areas (Austria):** In 2017 the Ministry of Agriculture set up a Master Plan for Rural Areas to provide a common strategic framework. It recognises underlying problems and opportunities of rural areas, e.g. positioning of rural regions as liveable areas, working and habitat for all generations, securing existing structures that contribute to strengthening the regional economic cycle, strategic cooperation between the local and regional level, use of the LEADER program to develop further regional strengths, incentive systems for cooperation between municipalities and local stakeholders. The implementation of the Master Plan will start shortly, potentially focusing on an initial central theme around 'regional governance', where the concept of Smart Villages can play an important role. In addition, many of the initiatives on Smart Villages are being implemented through existing programs such as LEADER or RDP Measure 7 basic services.

- **National Policy for Rural Development (Sweden):** In June 2018, the Swedish Parliament approved 'The National Policy for Rural Development' setting long-term national objectives to support in an integrated manner issues such as entrepreneurship, employment, housing and welfare.

There are lessons to be learned about how to create favourable conditions for Smart Villages initiatives in all the approaches above. There may also be other relevant policies such as Smart Specialisation Strategies, cooperation and research programmes, urban initiatives and so on which have not been identified at this stage – possibly because of the focus of national rural networks on rural policies.

The Thematic Group should explore how the concept of Smart Villages can be rolled out in ways that strengthen the capacity of local communities to take the initiative and add value to what already exists under these different policy frameworks.

3.   Aims of the ENRD TG on Smart Villages in Year 5

The overall objective of the ENRD TG on Smart Village in its second year of operation is:

i.   To act as a sounding board for developing practical orientations for using all the policy tools available to help Smart Villages emerge and develop – now and in the future;

ii.   To continue to provide a platform for linking the initiatives taking place across Europe.

The first objective fits well with two of the priorities mentioned in the ENRD Y5 workplan:

- To explore how existing policy instruments and funds (both EAFRD and others, including financial instruments) can be used in a more integrated way to create an enabling environment for Smart Villages, both now and in the future;

- To build on and develop more integrated and strategic approaches towards digital innovation in rural areas.

The second objective will be achieved primarily through the Smart Villages Portal, the use of social media and visual material and the production of short case studies and briefs.

4.   Main activities and outputs

The work of the ENRD on Smart Villages can be organised into a series of 'work packages' (WP); each WP feeds in and out specific TG meetings, is informed by and informs other ENRD activities, and will lead to the development of a series of specific outputs.

1. Initial scoping

This work provides a preliminary baseline picture of activities associated with Smart Villages in the EU and has been used to write this report. During the summer of 2018 the following activities were carried out:

a)   A survey of NSUs on the state of play of initiatives related to Smart Villages;

b)   A survey / phone call interviews with selected TG members / experts from different Member States on the same topic;

c) Discussion with the Broadband Competence Office (BCO)to identify Member States and Regions with integrated strategies for digitisation (broadband + skills + innovation) with a local component.

2. Practical orientations for policy implementers about how to develop Smart Villages strategies

This will be the subject of the fifth TG meeting in October 2018 and will draw on the conclusions of the first year's work and the scoping exercise mentioned above. Based on this information the ENRD CP will prepare a working document with some proposals about the key components of Smart Villages strategies. This will be sent to a series of experts from different parts of Europe to gather their ideas about how Smart Villages strategies might be delivered in a way that empowers rural communities and adds value to what already exists in their own country. These preliminary thoughts will be used to spark off a discussion with representatives from other parts of Europe to explore:

- The state of play of Smart Villages in the EU;

- The possible scope and scale of Smart Villages strategies;

- How to implement Smart Villages strategies in ways that adds value to what already exists;

- The building blocks for delivering Smart Villages strategies at local level.

In addition to a brief report of the highlights of this meeting, the aim is to produce a briefing document with orientations covering the main topics above.

3. How to use certain key policy instruments to support Smart Villages

In principle, this would be the subject of the sixth TG meeting to be held in December 2018. The aim would be to understand and explain what needs to happen to ensure that certain existing policy instruments can be used to support Smart Villages. This would mean looking at achievements so far, current blockages, risks and actions that policy implementers can take to make sure that what is possible in principle happens in practice. The results of the meeting would be gathered into accessible briefing documents for policy implementers, to be written by experts with a specific knowledge of some of the policy tools listed in the table below.

Table 2 : Potential policy tools to support Smart Villages

Tool	Possible examples and sources of ideas
CLLD	Finnish and Swedish support for Smart villages, Tyrol (Austria), German Bioenergy Villages, LEADER support for Broadband demand aggregation, service and social innovation.
Cooperation	Lessons from the current period and recommendations for the next programming period.
Multilevel strategies for digitising rural areas	France, Germany, Spain, Cornwall (UK), Estonia, Finland.

Smart Specialisation Strategies	Smart Arctic Community Cluster (Finland), Tagus (Spain), other examples from the Joint Research Centre.
Research and Territorial Cooperation	Horizon2020 and INTERREG.
ITIs and Sustainable Urban Development	Examples of approaches dealing with small towns and their surrounding villages and rural areas.

4. How to combine policy instruments more effectively

In principle this would be the subject of the seventh TG meeting to be held in February 2019. As for the sixth meeting, the aim would be to engage key experts to examine good examples of integrated approaches and to identify the key conditions for their success. It would also be important to compare these good examples to the obstacles and bottlenecks faced by countries and regions that have not advanced in this direction (but are interested in doing so).

Part of this work would be covered by the main examples already mentioned, e.g. the Italian Inner Area Strategy, the Finnish ELY Centres, the Swedish experience of multi-funded CLLD, the Integrated Local Development Strategies of the Tyrol, etc.

5. Specific activities related to the main drivers of Smart Villages and in particular the digitisation of rural areas

Given that no specific EU policy or instrument is foreseen to support Smart Villages in the following programming period, support should come from some of the emerging policy priorities which connect with Smart Villages topics. For example, an important and growing group of countries and regions are interested in the concept of Smart Villages in order to find structural solutions for the problem of depopulation. Another important driver for Smart Villages may be the support to renewable energy communities under the Renewable Energy Directive. However, as we have seen, the key driver is likely to take the form of plans and strategies for promoting the digitisation of rural areas.

These plans are likely to be sufficiently important to be considered as a separate strand of work for the TG. As mentioned under point 3 of this document, the aim is to analyse a series of examples and produce case studies. These could cover:

- The strategic choices being made in the national policy frameworks to support the digitisation of rural areas;
- Examples of good planning and governance at regional / provincial level;
- Drawing lessons on how these strategies articulate support for broadband infrastructure, skills development, the take up of innovative applications;
- Drawing lessons on how these strategies ensure that the needs and energy of local people are at the centre of developments (including the use of local multipliers and anchor organisations like hubs, coworking centres, fab-labs, etc.);
- Participating in the EIP seminar on integrated multilevel strategies for digitising farming and rural areas in December 2018 and showcasing relevant examples.

6. Building the Smart Villages network, encouraging exchange and communicating results

This activity will take place throughout the yearly work programme. The main strands of this work can include:

- Updating and revamping the Smart Villages portal to ensure it covers all relevant ongoing initiatives in both the economic and service aspects of Smart Villages;
- Building a network of regions / rural areas interested in becoming part of Smart Villages;
- Collecting video material of examples of Smart Villages and commissioning further videos;
- Promoting the policy briefs described above;
- Using social media and other techniques to keep the large numbers of people interested in the TG informed and involved in-between meetings.

4. Work Plan

	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Scoping paper & Workplan (based on the exploratory work with NRNs and national experts)	████											
1st Meeting: Ongoing TG work & TG meeting - Focus on 'Key components of Smart Villages strategies'		████ ★ (04/10)										
2nd Meeting: Ongoing TG work & TG meeting – Policy tools to support Smart Villages			████ ★ (05/12)									
3rd Meeting: Ongoing TG work & TG meeting – Integrating policy tools to support Smart Villages					████████ ★ (End of Feb- tbc)							
4th Meeting: Ongoing TG work & TG meeting - Recommendations Dissemination (TBC)								████ ★ (end of Apr-tbc)				
TG Outputs												
Meeting highlights			▲		▲		▲		▲			
Case Studies on integrated multilevel strategies for digitising rural areas		██████ ▲										
Smart Villages Portal: Ongoing development and update	██											
Briefing to policy implementers: Key components of Smart Villages strategies						▲						
Briefing documents: Policy tools for supporting Smart Villages							▲					
Briefing document: Policy tools working together for Smart Villages									▲			

5.   ANNEX 1 : ENRD questionnaire to NRNs on Smart Villages policies / initiatives

INTRODUCTION

- **Q1- Sender information:**

    Name and last name:

    Member State :

    Email :

- **Q2- How strong is the interest in your Member State regarding Smart Villages?**

    Please rate this interest between 0 (none) and 100 (a lot):

- **Q3- Are there any policies / strategic initiatives in your country which could be considered to fall within the scope Smart Villages approaches?**

    If you click 'No', the questionnaire finishes after you input your answer in Q4.

    Yes ☐

    No ☐

- **Q4 - What are the key institutions in your Member State showing interest in supporting the development of policies on Smart Villages?** Please cite the most relevant ones and their area of interest (digitisation of rural areas, innovation in rural services, renewable energy, environmental sustainability, urban-rural linkages, asset-based value chains, others) and its scope - national/regional.

POLICIES AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (Page 1/4)

Please insert information on policies or strategic initiatives that are being implemented or developed under the scope of Smart Villages in your Member State.

- **Q5 - Name of the policy / strategic initiative :**

- **Q6 - Promoter (lead institution / organisation) :**

- **Q7 - Territorial scale of the policy / strategic initiative :** National ☐   Regional ☐   Sub-regional ☐

- **Q8 - Main focus of the policy / strategic initiative :**

Digitisation of rural areas   ☐   Urban – rural linkages   ☐

Innovation in rural services   ☐   Asset based value chains (agricultural

Renewable energy   ☐   and / or non-agricultural)   ☐

Environmental sustainability   ☐   Other (please specify):

- **Q9 - Brief description of the policy / strategic initiative (max 150 words)**

- **Q10 - Link to relevant material available online (documents, presentations, websites, etc):**

- **Q11 - Is there another policy / strategic initiative being implemented or developed in your Member State? If you click 'No' the survey ends.**

    Yes ☐

    No ☐

POLICIES AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (Page 2/4)

Please insert information on policies or strategic initiatives that are being implemented or developed under the scope of Smart Villages in your Member State.

- **Q12 - Name of the policy / strategic initiative :**

- **Q13 - Promoter (lead institution / organisation) :**

- **Q14 - Territorial scale of the policy / strategic initiative :** National ☐ Regional ☐ Sub-regional ☐

- **Q15 - Main focus of the policy / strategic initiative :**

Digitisation of rural areas ☐   Urban – rural linkages   ☐

Innovatio nin rural services ☐   Asset based value chains (agricultural and / or non-agricultural)   ☐

Renewable energy   ☐

Environmental sustainability ☐   Other (please specify):

- **Q16 - Brief description of the policy / strategic initiative (max 150 words)**

- **Q17 - Link to relevant material available online (documents, presentations, websites, etc):**

- **Q18 - Is there another policy / strategic initiative being implemented or developed in your Member State? If you click 'No' the survey ends.**

    Yes ☐

    No ☐

POLICIES AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (Page 3/4)

Please insert information on policies or strategic initiatives that are being implemented or developed under the scope of Smart Villages in your Member State.

- **Q19 - Name of the policy / strategic initiative :**

- **Q20 - Promoter (lead institution / organisation) :**

- **Q21 - Territorial scale of the policy / strategic initiative :**   National ☐   Regional ☐   Sub-regional ☐

- **Q22 - Main focus of the policy / strategic initiative :**

Digitisation of rural areas   ☐

Innovatio nin rural services   ☐

Renewable energy   ☐

Environmental sustainability   ☐

Urban – rural linkages   ☐

Asset based value chains (agricultural and / or non-agricultural)   ☐

Other (please specify):

- **Q23 - Brief description of the policy / strategic initiative (max 150 words)**

- **Q24 - Link to relevant material available online (documents, presentations, websites, etc):**

- **Q25 - Is there another policy / strategic initiative being implemented or developed in your Member State? If you click 'No' the survey ends.**

    Yes ☐

    No ☐

POLICIES AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES (Page 4/4)

Please insert information on policies or strategic initiatives that are being implemented or developed under the scope of Smart Villages in your Member State.

- **Q26 - Name of the policy / strategic initiative :**

- **Q27 - Promoter (lead institution / organisation) :**

- **Q28 - Territorial scale of the policy / strategic initiative :**   National ☐   Regional ☐   Sub-regional ☐

- **Q29 - Main focus of the policy / strategic initiative :**

Digitisation of rural areas   ☐

Innovatio nin rural services   ☐

Renewable energy   ☐

Environmental sustainability   ☐

Urban – rural linkages   ☐

Asset based value chains (agricultural and / or non-agricultural)   ☐

Other (please specify):

- **Q30 - Brief description of the policy / strategic initiative (max 150 words)**

- **Q31 - Link to relevant material available online (documents, presentations, websites, etc):**

- **Q32 - Is there another policy / strategic initiative being implemented or developed in your Member State? If you click 'No' the survey ends.**

    Yes ☐

    No ☐

End of the questionnaire