

EU Support for Smart Villages – State of play



2nd Smart Villages Academy

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European
Commission |

THE BIG PIRCTURE – NEXT GENERATION EU: RECOVERY PLAN FOR EUROPE

Highlights

- *REACT-EU: Extra funds in 2021-2022 for existing Cohesion Policy programmes (mainly European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF)) – EUR 47.5 billion*
- *Recovery and Resilience Facility: National Recovery and Resilience Plans – EUR 672.5 billion (loans and grants) – investment and reforms in Member States*
- *Rural Development (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) – 8 billion – RDPs in 2021-2022 (below)*

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (PILLAR II) 2021-2022 – TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

- *New CAP Strategic Plans expected in 2023*

Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020 – extended 2021-2022!

- *Transitional period 2021-2022 with funding from new EU budget*
- *Existing support opportunities: Cooperation, basic services/infrastructure, community-led local development (CLLD/LEADER), knowledge transfer, investments.*
- *Next Generation EU: Green and digital recovery after the Covid-19 pandemic – extra EUR 8 billion*
- *Member States/regions reinforce existing or plan new measures*



CAP STRATEGIC PLANS 2023 – OBJECTIVES

CAP general objectives

- *to foster a smart, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring food security;*
- *to bolster environmental care and climate action and to contribute to the environmental- and climate-related objectives of the Union;*
- *to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas.*

CAP specific objectives



SUPPORT THROUGH THE CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

- *From 2023, direct payments and market measures (CAP pillar I) and rural development support (CAP pillar II).*
- *Negotiations ongoing between Council and European Parliament.*

Member States set targets and design interventions in CAP Strategic Plans

- *According to SWOT analysis and assessment of needs*
- *Contributing to one or more of the 9 CAP objectives*



Rural mobility support e.g. under interventions for investments (e.g. in basic services/local infrastructure, cooperation (including CLLD/LEADER).

SUPPORT THROUGH COHESION POLICY 2021-2027

Future policy objectives of Common Provisions Regulation

- a more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity;
- a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;
- a more connected Europe by enhancing mobility;
- a more social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights;
- **a Europe closer to citizens by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives.**

SUPPORT THROUGH COHESION POLICY 2021-2027

Funds including

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Cohesion Fund, European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), Interreg, European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF), Just Transition Fund (JFT)

ERDF

- The ERDF shall support the specific objective of fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental local development, cultural heritage and security, including for rural and coastal areas also through community-led local development (Article 8a ERDF regulation)
- Integrated territorial development (including Community-led Local Development (CLLD))

HOW TO BEST SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES

- The territorial approach – solutions in, and across, a wide range of fields – agriculture, infrastructure, public services, transport, renewable energy, environment, rural businesses, tourism, community facilities, bio-economy, social inclusion, young people...
- Support strategic approaches
- Bottom-up/participatory approaches crucial to ensure relevance and use of solutions
- Complement/enhance existing initiatives, not necessarily define strict measures at EU level. Flexibility is needed for funding in different national/regional/local contexts
- Accessibility of EU funding – strengthen multi-funding approaches, e.g. CAP and cohesion policy.

COMING UP: LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

Priority of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

- *Commissioner for Agriculture Wojciechowski together with Commissioner Ferreira (regional policy) under the coordination of Vice-President Suica (Democracy and Demography).*
- *MS should ensure sufficient attention to rural areas under the CAP and cohesion policy*
- *Commission Communication expected before summer 2021*
- *Smart Villages can play a role!*

2ND PREPARATORY ACTION: SMART RURAL 27

- aims to prepare Member States and rural communities to the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy post-2020 as well as other EU policies and initiatives which could potentially support the emergence of additional Smart Villages across the European Union
- *Kick-off in January*
- *E40 contractor (with different partners)*

Thank you!