



Institut für Ländliche Strukturforchung
an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main



Case selection for 4.2: Policy analysis - case studies

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Introduction (I)

- **Purpose of the case studies:**
to demonstrate successful interventions to support Smart Villages, under the CAP and other policies (e.g. Cohesion Policy)
- **Methodological approach:**
 - (1) desk research,
 - (2) expert interviews,
 - (3) other available data sources;
- **Case studies to be conducted by SR21 National Experts based on common guidelines.**



Introduction (II)

- **Selection criteria & identification procedure of potential cases:**
 - range of Member States and
 - thematic foci.
- **short list of 10 potential cases.**
- **These include general and more specialized support and development schemes as well as very specific instruments.**



Overview of suggested Case Studies (short list)

1. Belgium, Flanders,
LEADER
(2014-2021 period)

2. France
Territoires intelligents et
durables
(Bourgogne-Franche-Comté
2021)

3. Germany
Heimat 2.0
(first round, 2020 - 2023)

4. Ireland
**Smart Islands in Scotland
and Ireland**
(2019 -?)

5. Belgium, Wallonia
Smart Territory Call for
Projects
(2019-2021)

6. Finland
**Smart Villages Innovation
Brokers**

7. Slovenia
Smart Villages

8. Bulgaria
Strategy for the Digitalisation
of Agriculture and Rural Areas
of the Republic of Bulgaria
(2020-?)

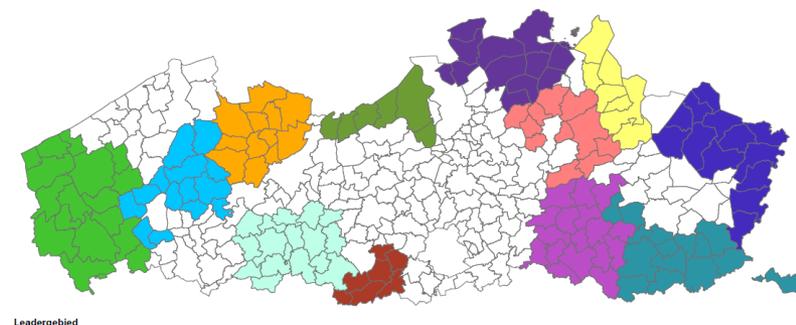
9. Estonia
LEADER cooperation project
“Smart villages training
programme”
(2020-2022)

10. Hungary
Digitális Falu Program (Digital
Village Programme)
(2020-?)

1. LEADER (Flanders, Belgium), 2014 - 2021

- Type of action: **LEADER**
- Scale: 7 out of the 12 LEADER Local Action Groups in Flanders
- Scope: focus on the theme of resilient villages.

Leader in Vlaanderen 2014-2020



Relevance as a case study:

- Overlap with smart villages topics could be considerable.
- Within-case comparisons could be made.

2. “Territoires intelligents et durables” (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté), 2021



- Type of action: **funding scheme for public entities**
- Scale: **one region with 2.8 mio inhabitants, 47 thousand sqkm**
- Scope: **digital solutions for diverse fields: Mobility and logistics, Energy and environment, Governance and political representation, Attractiveness and economic development**
 - Subsidies up to 70%
 - Call open March - December 2021



Relevance as a case study:

- Fairly open goals, but restrictive w.r.t. eligible parties
- Insights in how the eligible public administrations handle innovative projects.

3. “Territoire intelligent” (Wallonia, Belgium), 2019 - 2021



- Type of action: **funding scheme for public entities**
- Scope: **Call for projects in civic participation, energy and environment, and mobility**
 - Subsidies 50%
 - Call was open for three months in early 2019
- Scale: **20 of the 43 beneficiaries are rural municipalities**



Relevance as a case study:

- Also directed solely at public actors,
- fairly open goals.
- further advanced in implementation than French programme

4. “Heimat 2.0”

(Germany), 1st round 2020 - 2023



- Type of action **pilot projects**, **Public as well as private actors at a local level are eligible**, subsidies up to 90%
- Scope: **digital solutions for public services and improved quality of life**
- Scale: **12 pilot projects to be implemented by 2023**
 - Specifically in disadvantaged rural areas



Relevance as a case study:

- As the instrument explicitly supports pilot projects, a diversity of supported projects as well as good documentation (including accompanying research) is expected.

5. “Smart Islands in Scotland and Ireland”, 2019 - ?

- Type of action: **LEADER** supported transnational project to support young people in island communities in Ireland and Scotland through:
 - Community initiatives and/or enterprise
 - Sharing of knowledge and experience of innovation
- As far as is evident from information online, so far workshops have taken place and a podcast series, in which young islanders talk about their visions, has been developed.



Relevance as a case study:

- On islands, issues of remoteness and consequent loss of perspectives for young people, which also affect other rural areas, are extreme.



6. LEADER cooperation project

“Smart villages training programme” (Estonia) 2019 - ?

- Type of action: **LEADER**
- Scope: **Drafting of individual Smart Village strategies and implementation of pilot actions**
 - National Smart Villages Network will be established and linked with international Smart Rural 21 network;
 - Communication activities;
- Scale: **13 LEADER LAGs with 24 villages**

Relevance as a case study:

- integration of smart villages within LEADER and knowledge transfer promises synergies.
- Interesting comparisons within the case could be possible due to the different villages participating.



7. “Smart Villages Innovation Brokers” (Finland)

- **We’re uncertain whether this is being implemented**
- Type of action: **support of network and knowledge exchange**
- Scope: **network of Smart Villages Innovation Brokers to:**
 - Help Smart Villages in initial stages with actions such as need assessments, training, feasibility studies, contacts with research, piloting and testing, small-scale investments.
 - could be coordinated by the CAP Networks



Relevance as a case study:

- **Would provide a potential solution to the crucial issue of knowledge transfer.**

8. “Smart Villages” measure? (Slovenia)



- **We’re uncertain about status as well as whether this is a separate instrument or part of a RDP, national expert?**
- Type of action: **combined LEADER with Smart Village funding**
- Scope: **Smart Villages interventions are focusing on municipalities and development agencies**
- **Covers preparatory expenses, costs of labour, material, investments, cooperation, services and in-kind contributions**

Relevance as a case study:

- ?



9. “Strategy for the Digitalisation of Agriculture and Rural Areas“ (Bulgaria), 2020 - ?

- Type of action: EAFRD measures?
- Scope: **9 priority areas, one of which is Smart Villages, sectoral orientation (digitalisation of agriculture).**
 - Some priorities focus on digitalisation of rural areas with relevance to Smart Villages, such as building and developing appropriate digital infrastructure.
- Scale: ?

Relevance as a case study:

- ?

10. “Digitális Falu Program” (Digital Village Programme) (Hungary), 2020 - ?



- Type of action: **integrated national financing of programme**
- Scope: **aims to improve the attractiveness and quality of life of small villages through digital solutions:**
 - **with concrete and tangible products and services to improve resilience of Hungarian villages and the quality of life**
- Scale: ?

Relevance as a case study:

- **Situated within a “digital wellbeing” programme that is nationally financed.**

Types of actions

- Leader- related
- Only for public beneficiaries
- Digital strategies for rural areas
- Specific digital solutions
- Networking, Innovation support, knowledge transfer

Overview of suggested Case Studies (short list)



Leader-related

1. Belgium, Flanders, LEADER (2014-2021 period)

4. Ireland Smart Islands in Scotland and Ireland (2019 -?)

7. Slovenia Smart Villages ?

9. Estonia LEADER cooperation project "Smart villages training programme" (2020-2022)

6. Finland Smart Villages Innovativ Brokers ?

3. Germany Heimat 2.0 (first round, 2020 - 2023)

5. Belgium, Wallonia Smart Territory Call for Projects (2019-2021)

2. France Territoires intelligents et durables (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté 2021)

10. Hungary Digitális Falu Program (Digital Village Programme) (2020-?)

8. Bulgaria Strategy for the Digitalisation of Agriculture and Rural Areas of the Republic of Bulgaria (2020-?)



Thank you for your attention!



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