

Highlights of the Remetea Smart Village Strategy

Romania



About Remetea

Remetea is located in the mountainous region of Harghita county in central Romania. It is one of the largest villages in the region with a long history, strong traditions, and many important cultural characteristics.

The village is located at the foot of the Giurgiu volcanic mountains, at an average altitude of 750 metres above sea level. Remetea has 6 171 inhabitants, the large majority being ethnic Hungarians of Roman Catholic faith. The total surface area of the village is 10 774 hectares, of which the village itself covers 1 145 hectares. Remetea and the villages around it typically have long cold winters and short summers.

The traditional economy is based on agriculture, forestry, and handicrafts. The community has a strong entrepreneurial spirit, including many service providers, a chocolate factory, and an office furniture enterprise. However, there is a need to identify and eliminate factors that continuously limit the pursuit of new business opportunities.

Key challenges & assets

Remetea has some economic and social disadvantages, just as most rural mountain areas have. As a 'cul-de-sac' village, the access to the village and the traffic infrastructure need improvement. Remetea is not located in the catchment area of any big cities and the region is short of big industries and major private investments.

Most of the jobs in the region are part of the low payment category. The main challenges that our village is facing are ageing and youth outmigration, educational infrastructure, limited economic activities and environmental issues.



Main objectives of smart village strategy

Objective 1: Preserve local identity by creating a digital collection about the history of the local community

Objective 2: Develop smart local governance (e-governance) based on easy communication and interaction with citizens

Objective 3: Improve living standards by implementing projects that meet the needs of the population

Objective 4: Improve the local educational system through modernisation and digitalisation of teaching activities

Objective 5: Support the local economy and the agri-food sector

What is smart?

Community Participation in Strategy Development

The elaboration of the 2014-2020 strategy for the local development of the village is the fruit of the close cooperation between the local public administration and the inhabitants, and it is based on a needs analysis developed in close collaboration with professional organisations and institutions. Several local organisations play a crucial role in village development: the 'Compossessorate' (community forest and pasture management organisation), as well as several local associations with various activities in the fields of sport, work with youth, culture, social issues, agriculture, and forestry.

Links to other strategies

- ✓ The smart village strategy will be aligned with the **main regional strategic development directions**, facilitating economic growth, development of public administration and improving living conditions.
- ✓ Investment in tourism is one of the many links between the **local development strategies** and the smart village strategy. This covers the development of the two areas with touristic potential in the village (mineral springs) including a visitor centre, a study house, an adventure park and bicycle trails.

What smart actions are implemented and planned?

- ✓ The first step for supporting the local economy and the agri-food sector in the village is almost finalised: building the **agri-food market and making it operational**.
- ✓ **Improving living standards** by creating the **Health Centre** of the village with the family physican's cabinet, the dental clinic, the ambulance and firefighter station, and the pharmacy.
- ✓ Renovating the existing kindergarten and extending it into a **fully equipped nursery**.

A smart action that we are planning...

Improving living standards by implementing projects that meet the needs of the population, such as energy efficiency.



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