

# Taskforce Action Plan - Portugal

*Version 3 (February 2023)*

## Table of contents

<b>DEFINITIONS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. CONTEXT OF THE TASK FORCE</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1. Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior	2
1.2. The importance of Smart Villages in the specific context of the Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior	3
<b>2. THE PURPOSE OF THE TASK FORCE</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1. Relevance of the Task Force in this specific context	5
2.2. Aim of establishing the Task Force - added value to existing processes and dynamics	6
<b>4. MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. PLANNED ACTIONS - VISION FOR DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE TRANSFORMING PROJECT P09. VILLAGES</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1. 1st stage - design of the Transformative project P09. Villages	9
5.1.1. Activities - Meetings	9
5.2. 2nd stage - planning of the implementation of the Transformative project P09. Villages	14
5.3. 3rd stage - implementation of the Transformative project P09. Villages	14
<b>6. PLANNED ACTIONS</b>	<b>15</b>
6.1. Actions and work plan agreed with Task Force members	15
<b>ANNEX 1. CONTEXT OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE REVITALISATION OF PINHAL INTERIOR</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ANNEX 2. LIST OF THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>ANNEX 3. MEETING REPORTS</b>	<b>21</b>



## Definitions

### **Tourism Products**

Understood in this context as a “combination of tangible and intangible elements, such as natural, cultural and man-made resources, attractions, facilities, services and activities around a specific center of interest which represents the core of the destination marketing mix and creates an overall visitor experience including emotional aspects for the potential customers. A tourism product is priced and sold through distribution channels and it has a life-cycle” (definition by World Tourism Organization of the United Nations).

### **Intermunicipal Community**

Entity of an associative nature with a territorial scope (NUTS III). It corresponds to the free association of municipalities, to which the associated municipalities delegate part of the functions or competencies, with the objective of providing services to all its members. It pursues the following public purposes:

- Planning and management of the development strategy of the territory covered;
- Articulation of municipal investments of inter-municipal interest;
- Participation in the management of Operational Regional Programmes;
- Coordination of actions between municipalities and central government.

## 1. Context of the Task Force

The Taskforce will target a specific Integrated Territorial-based Intervention that was created to respond to and recover from the devastating forest fires occurred in June and October of 2017 in a territorial area in region Centro called Pinhal Interior (Inner Pine forest).

### 1.1. Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior

The Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior (PRPI), was created in 2018. It constituted a guidance instrument for the Central and Local Administration in the time horizon of 2022, foreseeing, nonetheless, a programmatic adjustment and extension to a second phase.

Given the scale of the catastrophe, that occurred in an area already socially and demographically devitalised, with feeble economic activity and lacking capacity to attract people and investment, the government recognised the need to apply extraordinary measures, which included two perspectives:

- Emergency response measures with a view to ensuring the basic conditions for restoration of normal life for the populations.
- Forest prevention measures with the creation of a pilot programme aimed at supporting the reforestation of burned areas and at minimising the risk of fires.
- Measures for relaunching economy with support to the diversification of the economic activity and to enhance the use of endogenous resources.

The territorial incidence of PRPI comprised 19 municipalities, covering an area of about 452,000 hectares (16 % of the region Centro) and 161,000 inhabitants (7.1% of the region Centro - 2015).

During the programming period 2018-2021, PRPI implemented medium and long-term actions that required the mobilisation of diverse funding sources including national public funding and European funding. Overall, it mobilised an investment of around 314 M€, of which 192 M€ of European funds.

As anticipated, in 2021, the Government carried out a reflection exercise and programmatic adjustment resulting in the approval of the **Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior – Present and Future (2021.2027)** by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers N<sup>o</sup> 131-A/2021, of September 10.

Currently, PRPI's intervention area covers 24 municipalities distributed over 5 Intermunicipal Communities, 7.297 Km<sup>2</sup> and 255.423 inhabitants.



The financial resources were reinforced with 208 M€, deriving from different funding sources: Regional Operational Programme for Centro (ERDF + ESF), Recovery and Resilience Plan, Programme Valorizar (support for touristic development - ERDF), CAP Strategic Plan (EAFRD), as well as from national funds, namely, the Permanent Forestry Fund and the Environmental Fund.



PRPI is structured around Thematic domains and twenty main interventions called ‘Local economies’ Transforming Projects “ (cf. Annex 2).

The Taskforce will be dedicated to one of the Transforming projects - P09. Villages, framed in the Thematic domain 3 - Tourism and Territorial marketing. The following table describes P09 according to the *Resolution of the Council of Ministers N° 131-A/2021, of September 10, that approves the Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior – Present and Future (2021.2027)*.

**Main objective:** contribute to promote innovation for the revitalisation of the productive sectors of the region Pinhal Interior, following an integrated territorial intervention approach.

**Description:** develop a network of thematic villages in order to promote territorial specialisation.

**Preliminary framework:**

- increase the attractiveness and tourism potential by the regeneration of buildings and public spaces, by the implementation of actions for cultural dynamisation, based on the creation of the villages’ own identity and on the enhancement of the region’s resources and heritage as a strategy for promoting regional development;
- foster innovation, aiming at projecting ancestral values into new relationships between rural and urban areas, creating a new offer of inter-relational and inter-generational tourism products based on the cross-cutting asset “People”;
- frame the fixation and long-term permanence of people from outside the territory at the end of their active life (emerging asset: living), taking advantage of the training and qualification of new residents according to the needs and new dynamics of living in the villages;
- implement initiatives that aim to take advantage of the villages’ potential as demonstration laboratories and empower visitors for a better life in their city space, namely in their relationship with natural systems, the consumption of agri-food goods and the rational use of energy sources;
- position the villages in a context of climate change combat, articulating their load capacity with roads and equipment that allow the villages to be visited and, at the same time, providing information to the visitor on their ecological footprint, enabling the use of new means of soft mobility;
- provide the villages with autonomous capacity to be involved in the promotion and conversion of digital flows into the marketing of their own tourism products and services in a broad way (accommodation, food, long-term housing rental, rental of land, arts&crafts);
- enhance the various areas of intervention already developed by the collaborative network «Aldeias do Xisto», repositioning its role in the development of the territory through tourism to satisfy the needs in the post-pandemic context, aligning tourism products and services with sustainability, circular economy and safety;
- ensure that this collaborative network assumes a reference status in the context of Portuguese villages and, particularly, in the already existing collaborative networks of villages, in the context of the development of low density territories, ensuring a national scale affirmation for the villages’ tourism products.

**Indicative funding sources:** PT 2030, Programme Valorizar

**Indicative budget:** 24M€

**Estimated execution period:** 2023-2027

## 1.2. The importance of Smart Villages in the specific context of the Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior

Pinhal Interior is characterised by a low population density and pronounced ageing, an economic base not sufficiently diversified or competitive, still unsatisfactory levels of connectivity and





insufficient access to basic social services. (among other factors). This scenario is aggravated by the problematic associated with forest fires, which occur frequently and often with great intensity and devastation.

This territory also portrays an incipient dynamism in the inter-institutional sphere (public authorities, private sector, civil society organisations), which has been hampering more suitable and effective development processes.

As part of its development strategy, the territory has been focusing attention and investment on tourism. In the past decade, it was executed a significant portfolio of projects that actively seized and embraced new business opportunities based on its remarkable heritage and environmental quality. In this context, it should be mentioned the Schist Villages Network that, although needing a better structuring of complementary tourism products, equipment and services, as well as a more consistent territorial marketing strategy, represents an added value given its potential to induce the sustainable development of rural communities.

However, and although endogenous natural and heritage resources can be translated into investment opportunities and prospects to diversify rural economies, increase income and employment, and, thus, stimulate positive development dynamics in alignment with the territorial and local development policy objectives, most of the villages / rural communities are relatively apart from these dynamics.

This sub-region entails a set of complex and persistent structural fragilities. In the regional and national context, it represents the greatest environmental, natural, demographic, social and economic challenges and risks, requiring, therefore, an integrated and strengthened response from the local and rural development policies.

This background, in addition to the similarities that the Territorial-based Intervention has with Smart Villages concept (integrated approach, innovation, etc.) makes this a fertile context to put a Task Force in action for enabling a paradigm shift towards designing and implementing new approaches that would ensure sustainable development. In this specific case, towards the adoption of the Smart Villages concept and the implementation of the Smart Villages approach.

One of the most significant limitations of conventional approaches is the extent to which policies and respective financial resources are designed considering the rural communities' diverse and specific needs. In this sense, until the implementation of development initiatives that are reflected in the application of more holistic and integrated development strategies and in the operationalisation of solutions specifically designed to meet the very specific challenges and needs, it will endure the rural areas' insufficient capacity to halt and reverse the current heavy trends.

Another important aspect to ensure the success of the development processes, is the the creation or reinforcement of governance systems that effectively involve the rural communities.

The perspective that shows a positive outlook about the role that innovation and creativity assume in find long-lasting and sustainable solutions to address rural communities' needs and about the role that robust participatory approaches assume in designing strategies able to contribute in a significant manner to stimulate the development of the rural areas, is intrinsic to Smart Villages concept and approach.



## 2. The purpose of the Task Force

### 2.1. Relevance of the Task Force in this specific context

In Portugal, the policy decision-making processes are mostly carried out in a fragmented and somewhat centralised environment, not benefiting enough from the advantage of having sound governance systems. The insufficient articulation between the competent authorities reflects on the coherence between the various support instruments. Policy design continues to be based on conventional approaches that favour intervention by sectors, to the detriment of approaches that favour integrated and participatory interventions.

The territorial instrument PRPI with which the Taskforce will work was no exception. The review of the PRPI took place in a relatively centralised manner. For example, the Local Action Groups were not involved in the process, nor is foreseen their involvement in the implementation.

In rural areas, where persist complex structural constraints, in addition to a still not consolidated technical, institutional and political capacity to develop locally driven innovation interventions, real change is only likely to be accomplished through integrated approaches on the basis of cooperation between the different tiers of administrative and political responsibility and between public and private actors.

It is this perspective that the Taskforce is bringing to the Integrated Territorial-based Intervention, expecting it to be effectively applied in order to overcome the current context, where participatory approaches in designing rural development policies are not yet being sufficiently valued on decision-making processes.

The Task Force will allow to exchange experiences, to stimulate political, institutional and technical dialogue and to trigger reflection and discussions on the different perspectives regarding the contribution of the Transforming project P09. Villages for local and rural sustainable development. In this sense, the Task force will develop efforts for including relevant actors as the Local Action Groups.

Moreover, the Task Force has an additional advantage in being created in this specific context, as it is linked to existing Smart Village exchanges. In fact, there is a concrete and very close relation between PRPI and the Smart Rural 21 Project:

- the villages that were supported by Smart Rural 21 – Penela Rural Innovation Villages: Ferraria de São João and Cumeeira – are located in PRPI's intervention area;
- the Coordinator of PRPI (Managing Authority) is the former Mayor of Penela and the one who inspired, structured and endorsed the application for Smart Rural 21 and who followed the process until the end of 2021.

It is considered that it was because of having realised the importance of the SV approach in the development processes of the villages that participated in Smart Rural 21, that the PRPI Coordinator showed openness and determination for constituting the Task Force.



## 2.2. Aim of establishing the Task Force - added value to existing processes and dynamics

### Key policy areas of the Task Force intervention

- ✓ Integrating Smart Villages concept and approach in the national and regional policies and, particularly, in the Integrated Territorial-based Intervention for Pinhal Interior.
- ✓ Bringing together representatives of different EU and national funds for achieving a multi-funded approach, not only based on tourism but on a more holistic approach.
- ✓ Advancing Smart Villages planning and in the specific regional context.
- ✓ Planning and operationalizing specific actions for capacity building in Municipalities, economic agents and rural communities to develop and implement Smart Villages strategies.
- ✓ Communicate the work carried out in the scope of the Task Force, as well as its results, aiming at sensitizing national authorities to the importance and usefulness of integrating the Smart Villages approach in public policies.

As an activity of the Project Smart Rural 27, the Taskforce will build awareness, promote, support and enable the introduction of the Smart Villages concept and approach in the design and implementation of the Transforming project P09. Villages. For this, the following activities are foreseen at two levels:

### Integrated territorial-based instrumentLevel PRPI

- > Achieve a clear understanding of what Smart Villages means and recognise its increasing role in the sustainable development of rural areas, namely as an important approach to stimulate innovation.
- > Widen the scope of the conceptual framework of P09. Villages in order to achieve the objectives of regional competitiveness and territorial cohesion, taking advantage of the territory's potential in terms of assets and endogenous resources and having as a basis populations and economic agents.
- > Take stock and enable taking advantage of other programmes, strategies, initiatives and projects existing in the same territory, anticipating potential complementarities [and synergies].
- > Improve policy design having as a basis the Smart Villages concept and support policy implementation having as a basis the Smart Villages approach - introducing mechanisms and tools for a more integrated territorial-based instrument.
- > Improve cross-sectoral coordination between funds by establishing a functional coordination which enables breaking down the silos within the administrative system and towards implementing investments with a horizontal perspective.
- > Increase cross-sectoral cooperation with a view to increase effectiveness of the territorial-based instrument by establishing a governance system that involves all relevant stakeholders and actors in decision-making and that guarantees vertical (between national, regional and local levels) and horizontal (between actors and stakeholders at the local level) articulation and communication.

It is expected that the development of Smart Villages, anchored in the set of unique environmental, cultural and social values combined with local products already existing or to be created, have the potential to become a collaborative action that pursues and gives scale to a strategy (including sustainable tourism) for economic, social and environmental enhancement and that promotes the





increase of Pinhal Interior's competitiveness and resilience, the creation of jobs and the attractiveness of the territory for people and businesses.

Given the pilot nature of PRPI and, particularly of P09. Villages, the objective is to create spaces for experimentation based on the implementation of strategies, not only to bring visitors to the territory, but to retain and attract people and investment (economic activities), and that allow showing that these same strategies bring results and that they can be replicated in other contexts facing similar challenges and needs.

This overall objective requires significant efforts, namely in terms of promoting the adoption of the concept in the policy agenda and decision-making as well as financial resources. The added value of a Taskforce on Smart Villages is to take a concept that matches the model that is intended for this Transforming project - a concept that values and privileges the principle of direct work with rural communities, innovation and creativity, sustainability of solutions, integrated approach, building and consolidating on the investment and initiatives carried out in the territory - and implement in the territory an already tested approach.

The following points briefly describe the added value of having a Taskforce in addition to existing process and dynamics:

- > Design a conceptual framework that includes the Smart Villages concept and approach.
- > Foster the articulation [and complementarity] with other projects, initiatives, strategies and policies at the same or at a higher administrative level, in particular, with the Regional Operational Programme for the Region Centro and the CAP Strategic Plan.
- > Design a tailored approach to address key priorities and challenges and that, at the same time, can function as a delivery mechanisms for the implementation of Smart Villages development processes.
- > Identify the most efficient courses of action for local development in rural territories and its sustainability at long-term by implementing Smart Villages approaches, considering the level of ambition in terms of scale and pace of transformation.

With the results of the Taskforce in this specific territorial context it is expected that the work carried out can be expanded to the regional and national levels.

#### **Regional and national policies**

- > Share /communicate the main outputs of the work carried out in the scope of the Task Force, with a view to sensitising national authorities to the importance and usefulness of integrating the Smart Villages approach in public policies.
- > Contribute to incorporate Smart Villages as a key element for sustainable rural development and scale it up to other rural development policies and initiatives.
- > Integrate Task Force's results into the regular work of the relevant ministries and agencies (desirably it should result in changes to the legislation, and to the method / procedures of defining and developing policies).
- > Create an enabling environment that allows Smart Villages to thrive, open to innovation and creativity and where reflections are stimulated and effectively discussed.

The close relationship between the work developed under Smart Rural 21 and the instrument with which the Taskforce will work is considered a strength and an advantage. In this context, and in addition to being managed by the Coordinator of PRPI, who was involved in the process of developing and implementing SV strategies with the support of Smart Rural 21, it is expected that





the Taskforce, with the support of the Smart Rural 27 Coordination and National Expert, will be able to use the knowledge and experience generated by the Project Smart Rural 21 to convey/communicate what can be done differently and how in policy-making.

This is considered to be an added value and may, ultimately, contribute in a significant way to achieve the objectives set forth by the Task Force, both at the level of the territorial based instrument (specific context) and at the regional and national levels.

#### 4. Membership

The PRPI provides for a governance model that reinforces the central role of the territory of Pinhal Interior and its agents, through two main structures:

- ✓ Technical team responsible for the operationalisation of the twenty transforming projects. This team is ensured by the Intermunicipal Community of the Region Coimbra (agreed upon among the five Intermunicipal Communities of Pinhal Interior).
- ✓ Monitoring Committee made up of about 25 entities. It is coordinated by the Commission of Coordination and Regional Development of Region Centro, which accumulates this role with the Management Authority of the Regional Operational Programme for the Region Centro (one of the instruments to be mobilised to support the implementation of the transforming projects).

For the purpose of constituting the Taskforce, it was determined the establishment of a membership with representatives from all the relevant stakeholders. However, the Taskforce is organised in a sequential staged approach. That is, the Task Force constitution will initiate with a limited membership and will be enlarged following the planning of its activities.

1st stage - On a first phase that Task Force will rely on the engagement of the most relevant actors in designing the Transforming project P09. Villages. For design of the Transformative project P09. Villages it was constituted a work group made-up by the following entities:

- Managing Authority of PRPI (role as the coordinator of the Task Force)
- Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro (it is simultaneously the representative of the Regional Operacional Programme for Region Centro)
- Tourism of Portugal
- Tourism Centro of Portugal (Regional entity of Tourism)
- Agency for the Tourism Development of Schist Villages

2nd Stage - For the planning of the implementation of the Transformative project P09. Villages it is foreseen the engagement of the national policy, both with the objective of the validation of the programming of the transforming project P09. Villages and with the objective of broadening the funding sources. To the entities mentioned above, it is expected the involvement of the following:

- Ministry of Territorial Cohesion - State Secretariat for the Valorization of the Inner Territories
- Ministry of Territorial Cohesion - State Secretariat for the Regional Development
- Managing Authority of the CAP Strategic Plan

3rd Stage - For the implementation of the Transformative project P09. Villages, and after the consolidation of the type of funding sources that can be mobilised, in addition to the initial working group it is expected that the Task Force will involve the following entities:

- Intermunicipal Community of the Region Coimbra
- Intermunicipal Community of Médio Tejo



- Intermunicipal Community of Beira Baixa
- Intermunicipal Community of Beiras and Serra da Estrela
- Intermunicipal Community of Leiria
- Local Authorities (Municipalities)
- Local Action Groups

Other entities may also be added with a more local nature (e.g., Associations of Village Residents, Parish Councils, ), and/or from the scientific and technological area (e.g. Competence Center for Forestry Innovation). Subsequently, all the actors and stakeholders interested in the implementation of P09. will be involved (e.g. inhabitants, local businesses and entrepreneurs' associations, non-governmental and civil society organizations, ...). This involvement is expected to happen via presentations and, eventually, workshops to be organized at local level (at the municipality level).

These actors should be considered as determining factors to ensure the successful implementation of Smart Strategies, namely because their involvement allows a more precise identification of needs and greater margin for creativity and innovation, and because, individually or associated, they are who can potentially benefit from the results of the planned strategy.

## 5. Planned actions - vision for designing and implementing the transforming project P09. Villages

### 5.1. 1<sup>st</sup> stage - design of the Transformative project P09. Villages

**Estimated period: December 2022 - June 2023**

#### 5.1.1. Activities - Meetings

Regular and extraordinary meetings (online and face-to-face) are expected to be held during the first half of 2023 in order to follow up and discuss the design of the transforming project P09. Villages and its subsequent implementation. The National Expert will contribute to the organisation and coordination of these meetings, including preparing background material if needed (in prior agreement with both the PRPI Managing Authority and the SR27 Core Team).

These meetings and possible workshops will be linked to the timing of key policy developments and key Smart Villages policy milestones.

The preparatory work for the meetings of the Task Force will be carried out on a more restricted environment, involving the SR27 Team and the PRPI Coordinator (designated as internal meetings).

The following table summarises the planned and already carried out meetings (timing, focus and participants).

**Task Force meetings - planning of the Task Force (already carried out)**



Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
17/11/2022  Online	<p><b>Preparatory work for the constitution of the Task Force in Portugal for PRPI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the territorial context (needs and challenges and sustainable development objectives).</li> <li>• Overview of PRPI, its objectives and links to relevant national and regional policies / strategies).</li> <li>• Preliminary approach to the need and value added of establishing a Task Force in scope of SR 27.</li> <li>• Discussion on the possible members for constituting the Task Force and respective potential level of engagement and roles.</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants (2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Coordinator (Programme Manager)</li> </ul>
28/11/2022  Online	<p><b>Preparatory work for the constitution of the Task Force in Portugal for PRPI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the territorial context and of PRPI, its objectives and links to relevant national and regional policies / strategies).</li> <li>• Presentation of a preliminary proposal to constitute a Task Force in Portugal.</li> <li>• Concept and approach of the Task Force and its added value.</li> <li>• Operational arrangements for the Task Force.</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants (4)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 Core Team</li> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Coordinator (Programme Manager)</li> </ul>

#### Task Force meetings (planned and already carried out)

Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
20/12/2022  Online	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Task Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief presentation of SR21 and SR27 Projects.</li> <li>• Objectives for setting up a Task Force under PRPI, specifically under the Transforming project P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Overview regarding Smart Villages concept and approach and preliminary discussion on the different perspectives of how it can be integrated in designing and implementing P09.</li> <li>• Perspectives of the participants regarding the constitution of a Task Force for designing and implementing the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Comprehensive presentation of the work developed so far regarding the design of the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Preliminary identification of other Task Force members along the phases for the implementation of P09. Villages and their role.</li> <li>• Preliminary layout of a Work Plan for the Task Force.</li> <li>• Expression of the preliminary needs and inputs from SR27 (<a href="#">initial discussion on the possibility of having a face-to-face workshop with SR27 Core Team</a>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the framework defined for P09. Villages and of the respective Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the network.</li> <li>• Proposal for the Taskforce Action Plan (<a href="#">to be approved by the SR27 Core Team</a>).</li> </ul>



Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
	<p><i>Participants (6)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Programme Manager</li> <li>- Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro</li> <li>- Tourism of Portugal</li> <li>- Tourism Centro of Portugal (Regional entity of Tourism)</li> </ul>

Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
8/02/2015	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Internal meeting (preparation for the next Task Force meeting)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of the conceptual framework of P09. Villages: tourism theme vs. more holistic intervention taking into account the integration of the SV concept.</li> <li>• Perspectives on the expectations / vision regarding Smart Villages contribution to attain the objectives outlined in PRPI.</li> <li>• Preliminary analysis of the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Discussion on the funding sources that will be possible to mobilize to implement P09. Villages, considering a more holistic intervention - integrated approach.</li> <li>• Analysis of the SR27 Action Plan and PRPI binding Work Plan (ensure articulation, further activities and inputs, format of information sharing and exchange, e.g. of the inputs from SR27).</li> <li>• Discussion of the possibility of having a face-to-face workshop with SR27 Core Team with all the actors involved in designing and implementing the transforming project P09. Villages (PROPOSAL FOR SR27 CORE TEAM - INDICATIVE DATE: BEGGINING OF APRIL)</li> </ul>
Online	<p><i>Participants (2)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Coordinator (Programme Manager)</li> </ul>
15/02/2023	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Task Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and consolidation of the working group of the PRPI Thematic Domain Tourism and Territorial Marketing (of which the National expert is participating and can be considered as the Task Force).</li> <li>• Discussion regarding the Conceptual Framework for designing and implementing P09. Villages - from a perspective centered on tourism to a wider intervention based on an integrated approach.</li> <li>• Perspectives of the participants' expectations / vision regarding Smart Villages contribution to attain the objectives outlined in PRPI.</li> <li>• Discuss further inputs from the Task Force, e.g. analytical work.</li> </ul>
Online	<p><b>Expected outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redefinition of the Conceptual framework for the implementation of P09. Villages and, consequently of inputs to elaborate the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Refinement of the Taskforce Action Plan (to be approved by the SR27 Core Team).</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants (10)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Programme Manager</li> <li>- Tourism of Portugal</li> <li>- Tourism Centro of Portugal (Regional entity of Tourism)</li> <li>- Agency for the Tourism Development of Schist Villages - ADXTUR</li> <li>- Former Coordinator of the Integrated Action of Territorial Base for Pinhal Interior</li> </ul>





Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
1/03/2023 Online  (TBC)	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Internal meeting (preparation for the next Task Force meeting)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of the proposal redefining the Conceptual Framework for P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Discussion and validation of the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages according to the changes made in the conceptual framework.</li> <li>• Decision on the documentation to be sent in advance to the Task Force meeting.</li> <li>• Further discussion of the possibility of having a face-to-face workshop with SR27 Core Team with all the actors involved in designing and implementing the transforming project P09. Villages (PROPOSAL FOR SR27 CORE TEAM - INDICATIVE DATE: BEGGINING OF APRIL)</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants (tbc)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Coordinator (Programme Manager)</li> <li>- Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro</li> </ul>
8/03/2023 Online  (TBC)	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Task Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion and validation of the proposal redefining the Conceptual Framework for P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Discussion and validation of the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages according to the changes made in the conceptual framework.</li> <li>• Discussion and consolidation (and possibly approval) of the binding Work Plan for the working group of the PRPI Thematic Domain Tourism and Territorial Marketing (of which the National expert is participating and can be considered as the Task Force) - other entities to engage in the near future.</li> </ul> <p>(e.g., delineate priorities and concrete objectives, frame activities within a clear timeline, collaboration mechanisms; outline strategy for communication and info dissemination)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the motivation of participants to contribute by maintaining regular contact with the work of the Task Force (e.g., inputs, briefing notes, participation in possible European-level stakeholder platforms).</li> <li>• Stabilize the best method to discuss and disseminate the information produced within and in result of the Taskforce meetings (e.g., fact sheets, summaries, briefings of pertinent findings, relevant recommendations, technical inputs, ...).</li> <li>• Discuss further inputs from the Task Force, e.g. analytical work.</li> <li>• Other relevant issues (e.g. operate as a dedicated platform for dialogue and knowledge sharing on SV – the Taskforce provides resources that enable an in-depth debate on SV approach (map the current situation within the policy territorial instrument)).</li> <li>• Other relevant issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisational aspects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce a binding plan for further work.</li> <li>• Produce other relevant inputs (to be discussed and approved by the SR27 Core Team).</li> </ul> <p><b>Expected outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing notes.</li> <li>• Taskforce Action Plan (to be approved by the SR27 Core Team).</li> </ul>
	<p><i>Participants (tbc)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Programme Manager</li> <li>- Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro</li> <li>- Tourism of Portugal</li> <li>- Tourism Centro of Portugal (Regional entity of Tourism)</li> </ul>



Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
End of March (tbc)	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Internal meeting (preparation for the next Task Force meeting)</b></p> <p><i>Participants (tbc)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR27 National Expert PT</li> <li>- PRPI Coordinator (Programme Manager)</li> </ul>
End of March (tbc)	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set-up the 'scenario' of the current situation within the PRPI (including all the funding sources and respective policies and instruments and building on concrete topics taking into account policy interests - identification of stakeholder roles in the governance/policy mechanism).</li> <li>• Discuss further inputs from the Task Force, e.g. analytical work.</li> <li>• Encourage the participants to contribute.</li> <li>• Other relevant issues.</li> </ul> <p><u>Expected outcomes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing notes.</li> <li>• Other relevant inputs (to be discussed and approved by the SR27 Core Team).</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants (tbc)</i></p>

Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
April (tbc)	<p>➔ <b>Proposal</b></p> <p>Organisation of a face to face workshop in PT with the presence of SR27 Core Team and with the participation of higher level of policy makers as Ministries and Secretariats of State, as well as Managing authorities of PT Regional Operational Programmes and of the CAP Strategic Plan, among others considered relevant such as Intermunicipal Communities, Local Authorities, Local Action Groups, .etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of the benefits of implementing the SV approach and potential synergy/complementarity between funds / projects / actors (e.g., how the SV approach can be used to communicate the innovation potentials and attractiveness of rural territories and to establish links between urban and rural areas).</li> <li>• Roadmap for the implementation of Smart Villages.</li> <li>• (Other themes - to be discussed)</li> </ul> <p>This activity could be combined with the Knowledge cluster on entrepreneurship.</p> <p><i>Participants (tbc)</i></p>
TBC	<p>Other meetings to be held according to the timing of key policy developments and key Smart Villages policy milestones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• integrating knowledge, experience and innovation to build a network of villages that is not created yet;</li> <li>• building a sound and effective governance system, involving all the relevant actors and stakeholders;</li> <li>• Implementing new models for the implementation of P09.</li> </ul> <p><i>Participants (tbc)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PRPI Monitoring Committee</li> <li>- Municipalities</li> <li>- Local Action Groups</li> <li>- Other relevant entities (target national policy makers, policy practitioners and stakeholder organizations in order to integrate and implement SV in PT).</li> </ul>



## 5.2. 2<sup>nd</sup> stage - planning of the implementation of the Transformative project P09. Villages

**Estimated period: March - April 2023**

A number of meetings (online and / or face-to-face) are expected to be held with the higher political and administrative level (Ministries of Cohesion and Agriculture and Rural Development, Managing Authorities of Programmes funded by the EU, among other relevant stakeholders) during the period between March and April of 2023 in order to validate the implementation of P09. Villages through an integrated approach, including the perspective linked to the development of sustainable tourism and in order to explore and mobilize the financial resources to achieve it, particularly, European Funds ERDF, ESF and EAFRD.

Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
End of March (tbc)	<i>Participants (tbc)</i>
End of March (tbc)	<i>Participants (tbc)</i>

## 5.3. 3<sup>rd</sup> stage - implementation of the Transformative project P09. Villages

**Estimated period: August - September 2023**

A number of meetings (online and / or face-to-face) are expected to be held with the stakeholders at supramunicipal and local level, such as Intermunicipal Communities and Local Authorities (Municipalities), among other relevant entities during the period between August and September of 2023 in order to validate to implement P09. Villages.

Timing and format	Focus of the meeting
End of March (tbc)	<i>Participants (tbc)</i>
End of March (tbc)	<i>Participants (tbc)</i>



## 6. Planned actions

### 6.1. Actions and work plan agreed with Task Force members

In parallel to the above-mentioned meetings, and following the timing of key policy developments and key Smart Villages policy milestones, the Task Force will develop the preparatory work to implement the Transformative project P09. Villages.

The Task Force is expected to produce some concrete outcomes with input from the members and from the SR27 National Expert under the Coordination of PRPI Managing Authority and in agreement with the SR27 Core Team (e.g. policy briefs in the subject covered, training material, public call text, selection criteria for Smart Villages, etc.).

The expected result of all this process is to provide the necessary basis to implement P09, from the conceptual framework and strategic orientations for programming the intervention, to the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call(s) / tender(s), to guidelines for applicants, among other strategic and operational documentation needed.

To this end, three main phases, and respective activities, have been defined. The following tables summarizes the planned and already carried out commitments / inputs expected from the National Expert with the support of the SR27 Core Team.

Period of work	Inputs from SR27
December 2022	<p><b>Documents provided in advance to the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief description of the Project Smart Rural 27 (in Portuguese)</li> <li>• Task Force - Proposal</li> <li>• Task Force - Proposal for the Action Plan</li> </ul>
January 2023	<p><b>Documents provided after the 1<sup>st</sup> Task Force meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional information about the Smart Rural 21 and Smart Rural 27 Projects, as well as the Smart Villages concept and approach (in Portuguese).</li> <li>• Brief description of the main components of a Smart Village: communities in rural areas, participatory approach, innovative solutions and digital technologies, Smart Village strategy (in Portuguese).</li> <li>• Specific characteristics to consider when selecting a village to implement the Smart Villages approach and Strategy (in Portuguese - provided as an indicative list in order to contribute to the definition of criteria to select villages - needs further refinement and approval by the SR27 Core Team).</li> </ul> <p><b>Other activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments to the P09. Villages framework.</li> <li>• Analysis and comments to the first draft of the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> </ul>





Period of work	Inputs from SR27
February 2023	<p><b>Documents to be provided after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Task Force meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal for the Conceptual Framework of P09. Villages - redefinition considering a more holistic / an integrated approach and taking aboard the Smart Villages concept and exploring potential links with the other Transformative Projects of PRPI, as well as with other Programmes / funding sources (e.g. CAP Strategic Plan).</li> <li>• Proposal for the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages, taking aboard the changes in the Conceptual Framework of P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Indicative structure for the elaboration of the Smart Villages strategy to be conceived by the villages that will integrate the transforming project P09. villages (to reflect with SR27 Core Team)</li> <li>• Roadmap for implementing the Smart Village approach (to elaborate on the basis of the available information of the SR21 Project web page - to reflect with SR27 Core Team).</li> </ul>
March - April 2023	<p><b>Planned activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings with the higher political and administrative level (Ministries of Cohesion and Agriculture and Rural Development, Managing Authorities of Programmes funded by the EU, among other relevant stakeholders)</li> </ul> <p><b>Documents to be provided after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Task Force meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidated Conceptual Framework for P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Proposal for the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> </ul>
April - June 2023	<p><b>Planned activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibliographic research, field visits, meetings with municipalities, inhabitants and economic agents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Documents to be provided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Framework and Characterization 'Villages of Pinhal Interior'</b></li> <li>• Definition and delimitation of the project's intervention area and target audience.</li> <li>• Development of the concept "Villages of Pinhal Interior", considering the social, economic and environmental context.</li> <li>• Creation of a set of criteria for the selection of villages.</li> <li>• Preparation of a Characterization Fiche to be elaborated for each of the villages applying for support in the scope of P09.</li> <li>• Creation of the most suitable method for analyzing the applicant villages with a basis on defined criteria and including an evaluation of the market potential (articulation between the concept of "Villages of Pinhal Interior" and the territory's tourist resources).</li> </ul>
May - July 2023	<p><b>Planned activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibliographic research, field visits, meetings with municipalities, inhabitants and economic agents.</li> </ul> <p><b>Documents to be provided</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Strategic Plan 'Villages of Pinhal Interior'</b></li> <li>• Analysis of the socio-economic and natural background of the territory covered.</li> <li>• Presentation of the "Villages of Pinhal Interior", based on the Smart Villages concept.</li> <li>• Definition of criteria for selecting villages with a basis on the Smart Villages approach.</li> <li>• Definition and consolidation of the collective development strategy for the network of 24 villages. in articulation with the values and tourist resources in the territory.</li> </ul>



Period of work	Inputs from SR27
June - July 2023	<p><b>Planned activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping assets and endogenous resources of the villages / rural communities.</li> <li>• Mapping the needs of the villages /rural communities regarding urban rehabilitation - challenges and respective proposals in a context of territorial integration.</li> <li>• Development of a proposal for the villages / rural communities' animation and dynamization.</li> <li>• Development of the structure for the strategies to be implemented - Village Plans. The structure for the Village Plan has to be created having in mind the need to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) understand the integration between the cultural value of the urban and architectural heritage, the value of the natural heritage and the value of the existing and envisaged social and economic dynamics; and</li> <li>(ii) stimulate the exercise of active citizenship, contributing to the multicultural and multidisciplinary debate on the design and implementation of public policies aimed at territorial competitiveness and development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Elaboration of the intervention proposal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Documents to be provided</b></p> <p>➤ <b>Intervention proposal</b></p> <p>The development of the intervention proposal for P09. Villages requires a holistic and multidisciplinary approach, bringing together knowledge and including inputs from several fields, such as entrepreneurship and economy (including tourism), nature and landscape conservation, historical and cultural heritage, local products, architecture and design and communication and marketing.</p> <p>The work is going to be developed in an interdisciplinary perspective, allowing to identify development trends considering the villages' current characteristics, and to identify the villages' needs to promote their integrated and sustainable development, as well as of rural communities and territories.</p>
Tbc	<p><b>Planned activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages.</li> <li>• Analysis of the villages' applications and selection of 24 'Villages of Pinhal Interior', taking into consideration their characterization and applying the defined criteria defined above.</li> </ul>
Tbc	<p><b>Planned activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of individualized Village Plans expressing the set of environmental, cultural and social values that, combined with existing or endogenous local products to be created, have the potential to be the target of a concerted action to convey scale and pursue a strategy of economic enhancement (namely, through sustainable tourism).</li> </ul>

Note: The meetings and other exchanges can be allocated funding for the logistics (e.g. room, catering, participants travel, etc. – up to the available budget). **This is to be agreed later with the SR27 Core Team (the main issue will be the realization of the face to face workshop with the SR27 Core Team).**



## Annex 1. Context of the Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior

The Task Force will target a specific Integrated Territorial-based Intervention that was created to respond to and recover from the devastating forest fires occurred in June and October of 2017 in a territorial area in region Centro called Pinhal Interior (Inner Pine forest).

The fires devastated about 220,000 hectares, of which around 190,000 hectares of forest (90% of maritime pine and eucalyptus), caused significant damage to agriculture and livestock, totally or partially destroyed hundreds of houses and businesses. In addition, essential services, such as energy and water supply, communications and transport network, have also suffered heavy damage. More than 300 people were injured and 90 died. The losses amounted to an estimated value of more than 700 million Euros.

The pilot programme approved in January 2018 was called **Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior (PRPI)**, constituted a guidance instrument for the Central and Local Administration in the time horizon of 2022, foreseeing, nonetheless, a programmatic adjustment and extension to a second phase.

The PRPI 2018-2022 integrated different types of interventions with different levels of territorial incidence:

- Pilot and experimental measures or priority anchor projects, with strong physical component, applicable to the seven municipalities that were most affected by the forest fires (Castanheira de Pera, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Góis, Pampilhosa da Serra, Pedrógão Grande, Penela and Sertão);
- Regulatory and strategic planning measures and measures to encourage investment and the promotion of territorial and social cohesion, taking into account the territorial specificities, applicable to the 7 municipalities identified above plus other 12 municipalities (Alvaiázere, Ansião, Arganil, Lousã, Mação, Miranda do Corvo, Oleiros, Oliveira do Hospital, Proença-a-Nova, Tábua, Vila de Rei e Vila Nova de Poiares);
- Measures for specific territorial scopes, provided for in instruments of a legal or regulatory nature;
- Measures included in the support programmes of national scope.

The territorial incidence of PRPI comprised 19 municipalities, covering an area of about 452,000 hectares (16 % of the region Centro) and 161,000 inhabitants (7.1% of the region Centro - 2015).

During the programming period 2018-2021, medium and long-term actions were supported aimed at restructuring of forest areas, enhancing economic activity and preventing and managing fire risk.

The implementation of the above-mentioned actions required the mobilisation of diverse funding sources including national public funding and European funding. Overall, it mobilised an investment of around 314 M€, of which 192 M€ of European funds.

As anticipated, in 2021, the Government carried out a reflection exercise that resulted in a programmatic adjustment as well as the extension of PRPI till 2027:

- The area of intervention was extended to one more municipality and 15 parishes of other 5 neighbouring municipalities (distributed over 5 Intermunicipal Communities). In total, it covers 24 municipalities (of which 20 municipalities are totally covered and 4 municipalities are partially covered), 7.297 Km<sup>2</sup> and 255.423 inhabitants.

The population density was of 36 inhab/Km<sup>2</sup> (less than half of the population density of the region Centro) with significant differences between the municipalities, being the highest 124.5 inhab/Km<sup>2</sup>





- The financial resources were reinforced with 208 M€, deriving from different funding sources: Regional Operational Programme for Centro (ERDF + ESF), Recovery and Resilience Plan, Programme Valorizar (support for touristic development - ERDF), CAP Strategic Plan (EAFRD), as well as from national funds, namely, the Permanent Forestry Fund and the Environmental Fund.
- The programmatic areas were identified around four Thematic domains - Human Capital, Social Innovation, Demography; Economy, Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Internationalisation; Tourism and Territorial Marketing; and Agriculture, Forestry, Spatial Planning and Rural Development.
- The interventions were designed as ‘transforming’ actions and projects to meet the main challenges of the region and to contribute to increased innovation and training of people and businesses.

The **Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior – Present and Future (2021.2027)**, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers N<sup>o</sup> 131-A/2021, of September 10, has a strong focus on the forestry sector, but also address the diversification of the economic base, expecting to create a favorable framework for attracting people and investment. As a result of its implementation it is also expected a consistent contribution to the resilience of the whole territory, to its economic and social dynamisation and to achieve the defined objectives of increasing regional competitiveness and territorial cohesion.

**Programme for the Revitalisation of Pinhal Interior – Present and Future (2021-2027)**

Thematic domain	Financial allocation	Type of interventions
1) Human Capital, Social Innovation, Demography	20%	Actions for the integration and accompanying of new residents and immigrants, social responses for the elderly, urban requalification. E.g. Promotion of alternative and innovative approaches to respond to the needs of the elderly population (Social Villages).
2) Economy, Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Internationalization	25%	Actions for the qualification and creation of business location areas to support private investment projects. E.g. Support to investment projects in innovation and digitalization.
3) Tourism and Territorial Marketing	5%	Actions for the promotion of the region, creation of structures for animation, recreation, leisure and of public spaces related to tourism activities. E.g. Support to projects for the differentiation, sustainability and innovation in resources and tourism products.
4) Agriculture, Forestry, Spatial Planning and Rural Development	50%	Actions for the enhancement and management of landscape in order to improve forest resilience and foster more profitable management models. E.g. Implementation of short supply chains associated with local products’ enhancement; Support for pilot projects: local systems of bio-waste for energy, grouped management models for agro-forestry (living lab).

The Thematic Domains are structured in 20 “Local economies’ transforming projects for the





## Annex 2. List of the Task Force members

### Membership of the Taskforce

Name of member	Name of organisation of member	Type of organisation (policy, village, research, NGO, private...)	Short description of role of organisation in the taskforce (reason why member was included)	Participation meetings			
				1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Luis Matias	PRPI Management Authority	Policy	PRPI Coordinator	X	X		
Jorge Brandão	Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro	Policy	Coordinator of PRPI's Monitoring Committee and the main interface with the Regional Operational Programme for the Region Centro - one of the instruments to be mobilized to support the implementation of the transforming projects).	X			
Leonor Picão	Tourism of Portugal				X		
Isabel Gonçalves	Tourism of Portugal		Multidisciplinary Team - Environment and Tourism Enhancement of the Interior	X			
Teresa Ferreira	Tourism of Portugal			X	X		
Margarida Ferreira	Tourism of Portugal			X	X		
Floribela Baptista	Tourism of Portugal			X			
Susana Grácio	Tourism of Portugal				X		
Rui Veloso	Tourism Centro of Portugal				X		
João Quaresma	Tourism Centro of Portugal				X		
Sílvia Ribau	Tourism Centro of Portugal				X		
Bruno Ramos	ADXTUR				X		
Armando Carvalho	Former Coordinator of the Integrated Action of Territorial Base for Pinhal Interior				X		
			To be added additional information on the role of the entity in the Task Force				

2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Action – Smart Rural Areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Smart Village Taskforce- Portugal



ADXTUR - Agency for the Tourism Development of Schist Villages



## Annex 3. Meeting Reports

### 1<sup>st</sup> Smart Villages Taskforce Meeting – Portugal

#### Purpose of the meeting

- Brief presentation of SR21 and SR27 Projects.
- Objectives for setting up a Task Force under PRPI, specifically under the transforming project P09. Villages.
- Overview regarding Smart Villages concept and approach and preliminary discussion on the different perspectives of how it can be integrated in designing and implementing P09.
- Perspectives of the participants regarding the constitution of a Task Force for designing and implementing the transforming project P09. Villages.
- Perspectives of the participants' expectations / vision regarding Smart Villages contribution to attain the objectives outlined in PRPI.
- Comprehensive presentation of the work developed so far regarding the design of the transforming project P09. Villages.

#### Date of the meeting

20/12/2022

#### Location

Online

#### Participation

Number of participants: 6

Organizations that participated and their role:

- SR27 National Expert PT
- PRPI Coordination / Managing Authority
- Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro (Coordinator of PRPI's Monitoring Committee and the main interface with the Regional Operational Programme for the Region Centro - one of the instruments to be mobilized to support the implementation of the transforming projects).
- Tourism of Portugal (member of PRPI's Monitoring Committee)
- Tourism Centro of Portugal (member of PRPI's Monitoring Committee)

#### Main outcomes and lessons learnt (including deviations from initial plan)



### Main outcomes/ results in the light of the objectives of the Task Force

- Shared perception of the Task Force's objectives: understanding the context, awareness and understanding of added value beyond ongoing processes and dynamics, openness to integrate the results of the Smart Rural Projects and explore new approaches for the implementation of the transforming project P09. Villages.
- Ensuring the commitment and involvement of the interested parties in the different phases of the implementation of the transforming project P09. villages.
- Preliminary identification of other Task Force members to be involved along the phases for the implementation of P09. Villages and their role.
- Preliminary outline for defining a bidding Work Plan (to be approved and duly articulated with the Task Force Action Plan).
- Expression of the preliminary needs and inputs from SR27 (request for some inputs, namely regarding an analysis of the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages; and initial discussion on the possibility of having a face-to-face workshop with SR27 Core Team).

### Main findings/ lessons

- Much can be learnt from existing experiences with the development of strategies and initiatives in the tourism area, and the facilitation of regional and national sharing of information will be fundamental to achieve a successful programming process.
- It was delivered a lot of information to handle in a first meeting, therefore, it will be necessary to provide it in such a way that it satisfies all the needs. For this, it was decided to.
  - proceed with a reflection regarding the format of the inputs and the way they are going to be shared (e.g. preference to have SR27 inputs in PT);
  - hold separate 'internal' discussions before the Task Force meetings, the results of which are shared and further discussed in the Task Force meetings, and assuring to each member of the Task Force individual entitlement of points of view and weight on decision-making. The participants of these meetings are three: PRPI Coordinator, Representative of the Coordination Commission for Regional Development of Region Centro - Coordinator of PRPI's Monitoring Committee and SR27 National Expert.

### Additional comments

There weren't any deviations from what was initially planned.

### Next steps

#### Next meetings:

- Separate 'internal' discussions between PRPI's Coordinator and SR27 National Expert scheduled for 8/02/2023.
- Second meeting of the Task Force scheduled for 15/02/2023.

#### Follow-up actions:

- Preparation of the Action Plan for the Task Force (to be approved by SR27 Core Team).
- Preparation of some inputs by the SR27 National Expert - document containing the following:
  - Additional information about the Smart Rural 21 and Smart Rural 27 Projects, as well as the Smart Villages concept and approach (provided - e.g. links to the SR21 and SR27 projects' webpages, link to the Guidebook on how to become a Smart Village).
  - Main components of a Smart Village: communities in rural areas, participatory approach, innovative solutions and digital technologies, Smart Village strategy (provided - two pages doc with information prepared with a basis on SR21 documentation).
  - Specific characteristics to consider when selecting a village to implement the Smart Villages approach and Strategy (provided as an indicative list in order to contribute to the definition of criteria to select villages - needs further refinement and approval by the SR27 Core Team).



2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Action – Smart Rural Areas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Smart Village Taskforce- Portugal



Some supporting documents were sent to the Task Force members beforehand, namely, a file providing summary information on SR27 Project (in PT) and the first version of the Proposal for the Task Force and of the Action Plan (in EN).



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Smart Villages Taskforce Meeting – Portugal

### Purpose of the meeting

- Discussion and reflection on the findings of the analysis carried out on the framework for the design and implementation of P09. Villages.
- Sharing and discussion on the experiences of some initiatives carried out in the territory, such as PROVERE - Programme for the Enhancement of Endogenous Resources and the Network of Schist Villages.

### Date of the meeting

15/02/2023

### Location

Online

### Participation

Number of participants: 10

Organizations that participated and their role:

- SR27 National Expert PT
- PRPI Coordination / Managing Authority
- Tourism of Portugal (member of PRPI's Monitoring Committee)
- Tourism Centro of Portugal (member of PRPI's Monitoring Committee)
- ADXTUR (member of PRPI's Monitoring Committee)
- Armando Carvalho - sharing experience as the Former Coordinator of the Integrated Action of Territorial Base for Pinhal Interior.

### Main outcomes and lessons learnt (including deviations from initial plan)



### **Main outcomes/ results in the light of the objectives of the Task Force**

- Decision to take a step back and proceed with the redefinition of the Conceptual Framework for

Current framework for P09. Villages (objectives), as foreseen under PRP1's Thematic domain 3) T

- Promote territorial specialization by creating and developing a network of thematic villages, b
- Promote regional development by increasing the attractiveness and tourism potential through
- Promote entrepreneurship by diversifying tourism offer, namely in terms of lodging, and by en

Conceptual framework to be defined:

- Create experiences based on the differentiating elements of rural communities - thematic initi
- Implement experimental actions / experiences with the ability to modify the territory, namely,
- Carry out projects that can be followed, monitored and evaluated - as a laboratory in the territ

### **Main findings/ lessons**

The experiences of some initiatives carried out in the territory show that:

- A perspective of sustainable development base on tourism will not be sufficient to surpass the
- The approach that PRP1 intends to develop in the territory presents itself as an innovative app
- A sound governance mechanism, allied to a collective efficiency strategy around the specific

### **Additional comments**

There weren't any deviations from what was initially planned.

**Next steps**

**Next meetings:**

- Separate 'internal' discussions between PRPI's Coordinator and SR27 National Expert scheduled for 1/03/2023.
- Third meeting of the Task Force scheduled for 8/03/2023.

**Follow-up actions:**

- Proposal for the Conceptual Framework of P09. Villages - redefinition considering a more holistic / an integrated approach and taking aboard the Smart Villages concept and exploring potential links with the other Transformative Projects of PRPI, as well as with other Programmes / funding sources (e.g. CAP Strategic Plan).
- Proposal for the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the transforming project P09. Villages, taking aboard the changes in the Conceptual Framework of P09. Villages.
- Indicative structure for the elaboration of the Smart Villages strategy to be conceived by the villages that will integrate the transforming project P09. villages (to reflect with SR27 Core Team)
- Roadmap for implementing the Smart Village approach (to elaborate on the basis of the available information of the SR21 Project web page - to reflect with SR27 Core Team).

**Supporting documents**

Some supporting documents were sent to the Task Force members beforehand, namely, the comments on the analysis carried out to the P09. Villages framework and to the Notice-Invitation for the opening of the call / tender for villages to be integrated in the Transformative project P09. Villages.



