



2nd Regional Workshop

5 November 2021

Stanz, Austria



The Smart Rural 21 Project & Energy Transition

Edina Ocsko, Project Coordinator (E40 Group)

2nd Regional Workshop, 5 November 2021

Programme



2nd Regional Workshop of the Smart Rural 21 Project

4-5 November 2021, Stanz im Mürztal (Austria) & online sessions



Programme

🕒	Village representatives Cross-visit	Regional Workshop participants Face-to-face sessions	Regional Workshop participants Online sessions
4 November 2021			
8.45 - 9.30	<i>Transfer from hotels to venue</i> 		
9.30 - 10.00	Welcoming participants: Fritz Pichler (Mayor)		
10.00 - 13.00	Workshop sessions: (1) Energy transition & innovation (2) Community building & social innovation (3) Organic food innovation & local grocery		
13.00 - 14.30	 Lunch		
14.30 - 17.00	Field visit in Stanz: Visiting the wind turbines in the mountains, disaster management and flood prevention project, village center and developments 		
18.30 - 19.00	<i>Transfer from hotels to dinner venue</i>		
19.00 - 22.00	Dinner		
5 November 2021			
8.45 - 9.30	<i>Transfer from hotels to venue</i>		
9.30 - 11.00	The Smart Villages support framework Welcome & the Smart Village Strategy of Stanz im Mürztal, Fritz Pichler (Mayor) The Smart Rural 21 Project & its lessons Edina Ocsko (Project Coordinator) Climate & Energy Jürgen Schneider (Federal Ministry Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology) Smart Villages in Austria, Julian Gschnell (Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture)		Live streaming Exchanges with participants through Slido: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYSAYggwgmY&t=0s 
11.00 - 11.30	 Coffee break - Welcome by the Finnish Smart Villages Innovation Camp		Break
11.30 - 13.30	The Smart Village Approaches - Energy transition in focus The case of Stanz energy community & support system, Rainer Rosegger (Agentur SCAN) & Alexander Baldele (Nyxas) Renewable energy communities - Inspiration from best practices, Pavlos Georgiadis (ECOLISE) Stanz answers: Panel discussion with Fritz Pichler, Rainer Rosegger, Alexander Baldele (Advisor), Pavlos Georgiadis (Specialist Expert) Presentations by Smart Rural 21 and other smart villages		Live streaming Exchanges with participants through Slido https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYSAYggwgmY&t=0s 
13.30 - 15.00	 Lunch break & networking		Break
15.00 - 16.30	Networking session Including greetings from the Finnish Smart Villages innovation camp (to be confirmed)		Virtual field visit in Stanz - Live Visiting the centre of Stanz im Mürztal, community building, local housing & apartments for young and elderly, local grocery Link: https://www.facebook.com/SmartRural21 
16.30	 <i>End of event & departure</i>		End of event

21 villages selected

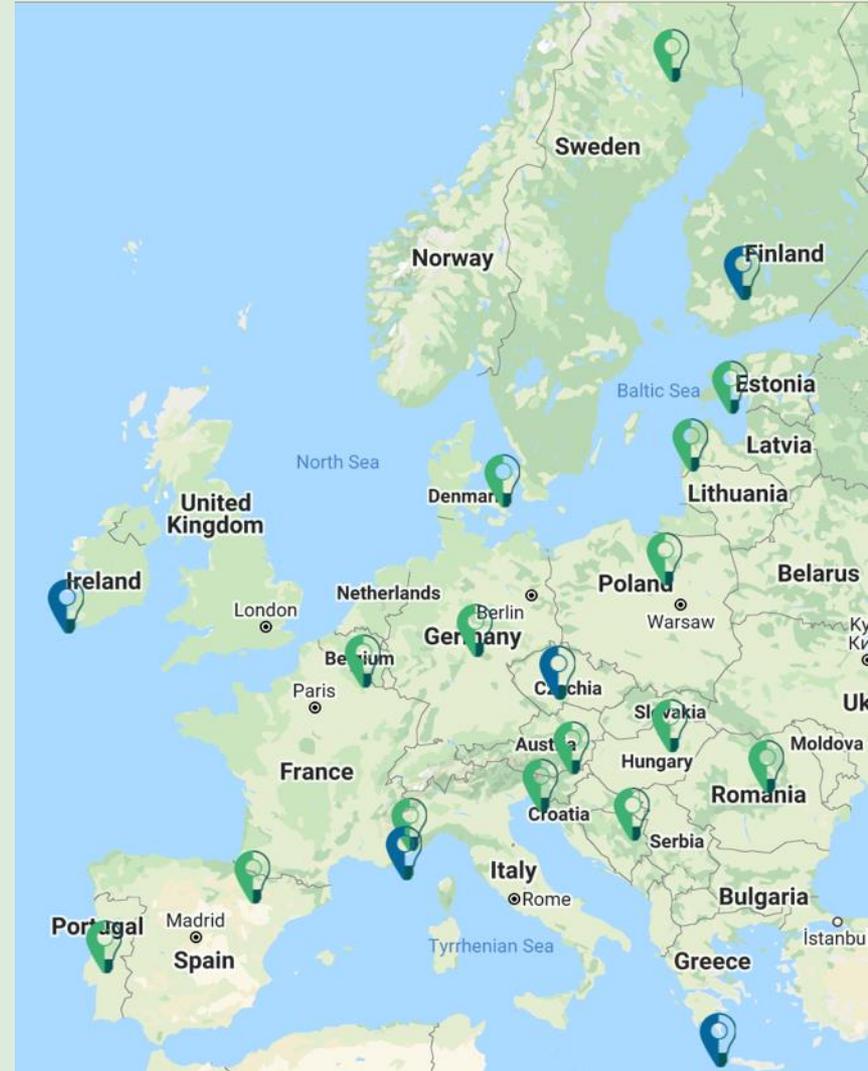
17 villages foreseen



21 selected villages



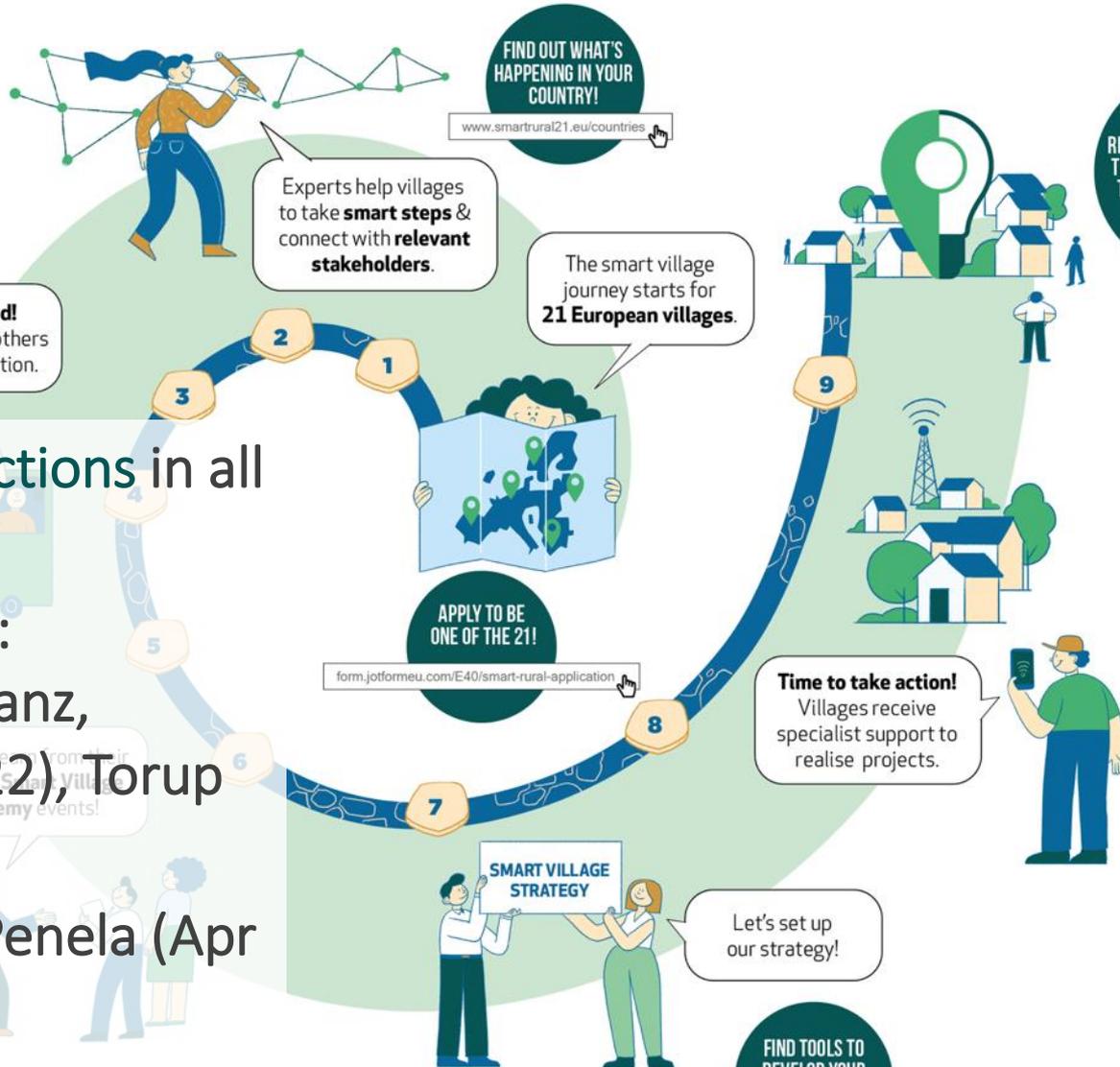
Approx. 200 Come Along! villages



JOURNEY TO BECOME A SMART VILLAGE



Smart Rural Areas
in the 21st Century



ROADMAP TO BECOME A SMART VILLAGE

- 1 INITIATION
- 2 CONTEXT & STAKEHOLDER MAPPING
- 3 CREATE LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP
- 4 IDENTIFY CHALLENGES & NEEDS
- 5 IDENTIFY ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES
- 6 IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
- 7 SMART VILLAGE STRATEGY
- 8 ACTION PLANNING
- 9 GENERATE ACTIONS & FINANCING

- JOURNEY OF THE 17 PARTICIPANT VILLAGES
- FOLLOW & USE PROJECT OUTCOMES

Supporting actions in all villages

4 Workshops:

Tomaszyn, Stanz, Ostana (Jan 22), Torup (Mar 22)

Final Event: Penela (Apr 22)

Policy



Local
communities
need hands-on
support



Large variety of needs but also similarities

The background image shows the interior of a building under reconstruction. It features a series of vertical concrete pillars supporting a ceiling made of horizontal wooden planks. The walls are partially constructed with red bricks, and there are large, empty window openings. The floor is a mix of concrete and dirt, with some debris scattered around. The lighting is warm and natural, coming from the windows.

Reconstruction of old buildings

How to make it sustainable? - For what use?

Old school building - local farm & businesses

Old mill - local (business) hub

Old cellars - tourist accommodation

Eco-building into modern agricultural center

A photograph showing a person in a beige sweater holding the hand of another person. The person being held has a medical device on their hand. The background is blurred, showing other people sitting in a room.

Retirement village & (e)care Is digital the solution?

**Data management
platforms & digital
platforms for better
interactions**

**How to use digital
technology for
improving services?**



A photograph of four young people standing in a field, viewed from the waist down. They are wearing casual clothing like jeans and t-shirts. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor setting. A semi-transparent dark brown banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Young people: How to engage?' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

Young people: How to engage?



Resilient communities

Innovation in
agriculture &
renewable energy

Energy transition & Smart Villages

- Strategic priorities of the EU
- The **European Green Deal**

A long-term **vision** for the EU's rural areas

The long-term vision for EU rural areas is an initiative by the European Commission creating a new momentum for rural areas, which are home to 30% of the EU's population, building on the new opportunities created by EU's green and digital transitions and on the lessons learnt from COVID 19.

VISION



➤ **STRONGER RURAL AREAS**

Empowered communities.
Better access to services.
Social innovation.



➤ **CONNECTED RURAL AREAS**

Deeper digital connectivity.
Transport links and new forms of mobility.



➤ **MORE RESILIENT RURAL AREAS THAT FOSTER WELL-BEING**

Environmental resilience.
Climate action.
Social cohesion.



➤ **PROSPEROUS RURAL AREAS**

Diversification of economic activities.
Improving the value added of farming and agri-food activities.

EU Rural Action Plan



➤ INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL, CLIMATIC AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change.

Climate action in peatland through carbon farming.

Proposed EU Mission on soil health and food.

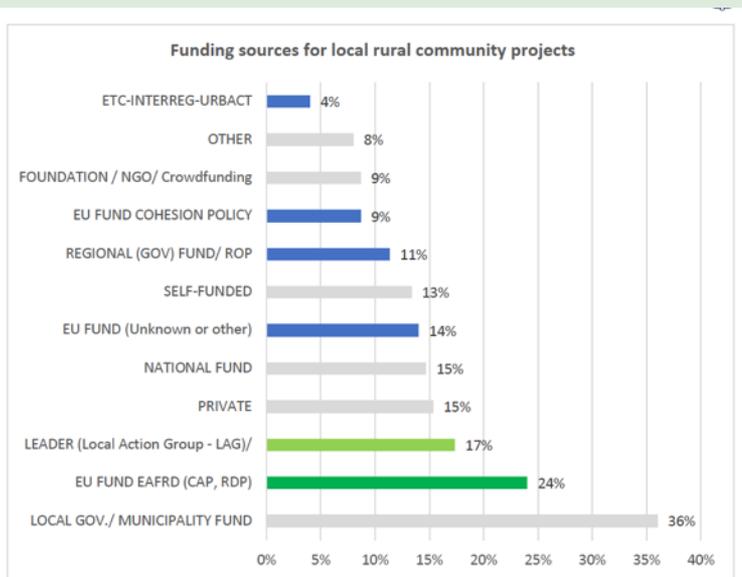
Social resilience and women in rural areas.

- Local community & participatory approach
- Innovative solutions
- Holistic smart village strategy
- Digital & social innovation

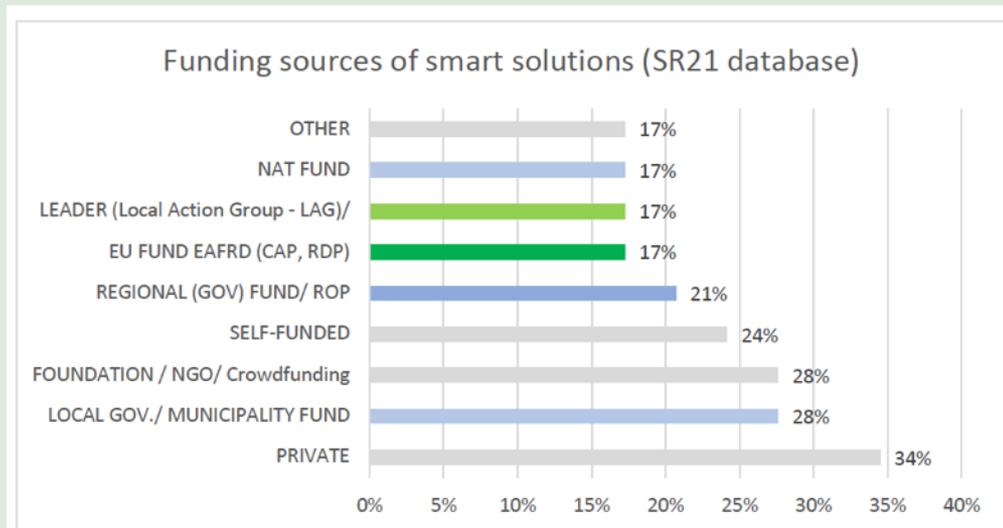


Draft report on funding options to Smart Villages (Smart Rural 27 Project)

Accessing EU funding at the local community level is very challenging (initial analysis)



Source: Village applications received for the Smart Rural 21 project



- Mostly local municipality/ government funds + private/ foundation...
- LEADER is one of the key sources within CAP
- Connection with Regional Operational Programmes
- Other funds: Interreg

Need for a **support framework** that is
able to flexibly support
innovation
in a **holistic way** (not only single actions)
at the **local communities** level