

# Implementing Smart Villages as a tool for LEADER CAP-Period 2023-2027

**Michael Fischer**  
National Expert Austria

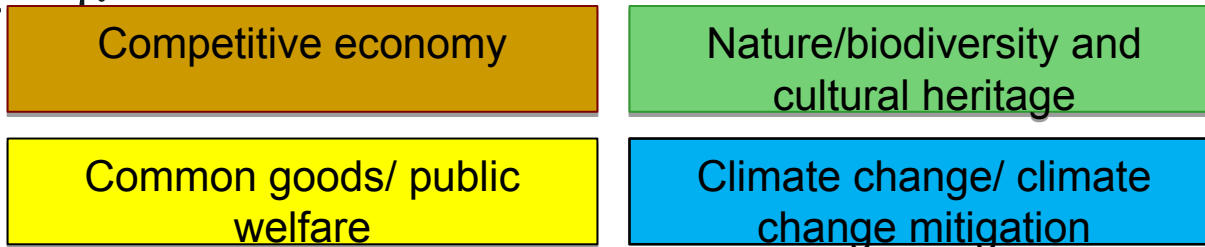
**ÖAR**

# LEADER 14-20: 77 LAGs



# Implementation via LEADER (1/3)

- as a tool for the LAG to address local challenges
- digital technologies should play a role in the implementation of Smart Village → distinction to “classic” LEADER projects
- BUT: digital technologies are not understood as an end in itself, but rather as a "means to an end“
- no thematic restrictions– the smart village approach can be applied in all 4 fields of activity



## Implementation via LEADER (2/3)

- implementation not mandatory, but incentives when selecting Local Action Groups  
→ Smart Village Concepts are seen as innovative feature of the LDS
- clear recommendation to take up the concept
- if, then commitment in local development strategy → indicator
- beneficiaries: all possible beneficiaries in LEADER
- Fact Sheet for LAG: <https://www.zukunftsraumland.at/seiten/215>

# Option: umbrella projects (3/3)

Local Development Strategy includes Smart Villages

LAG = Broker

**umbrella**  
SV submitted e.g. from a community group

Reservati  
on of funds;  
visibility

Will be submitted individually

Project management

SV strategy process (if not sufficient in LDS)

Specific project

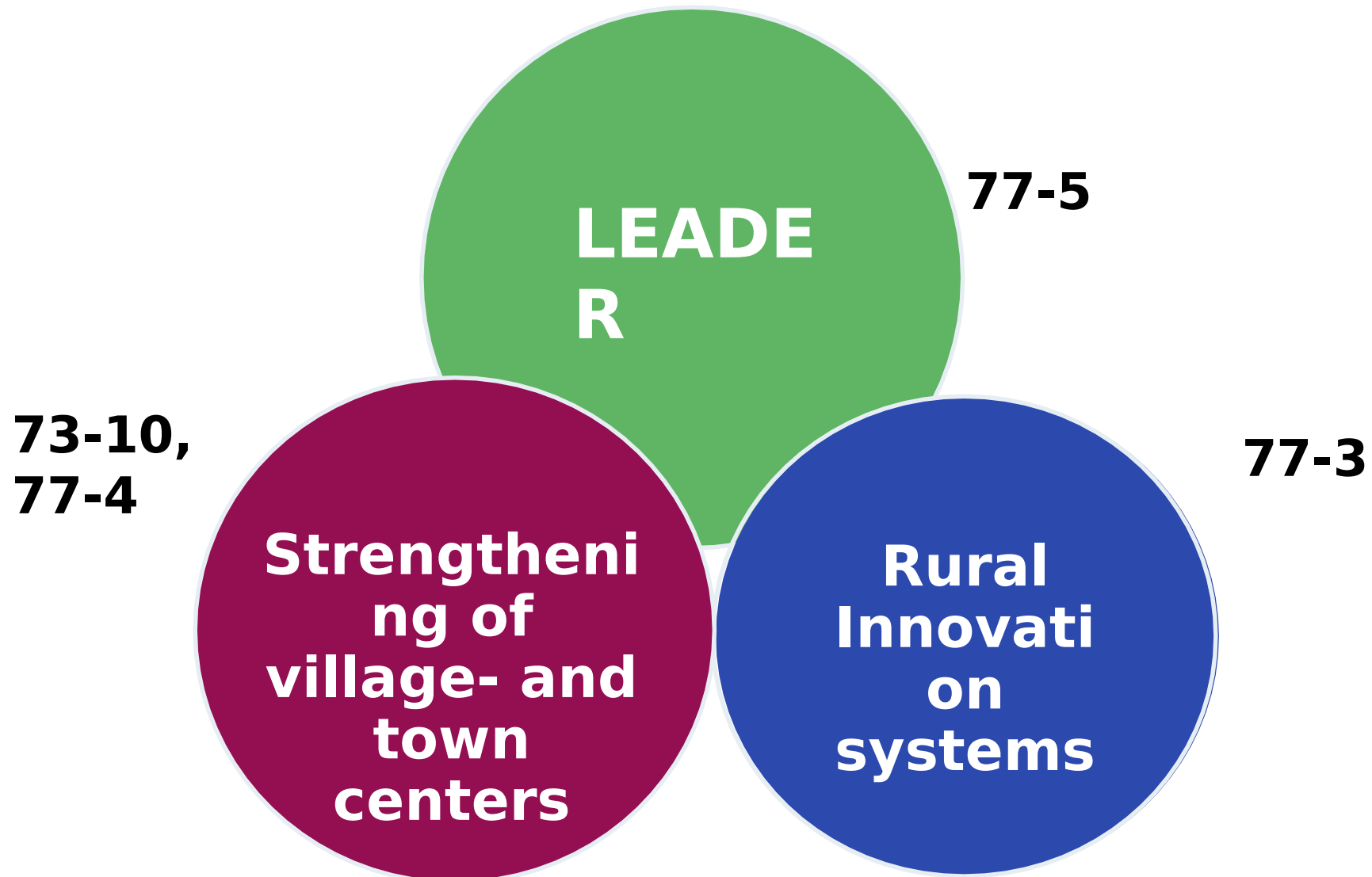
Specific project

Specific project

## What are the benefits?

- New „offer“ and brand to implement a LEADER-“like“ method on local level
- Strategic basis for action on local level: not only focussed on singular projects > integrated approaches more likely
- Professional support by LAG-managements – immediate transfer of existing knowledge and regional networks
- Special focus on digital solutions („agenda-setting“)
- No additional (support-)structures are needed – exchange within the professional and established CAP-network (but with specially tailored formats)
- Direct interface to two further CAP-instruments: „strengthening of village- and town centers“ / „rural innovation systems“

# Implementation of Smart Village in the CAP strategic plan



**Additional approach for Smart Villages within the Austrian CAP-strategic plan 2023-27:  
Strengthening of village- and town centers**

**Module 1: awareness  
raising**

**Module 2: Creation  
of an integrated  
town/urban  
development  
concept in a  
regional context**

**Module 3:  
Promotion  
vacancy/land use  
manager**

**Module 4:  
Investing  
measures for  
town/urban  
development**

**Connected to  
LEADER/  
regional  
Managements**



## **Rural Innovation Systems**

Implementation and support for 2 activities

- (1) Rural innovation network management: regionally anchored, multifunctional innovation network management: brings the actors together in novel combinations in the region and supports innovative projects through the development, further development and / or establishment of regional innovation networks and their qualitative support.
- (2) Rural Innovation Partnerships: implemented based on the model of the EIP-AGRI with the multi-actor approach. The regional challenges and the future topics and trends relevant for the region must be worked on in cooperation between different actors along (new as well as existing) innovation and value chains, ideally across sectors or industries