



European Network for
Rural Development



Thematic Working Group on Smart Villages

Collection of projects from the Members of the Group

7 December 2017

Draft document

STRATEGIC APPROACHES

AUSTRIAN RDP MEASURE 7 - BASIC SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Rural depopulation is an increasing problem in Austria and some regions are more and more facing the negative effects of this development. Only a variety of measures can counteract these developments and ensure the attractiveness of rural areas for the next generations.

The creation, development and expansion of services of general interest, the supply of infrastructure and the promotion of climate-friendly mobility solutions as well as the development of broadband infrastructure and the low-level road network are intended to contribute to a long-term improvement in the quality of life.

In the Austrian RDP 764 million EUR are allocated for Measure 7 – Basic services and village renewal in rural areas.

For the implementation of the several different sub-measures cooperation between the MA (Ministry for Agriculture) and various other ministries are in place (Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Ministry of social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economics).

Regarding the concept of smart villages the following sub measures could be of special interest:

- Plans for village renewal (7.1):
 - Support for preparation and updating of plans and requirements concepts in relation to basic services
 - Support for the tool “CommunalAudit”: It is an instrument which gives the municipalities the opportunity to compare objectively and systematically their finances, their management professionalism as well as their infrastructure with other municipalities with professional external support.

The CommunalAudit consist of a basic modul for collecting the status quo as well as the benchmarking with other municipalities and an optional module for the development of individual strategies in selected topics.

- Investment in broadband infrastructure (M 7.3):

This funding will contribute to the closure of the digital divide between urban and rural areas

- Investment in social services (M 7.4):

Through the expansion of social services such as child care, care, health care facilities and services, including health promotion, these facilities can be made accessible to all those who need it in rural areas. Objects of support are e.g.

- Investments for the creation and improvement of mobile services as well as collection, delivery and delivery services
- Investments in hardware and software, including software development for planning, case and care management, social services (eg Telecare) and ICT-assisted everyday aids
- Demand-oriented establishment and expansion of infrastructure in the field of outpatient care including video-interpreting services

[Note: A totally new measure in the Austrian RDP. It took some preparation time to make the measure running because there are a lot of new players (administration and possible applicants) involved. For the objects of support mentioned above we don't have many projects yet.]



AUSTRIAN RDP MEASURE 7 - BASIC SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

- Implementation of climate and energy projects at local level (7.2.):

The feasibility and meaningfulness of the use of renewable energies is demonstrated to a broad public via so called "climate and energy model regions" (<https://www.klimaundenergiemodellregionen.at/>). A climate and energy model region has maximum 60,000 inhabitants and consists of several municipalities. Small infrastructure for the production of renewable energy and energy saving are supported via the RDP, if the project is within a selected climate and energy model region.

- Climate-friendly mobility solutions (7.4.):

The focus is on the promotion of investment in climate-friendly mobility solutions in rural areas to promote cycling, environmentally-friendly mobility management and the conversion of transport systems and fleets to alternative drives and fuels, in particular electric mobility.

- Implementation of plans for village renewal and community development (7.6):

Supported are e.g. measures for vitalisation of town centre and creation and development of leisure-, cultural- or educational facilities.

(2) Integrated strategies:

The Austrian federal minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management worked out in 2017 a Master Plan for rural areas based on a participation process. The Master Plan contains focus areas and measures for rural areas to make rural areas fit for the future.

Especially relevant for the concept of smart villages are e.g. the following focus areas and possible measures:

Focus Area 3: Digitization / Modern Technologies

Measures: (i) Intensification of broadband expansion, (ii) Certified digital community

Focus Area 07 and 08: (i) Health care, (ii) Supply of elderly people

Measures: Expansion of E-health and Telemedicine

More detailed information: <https://www.bmlfuv.gv.at/english/agriculture/Master-Plan-for-Rural-Areas0.html>

Other relevant strategies:

Breitband Austria 2020 (Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology):

<https://www.bmvit.gv.at/telekommunikation/breitband/foerderungen/> (german only)

[Note: The Master Plan is not yet fully implemented. Ways of implementation may depend on the priorities of the next Austrian government.]

Continues on the next page



AUSTRIAN RDP MEASURE 7 - BASIC SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

(3) Project Examples

Social innovation (Leader/CLLD): *(Project details only in german available)*

- **“Nachbarschaftshilfe PLUS - neighborly help PLUS”**

In municipalities of Burgenland, as part of a community cooperation called "Nachbarschaftshilfe PLUS", social services (travel and delivery service, visiting service, walking service, temporary childcare, information desk on social issues) are offered. They are coordinated by part-time office workers and run by volunteers. For clients, the offer is basically free. <https://www.zukunftsraumland.at/projekte/1957>

- **“Engagiert sein – Being Engaged”**

Civic engagement is a fundamental element in the village community. Being there for each other is the "glue" in our society. Voluntary civic engagement (= volunteering) can be mobilized. A “volunteer coordinator” is needed to initiate and coach volunteers. Five municipalities or areas (several small communities) set a clear example of civic engagement with the project "Being Engaged" and use coordinators to mobilize their commitment.

In three years, volunteer coordinators will be installed, trained and mobilized in the villages for volunteers. The committed persons go through a seminar program and are prepared for their task. <https://www.zukunftsraumland.at/projekte/1794>

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Julian Gschnell (Austrian MA)
Julian.Gschnell@bmlfuw.gv.at



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Scotland's 10 year social enterprise strategy was developed in partnership with representatives from the sector. The strategy plays an important role in ensuring support for community-led initiatives in rural Scotland. Social enterprises are 'businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are reinvested for that purpose in the business or the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders or owners'.

Social enterprises are different from traditional voluntary organisations in that they deliver their social purpose mainly through trading or they aim to do so. There are a range of specific types of social enterprises, including community care providers, co-operatives, credit unions, development trusts, housing associations and social firms. Social enterprises are particularly important in rural Scotland, with 34% of Scotland's social enterprise activity within a context of only 18% of the nation's population. Social enterprises play an important role in the fabric of Scotland's rural communities, delivering a range of activities from managing land and buildings as well as delivering vital services, ranging from child care services to running local shops and fuel filling stations.

The variety and diversity is very broad and plays an important role in sustaining rural communities. There are around 3 000 social enterprises in Scotland at different stages of development, from small startup enterprises to well-established businesses with multi-million pound turnovers. The turnover of these businesses has been estimated at around £1 billion a year, so they make a significant contribution to the Scottish economy. Within the rural context the social impact and contribution to sustaining vital services is particularly important.

The Scottish Government worked with representation from the sector to develop the strategy, which is the start of a process to create an environment where social enterprise can flourish. This strategy highlights the important contribution social enterprise can make to life in Scotland. This includes contributing to economic growth and business development; delivering services focused on the needs of people; regenerating and empowering people in our most deprived communities and playing a major role in supported employment. An action plan has been developed to deliver support to social enterprises in Scotland to continue to build the social and economic benefits from this method of community led action.

MAIN RESULTS

Development of strategy and action plan to provide support to social enterprises across the country, including business support, start up support, raising the profile of social enterprise with the wider public, social finance, collaboration and reaching markets.

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511500.pdf>

FUNDING

National Funding

CONTACT

Ailsa Clarke (Inspiralba)
aclark@inspiralba.org.uk



SMART NETWORKING FOR RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Social Enterprise play an important role in the rural economy and social fabric of rural communities. Social enterprise leaders are often working in challenging circumstances with reduced public sector finance and increasing need for services and support. The benefits of networking, peer support and collaboration are recognised by most, however the challenges of rural geography can be a barrier for engagement.

The smart networking pilot aims to explore how we can better utilise digital technology to support greater interconnection between social enterprises, building resilience and capacity through collaboration, peer learning and network support. We aim to develop a digital support framework that can facilitate this networking, peer support and collaboration which will increase rural access to support, learning opportunities and engagement. The project is at the early stages of development and we are seeking partners to bring learning from across Europe to inform the pilot work.

MAIN RESULTS

At development stage but anticipated outcomes:

- Increased networking and collaboration across social enterprises in the rural context and engagement with national partners.
- Increased knowledge, understanding and capacity, through peer engagement, learning and access to support.
- Increased resilience ensuring sustainability across a range of services being delivered by social enterprises in rural communities.

FUNDING

EU funding and National Funding

CONTACT

Ailsa Clarke (Inspiralba)
aclark@inspiralba.org.uk



SELF-GOVERNANCE IN THE VILLAGE OF KONINGSLUST

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The Community Network Koningslust was established in 1993. The Network supports the process of developing liveability and quality of life in the village. In four periods Koningslust developed into a strong self-governing village. At the start in 1993 an important notice was the decline of the agricultural economy in Koningslust in combination with other challenges like individualization, aging, low confidence in the government, decreasing confidence in own capabilities etcetera. This raised questions like: how can we cope with the future? is there still a community feeling? how do we engage inhabitants in building quality of life? The Community Network came to the notice that liveability is a responsibility of inhabitants themselves. Through the appeal of the Network the inhabitants developed a plan for 10 years, with the Community Network as the process manager. First came infrastructural projects (10 year leadtime) as pre condition for social development. The City Council and a Welfare-organization supported. In 2001 a liveability survey was the basis for a vision for the village including 22 projects. The main projects were: the reconstruction of the village centre, a new multifunctional community hall, modernising the elementary school and community care for the elderly. For some projects the local government took responsibility and for others it were the inhabitants who realized the project (for example the community Hall).

In 2007 started a new phase. Most of the 22 projects were done or nearby finished. Now the goal was to work on the social cohesion in the village. A dialogue with 120 inhabitants resulted in 15 projects such as: better use of the community hall (30 projects); improving communication with inhabitants; the role and position of the younger including the role of the elementary school; the vitality of the clubs, traffic-safety and public transportation; social behaviour and values; outdoor sport accommodation. Again the lead time was 10 year, and again, after 7 years most of the plans were realized or under construction. In 2013 started a new round of making plans for the future. After physical and social goals, this time the goal was mental wellbeing. The results were described in values to be achieved by the inhabitants and some concrete projects

MAIN RESULTS

The process led to a strong increase in confidence and involvement in the village. The active inhabitants are involved, are critical but cooperative, collaborate with authorities in order to have influence on policy, have a conscious attitude to life, think across (village) borders, are tolerant, analytic, social liberated and capable. They maintain a strong network which involves also the aloof and vulnerable inhabitants. Key points of self-governance: "Everyone is a part/member of our community. We need everyone to keep our village liveable. We visit our neighbours to involve them. We make others and their point of view important. We step back ourselves and give room for growth of others. We give others the credits of things that are realized. We celebrate the successes together. Through successes we gain thrust. Patronizing is contra productive. In brief: the village defines what the future of the village has to be, the city council just facilitates the actions of the inhabitants. That demands for the tilting of the government:

- From: a government that solves problems to a government that supports inhabitants to solve problems;
- From: an assertive and prominent government to a restrained and cooperative government;

FUNDING

National Funding

CONTACT

Geert Schmitz (Municipality Peel en Maas)
Geert.Schmitz@peelenmaas.nl

EU RESEARCH



SOCIAL INNOVATION IN MARGINALISED RURAL AREAS (SIMRA)

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas (SIMRA) seeks to advance understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and how to boost them, particularly in marginalised rural areas across Europe, with a focus on the Mediterranean region: a database of good practices, case studies and innovation actions are finalised. <http://www.simra-h2020.eu/>

MAIN RESULTS

- Database of good practices of social innovation
- Case studies start in October 2017
- Innovation actions

FUNDING

Horizon 2020

CONTACT

Marie Clotteau (Euromontana)
marie.clotteau@euromontana.org



EU-PROJECT "SOCIAL INNOVATIONS IN STRUCTURALLY WEAK RURAL REGIONS" (RURINNO)

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

RurInno acknowledges social enterprises as promising but often neglected drivers of social innovations in structurally weak rural regions. Social enterprises strive to tackle social problems and to stabilise and improve the living conditions in these regions. However, reports show that social entrepreneurs still lack specialised trainings and education, a supporting infrastructure and recognition. Against this background, RurInno aims at:

- 1) Strengthening the skills and the innovative capacity of social entrepreneurs operating in rural regions,
- 2) Improving the knowledge of how social innovations are implemented in rural regions and
- 3) Raising awareness of social entrepreneurship in rural regions in order to foster enabling environments for their activities.

<http://rural-innovations.net/>

MAIN RESULTS

The partners are pursuing three objectives together:

1. Promote knowledge transfer between research and practice;
2. Improve empirical knowledge of conditions for social innovations in rural areas;
3. Increase the visibility of the work of social enterprises in politics and society.

FUNDING

EU, Horizon 2020, MSCA, RISE.

CONTACT

Gabriela Christmann (Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space)
gabriela.christmann@leibniz-irs.de
Marie Cloteau (Euromontana)
communication@euromontana.org



CrESSI (Creating Economic Space for Social Innovation)

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The CRESSI (Creating Economic Space for Social Innovation) project explores the economic underpinnings of social innovation with a particular focus on how policy and practice can enhance the lives of the most marginalised and disempowered citizens in society. Overall, the project takes an institutionalist view of the key issues exploring the drivers and structures that lead to marginalisation and disempowerment. This research also aims to set out how interventions drawing on social innovation can address major economic, social and power imbalances and inequalities.

MAIN RESULTS

Key themes addressed by this project includes:

- How markets as socio-economic institutions relate to the poor, marginalised and vulnerable;
- What are the drivers of, and barriers to, social innovation in various institutional settings market and non-market;
- What is the role of public policy instruments in developing finance structures and wider eco-systems to support the development and growth of social innovation;
- How can the impact of social innovation be captured and measured at the organizational and national levels.

FUNDING

FP7 project

CONTACT

Lauren Mosdale (Euromontana)
lauren.mosdale@euromontana.org

MULTI-SERVICE CENTERS



CROWDSOURCING IN A SMART VILLAGE VUOLLERIM, ARCTIC CIRCLE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

How much can a village do with its own resources?

Vuollerim by the Arctic Circle - a practical example of crowdsourcing and social village capital. A common good idea to strengthen the local economy and development. All the community-based businesses are reinvesting 100 % of their profits into further growth of the company and into the local economy - *Teamwork is the key*. The phenomenon of crowdsourcing - the power of making things together - has been around for a long time in the district of Vuollerim, a small village in the heart of Swedish Lapland.

The district of Vuollerim has about 800 inhabitants, 60 companies and 40 non-profit associations. Traditionally the district has embraced entrepreneurship and taking initiative. Vuollerim has been very good at taking advantage of local resources and capabilities, that exist in any community, and has done something with all that. The funny thing is that this tradition continues on and on with new exciting projects all the time!

Crowdsourcing in Vuollerim, this 3-minute film showcases various examples. This film was for instance presented at SOCAP Europe, Amsterdam 2011 in the panel "How you turn your city into a place for innovation".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBbaq8rdCPY>

MAIN RESULTS

The most important thing Vuollerim would like to share with the world, is that any neighborhood, any village, company or municipality can do the same with their own resources!

Examples of projects supported includes: Economic Associations, VIVA - Visioner In Vuollerim Area, Hotel, Lapland Vuollerim Welcomes You, Artisan Foodhouse, The Village Team, Arctic Circle Products, Vuollerim's Charter School, New Thinking - a Youth Project, Dare to be yourself - a Musical, The World's Northernmost Go-Kart Track, Guinness World Record in Ice Lanterns.

FUNDING

Private resources and village capital and lot of voluntary work

CONTACT

Eva-Lena Skalstad (Lapland Vuollerim)
evalena@laplandvuollerim.se

LISDOONAN RECREATION & DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The Lisdoonan group are a community based, bottom-up group who are motivated to work towards making their small village more sustainable. Briefly it involves the group developing the following:

- A housing development of 14 units for older people to live in a safe supportive place plus a communal and laundry facility
- A Village Shop / Cafe
- A Community Childcare facility, which supports young working parents
- A pub / Community Centre which provides a cultural and social facilities for the community

The Lisdoonan area was suffering serious decline and population loss. The group sought assistance through LEADER animation from local LAG and conducted a needs analysis and developed a plan. The different interventions were all funded separately from different sources over a 5 to 7 year period. This started with the local group purchasing land and sourcing funding for a community centre.

MAIN RESULTS

The Lisdoonan Group have delivered a number of projects which are helping to address rural decline and to make their village more sustainable, including:

- Community Centre and local pub
- Community Shop and Cafe
- Social Housing complex for older people (14 Units + communal and laundry facilities)
- Childcare facility for young working parents

All the above now make Lisdoonan a more attractive place to live, attracts young couples to live here and helps keep improve the quality of life of older people and keeps them living independently in their homes within their community for longer. A strong sense of community is fostered locally.

The village shop project is a social enterprise financially supported by government. The shop also employs 7 people with a disability through a supported employment approach, many of which may never have worked previously in a formal job. This brings them closer to the labour market and provides them with the dignity of work.

Ireland has a well-developed model of Community Employment where people who are unemployed or under-employed are offered employment placement opportunities in community organisations which this group also fully utilise. This helps the group with providing basic services, caretaking of building etc.

Through the CLLD animation approach of our LAG, we have assisted the group in tapping into a number of supports which have enabled them to make many of their projects attainable and sustainable.

FUNDING

EU funding +National Funding

CONTACT

Gabriel O'Connell (Monaghan Integrated Development)
goconnell@midl.ie



COMMUNITY SHOP- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The project arose from a [conference](#) 'Counter Revolution' run by five LAGs in the southeast of Ireland on the theme of the promotion of 'community shops'. Such retail centers began to emerge in parts of rural Ireland as a response to the closure of the previous commercial shops. The aim of the project is to fill the gap for retail- and other services, caused by the continuing loss of small rural shops. It is realised that the shop is more than a retail center and is very often the social point around which a community gathers and identified.

Counter Revolution was funded by LEADER and national funds- and was attended by approximately 200 community activists and agency representatives. Following the success of the conference, the LAG partners began to consider how they could best help develop and sustain such community-led shops and resolved that cooperation and sharing of both experiences and resources in a network was the best option. An estimated target of community shops necessary to sustain a network's group costs was of 12 units. As no one LEADER LAG region seemed to offer the necessary critical mass to sustain a network, the concept of a regional entity was developed.

The project is dependent on the development of a number community retail centers in the five LAG regions. This was initially delayed due to the hiatus between LEADER programmes, but has developed in some partners to the level that LAGs are investigation the initiation of a LEADER cooperation project. An application is due on this in early 2018.

MAIN RESULTS

1. The conference promoted the concept of the community shop and its potential critical socio-economic role in rural communities.
2. The network will provide a framework to sustainably support the development of individual shops and the burden sharing of costs and responsibilities.

FUNDING

EU funding +National Funding

CONTACT

Declan Rice (Kilkenny LEADER Partnership)
declan.rice@cklp.ie



VILLAGE SHOP AS A MEETING POINT OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

In Finland the village shop is a rural shop, which sales' area is under 400 square metres. The vital village shop helps to retain the important services of the workday and purchasing power in the sparsely populated areas, adding vitality and attraction of the area. The village shops can be in the key position by functioning as a channel to a wide service network.

The main object was to reform the operations model of the village shop so that the local inhabitants and other customers (e.g. summer dwellers) can be profitably offered the versatile 'service package' of private and public services. A total of 12 village shops from 12 villages from 12 municipalities were targeted which represented four different Finnish chains of stores (3 per each). In many village shops there were already some private supplementary services (like Post, Café, Lotto, Fuel & repair, Pharmacy/medicine cabinet, Logistic services), but not any public services (except one recycling point). It was implemented through a cooperation between private and public institutions.

What was tested?

Services provided includes the delivery of purchases, catering services and delivery for the customers of the municipal food service (a shop with lunch café), internet points (access only to municipal and public (e-)services), electronical info boards (for current municipal and commercial info), pharmacy/medicine cabinets, collection point of e-pharmacy, postal and parcel services and amusement machines. It was first asked from shopkeeper, village association and municipality what the village shop means, what private and/or the public services are wanted and what benefit is brought by concentrating services under the same roof or by breaking administration silos. Depends on results, negotiations continues with the different service producers.

The project was tested: Delivery of purchases, catering services and delivery for the customers of the municipal food service (a shop with lunch café), internet points (access only to municipal and public (e-)services), electronical info boards (for current municipal and commercial info), pharmacy/medicine cabinets, collection point of e-pharmacy, postal and parcel services and amusement machines. New services which stayed in the operation after the project ended, were the electric information board (at 5 village shops), post (2), travel and parcel services (1), internet point (1), medicine cabinet (1).

MAIN RESULTS

The experiment is a presentation of how to proceed from the estimating of local needs for services to economically feasible solution. The experiment includes eight (8) steps: 1) To identify those locals who are willing to develop their own local services; 2) Choice of pilot municipalities. The municipalities which have an ability and desire to test are chosen to the experiment model locally. 3) Estimation of the needs for services (by the municipality and locals). 4) The local actor's presentation of the production of services. 5) The municipality concludes the agreement or competes the acquisition. 6) Applying for the support and admitting. The local actor applies for the support from the budget of the experiment, if it does not reach a market-based agreement on the carrying out of the service with the municipality. 7) Agreement between a municipality and a local actor(s). 8) Implementation

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Sami Tantarimäki (Brahea Centre at the University of Turku)
samtanta@utu.fi



CLOSE SERVICE CENTER (CSC) INNOVATION CAMP

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The main objective is to create new generation of rural services and create a new entrepreneurship ventures for these services and find multi-actor model to achieve profitable businesses through Close Service Center (CSC). From these centers, it should be possible to get market based services and but also public services for rural people and businesses.

The basic idea is to invite different kind of business actors for a two-days camp. During the camp, the business model and the piloting would be prepared by these actors. Hopefully different players will find the possibility to achieve profitability in areas which are unprofitable for one service provider. CSC would be a kind of local multiservice center. The model would not be dependent on public money and based on business.

The role of digitisation and logistics is crucial. The building would be owned and operated by a real estate investor and possibly financed by a local crowdfunding campaign - kind of a rural mall. The building could also be the base for a local circular economy environment. CSC would be tailored according to the local needs.

Different kind of service providers will be invited to the innovation camp planning such as private schools, Leader for business services, day care, social-healthcare company, local food e-market company, logistics developer, crowd-funders, real estate expert, event organisers such as ticket master, a virtual gym operator, a digital hub expert, hotel chain, store/pharmacy, remote office expert, restaurant/café, biogas distributor, pilot municipality.

MAIN RESULTS

To develop a new model to provide rural services. In Finland, this project is linked to the social-health care reform and growth services reform. These reforms are giving market actors the possibilities to provide services which currently are state or municipal services.

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Marko Mäki-Hakola (COPA/MTK)
marko.maki-hakola@mtk.fi



KYLÄT SYDÄMELLÄ-PROJECT

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Kylät sydämellä is a development project which operates in villages and sparsely populated areas in the cities of Iisalmi and Kiuruvesi, and municipalities of Sonkajärvi and Vieremä. The project started on December 2016 and it lasts two years.

The main aim is to develop new models to produce services and in this way to bring local services and activities to villages and to village houses. There will be for example 'service days' where people can have different services, such as hairdresser, massage, cafe and public services like library at the village house. Services can be brought close to the people also by remote access, for example some guided exercise or lectures.

One aim is to create a digital index of services in sparsely populated areas to make it easier for customers to find services and for entrepreneurs to provide their services. The project aims to improve the communality and co-operation between villages and between villages and municipalities. The project also pays attention to safety matters in villages by standardizing and digitalizing safety programmes of villages and by increasing awareness about safety. The project also informs about what is going on in villages by launching 'village radio'. It is program on the local radio channel and reporters educated by the project make the content. Co-operation between villages, residents, municipalities, associations and entrepreneurs is crucial in this project. The aim is to do cooperation with 100 organisations.

MAIN RESULTS

The project organizes recreation and activity for elderly people together with two village societies and a local vocational school. The activities run for four hours fortnightly. The village society provides premises and practical nurse students arrange activity and cook the lunch. Activity has been for example memory and balance training, information about diseases and nutrition, photographing, karaoke and quizzes. And just associating with other participants. Activity is open for everyone who lives at the area of the project. There has been about 15-20 participants every time. Payment is 10 euros per time, that's how school covers the costs of lunch. The profits organizers get demonstrate this model works.

Together with the local radio station, the project trained 'village reporters' and now there 21 reporters who make content to village radio program, and also from neighboring villages. The idea is to improve awareness about what there is and happens at the villages. The content can be almost anything for example interviews about interesting persons or local companies, reports from events, poems or descriptions from nature. Coverage area of local radio station is wide and the village radio has become quite well-known.

Additionally local newspaper publishes the topics one day before the show. All the programs can also be found from SoundCloud <https://soundcloud.com/radio-sandels/sets/kylaradio>.

'Service days' has been arranged together with entrepreneurs, village societies, organizations like Red Cross and providers of the public services. Residents can plan and decide what kind of services they want and need to their village and do they want to arrange it on weekend or on weekdays. This has turned out to be good way to bring services to sparsely populated areas.

There has been for example hairdresser, massage, pedicurist, counsels, Red Cross measuring blood pressure and blood sugar and giving guidance about health and nutrition, fire department giving guidance in case of fire and 4H arranging activity for children. Library is coming to one service day at this month and it's possible to borrow new books.

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Satu Peltonen (Kylät sydämellä-project)
satu.peltonen@vierema.fi

DIGITAL AND ICT



FabLab Network

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The national FabLab network is a technology platform for prototyping innovations and inventions, and represents an incentive for circular economy and local entrepreneurship, both in classical or social manner. The national FabLab network is strategically important for the future development of Slovenia in terms of linking the educational sector with the industry and creating the right workforce for the future. The national FabLab network is coordinated by the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Ljubljana. Local FabLabs are coordinated by local operating managers, who have all the competences and skills for running such creative prototyping laboratories, and have strong connections with the industry as well as with educational organizations in their local environment.

The partners and stakeholders involved are municipalities, research and academia on all levels, citizens, companies – start ups, SMEs and large companies, entrepreneurs, and business support organisations. The equipment, knowledge, competencies and activities in individual FabLabs are directed towards the fields of smart specialization according to the needs of companies, and the region. There are five working groups consisted of partner representatives actively working on the following topics:

- Content: What content and programmes should be covered in the Network;
- Equipment and technology: What is already available in the country and what is still missing to fulfill the stakeholders needs
- Mentors: Who, when and where is already available and what is still missing
- Funding: Searching for funds for successful operation
- Legal aspects and leadership

For its partners and stakeholders, the network provides:

- Access to equipment: Companies are able to use equipment available in the FabLabs or in the organizations that are involved in the national network;
- Access to (technological) knowledge through mentors and other organizations that work within individual FabLabs and in the network;
- Access to (best) workforce, because schools, universities and young talents are actively involved in the network;
- Effective training of workforce: Through targeted training, which is implemented for the needs of individual companies;
- Exchange of knowledge and experience with other companies, educational and research organizations
- Through multi- and interdisciplinary research and projects.

MAIN RESULTS

- 27 FabLabs around the country, in both rural and urban areas;
- Covering half of the population of the country i.e. 1 000 000 people;
- 70 partners from all around the country, involving different sectors and organisations;
- high media visibility;
- recognition from national policy makers;
- Strong collaboration between people, regions and organisations that were considered as competitors.

FUNDING

EU funding +National Funding

CONTACT

Emilija Stojmenova Duh (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of electrical engineering)
emilija.stojmenova@fe.uni-lj.si



KILKENNY BROADBAND ACTION GROUP

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Kilkenny Broadband Action Group (KBAG) was formed in 2013 in response to the consistent poor quality of broadband infrastructure in the county- which is equivalent to that elsewhere in rural Ireland. KBAG has membership from a variety of bodies with an interest in rural and local development, including Kilkenny LEADER Partnership, Kilkenny local authority, community and business representatives. It has organised a number of visits to broadband initiatives or differing types elsewhere in the EU, including in the UK and Finland.

During this research process, KBAG became to the view that rural areas needed to pursue a future-proofed 'fibre to the premises' system if it was to remain attractive to businesses, residents and visitors vis-a-vis its city and large town counterparts. It is now seeking to develop a partnership with a commercial broadband operator and a community group where a local fibre loop will be installed (and owned) by the community and connected to fibre-enabled cabinets owned by the provider to provide the necessary back-haul facility.

This proposal would address the twin barriers to rural fibre deployment:- 1, the cost of the installation of the necessary fibre in the community to the commercial provider. 2. the freedom (through ownership) of the community to control its purchase of broadband services. It hopes to conclude an agreement in 2018 and start development of a pilot later that year or early 2019. It is interested in partnering with other LAGs in both Ireland and elsewhere in the EU.

MAIN RESULTS

1. Investigation- and decision on the optimum broadband solution for rural communities.
2. Development of knowledge of the technological issues driving and influencing broadband deployment.

FUNDING

EU Funding +National Funding

CONTACT

Declan Rice (Kilkenny LEADER Partnership)
declan.rice@cklp.ie



Smart Villages - Smart digital transformation of villages in the Alpine Space

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Alpine space rural communities are deprived of highly needed jobs, good provision of services as well as a favourable climate for entrepreneurship and societal innovation, which result in a brain drain. Digitalization is a promising approach in this respect and offers huge opportunities for these areas to overcome the handicaps of distances and to access new markets through new channels, to create a positive image of a region, to increase the attractiveness of a territory, to create a new learning ecosystem and to create job and business opportunities.

However the digital divide between rural and urban areas has even increased in the last years. Whereas for centers and agglomerations in Europe many initiatives in the domain of Smart Cities do exist, the rural alpine areas are left behind. A SV approach for mountain areas could unlock the potential of local actors to make their region a more attractive place to live and work.

The project aims to improve the framework conditions for innovation and the quality of life in villages and small cities of the Alpine Space through more sustainable integrated solutions facilitated by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). This includes user driven applied innovation, technically assisted planning, participatory approach, openly accessible and shareable knowledge, higher efficiency, smart use of energy and better everyday smart solutions on different levels through analysis of the SV ecosystem, the elaboration of SV toolboxes for TAs, an electronic platform as well as recommendations.

The project follows a SV approach and is conceived in the context of the EC Action for Smart Villages launched in April 2017.

MAIN RESULTS

The project is at the very start of implementation.

FUNDING

EU funding +National Funding

CONTACT

Emilija Stojmenova Duh (University of Ljubljana, Faculty of electrical engineering)
emilija.stojmenova@fe.uni-lj.si



TIREE TECH WAVE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Tiree Tech Wave is a twice yearly event that brings artists, technologists, designers, philosophers and more to the Isle of Tiree for a long weekend focused on discussing and making around themes of technology at the edge. It is part about bringing cutting edge technology to a remote rural area, and partly about letting the participants (academic and practitioners) understand some of the issues involved in designing for the edge.

MAIN RESULTS

TTW has contributed to a number of practical island projects including digital signage, communications for youth work, a mobile app for local heritage, and most recently working towards helping the island adapt disused telephone boxes for new uses. As important it has been the source of a number of academic collaborations, projects and publications, which fulfil the broader aim of informing the wider technology community about the needs of rural areas.

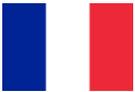
Some of these are listed on <http://tireetechwave.org/outcomes/>

FUNDING

Some funding from Nesta (UK innovation funding), some from island funds, but largely self-funding through non-local participant fees (islanders attend free)

CONTACT

Alan Dix (Tiree Tech Wave)
alanjohndix@gmail.com



DIEUZE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Dieuze is a small town (3500 inhabitants - Moselle). The city suffered many closures and restructuring of companies and the relocation of the important paratroopers' regiment in 2011. New sources of activities and employments had to be found by enhancing local potential and supporting entrepreneurs to succeed. So was created 'Saulnois Innovation' (hosting and support of project leaders, incubator of technological innovations...).

Initially, three channels of economic development were supported and boosted. These channels rely on technological innovation platforms and "public / private" partnerships. Current innovation projects:

- Numerical Processes. A « Smart City-Rural » territory: development and industrial production of 3D-printers with OPEN EDGE (R&D start'up), industrial production of 3D-printers with Alchemies and the Lorraine Fab Lab Living Lab
- Renewable Energies : BioMethane « SAS Seille Environment »
- Agro productions: production line of Percids (perch and pike-perch): Asialor, Lucas Perches, AFPA Research Unit at Lorraine University (domestication of breeding and raising, production farms ...)

MAIN RESULTS

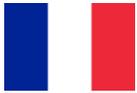
The 'Saulnois Innovation' cluster is an integral part of the exchange and knowledge-sharing networks; it must therefore be able to benefit, on its territory, from a very high speed Internet.

FUNDING

National funding (Private/public partnership)

CONTACT

Marie-Noël Neven (R.E.D.)
red@ruraleurope.org



VILLAGE/MARKET TOWN OF THE FUTURE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

To co-identify, co-design and roll out a range of new and enhanced digital services at village/Market Town level based on a series of multi-stakeholder workshops (under the auspices of the ERUDITE Interreg Europe project) using open innovation processes enhanced by Social Return on Investment methodology. Local stakeholders in selected villages (SME's, and business support; public services and agencies, local authorities citizens and consumer/user groups) identify, prioritize and design new digital services, following the expansion of the High Speed Broadband network to the local area.

Nièvre Numérique supported by the County Council wishes to show how the co-creation of new digital services can prove the viability of new sustainable economic models for public investors and telecommunication operators and understand the impact by setting up an evaluation of the social and economic return on investment in the short and long term. As with all actions undertaken in the context of an Interreg Europe project the aim is to improve the delivery of the partners selected Policy Instrument. An additional aim is to identify the key learnings and refinement of the methodology for its application to all rural areas in the Nièvre and throughout the region of Burgundy-Franche-Comté: 1. Foundation: Establishment of individual and collective priorities for the pilot site and the service(s) in question; 2. Definition of service goals; 3. Identification and involvement of all material stakeholders, establishing individual and collective outcomes; setting up a stakeholder and service Impact map; 4. Co-creation process: digital service content and delivery mechanisms, definition of indicators and accompanying values to enable measurement and monitoring of impact (both forecast, simulation and evaluation); 5. Delivery, monitoring and evaluation/feedback re-design/improvement, adaptation to other service scenarios.

In the first pilot in the market town of Lormes (popl'n 1400 The town's stakeholders identified six key service/project areas in the consultation process: 1. The Smart Work Town focused on the town's existing digital training and business hub; 2. An e-medical centre; 3. A multi-functional public media and video/cinema centre; 4. A mediatheque and study space; 5. A distribution/collection hub for local consumers, farmers and food processors; 6. e-tourism hub and products. Overall the single most prioritized service area has been that of Senior Health and Well-Being'.

MAIN RESULTS

To date the initiative has enabled the County and individual villages to co-develop a methodology and a strategy/action plan for the delivery of individual e-services or service packages (linked to identified funding sources) that meet the target territories real needs and aspirations and which optimise social, economic and environmental return on investment for all contributing stakeholders. For example relating to Senior Health/Well-Being, the pilot process has identified a range of services currently provided within the physical structure of a residential and day centres, and is examining how improved coordination and distance-delivered services can be provided in a way to enable the maximum long-term 'independence' of seniors and their continued active contribution to the social, economic and cultural life of their community: to use cooking terminology this is a 'destructured' recipe looking at how the constituent parts of a complex service can be re-designed and put back together to better serve the needs of the target group and wider community.

FUNDING

Other EU Funds

CONTACT

Clive Peckham (Nièvre Numérique)
c.peckham@nievrenumerique.fr

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT



BRAEMAR COMMUNITY HYDRO

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Braemar community owned and managed hydro -electric scheme producing renewable, clean energy. Braemar Community Limited, a charitable company established for the benefit of the community undertook all the preparatory work to bring the hydro project to fruition. This included technical and financial feasibility and evaluation work, planning consent, licencing to extract water, a electric grid connection offer, Feed in Tariff Preliminary Accreditation, heads of terms with land owner and draft lease agreement.

The cost of these works were in excess of £100,000 which was funded by a Community & Renewables Energy Scheme (CARES) Loan. An element of these costs (circa £10,000) was funded by Braemar Community Limited itself. A Community Benefit Society - Braemar Community Hydro Limited was set up to raise funding for the construction of the scheme and then to and operate and maintain it. This was done through a community share offer.

The full total cost of £800,000 was raised through two share offers with 200 members of the local and wider community investing a minimum of £100. The build cost was approximately £500,000, grid connection was a further £100,000, repayable loans to CARES and BCL for the preparatory works was approximately £125,000 with the remainder in legal and contingency costs. The scheme was built across the winter of 2015/16 and during the worst storm in living memory. The scheme began generating electricity in the summer of 2016.

Income from the scheme comes in the form of energy sold to electrical generating companies and from Feed in Tariff (FiT scheme) the UK government scheme which promotes renewable energy technologies. The surplus from the scheme once rent and running costs are met is divided between a payment back to members of the community benefit society and a community benefit fund. Money from the fund is distributed to further projects and initiatives within the local community by Braemar Community Limited.

MAIN RESULTS

The scheme generates approximately 330MW energy per annum, displacing the equivalent of 200 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year whilst providing enough electricity to power approximately 100 homes. The scheme was delivered to design and within budget. It is generating a profit which is directed to a community benefit fund for distribution in the local community.

FUNDING

CARES and National Park and private shareholders

CONTACT

Simon Blackett (Braemar Community Hydro)
simon.blackett@btconnect.com



THE NORE VISION

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The River Nore is one of the major rivers of the Kilkenny region. The Nore Vision is an initiative by Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP) to bring together the wide range of stakeholders with an interest in the use, conservation and development of the entire catchment (main river, tributaries and drainage area) to a shared vision for the Nore.

The Vision will facilitate the sustainable development of the huge potential of the river system, while protecting and adding-value to the natural and other attractions that make it desirable for development in the first instance. It is envisaged that the objectives of the project will be long-term- 'generational' in their time-frame.

All the statutory agencies with responsibility for elements of the river system have agreed to cooperate on the development of the Nore Vision, these include water quality, biodiversity, invasive species, fish stocks, heritage, flooding, development planning regulation, etc. Community-based groups such as city, town and village communities on the river system, environmental NGOs, recreational user groups (anglers, walkers, canoeists, etc.), farmer representative bodies, businesses and elected public representatives are also part of the consultation and commitment process.

As the River Nore catchment is a natural system that does not adhere to artificial administrative boundaries, its has been both necessary and desirable to widen he project's coverage to include neighbouring local action group regions. KLP is leading the project in cooperation with our neighbour.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Much greater awareness of the real influence and potential that river catchments have on the quality of life of a region.
2. An emerging shared understanding by all stakeholders- but particularly from statutory agencies, that they can achieve very significant benefits by cooperation and sharing of resources.
3. Greater acceptance and enthusiasm from the community, land-owner and NGO sector on the possibilities of the river and an understanding of the rationale for regulation such as the EU's Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Declan Rice (Kilkenny LEADER Partnership)
declan.rice@cklp.ie

MOBILITY



INTEGRATED TRANSPORT FACILITATOR

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The contracting of a suitably qualified party to consult with the various transport operators (fixed corridor bus, flexible 'demand response transport', taxi, train, social service providers, community interest and regulators to develop a 'comprehensive mobility plan' (CMP) for the residents, businesses and visitors to the County Kilkenny region.

The CMP (to be completed 2nd quarter 2018), will act as the basis of an application to the Irish National Transport Authority to fund an integrated transport pilot in the region to act as a model of elsewhere in Ireland.

MAIN RESULTS

The demonstration that integration between public transport modes is a significant part of the solution to mobility in rural Ireland. The development of the CMP will be strategically important in terms of informing and driving public policy. The provision of a transport model tailored to the needs of the Kilkenny region- but offering a development template for other regions.

FUNDING

10% community transport company contribution- and 15% Kilkenny Local Authority contribution.

CONTACT

Declan Rice (Kilkenny LEADER Partnership)
declan.rice@cklp.ie



DESCRIPTION
OF THE
INITIATIVE

FLEXIBLE WORKING CULTURE - RETHINKING OF WORK, PLACE, TIME AND LIFE

Rethinking work, space and time: A workspace solution which aims to reduce the need to commute and commuting expenses, promotes more efficient time management, allows better concentration on work and facilitates working and living arrangements. It brings the workplace to people, closer to home, for periodic or for permanent use. In general flexible workspace solution can be located in an office complex, commercial building, underutilized property, or in a residential area, within good transport connections. A well-equipped, intelligent working environment can be combined with other possible well-being at work supporting and/or recreational activities.

The FLEX workspace combined working, well-being at work and vitalising the region. In the country village model, the office space is packaged with accommodation and well-being at work and/or recreation supporting activities, offered by local service providers.

AMBIANCE MATTERS: The flexible working week should be spent on everyone's own terms. Silence and peacefulness also outside the work can be important to many people. Meeting locals and local entrepreneurs was requested too. Of the services offered, especially the boat trips in the archipelago were popular. Most people are looking for a different kind of ambiance than what they are used to at home. For many, the archipelago was a new experience.

Advance information is essential: Information on accommodation, services, destination, commune and leisure time activities is very important. Photos on the accommodation options and workspace, and on the region in general are all part of good communication. The communes' websites were the primary source of information.

Besides summer, photos can include images of the other seasons. Maps are good! Make sure to reply already in advance to all questions regarding the practical arrangements.

No razzmatazz of the big cities nor 5-star hotels are sought after. Even modest accommodation will often do, but needs vary. Many of the people that tried flexible working were looking for variety to the everyday life. Requirements for the office space also varied. Not everyone wants an internet connection. The service concept rarely requires investments, the necessary often already exists.

Health & well-being: In flexible working the aim was to cut down on interruptions of a regular working day. In the Flex experiment, work was carried out from archipelago offices during one week. When there are fewer interruptions, people have an opportunity to concentrate on tasks demanding creativity and innovation. In general, work becomes less burdensome and well-being at work increases. Time becomes plentiful.

Work tasks involved creating new things and ideas, or, just as well, routine tasks for which there is never enough time in the ordinary working environment. The benefits gained are well-being at work and higher productivity.

Continues on the next page



FLEXIBLE WORKING CULTURE - RETHINKING OF WORK, PLACE, TIME AND LIFE

MAIN RESULTS

The purpose of the project was to tempt more recreational residents, workers, employees, employers, entrepreneurs or companies to the islands (during the off-season) and the archipelago by means of flexible work, and by this way to create new innovativeness and interaction in local community.

Another purpose was to find out how flexible work arrangements increase the use of local services, encourage to develop a new service concepts, encourage to move permanently to the said municipality, promote corporate growth, and counteract the imbalance in employment.

The project found suitable locations near the villages, where to conduct the "Flexperiments", where accommodation and working places as well as access to food and other services was available, also during off-season. Twelve of them were in use finally.

FLEXPERIMENTERS:

- 54 interested companies/organisations, mostly micro-size enterprises and SMC's
- 52 flexexperimenters from 25 companies/organisations visited in archipelago
- Line of business: bakery, media, social and health, wellbeing, medical, graphic, land use planning, fitness, coaching, translating, publishing, lightning, advertising, researching, architecture
- Mainly from Southern Finland + Mariehamn (Ål), Laulasmaa (Est)
- Got info from the Federation of Finnish Enterprises (infoletter, web), newspapers, media, facebook, personal networks, grapevine

Final report available from Sami Tantarimäki (UTU Brahea)

FUNDING

Central Baltic Interreg IVA 2007-2013, Archipelago and Islands sub-programme

CONTACT

Sami Tantarimäki (Brahea Centre at the University of Turku)
samtanta@utu.fi

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



BRAEMAR CARE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The Braemar Care Initiative (BCI) was developed as a result of community concern regarding the lack of care provision in Braemar and was highlighted in the Community Action Plan. It aims to meet the care and support needs of the elderly and vulnerable in the community in a timely and appropriate way, keeping people in their homes and their community for longer. The Braemar Care Initiative (BCI) has 5 main deliverables:

1. To identify and understand the health and social care needs of the Braemar area community;
2. To forge effective partnerships which facilitate the aims of the BCI and in particular top quality health and social care and support for the local community;
3. To develop and maintain effective communications which fully involve the local community, partners and key stakeholders in the initiative;
4. To use local knowledge to assist in the development, coordination and maintenance of a multi-agency, multidisciplinary structure and organisation which provides high quality care and support and creates employment, training and development opportunities for local people, particularly through use of the Self Directed Support Scheme.
5. To work closely with agencies and individuals involved in providing direct care services to ensure the delivery of innovative and sustainable health and social care for the local community which is safe, flexible, consistent and affordable and in line with the highest standards of practice.

In due course the Care initiative will employ an individual who will ensure those needing care have a carer(s) assigned to them at appropriate times for their needs. Recognizing that people also need support that does not require a carer; this individual will also facilitate a bank of volunteers where appropriate, with the aim of keeping people independent for longer and preventing hospital or care home admission where possible. The BCI works closely with the local GP Surgery and Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to deliver its aims.

MAIN RESULTS

The Braemar Care Initiative is in the early stages of formation but has already responded to a request for a terminally ill patient to have care at home to enable her to die there rather than hospital. Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership was unable to fulfil this request and BCI provided carers to ensure this happened. There were considerable cost savings in having the care provided by the local community compared to individuals travelling from outwith the area, or hospital or hospice based care. The local support also provided psychological benefits to the family knowing that help and support was coming from people close by.

The model used by BCI means that additional care, delivered in the way the patient requires to their required timescales is a more effective use of money. The support BCI provides will uniquely add a new dimension to this care provision and will further develop community cohesion and awareness of others.

FUNDING

Currently BCI is funded by a feasibility grant and local donations. Carers are employed by the individual requiring care through Self Directed Support (Option One) with BCI acting as a broker to enable them to access local carers.

CONTACT

Simon Blackett (Braemar Community Ltd)
simon.blackett@btconnect.com



SAFETY AT HOME (KAT 2)

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Project Safety at Home 2 (KAT 2) Funded by Southeast Finland ELY from the EAFRD. Services to be exported for home represent in Finland a future way of producing services for elderly people. In order for the elderly to live in a safe environment as healthy and functional as possible at home, a key tool is to improve the anticipatory preparedness for security management, preparedness and working methods. This developmental phenomenon challenges strongly and in a comprehensive way the current care system and as a result of it, a new type of operational models based on the efficient recognition and networking of different organisations responsible for the production of safety at home are needed.

Success in the restructuring of services requires a new way of thinking and more efficient models for networking adjusted for the improved safety at home. In order for the elderly to live in a safe environment as healthy and functional as possible at home, a key tool is to improve the anticipatory preparedness for security management, preparedness and working methods. Safety at Home (KAT 2) – project is based on these objectives. Developers in the project represent organizations, firms, customers, and citizens which all raise the common understanding of the production of safety at home and thus the basis for the improved networking model.

Safety at home challenges both the South Carelian Rescue Department and Eksote to produce modern and efficient co-operational and network-based models with the multilevel actors operating within the context of safe home environment. Accordingly, activities need to be developed towards network-based knowledge-sharing and expertise. Furthermore, emergency and acute services are burdened unless the latent and rapidly growing need for modern security services are identified and assessed on time and developed according to current and on coming needs. The aim of the Safety at Home 2 (KAT 2) –project is to build up a network of actors and to create a model for an efficient risk-information in order to enhance the safety of elderly people at home. Within this context, in 2016 created Housing Safety Card will be electrified, piloted and integrated for the operational actions of network of actors in the Villages Rautjärvi and Parikkala of South Carelia.

MAIN RESULTS

As a result of this, Safety at Home -network is created, and within it, the roles and mutual dependencies of actors are characterized, tasks are shared, responsibilities are identified, communication is coherent and functional and security technology is recognized as an integral part of the development of safe home environment. At home, the security is improving and people using modern services are in an equal position.

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Kristiina Kapulainen (South Karelian Social and Health District)
kristiina.kapulainen@eksote.fi



CIVIL SAFETY

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Tackling the challenges of the sparsely populated areas, in our case, means inclusion, availability of services and livelihoods. In Lapland where distances are remote, these challenges are particularly acute due to long distances and scarcity of resources.

Awarded civil safety [approach](#) is an operative model to tackle these challenges in the sparsely populated areas of the EU. The core of the model is in wide cooperation among municipalities, 3rd sector, municipal associations, educational organizations, companies, parishes and the local population. The purpose of the model is to develop social inclusion, availability of well-being services and livelihoods in the rural areas of EU. The focus is on pre-emptive actions. The success and failure of the theme is clearly visible in the economics.

www.arcticsafety.fi

MAIN RESULTS

- Wide partnership network in regional, national and EU level (Region of Lapland, 20 municipalities included, Region of Northern Ostrobothnia, 14 municipalities included);
- Interest from the wider public: it is well-known that tackling poverty and challenging living conditions in childhood is the most effective way. This is true in Finland, EU and globally. - in Finland, most of the accidents, 80 %, that lead to hospital care (which is very expensive!), take place at home!
- Working place is the best tool to tackle both challenges of economy and social inclusion.

FUNDING

DG JHA, Fight Against Crime Programme (project: Combat measures against human trafficking in the tourism industry - COMBAT)

CONTACT

Marko Palmgren (Regional Council of Lapland)
marko.palmgren@lapinliitto.fi

EDUCATION

COMMONAGE SUMMER SCHOOL

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The aim of the Commonage Summer School was over two year (2013- '14) to engage with young people- the participants were aged 16 -25 years, from the environs of the small town of Callan in County Kilkenny, Ireland- and with national and international students of the same age in a 'Summer School' of a week's duration where training and social interaction will be provided and encouraged to develop a better group appreciation and understanding of the importance of design in the built environment of a small town.

Commonage included modules in building (local trades), awareness of design, micro interventions, art processes and built environment. Over the period of two weeks, 40 participants actively and intensively involved in the building of four temporary structures in the town, which are being developed by four invited teams of architects and artists. The structures were built mostly from local materials and influenced by local culture- including a cow shed, a bridge and designed and forged a modern variant on a local vernacular-style iron gate.

The primary benefit of the training is to develop new understandings of the built environment of Callan with a particular focus on derelict sites. The promoters have the goal of developing a permanent school of infrastructure design attached to- or having links with universities in both Ireland and elsewhere in the world.

MAIN RESULTS

1. The development of a greater appreciation of local vernacular design- and its possibilities in modern buildings in the local context. Influencing the development and construction of buildings and structures in Callan town and the wider region.
2. The development of links to other countries and to people from a variety of backgrounds and skills sets (engineers, artists, architects, community development professionals, etc.
3. The establishment of Callan as a place where discussion of design and construction is taken seriously and with the possibility that the town could develop the 'Commonage school' that is desired.

FUNDING

EAFRD

CONTACT

Declan Rice (Kilkenny LEADER Partnership)
declan.rice@cklp.ie



SCOALA DE LA PISCU (PISCU SCHOOL)

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Piscu School is a special place and an inspiration to those who wish to gain a fascinating glimpse into the riches of the Romanian cultural heritage and become acquainted with its values. The School was founded as a result of several projects run by the Gaspar, Baltasar & Melchior Association, a cultural and educational non-profit organisation which has been operating since 2006 in a former pottery centre, in Piscu village in Ilfov county.

The aim is that younger generations should become more aware of their cultural heritage and more attached to its beauty and its historical relevance. Activities include organising workshops, summer schools, conferences, by publishing cultural heritage books for all ages, by running a heritage specialist primary school, by undertaking anthropological research and running an online cultural platform.

MAIN RESULTS

Exploring and developing the local potential of Piscu village and raising awareness about cultural - local heritage. They take part at various street festivals in Bucharest and surrounding areas, and are one of the main attractions, given live demonstrations of crafters. Recently, the School opened the eco-pier, thus developing its area of activities.

FUNDING

National Funding

CONTACT

Nancy Samargiu (RO National Rural Network)
nancy.samargiu@madr.ro

CULTURE & TOURISM



KILKENNY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL NETWORK

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The Kilkenny Community Festival Network was formed in 2010 from a grouping of six community-run (mostly volunteer only) festivals and cultural event organisations active in the rural part of County Kilkenny.

1. Inistioge Summer Festival (4th & 5th June) www.inistioge.ie
2. Midsummer Events at Ballykeeffe Amphitheatre (June – September) www.ballykeeffe.com
3. Abhainn Ri festival, Callan (23rd – 31st July) callanfestival@gmail.com
4. Graiguenamanagh Town of Books festival (16th – 18th September) www.booktownireland.com
5. Savour Kilkenny Food festival (October Bank Holiday weekend) www.savourkilkenny.com
6. Irish Conker Championship festival, Freshford (October Bank Holiday) www.irishconkerchampionship.com

A driver of the formation of the network was a realisation that the various professionally resourced Kilkenny City-based festivals over the course of the calendar were over-shadowing the efforts of smaller local towns and villages to attract people to their events and localities. The various festivals met as a group with the support of a coordinator to agree cooperation on a variety of issues;

- Cultural Development
- the promotion of Rural Tourism
- Community engagement
- Cross promotion/marketing of festivals
- Sharing and collaboration of resources/expertise

A key element of the Network's success was the existence of a part-time Trainer/ Coordinator position, part-funded through the LEADER programme. The Festival Network operated effectively as a body for approximately three years, but ceased to meet and function after 2012 when the funding for the position ceased. However the good relationships between the rural festivals has continued and cooperation and sharing of equipment continues.

MAIN RESULTS

1. The development of a interest in cooperation and resource sharing among the individual rural festivals.
2. Increased capacity through training in professional event management skills.
3. More professional and sustainable events drawing visitors to rural towns and villages.
4. Heightening a collective awareness of the potential of smaller rural festivals as a tourism driver- and of the challenges in sustaining that drive.

FUNDING

EU funding +National Funding

CONTACT

Declan Rice (Kilkenny LEADER Partnership)
declan.rice@cklp.ie



IVAN PATZAICHIN ASSOCIATION -MILE 23 / 2. GREEN MOGO

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

Ivan Patzaichin Association Mile 23 is involved in promoting local culture and traditions in Danube Delta and other habitats, eco-tourism (also in order to support cultural and natural heritage) and specificity of area by being involved in organizing Local Gastronomy Points.

E-mail: office@rowmania.ro

2. Green Mogo is dedicated to circular and green economy and agriculture through education. Financed by EEA Grants for NGOs. Developed by Greeninitiative Assoc.

E-mail: contact@greenmogo.ro .

MAIN RESULTS

Patzaichin Mile 23: protecting cultural and nature biodiversity within areas that can be engaged in eco-tourism, promoting authentic traditions, developing entrepreneur programs.

2.GreenMogo: adapting to climate change and counselling about a more green way of living and future, sharing know-how and reducing carbonprint. Teaching by doing.

FUNDING

EEA Grants for NGOs. 1. I.P Mile 23- n/a, possible personal financing

CONTACT

Nancy Samargiu (RO National Rural Network)
nancy.samargiu@madr.ro



BRAEMAR CASTLE

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The project is the restoration and upgrading of the A-listed Braemar Castle and the consolidation of this community business as a high-quality Visitor Attraction drawing extra revenue to the local area. The Castle was taken over by Braemar Community Limited in 2007, after a period of closure, on a 50-year repairing lease from Invercauld Estate and re-opened as a Visitor Attraction in 2008 staffed by community volunteers.

Built in 1628 by the 2nd Earl of Mar as his Highland Hunting Lodge, the historical significance of Braemar Castle comes from both its purpose and use, which have changed over time. Since the community take-over, over £500 000 has been raised and the roof and chimneys repaired with the building now watertight. A crowdfunding Appeal has just raised £22 000 to kick start the next stage of the project as part of the 10-year masterplan for upgrading the Castle and the visitor services.

The continuing development of the Castle is regarded as an integral part of the Visitor Strategy for the community alongside other on-going projects. In development are a Highland Games Centre, the restoration of Comper's Victorian masterpiece, St Margaret's Church as a creative hub, the extension of the Deeside way to Braemar and the redevelopment and upgrading of the Fife Arms Hotel.

MAIN RESULTS

An iconic landmark, in year 1, 4 500 people visited and each year our visitor numbers have grown steadily. In 2017, the Castle was visited by 13,000 people with 34,000 visiting the grounds. One full time post has been created, 3 full-time seasonal posts and a part-time seasonal post. Specialists have been employed to support deliver conservation.

Volunteering opportunities have been generated across a range of skills and training given. These range across historical research, guiding, gardening, shop work, conservation, event creation and delivery, learning, marketing, social media, book-keeping, ground-work. Ten per cent of the population of the village are involved with the Castle.

A high quality authentic experience has been created by the local volunteers offering visitors a distinctive experience, a real sense of place and an insight into not just the Castle but also the local area. Reviews on TripAdvisor and Google indicate visitors' satisfaction.

The Castle has allowed connections and partnerships to be formed. The remoteness of Braemar can be daunting and it's not difficult to feel isolated. The Castle has been able to connect to networks across a wide range and link back into other village groups. Joint ticketing is on-going with Balmoral Castle, Lochnagar Distillery, Grampian Transport Museum, Fraserburgh Lighthouse, Crathes Castle, Aberdeen Science Centre and the Macduff Marine Aquarium.

Talks are in progress to create an destination offer for the Cruise ship market from the new Aberdeen South Harbour. The success of the Castle has given the community a belief in what can be achieved.

FUNDING

LEADER, Scottish Government, private

CONTACT

Simon Blackett (Braemar Community Ltd)
simon.blackett@btconnect.com



THE KITCHEN INCUBATOR IN ZAKRZÓW

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

A kitchen incubator is a facility with equipment designed for small processors of agricultural products, caterers or farmers, who can prepare and process their products in a well-equipped and prepared area for this purpose, in accordance with the health and safety rules. One of the best kitchen incubators in Poland based in Zakrzów is run by the Social Company "Smaki Gościńca".

MAIN RESULTS

Over 200 people have used kitchen to date. About 100 products have been developed. About 8 businesses and farmers use kitchen regularly. Long-term influence and sustainability: sustainability of agriculture in the region, bigger incomes of farmers.

FUNDING

EAFRD + Swiss-Polish Cooperation Fund, regional and local sources

CONTACT

Renata Bukowska (Gościniec 4 Żywiołów)
renatabukowska@poczta.onet.pl



MUSEUM OF COOKBOOKS

DESCRIPTION OF THE INITIATIVE

The increase sale of high quality local food products from the area of LAG Dolina Raby. List of activities in contest of social innovation:

- 1) Setting up the social called "Dolina Raby" to sell local food products through so called The Sale Club,
- 2) Setting up the Museum of Cookbooks to promote culinary heritage and to organize culinary workshops (serviced by social cooperative),
- 3) Creating of food cluster.

MAIN RESULTS

About 20 local food producers involved, several workshops organized (over 100 participants)

FUNDING

EAFRD + Swiss-Polish Cooperation Fund, regional and local sources

CONTACT

Krzysztof Kwatery (Stowarzyszenie Lokalna Grupa Działania "Dolina Raby")
kwatery@onet.pl



The European Network for
Rural Development

ENRD Contact Point
Rue de la Loi, 38 Boîte n.4 - 1040
Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 801 38 00
email: info@enrd.eu
website: <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>