

DIGITALNO SREDIŠČE SLOVENIJE  
SLOVENIAN DIGITAL CENTER

Tehnologija za ljudi  
Technology for the People



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# Smart Villages

## Long term vision for rural areas

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# Why Smart Villages? Why Rural Agenda? Why Long-term vision for rural areas?

## Rural areas need a holistic vision to answer the challenges:

- demographic changes
- digital gap (connectivity, digital solutions, digital skills)
- low income levels
- limited access to services
- climate change
- COVID- 19 crisis impact

## Smart villages for smart, attractive and modern rural areas with:

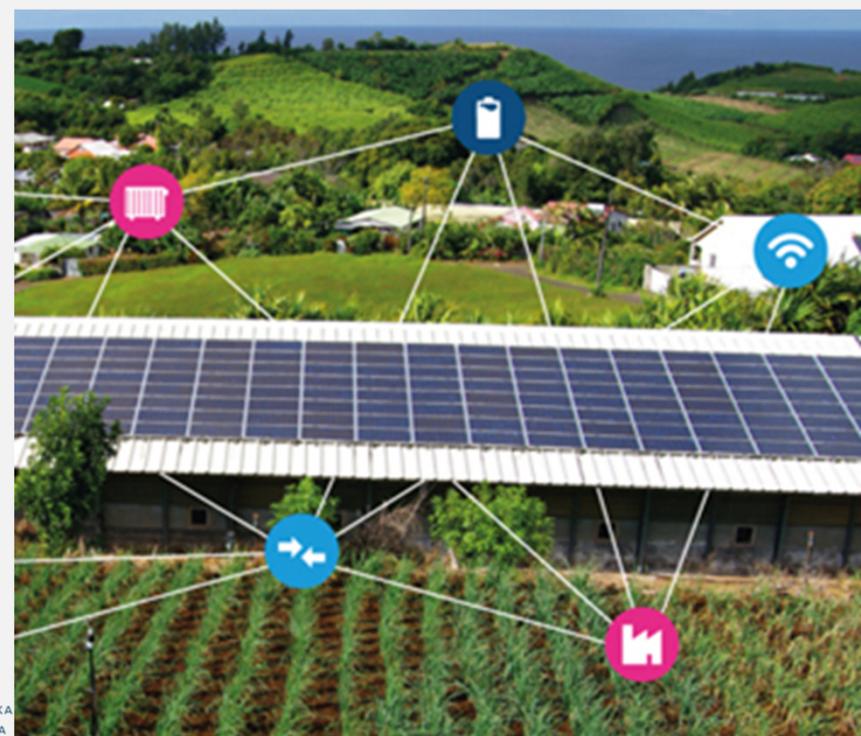
- A stable population (young people choosing to live in rural areas),
- Quality of life and services comparable with urban areas,
- Opportunities for business and new high value jobs,
- Modern infrastructure (transport, environment, energy, schools, health & social services, shops, post offices, banks...)
- Modern broadband connections, which are the basic pillar of digitalisation (5G, optics),
- Resilient, green, and digital!

**Smart Cities in EU = 200.000+ people**  
**Smart Villages in EU = everything else**



# Smart Villages solutions

- **Agriculture:** short food supply chains - connecting consumers and producers, precision farming, satellite sensing, automation (advanced sensors, smart resource management, robots, drones)...
- **Mobility:** ride sharing, vehicle sharing, ride services for elderly, electric vehicles (personal, bikes), e-bike networks...
- **Economy:** SMS in rural areas, bio based economy, digital platforms for local producers and companies, shared economy,...
- **Energy:** decentralized energy, energy cooperatives, smart grids, home batteries, renewable energy sources...
- **Tourism:** digital platforms for reservations, tourist cards, distributed hotels...
- **Social aspects:** new job opportunities, long term care solutions, e-learning...
- **Health:** telemedicine, body sensors...
- **Environment:** reducing resources usage, reducing emissions...





# EU supports rural development

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed that **rural development is a priority** (investment in broadband and high-tech solutions and services).

Commissioner Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission prepared the **Long term Vision for EU's Rural Areas**.

The goal of making **Europe green, digital and resilient** cannot be achieved without green, digital and resilient European rural areas!

#SOTEU

*It is unacceptable that 40% of people in rural areas still do not have access to fast broadband connections.*



Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission





# A long term Vision for EU's Rural Areas

Towards  
stronger,  
connected,  
resilient and  
prosperous rural  
areas by 2040.





# Rural pact

The Rural Pact will provide a common framework for the engagement and cooperation of a wide range of actors at the EU, national, regional and local level.

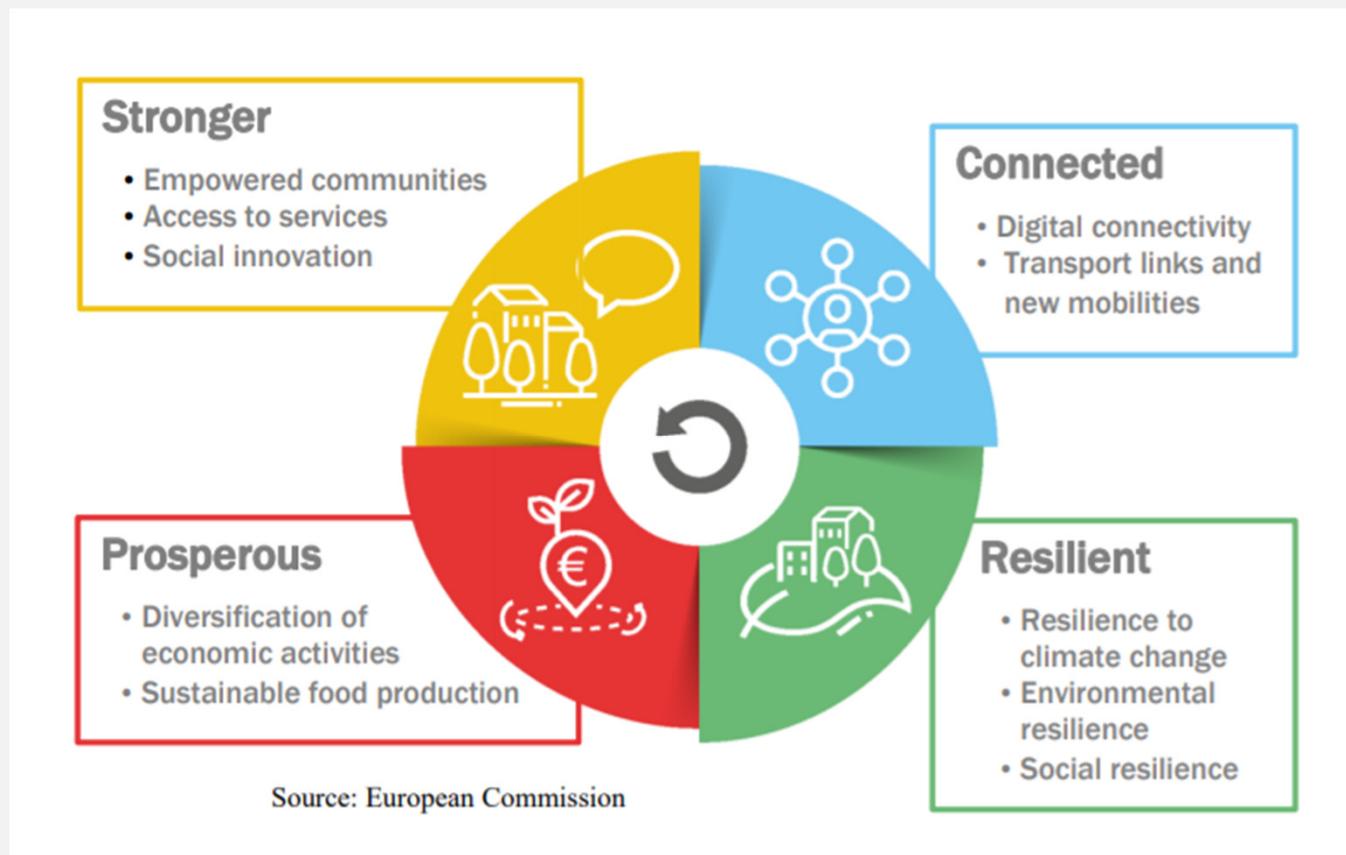




# EU Rural Action Plan

## 4 areas of action

**Rural Action Plan** will be build upon around flagship initiatives EU policies, which provide support to address rural challenges and opportunities and contribute to the balanced, fair, green and innovative development of rural areas.





# Flagship initiatives supporting stronger rural areas

Building on existing and future local development strategies, enhanced networking should help provide more advice to local communities, notably on access to funding and the conception of such strategies. The Smart Villages approach will also continue to be promoted in this context.



- **Rural revitalisation platform**

The Commission will set-up a one-stop shop platform for information on existing projects and funding possibilities for rural communities, rural project holders and local authorities alike to collaborate

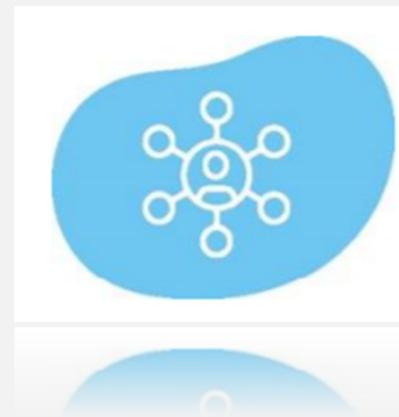
- **Research and innovation for rural communities**

Rural-focused R&I activities under Horizon Europe will support the development of innovations by and for rural communities, training, as well as knowledge exchange between the actors of rural innovation



# Flagship initiatives encouraging **connected** rural areas

Development of sustainable rural mobility strategies, widespread digital literacy and connectivity.

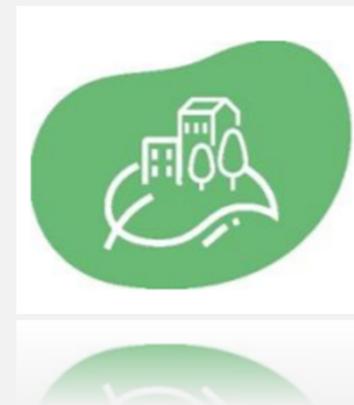


- **Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas**
- **‘Rural Digital Futures’**



# Flagship initiatives supporting **resilient** rural areas

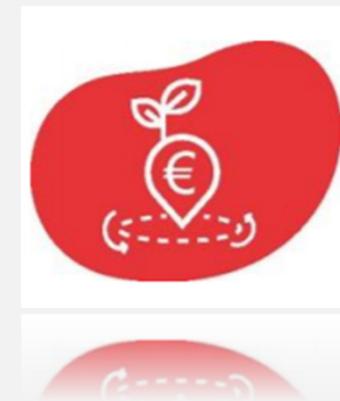
Increasing the environmental, climatic and social resilience of rural areas.



- **Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change**
- **Climate action in peatland through carbon farming**
- **The proposed EU Mission on soil health and food**
- **Social resilience and Women in rural areas**



# Flagship initiatives promoting **prosperous** rural areas



Actions in this field should contribute to the economic diversification in rural areas around the green and digital transformation of society and lead to the strengthening of value chains in manufacturing and in cultural and creative industries.

- **Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas**



# EU strategic policies/funds for Smart villages

## European Agriculture guarantee fund (EAGF) - 258.600 million

### Rural Development Program (RDP) 85.350 million

- Strategies for Smart Villages - Strategic plan(CAP)
- Investments in digital technologies, promote digitalisation and innovation,
- Business development, social inclusion and employment in rural areas,
- Generation renewal
- LEADER initiative

### Cohesion policy - 403.000 million

- European regional development fund (ERDF) - 200.000 million
- European social fund(ESF) - 88.000 million
- Cohesion fund - 42.000 million
- React EU - 47.500 million
- Just Transitional fund(JTF) - 17.500 million
- European territorial cooperation (INTERREG - 7.950 million



# Living in the countryside must become a privilege!

