









Smart Villages in Finland

Lauri Hyttinen

NRN FINLAND

lauri.hyttinen@maaseutu.fi



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

### Smart Villages

- The European Commission launched on 11 April 2017 an <u>'EU action for Smart Villages</u>', announcing a series of initiatives within the rural development, regional development, research, transport, energy, and digital policies and funds
- 'villages of the future' need to bring different programmes together in order to build strategic approaches to promoting 'smart villages',
- support for knowledge, investments and connectivity. Specific actions include exchange platforms, funding opportunities, capacity-building activities, events, thematic work, and research projects

# Smart villages

Smart Villages are **essentially about people** – they are about rural communities taking the initiative to find **practical solutions** to challenges and make the most of new opportunities. Digital solutions can provide many such new opportunities but smart also mean developing **new co-operations and alliances** – thinking outside the box and charting your own path to prosperity.

- Commissioner Paul Hogan

# What can we do? We do not know, so let's try something!

### 

# 

SIOI



Vision

### The Smartest Village in Finland Competition



### The Smartest Village in Finland Competition

- Registration closen at the end of August
- 32 villages or groups of villages applied, municipalities were not allowed to enter
- Registration
  - Identified challenges -> Improve or maintain
  - Who are the partners
  - What are the planned activities
  - What type of outside help is needed
- Innovation camp in October
- The competition ends at the end of 2019
- The village that develops itself the most, wins.

Murole, Ruovesi Käylä, Kuusamo Luopioinen, Pälkäne Kuusaa-Jokela, Haapajärvi Syvälahti, Äänekoski Rikkavesi, Outokumpu Vähikkälä, Janakkala Venesjärvi, Kankaanpää Talviainen, Orivesi Nakertaja-Hetteenmäki, Kajaani Mämmenkylä, Äänekoski Märynummi, Salo Pohjavaara, Sotkamo Kuivaspää, Lempäälä Killinkoski, Virrat Pihlajavesi, Keuruu Ruotsala, Kauhava Raudanmaa, Kangasala Luoma-aho, Alajärvi Alakylä, Kauhava Röölä, Naantali Vuolijoki, Kajaani Hokka, Kangasniemi Pyhäjärvi, Pelkosenniemi Lehtojärvi, Rovaniemi Rautiosaari, Rovaniemi Paakkola, Tervola Soinilansalmi, Leppävaara Moksi, Ylä-Muuratjärvi, Tikkala, Saukkola ja Sarvenperä, Korpilahti Kerisalo, Joroinen Karvala, Lappajärvi Sydänmaa, Säkylä





# How can we help?

- Every village is different!
- Outside experts and support
- Peer to peer support
- Examples and information



#### www.maaseutu.fi

# Smart villages

#### THE HUB

#### THE LIFESTYLE

THE 1 GIG SOCIETY

**OUR MEMBERS** 

WHO WE ARE

**CONTACT US** 

# Live & work in Ireland's first rural 1 Gig society

HUB

WHY 🕑

LUDGATE

www.maaseutu.fi

### What is smart?

TECHNOLOGY DIGITALISATION PEOPLE SHARING

# TRUST

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# What is smart?

- Does digitalization have to be included in smart?
- The role of broadband in smart?
- Is a well functioning Facebook or WhatsApp group smart?
- Linking actual and virtual villages together?





#### ESKOLA HOUSE AND THE LOCOMOTIVE SHED

#### Eskola House

Koulutie 3, 69150 Eskola (prev. Hanhineva school)

Eskola House, a.k.a. Eskola-talo, is a diverse and developing service facility. Under our roof you can find the lunchtime restaurant Pikku-Pässi, Tenavatalli kindergarten, the village library, the school and the village info

#### Locomotive Shed - Eskola Village hall

Pinolankatu 1, 69150 Eskola

The old locomotive shed, converted to a village hall, has a specific landmark: an old locomotive and the residence car attached to it. The

# Eskola is smart

### • Eskola village service Ltd

- 130 shareholders
- Employs 7 people
  - Daycare
  - Lunch service
  - Kiosk
  - Domestic services
  - Library
  - Rental apartments
  - ...

# Eskola is smart

- Eskola school
  - Bought with 1€ from the municipality
  - Run as a home school from 2014
    - No funding
  - Starting 2018 part of Lapinjärvi schools
    - Distance 500 km

# Eskola is smart

- Youth involvement
  - Local youth wanted a Youtube-event
    - Organized it themselves
  - Summer jobs for all youth 15-21 years

# How do you measure smartness?

Services?

- Number created or maintained?
- Number of benficiaries?
- Jobs created?
- Quality of life?

Or is it something less tangible?



# Thank you

Lauri Hyttinen NSU Finland

Lauri.hyttinen@maaseutu.fi

<u>www.maaseutu.fi</u> <u>www.landsbygd.fi</u> <u>www.rural.fi</u>

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