

# 'Smart Villages: Revitalising rural services through social and digital innovation'

Leaflet

## Smart Rural Services

The Thematic Group (TG) on Smart Villages will explore **how rural services in areas such as health, social services, education, energy, mobility, retail and others**, can be improved and made more sustainable and innovative through

- a) the deployment of ICT tools and/or
- b) by supporting community led actions and projects.

The ENRD TG on Smart Villages intends to become a focal point for sharing experiences and for building evidence and momentum for new ways and improvements in the implementation of rural development policy.

The main objectives are:

- 1- To develop **recommendations and examples for improving strategies** for the revitalization of innovative rural services **and enhancing the role of the RDPs**
- 2- To provide **guidance, tools and examples at a project level.**



How to get involved?

The ENRD TGs are driven by stakeholders' and members' needs, views and experiences. Throughout the TG, members exchange knowledge and experience, propose new practice-oriented ideas, identify inspiring practices and projects and develop case studies which will be further disseminated across the EU Member State through the Rural Development Network.

If you are interested in participating in and/or being informed about the work of the thematic group please contact the [enrique@enrd.eu](mailto:enrique@enrd.eu)

**Share your inspiring initiatives and projects across the EU!**

If you implement(ed) a 'smart' and innovative project that revitalises the provision of basic services in rural areas such health, education, mobility, social care, energy, etc, through the use of new technologies or the mobilisation of the local community, please let us know. Your experience will benefit others with similar initiatives.

If this is the case, please send us an email with the information about your inspiring initiative/project to

[smart-village@enrd.eu](mailto:smart-village@enrd.eu)

### Context:

Many European rural areas are locked into a "circle of decline" by two mutually reinforcing trends—firstly, a shortage of jobs and sustainable business activity and secondly, inadequate and declining services. Over the last two years the ENRD has carried out work to look at the first of these challenges by organising thematic groups on "[smart supply chains](#)" and "[smart and competitive rural businesses](#)".

This year, the ENRD CP will tackle the second part of the equation by launching a new thematic working group on 'Smart Villages'. It will focus on revitalising rural services through both digital and social innovation.