

# International Virtual Event: Global Smart Villages Wrap – up by Violeta Bulc 3 June 2021

# Purpose

## WHY (the roots)

- identity, authentic
- Untapped potentials
- Water food resources

## HOW (approach)

- EU Regulation, financial tools, criteria

## WHAT (content)

- **Connecting people**
- **Co-Creation of creative spaces for collective engagements, evolutionary living labs**
  - Pilot project t Eco-Social Villages
- **Research&Development&Innovation**

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Developed rural area... developed society
- Valu add integrated networks: supply-demand networks, tourist network, social integration, cross-generational integration, care, ,
- energy, mobility, smat farms, social services.

# “Smart Village” Qualities

Identity

Relationships

Collaboration

Co-creation

Support

Integration

Existence

# Overview: Franc, Ladeja, Alisa, Berry, Chenesai, Stephen, Karolina, Gaber, Toni

- It all starts with a vision based on a true needs of people on the ground/local level
- Once recognised by politics, it can move fast into strategic frameworks, action agendas and supported by financial tools; the right political framework helps the stakeholders to engage
- To have a sustainable, tangible outcomes holistic/system approach is needed, starting with pilot projects and proof of concept, as well as an invitation to different portfolios that the subject (in this case smart villages) in tapping into, has an impact on, brings benefits to
- The message here was also very clear: there is no solution that fits all so, local empowerment to recognise the best implementation roads that fits the local needs and honour the local absorption capacity as well as the local needs
- No challenges today are of a vertical nature, the solutions are in horizontal collaboration and co-creation; we are seeing an emergence of new types of networks, networks of networks with dynamic structures that behave today as evolutionary living labs, offering new types of experiences and wisdoms
- The smart village development goes beyond the technological and infrastructure empowerment, we are talking about social, people's empowerment, we are talking about connecting start-ups, SMEs, investors, the wisdom and the youth uncompromising energy, we are talking about the network of networks
- However, we can not avoid the needs for infrastructure, being smart mobility, high-speed digital connections, green energy and access to knowledge; new generation of technologies based on open space approach can be a good solution for network based, virtual rural communities, addressing the needs of buyers, visitors, tourists, partner.

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- about connecting start-ups, SMEs, investors, the wisdom and the youth uncompromising energy, we are talking about the network of networks
- We are talking about bringing innovation to trade arrangements, decentralisation approach with a transfer of responsibility for planning, management, recourse raising, social engagements
- Smart villages are a great opportunity to bring circular economy to rural areas before they get spoiled with the aggressive, not nature friendly solutions; Circular economy initiatives are attractive for rural areas and the concept of smart villages as well, they open a new dimensions towards Social and solidarity economies, strengthen the undemanding and the richness of permaculture, as well as, participatory and democratic decision making processes, participatory budgeting including
- However, to really empower the participation of people in rural areas, people need also the access to funds, leadership, governance and decision making process... and as we learnt from our African friends, the basic social support like public health system, schools are a must as well... often taken for granted by Europeans
- Start-ups could be a powerful tool for bringing the chain and bridging the capacity gap, even attracting higher level of collaboration between urban and rural areas, focusing on local priorities and act as connector on a regional and content level; governmental incentives, investments, innovative financial tools could be much more successful than grants and aid
- Smart farms can be well integrated in the supply and demand value networks... on-line shops and direct connection with the customers are the way to go, delivery service included; smart sensors and management tools for the stock, as well as fields are already the daily practice on a integrated, smart farm
- RE-imagining rural eco-social living – smart villages just might be a great way to do so.