

SMART RURAL 27 FINAL CONFERENCE
18–19 MARCH 2024 – BRUXELLES

RETERURALE
NAZIONALE
20142020

ITALIAN NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK APPROACH TO SUPPORT SMART VILLAGES



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ITALIAN RURAL NETWORK: HOW IT WORKS

- Ministry of Agriculture is the Managing Authority
- Two main implementing bodies: CREA (Council for Agricultural Research and Economics) and ISMEA (Institute of Agricultural and Food Market Services)
- Two-year programmes of activities, divided into project sheets (i.e., fields of activity)
 - Monitoring & Evaluation
 - ACA & Natura 2000
 - Organic farming
 - Forestry
 - Statistics, analyses and support to RD programming
 - Social farming
 - AKIS & knowledge transfer
 - Broadband observatory
 - ...
 - **Local development**



L.E.A.D.E.R. Network

- improve Leader's governance and implementation
- strengthen the introduction of innovation in local development policies and processes
- promote the dissemination of information about Leader

Since 2021, a specific WP on "Support for the promotion of smart villages in rural areas"

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GOALS

Rete Rurale Nazionale aims to ensure better visibility of achieved results, and the widest possible participation of rural development stakeholders, from across Italy, and exchanging knowledge from different rural areas.

KEY MESSAGES

- Rurality
- Network
- Innovation
- Young Farmers

PRIORITIES

- Communication, information, and knowledge-exchange on rural development policies.
- Stakeholder participation in the implementation of rural development policies.
- Coordinated communication of European funds for agriculture, particularly FEASR.
- Involvement of all target subjects by assigning beneficiaries active roles in FEASR communication.
- Visibility of the FEASR in institutional communication and the media.

SMART VILLAGES IN ITALY BEFORE THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN



Community regeneration projects – Leader specific intervention in Tuscany

- Born to counter the effects of COVID-19 emergency on rural areas
- Expanded in public-private participatory planning actions at local level to support the development of ecosystem services, circular economy initiatives and the enhancement of common goods (7 intervention themes)
- The LAG proposes a first phase of activation and listening to the territory
- The local community submits a project idea
- The LAG guides the partnership in drafting and implementing the actual project

NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK / CAP NETWORK SUPPORT FOR SMART VILLAGES

Starting in 2021, the Italian National Rural Network (NRN) launched several activities to support the Smart Village approach and facilitate the implementation of Smart Village strategies within the CAP Strategic Plan

Contributing to draft the CAP SP intervention “SRG07 – Cooperation for local, rural development and Smart Villages” under Art. 77 of Reg. (EU) 2021/2115

Meetings with regional MAs to discuss the introduction of support for Smart Village Strategies in the CAP SP, according to the indications of EU’s *Tools*.

Cooperation 23-27, local development and Smart Villages: guide to read the PAC SP Intervention and draft Regional Programming Complements

Check-list to define the specific elements of the intervention at regional level

- General objectives and development needs
- Purpose of the intervention
- Output and Result indicators
- Implementation of the intervention
- Beneficiaries
- Type of support
- Eligibility conditions and commitments
- Categories of eligible expenditure
- Type of support and aid intensity
- State aid



SMART VILLAGES IN THE ITALIAN CAP STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

4 cooperation areas:

- local food systems, supply chains and markets
- social and economic inclusion
- environmental sustainability
- rural tourism



Smart Village intervention will be implemented by 10 Italian regions

- Approx. 64,5 M euros

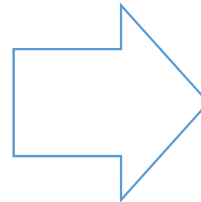


Regional MAs could adapt or limit cooperation themes/areas, eligible costs, beneficiaries, selection criteria, etc.



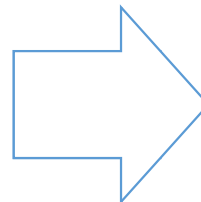
Smart Villages will be supported also through LEADER

- LAGs can provide for SV intervention in their LDSs, financing local partnerships, OR be themselves partners (even lead partner) of Smart Village strategies financed at regional level



Not only Smart Village strategies

The intervention also support other forms of cooperation (former sub-measures 16.4, 16.5, 16.9)



47 LAGs (out of 98) implementing SRG07
Approx. 37 M euros

Not all LDSs are yet fully available, so budget (and content) not definitive!





SMART RURAL HUB

In early 2022, LEADER Network launched [Smart Rural Hub](#), a **capacity building initiative**, in collaboration with [Forum LEADER](#) (an Italian association of LAGs for exchange of experiences and debate on local development related topics), to:

- encourage a common vision about Smart Villages
- prepare the ground to start implementing SV strategies in the coming years
- increase the expertise of LAGs and other local actors on this topic



Workshops

- 1 kick off webinar
- 4 thematic workshops (cooperation areas)
- 1 webinar on innovative financing solutions & partnership forms
- 1 meeting to present the methodological guide on SV, with discussion of central themes such as governance, communication, digital technologies, sectoral skills



Documents

- Smart Village methodological guide: tools & methodologies to design an integrated Strategy
- NRN Magazine: monographic issue with articles, good practices, experiences, and interviews
- Catalogue of SV project ideas



Study visits / labs

- Smart Rural Calling
- 3-days lab
- Study visits



Training activities

- Operational support service for planning activities on context analysis and local animation

LAGs are the main target of the initiative, but its outcomes should support all local actors who will engage in designing Smart Village strategies

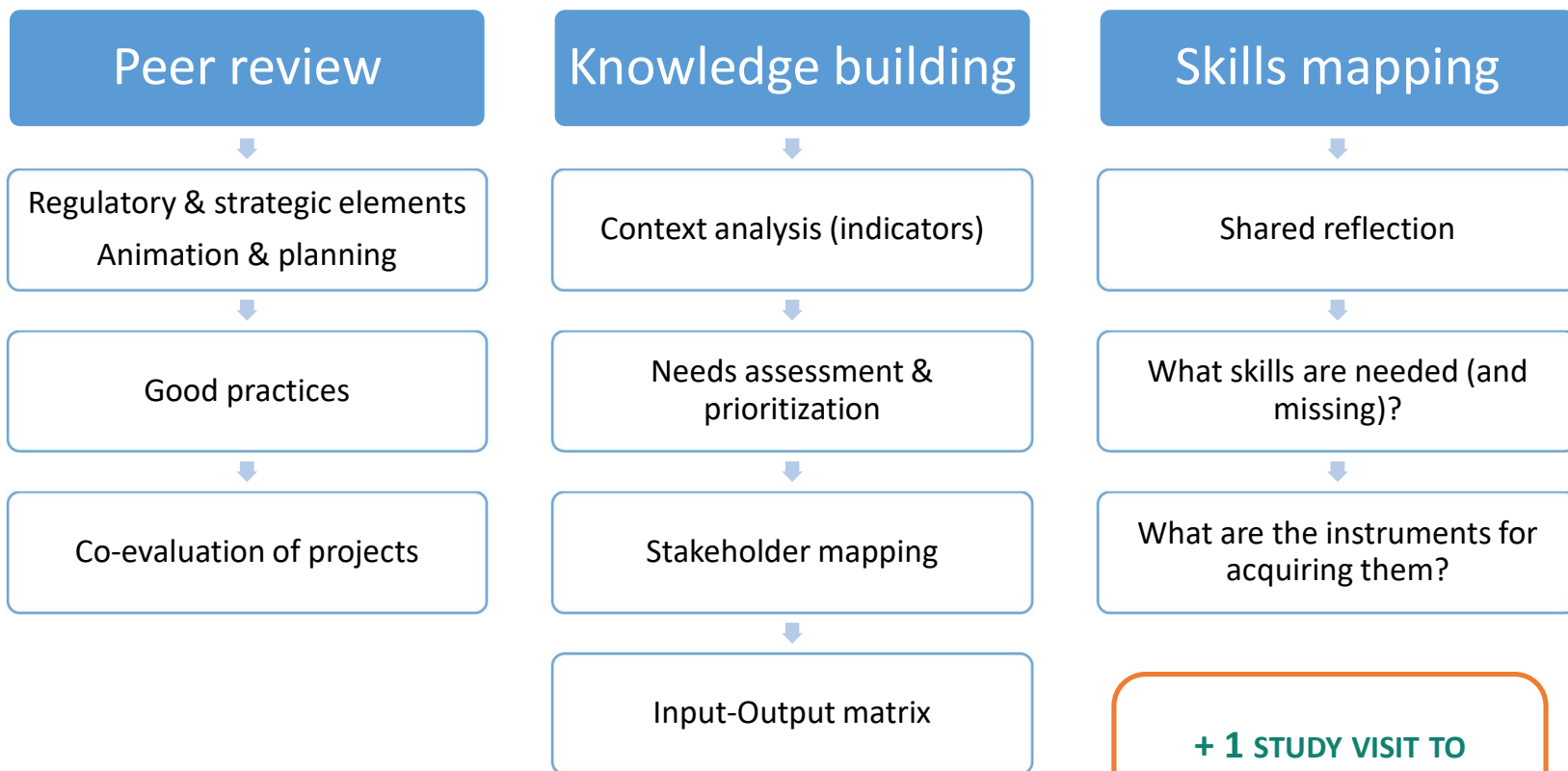
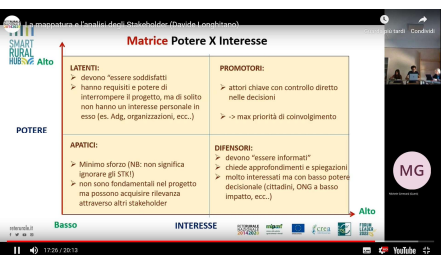
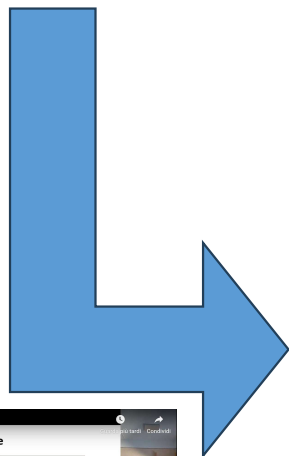
“SMART VILLAGE: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE” LAB

3-day in-person event within the Smart Rural Hub initiative, accompanied by facilitators (experts on quantitative and qualitative investigation tools and methods)

SMART RURAL CALLING

Call addressed to LAGs interested in developing “Smart Village” ideas

38 proposals submitted

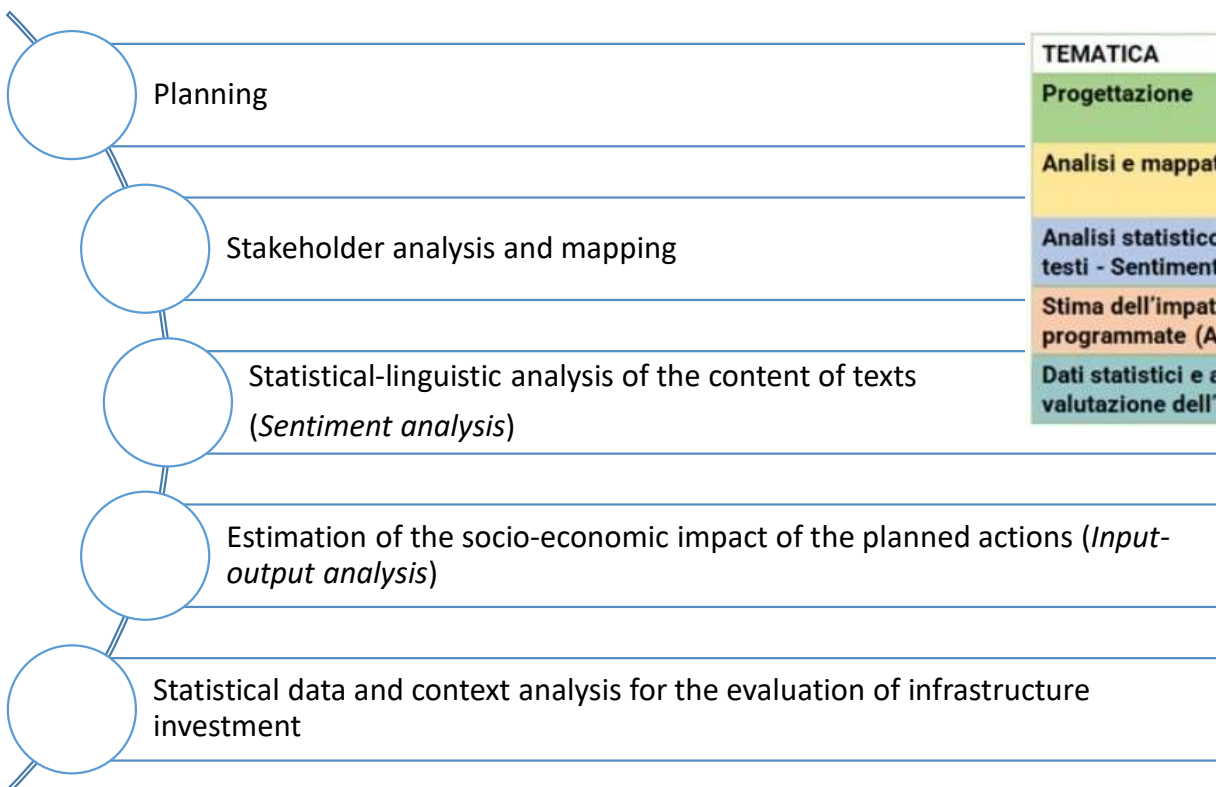


+ 1 STUDY VISIT TO ACTUAL EXPERIENCES

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE

Training initiative to support the planning of activities for context analysis and local animation, specifically aimed at the LAGs that participated in the Smart Rural Calling

The service offered the possibility of interacting directly with some NRN experts to plan the activities connected to the development of Smart Village strategies



TEMATICA	ESPERTI	E-MAIL
Progettazione	Simone D'Antonio	simonedantonio@yahoo.it
Analisi e mappatura degli stakeholder	Davide Longhitano	davide.longhitano@crea.gov.it
Analisi statistico-linguistiche sul contenuto dei testi - Sentiment analysis	Marco Vassallo	marco.vassallo@crea.gov.it
Stima dell'impatto socioeconomico delle azioni programmate (Analisi input-output)	Francesco Galioto	francesco.galioto@crea.gov.it
Dati statistici e analisi di contesto per la valutazione dell'investimento infrastrutturale	Raffaella Di Napoli, Guido Bonati, Nicola d'Alicandro	raffaella.dinapoli@crea.gov.it

Lunedì	Martedì	Mercoledì	Giovedì	Venerdì
NOVEMBRE 2022				
21 9:30-13:00: F. Galioto	22	23	24 11:00-13:00: D. Longhitano	25 10:00-12:00: M. Vassallo
28 9:30-13:00: F. Galioto	29	30 10:00-12:00: M. Vassallo 11:00-13:00: R. Di Napoli, G. Bonati, N. D'Alicandro		
DICEMBRE 2022			1	2 10:00-11:00: D. Longhitano 11:00-13:00: S. D'Antonio
5 9:30-13:00: F. Galioto	6 10:00-12:00: M. Vassallo	7 10:00-12:00: D. Longhitano	8	9 15:00-17:00: S. D'Antonio
12 9:30-13:00: F. Galioto	13 10:00-12:00: M. Vassallo	14	15	16 10:00-12:00: D. Longhitano 11:00-13:00: S. D'Antonio

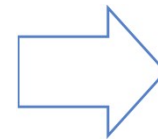
FORUM LEADER “YOUTH”

Initiative to involve young people from all over the country, active in local development projects, in working out innovative and Smart Village related ideas to make rural areas more welcoming, competitive, and sustainable.

The initiative took place in Autumn 2023 and consisted of three phases

Online training

- 4 days of lessons focused on EU policies and tools to promote local development



One specific lesson on “Promoting Smart Village development: from theory to practice”

Field work

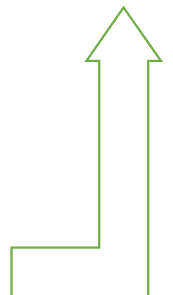
- 4 territorial thematic workshops
- Small groups developing proposals for the implementation of Smart Village strategies



Award for the best proposal

Final event

- All groups gathered to share project ideas and co-evaluate their Smart Village proposals



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Plans for the near future

Further discussion and in-depth analysis on the implementation of Smart Villages as a tool for territorial planning

Make clear, within the SRG07 procedures, the functioning of the implementation system, the indicators and the results to be achieved

In the implementation phase, encourage territorial approaches to integrate the various local development policies



Continue and strengthen "Smart Rural Hub"

- Providing training to actors (LAGs, municipalities, local partnerships)
- Providing tools for integrated planning (context indicators, maps, information on local digital infrastructures, etc.)
- Organizing focuses on specific topics
- Driving local actors in adapting and repeating innovative solutions already developed (completed or in the process of being completed) by another local actor, on a key theme of the SRG07 intervention



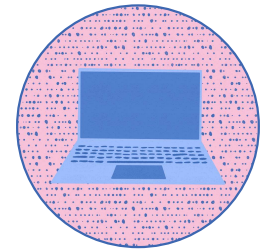
Develop a methodological guide and an accompanying action for the writing of tenders that consider both the key elements required by the Smart Village approach and innovative forms of partner selection



Carry on capacity building actions for local partnerships willing to respond to SRG07 calls at regional level (not LAGs calls)



Plan study visits to Smart Village experiences that have already started



Create a database on the implementation of the SRG07 intervention, both at regional and LAG level





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Thank you

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cooperazione.smartvillages@crea.gov.it

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