

Call to Become a Participant Village supported by

The Preparatory Action on Smart Rural Areas of the 21st Century (‘Smart Rural’ project)

What is the project about?

The ‘Smart Rural’ project is a two and a half-year project supported by the European Commission (DG AGRI) with the overall aim to promote and inspire villages to develop and implement smart village approaches and strategies across Europe, and to draw conclusions and support future CAP interventions on smart villages.

17 villages are selected across Europe to receive guidance and technical support through the project. 5 villages have already been selected in Ireland, Finland, France, the Czech Republic and Greece, and **further 12 villages will be selected until 30 April 2020**.

Is our village an ideal candidate?

Your village is an ideal candidate if it:

- ✓ **Needs support, ideas and inspiration** to become a smart village
- ✓ Has **enthusiastic leaders** who are committed to develop and implement a smart village strategy
- ✓ Has **the relevant human capacity to mobilise** for the smart village process
- ✓ Would benefit from **specific expert guidance** to progress with village development plans
- ✓ Ideally has some **basic technical capacity**, including sufficient broadband connectivity or relevant infrastructure (e.g. community spaces) – *although this is not a pre-condition*.
- ✓ Ideally has some **initial ideas, flagship projects or planning activities done** that the smart village process can build on – *although this is not a pre-condition*.
- ✓ Is **open to knowledge exchange and cooperation** with other villages and stakeholders

If you think your village is ready to undertake an exciting smart village journey, then apply until 30 April 2020 to become one of the participant villages in the Smart Rural Project!

What do I need to do to apply?

You need to complete a **simple application form** describing:

- ✓ The key characteristics, challenges, assets and opportunities of your village
- ✓ The motivation to become a smart village
- ✓ The added value that you expect from becoming a participant village and the support that your village needs

Application form will be made available soon at www.smartrural21.eu !

What will I get?

If your village is selected the project will:

- ✓ Provide specialist expert support for strategy development & implementation (approx. 2 man months)
- ✓ Allow your village to visit and get inspiration from other villages
- ✓ Allow your village to take part in exchange and capacity building with other participant villages through the Smart Village Academy events
- ✓ Promote your village and give visibility in European-level discussions and exchanges

The preferred working language is English, but applications can also be submitted in your own language!

For further information do not hesitate to contact: smart-rural@e40.eu