

Call to become a participant village supported by the Preparatory Action on Smart Rural Areas in 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 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 June 2020**.

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 5 May 2020 to become one of the participant villages in the Smart Rural Project!

What do we need to do to apply?	What will we get?
<p>You need to complete a simple application form describing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 support that your village needs <p>Application form is available at https://form.jotformeu.com/E40/smart-rural-application !</p>	<p>If your village is selected your village will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Get specialist expert support for strategy development & implementation ✓ Can visit and get inspiration from other villages ✓ Can take part in exchange and capacity building with other participant villages through the Smart Village Academy events ✓ Gain visibility in European-level discussions and exchanges <p>Even if your village is not selected it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Have an advantage if it applies to visit participant villages ✓ Can gain visibility through its practices being promoted ✓ Get regular updates about the project outcomes



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