Saltwater

SMART VILLAGES IN CROATIA

HVAR
23 October 2020

1. What?
2. Why?
3. Where?
4. How?

Community

Connection

1. What is a smart village?

Working definition:

SMART VILLAGES are **communities** in **rural areas** using **innovative solutions** to improve their **resilience**, **building on local strengths** and **opportunities**...

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/smart-and-competitive-rural-areas/smart-villages/smart-villages-portal_en

2. Why create smart villages?

...driven by growing concern for the major challenges affecting rural areas such as **depopulation** and **access to services**.

“ Just over one quarter (**28.0 %**) of the EU-28 population lived in a rural area in 2015

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Statistics_on_rural_areas_in_the_EU&oldid=391832

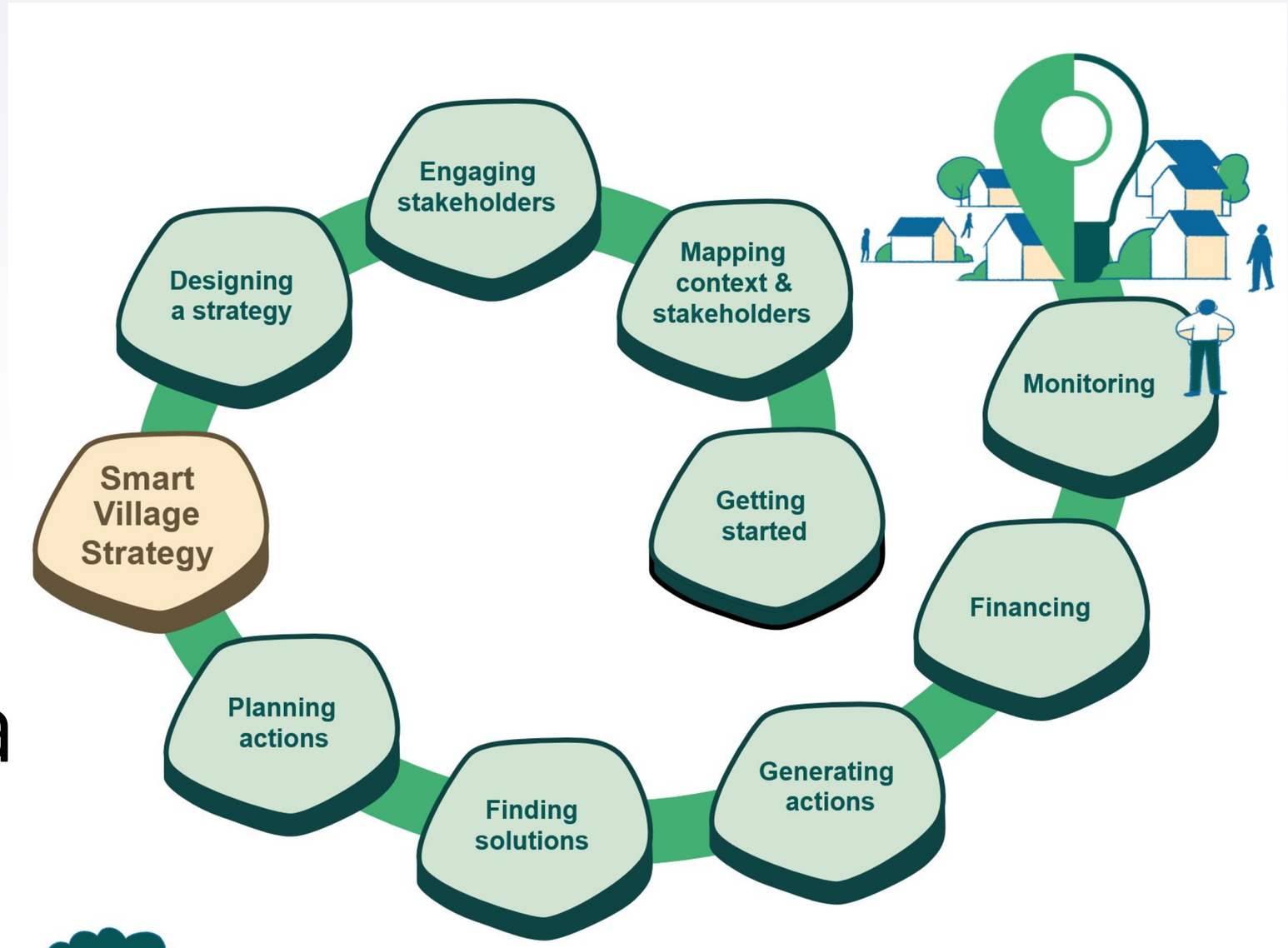
2. Why (continued) Opportunities to:

Access **digital transformation**….
the **transition to a low-carbon and circular economy**,
new forms of **urban-rural linkages**,
emerging **value chains** and others.

3. Where

17 villages.

Croatia:
Babina Greda
Population
3,585



Babina Greda

Babina Greda is located in Vukovar-Srijem County in Croatia and has a population of 3 585.

The municipality of Babina Greda has an excellent geo-traffic position, it is connected to the system of European road routes, and there is a plan for the multi-purpose canal “Danube-Sava” to run through the municipality.

Babina Greda is rich in authentic Slavonian villages, customs and culture. The local community is very active, organising numerous events, exhibitions and associations to promote social, cultural, entertaining, artistic, sports and other activities that contribute to enriching the touristic offer and social life. In addition, agricultural holders, business owners and other actors contribute to the economic development of Babina Greda.

Areas that need support include: broadband connectivity; employers’ encouragement of teleworking; awareness of the potential benefits of a rural-urban partnership; attracting foreign investment and developing market value-added products.

The aim of the municipality is to add and strengthen community activities in order to raise the world of rural stakeholders on investment opportunities in agriculture and to make it attractive to young people. Digitisation of farms will serve as a good motivation for young people to return from cities and improve the rural area. With modern technologies and new concepts, the goal is to revive the village, reverse the trend of depopulation and protect people from rural poverty. This will create an environment that will give residents the same opportunities as urban, economic, social, educational and health residents.

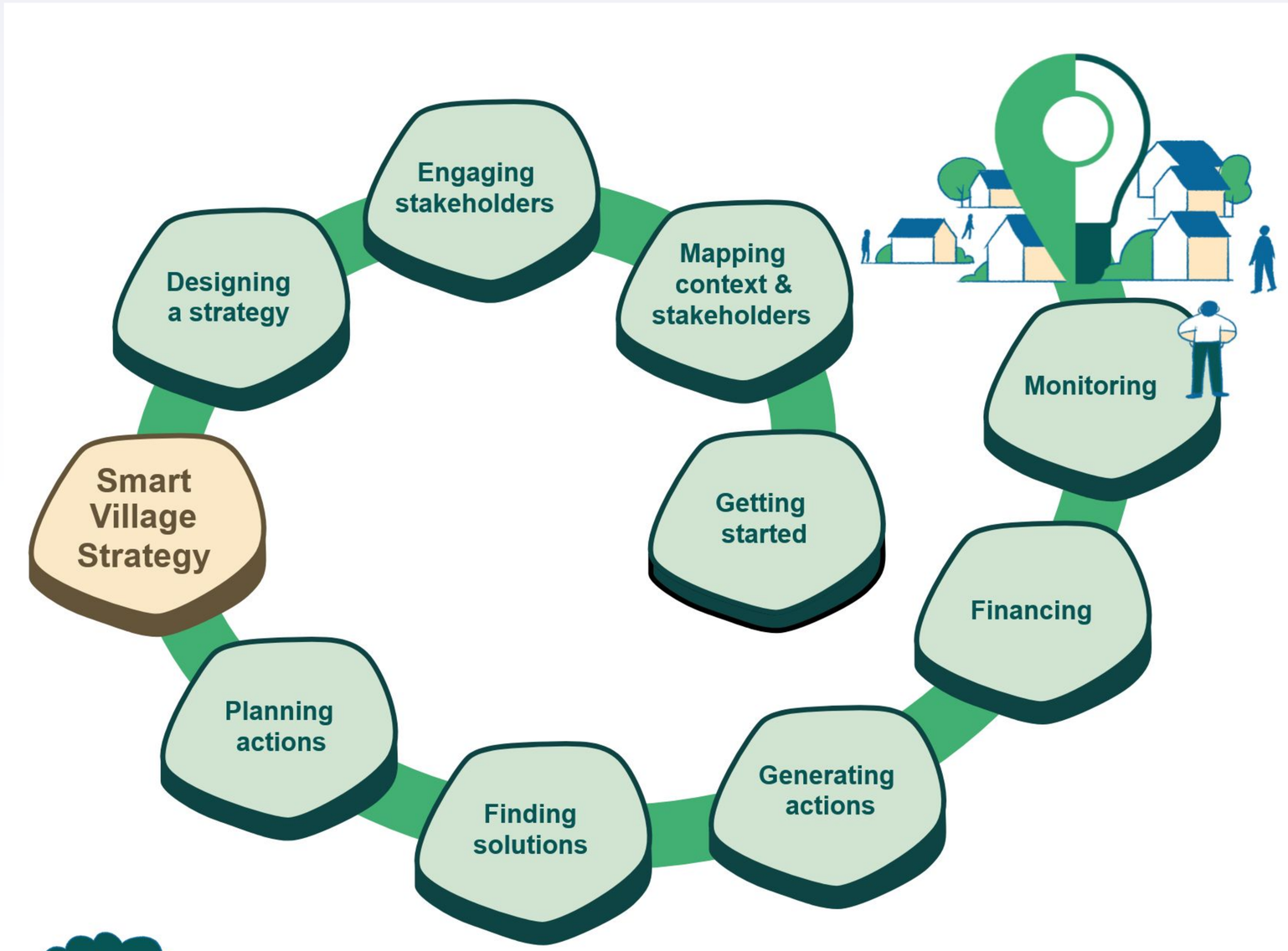
“ Areas that need support: **broadband connectivity**; employers’ encouragement of **teleworking**; awareness of the **potential benefits of a rural-urban partnership**; attracting **foreign investment** and developing market **value-added products**.

What is a ‘village’ in Greece?

A village is considered as **an independent rural settlement** with a traditional or modernconcentration, **a population of 50 to 2,000** inhabitants and whose financial independence is maintained by the **primary sector** of the economy, i.e. **agriculture, livestock, and fishing** and inaddition, **tourism.**

4. How?

17 villages.



JOURNEY TO BECOME A SMART VILLAGE

SMART RURAL 21

Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century

Find out what's happening in your country!

www.smartrural21.eu/countries

Experts help villages to take **smart steps** & connect with **relevant stakeholders**.

The smart village journey starts for **17 European villages**.

Come to a regional workshop or the final conference to discover project outcomes! in 2021-2022

Apply to visit a participant village! from June 2020

On the road! Villages visit others to get inspiration.

Apply to be one of the 17!

form.jotformeu.com/E40/smart-rural-application

until 5 May 2020

Time to take action! Villages receive specialist support to realise projects.

Villages learn from their peers at **Smart Village Academy** events!

Check out the Smart Solutions Database!

www.smartrural21.eu/smartsolutions

SMART VILLAGE STRATEGY

Let's set up our strategy!

Find tools to develop your own strategy!

www.smartrural21.eu/roadmap

ROADMAP TO BECOME A SMART VILLAGE

1. INITIATION
2. CONTEXT & STAKEHOLDER MAPPING
3. CREATE LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP
4. IDENTIFY CHALLENGES & NEEDS
5. IDENTIFY ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES
6. IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
7. SMART VILLAGE STRATEGY
8. ACTION PLANNING
9. GENERATE ACTIONS & FINANCING

JOURNEY OF THE 17 PARTICIPANT VILLAGES

FOLLOW & USE PROJECT OUTCOMES

Funded by the European Commission

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