



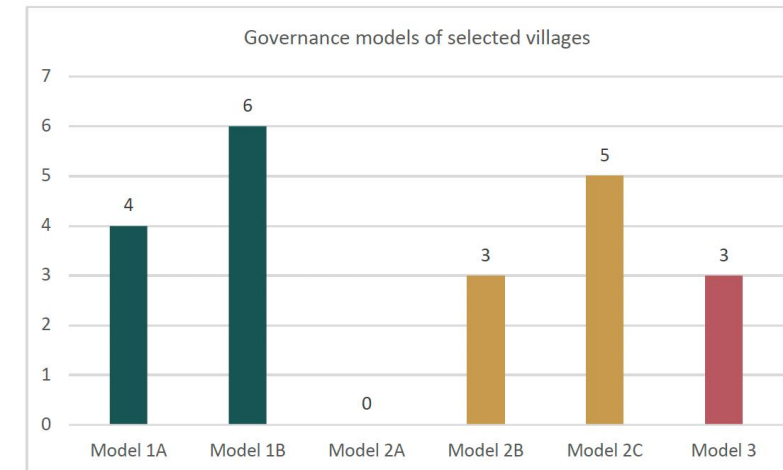
**FUTURAL**

# Enabling Smart Rural Futures: governance, innovation and the Right to Stay

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# The role of local 'governance' – Who does SV?

- Model 1A: Relatively **dominant position of elected mayors** / deputy mayors and his/her team
- Model 1B: Elected mayors / deputy **mayors & strong community** engagement
- Model 2A: Strong (**nonelected**) **local leaders**/ leading local figures with dominant position
- Model 2B: Strong (nonelected) local leaders/ **leading local figures & strong collaboration** with ('buy-in' from) community
- Model 2C: **Local professional/ individual** or specialist organisation driving the process
- **Model 3: Self-organised local governance bodies** (village association, 'ting'...)

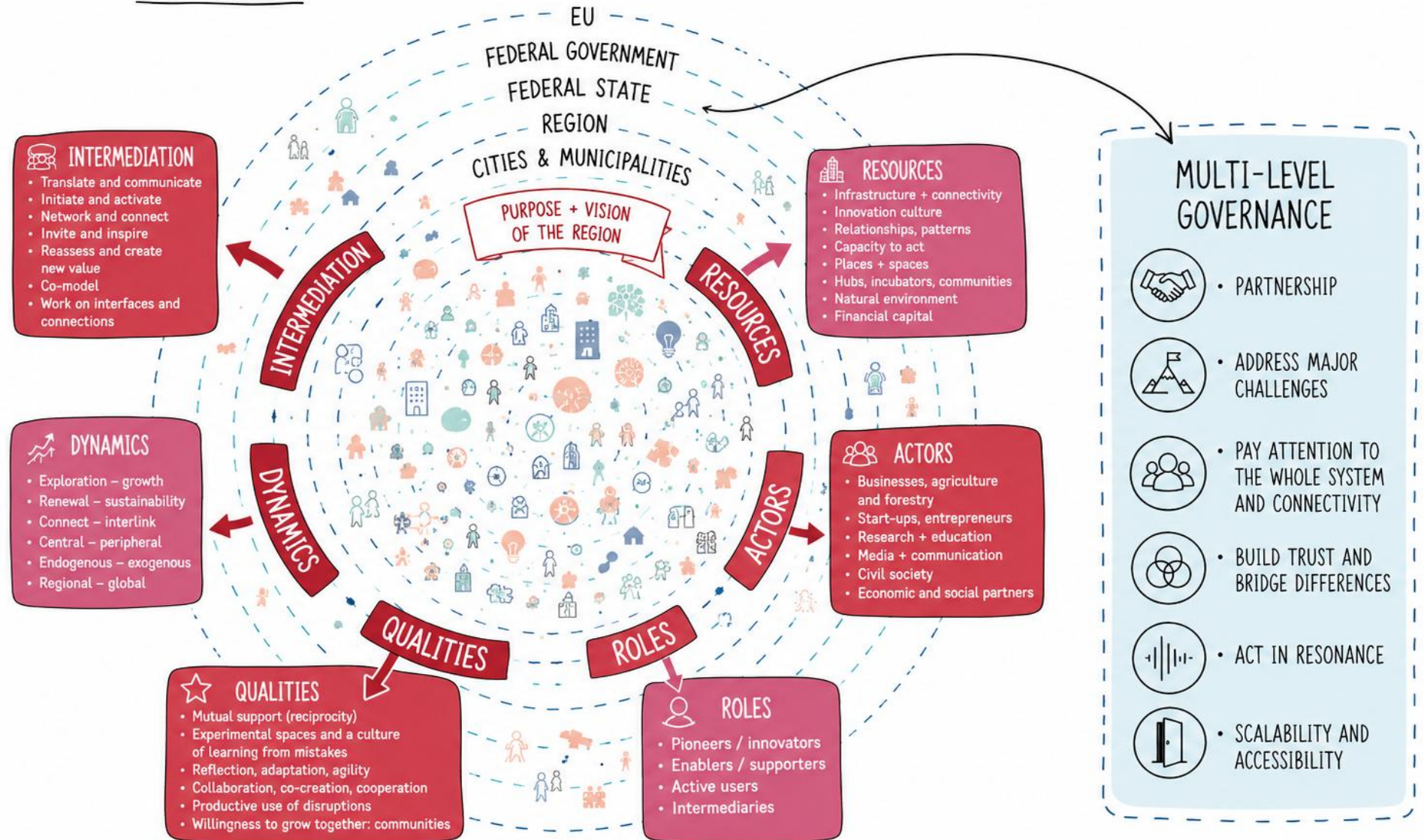


# The role of multi-level governance frameworks

- **Municipality:** Local strategic approach / longer term thinking / innovative solutions to realise this / community-engagement – **smart village strategies**
- **Intermediaries** (like LEADER LAG): support the communities in translating the LEADER approach to local level (strategy & implementation), cooperation & networking – **Local Development Strategies**
- **Regions:** building innovation ecosystems based on local innovation ‘hubs’ (e.g. in Austria) – **regional strategies (smart specialisation)**
- **National:** recognising the (innovation) potential of communities (healthy food, energy, etc.) – creating a favourable support/ policy framework to support local communities and local innovation
- **EU:** ensuring that rural community support get sufficient attention and funding in EU policies
- **At all levels:** Help create rural community cooperations & networks



# SHAPE THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM IN YOUR REGION!



# Smart Village Network – mirroring governance models

Who do we need to mobilise? Who has still capacity?

**Villages** represented by:

- Local mayors / elected leaders
- Representatives / governance of villages (e.g. village associations)
- Local NGOs / civil society organisations

**LEADER LAGs**: to support and enable villages to participate

**Village Associations**: networks of villages

# The Right to Stay and/or Right to Come

Aardehuis



[futural-project.eu](http://futural-project.eu)

Ostana



[www.smart-village-network.eu/SURE](http://www.smart-village-network.eu/SURE)

# Communities

Aardehuis

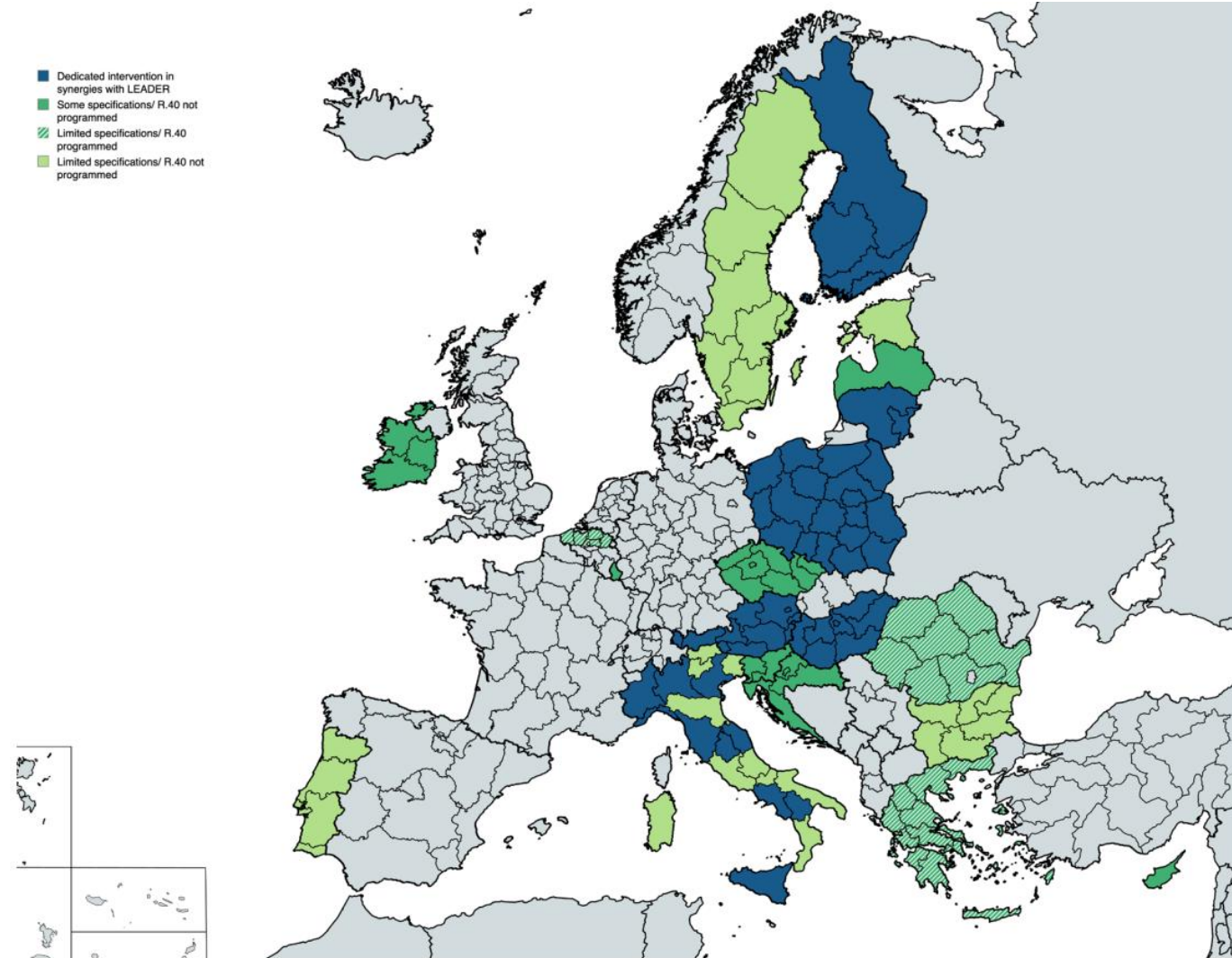


Ostana



# From local innovation to systemic uptake

- There are many "smart villages" but the implementation of Smart Villages is still experimental (mostly under the CAP)
- Direct interventions + LEADER



# Example of Austria

Directly through three interventions + LEADER:

- LEADER
- Village and city centres: investment to revitalise, rebuild, refurbish empty, misused or underused buildings (INVEST)
- Vacancy reactivation through awareness raising, consultancy... (COOP)
- Rural innovation systems under EIP

# Stanz im Mürztal

- Smart Rural 21 village: focus on renewable energy and token system: examples from elsewhere & study
- Setting up local energy community
- Many others learn from Stanz – several study visits
- Successful Smart Villages application in Austria – scaling up



# The future of Smart Villages

- Smart Village support post-2027
- Mentioned under territorial cooperation
- No dedicated article (yet)
- Smart Village Network proposal
- Advocacy and work on the ground

*Proposed amendment to the Draft MFF Regulation on Smart Small Communities by the Smart Village Network Services*

## **Article 7X**

### **Support under Smart Small Communities ('Smart Villages')**

1. Support under this Article shall promote the integrated development and implementation of smart small community ("smart village") strategies, contributing to the sustainable, digital, social and environmental transformation of small rural and suburban/town communities. The financial allocation to smart small communities ('smart villages') as referred to under this Article shall be 5% of the Union contribution set out by the Member State in the NRP Plan.
2. **For the purposes of this Regulation, smart small communities ("smart villages") are communities (LAU or sub-municipal entities within LAU classified as rural or suburban/town according to DEGURBA) of less than 10,000 inhabitants that implement local innovation concepts, plans or strategies and innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities.**
3. Support for smart small communities shall:
  - (a) be based on **integrated and place-based visions, concept, plans or strategies**, developed through partnerships between local authorities, community organisations, enterprises, and other local stakeholders;
  - (b) ensure **synergies** with strategies at local (including LEADER/CLLD), regional and national levels including local rural pacts;
  - (c) encourage **innovation and cooperation**, including inter-territorial and transnational networking with other smart communities and local development initiatives supported under Article 74;
  - (d) promote **inclusive participation**, ensuring the engagement of citizens, youth, and under-represented groups in local decision-making;
  - (e) foster **digital and social innovation**, the green transition, circular economy and improved provision of local services.
4. Smart small community concepts, plans or strategies shall define:
  - (a) the LAU or sub-municipal entity covered;
  - (b) an analysis of local needs, strengths and innovation potential;
  - (c) key objectives, measurable targets and indicators;
  - (d) the arrangements for local governance and stakeholder participation;
  - (e) the indicative multi-annual budget.
5. Support may cover:
  - (a) preparatory, capacity-building and animation actions, including the development or updating of local strategies and the improvement of digital, entrepreneurial and organisational skills;
  - (b) implementation of smart small community strategies and projects deriving from them;
  - (c) networking, cooperation and knowledge-exchange activities at local, regional, national or Union level;