



FUTURAL

What we learned so far in FUTURAL: turning local experience into policy insights

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Key findings from FUTURAL (EU RIF 2 – Jonava)

Transition from Smart Villages pilots to systemic rural innovation approaches

- Smart Villages framed as **long-term territorial innovation ecosystems** rather than isolated pilot projects.
- **Need for continuity**, community **ownership**, **multi-level** collaboration and **integration** of initiatives into broader territorial strategies and governance structures.

Key findings from FUTURAL (EU RIF 2 – Jonava)

Capacities and enabling conditions (skills, intermediaries, governance support)

Success heavily depending on **motivated local leaders**, strong **community participation** and **enabling governance environments** supported by **intermediaries** such as LAGs, rural networks and public authorities.

Key **capacities**: emotional intelligence, creativity, facilitation, collaboration and digital skills, alongside **trust-based partnerships** and long-term institutional support.

Key findings from FUTURAL (EU RIF 2 – Jonava)

Tools, data and digital infrastructure challenges

Barriers linked to **limited digital infrastructure**, **language constraints**, **fragmented information** and insufficient digital **skills**.

Importance of **accessible, multilingual and user-friendly tools** that combine digital solutions with participatory processes, **advisory** support and practical guidance.

Key findings from FUTURAL (EU RIF 2 – Jonava)

Sustainability and business model constraints

Rural innovation initiatives highly dependent on public and EU funding, raising concerns about **long-term financial sustainability and continuity**.

Sustainability also linked to **community ownership, collaborative networks, intergenerational** involvement and the capacity to maintain initiatives beyond individual leaders or short-term projects.

Key findings from FUTURAL (EU RIF 2 – Jonava)

Governance and policy coordination gaps

Main barriers to Smart Villages implementation and scaling: **fragmentation** between **policies**, **funding** instruments and **governance** levels.

Administrative burdens, weak coordination, unclear Smart Village definitions and **insufficient alignment** between local, national and EU strategies.

More **adaptive, participatory and better-connected governance** frameworks.



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Thank you!!



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