

5th European Rural Mobility Network Meeting
Workshop outline (Session: 15th May 2024, 16:00 – 17:30)

Title of workshop:	The role of the Rural Pact and Smart Villages and their practical implications on the ground in supporting rural mobility	
Workshop Lead	E40	
Short description of the workshop and purpose:		
<p>The aim of the workshop is to provide participants with practical knowledge on the mainstream EU initiatives – the Smart Villages approach and the Rural Pact - and their practical implications for rural mobility issues. Through the workshop, participants will gain insights on how to apply these EU concepts in practical terms in their local contexts.</p> <p>Smart Villages is a new policy instrument for community-led innovative approaches that is gaining increasing importance in EU policymaking. The Rural Pact was launched by the European Commission in 2021 as part of the Long-Term Vision for EU's rural areas and provides a framework for cooperation between public authorities, civil society, businesses, academia and citizens. Bringing the Rural Pact closer to citizens is a main concern of the Rural Pact Community (see bringing the Rural Pact closer to citizens) that the Smart Villages concept can largely contribute to. It is recognised that <i>“significant work still needs to be done, at all governance levels, to ensure that the ambitions of the Rural Vision and Pact become a reality on the ground, for all rural communities across the EU.”</i> (Rural Pact Community Platform).</p> <p>During the workshop the most recent developments of the Rural Pact and Smart Villages will be briefly presented as well as local practical example(s) on how Smart Villages can help to bring the Rural Pact closer to citizens. Following these insights, E40 will run a participatory workshop that aims to provide participants with practical methods and tools on how to use and translate these EU concepts in their own local contexts, in particular how to create “local Rural Pacts” considering local needs, through raising awareness on rural mobility issues at various governance levels, and help communities to find solutions to improve rural mobility.</p>		
Structure of the session*:		
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Sub-session name</i>	<i>Short description</i>
16:00 – 16:10	Introduction (5')	Edina Ocsko (E40): The purpose of the workshop and short introduction to Smart Villages
16:10 – 16:20	The Rural Pact	Pascale van Doren (RPSO): The Rural Pact and its relevance for rural mobility, and how to bring it closer to citizens
16:20 – 16:30	The case of Ostana (Italy) OR LAG Sdruzeni Ruze (Czechia)	How Smart Villages can support local mobility and opportunities for a Local Rural Pact
16:30 – 17:25	Interactive session	Working with methods and tools to develop a local Rural Pact and using Smart Villages as an instrument to improve mobility including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What a local Rural Pact could look like in the participants' context? (c. 20') 2. How tools and methods provided by Smart Villages could help to put in place local Rural Pacts? (c. 20')



		3. Action plan & next steps (c. 10')
17:25 – 17:30	Rapping up	Summarising outcomes of the session and feedback points

* The provided structure is just a suggestion – feel free to change it.

