

SMARTA-NET Final Conference

Workshop outline (Session: 23rd October 2024, 14:00 – 15:30)

Title of workshop:	Empowering Rural Communities: Collaborative Capacity-Building for Sustainable Rural Mobility	
Workshop Lead	MemEx	
Short description of the workshop and purpose:		
<p>Empowering rural communities through strong local capacity is crucial for their sustainable development. Through dynamic training modules and thematic workshops, SMARTA-NET tried to enhance the capacity of the municipalities to develop and implement sustainable, inclusive, and integrated mobility solutions in rural territories. This workshop is designed to spark a lively discussion about practical ways to enhance capacity-building in rural areas, aiming to create resilient, connected, and prosperous communities.</p> <p>First, an analysis of the results, main takeaways, lessons learned (but also pitfalls) of the capacity building activities conducted within SMARTA-NET will be shared with participants. Then, participants will break into smaller groups to share their experiences, wishes, challenges and needs about capacity building opportunities on rural mobility solutions planning and development, fostering a collaborative dialogue on how best to advance rural mobility solutions.</p>		
Structure of the session:		
Timing	Sub-session name	Short description
14:00 – 14:10	Introduction (10')	Intro by MemEx on the workshop, in the framework of broader SMARTA-NET activities. Main takeaways from SMARTA-NET training activities. Presentation of the Interactive session
14:10 – 14:55	Interactive session	<p>Working in smaller groups (4 groups of 5 people max.). Participants will be provided suitable materials to work on. The groups will work on two different key aspects:</p> <p>1) the possible need of, approach, scope and main features of a topic guide on rural mobility for practitioners; what is the scope for tools to enable more widespread capacity-building (e.g. <i>online self-learning, structured mentoring of a batch of trainees, including a rural mobility module in indication training programs, ...</i>)?</p> <p>2) the elaboration of a capacity-building activity targeted for rural municipalities. The group should choose among different themes to face (or add new ones), decide which key issues to cover and indicate the format of the capacity building activity, the target participants and any specific tools/expertise needed to perform the activity. Participants will also need to identify which multipliers could be engaged for a widespread capacity building and which strategy to adopt to pursue their collaboration. Finally, they should also reflect on how to ensure continuity of process/commitment and retention of knowledge/experience within rural municipalities that do not have dedicated rural mobility departments/units (e.g. thinking about the risks of discontinuity in planning or managing rural mobility services in case of relocation of staff/managers dedicated to rural mobility).</p> <p>Each group will have 25' minutes (from 14:10 to 14:35) for a first round of discussion and will then pass over what produced to another group; each group will spend the</p>

		other 20 minutes to finalise what already produced by the previous group, working on the same material and trying to add contents (but not modifying what already done).
14:55– 15:15	Wrapping up	Summarising outcomes of the interactive session showing to participants what produced.
15:15 – 15:30	Building recommendations together (sli.do)	How to develop the capacity building beyond SMARTA-NET training and networking activities?