

Smart Communities 2.0

Smart Communities 2.0 – How to be smart in the countryside?

SKHU/1902/4.1/027

Programme: Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme

Priority axis: 4. Enhancing cross-border cooperation of public authorities and people living in the border area

Specific objective:

4.1 | Improving the level of cross border inter-institutional cooperation and broadening cross border cooperation between citizens

4.1.2 | Development of new cross-border services

The basic project concept is that 'smartness' is not the privilege of cities; sustainable welfare could be also achieved in the countryside with the application of the newest technologies. For this end, we have to develop and connect local communities to the increasingly digitalised global world. Based on the results of our pre-project, we plan to complete two main activity groups, as (1) Smart Village cross-border services and (2) Smart Village know-how transfer.

Our main objective is to support the 'smartening' process of rural settlements through the development of cross-border services. This is facilitated by the Smart Village Roadmap, that showcases the step-by-step process for villages to become smarter through specific actions. The Roadmap is based on a Good Practice Catalogue to be elaborated. Additionally, the Smart Database and Helpdesk service, as a one-stop-shop, provides all actual and relevant information in one place, thus, ensures matchmaking between villages, opportunities and competent consultants.

The newly developed services will form the basis of know-how transfer to villages: the main target groups are on one hand the local institutions (Smart Village Pilot Courses and Smart Academies), and on the other, local citizens (Mobile ICT Centre trainings, study tours in Local Bloom Movement and Local Development Hackathon).

As a final step, in order to measure and compare the development of villages, we plan to elaborate and introduce a new, motivating service in the form of a Smart Village Award, that is based on a Smart Village Indicator System to be programmed together by the Slovak and Hungarian partners. The coordinator is an experienced and well-embedded civil organisation that functions as a bridge towards the local settlements, while the consortium partner higher education institutions ensure the necessary knowledge and capacities on both sides of the border. The target area of the project is Nógrád county, Banska Bystrica and Kosice region.

In the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary program is the Smart Communities 2.0 project (SKHU/1902/4.1/027) with two main activity groups, as (1) Smart Village cross-border services and (2) Smart Village know-how transfer. The main objective is to support the 'smartening' process of rural settlements through the development of cross-border services. The staff of Eötvös Loránd University performs several subtasks in these. On the one hand, two smart working groups (ICT for smart villages and smart transport) will be organized, because of which two Policy Recommendations will be prepared in English for policy

makers. On the other hand, they are involved in organizing a conference (3. Smart Academy) where there will be various lectures on smart opportunities in the countryside and border regions. The content of this conference will be summarized in a conference proceeding edited by university staff. The project will develop good examples of smart devices, as well as a road map for municipalities on how to become a smart community, with the participation of colleagues. An important part of the project is the development of a smart database that will provide technical assistance to municipalities to take advantage of the Internet, in which university staff will play a significant role. They play an equally important role in the development of the Smart Village Indicator System and Award subtask, in which the municipalities of the target area are tested through smart indicators and a smart award is developed for those municipalities that achieve good results in this.

The project has several advantages for Eötvös Loránd University. On the one hand, the research topic of university staff (lecturers, researchers) is the smart phenomenon, social and economic differences of settlements, rural development and, more broadly, the social geography of Central and Eastern Europe, so they can write publications on these topics. On the other hand, the Department of Regional Science participates in the teaching of the field of geography, so the parts and results of the project appear in the educational activity, even in the form of a separate course, and scientific student works, and dissertations can be created. Thirdly, part of the educational activity is fieldwork, which can also work with students in connection with this project. Thirdly, the important goal of the relevant department is to establish relations with companies, non-governmental organizations, and local governments, which can be realized in this project as well. Fourthly, the strengthening of international relations (education, research) with foreign universities is also important, which can also be achieved through this project. Finally, as the Eötvös Loránd University's catchment area is national, it can also attract young people from the affected area to the university through the project.

Project consortium:

- Interindustria Knowledge Centre Foundation - ITA (HU)
- Technical University of Kosice – TUKE (SK)
- Eötvös Loránd University – ELTE (HU)

ITA, as project coordinator is an experienced and well-embedded civil organisation that functions as a bridge towards the local settlements, while the consortium partner higher education institutions ensure the necessary knowledge and capacities on both sides of the border.

Faculty of Economics at the TU Kosice has long term experience with enhancement of the creativity of the youth. TUKE has been coordinator or the partner in many projects dealing with support of innovation and creativity.

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) was founded in 1635, it got its current name in 1950. ELTE is the oldest continuously operating university in Hungary. It has eight faculties and one institute with faculty rights. With its about 28-29,000 students ELTE is the largest university in Hungary. The Faculty of Sciences is – with about 3,500 students – the second largest faculty of the Eötvös Loránd University. The faculty has 5 institutes, and in one of them operates our department, the Department of Regional Science. The main profile of the department is research of the spatial aspects of socio-economic processes and teaching geography students. We work together with many state organizations, ministries, local governments, and market companies facilitating the employment of our graduates and doing actual research.

Total budget: 178 692 EUR

Start date and end date of project: 01/10/2020 – 31/01/2022



Partnerséget építünk



**SMART
COMMUNITIES**

A PROJEKT CÍME

Smart Communities 2.0

How to be smart in the countryside?

KEDVEZMÉNYEZETT

Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem

KEZDÉS IDŐPONTJA

2020.10.01.

BEFEJÉZÉS IDŐPONTJA

2022.01.31.

A TÁMOGATÁS ÖSSZEGE

43 635,6 EUR

A projekt az Európai Unió támogatásával, a Regionális Fejlesztési Alap társfinanszírozásával valósul meg.

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