

LOOKING FOR PARTNERS FROM:**North: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden****South: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain****West: Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland****Project title: SHARING GOALS, ACTIONS AND RESOURCES FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR COMMUNITIES****Project acronym: SHARING****Better governance (policy objective 6) / Policy governance****Project summary:**

People in small communities have the same needs and rights for accessible and quality public services as people living in large ones, but less opportunities. It's the duty of local governments to meet these needs and grant these rights. It's also the Government's duty to ensure the necessary framework in which local governments have the basic instruments they need to do their job. Capitalization of cooperation gains is a solution to succeed when you can't do it alone, especially in areas as digitalization, where technologies and needs advance so fast. Thus, the project aims to improve policies on cooperation so local governments, partners or their target group, become stronger by sharing experiences, resources and tools, by joining efforts to provide good practices, inspiration and trust to others facing the same challenges. Disparities between communities could thus be reduced and accessible and quality public services become reality. Our partnership connects national, regional and local perspectives and partners' experiences (amalgamation in LV and FR, intercommunity and agreement actions in FR, cooperation within the county in HR and varied cooperation forms in RO) allowing know-how sharing and will inspire new ways to improve policies, enabling an integrated approach on cooperation. Exchanges of experiences, mutual learning and on-the-ground cases will spark all partners to boost their policies, on common roots and goals, and to build a better future for their communities. The framework to be improved by the leader with significant input from the partners will have a national impact on small local governments. The ROP to be improved by the MA partner will ensure more focused financing. The policies improved by the other partners will have a direct and quick impact on the corresponding communities. Sharing experiences will empower all partners to fulfil their mission and will inspire others to enhance performance and sustainable and needs-oriented development

Issue addressed by your project

The measure falls within specific objective 6 - better governance - which aims at developing and improving tools to support governance processes at local level and to enrich the policies and their implementation in order to ensure the necessary conditions for an open, participatory, inclusive and responsible governance, able to provide quality services that meet the evolving needs of the beneficiaries. The project focuses on analysing existing cooperation solutions and how they can represent a support tool to overcome the obstacles that small local communities face in providing quality public services to citizens, seeking to improve these tools by capitalizing on the experiences and best practices. This will increase the institutional capacity of public authorities, both those directly mandated to manage a certain territory, as well as those with a coordination role at a higher level (county, region, national) to build, manage, implement or finance policies of regional development.

Project's overall objective:

The project's overall objective is to improve the implementation of regional development policies in the field of better governance, in particular to enrich project's various policies or their management by emphasizing cooperation forms that will support local governments to better meet the communities' needs and the funders' requests. The project will capitalize on areas of fruitful cooperation, forms of

cooperation and their financing or merger of authorities, with a focus on certain specific areas as provision of electronic public services. The partners' diverse practices in this area makes this project the perfect frame for a change in the mindset and organizational culture in the benefit of partners and their stakeholders, and also in the benefit of others who can adapt or replicate the experiences or get inspired in finding new solutions. Cooperation will become a more widespread way of doing things that can strengthen local communities in any EU country.

Partners involved up to this moment/Policy instruments addressed

- [MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC WORKS AND ADMINISTRATION \(MDPWA\) – Romania / ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF ROMANIA \(GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 57/2019\)](#) - MDPWA aims to amend the Administrative Code of Romania and to facilitate the completion of the accessory methodological framework in order to promote cooperation between municipalities, as a source for sustainable development, strategic long-term thinking and flexible and mutually beneficial partnerships
- [SOUTH-WEST OLTENIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY \(SWO RDA\) – Romania / ERDF South-West Oltenia Regional Program 2021-2027](#) - SWO RDA aims to improve the management of the policy (monitoring methodology) for projects implemented under this SO addressing the digitalization of public institutions at regional level. SHARING project exchange of experience will help identify the policy improvement possibilities with involvement of relevant stakeholders, in order to encourage and enhance the region's digitalization transition through better cooperation between small local governments and between them and the polarizing urban center, for better cooperation between citizens, companies and public institutions
- [PUBLIC INSTITUTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEĐIMURJE COUNTY REDEA \(PI REDEA\), and MEĐIMURJE COUNTY \(MC\) as associated policy authorities - Croatia / MEĐIMURJE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2027](#) - the main focus of the project will be to identify, on one hand, the best practices on local cooperation models and the best-fitted public services to be provided in cooperation and, on the other hand, the best practices in terms of digitalization, with the final aim of replicating, adapting or even improving them at the Međimurje County level.
- [SMILTENE MUNICIPALITY \(SM\) – Latvia / LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM 2022 – 2028 FOR SMILTENE AREA](#) - the policy will be enriched in the areas of developing modern and customer-oriented municipal services (Development of electronic service and Availability of digital information) with new activities or improvements of existing activities, focusing on ensuring a full integration of the electronic services provided prior to the 2021 amalgamation by the 4 merged municipalities, on unitary development in terms of connection with people and on reducing the digital skills gap of the population.
- [MUNICIPALITY OF PLOEUC-L'HERMITAGE \(PLH\) – France / Saint-Brieuc/Quintin/Plœuc-L'Hermitage Territory Revitalization Operation \(2020 – 2025\)](#) - the changes in the management of the policy instrument will focus on the identification and capitalization of concrete ways by which the measures in the responsibility of Plœuc-L'Hermitage can be better carried out through strengthening local cooperation. They also will aim to increase the role of Plœuc-L'Hermitage as an Agglomeration services center by using advanced practices of cooperation with municipalities in the area and by targeting services that can be more easily accessible through digitization.