

The RESIST project is co-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund) under the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

Appendix

I. Resource Guide

II. Case studies

I. Resource Guide

1. [Nesta: Design in Public and Social Innovation](#)

This paper examines how design methods are being used to improve public services and social innovation. It looks at the benefits, like making services more user-friendly and creative, and the challenges, such as high costs and difficulty in showing long-term results. The author suggests that combining design with other skills and focusing on collaboration can make these methods more effective. This is useful for anyone interested in better public services through innovative design.

2. [Nesta: DIY Development Toolkit](#)

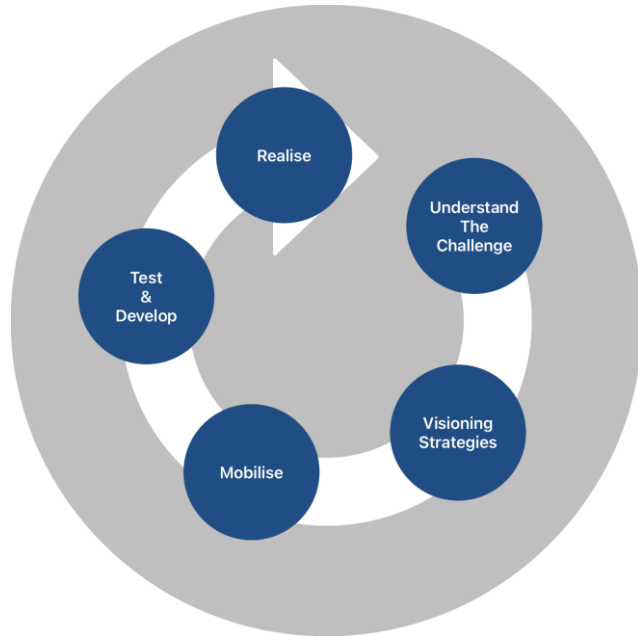
The DIY Development Impact Toolkit provides practical tools for creating and improving ideas to achieve better outcomes. It is easy to use, designed for busy professionals in development, and includes the most effective tools based on extensive research. Each tool comes with references for further reading. This toolkit builds on well-established methods from various sectors.

3. [The European Social Innovation Competition: The Social Innovation Toolkit](#)

The Social Innovation Toolkit 2018 from the European Social Innovation Competition helps people create economic, social, and environmental value in their communities. It offers tools and resources to develop innovative ideas, addressing issues like digital inclusion, refugee integration, and youth empowerment. This toolkit guides users through the innovation process to turn their ideas into effective initiatives.

4. [The Guidelines for Social Hackathon Events](#)

The Guidelines for Social Hackathon Events, developed by Tallinn University and partners, provide a framework for creating innovative public services through collaborative events.



Funded by the European Commission's CoSIE project, these guidelines focus on using digital tools and open data to involve citizens, especially vulnerable groups, in co-creating services. The project emphasises partnerships between service providers and users to enhance community welfare and inclusivity.

5. [Community Reporter: CoSIE](#)

The CoSIE project fostered public sector innovation through collaborative partnerships between service providers and citizens. It aimed to enhance democracy and social inclusion by engaging diverse groups in co-creating public services. The project featured 9 pilots across Europe, using Community Reporting to gather stakeholder stories which represent the views of various stakeholders of these pilots including users, staff, and associated NGOs and support the co-creation process.

6. [Community Reporter: CoSIE Lived Experience Toolkit](#)

The CoSIE Horizon 2020 project created partnerships between citizens, public agencies, NGOs, and private companies to improve public services through co-creation. People's Voice Media led efforts to use lived experience storytelling, or Community Reporting, to enhance service design, delivery, and evaluation. This toolkit synthesises key learnings and offers resources to help services utilise lived experiences effectively.

7. [City of Hamburg: Social Entrepreneurship Strategy](#)

The EU Commission defines social enterprises as companies with a social mission, contributing to sustainable development goals and addressing social or environmental challenges. Hamburg's "Social Entrepreneurship Strategy," led by the Ministry of Economics and Innovation and adopted in January 2023, aims to foster a strong ecosystem for social enterprises. The strategy, developed with input from over 350 stakeholders, focuses on creating structures and skills, enhancing visibility, securing financing, and establishing partnerships. The goal is to drive sustainable social impact across the city.

8. [Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(Germany\): National Strategy for Startups](#)

The future of our economy hinges on transforming into a social-ecological market economy, and companies oriented towards the common good are pivotal in this transition. The BMWK, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and other ministries, has developed and is implementing a National Strategy to support such companies. These enterprises, which prioritise social impact over profit, contribute to social innovations, job creation, and sustainable economic growth. The strategy aims to improve financial access, enhance the ecosystem, and refine the legal framework to foster the growth and impact of these socially responsible businesses.

9. [Ladder of Citizen Participation – Organizing Engagement](#)

Sherry Arnstein's 1969 "Ladder of Citizen Participation" is a key model in democratic public participation, illustrating how empowered institutions can deny power to citizens. Arnstein argues that genuine participation requires redistributing power to citizens. The ladder has eight rungs (Manipulation, Therapy, Informing, Consultation, Placation, Partnership, Delegated Power, Citizen Control), each representing different levels of citizen power and control. This model underscores that without real power redistribution, participation is merely

symbolic. While the ladder is a useful tool, it has limitations, such as oversimplifying complex power dynamics and not addressing the practical roadblocks to genuine participation.

10. [Ladder of Children's Participation – Organising Engagement](#)

Roger Hart's Ladder of Children's Participation, first introduced in 1992, outlines eight levels of decision-making agency, control, and power for children and youth within adult-led projects and programs. This framework aims to assess the degree of genuine involvement children have in various activities. The ladder ranges from lower levels like manipulation and decoration, where children have little understanding or control, to higher levels like child-initiated, shared decisions with adults, where children play an active role in decision-making. Despite its widespread application, Hart emphasises that the ladder should not be interpreted as a developmental sequence or used as a comprehensive evaluation tool for programs.

11. [Typology of Youth Participation and Empowerment Pyramid – Organizing Engagement](#)

The Typology of Youth Participation and Empowerment (TYPE) Pyramid is a model that categorises youth participation into Adult Control, Youth Control, and Shared Control, with Shared Control being ideal for youth empowerment. It builds on earlier frameworks, highlighting the benefits of positive youth-adult partnerships for community and youth development. The model is relevant for those involved in designing youth programs, as it offers insights into optimal ways to engage and empower youth through shared decision-making and participatory activities.

12. Youth Engagement Continuum – [Organizing Engagement](#)

The TYPE Pyramid and Youth Engagement Continuum are models for understanding youth participation and empowerment. The TYPE Pyramid categories participation into Adult Control, Youth Control, and Shared Control, with shared control being optimal for youth empowerment. The Youth Engagement Continuum outlines a progression from basic youth services to full empowerment through organising, emphasising the development of skills and leadership in youth. Both models are useful for educators, community leaders, and organisers aiming to design effective youth programs and foster meaningful youth involvement in community and civic activities.

13. Responsible Research and Innovation Tools — [RRI Tools](#)

A project to foster Responsible Research and Innovation for society, with society.

This project developed and used a Training and Dissemination Toolkit on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). It was addressed to and designed by all stakeholders across the Research and Innovation (RI) chain of value, including Researchers, Civil Society, Industry and Education but will specially focus on Policy Makers in order to impact significantly in the future governance of RI.

II. Case Studies

1. Digital Villages, Germany

2. The MERKUR Program, Norway

3. „Housebuilding in Rural Areas“ Program, Norway (2012–2014)

4. The VålTel Project, Sweden & Norway (2016-2019)

5. The Development of Eastern Poland (2007-2013), Poland (2014-2020)

6. Vunki Mano, Estonia (The Social Hackathon (2016-Present))

1. Digital Villages, Germany

1. Introduction

The "Digital Villages" project was initiated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Sports Rhineland-Palatinate and the IESE in the summer of 2015 (running until 2019) and has a total budget of around €4.5 million. Germany's villages and rural areas are feeling the effects of demographic change and rural depopulation. This trend raises some important questions for the future: what will villages look like as the population ages? Will young people and families still move to rural villages? Will villages be able to maintain their infrastructure (transport, shops, healthcare, etc.). Will there still be businesses in rural areas? What concepts will help to revive villages and rural areas and keep them attractive for residents, young and old?

Based on the definition provided by the EU, approximately 66% of the German population live in sparsely populated areas and intermediate density areas, which is around 56 million people.

I. Mission: The project "Digital Villages", coordinated by the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering (IESE), seeks **to identify digital solutions for people living in these areas, focusing primarily on sparsely populated areas**. The project, "Digital Villages" also shows **how digitisation opens up new opportunities for rural areas**.

II. Location: Rural areas of Germany (**Betzdorf-Gebhardshain, Eisenberg, and Göllheim**)

III. The Stakeholders involved: Local residents and businesses, the administrations of the municipal associations, researchers from Fraunhofer IESE and other project partners. Vendors include local bakeries, organic farms, vegetable farmer, regular supermarkets, but also non-food vendors, such as sports stores, drugstores, pharmacies, laundries, bookstores and libraries

IV. Main challenges:

1. Demographic Change and Rural Depopulation.

2. To bridge the distances among small numbers of people.
3. Limited Digital Infrastructure.

V. Why they used a mission-orientated innovation policy framework?

The "Digital Villages" project utilized a Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy (MOIP) framework to address the challenges of demographic change, rural depopulation, and limited digital infrastructure in rural areas of Germany. By adopting this framework, the project aimed to set clear objectives and mobilize resources towards achieving specific societal missions, such as improving the quality of life in rural communities through digital solutions.

2. Process

1. **Initiation:** Project initiated by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Sports Rhineland-Palatinate and the IESE in the summer of 2015.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Through an open innovation competition, associations of municipalities were invited to submit project ideas to improve the quality of life in their area by the means of digital services.
3. **Winner Selection Criteria:** An independent jury of experts from politicians, society and research selected the winners whose project focused on improving local commerce and integrating new concepts of digital volunteer works.
4. **Project Implementation:** Testing digital solutions (early prototypes) in pilot villages by Living Lab Approach . Solutions include digital platforms and user-friendly apps.
5. **Evaluation, Improvement and Scaling:** Ongoing monitoring and feedback for refinement. Successful projects expanded to more villages, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

3. Outcomes

- BestellBar and LieferBar were the first apps to be used, in 2016. After the first three months there were:
 1. 35 local vendors,
 2. 1200+ available products
 3. 700+ registered residents
 4. 800+ items purchased
 5. 200+ voluntary deliveries
- **DorfNews**, a local news portal, enabling the municipalities to inform residents quickly about local news and events.
- There have been 200-400 users per week per municipality on average, and news articles with more than 1000 visits.

4. Learnings

- We can learn to focus on specific challenges faced by rural communities, Concept Development with Resident s Input, Pilot Implementation and Living Lab Approach.

- Organizing open innovation competitions can be an effective way to engage everyone in generating ideas.

5. References

1. [Interview on the German Digital Villages Research Project - eco](#)
2. [Digital Villages Germany](#)
3. [German strategies for digitizing rural areas](#)
4. [Smart Villages | The European Network for Rural Development \(ENRD\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

2. The MERKUR Program, Norway

1. Introduction

The Merkur program is financed by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and receives about 70 million NOK per year (€5.92M, 2024). Its prime focus is on retailers in areas with population decline and long distances to other retail opportunities. Many of these retailers are in delicate financial situations. The Merkur program aims to support small rural grocery shops in Norway by providing financial assistance, business development support, and networking opportunities. The mission is to ensure the sustainability and vitality of these essential local businesses, thereby contributing to the economic and social well-being of rural communities.

I. Mission: To provide new services in the shops to increase their profitability and to give the local population a broader and better level of service near their homes.

II. Location: (Skjolden, Haugen, Sjøtun) Norway

III. The stakeholders involved: Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, financial institutions, grocery shop owners, local residents, community organizations, consumer cooperatives.

IV. Main challenges:

- Declining population and changing consumer preferences leading to reduced foot traffic and sales in rural grocery shops.
- Limited access to capital and resources for small business owners in remote areas.
- Competition from larger supermarkets and online retailers.
- Difficulty in attracting and retaining skilled employees.

V. Why they used a mission-orientated innovation policy framework?

The Merkur program utilizes a mission-oriented innovation policy framework to address the specific challenges faced by small rural grocery shops. By focusing on the mission of sustaining these businesses and revitalizing rural economies, the program adopts a targeted approach to policy intervention, emphasizing collaboration, capacity-building, and long-term viability.

2. Process

1. Initiation: Project initiated by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.
2. Needs Assessment: The program begins with a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the challenges and opportunities faced by small rural grocery shops in different regions.
3. Eligibility Criteria: The distance to the next shop exceeded 20 kilometers, shops were located on islands and, shops served a local market. Interested retailers can apply through the official Merkur website.
4. Project Implementation: The project offers competence to retailers through 10 approved counsellors located across the country. Based on the needs assessment, the counsellors design targeted interventions, including financial support mechanisms, training programs, and market access initiatives.
5. Resource Allocation: Financial resources are allocated to support eligible grocery shops through grants, loans, and subsidies for infrastructure development, marketing, and product diversification.

3. Outcomes

- Over 1000 retailers from around 800 local areas have applied for the program.
- Retailers within the program experience better development and financial stability compared to those outside the program.
- **Fjellmat AS** received support in areas such as inventory management, pricing strategies, and customer engagement which resulted in increased foot traffic, improved profitability, and became a hub for the community. (link below)
- **Haugen Mat & Vinhus** received business development counseling and help to optimize their product selection and as a result they saw a boost in sales, and customers appreciated the personalized service. (link below)
- Since 2008, The Merkur-Book program supports rural book retailers, enhancing their profitability.

4. Learnings

- We can learn to focus on community engagement, understanding local dynamics, and tailoring support programs accordingly.
- Combining financial aid with practical guidance to help businesses thrive.

5. References

1. [The MERKUR-program](#)
2. [Specific measures for local development in remote areas](#)
3. [Nordic rural areas – potentials and challenges, Service provision in the rural areas](#)
4. [How to apply for support](#)

5. [Overview of Mercury stores](#)
6. [Bjorli Fjellmat](#)
7. [Haugen Farm Food](#)

3. „Housebuilding in Rural Areas” Program, Norway (2012–2014)

1. Introduction

The "Housebuilding in rural areas" program aimed to improve the supply of houses in rural municipalities facing challenges in their housing markets, particularly those with small and risky markets. Twelve rural municipalities took part in this rural house building program.

I. Mission: To facilitate good quality service provision by improving housing supply in underserved rural areas.

II. Location: Lillehammer, Undredal, Haugesund, Skudenes, Oslo, Porsgrunn

III. The stakeholders involved: Norwegian State Housing Bank, Centre of Competence on Rural Development, participating municipalities, Residents in need of housing, local construction firms, potential homebuyers.

IV. Main challenges:

- Shortage of appropriate housing due to dysfunctional housing markets in rural areas.
- Declining populations leading to low demand for houses and risky investment prospects.
- Limited access to housing finance for individuals due to market uncertainties.

V. Why they used a mission-orientated innovation policy framework?

The program utilized a mission-oriented approach to address the specific challenge of housing supply in rural areas by providing knowledge sharing and housing subsidies. It aimed to stimulate housing construction in underserved markets, thereby enhancing rural development and community resilience.

2. Process

1. **Initiation:** The Norwegian State Housing Bank managed the program, supported by the Centre of Competence on Rural Development. The program begins with the identification of rural municipalities facing housing challenges.
2. **Assessment:** A thorough assessment is conducted to understand the housing gaps in each participating municipality. This involves analyzing existing housing stock, market conditions, and demographic trends.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaged participating municipalities, residents, housing developers, and relevant stakeholders in the program. Facilitated knowledge exchange through joint meeting places, experiential conferences, and online platforms to empower municipalities and stakeholders.

4. Housing Subsidies: Provided financial support for building new accommodations in rural areas with subsidies managed by the Norwegian State Housing Bank. Subsidies may cover construction costs, land acquisition, infrastructure development, or renovation of existing properties.
5. Implementation: Participants apply for subsidies and once approved, housing projects move into the implementation phase.

3. Outcomes:

- Increased housing supply in rural municipalities with small and risky housing markets.
- Empowered municipalities and stakeholders through knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- Facilitated housing construction projects that would not have been undertaken without the subsidies.
- Enhanced housing affordability and accessibility for residents in rural areas.
- Strengthened collaboration between the public and private sectors to address rural housing challenges.

4. Learnings

- Conducting a comprehensive assessment of housing gaps, market conditions, and demographic trends in rural municipalities is crucial for understanding the root causes of housing shortages.
- Providing housing subsidies in rural areas can incentivize housing construction.

5. References

1. [THE RURAL AND REGIONAL POLICY OF NORWAY Institutions, development features and current instruments](#)
2. [The Housing Bank](#)
3. [Porsgrunn Bamble Borgestad Housing Association](#)

4. The VålTel Project, Sweden & Norway (2016-2019)

1. Introduction

Digital solutions for health care are increasingly seen as an essential element of service provision across the Nordic Region. The collaboration project VålTel Mixed Zone for a Welfare Technology TestLab created a cross-border innovation arena or a mixed zone for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), municipalities and regions. It promoted research for developing and testing welfare technology solutions within and across the Swedish Region of JämtlandHärjedalen and the Norwegian county of Trøndelag, an area also called the Nordic green belt .

I. Mission:

- To develop, test and implement welfare technology solutions.

- To foster cross-border collaboration between Sweden and Norway for the development and implementation of welfare technology.

II. Location: Jämtland Härjedalen (Sweden) and Trøndelag (Norway)

III. The stakeholders: Helse-Nord-Trøndelag HF, Norwegian Innovation Clinic, Swedish E-health Hub, Elderly individuals, people with disabilities, Government agencies responsible for health and social care, technology developers, academic institutions, local municipalities, healthcare providers.

IV. Main challenges:

- The lengthy and increasing distances to access health care in rural areas which increases health care costs.
- A current (and probably future) shortage of medical staff across the Norwegian and Swedish regions.
- Barriers to digital competences and knowledge among staff.
- Legal challenges – data solutions and data sharing

V. Why they used a mission-orientated innovation policy framework?

The VålTel project aligns with a mission-oriented innovation policy framework by addressing societal challenges related to aging populations and healthcare sustainability. By fostering cross-border collaboration and leveraging technological innovation, the project aims to achieve tangible outcomes in improving the welfare of citizens.

2. Process

1. Initiation: Project initiated in 2016 by Region Jämtland Härjedalen and Helse Nord Trøndelag with funding from Interreg Sweden-Norway.
2. Team Formation: Three main groups were established for project management: a steering group (representatives from municipalities, project owners, project managers, companies, and Mid Sweden University), a project group (project managers from both countries), and a reference group (representatives from research, academia, and the business sector). Steering group provided guidance; project group oversaw day-to-day activities; reference group offered feedback.
3. Stakeholder Engagement: Involved 30 companies, 14 Swedish and Norwegian municipalities, and healthcare regions. Collaboration was fostered between the Norwegian Innovation Clinic and the Swedish E-health Hub in Östersund.
4. Development and Testing: Established three test labs focusing on health rooms and mobile health solutions, connected homes, and emergency support. Invited companies to apply for testbeds to develop and test welfare technology solutions.
5. Implementation: Tested solutions in real healthcare environments, examples include SkillAidapp and mobile X-ray car.

3. Outcomes

- Developed and tested innovative welfare technology solutions addressing specialized care, emergency care, geriatric care, and home care.
- SkillAid – a Norwegian app designed to introduce new and temporary health care staff to their new workplace and tasks. (link below)
- Mobile X-ray car - designed to make X-rays more accessible for patients.
- A model tested in Region Härjedalen Jämtland which enabled dental hygienists to carry out oral health assessments in the patients home environments, while still being able to access the Swedish Public Dental Care journal system.
- Improved cross-border collaboration between Sweden and Norway in the development and testing of welfare technology solutions.

4. Learnings

- Opportunities were provided to improve networking and collaboration across the Swedish-Norwegian border, as well as to exchange ideas and transfer developed products or innovations more efficiently across borders.
- Good coordination and leadership were important for cohesion.

5. References

1. [Nordregio - Public Service Delivery in the Nordic Region: An Exercise in Collaborative Governance](#)
2. [Inforegio - VätTel: Partnership brings smart solutions for rural healthcare in Sweden and Norway](#)
3. [The mobile solution SkillAid — Learning Facilitator - Customized knowledge dissemination for the health sector | Dynamic Health AS](#)

5. The Development of Eastern Poland (2007-2013), Poland (2014-2020)

1. Introduction

The Development of Eastern Poland initiative is a comprehensive program aimed at addressing the socio-economic challenges faced by the peripheral regions of Poland, particularly those located at the eastern and northern land borders. These regions, characterized by low levels of economic development and limited access to infrastructure and services, have historically struggled to keep pace with the rest of the country. This program fell under the Convergence Objective and had a total budget of approximately €2.7 billion.

I. Mission:

- The initiative seeks to leverage innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development to unlock the potential of rural areas and promote inclusive growth.
- The Program is expected to deliver additional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 1.38% and up to 13610 new jobs annually.

II. Location: Poland (Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Podlaskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships)

III. The stakeholders: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Government Agencies (National, regional), Municipalities, local enterprises, entrepreneurs, research and academic institutions.

IV. Main challenges:

- Peripheral regions face lower income levels and fewer job opportunities compared to urban areas.
- Population decline and aging demographics strain social welfare systems and reduce labor force participation.
- Lack of innovation capacity and financing hampers economic diversification and competitiveness.
- Limited transportation and digital connectivity hinder business growth and access to services.

V. Why they used a mission-orientated innovation policy framework?

The initiative utilizes a mission-oriented innovation policy framework to address these challenges by setting specific goals and targets related to innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. By focusing on mission-driven objectives, such as improving infrastructure, supporting SMEs, and enhancing environmental sustainability, the initiative aims to mobilize resources, coordinate efforts, and drive systemic change in Eastern Poland's rural areas.

2. Process

1. **Initiation:** Project initiated by The European Commission on October 2, 2007. This program falls within the framework of the Convergence Objective.
2. **Assessment:** Conducted comprehensive assessments to identify the key challenges, opportunities, and priorities for innovation and development in rural areas.
3. **Strategy Formulation:** Formulated a regional innovation strategy (RIS3) and action plan that outlines the objectives, priorities, and interventions needed to achieve sustainable development goals.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building:** Engaged with stakeholders at all levels to participate in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of initiatives. Provided training, technical assistance, and knowledge exchange programs to strengthen the skills and capabilities of local communities, businesses, and institutions.
5. **Investment and Implementation:** Mobilized financial resources from public and private sources to fund priority projects (link below) and initiatives identified in the action plan.

3. Outcomes

- Improved economic indicators with increased GDP per capita.
- Completed 2500 projects.
- Enhanced infrastructure, including transport, communication, and energy.
- The concept of smart villages and sustainable rural development was promoted, leading to the emergence of new businesses and job opportunities in rural areas of Eastern Poland.

4. Learnings

Developing a regional innovation strategy (RIS3) and action plan that outlines objectives, priorities, and interventions helps guide efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals and fostering economic growth.

5. References

1. [OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME - DEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN POLAND, 2007 – 2013. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF LUBLIN VOIVODESHIP AND THE INSTRUMENT OF REGIONAL CONVERGENCE](#)
2. [The Potential for Innovative and Smart Rural Development in the Peripheral Regions of Eastern Poland](#)
3. [Poland - Operational Programme 2007-2013: Development of Eastern Poland](#)
4. [SMART VILLAGES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT](#)

6: *Vunki Mano, Estonia (The Social Hackathon (2016-Present))*

1. Introduction

In 2016, the local governments of Võru County sought an answer to the question of how to solve people's problems in a situation where it seemed that the old system no longer worked. This led to the birth of a social hackathon. Social hackathon is an intense weekend where everyone is welcome to participate in developing innovative services and working on solutions that promote life in Võru county.

I. Mission:

- The social hackathon will work towards innovative solutions for community services/products with community interests and benefits in mind.
- To empower the creative mindset: by engaging in problem solving

II. Location: Estonia (Võru County)

III. The stakeholders: Tallinn University's Institute of Social Sciences, local authorities of Võru County and the NGO Helpific, Võrumaa Development Center, participants, mentors, and community members.

IV. Main challenges:

- Identifying and solving complex, "wicked" problems facing the community.

- Mobilizing community participation and engagement.

V. Why they used a mission-orientated innovation policy framework?

A Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy (MOIP) framework was implicitly used to drive the social hackathon initiative in Võru County, Estonia. The mission-oriented approach was evident in the project's overarching goal of addressing complex community problems through innovation and empowering the creative mindset. By focusing on community interests and benefits, the hackathon aimed to foster impactful and sustainable solutions to wicked problems facing the region.

2. Process

1. Initiation: In 2016, local governments, academic institutions, and NGOs collaborated to address community problems through innovation.
2. Planning: The first hackathon was organized in 2018 to test the viability of the idea acceleration method in rural areas.
3. Implementation: Hackathon participants, including mentors and community members, worked collaboratively, over an intensive 48 hrs to develop innovative solutions to identified challenges.
4. Outreach: Extensive campaign efforts are made to involve representatives from different target groups, utilising various communication channels and formats.
5. Evaluation: The success of the hackathon is measured based on the number of ideas generated, community engagement, and feedback from participants.

3. Outcome so far

- The general profile of the raised topics has shifted from small, isolated projects to addressing systematic, change-oriented problems.
- Stronger networks, a wider coverage of the problem and innovative solutions are born.
- Boosted 72 ideas and been replicated in other counties and influencing policy-making through the EUARENAS project.
- "Let's Make the Walls Talk!" emerged as the stellar idea at the VII Vunki Mano hackathon, aimed at transforming mental health support for youth.
- "Parenting Knowledge and Skills Development" aims to create a generational shift towards more conscious and informed parenting, breaking the chain of dysfunctional family patterns.

4. Learnings

Prioritising community interest and focusing towards systematic and change-oriented problem solving can promote impactful and sustainable outcomes.

The Hackthon has a rapid ideation phase of 48 hrs which ensures community engagement and measurable solutions.

5. References

1. [Rural participation piloted through social hackathon "Vunki Mano" in Voru \(euarenas.eu\)](https://euarenas.eu)
2. [Co-creation of Service Innovation in Europe \(CoSIE\)](#)
3. [Success story from Võru, Estonia: The people who shape rural participation \(euarenas.eu\)](https://euarenas.eu)
4. [Creative Guide - Vunki mano!](#)