



2nd Smart Rural Regional Workshop



Supporting Smart Villages with a focus on Increasing Rural Communities' Resilience through Energy Transition



**4-5 November 2021, Stanz im Mürztal,
Austria**

Practical information



The 'Preparatory Action on Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century' is coordinated by E40 and funded by the European Commission. The event is supported by Stanz im Mürztal (Austria).





2nd Smart Rural Regional Workshop



Organisers

The event is organised by E40 (Project Coordinator) in the framework of the 'Preparatory Action for Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century' (Smart Rural 21 project) supported by DG AGRI, in collaboration with Stanz im Mürztal - selected village of the Smart Rural 21 project in Austria. To contact the organisers see contact details below.

Dates & schedule

Afternoon, 4 November 2021 (14.00 – 17.00) – Field visit in Stanz im Mürztal: visiting the windmills in the mountains, retention basin to prevent flooding, walk in the centre (organic and regional products, new housing, biomass plant).


Morning, 5 November (9.30 – 15.30) - Plenary of the 2nd Regional Workshop & interactive sessions: Presentations from Smart Rural 21 villages, Discussion on Smart Villages Policy developments with a focus on supporting local renewable energy actions.

[Please note that a virtual field visit (16.00 – 17.00) for online participants might be organised in the afternoon of 5 November – to be confirmed!]

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided (for the nights of 3, 4 & 5 Nov 2021) in the following accommodations:

- GH Turmwirt Mürzhofen <https://www.turmwirt.at>, +43 3864 2312
- GH Oberer Gesslbauer Stanz <https://www.oberergesslbauer.com>, +43 3865 8216
- Pension Ehrenfried Kindbergdörfel www.ehrenfried.at, +43 3865 2406

 **Please do not book your hotel before receiving a confirmation of your registration for the event from the organisers.** Once we confirm your registration, we will provide you with more details on the hotel/room reservation process.



Event venue

The event will be organised face-to-face, with some of the sessions livestreamed. **Please indicate on the registration form your preference** for a face-to-face or online event.

The face-to-face sessions will be held in Stanz im Mürztal's Town Hall. Transportation from and to the hotel will be provided for both days to the participants.

The online sessions will be made available on Smart Rural 21 YouTube or Facebook – to be confirmed.

Please keep in mind, that there may be technical interruptions or disruptions during the interactive online event.

Anyways regarding to the accommodation bookings, it is crucial for us to get to know how many people are willing to travel during the actual situation in November 2021. Therefore, we kindly ask you to fill out the registration form, by telling us your preference about the form of participation, as soon as possible.

Registration & fees

You can register for the event through the following link **until 15th October 2021**:

<https://e40.typeform.com/to/ysseKdc2>

You can indicate through the registration link your travel preferences.

The event is free of charge (no registration fee applies). Support is available for a limited number of representatives towards their travel costs. The cost of up to one participant per organisation might be supported. You can apply for support through the registration form (link above). We will get back to participants who requested support as soon as possible.

 **Please do not make any travel arrangements/ booking until your registration is confirmed by the organisers.**


In case of large interest in the event – and to ensure a country balance - the organisers might not be in a position of approving all registrations for the face-to-face event.



How to get there?

To Austria from other countries

The nearest airports are Vienna (140km from the hotel) and Graz (70km from the hotel). Vienna has better international connectivity.

 **Please do not book your flight prior to receiving confirmation of your registration for the event.**

From the airport to the hotel

By train: From the airport, there are frequent train connections to the next bigger city Kapfenberg. Information about the timetable is available on: <https://fahrplan.oebb.at/bin/query.exe/en> (Departure Station: **Kapfenberg Bahnhof**). The journey time by train will take around 2,5 hours. The organisers will offer group transfers by bus/ minivan from Kapfenberg to the hotel to participants.

Please indicate your interest in transfer from the train station on the registration form. You can also indicate on the form if you are planning to hire a car at the airport and/or willing to share a car with other participants. Journey by car from the airport takes approx. 1,5 hours.

The neighbouring villages and communities can be reached by e-taxi via Hupf-Auf Bankerl or by public transport. Shuttle transport will be provided to and from the session venues during the event.

 **Please note that an FFP2 mask is obligatory when traveling by public transport in Austria.**

COVID rules and restrictions

Due to the continued uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 situation - including participants' individual circumstances as well as different country rules – we will kindly ask you to plan your trip carefully and make a joint effort to follow the relevant reservation and Covid rules:

- **Applicable COVID rules & travel restrictions:** For entry without quarantine, you need a proof of testing (PCR) or of full vaccination or recovery in German or English. The best way is to use the digital Covid certificate of the EU. However, the proof can also be provided with other recognised documents (e.g. vaccination certificate etc.). You need to carefully study the applicable COVID travel restrictions from and to Austria and your country through the official sites (for informal information, see for instance here: https://www.oesterreich.gv.at/en/themen/coronavirus_in_oesterreich/pre-travel-clearance.html).

Rules can of course change until November 2021. **Participants need to check specific rules applicable to their own countries and Austria**, however, the organizers will also aim at providing more detailed information regularly to registered participants.

- The proof of testing, vaccination or recovery is also checked at the beginning of each event and a list of participants will be created for potential contact tracing. Antigen rapid tests can be provided by the organisers.



Refund for supported participants

As specified above, a limited number of travel support will be offered by the organisers. Even in such cases the above rules and suggestions apply. **Refund or support for travel can only be made to those participants who physically participated at the event** (and provided supporting evidence: boarding passes/ hotel invoices, etc.)

If you are traveling by plane, please check carefully the applicable COVID rules on and the conditions for refund in case of Covid. Normally, airlines need to reimburse travel costs in case of cancellations due to Covid or offer exchange vouchers, however, the situation might not be straightforward. **Please check the rules and consider additional travel insurance accordingly.** Organisers cannot take the responsibility to refund individual flight costs in case of cancellation of the event or of individual participation due to Covid restrictions.

Contact

For any practical matters about travel and organisation contact:

Anna Parizán at smart-rural@e40.eu

Anita Balogh at villages@smartrural21.eu

or

For any other questions on the Smart Rural 21 project, you can also contact Edina Ocsko (Project Coordinator) at edina.ocsko@e40.eu.

