

## GERMANY

### Local development

#### Location

Remmesweiler, St. Wendel

#### Programming period

2014 – 2020

#### Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

#### Measure

M19 – LEADER/CLLD

#### Funding (EUR)

Total budget 507 086

RDP 65 900 (Phase II)

Other 441 186 (Phase I & Phase III)

#### Project duration

2018 – 2021

#### Project promoter

LAG

KulturLandschaftsInitiative

St. Wendeler Land e. V

#### Contact

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#### Website

[www.smartvillage-wnd.de](http://www.smartvillage-wnd.de)

Developing a digital platform and a setting up a meeting place to ensure the local supply and socialising needs of the village of Remmesweiler.

### Summary

Since the start of 2015, the village of Remmesweiler in Saarland south western Germany and its 900 inhabitants no longer had any shops or places to meet. These were major challenges, especially for the village's elderly and less mobile residents.



The project started in 2018 with the development of an online platform, followed by the establishment of a distribution centre as the second step of the project, which was financed by the LEADER programme. Through the online platform it is now possible to order local products at any time.

If extra help is required by people who do not have digital skills to place shopping orders, two volunteer coaches are on hand for support at a weekly breakfast, which is hosted in a local community house.

### Results

Six villages, 11 village coaches, 12 local producers and salespeople, as well as more than 100 people who tested the process, have been fully integrated in the project.

Some 11 000 items can be bought online.

### Context

Since the beginning of 2015, the village of Remmesweiler in Saarland and its 900 inhabitants no longer had any shops and nowhere to meet. These are major challenges especially for the village's elderly and less mobile residents. For these reasons, in the summer of 2017, politicians, local business representatives and volunteers met to talk about finding a solution and setting up a future project. The result of this meeting was the 'Smart village Remmesweiler' project, which is unique in Germany.

### Objectives

The aim of the project was to revitalise and promote local production chains and to secure local supply.

In addition, the project aims to enhance the social life of the village and to unite generations. Emphasis is given to the elderly and less mobile inhabitants, who may need additional support due to lack of digital skills.

### Activities

The idea for this project emerged in cooperation within the local development network of St. Wendeler Land. It was divided into three phases which build upon each other:

**Phase 1:** Development of an online platform and the recruitment of salespeople, clients for testing the platform and village coaches and project coordinators. All of these people were trained and integrated into the development process. Several clients tested the process using the real conditions it was designed to operate in. For

this they met at the local community house once a week to have breakfast together and collect the online orders.

**Phase 2:** A distribution centre was established, and through the use of digital communication tools, a very intensive exchange took place between all the stakeholders involved to further test and optimise the service.

The problem of the 'last mile' had to be addressed – in other words, how would the products reach the consumers. This was solved by delivering all the inhabitants' orders to the local community house where each inhabitant could pick up their products. They can also take part in a free community breakfast which is offered, additionally giving people opportunity to meet up with and talk to each other.

Using this means of distributing the products saves on delivery expenses for each inhabitant and also brings ecological benefits (fewer transport costs and emissions).

**Phase 3:** The logistics were optimised and digitalised. A car for delivering the products to the village was bought and other villages and local producers joined the project.

The project was developed in cooperation with the business development agency and the district of St. Wendel.

### Main results

Six villages, 11 voluntary coaches, 12 local producers and salesmen and more than 100 people who tested the process have been fully integrated into the project.

As a result, 11 000 items can now be bought online.

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#### Additional sources of information

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=numTviy57T8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=numTviy57T8)