

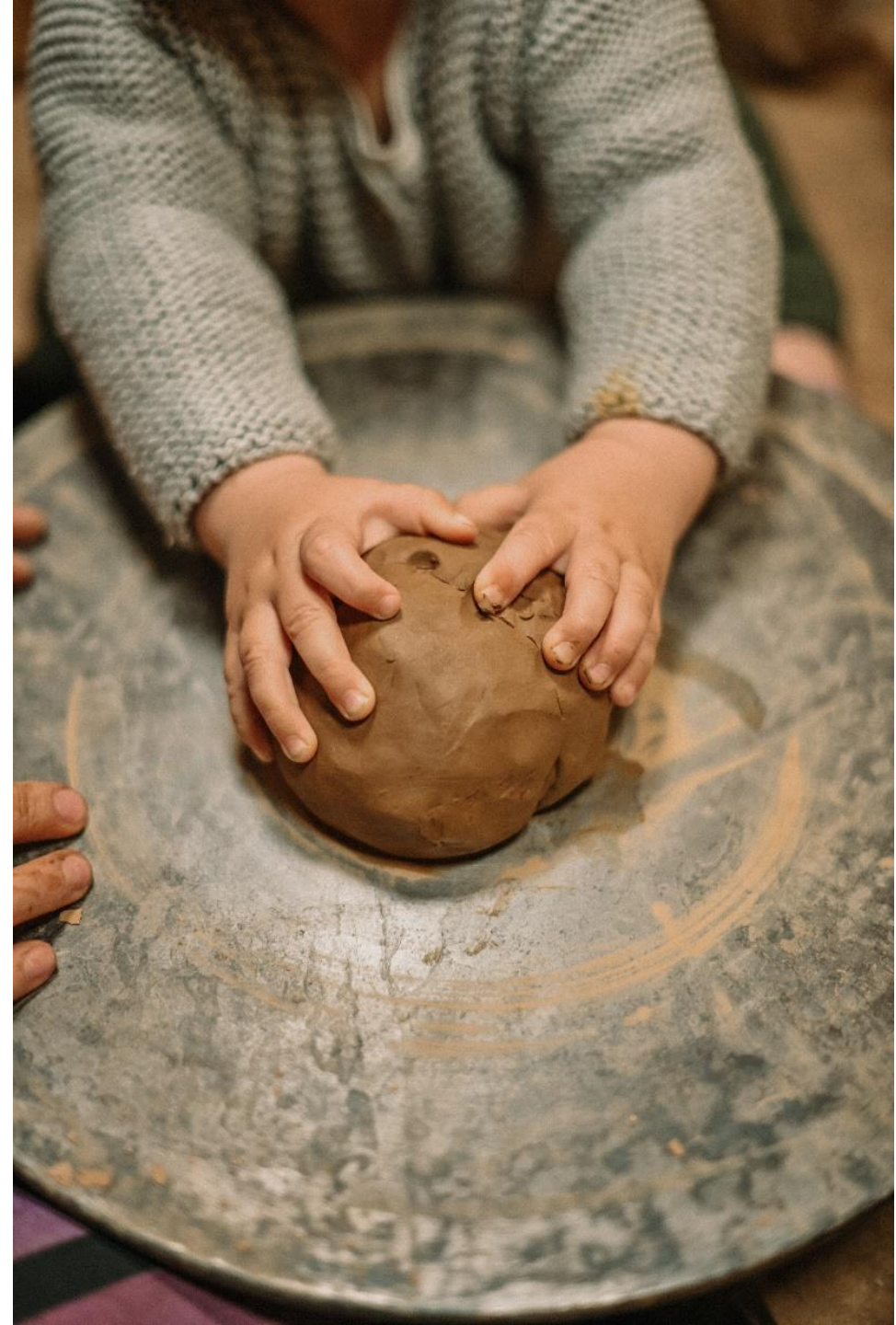


**Empowering villages through LEADER**

**Boosting regional development**

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Lednice  
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Sometimes life is too  
hard to be alone,  
and sometimes life is  
too good to be alone.



Craft center  
in Zasa

2018



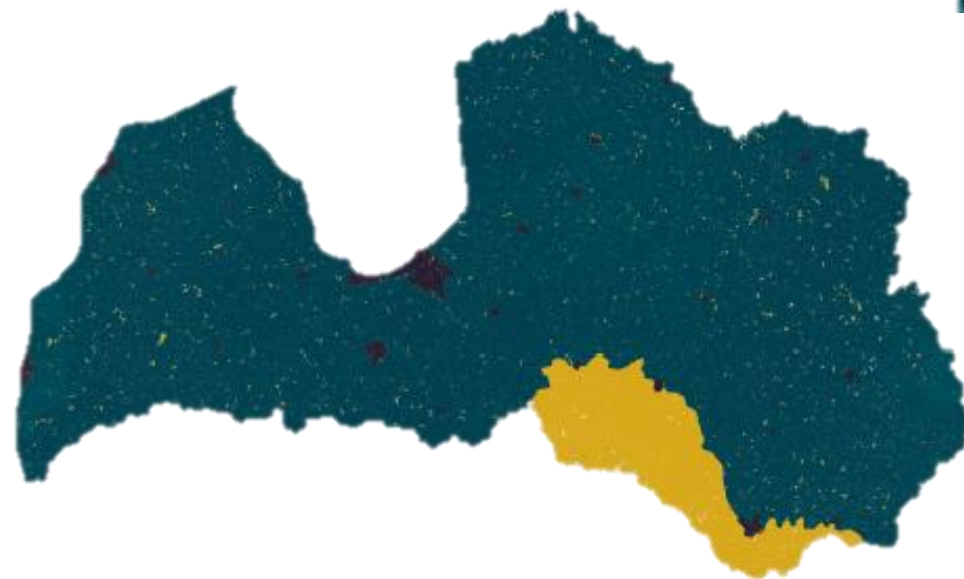




17 different villages – Salonian islands

Only 3 common aspects:

- location in the region
- (some) human resources
- social and economical challenges







17 different places

Only 3 common aspects:

- location in Selonja
- (some) human resources
- social and economical challenges







## **Actions:**

- 17 local coordinators
- Remote research and mapping
- Year of different local meetings
- Thematic experts, support actions and funding for communities
- Identity for cooperation, thematic routes, informative materials

## **Results:**

- Created and strengthened communities
- Recognition of region
- Economic activities started
- Regional marketing activities
- Balanced economic and social development

## 5 years from the beginning

- From 17 to 40 villages with **identity**
- **4 smart villages:**
  - Kaldabruņa. *Art and social entrepreneurship*
  - Asare. *Energy and digital*
  - Gārsne. *Environment and co-designing*
  - Beberene. *Digital co-creation - nature and culture*
- **NGO network** representing Selionia
- **Working places and funding ensured**
- **Needs defined. Efficient way** to find solutions that respond to needs - **piloting and levelling-up**
- **Bottom up, place based work** → integrated solutions
- **Neighbouring effect**





## No CLLD, but

- **Infrastructure and activities, identity**

Law of Latvian historic lands (June, 2021)  
*ERDF, EAFRD, State funding*

- **Participatory tools, engagement and territorial planning**

Administrative Territorial Reform, incl.  
The Law on Administrative Territories and  
Settlements of Latvia (June, 2020)  
*Cohesion, Recovery, Just Transition Fund*

- **Social Community work**

Law of Municipalities (January, 2023)  
*ESF*

5 years from the beginning





## Other LEADER/CLLD cooperation projects incl. SV

- movement of strengthening 32 village leaders  
4 LAGs in LV
- Smart seaside: hackathons, investments for the solutions in the villages, networking  
6 Fishery LAGs
- Recognition sign “Smart villages”, definition, awareness, exchanges  
3 LAGs in LV, Greece, Finland, Scotland

## Developing forward:

- network of > 60 villages
- mentoring program and peer to peer exchanges
- catalogue with the smart solutions in villages, 20 video stories
- Smart village committee created: Ministries of Agriculture, Welfare, Regional Development and Environmental Protection, Adviser President of Latvia for Information and Digital Policy, thematic experts - youth, climate, territorial planning, national media, smart village representative etc.







Thank you!

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