Regionet Europe
EWIV/EEIG

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Regionet Europe EWIV/EEIG

i-Village

innovativ
integrativ
interaktiv
interregional
international
intergenerativ

Digitale Chancen ländlicher Regionen Europas.

i-Village

The European Village of the Future

A Concept of Regionet Europe EWIV/EEIG[1]

1 Deserted Villages, a Europe-wide Problem

In recent years there has been a steady loss of population in the villages, while simultaneously the number of inhabitants in large cities and metropolitan regions increased. This trend still continues and can be observed by varying intenseness in most of the European countries.

The effects of this include left houses and rising cost of living in rural areas as well as high rents and housing shortages in urban areas.

A major reason for this phenomenon is the structural change in agriculture. The leaving of many farms has divest the most important livelihood off the villages in recent decades. Business and industry were not developed to the extent that the job losses in agriculture were compensated in the affected areas..

Fundamental Problem areas of the Villages:

1. Lack of Jobs

Agricultural business has not enough jobs, however, often there is no alternative. Therefore many people commute to metropolitan areas, but younger people more and more are moving right to the location their job or training school.

2- Lack of medical Care

General practitioners and specialists in particular move back to county seat or large cities. Therefore med undersupply occurs for villagers

3. Lack of primary and secondary Schools

Students are often forced to ride in school buses to distant school locations. Overcrowded buses and long drivesare not uncommon.

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2. "i-Village," the village of the future

The i-Village model based on the concept of the Regionet Europe i-Village. Originally developed for the Bavarian region, the i-Dorf/-Village can be realized all over Europe. To make the village environment more attractive again habitat and to prevent the leaving of the villages is the object of the project. I-Village offers the solution for the most of the reasons of the rural exodus: lack of jobs and training places; because the i-Village brings this to the villagers:

- **E-work, telework, tele-learning enables a time-and location-independent working.**
- **M-learning: e-learning with mobile devices.**

The problem of lack of medical care also can be solved:

- **Initial medical treatment is supplied by an outpost** and doctor´s assistant and if necessary by videoconferencing. If required, the patient is transferred to the doctor's office or to the appropriate medical facility.

Precondition is a functional technical infrastructure, to get improved or created. The technology can be applied to wide area and local levels as well.

- **Internet:** Even remote villages are supplied by broadband connections.
- **Cloud Computing** data centers, data storage, software, etc. will no longer run on the user side or even on computers provided locally, but rented from one or more suppliers "as a service".
- **GPS (Global Positioning System):** Global Navigation System for determining position and timing.

The necessity to move to an expensive city shall be taken away from young people and families.

- Parents can work in a comfortable space and teleworking at working rhythm, agreed with the employer.
- Children of multiple i-Villages participate via tele-education classes.

The supply of daily needs is organized by a network of surrounding organic farms; thereby supported by satellite images of the earth's surface. The GPS provides information about the current state of agricultural and forestry seed crops.

The i-Village model can show in practice that the communication world of rural areas in the future can be equivalent with those of the municipal areas and large cities.

3. The functions of the i-Village project:

nationally, regionally, locally.

3.1 Nationwide: Cloud IT and video conferencing

Cloud computing enables a large technical and functional service quality:

- Smaller companies without / with only small IT infrastructure need not worry about operation and maintenance of the software-solution itself.
- Professional Cloud providers quickly can take advantage of the latest technologies, which for the users immediately then is available.
- Transparency of IT costs can increase the allocation and valuation of IT costs and are more process-related.
- Companies can immediately focus on the implementation of their business idea.

All mobile subscribers communicate with the Cloud locally, regionally, nationally and internationally on tablet PC or smartphone and stationary devices such as printers, plotters, etc.. Where all data are stored in a database, managed, maintained and secured.

All participants can always, regardless of time and place, access to the data in the Cloud, edit, change and save. A special software system, LifeSize video conferencing system regulates communication between individuals or groups. Simultaneously, exchange and presentation of images, etc. as well as video conferences with any number of participants is possible.

3.2. Regional: Control of Planning Process at Project Sites by centrallized Research Institute (Project Management Team).

3.2.1 Core Team

Ownership of the entire project management (lead partner), coordination of all stakeholders, resource management, reports, etc.

3.2.2. Advisory Board

External advisory team of science, politics, government, donors, etc.

3.2.3 Project Forum (scientific input)

To introduce latest research to the control process, all processes of corresponding technical institutes of the involved Universities, LMU, etc. are coordinated: the faculties of **architecture, computer science, development and supply, sociology, transport, marketing.**
The development process itself and the execution can be carried out locally by the students. The tele-coaches of the correspondent sectors support and look at the respective locations of the planning process.

The marketing group informes the local organizations and the press.

3.3 Lokal: Project Locations in the regions (Local Management Team)

3.3.1 Campus Coaches: They look after their group at each site. They observe, control, and communicate the process locally. They include the periphery also.

3.3.2 Planning Group: Students residencing at each site. Under direction of Professors, they create within six months plans (plan sketches) for each new village onsite.Some of the key aspects are:
- Merge-economic aspects, such as work and home;
- Organizational aspects, such as to optimize the new communication structure;

- Cultural aspects, such as the heritage of architectural tradition-bound in a contemporary manner to get further developed;
- Social aspects, such as socio-ecological transformation of rural areas, establishment of structures of a resident self-organization, to support relationship of networks and promote the acceptance of the i-Villages towards the local population (old and new village grow together);
- Environmental aspects, such as a ground-conserving building density.

Overall, the citizens of the surrounding regions must be closely involved with the marketing process. A showroom, showing the course of the planned process and developed solutions, should be set for each location.. A virtual representation of the i-Village has to be considered.

3.3.3 Local organizations
The planning groups are supported by local organizations that represent the interests of the local region (NGOs, IHK, HWK, BBV, associations, etc.). The local and national press is constantly involved in the project.

3.3.4 Professional Cognizance
Accompanies the planning and implementation process from a perspective of regional characteristics and provide the consideration of local conditions.
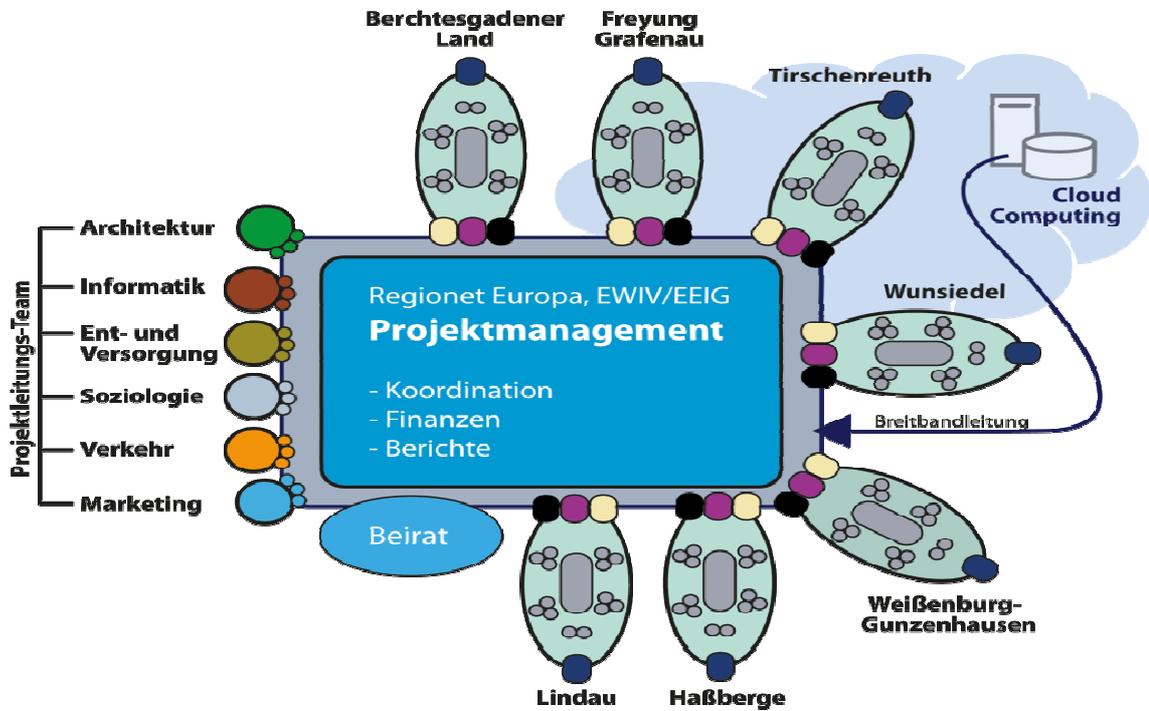
3.3.5 Regional project officers
Brings the interests, ideas, problems of the region from the user perspective into local planning processes.

Summary

The rural development is of central political concern in Europe. The goal is to create equal living and working conditions in all parts of the country. Particular attention is paid to rural sub-regions whose development must be strengthened in particular.
The i-Village model shows how in the future, under the expected macroeconomic conditions, this goal can be achieved. Modern technology is used so that it makes living and working in the country possible again. People must not travel for distant workplaces or even give up their homes. i-Village provides the jobs and training places for the people.

Example: Organization and functional structures of the overall system in Bavaria

Location of Example Regiones in Bavaria