

A stylized illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a light green house with a dark blue roof and a chimney. To the right of the house is a dark blue evergreen tree. In the background, there are white clouds, two blue birds in flight, and a large green location pin icon. The entire scene is set against a solid orange background.

Crisis Preparedness in Finland: National and Local Initiatives

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Comprehensive Security Model

- 95 % of Finland is rural and there are over **4,000 villages**
- NATO's sparsely populated eastern border, which is **1343 km long**.
- **The whole society** — authorities, businesses, organisations and citizens — participates in maintaining security and preparing for disruptions.
- Comprehensive security and preparedness cannot be built without vibrant and resilient **rural communities**.

National Kylävara-project

- **The Finnish 72h concept:** households should be prepared for at least three days if disruption occur (food supplies, water and medicines).
- The Kylävara project produces the **village concept** to support local level preparedness and security. The project clarifies the role of villages as part of comprehensive security.
- The national project supports **local preparedness projects**.
- The EAFRD funded project is being implemented by the Finnish Village Association.
- <https://suomenkylat.fi/suomen-kylat/hankkeet/kylavara-paikallisen-varautumisen-perustana>



Local Preparedness Projects

- **272 local preparedness LEADER projects** during this funding period (Keywords: preparedness and resilience of supply)
- Themes:
 - **Strengthening community safety and emergency preparedness** backup power solutions, village radios, first aid training, defibrillators, safety plans and community-level preparedness.
 - **Upgrading community buildings and improving energy efficiency** Several initiatives renovate or modernize village halls and community facilities
 - **Promoting community wellbeing, cooperation and local vitality** trainings, actions and initiatives that strengthen local networks, participation and everyday resilience.



**COMMUNITY
SAFETY &
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS**



**UPGRADIING
COMMUNITY
BUILDINGS**



**IMPROVING
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**



**PROMOTING
COMMUNITY
WELLBEING,
& LOCAL VITALIY**

Example: SBÄR – Smart Village is Ready

- SBÄR is a development project for rural villages in western Finland.

The goal is:

- Strengthen the villages' **crisis preparedness, community cohesion, and cultural sustainability.**
- Improve local preparedness and food security.
- Develop cooperation between villages, municipalities, authorities, and organizations.
- Support mental well-being and community resilience.
- Create an inspiring, gamified operating model



Smart Village support by the Finnish CAP Network

- Virtual Smart Village **coffee-breaks** twice a year
 - Online sessions are intended for those implementing Smart Village cooperation projects, those planning such projects, and experts working for regional authorities and Leader groups
- National, **in-person meeting** of Smart Villages projects once a year
 - At the Smart Villages project meeting, you can network with other project implementers and receive concrete support for the successful implementation of your own Smart Villages project
 - The event is intended for all approved Smart Villages pilot projects and cooperation projects
- Smart Villages projects and preparedness projects in the **national project database:**
<https://maaseutuverkosto.fi/hankkeet/>
- **Special training** for preparedness, safety, and security-of-supply projects: start-up for new projects and building networks.

Thank you!

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