The key stages in the digital transformation of rural areas

Digitalisation allows people to be part of a broader digital ecosystem. In the early stages, investment focuses on introducing the internet and encouraging the development of digital infrastructure and skills. In the more advanced stages, the goal is to turn the village into one more digital actor within the ecosystem.

1. EXCLUDED VILLAGE
- Poor or no broadband
- Low or no digital skills
- Low or no public or private digital services
- Low or no digital inclusion

2. CONNECTED VILLAGE
- Basic broadband
- Development of elementary digital skills
- Basic level of digital literacy and inclusion
- The population is involved in identifying priority actions

3. COMMITTED VILLAGE
- Widespread use of digital services and full digital literacy
- Local access to training, education, public and digital business services
- Contribution by the population to the design, implementation and monitoring of services

4. EXPERIENCED VILLAGE
- Fibre optic broadband
- Entrepreneurial and citizen capacity to exploit digital innovation
- Partners in the digital transformation of territory
- Access to digital services equivalent to that in metropolitan areas

5. ACTOR VILLAGE
- Comprehensive technical, economic and social capacity to innovate and contribute to a digital and sustainable economy and society
- The people are co-owners of their data and the added value of the resources created
- They become partners for the development of new producers and services

Source: European Network for Rural Development.