



SMART VILLAGES

An ENRD Seminar on Revitalising rural services through social and digital innovation

Agenda

22nd May 2018

Albert Borschette Congress Center (CCAB), Rue Froissart 36, Brussels ([map](#))

Background

In April 2017, the European Commission together with Members of the European Parliament launched the [EU Action for Smart Villages](#).

Since then the momentum behind Smart Villages has been growing rapidly - both on the ground and at a policy level. The ENRD Thematic Group on [Smart Villages](#) has identified how rural communities across Europe are developing innovative local solutions and imaginative approaches for revitalising rural services in fields such as energy, transport, social care and many others.

Some of these initiatives have been triggered by the threats of depopulation, low population density or cuts in services. Others are seizing the opportunities offered by digitisation, renewable energy and improved rural-urban linkages. Policy makers at all levels are exploring ways of encouraging these approaches.



Objectives

The seminar will bring together a wide range of practitioners and policy makers from all over Europe that have been developing projects for revitalising rural services through social and digital innovation. The event aims to:



- **Develop a clearer understanding of the meaning and importance of Smart Villages** in the current context;
- **Showcase the rich variety of social and digital innovations** that are springing up across Europe to revitalise rural services and promote an exchange of experience between them;
- **Identify the drivers and enabling factors** of these initiatives from a practitioner's point of view;
- **Launch a dialogue with policy makers and implementers** about the steps required for creating a more supportive environment for Smart Villages - now and in the future.

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Timing 	Agenda item 
08.30 – 09.15	Registration of participants
09.15 – 09.30	Welcome and introductory remarks, Mario Milouchev, Director, DG AGRI
09.30 – 10.00	EU Action for Smart Villages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Phil Hogan - European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development</i> - <i>Franc Bogovič, Member of the European Parliament</i>
10.00 – 11.00	Plenary: the growing momentum behind Smart Villages Round-up of European activity on Smart Villages, <i>Paul Soto, ENRD Contact Point</i> Inspiring stories from the ground: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Kaisa Pethman & Ville Pisto, Vuolenkoski Village, Finland</i> - <i>Sarah Brühl, Betzdorf-Gebhardshain Municipality, Germany</i> - <i>Sandy Brunton, Mull & Iona Community Trust, Scotland, UK</i>
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee</i>
11.30 – 13.00	Smart Villages Action Labs Interactive sessions organised around 8 project examples in key fields dealt with by smart villages. <i>Aim: to exchange about what is needed from policy to make it easier for these kinds of projects to be successful.</i> <i>Projects:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Balquhiddy Community Broadband, David Johnston, Scotland, UK</i> 2. <i>Digital Villages, Steffen Hess, Germany</i> 3. <i>The Wab, a rural high school for digital transition, Alban Brettes, France</i>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Cowocat Rural, promoting coworking in rural catalonia, Gemma Estany, Spain</i> 5. <i>Bioenergy Village, Hartmut Berndt, Germany</i> 6. <i>Smart Rural Grid, Santiago Martinez, Spain</i> 7. <i>Rezo Pouze, an app to improve rural mobility, Alexandre Marples and Bénédicte Rozes, France</i> 8. <i>Safety at Home, Heidi Huuskonen, Finland</i>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.45	<p>Creating an enabling policy environment for smart villages</p> <p>Keynote speaker: <i>José Enrique Garcilazo - OECD (Linking local action to the bigger picture)</i></p> <p>Messages from the morning session to policy makers.</p>
14.45 – 16.00	<p>Smart Villages Policy Incubator</p> <p>Structured exchange between policy makers and stakeholders in three specific policy areas.</p> <p><i>Aim: to reflect on what can be done at different levels to create a more supportive policy environment for smart villages.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Discussion 1: Digital innovation in rural services <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Robert Henkel, DG CONNECT</i> - <i>Marianne Selkainaho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland</i> - <i>Steffen Hess, Fraunhofer IESE, Germany</i> • Group Discussion 2: Environmental sustainability in rural services (focusing on decentralised energy systems) <i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jan Steinkohl, DG ENERGY</i> - <i>Georgios Markou, Ministry of Environment & Energy of Greece</i> - <i>Josh Roberts, RESCoop</i> • Group Discussion 3: Integrated approaches for smart villages <i>Panelists:</i>

Timing 	Agenda item 
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann, Director, DG AGRI</i> - <i>Eleftherios Stavropoulos, DG REGIO</i> - <i>Martin Traxl, Intermediate Body CLLD (ERDF), Tyrol, Austria</i>
16.00 – 16.30	<i>Coffee</i>
16.30 – 17.00	<p>Final Plenary</p> <p><i>Chair: Neda Skakelja, DG AGRI</i></p> <p>Panel discussion on main messages from the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann, Director, DG AGRI</i> - <i>Tibor Szanyi, Member of the European Parliament</i> - <i>Francesco Mantino, CREA, Italy</i> - <i>Sandy Brunton, Mull & Iona Community Trust, Scotland, UK</i> <p>Concluding Remarks</p>