

# ENRD Thematic Group on 'Smart Villages'

*Revitalising rural services through social and digital  
innovation*

## Agenda of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

7 December 2017

Rue de la Loi, 38, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brussels, Belgium

### Objectives

The specific objectives of the second meeting of the thematic group are:



- To provide a **panorama of existing initiatives and projects** for social innovation in rural services.
- To allow participants to learn from these initiatives and to **share lessons and tools for dealing with both the challenges and the opportunities they face**.
- To explore **the role of the RDPs and other policies in creating an enabling environment** for social innovation in the provision of rural services.

<b>Timing</b> 	<b>Agenda item</b> 
09.30 – 10.00	<b>Registration for TG members</b>
10.00 – 10.30	<b>Welcome to TG participants and introduction to the day (ENRD CP)</b>
10.30 – 11.00	<b>Social innovation in the provision of rural services. Keynote speakers reviewing EU projects from the perspective of environmental and social sustainability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social innovation: <i>Bill Slee</i><sup>1</sup></li> <li>- Environmental sustainability: <i>Eamon O'Hara</i><sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <i>Questions &amp; Answers</i>
11.00 – 11.30	<b>Networking Coffee break</b>
11.30 – 12.45	<b>Key examples of social innovation projects in the provision of rural services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Trusts in Scotland (UK): The case of Braemar – <i>Simon Blackett</i></li> <li>- Rural Hubs and Multiservice centers in Flanders (Belgium) – <i>Dieter Hoet</i></li> </ul> <i>Market place with the examples submitted by TG Members.</i>
12.45 -13.45	<i>Lunch break</i> <sup>3</sup>
13.45 – 15.00	<b>Group Discussions: Creating the conditions for social innovation in rural services.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Group 1: Diagnostic tools for helping communities to prioritise their activities</li> <li>- Group 2: Sustainable business models for rural services</li> <li>- Group 3: Village hubs and Multiservice Centres</li> <li>- Group 4: The use RDP measures such LEADER and M7 together with other funds and policies</li> </ul>
15.00 – 15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>

<sup>1</sup> Senior expert of the Rural Development Company, [SIMRA](#) and Emeritus Fellow James Hutton Institute

<sup>2</sup> Executive Director of [ECOLISE](#) - The European network of community-led initiatives on climate change and sustainability and Senior expert of [AEIDL](#) - The European Association for Information on Local Development

<sup>3</sup> A buffet lunch will be available to all participants.

<b>Timing</b> 	<b>Agenda item</b> 
15.30 – 16.00	<b>Reporting back from the group discussion</b>
16.00 – 16.15	<b>Mr Tibor Szanyi (MEP) - Future Actions of the European Parliament on Smart Villages</b>
16.15 – 16.30	<b>Concluding remarks &amp; next steps</b>