



European Network for
Rural Development



#SmartVillages



7th Thematic Group Meeting on Smart Villages

Paul Soto,
6 March 2019, Brussels





European Network for
Rural Development



TG Objectives

- a) To act as a sounding board for **developing practical orientations** for using all the **policy tools** available to help Smart Villages emerge and develop – now and in the future;
- b) To continue to provide a **platform for linking the initiatives** taking place across Europe.

TG Activities

- **Orientations: How to develop Smart Villages strategies** – *5th TG meeting (4 October 2018)*
- **Orientations: How to use certain key policy instruments** – *6th TG meeting (5 December 2018).*
 1. *LEADER/CLLD*
 2. *Cooperation*
 3. *Digital Strategies (EIP seminar, Dec 12/13)*
- **How to programme and combine policy instruments more effectively** – *7th TG Meeting (March 6th 2019)*
- Promoting **Smart Villages in the Member States** - *8th TG meeting, Lormes, France (June 6 2019)*

Messages from previous meetings

- ✓ Wide variety of drivers – depopulation, service cuts, digitisation, renewable energy, circular economy, new value chains , links with cities.....
- ✓ Broad definition (and scope) to deal with the diversity;
- ✓ Digital is a key tool but not “a precondition”;
- ✓ Policy framework allows MS to design support from a “toolkit” to suit their needs;
- ✓ Action rather than words. Fast flexible support for strategic citizen based initiatives;
- ✓ Start small (micro) – scale up. Build alliances;
- ✓ Simple and build on existing structures + plans. No new layers;
- ✓ People centred – active group of local citizens, vision, roadmap...;
- ✓ Map specific needs, existing policy landscape – fill gaps.



Support for Smart Villages



AGENDA OF TODAY

MORNING

10.00
10.15 **Introduction to the day**

10.15
10.45 **Using the CAP Strategic Plans to support Smart Villages**



Coffee (10.45-11.15)

11.15
13.15 **Smart Villages in the future CAP Strategic Plans**



Lunch (13.15-14.15)

AFTERNOON

14.15
16.15 **Creating synergies between the CAP Strategic Plans and other funds**

16.15
16.30 **Concluding remarks & Next steps**



Planning of Smart Village Interventions

1.5 hours (11:45 -> 13:15)


Objective:

To reflect upon the process, and
and any associated concerns,
related to the planning of
effective support for Smart
Villages in the **future CAP
Strategic Plans**



Group Work I

Group work has two stages:



Reflection and brainstorm regarding a) the SWOT process and b) the identification / prioritisation of needs in relation to Smart Villages *(30 + 15 mins)*

An exercise on **selecting appropriate types of intervention** to support Smart Villages *(30 + 15 mins)*

Group Work I

Working assumption that interventions relating to Smart Villages will **contribute to:**

SO 8: *Promote employment, growth, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including bio-economy and sustainable forestry*

CCO: *For fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas, and encouraging their uptake (Article 5)*



Hypothetical national context:



- 1 large city of over a million – the surrounding rural areas are becoming suburbanised and turned in dormitory areas. House prices rising, local services, activities and people pushed out.
- A series of medium sized towns of over 50.000 – some on the coast quite dynamic.
- A large number of dispersed villages of under 1000 people.
- A small number of the most accessible and those in very attractive environments are attracting tourists, 2nd homes and retired people.
- The remainder have few jobs, higher unemployment, lower standard of living. Services are closing or being centralised to the larger settlements. De-population, especially the young are moving away, and the population is ageing rapidly.
- All rural areas are covered by LAGs (EAFRD only) but these cover rather large territories and have limited budgets. There are national/regional strategies for digitisation, renewables, bioeconomy, etc. and an interest in ensuring that these benefit rural areas.
- Municipalities are small and some but not all villages have active associations and NGOs.

You have been briefed!



Smart Villages
Draft Briefing – Working document
How to support Smart Villages strategies which effectively empower rural communities?
Orientations for policy-makers and policy-implementers

1. Introduction

The EU's Rural Development policy has a long-standing record of stimulating various forms of innovation in response to the broad range of challenges the diverse rural contexts in EU Member States. In September 2020, the Cork 3.0 [Roadmap](#) "A Better Life for Rural Areas" emphasised the "potential of rural areas and resources to deliver a wide range of economic, social, and environmental challenges and opportunities benefiting all European citizens". Smart Villages is a relatively new policy concept in Europe, which has the potential to both add to and build upon this existing track record and create further synergies between the funds. But even the least concerns need to be turned into concrete activities in order to deliver tangible benefits.

"Smart villages are all about making different policies work together to find better, smarter solutions to rural development. It is about harnessing existing and emerging technologies and social innovations to deal with the needs of our citizens. It is about giving villages the tools to address their own challenges, while also making a contribution to the larger challenges facing society as a whole."

Commissioner Phil Hogan, speech at ENRD Seminar on Smart Villages, 22 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

1. To help rural areas grow and strengthen employment and living standards, the EU's Rural Development policy has set three intervention objectives: improving the competitiveness of agriculture, enhancing the sustainable management of natural resources and diversifying rural areas, and a balanced territorial development of rural areas. Smart Villages developer may contribute to the third objective, but can also benefit the other two. The EU's Creative Policy Areas (CPAs) work to complement the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF) can also contribute to the first and second objectives. The aim is to create opportunities in other parts of the world such as cities, islands and oceans. Although it is already adapted to the rural context, the document is based on the common objectives of the ERDF to support Smart Villages and does not represent the view of the European Commission.



Smart Villages
Draft Briefing – Working document
Using non-LEADER/CLLD Cooperation to support Smart Villages
Orientations for policy makers and implementers

1. Introduction

Smart Villages were highlighted in the European Commission's [Communication on the Future of LEADER and Farming](#) (November 2017) as a priority for helping rural communities address issues of innovation, broadband connectivity, employment opportunities and service provision in a more inclusive and comprehensive manner. The Smart Villages concept is a more targeted approach to the needs and potential of rural areas, as well as underlying the need for much more focus on empowering communities at the very local level. Rural areas are to survive and thrive in the coming decades. However, it must be understood that the Smart Villages concept is about a process, whereby local communities take on an active role in shaping their own rural community and each rural area varies significantly across the EU (see [Annex 1](#)) to support Smart Villages strategies which effectively empower rural communities.

It is encouraged by the European Commission to support Smart Villages, in particular for Smart Villages included in the legislative proposals for the Rural Policy (CAP) or the Cohesion Policy. Instead, the importance of the introduction of a Smart Villages indicator in the proposed CAP. Member States are hereby given the flexibility to design their own Smart Villages by adapting the broad types of policy objectives to the specific context and needs of their territory. The potential role of non-LEADER/CLLD cooperation in the development of Smart Villages is considered in another briefing. It is based on the outcomes of the discussions of the ENRD TG on Smart Villages and views of the European Commission.



Smart Villages
Draft Briefing – Working document
Smart Villages – how to ensure that digital strategies benefit rural communities

1. Introduction

This briefing document looks at how the digital strategies that are being developed at different levels across Europe, can benefit rural communities. It is based upon work carried out in the ENRD Thematic Group on [Smart Villages](#). Smart Villages are places where rural communities are empowered and are taking the initiative to find solutions to the challenges they face. Digitisation can be a powerful force for change – as long as it is adapted to the rural context and implemented with the involvement of rural communities themselves.

"Smart villages are all about making different policies work together to find better, smarter solutions to rural development. It is about harnessing existing and emerging technologies and social innovations to deal with the needs of our citizens. It is about giving villages the tools to address their own challenges, while also making a contribution to the larger challenges facing society as a whole."

Commissioner Phil Hogan, speech at ENRD Seminar on Smart Villages, 22 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Digital strategies in the CAP strategic plan


Challenges and opportunities offered by digitisation to a whole are immense. The current Rural Development policy (RDP) and the future CAP Strategic Plans co-financed by the EU do have the potential for achieving a smooth digital economy in rural areas. However, if used incorrectly, they do have the potential for achieving a significant specific barriers and gaps that most affect rural agricultural sector.

Proposal for a Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans provides an opportunity to progress including a cross-cutting objective for "fostering and sharing of knowledge in agriculture and rural areas, and encouraging their uptake".

for a Regulation on "CAP Strategic Plans". Article 302. Modernisation of rural areas and rural communities to improve the effectiveness of the CAP Strategic Plan

1. This content is based on the outcomes of the discussions of the ENRD TG on Smart Villages and does not represent the view of the European Commission.

SWOT (15 minutes)

- 
- What information is needed to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to Smart Villages?
 - What are your main concerns regarding this step of the planning?

Identification and prioritisation of needs (15 minutes)



- How can you identify those needs which could potentially be addressed by Smart Villages?
- What are your main concerns regarding this step of the planning?

Group Work I

Select the types of intervention you would use for Smart Villages (30 minutes)

- Territorial scope
- Important design issues / requirements of the interventions
- Eligible beneficiaries (if there is time)
- Eligibility conditions (if there is time)

Tell us the story!

- What are your main concerns regarding this step of the planning?

Group Work II



What are the practical things you need to do to get joint governance between funds in the next period?

Group Work II



What are the steps for ensuring integrated, fast and flexible support to local communities?

Feedback

www.menti.com

Code: 98 99 12





European Network for
Rural Development

Thank you very much!



<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

 **#SmartVillages**



Like the
ENRD Facebook page



Follow **@ENRD_CP**
on Twitter



Watch **EURural** videos
on YouTube



Join the **ENRD** LinkedIn
discussion group

ENRD Contact Point
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, 38 (bte 4)
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË
Tel. +32 2 801 38 00
info@enrd.eu



European Network for
Rural Development