



Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plan Spain

Factsheet

The Smart Rural 27 project (2nd Preparatory Action on Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century, 2021-24) aims at improving the Smart Villages support framework at both the local (rural communities) and regional/ national (policymaking) contexts.



Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plan Spain

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plan in Spain



DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

There is no formal definition of Smart Villages in Spain.

Dedicated Smart Villages interventions

- ✓ **Non-productive investments in basic services in rural areas (6872)**
(Specific intervention title for Galicia region: Digitization. Smart villages (GAL6872_06))

Other relevant interventions

- ✓ Investment aid for agricultural diversification (6864, INVEST)
- ✓ Cooperation for the structuring of the territory (7163, COOP)
- ✓ Aid for investments in agricultural infrastructure to promote competitiveness (6843.2, INVEST)

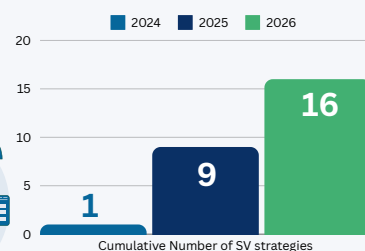


Mostly contributes to:

SO8: Promoting employment, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, **social inclusion** and **local development** in rural areas.

XCO: Cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of **knowledge, innovation** and **digitalisation** in agriculture and rural areas

R.40: SV strategies - Target (Galicia)



Direct financing:

€750.00/ operation (16 strategies planned), total budget not specified in CAP SP.

Other relevant programmes:

- **Digitization strategy for the agri-food and forestry sector and rural areas:** Measures linked to Smart Villages & Start-up villages (Cohesion Policy, ESF/ERDF)
- **Model Villages (regional, Galicia):** In Galicia, a pioneering strategy emerges through the concept of Model Villages, which seamlessly integrate with the Smart Village initiatives.



SMART VILLAGES IN THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic statement

There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

Assessments of needs and intervention strategy

Smart Villages are mentioned under need No 08.05: 'Endogenous development' specified as the need to *"ensure and encourage the implementation of endogenous development and the generation of added value associated with participatory methodology"* by also encouraging *"the search for innovations and technological development by local populations, through initiatives such as Smart Villages"* (ES CAP SP, p.70).

Specific Objectives

SO8: Promote employment, growth, gender equality

There is a reference to R.40 indicator stating that it is a new indicator to which the intervention of *"non-productive investments in basic services for rural areas (6872) contributes"* (ES CAP SP, p.263). It is also mentioned that *"this intervention has been programmed by 10 managing authorities but only one, Galicia specified and set target values for R.40 aiming to reach 16 Smart Villages strategies. The other regional managing authorities opt for other indicators"* (ES CAP SP, p.265).

XCO: Cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas

Similarly, to SO8 it is stated that the R.40 indicator is a new indicator to which the intervention of *"non-productive investments in basic services for rural areas (6872) contributes"* (ES CAP SP, p.286) in Galicia.

Target plans

The achievement of **16 Smart Village strategies** is defined, only **in the region of Galicia**. The region is expected to implement the first strategy in 2024, 8 strategies in 2025 and 7 strategies in 2026. (ES CAP SP, p.303)

Consistency of the Strategy and complementarities

There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

Elements common to several interventions

...including the CAP Network

No specific CAP Network support actions for Smart Villages have been identified in the CAP SP.

Smart Villages interventions

DEDICATED INTERVENTION

Non-productive investments in basic services in rural areas (6872, INVEST)

(Specific intervention title for Galicia region: Digitization. Smart villages (GAL6872_06))

The intervention on basic services in rural areas (6872) is the only one that clearly refers to Smart Villages. The aim of the intervention is to support actions *“that have an impact on rural areas and that generate an improvement in the provision of infrastructure, basic services equipment that serve as an attractive element to maintain and attract new rural population, such as, among others, investments in digitalisation and the incorporation of new technology into the agri-food sector and rural areas, as well as Smart Villages strategies, etc.”* (ES CAP SP, p.1925)

*“The development of Smart Villages is considered as one of the opportunities for the **launch of new services on the Smart Platform for Territorial Information Services**. Thus, taking as its objective the progress of rural populations, the development of vertical services aimed at these specific environments is proposed to allow improvement in the management and exploitation of resources”* (ES CAP SP, p.1925). Therefore, the goal in the development of Smart Villages is the implementation of **“innovative solutions supported by digital technologies that increase the resilience of territories and generate strength and opportunities in others.”** (idem.)

This intervention contributes to achieving both S08 and XCO, and the related indicator is R.40: ‘Number of supported Smart Village strategies’. Implementation of 16 Smart Villages strategies only and exclusively planned in the autonomous community of Galicia.

Beneficiaries will be public administrations, private or legal persons, public-private associations or groups, non-profit organisations, and energy communities.

Selection principles will be established based, among other criteria, on the socio-economic and environmental interests of the area. Details will be developed further in the specific calls for the intervention. No financial support is specified.

The **budget** provided to achieve R.40 (Target: 16 smart village strategies) is €750.000, with a uniform amount. The target is reached cumulatively as follows: 1 strategy in 2024, 8 strategies in 2025, and 7 strategies in 2026. Expecting a 46.875€ budget for each.

OTHER RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

Cooperation for the structuring of the territory (7163, COOP)

The intervention makes a reference to intervention 6872 for the materialisation of investments in the preparation of Smart Village strategies. (ES CAP SP, p.2283)

In additional, other interventions are also directly contributing to the implementation of 'Model Villages' in Galicia:

Investment aid for agricultural diversification (6864, INVEST)/ Specific intervention title for Galicia: Non-farm investments in Model Villages (GAL6864_1, INVEST): The main purpose of the intervention is the drafting and execution of the 'Model Villages' (Aldeas Modelo) revitalisation plan.

Aid for investments in agricultural infrastructure to promote competitiveness (6843.2, INVEST)/ Specific intervention title for Galicia: **Model Villages (GAL68432_03, INVEST)**: The main purpose is the drafting of projects for the creation of new Model Villages in the region of Galicia. A total of 20 projects is expected to be supported. A format that makes it possible to retain population, improve towns with small investments, generate jobs, avoid the risk of fires, among others. These villages, in addition, serve as an example for other neighbouring villages willing to transfer the practices into their own contexts.

Modernisation: AKIS and digitalisation

There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

Smart Villages in other EU funds and programmes

In Galicia, a pioneering strategy emerges through the concept of Model Villages, which seamlessly integrate with the Smart Village initiatives. **'Model Villages'** is a type of instrument to recover abandoned agricultural land and thus contribute to the creation of activity in the primary sector near population centres, while avoiding the risk of fires due to abandonment of farmland. Model Villages comply with the ecological and social component of Smart Villages by being oriented towards the recovery of the land surrounding the villages with sustainable agricultural activity and improving resilience to climate change (through reducing the impact of forest fires), developed through a process of social governance. (ES CAP SP, p.1857)

Currently, there are 21 such Model Villages. The projected financial plan is defined on a collaborative funding approach, drawing from a variety of sources including own sources, EAFRD, ERDF, and private investments.

Ex-ante Evaluation & Strategic Environmental Assessment

There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

*The overall analysis and the references are based on the original **Spanish CAP SP version 1.1 approved on 31/08/2023**. The Factsheet is produced under Contract No AGRI-2020-0332 with the Union and the opinions expressed are those of the contractor only and do not represent the contracting authority's official position.*