

# Smart Villages Support Slovenia



## How is the concept of Smart Villages defined?

The term 'Smart Village' is defined as a rural community that uses innovative solutions and digital technologies to improve economic, social or environmental challenges.

Smart Villages are made up mainly of people who take the initiative and mobilise local potential to tackle rural challenges. Smart settlements connect with other communities and actors in rural and urban areas. Digital technologies are an important tool for the preservation and development of rural areas in the future.

Examples of areas and activities that can be understood under the Rural Future - Smart Villages initiative:

- Construction of infrastructure, preservation of agricultural and forest landscape, preservation of village architecture, rural natural and cultural heritage and customs;
- Construction of the next generation broadband connection (most households with an access speed of at least 30 Mb/s or above 100 Mb / s);
- 'Smart agriculture' (automation, sensors, robotics, large databases (BigData), blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, etc.);
- Digital platforms that can replace basic services: e-learning, e-government, social services, transport, tourism, gastronomy, transport, traceability of food production...);
- Health care (home clinic, e-health);
- Social innovation (services for the elderly, promotion of social inclusion in rural areas, care for the elderly, the disabled, creating a friendly environment for people with disabilities, assistance to people with disabilities, social agriculture projects using agriculture as a basis for providing various health and educational therapies, legal protection and info points, etc.);
- Cultural and social life in the countryside (arrangement of common areas and activities for the elderly, young people, and women; locations for rest and recreation, events, traveling library, connection to a joint music school, theatre);
- Environmental protection, ecological awareness, circular economy (waste, water and soil protection, reduction of fertilisers and plant protection products);
- Mobility in rural areas (suppliers, free transport for the elderly, local passenger and suburban transport, rail transport, integration of different modes of transport into the integrated hub);

- Self-sufficiency in food and care of nearby towns and densely populated areas (direct sales to farmers - consumers, care of tourist complexes);
- Self-sufficiency in renewable energy sources (sustainable sources: biomass, wood, soil, sun, water, wind; connecting villages into energy cooperatives, intelligent collection and distribution networks);
- Tourism (dispersed hotels, boutique tourism, agritourism, recreational tourism, cultural heritage and customs in connection with rural tourism);
- Innovative entrepreneurship (home jobs, revitalisation of rural services, complementary activities on the farm, rural services...), promotion of entrepreneurship for young people, women, older generations who have lost their jobs, for people with disabilities, for people with special needs, creation of additional jobs cities, additional activities on agricultural holdings, teleworking centres;
- Promoting the sharing economy in rural areas (joint use of agricultural machinery, cars, services, etc.);
- Transition to a green economy in rural areas, a circular economy, a bio-based economy.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food:  
<https://skp.si/pametne-vasi-staticna-vsebinska/definicija-pametnih-vasi>

### Is digital innovation a key feature?

Digital is a key feature of the definition. Digital technologies are an important tool. Digital platforms can contribute to basic services such as e-learning, e-government, social services, transport, tourism, gastronomy, transport, traceability of food production, etc. It will be used to support the elderly through e-care.

### Is social innovation a key feature?

Social innovation is a key aspect of Smart Villages, especially through services, care and inclusion of the elderly and the disabled, through, for example, social projects using agriculture as a basis for providing various health and educational therapies; legal protection; info points; etc.

Cultural and social life in the countryside can also be improved through the arrangement of common areas and activities for the elderly, young people, and women, such as locations for rest and recreation, events, traveling library, connection to a joint music school, theatre.

## How is Smart Villages supported by the CAP?



### CAP 2014-2022

Indirectly, no dedicated Smart Villages interventions identified.

- **LEADER/CLLD**

### CAP 2023-2027

Indirectly, no dedicated Smart Villages interventions identified.

- **LEADER/CLLD**

The development of 'Smart Village' concepts can be a topic of Local Development Strategies. The 'Smart Village' concept should address economic, social or environmental challenges by using innovative solutions and digital technologies.

## National Rural Network/ CAP Network support for Smart Villages

Yes, specific network activities on Smart Villages.

- **Information provision & communication:** the NRN developed a dedicated Smart Villages webpage containing news and videos.
- **Survey on Smart Villages:** in May 2020, the NRN and the LEADER office within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MAFF) launched and analysed a survey on Slovenian Smart Villages.

### Contact - CAP:

#### Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

W: <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-kmetijstvo-gozdarstvo-in-prehrano/>

### Contact the Network:

#### Slovenian National Rural Network

W: <https://skp.si/pametne-vasi-uvodna-stran-kategorija/podezelje-prihodnosti-pametne-vasi>

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## How is Smart Villages supported by other policies?

Other funds and policies are expected to support Smart Villages:

**Resilience and Recovery Funds** are expected to be used for supporting digital community-led services in small communities (also supported by the REACT-EU Fund)

**Cohesion Policy** will also support Smart Villages (rural areas) in a coordinated way. Slovenia's Partnership Agreement within the EU's 2021-2027 Cohesion policy provides ERDF support for CLLD under Priority 9. Smart Villages will also be supported within measures promoting digitalisation of public services and society (Priority 1). Additionally, interventions for construction of high-speed broadband infrastructure in areas where there is no interest of operators or investors are planned (Priority 2).

**Digital policies:** the Government office for Digital Transformation, Digital inclusion division, is responsible for strengthening digital competencies and promotion of digital technologies and solutions. The main measures relate to providing access to digital competence trainings.

*Further information: See more information presented during the 'Smart Villages for a Green, Digital and Resilient Europe'*

### **Government office for Digital Transformation**

W: <https://www.gov.si/en/state-authorities/government-offices/government-office-for-digital-transformation/>



**EU - Interreg:** The transnational approach makes it possible to bring new ideas and new tools for the implementation of a smart village strategy. The Smart Villages project in the **Alpine Space** is one example that brings together thirteen partners from six countries.

*Further information: W: <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/vladne-sluzbe/sluzba-vlade-za-razvoj-in-evropsko-kohezijsko-politiko/>*

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The **CARPE DIGEM** project brings together 10 partners from seven countries in peripheral, rural and emerging European regions to develop inclusive digital innovation ecosystems and services.

*Further information: W: <https://carpedigem.eu/>*

## Where to find more information?



For **more detailed information** (including other funding sources and contacts) please visit the 'What's happening in my country' pages of the Smart Rural 21 project:

<https://www.smartrural21.eu/countries/slovenia/>

For information on **smart villages and 'villages-in-transition'** in the country:

<https://www.smartrural27.eu/smart-communities/>

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