

Smart Villages Support in Belgium - Wallonia



How is the concept of Smart Villages defined?

No formal definition of 'Smart Villages' in Wallonia.

Is digital innovation a key feature?

Digital is an important dimension of smart solutions developed by the Walloon smart villages. The stakeholders involved in the development of smart solutions, however, regularly remind that digital is only a tool for the benefit of the development of territories and that technology is not an end itself, but digital can be a lever for revitalising the territories.

Is social innovation a key feature?

Social innovation is an important dimension of smart solutions developed by the Walloon smart villages. The stakeholders involved (institutional and technical operators) in the development of smart solutions consider that social innovation must be at the heart of the driving forces behind the development of rural territories. The intelligent development of territories requires collective intelligence and the enhancement of the territories' social capital.

How is Smart Villages supported by the CAP?



CAP 2014-2022

Indirectly, no specific interventions for Smart Villages, but smart project development through the action of several Walloon **LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs)**.

CAP 2023-2027

No specific interventions for Smart Villages, support is provided indirectly through **LEADER**.

National Rural Network/ CAP Network support for Smart Villages

Yes, specific Smart Villages network activities on Smart Villages:

- Training/ workshops on/ for Smart Villages
- Seminar "Smart Rural Territories" of December 16, 2021
- Regular dissemination of news/ information/articles in the Network's communication media

Contact - CAP:

Walloon Public Service (SPW)

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Contact the Network:

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How is Smart Villages supported by other policies?

Regional (non-EU funded):

- Regional 2019 - Smart Region Project: Fourty territorial intelligent/ smart projects implemented, involving more than 50 towns and municipalities and six inter-municipal economic development. Budget of EUR 4 mln.

Further information: <https://www.digitalwallonia.be/fr/publications/appel-a-projets-territoire-intelligent>

Agence du numérique/Digital Wallonia (AdN)

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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/belgium-wallonia/>

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

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



Last updated: 23/08/22