

Smart Villages Support Croatia



How is the concept of Smart Villages defined?



No formal definition of Smart Villages in Croatia.

Is digital innovation a key feature?

Digitalisation is not a key feature of Smart Villages, but it is one of the possible activities that will be supported in the Croatian CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

Is social innovation a key feature?

Social innovation is not a key feature of Smart Villages, but it is one of the possible activities that will be supported in the Croatian CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

How is Smart Villages supported by the CAP?



CAP 2014-2022

No dedicated support to Smart Villages.

CAP 2023-2027

Yes, direct Smart Villages interventions are planned:

Croatia is planning to implement the 'Smart Villages' concept through two approaches:

1. **Local Development Strategies prepared by LEADER Local Action Groups**, as described in the 77.06 LEADER Support (CLLD) intervention of the Croatian CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 (SO8: Promoting employment, growth, gender equality, including women's participation in agriculture, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including circular bioeconomy and sustainable forestry - (Need) P16: Encouraging stakeholder involvement in local development).

Projects to be implemented through the LEADER Local Development Strategies will contribute to the implementation of the Smart Villages concept as long as they contribute to the following:

- innovative and smart solutions in villages;
- digitalisation in agriculture and social activities in villages;
- environmental outcomes in villages.

2. The **Pilot Programme for Smart Villages** (national CAP and other sources of funding).

The Ministry of Agriculture plans to develop a national programme for support of the 'Smart Villages' concept to be implemented in pilot rural areas in cooperation with Local Action Groups with the aim of improving and advancing socio-economic and living conditions in villages. The 'Smart Villages Pilot Area Programme' will define the criteria for selecting pilot areas, sources and the method of financing, eligible activities, the period of implementation of the programme, and the conditions and means of implementation.

National Rural Network/ CAP Network support for Smart Villages

Specific networking activities on Smart Villages are organised:

Regular dissemination of information on Smart Villages

- The NRN is sharing news, events and project updates by other organisations on its website.

Contact - CAP:

Ministry of Agriculture

W: <https://poljoprivreda.gov.hr/>

Rural Development Programme

W: <https://ruralnirazvoj.hr/>

Contact the Network:

Croatian National Rural Network (Nacionalna Ruralna Mreža)

W: <https://www.mrr.hr/>

How is Smart Villages supported by other policies?

Reference to Smart Villages but no implementation framework yet.



The Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds has two important documents for the 2021-2027 period explicitly mentioning Smart Villages:

1. National Development Strategy (NDS) of the Republic of Croatia until 2030
2. The Integrated Territorial Programme 2021-2027.

Further information:

National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia

W: <https://hrvatska2030.hr/>

The Ministries of Agriculture and of Regional Development and EU Funds foresee complementarity and synergy for implementation of Smart Village policies.

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/croatia/>

For information on **smart villages and 'villages-in-transition'** in the country: <https://www.smartrural27.eu/smart-communities/>