

2nd Meeting of the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory

Supporting Smart Villages through multiple funds

Agenda

27 – 28 November 2023

Location: Prague (Czechia)



The purpose of the 2nd Observatory Meeting is to discuss how Smart Villages could be supported through various policies and EU funds, including the CAP Strategic Plans and Cohesion Policy programmes. The Smart Villages concept builds on integrated local smart village strategies. The thematic areas concerned implies several sectors that should be developed in synergies and in a coherent way. (e.g. LEADER/CLLD Local Development Strategies, regional or even national sectoral strategies and programmes). Due to the integrated and holistic nature of Smart Villages, multiple funding sources need to be mobilised for its effective implementation.

The event will feature both **CAP SP interventions as well as other EU-funded, national and regional programmes** that support Smart Village (-type) initiatives at the local level. The aim is to reinforce the support of Smart Villages also in other than the CAP and discuss possible synergies between the various programmes and ensuring that local communities have access to relevant EU funding sources.

Target audience: The event aims is to bring together EU-level stakeholders, as well as national and regional level policymakers (including Managing Authorities of EU programmes/ ministries, regional agencies and other interested programming/coordination authorities).

Organisations that are engaged in the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory so far are particularly targeted, including those who participated at stakeholder platform events, members of taskforces and members of rural community knowledge clusters, as well as representatives of Managing Authorities of the CAP Strategic Plans and other EU programmes that are interested in supporting and implementing Smart Villages in their own policy fields.

Approximately 50 to 60 participants are expected for the face-to-face event.

27 November 2023: Support landscape of Smart Villages <i>Meeting venue: Ministry of Regional Development / CIIRC</i>	
Timing	Agenda item
<i>Morning</i>	<i>Arrival of participants</i>
12.15 – 13.30	<i>Lunch (Mincovna Restaurant: Staroměstské náměstí 930/7, 110 00 Prague 1)</i>
13.30 – 14.00	Registration & check-in at Ministry of Regional Development <i>(Address: Staroměstské náměstí 6, 110 00 Prague 1)</i>
14.00 – 14.30 <i>[Livestreamed]</i>	Introduction to the event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Welcome by DG AGRI, Maria Gafo (European Commission, DG AGRI)</i> • <i>Introduction to the Smart Rural 27 Project and the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory, Edina Ocsko (Project Coordinator)</i>
14.30 – 15.15 <i>[Livestreamed]</i>	Czech Approach to supporting Smart Villages through multiple funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Czech approach of supporting Smart Villages through various EU policies, Radim Srsen (Mayor of Dolní Studénky, Deputy Minister of Regional Development - Czechia, Member of the European Committee of the Regions)</i> • <i>Q&A and short panel discussion with various representatives responsible for SV implementation: Ministry of Agricultural / CAP Network, Ministry of Industry/ Ministry of Regional Development, LAG representative</i>
15.15 – 16.00 <i>[Livestreamed]</i>	Presentations from other European programmes and initiatives that support Smart Villages or Smart Village-type actions through various funds/programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supporting Third places and linkages to Smart Village in France, Marc Laget (National Agency for Territorial Cohesion in France)</i> • <i>The multi-funded CLLD approach of Saxony-Anhalt, Florian Kittel (Managing Authority for ERDF/ESF/JTF)</i> • <i>Italian approach to supporting Smart Villages through the CAP and the Inner Areas Programme, Filippo Chiozzotto (CREA)</i> Q&A and Discussion
16.00 – 16.30	<i>Going together to CIIRC by public transport</i>
16.30 – 18.30	Smart solutions by the Czech Technical University in Prague (visit) The Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics (CIIRC) and the Center for Energy Efficiency Buildings (UCEEB) as institutions of the Czech Technical University in Prague are leaders in SMART solutions in the Czech Republic, not only from the Smart City perspective, but also from the rural/ municipal perspective. There are many labs/testbeds in the university related to digitalisation and robotics, including solutions useful for rural areas and wellbeing of rural inhabitants such as virtual reality, assistive technologies, public space design, transport solutions and systems and many more.
20.00	<i>Dinner (Diplomat Hotel: Evropská 15 , 160 00 Prague 6)</i>

28 November 2023: Bridging stakeholders and perspectives for Smart Villages <i>Meeting venue: Diplomat Hotel</i>	
Timing	Agenda item
8.30 – 10.00 <i>[Livestreamed]</i>	<p>Introduction to the Day, Edina Ocsko (Project Coordinator)</p> <p>Shaping the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory: Animating discussion on Smart Villages implementation among various stakeholder groups, with the aim to create bridges among various stakeholders and improving Smart Villages support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round 1 discussion: National Groups facilitated by national experts (8.45-9.20) • Round 2 discussion: Stakeholder Platforms: MA, CAP Network, LAG, Village, Mixed (9.20-10.00)
10.00 – 10.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.30 – 11.50 <i>[Livestreamed]</i>	<p>Linking bottom-up Smart Villages approaches to LEADER local development strategies & regional strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How LEADER is supporting Smart Villages – Initial findings from the CAP analysis (Katrina Idu, E40) <p>Presentations from local initiatives, including their challenges concerning linking to regional-level concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Pianezzola, LAG 'Tradizione delle Terre Occitane' (Piedmont Region, Italy) • Ryan Howard, SECAD LAG (Ireland) • Luis Matias (Revitalisation Programme for Pinhal Interior Region (PRPI), Portugal) • Fritz Pichler, Stanz (Austria) <p>Panel discussion: Maria Pianezzola, Ryan Howard, Luis Matias, Fritz Pichler, Silvia Rovere</p>
11.50 – 12.00 <i>[Livestreamed]</i>	Concluding remarks & next steps
12.00 – 12.45	<i>Lunch</i>
13.45 – 16.30	<p>Optional field visit to Smart Rural 21 community: Mukarov (near Pargue)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Katerina Cadilova (Mukarov) on the Smart Village approach of Mukarov • Walking around in the village – (visit to the Culture & Community centre) • Workshop in the local school: Community engagement with focus on youth • Presentations by Ryan Howard (SECAD) & Katerina Cadilova (Mukarov) & discussion with participants on youth engagement