



Annex II: Meeting Reports

4th Smart Villages Taskforce Meeting – AUSTRIA

Purpose of the meeting

Presentation and discussion of upcoming Smart Village approaches of the AT ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management including the initiative “Smart Village Lab”. Reflecting the outcomes of the 2nd SV Observatory Meeting in Prague.

Date of the meeting

[11/12/2023]

Location

Online

Participation

7 members participated from the following organisations: federal ministry of agriculture, forestry, regions and water management, administration of Styria, administration of Upper Austria LEADER LAG/ AT LEADER association, Smart Village Stanz, Michael Fischer and Karl Reiner (SV AT national experts)

Main outcomes & lessons learnt (including deviations from initial plan)

- The AT ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management together with the AT research promotion agency FFG and the AT CAP network developed an approach for further strengthening the smart village approach within the AT CAP strategic plan. This consists of three pillars
 - o Making good practice accessible (mainly together with the AT CAP network in combination with outcomes of the two Smart Rural projects)
 - o Making use of an existing innovation platform for public procurement that connects public entities with innovative companies. Public bodies can post their questions/needs (“challenges”) and everybody is invited to suggest solutions. It is an open innovation process. This platform also presents innovative solutions that already exist. <https://www.ioeb-innovationsplattform.at/>
 - o Organizing a Smart Village Lab. Villages apply with a special need or problem, where they seek a solution for by making use of digital technologies. 3-4 villages are chosen and they enter a 1.5 days creativity process (like a hackathon) where experts from different fields help them find innovative solutions. Villages are encouraged to work together and support each other. This is planned for early 2024.
- Outcomes of the Smart Rural Observatory in Prague were presented by Karl Reiner (AT SV Expert) and Rainer Rosegger (Smart Village Stanz). The presentations were considered as very insightful, and the Czech approach was highlighted as highly ambitious.
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Next steps

The federal ministry will keep the taskforce members informed about further developments of their initiatives;

Supporting documents

The event in pictures