



# **Smart Villages in CAP Strategic plan Belgium Flanders**

*Factsheet*

The Smart Rural 27 project (2nd Preparatory Action on Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century, 2021-24) aims at improving the Smart Villages support framework at both the local (rural communities) and regional/ national (policymaking) contexts.



# Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic plan Belgium–Flanders

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### What are the basic SV components?



#### DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

Smart Villages are defined as a tool to address societal challenges and transition issues, such as the energy transition or digital transition, through co-creation with village communities and rural actors and through social, digital and/or technological innovation. (BE-FL CAP SP, p. 1060)

**Is there a focus on digital innovation?** The definition refers to digital innovation as one of the means to address societal challenges and transition issues.

**Is rural area / village defined?** Rural areas are geographical, physical and socio-economical coherent areas consisting of at least three rural municipalities and as a whole have a population density equal to or less than 350 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> or a land take of maximum 30%. (BE-FL CAP SP, p. 346)

**Is there a reference to smart village strategies?** Within the thematic priority regarding vital and vibrant villages, LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) have the possibility to support the design and implementation of Smart Village Strategies that are considered “as a tool to address societal challenges and transition issues, such as the energy transition or digital transition, through co-creation with village communities and rural actors and through social, digital and/or technological innovation” (BE-FL CAP SP, p. 1051).

## Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic plan - Belgium – Flanders



### Direct Smart Villages interventions

- LEADER – design and realisation of local development strategies (COOP, 3.18 & 3.19)

### Other relevant interventions

- No other interventions with reference to Smart Villages have been identified.

**Mostly contributes to...**

**S08:** Promoting employment, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, **social inclusions** and **local development** in rural areas.

**XCO:** Cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of **knowledge, innovation and digitalisation** in agriculture and rural areas



**R.40: SV strategies - Target R40 is programmed under the LEADER intervention:** Design and realisation of local development strategies (COOP, 3.18 & 3.19) but **no target values yet specified.**



**Direct financing:**  
**No dedicated budget for Smart Villages.**

## SMART VILLAGES IN THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

### Strategic statement

There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

### Assessments of needs and intervention strategy

There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

## Specific Objectives

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### **SO8: Promote employment, growth, gender equality**

The aim is to “promote employment, growth, gender equality, including the participation of women in farming, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, as well as the circular bio-economy and sustainable forestry”, with direct reference to smart villages, highlighting that “the quality of life in the countryside consists of several aspects. The LEADER intervention will inter alia respond to the smart transition of the rural economy (R.40) through Smart Village strategies” (BE-FL CAP SP, p. 214-215).

### **XCO: Cross-cutting objective of modernising the sector by fostering and sharing of knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture and rural areas**

Reference is made to smart villages as follows: “LEADER is also working on the smart transition of the rural economy (R.40)” (BE-FL CAP SP, p. 241).

## Target plans

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LEADER intervention will contribute to result indicator R.40: ‘Smart transition of the rural economy: Number of supported smart-village strategies’. **Target values for this indicator are assessed once the local development strategies have been adopted.** According to the assessed target values it will be possible to determine to what extent LEADER will focus on Smart Villages.

## Consistency of the Strategy and complementarities

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There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

## Elements common to several interventions ...including the CAP Network

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No specific CAP Network support actions for Smart Villages have been identified in the CAP SP.

# Smart Villages interventions

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## DEDICATED INTERVENTIONS

### LEADER - design of local development strategies (3.18 and 3.19, COOP)

During the coming programming period the focus of local development through LEADER is on 3 thematic areas: 1) supporting a viable rural bioeconomy, 2) enhancing biodiversity and landscape quality, and 3) enhancing viability of villages and its communities. The ambition is to develop villages and communities that are futureproof, divers and sustainable.

Within the theme of viable and vibrant rural villages, the LEADER intervention offers LAGs the possibility to design and implement smart village strategies: *“the design and **implementation of smart villages strategies as a tool to address societal challenges and transition issues, such as the energy transition or digital transition, through co-creation with village communities and rural actors and through social, digital and/or technological innovation**”* (BE-FL CAP SP, p. 1051). The LEADER intervention will contribute to result indicator R.40: ‘Smart transition of the rural economy: Number of supported smart-village strategies’. Target values for this indicator are assessed once the local development strategies have been adopted. According to the assessed target values it will be possible to determine to what extent LEADER will focus on smart villages.

## OTHER RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

No other interventions with reference to Smart Villages have been identified.

## Modernisation: AKIS and digitalisation

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There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

## Smart Villages in other EU funds and programmes

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No other relevant Smart Villages programmes or initiatives identified.

## Ex-ante Evaluation & Strategic Environmental Assessment

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There is no specific reference to Smart Villages in this section of the CAP SP.

*The overall analysis and the references are based on the original **Flemish CAP SP version 1.1 approved on 5/12/2022**. The Factsheet is produced under Contract No AGRI-2020-0332 with the Union and the opinions expressed are those of the contractor only and do not represent the contracting authority's official position.*