



Smart Villages in CAP Strategic plan Belgium Wallonia

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 Wallonia

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

What are the basic SV components?



DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

There is no official regional Smart Village definition in the CAP SP, but the Working Group (WG) of the Walloon Rural Development Network has identified a vision of smart territories which:

- are far from the technical and urban approach (the smart city defined in the 2000s);
- start with citizens and rely on collective intelligence to engage in reflection and coordinated and effective collective action;
- concern cities as well as peri-urban and rural areas;
- rely on data and technology, but these are not an end in themselves, they are a means of meeting challenges to imagine the territory of tomorrow and in particular to put in place transition procedures in favor of a territory that is less polluted and polluting, less noisy, less spread out, where travel is limited and sustainable, where it is possible to produce and consume locally, where services are shared, where people can work remotely, where new solidarity and social interactions are developing.

(Source: Notebook n°12 - Smart territories of the Walloon Network for Rural Development: https://www.reseau-pwdr.be/sites/default/files/rwdr_smart_web.pdf)

Is there a focus on digital innovation? The smart dimension is commonly associated with the "digital innovation" dimension. The concept of digital innovation is clearly and regularly used in the Smart Villages context in Wallonia. This is particularly the case in the discourse of the Digital Agency (also concerned with the Smart Villages concept) and regional smart city managers, which is the Walloon regional instrument for smart strategy and smart city development.

Is rural area/village defined? A rural territory is defined as a statistical unit where:

- the population density is strictly below 150 hab./km² or
- the population density is greater than 150 hab./km² but rural areas cover more than 80 % of the total area of the statistical unit.

(Source: 'rurality indicator' used in Wallonia, adapted from the OECD; WAL CAP SP p. 386)

Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic plan - Belgium Wallonia



Smart Villages interventions

There is neither dedicated Smart Villages intervention, nor interventions that refer to Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plan.



Other relevant programmes:

- **Intelligent Territory / Smart Region (Regional public fund, Wallonia Recovery Plan (EU Funds)):** This call is specifically aimed at projects with a digital and/or technological component.

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

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

Target plans

R40 is not programmed in the CAP SP.

Consistency of the Strategy and complementarities

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

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

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

Smart Villages interventions

There is **neither dedicated Smart Villages intervention, nor interventions that refer to Smart Villages** in the CAP Strategic Plan.

Modernisation: AKIS and digitalisation

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

Smart Villages in other EU funds and programmes

Intelligent Territory / Smart Region (Regional public fund, Wallonia Recovery Plan (EU Funds): This call (published on July 14, 2023 and closed on October 13, 2023) was specifically aimed at projects with a digital and/or technological component, such as the use of the Internet of Things (and related data flows), Artificial Intelligence, Data analytics, etc. coupled with the development of solutions dedicated to the development of a municipal service, a service or flow management platform, an application micro-service for the citizen user, etc. The selected projects must be initiated within 4 months following the official notification of granting the subsidy and be implemented before December 20, 2024.

Ex-ante Evaluation

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 **Walloon 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.*