



# Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plan Germany

*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 Germany

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic Plan in Germany



#### DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

No formal definition of Smart Villages in Germany

Is there a focus on **digital innovation**? Smart Villages in Germany in general is focused on digital innovation in the context of national and regional programmes.

#### Dedicated 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:

- **Gemeinschaftsinitiative Agar- und Küstenschutz (GAK)** (National public fund): The GAK Integrated Rural Development (ILE) Village Development measure aims to secure and develop rural areas as habitats, work, recreation and natural areas.
- **Smarte.Land.Regions** (National public fund): Develops model projects with a focus on Smart Regions and Villages.
- **Land.Digital** (National public fund): Funds projects that aim to improve the life in rural areas through the intelligent use of information and communication technology.
- **Digital villages Lower-Saxony** (Regional public fund): Tests, in the interface of citizens and administration, how digital village solutions are used and how they can be developed to enable a higher quality of life in rural community interactions.
- **Smart Country Brandenburg** (Regional public fund): A project for co-workers, users, digital workers, developers and innovative networkers in Brandenburg region.
- **Digital villages Rhineland-Palatinate** (Regional public fund): An online platform, providing digital solutions for rural communities and local enterprises, was developed to make communication and participation in villages easier and up to date.

# SMART VILLAGES IN THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

## Strategic statement

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

## Assessments of needs and intervention strategy

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

## Specific Objectives

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

## Target plans

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R40 is not programmed in the CAP SP.

## 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.

Nevertheless, CAP Network is planning their work programme once a year with a Steering Committee. The programme is linked to the needs of stakeholders and **Smart Villages was previously regularly part** of the programme.

## Smart Villages interventions

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

## Modernisation: AKIS and digitalisation

Smart Villages are mentioned in this section where past activities are described, informing about exchange formats that took place in 2022: “For example, there were 2022 formats on these topics: Smart villages and regions, network meetings biodiversity consulting, rural professionals, (re-)regionalisation of value chains and marketing, etc.” (DE CAP SP, p. 1851). No future activities linked to Smart Villages are mentioned in this section.

## Smart Villages in other EU funds and programmes

- **Gemeinschaftsinitiative Agar- und Küstenschutz (GAK) (National public fund):** The objective of GAK’s Integrated Rural Development (ILE) is to secure and develop rural areas as habitats, work, recreation and natural areas. The GAK ILE measure Village Development is very relevant for Smart Villages as it includes, among other things, the initiation and monitoring of change processes, the design of public spaces and areas, the creation and preservation of local facilities of the community, multifunctional houses for communal use, the creation, maintenance or expansion of rural infrastructures, leisure and recreation facilities as well as the conversion of village buildings. The “Future Check Village” (ZCD) as part of the GAK-ILE “Village Development” measure is a response to the challenges of rural villages, such as ageing of population, vacant buildings, lack of local care and social co-existence.
- **Smarte.Land.Regions (National public fund):** In this programme, funded by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, model projects are being developed and tested for their portability in seven model regions and 134 other counties with a focus on Smart Regions and Villages.
- **Land.Digital (National public fund):** In this programme 61 innovative projects were funded with the aim to improve the life in rural areas through the intelligent use of information and communication technology. The projects could be implemented in seven different fields: economy and work, voluntary work and participation, mobility, education and qualification, health and care, local supply as well as information and communication platforms.
- **Digital villages Lower-Saxony (Regional public fund):** It is a cooperation project between Fraunhofer IESE and the Digital Opportunities foundation. It is funded by the Ministry of National and European Affairs and Regional Development of Lower Saxony. In the first step of the project, the needs of citizens in rural areas to be more active in digital participation were identified. In the interface of citizens and administration, it was tested how digital village solutions are used and how they can be developed to enable a higher quality of life in rural community interactions. The local engagement of the inhabitants and the connection to the administrative structures are always in focus. In the second step of the project since July 2022, all villages in Lower Saxony can apply for using the digital solutions.

- **Smart Country Brandenburg (Regional public fund):** It is a project for Brandenburg as **an area of economy and innovation with its districts, cities and villages connected to the capital of Berlin in the centre**. It was developed and funded by the institution of promotion of economic development and Fraunhofer IESE and Bitkom with different partners. It is a project for co-workers, users, digital workers, developers and innovative networkers in Brandenburg with the city of Berlin in the centre. Heim office ([www.heimatoffice.org](http://www.heimatoffice.org)) is a model project running until summer 2022.
- **Digital villages Rhineland-Palatinate (Regional public fund):** It is a project funded by the Ministry of Interior and Sports of the Federal State of Rhineland-Palatinate and implemented by Fraunhofer IESE. **An online platform providing digital solutions for rural communities and local enterprises** was developed to make communication and participation in villages easier and up-to-date. The platform could be used for all relevant interactions in villages.

## Ex-ante Evaluation & Strategic Environmental Assessment

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It is recommended to integrate the result indicator R.40 in the intervention EL-0410 - 'Integrated Rural development' (ILE). It is expected that projects in relation to "Smart Villages" are going to be implemented under this intervention with the sub-intervention: EL-0410-01 - 'Promotion of village development'.

*The overall analysis and the references are based on the original **German CAP SP version 1.1 approved on 21/11/2022**. 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.*