



# Smart Villages in CAP Strategic plan Greece

*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 Greece

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

There is no formal definition of Smart Villages in Greece.

**Is there a reference to smart village strategies?** In the Greek CAP SP there are some references to smart village strategies, which will be realised through various interventions and methods such as: There is an opportunity to implement **cooperation actions for the holistic and innovative development of villages (smart villages)** under local strategies in the CAP SP. In this context, it is envisaged to implement operations relating to the establishment of a cooperative scheme involving local private actors and local public bodies, in order to prepare and design **an action plan focused on addressing one or more problems in the region**. (EL CAP SP p.412 -413)



### Direct Smart Villages interventions

There is no dedicated Smart Villages intervention in the CAP SP.

### Other relevant interventions

Support for local development through LEADER (CLLD) (P-77-4.1, COOP)

### Mostly contributes to...

**SO8: Promoting employment, gender equality**, including the participation of women in farming, **social inclusions** and **local development** in rural areas.



### R.40: SV strategies - Target

R40 indicator is referenced in the Greek CAP Strategic Plan, however, target values are not yet defined.



### Technical support

One of the Network objectives is **“organising events for interaction, including, in particular, consultants, experts in the thematic areas related to all the specific objectives of the CAP SP and in particular in new areas (circular economy, biofuels, food waste, social inclusion and the fight against poverty, ICT applications under Smart Village) [...]”** (EL CAP SP p.403).

# SMART VILLAGES IN THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

## Strategic statement

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The Strategic Statement of the Greek CAP SP recognises the multifaceted needs of rural areas, which have been further magnified by unforeseen events like the COVID-19 pandemic, fires, and the effects of climate change. In response, the statement emphasises the importance of fostering cooperative actions and initiatives that prioritise both social and environmental dimensions, highlighting that *“particular emphasis will be placed on [...] **Smart Village policies** to comprehensively address the chronic problems of small sub-areas of the LEADER regions”* (EL CAP SP, p.34-35).

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

R.40: ‘Smart transition of the rural economy - Number of supported smart-village strategies’ is identified under the SO’s result indicators.

## Target plans

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R40 indicator is referenced in the Greek CAP Strategic Plan **in relation to achieving SO8**. The indicator is expected to be achieved **through LEADER**, however, **target values are not yet defined**.

## 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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One of the Network objectives is **“organising events for interaction, including, in particular, consultants, experts in the thematic areas related to all the specific objectives of the CAP SP and in particular in new areas (circular economy, biofuels, food waste, social inclusion and the fight against poverty, ICT applications under Smart Village) and researchers (conferences, lectures, briefings, joint participation in demonstrations and other events, etc.), in particular as regards Operational Groups (OGs) [...], Local Action Groups (LAGs) and similar local development structures, including international cooperation awarding innovation awards to farmers, consultants, and researchers”** (EL CAP SP p.403).

There is a direct reference to Smart Villages under section 4.5. ‘Overview of the coordination, demarcation and complementarities between the EAFRD and other Union funds’:  
**“Local strategies under the CAP SP will also have the opportunity to implement cooperation actions for the holistic and innovative development of villages (smart villages). In this context, it is envisaged to implement operations relating to the establishment of a cooperative scheme involving local private actors and local public bodies, in order to prepare and design an action plan focused on addressing one or more problems in the region. Its key feature should be social and/or technological innovation and should provide for actions such as broadband, energy production or energy saving, addressing environmental problems, servicing young people or the elderly in the area, upgrading the provision of health services and lifting social isolation. These actions will further strengthen rural areas mainly in terms of connectivity and resilience. In addition to the above, the other policies and strategies implemented in the country’s rural areas will also contribute to the long-term vision, whether they concern community or national resources.”** (EL CAP SP p.412)

## Smart Villages interventions

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### DEDICATED INTERVENTIONS

There is no dedicated Smart Villages intervention in the CAP SP.

### OTHER RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

#### Support for local development through LEADER (CLLD) (P-77-4.1, COOP)

One of the main goals of Community-led Local Development (CLLD) is **“to exploit the potential of ICTs to improve the level of services provided to residents of rural areas, especially those inaccessible, mainly through the training and implementation of Strategic Smart Villages (Smart Villages), as well as to contribute to the promotion of healthy nutrition for citizens and to the reduction of food waste carried out through households but mainly through businesses”** (EL CAP SP p.1155).

The LEADER intervention (P3-77-4.1) seeks “to promote the potential of ICTs to improve the level of services provided to residents of rural areas, especially those inaccessible, mainly through the training and implementation of Strategic Smart Villages (SMART VILLAGES)” (EL CAP SP p.1463). “The primary objective of the LEADER intervention will be to **enhance and promote innovation through a Smart Villages policy**” (EL CAP SP p. 1264).

## 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 a specific recommendation in Annex I of the Ex-ante evaluation and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) on Smart Villages, suggesting to improve the alignment between the strategic objectives and the categories of LEADER intervention projects (P3-77-4.1) and further define their relationship with relevant rural development interventions as well as with other EU instruments, which emphasise the primary objective of LEADER intervention, which is to “enhance and promote innovation” through a “Smart Villages” policy.

This section of the CAP SP also contains the justification for not taking this recommendation on board namely that: “The development of innovation through smart villages is a goal but not a primary goal. Local programs are multidisciplinary and include a number of objectives that are shaped through the bottom-up approach. It is therefore logical to include objectives relating to diversification, etc. in order to achieve a holistic approach” . (EL CAP SP p.1476-1477)

*The overall analysis and the references are based on the original **Greek 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.*