



# Smart Villages in CAP Strategic plan Ireland

*Factsheet*

The Smart Rural 27 project (2nd Preparatory Action on Smart Rural Areas in the 21st Century, 2021-2) 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 Ireland

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic plan of Ireland



#### DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

Smart Villages are communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities.

*(Smart Village Curriculum Ireland, p. 6, link: <https://training.etownz.ie/>)*

**Is rural area/village defined?** The Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA) defined rural Ireland as “all areas located beyond the administrative boundaries of the five largest cities”. Therefore, the term ‘rural areas’ was used to encompass open countryside, as well as small, medium and large towns. This definition is consistent with Our Rural Future’s (Rural Development Policy 2021-2025) requirement to adopt a holistic and place-based approach to rural development.



#### Dedicated Smart Villages interventions

There is no dedicated Smart Villages intervention in the CAP Strategic Plan.

#### Other relevant interventions

LEADER (53 LEADER, COOP)

#### Other relevant programmes:

**Our Rural Futures:** Rural Development Policy 2021-2025



# 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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*“Complementarity/coherence with other Union funds that are active in rural areas such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Just Transition Fund (JTF), the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFAF) lies in the **contribution of LEADER across a range of the thematic objectives**, including:*

- *supporting sustainable economic development.*
- **support for the development of Smart Towns and Villages.**
- *supporting the shift to a low-carbon economy, promoting climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.*
- *promoting social inclusion.” (IE CAP SP, p. 302)*

*“The clear challenge is to ensure that the interventions supported through LEADER will be implemented in a coordinated manner so as to avoid duplication of funding and create synergies with the other EU funds and to ensure an integrated use of the funds.*

*Examples of complementarity include:*

- *ERDF support for innovation, digitisation, economic transformation and small and medium-sized businesses is in keeping with the overarching Smart Village Strategy of LEADER.” (IE CAP SP, p. 302)*

## 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 INTERVENTION

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

### OTHER RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

#### LEADER (53LEADER, COOP)

In line with the indicative LEADER themes gathered during the SWOT and needs analysis and presented in a guidance document for preparation of LDSs *“there will also be **a requirement for the Smart Villages concept, climate change mitigation and adaptation** and the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) to be over-arching elements of LEADER Local Development Strategies/Interventions”*. Furthermore, it is stated that the *“Smart Villages approach is closely aligned with that of the LEADER approach. Indeed, once all the LEADER principles are applied, it creates the conditions for the development of Smart Village initiatives”* (IE CAP SP, p.595).

For LAGs where *“Smart Village initiatives are identified as priorities in [the] LDS”* it will be needed *“to align with policies such as the EU’s Long Term Vision for Rural Areas, as well as engage with communities to progress and finance small-scale investments”* (IE CAP SP, p.595).

While describing LEADER’s role in creating and promoting the innovation in the local context it is stated that *“the Smart Villages approach can also be a catalyst for digital and social innovation in rural areas. Social innovation at a local level can be a key driver in climate adaptation projects for rural communities to make a transition to a greener Europe as set out in the European Green Deal. The policy document titled “A long term vision for the EU’s rural areas” outlines how research and innovation for rural communities can be achieved and LAGs will be encouraged to use it as a reference source with regard to innovation at a local level”* (IE CAP SP, p. 597).

## 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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### Our Rural Futures: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025

Our Rural Futures provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland for 2021-2025. The policy is forward looking and ambitious and addresses both the challenges facing rural areas and the opportunities which rural economies and communities can benefit from. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change.

## Ex-ante Evaluation

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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 **Irish CAP SP version 1.1 approved on 31/08/2022**. 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.*