



## Annex II: Meeting Reports

### 1<sup>st</sup> Smart Villages Taskforce Meeting – IRELAND

#### Purpose of the meeting

Provide participants comprehensive insights into the Smart Rural Project, explained the distinct value proposition of this taskforce within Ireland, and outlined the key objectives that the taskforce aims to achieve.

#### Date of the meeting

13/02/2024

#### Location

Online (Zoom)

#### Participation

There were 15 participants; Project manager at CAP Network Ireland, Researcher at CAP Network Ireland, Sustainable Energy Communities Programme Manager at SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland), Outcomes and Impacts Manager at Volunteer Ireland, Director of DigitalHQ CLG, LEADER Project Officer at Wexford Local Development, Development Officer at Ballyhoura Development CLG, Rural Development Officer at Wicklow Partnership (Local Development Company), CEO and Data Analyst at Derilinx (Open Data), assistant to CEO at Clare Local Development Company, Social Inclusion Worker at Carlow County Development Partnership, Professor of Irish Politics and Public Administration (University of Limerick) and Community Engagement Advocate at Campus Engage, Ireland national expert and co-expert.

#### Main outcomes & lessons learnt (including deviations from initial plan)

Following our discussions, it was established that the definition of 'Smart Villages' in the Irish context should be broadened to encompass all community types under the term 'Smart Communities', ensuring inclusivity across geographical areas. Integral to this discussion were considerations regarding the SMART criteria, methods for measuring outcomes, and strategies for providing regional support and establishing long-term objectives for the task force. Additionally, a consensus was reached on the primary objectives of the task force, which include initiatives to scale Smart Communities to regions, leverage open data for informed decision-making, and foster cross-theme integration for holistic development.

#### Next steps

The national expert organised a survey based on the objectives outlined during the initial task force gathering, designed to assess their potential impact on the development and definition of Smart Villages in Ireland. Additionally, attention was given to determining the task force's structure, reaching agreement on membership, and deliberating the frequency of future meetings to ensure the ongoing momentum and efficacy of the task force.

#### Supporting documents

Presentation slidedeck is attached.



### The event in pictures

