

Smart Villages Support Latvia



How is the concept of Smart Villages defined?



The Latvian CAP Network builds the Smart Villages concept on the definition developed by the European Commission's Pilot Project on Smart Eco-social Villages (2018–2019): *“Smart Villages are communities in rural areas that use innovative solutions to improve their resilience, building on local strengths and opportunities. They rely on a participatory approach to develop and implement their strategy to improve their economic, social and/or environmental conditions, in particular, by mobilising solutions offered by digital technologies. Smart Villages benefit from cooperation and alliances with other communities and actors in rural and urban areas. The initiation and the implementation of Smart Village strategies may build on existing initiatives and can be funded by a variety of public and private sources.”*

Is digital innovation a key feature?

Digital is not a key feature of Smart Villages in Latvia. Digital transformation is seen as tool not an end in itself.

Is social innovation a key feature?

Social innovation is a very important feature of Smart Villages. Social innovations are new social practices that aim to meet social needs in a better way than the existing solutions, resulting from – for example – working conditions, education, community development or health.

How is Smart Villages supported by the CAP?



CAP 2014-2022

Yes, specific SV interventions.

Technical assistance & training

The activities of the Smart Villages were supported by the NRN technical assistance funding and through the measures on 'trainings, mentoring, good practice, publicity'.

CAP 2023-2027

Indirectly, no specific Smart Villages intervention

CAP Network support for Smart Villages

The Smart Villages concept is proposed by the National CAP Network as a **sustainable, resilient and holistic tool for the development of local rural areas.**

The CAP Network provide support for the development of sustainable and resilient local rural areas.

- Specific networking activities are organised on Smart Villages.
- Developing guidelines for working with active rural communities that want to develop through the Smart Villages concept.
- Capacity building of LEADER Local Action Groups.
- Support for the development of village strategies.
- Organizing exchange of practice within Latvia and with other Member States.

Training/ workshops on Smart Villages: Various trainings/workshops to help build sustainable and resilient rural areas by using the Smart Village concept. Several meetings/Conferences

CAP Network organised several events to communicate the Smart Villages concept as a sustainable, resilient and holistic tool for the development of local rural areas.

Specific webpage/ website on SmartVillages:
<http://www.laukutikls.lv/nozares/lauku-telpa/viedie-ciemi>

Contact - CAP:

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia

W: <http://www.zm.gov.lv>

Andra Karlsonē

E: andra.karlsonē@zm.gov.lv

Contact the Network:

Latvian CAP Network

W: <http://www.laukutikls.lv/nozares/lauku-telpa/viedie-ciemi>

Zanda Dimanta-Svilpe

E: Zanda.dimanta@llkc.lv

How is Smart Villages supported by other policies?

Currently, other policies do not support the development of Smart Villages.

Where to find more information?



For **more detailed information** (including other funding sources and contacts) please visit the 'What's happening in my country' pages of the Smart Rural 21 project: <https://www.smartrural21.eu/countries/latvia/>

For information on **smart villages and 'villages-in-transition'** in the country: <https://www.smartrural27.eu/smart-communities/>