



Smart Villages in CAP Strategic plan Bulgaria

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 Bulgaria

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

What are the basic SV components?



DEFINITION OF SMART VILLAGES

Smart Villages is an approach to integrated territorial development based on a concept (a simplified version of a strategy or strategy) for its application and/or as separate, independent innovative, social, technological and/or digital solutions corresponding to the principles of this concept as a tool/s for the territorial development of rural areas intended to improve their economic, social and/or environmental conditions.

(Source: Ordinance and Instructions to LAGs for preparing CLLD strategies under the 2023-2027 CAP SP; published on May 19, 2023, p.4, link: https://www.mzh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2023/05/19/zapoved_ruo_rd_09-524_ot_190523_i_ukazaniia.pdf)

Is there a focus on digital innovation? According to the definition, digital innovation is one of the possible tools, but not the main focus of Smart Villages.

Is rural area / village defined? Rural area is defined as municipality within which there is no settlement with a population of over 15,000 people. According to this definition, 215 municipalities out of a total of 265 municipalities in Bulgaria are classified as a rural area. (BG CAP SP, p. 434)

Is there a reference to smart village strategies? There is a reference to Smart Village strategy under Need P8.1.: 'Diversification of economic activity. Stimulating new bioeconomy and circular economy industries'. It is stated that *"diversification of the rural economy should be achieved through interventions in Pillar II Strategic Plan and improved access to technology and digitalisation (Smart Village Strategy)"* (BG CAP SP p. 87).

Smart Villages in the CAP Strategic plan - Bulgaria



Dedicated Smart Villages interventions

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

Other relevant interventions

- ✅ *II.G.5 — Implementation of operations, including cooperation activities and their preparation, selected under the local development strategy (LEADER)*

SMART VILLAGES IN THE CAP STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic statement

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

Assessments of needs and intervention strategy

There is a reference to Smart Villages under the **Need P8.1.: 'Diversification of economic activity. Stimulating new bioeconomy and circular economy industries'**. It is stated that *"diversification of the rural economy should be achieved through interventions in Pillar II Strategic Plan and improved access to technology and digitalisation (Smart Village Strategy)"* (BG CAP SP p. 87).

Specific Objectives

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

Target plans

R40 is not programmed in the CAP SP.

Consistency of the Strategy and complementarities

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

Elements common to several interventions ...including the CAP Network

No specific CAP Network support actions for Smart Villages have been identified in the CAP SP.

Smart Villages interventions

DEDICATED INTERVENTION

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

OTHER RELEVANT INTERVENTIONS

II.G.5 — Implementation of operations, including cooperation activities and their preparation, selected under the local development strategy

Smart Villages as smart settlements are directly referenced under the LEADER intervention: *“Operations included in the CLLD strategy should respond to local needs, create and maintain employment for the local population, benefit local businesses, innovate, improve living conditions (including activities supporting the creation of **smart settlements**) and the state of the environment, lead to social inclusion and improvement of social services in the territory, improve the quality of education”* (BG CAP SP p. 1226).

Concerning eligibility of infrastructural costs, it is stated that *“The inclusion of infrastructure costs related to roads, water transmission and sanitation systems in CLLD strategies shall not be eligible unless they are part of a larger project or relate to activities compliant with the concept of smart settlements”* (BG CAP SP p. 1226).

Modernisation: AKIS and digitalisation

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

Smart Villages in other EU funds and programmes

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

Ex-ante Evaluation

It is stated in the Ex-Ante evaluation that concerning the preparation and implementation of the LEADER/Community-Led Local Development approach addressed under SO 8 'Promoting employment, growth, gender equality, including women's participation in agriculture, social inclusion and local development in rural areas, including the circular bioeconomy and sustainable forestry', "no result indicator is specified in accordance with Annex I of Regulation 2021/2115. R.38 Coverage of LEADER: share of population in rural areas covered by local development strategies. **It is also possible to use R.40 Smart transition of the economy in rural areas: number of smart village strategies supported**, as well as R.42 Promoting social inclusion: number of persons" (BG CAP SP p.1396).

*The overall analysis and the references are based on the original **Bulgarian CAP SP version 1.1 approved on 7.12.2022**. 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.*