

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory

*Supporting Smart Villages through multiple funds*

### Draft Agenda

27 – 28 November 2023

Location: Czechia (near Prague)



**The purpose** of the 2nd Observatory Meeting is **to discuss how Smart Villages could be supported through various policies and EU funds**, including the CAP Strategic Plans and Cohesion Policy programmes. The Smart Villages concept builds on integrated local smart village strategies. The thematic areas concerned implies several sectors that should be developed in synergies and in a coherent way. (e.g. LEADER/CLLD Local Development Strategies, regional or even national sectoral strategies and programmes). Due to the integrated and holistic nature of Smart Villages, multiple funding sources need to be mobilised for its effective implementation.

The event will feature both **CAP SP interventions as well as other EU-funded, national and regional programmes** that support Smart Village (-type) initiatives at the local level. The aim is to reinforce the support of Smart Villages also in other than the CAP policies and discuss possible synergies between the various programmes and ensuring that local communities have access to relevant EU funding sources.

**Target audience:** The event aims is to bring together EU-level stakeholders, as well as national and regional level policymakers (including Managing Authorities of EU programmes/ ministries, regional agencies and other interested programming/coordination authorities).

Organisations that are engaged in the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory so far are particularly targeted, including those who participated at stakeholder platform events, members of taskforces and members of rural community knowledge clusters, as well as representatives of Managing Authorities of the CAP Strategic Plans and other EU programmes that are interested in supporting and implementing Smart Villages in their own policy fields.

Approximately 50 to 60 participants are expected for the face-to-face event.

## 27 November 2023: Animating the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory

Timing	Agenda item
Morning	Arrival of participants
13.00 – 14.00	Light lunch (arrival of participants/ registration)
14.00 – 15.00	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Concept of Smart Villages, the Smart Rural 27 Project and the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory, Edina Ocsko (Project Coordinator)</li> <li>• Welcome by Radim Srsen (Mayor of Dolní Studénky, Deputy Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Member of the European Committee of the Regions)</li> <li>• The Czech approach of supporting Smart Villages through various EU policies</li> <li>• Q&amp;A and Discussion</li> </ul>
15.00 – 17.00	<b>Shaping the European Smart Villages Pilot Observatory:</b> Animating discussion on Smart Villages implementation among various stakeholder groups, with the aim to create bridges among various stakeholders and improving Smart Villages support frameworks across Europe
17.00 – 17.30	Feedback from discussions
17.30 – 18.00	Introduction and preparation for Day 2 programme
19.30 ...	Dinner

## 28 November 2023: Mobilising EU & national funds to support Smart Villages

Timing	Agenda item
8.30 – 9.00	Welcome coffee
9:00 – 10.30	<b>Inspirational examples of Smart Villages(-type) support through various programmes</b> followed by a Panel Discussion. <i>The aim of this session is to present and discuss programmes and initiatives that support Smart Villages or Smart Village-type actions beyond the Common Agricultural Policy. Synergies with other funds and programmes will be discussed.</i>
10.30 – 10.45	<b>Introduction to the workshop sessions</b>
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.45	<b>Thematic discussions – How to realise CAP and Cohesion Policy goals and address the needs of local communities through the bottom-up Smart Villages approach?</b> Possible themes of discussion (depending on interest) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy / energy communities</li> <li>• Rural enterprises/ employment creation / diversification (including food &amp; agriculture)</li> <li>• Improving local services and infrastructure through digital and social innovation</li> <li>• Transport and mobility</li> </ul>
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	<b>Conclusions</b>
15.00 - ...	<b>Optional Field visit</b>