SMART VILLAGES

An ENRD Seminar on Revitalising rural services through social and digital innovation

Draft Agenda

22nd May 2018

Albert Borschette Congress Center (CCAB), Rue Froissart 36, Brussels (map)

Background

In April 2017, the European Parliament and three Commissioners of the European Union launched EU Action for Smart Villages.

Since then the momentum behind Smart Villages has been growing rapidly - both on the ground and at a policy level. The ENRD Thematic Group on Smart Villages has identified how rural communities across Europe are developing innovative local solutions and imaginative approaches for revitalising rural services in fields such as energy, transport, social care and many others.

Some of these initiatives have been triggered by the threats of depopulation, low density or cuts in services. Others are seizing the opportunities offered by digitisation, renewable energy and improved rural-urban linkages. Policy makers at all levels are exploring ways of encouraging these approaches.

Objectives

The seminar will bring together a wide range of practitioners and policy makers from all over Europe that have been developing projects for revitalizing rural services through social and digital innovation. The event aims to:

o **Develop a clearer understanding of the meaning and importance of Smart Villages** in the current context;

o **Showcase the rich variety of the social and digital innovations** that are springing up across Europe to revitalize rural services and promote an exchange of experience between them;

o **Identify the drivers and enabling factors** of these initiatives from a practitioner's point of view;

o **Launch a dialogue with policy makers and implementers** about the steps required for creating a more supportive environment for Smart Villages - now and in the future.

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Timing ⏱	Agenda item 🗓
08.30 – 09.15	**Registration of participants**
09.15 – 09.30	**Welcome and introductory remarks,** *European Commission*
09.30 – 10.00	**EU Action for Smart Villages,** *Phil Hogan - European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development.*
10.00 – 11.00	**Plenary: the growing momentum behind Smart Villages** Inspiring stories from the ground. Round-up of European activity on Smart Villages.
11.00 – 11.30	*Coffee*
11.30 – 13.00	**Smart Villages Action Labs** Interactive sessions organised around a variety of project examples in key fields dealt with by smart villages. *What steps can local people take and what support do they need from policy?*
13.00 – 14.00	*Lunch*
14.00 – 14.45	**Creating an enabling policy environment for smart villages** Keynote speaker: *José Enrique Garcilazo - OECD (Linking local action to the bigger picture)* Messages from the morning session to policy makers.

Funded by the
European Commission

Timing ⏱	Agenda item 🗊
14.45 – 16.00	**Smart Villages Policy Incubator** Structured dialogue between policy makers and stakeholders. *What can be done at different levels to create a supportive policy environment for smart villages in key fields such as digitisation, mobility, energy, care and social services?*
16.00 – 16.30	*Coffee*
16.30 – 17.00	**Final Plenary** Concluding Remarks Future steps