

ENRD Thematic Group on 'Smart Villages'

Revitalising rural services through social and digital innovation

Agenda

26 October 2017

Rue de la Loi, 38, 2nd Floor, Brussels, Belgium

In April 2017, the European Commission launched "[EU Action for Smart Villages](#)"- supported by the Commissioners for Agriculture and Rural Development, Regional Policy, and Mobility and Transport. The initiative envisages a series of actions designed to promote integrated strategies which create the conditions for the sustainable "villages of the future". In this context, a wide range of inspiring strategies, schemes, policy tools and projects are emerging at European, national and local levels.

The ENRD Thematic Group on Smart Villages intends to become a focal point for sharing experiences between these and other initiatives and for building evidence and momentum for improvements in the implementation of rural development policy.

The Thematic Group will hold four meetings, organize a seminar and produce a range of practical outputs from now until July 2017. The first meeting will be held in Brussels on 26th of October and will bring together representatives from many of the key initiatives taking place across Europe. It will take stock of what has been learned so far and plan future activities which build on existing momentum. The main focus will be on strategies and policies for revitalizing rural services through both social and digital innovation.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the first meeting of the thematic group are:

- To provide a **panorama of existing initiatives** for supporting innovation in rural services at EU, National and local levels and to bring together representatives from these initiatives to **share lessons about both the challenges they face and the opportunities** for they see for overcoming them.
- To explore **the role of the RDPs** in supporting more integrated strategies for innovation in rural services - in coordination and synergy with other policies.
- To **decide on the actions that the participants in the ENRD Thematic Group can take** to reinforce each other's activity and turn the ideas behind smart villages into concrete policies and projects on the ground

Timing 🕒	Agenda item 📅
09.30 – 10.00	Registration for TG members
10.00 – 10.30	<p>Welcome to TG participants and introduction to the work of the TG and agenda of the day (ENRD CP)</p> <p><i>First results of the scoping work carried out by the ENRD CP on innovation in rural services. Implications for the direction of the TG.</i></p> <p><i>Paul Soto, ENRD CP</i></p>
10.30 – 11.15	<p>Panorama of strategies, policies, and projects at EU level</p> <p><i>Interactive session with TG members involved in specific initiatives and experiences on Smart Villages at EU level. 2-3 minute (flashes - recommendations + links to work + Q&A)</i></p>
11.15 – 11.45	<p>Networking Coffee break, where participants can explore in more detailed the initiatives introduced in the previous session</p>

Timing 	Agenda item 
11.45 – 12.45	<p>Key examples of integrated national strategies and approaches for revitalising rural services through social or digital innovation</p> <p><i>They provide concrete examples of the service innovation that they are aiming for and of the (potential) role of the RDPs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inner Areas Strategy, Italy, <i>Francesco Mantino, CREA</i> - Smart Countryside Strategy, Finland, <i>Marianne Selkänaho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</i> - Digital Villages, Germany, <i>Steffen Hess, Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE.</i> - Reciprocity Contracts, Centre-Ouest-Bretagne, France, <i>Marie-Hélène Cosqueric, Thematic Coordination of the LAG.</i>
12.45 -13.45	<i>Lunch break¹</i>
13.45 – 15.15	<p>Group Work: Moving forward with smart villages</p> <p><i>Based on the experiences presented – what needs to happen to take these kinds of initiatives forward:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The key features of integrated strategies for smart villages;</i> • <i>The potential role of the RDP and other policies;</i> • <i>The support that the Thematic Group can offer.</i>
15.15 – 15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
15.30 – 16.15	Planning future activities of the Thematic Group
16.15 – 16.30	Concluding remarks & next steps

¹ Please note that buffet lunch will be available to all participants. It will be located near the plenary room and all the participants are kindly invited to help themselves.