



WEBINAR | Online

The role of local actors to drive smart, green and digital development in rural areas

22 June 2023

AEIDL – the European Association for Innovation in Local Development – is promoting the (online) webinar on the role of local actors to drive smart, green and digital development in rural areas as part of the European Local Innovation Forum (ELIF).

The ELIF Territorial Development Thematic Community meeting is an upcoming event that aims to discuss and improve smart innovation in local development in rural areas. The meeting will provide an informal and open-ended virtual space for participants to evaluate current programs and best practices while also considering future EU policies and funding beyond 2026.

Scheduled for June 22nd, 2023, the meeting will focus on exploring the implementation of smart development in rural areas, offering a practical perspective on the factors that drive or hinder progress. Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences on how communities contribute to development in rural areas and identify key drivers for local action.

The meeting will provide an informal and open-ended virtual space for participants to evaluate current programs and best practices while also considering future EU policies and funding beyond 2026.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences on how communities contribute to development in rural areas and identify key drivers for local action.

The purpose of this meeting of the ELIF Territorial Development Thematic Community is:

- ▶ to explore the real implementation of the concept of smart development in rural areas further, which in our view goes beyond the implementation of digital solutions and it is more human-centric.

The connected issues of smart villages, startup villages and, more widely innovation in local development in rural areas has gained prominence over the last few years and in particular since the 2017 Cork 2.0 declaration. It is now part of the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and indeed a key theme to be developed further by the signatories of the Rural Pact.

Indicative time	Agenda items
10.00 – 10.05	Welcoming of participants and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Serafín Pazos Vidal (AEIDL)
10.05 – 10.35	Presentations from examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <u>Presentation 1</u>: Tool for practitioners: The Readiness Assessment tool to implement digital villages in the context of the project “Capitalizing on the good practices and lessons learned from the European Smart Villages Initiative”. (Daniela Di Gianantonio, DigitalAgriculture Team Leader of FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia) ▶ <u>Presentation 2</u>: Smart Villages and digitalisation (Jorge Caleyá ZWIT Project, Spain). ▶ <u>Presentation 3</u>: Smart development in the green transition (Brândușa Birhală, Farm Manager at Grădina Urzicae, Romania)
10.35 – 11.20	Panel of experts / practitioner's reactions - Enrique Nieto (AEIDL) facilitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Gianluca Brunori, UNIPI ▶ Eamon O’Hara, ECOLISE ▶ Mauricio O’Brien, European Crowdfunding Network ▶ Reactions from the public
11.20 – 11.30	Summing up and next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Serafín Pazos Vidal (AEIDL)