



European Committee  
of the Regions

Commission for  
Natural Resources

NAT

# Joint Seminar on Community-led Local Development and Smart Villages as Innovative Tools for Effective Development of the Rural Areas

27-28 October 2022

Lednice,  
Czech Republic



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**RUMRA** Rural, Mountainous  
and Remote Areas  
& **SMART** VILLAGES



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



**27-28 October 2022 | Lednice, Czech Republic | Lednice Chateau Multifunctional Centre**

**Commission for Natural Resources**

## **Community-led Local Development and Smart Villages as Innovative Tools for Effective Development of Rural Areas**

For rural areas, European funding (RRF, cohesion funds, CAP, other funds for specific policies) is a very important source of financing for investment in physical and human capital.

The CoR is therefore taking steps to ensure that the debate on the future of rural areas will be mainstreamed into political discussions and that the voice of European rural local and regional authorities will be heard in this debate. In order to strengthen this voice, it is important to highlight achievements in rural development. The LEADER/CLLD method and the systematic development of Smart Villages as a horizontal policy with support from different funds have proven to be successful concepts.

This seminar will be part of the Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU and will be organised jointly by the NAT commission of the CoR and the European Parliament Intergroup RUMRA/Smart Villages. It is closely connected to the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas, published at the end of June 2021. The seminar will represent an important contribution to the Rural Pact process launched in June 2022 and builds on the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe. It is also connected to the start of implementation of the 2021-2027 programming period in most of the Member States, introducing Smart Villages as a new EU policy and promoting wider use of territorial instruments and integrated approaches like LEADER/CLLD.

The European Committee of the Regions actively participates in setting out new directions, which are of utmost importance for European rural areas. This seminar will therefore be a very good opportunity to complement the position of the NAT commission and the CoR by providing information on what has been achieved and what are the priorities for the future of EU rural development policy.

Other partners will be MEP Stanislav Polčák (EPP), the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, the European Smart Villages Forum, and the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD).

### **27 October 2022**

- 13:00**      **Shuttle from airport, registration at the venue and welcome lunch**
- 14:00**      **Welcome and opening remarks**  
**Jan Grolich**, Governor of the South Moravian Region, Czech Republic  
**Dubravka Šuica**, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission (video message)
- 14:30**      **Keynote address (virtual)**  
**Janusz Wojciechowski**, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission
- 15:00**      **Round table “The Rural Pact in action – working together for effective and innovative development of rural areas”**  
Moderator: **Emma Blain** (IE/EPP), Member of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, CoR member  
**Isilda Gomes** (PT/PES), Mayor of Portimão, chair of the NAT commission  
**Franc Bogovič** (SI/EPP), Member of the European Parliament, co-chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas (RUMRA) and Smart Villages

**Mario Milouchev**, Director, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)

**Marion Eckardt**, President of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD)

**16:00** **Declaration “Together for a smart rural Europe” and Czech Rural Pact - official launch**

**16:15** **Coffee break**

**16:30** **Round table “How to make it happen – Funding opportunities and support for smart villages, CLLD and LEADER”**

Moderator: **Emma Blain** (IE/EPP), Member of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, CoR member

**Mario Milouchev**, Director, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development European Commission

**Jozef Stahl**, Policy assistant to the Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)

**Radim Sršeň** (CZ/EPP), Deputy Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, vice-chair of the NAT commission, CoR

**Nathalie Sarrabezolles** (FR/PES), Councillor of the Finistère Departmental Council, CoR member

**18:00** **End of the seminar**

**18:30** **Cultural event and dinner**

**Interpreting regime:**

EN/IT/FR/DE/CS/PL

## 28 October 2022

**09:00** **Welcome speech**

**Ivan Bartoš**, Deputy Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister of Regional Development

**Keynote address**

**Marie Zezulková**, Head of Unit, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic

**Presentations of case studies on Smart Villages and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) success stories**

**Kristiina Tammets**, manager, LAG Tartu Rural Development Association, Estonia

**Stefan Niedermoser**, manager, LAG Regional Management Regio, Austria

**Anita Selicka**, Executive Director, Latvian Rural Forum, Latvia

**Inés Santé Riveira**, General Director for Rural Development, Galician Agency for Rural Development, Spain

**Jan Dražský Florian**, vice-chair, National Network of LAGs, Czech Republic

**Edina Ocsko**, project coordinator, Smart Rural 21 project, Hungary

**Antonín Hlavinka**, ICT activities coordinator, National eHealth Centre, Czech Republic

**Anna Čarková**, manager, LAG, Kyjovské Slovácko in Motion, Czech Republic

**Petri Rinne**, leader of LAG and president of Satafood Development Association, Finland

**Tomáš Chmela**, Mayor of Slavičín, Czech Republic

**Wiet van Meel**, Tussenheid Hilvarenbeek, Netherlands

At the end of the meeting there will be a farewell drink and light lunch.

**Interpreting regime:**

EN/CS



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European Leader Association  
for Rural Development  
Brussels, [www.elard.eu](http://www.elard.eu)




**MINISTRY  
OF REGIONAL  
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