

RUMRA BREAKFAST: ‘HOW CAN SOCIAL INNOVATION HELP VILLAGES BECOME SMARTER?’

WEDNESDAY 27TH JUNE 2018 | 8.00 AM - 9.30 AM
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN BRUSSELS, MEMBERS’ SALON
HOSTED BY MEP FRANC BOGOVIC (EPP)

CONCEPT

Smart Villages will be one priority of the next Rural Development policy. This new concept aims to “help local communities address issues of inadequate broadband connectivity, employment opportunities and service provision in a clear and comprehensive manner”¹. It also aims to improve the attractiveness and well-being of inhabitants in rural areas.

But at their heart, “Smart Villages are about people.”² Social innovation can play a key role in the development of the full potential of rural areas. By working together and through social innovation, some communities have taken leadership of the provision of key rural services such as health, education, energy, mobility and other social services of key importance in rural, mountainous and remote areas where such services were of poor quality and often in decline. Smart villages outperform others. How can we capture their success in social innovation in marginalised rural areas and use it as an inspiration for all? How can we best support social innovation and Smart Villages in the future programming period?

AGENDA

- ✓ ‘Introduction: Bled Declaration for a Smarter future of rural areas’ by MEP Franc Bogovič (5 min)
- ✓ ‘RUMRA Intergroup and its priorities’ by MEP Mercedes Bresso, Chair of RUMRA Intergroup (5 min)
- ✓ ‘What is Social Innovation and how can it boost villages’ by Bill Slee, SIMRA (Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas) project (examples and concept) (15 min)
- ✓ ‘Mobility for rural elderly’, Marko Zevnik, CEO Sopotniki Institute, Slovenia (10 min)
- ✓ ‘Definition of Smart-socio-eco Villages’ by Carlo Della Libera, Senior Consultant, ECORYS (5 min)
- ✓ ‘Recommendations from the ENRD thematic Group on Smart Villages’ by Paul Soto, team leader of the ENRD thematic group on Smart Villages (10 min)
- ✓ ‘How do the new CAP legislative proposals will encourage Social Innovation and Smart Villages?’ Christiane Kirketerp, Policy Officer, DG AGRI (15 min)
- ✓ Discussion with the audience
- ✓ ‘Closing remarks on the future smart villages actions’ by MEP Tibor Szanyi (5 min)

¹ [CAP Communication on the Future of Food and Farming](#), 29 November 2017

² Phil Hogan, Bled conference, 13 April 2018