

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 7 September 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	"What can Smart Villages do for the food industry, bio-economy, and to promote rural tourism?"
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	European Food Forum, European Parliament Intergroup on Rural, Mountainous and Remote Areas & Smart Villages
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/42686/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/42686/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

64

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0 0-18

20 19-30

27 31-50

15 51-65

2 66-80

0 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

40 Male

36 Female

8 Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

14 Agriculture/crops

0 Fish and aquaculture

1 Livestock

2 Agro-forestry

5 Environment and ecology

0 Trade and commerce

3 Education

0 Communication

0 Food processing

0 Food retail, markets

1 Food industry

1 Financial Services

2 Health care

0 Nutrition

4 National or local government

0 Utilities

0 Industrial

31 Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

1 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

1 Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

1 Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

3 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

10 Member of Parliament

Local authority

10 Government and national institution

1 Regional economic community

6 United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

28 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The dialogue adopted the UNFSS Principles of Engagement throughout the planning and actual implementation of the dialogue. Purposeful and respectful interactions were conducted between various stakeholder. The participants were drawn from the food supply chain, CSOs, Research and Innovation Agencies members of the European food Forum, the members of the European Parliament intergroup RUMRA, the representatives of the International organizations and States Representations in Bruxelles. The event was also advertised on Twitter and LinkedIn providing all the information on how to attend. This varied audience ensured the dialogue embraced multi-stakeholder inclusivity. The dialogue processes was supported by evidence generated from analysis of the villages at risk of isolations and depopulation at European Level. These enriched the dialogue and complemented others works on Food Systems transformation recognizing that food systems are complex, and are closely connected to, digital, innovation, agriculture, landmark, tourism and food production and transformation. The dialogue foreseen different public and private speakers to understand the opportunities and issues to enrich the smart villages and their inhabitants at 360 degrees and with an holistic approach. This multi-faceted approach promoted trust and motivated participants.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

We understood the importance to act to ensure that the global innovation help the villages to become "smart" to enhance the sustainable food systems at local level. This could be done also creating measures that consider the importance of the digitalization in this context. By including a range of stakeholders and offering the chance to explore their work, the Dialogue demonstrated the implementation of the following principles; respect, complexity, multistakeholder inclusivity, and complementing others work. This Dialogue, clearly shown that solutions and actions must be tailored to local and regional realities. They have underscored that no one size fits all and that country action must be tailored to local contexts. It will be very important to promote coherence among different priorities within a very complex food system environment and securing the support of EU Member States and others in a period of time where a national approach to food is more politically appealing.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

It is important to ensure the representativeness of all relevant categories. Also, it is good to consider that the list of registered participants reduces at the as some do not attend.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

Our discussion focused on the concept of smart villages and how they contribute to the food industry, to the bio-economy, and to the promotion of rural tourism.

During our discussion, we tried to answer to these four questions :

1. How important it is, for the development of smart villages, the combination of solid agricultural policies of promoting diversified rural economy with the provision of adequate rural infrastructure, and how is it possible to reach it?
2. How can we promote rural tourism in the EU?
3. What measures are needed to better protect and strengthen the housing and catering sector in rural areas?
4. Explore the role of rural tourism in the fight against rural exodus but also as an alternative source of income on the farm.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Women & Youth Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade-offs
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Climate

## MAIN FINDINGS

Conclusion n°1 : Rural areas suffer from a digital gap that need to be fulfilled to develop smart villages  
Conclusion n°2 : Digitalization in rural areas will be key in the future of rural areas  
Conclusion n°3 : Smart villages need to be part of horizontal policies and need more coordination from all levels of government  
Conclusion n°4 : In order to implement smart villages, adequate resources and funding are needed  
Conclusion n°5 : Strategies to develop smart villages need to take into account the specificities of rural areas  
Conclusion n°6 : Connection and transport between rural areas and urban areas need to be developed to contribute enhancing smart villages

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/2

Panel n°1 : What is the essence of Smart Villages in support of a sustainable food system and rural tourism development?  
The European and International Long-Term vision for Rural Areas

Speaker n°1: Jorge Pinto Antunes, Member of the cabinet EU Commissioner Wojciechowski

- While rural areas are key to achieving EU goals as they cover 80% of the EU territory and are home to 137 millions people, we need to address the challenges these areas face : rapid population decline + low GDP per capita
- Preparatory action on smart rural areas in the 21st century of the European Commission = a real-life test in Europe on how to implement concretely smart villages.
- Publication by the EU Commission of a communication on the long term vision for rural areas = very comprehensive approach
- Innovation is key for the future of rural areas
- Close cooperation between all levels of government is needed

Speaker n°2 : Andrej Čuš, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology of Slovenia

- Tourism is key to the economy of Slovenia:
- Covid-19 crisis helped further the transition to eco-tourism in Slovenia : an important number of measures has been implemented to support tourism stakeholders in the country and to emphasize the green dimension of tourism in the country
- Efforts to develop the gastronomic sector in Slovenia:
- Strengthen the tourism economy
- Contributes to the local food supply
- Promotes entrepreneurship
- Contributes to the employment in many sectors

Speaker n°3 : Radim Sršeň, European Committee of the Regions

- Covid-19 crisis helped realizing that digital transformation of rural areas is much closer than it was before
- More funding and resources are needed to develop smart villages
- Smart villages should be part of horizontal policies
- Need to develop the connection between urban and rural areas
- It is not only with technologies that smart villages will develop but also with smart ideas, with social innovation
- Necessity to make the food chain as short as possible

Speaker n°4 : Maximo Torero, FAO Chief Economist

- Need to address the issue of digital gap in all its dimensions : accessibility and capabilities
- 4 accelerators to develop digital villages : real time data, innovation, technologies and complements
- 3 dimensions are needed to build digital villages :
- E-agriculture = improving productivity by using digital technologies
- Digital farmer services = enhance farmers accessibility to different kind of social and economic services
- Rural transformation = diversify the source of income from only agriculture for rural population

### ACTION TRACKS

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### KEYWORDS

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/2

Panel n°2 : Concrete ideas to make Smart Villages a reality

Speaker n°1 : Birgit Grauvogel, Managing Director of the Saarland Tourist Office and DTV (German Tourism Association) and member of the DTV board

- Digital solutions offer great opportunities for touristic services such as booking platforms
- Necessity for smart villages to participate in such platforms
- Rural areas can support short food chain by using local and regional food products --> need to create incentives for rural areas and SMEs in rural areas to use local products
- Need to promote local markets
- Need to promote culture in rural areas
- Need of funding and resources

Speaker n°2 : Peter De Franceschi, Head of ICLEI Brussels Office Global Food Program Coordinator

- After Covid-19, authenticity and sustainability will be at the heart of tourism
- With the rise of remote working = opportunities for small villages.
- Importance of strong internet infrastructures
- Need of a good connection between big cities and small villages
- Increase interest in short food supply chains = digital platforms will contribute to shorten these food supply chains
- Need to clarify the rules of public procurement

Speaker n°3 : Marco Caprai, Owner of "Amarlido Caprai" Winery. Member of the board of Confagricoltura and Chair of the R&I WG

- Example of the development of tourism around agriculture in a small village
- Need to develop infrastructures in rural areas : digital technologies, transports, building facilities

### ACTION TRACKS

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

On the question of funding for the development of smart villages, some speakers called for more public funding whereas Mr. Pinto Antunes pointed out that investment could also come from the private sector.

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