

International Virtual Event: Global Smart Villages

Smart Policy, Smart Villages and the Strength of the EU Countryside

Alisa Tiganj, assistant to Deputy Director General, DG AGRI



The concept of smart villages has been gaining ground in European policies, in particular through the joint political effort of the European Commission and the European Parliament, supported by other institutions. Providing a comprehensive European support to develop the potential of rural areas certainly involves mobilising and coordinating a whole range of different policies, from agriculture, regional policy, digitalisation, transport and many more. There are a number of strategic documents at the level of the European Union that now embody the concept of smart villages, such as the new Communication on “A long term Vision for EU Rural Areas”, and lay out concrete actions to support its further development. In my presentation, I will in particular show this concept is now embedded in the remit of the Common Agricultural Policy. The latter continues to be the most important EU policy intervening in the EU rural economy in

terms of funding and the range of instruments, having an important effects on the rural economy and the rural population.

About the speaker

Alisa Tiganj is an official of the European Commission and currently works in the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Alisa’s professional career has followed her personal interest and passion for the European integration and her academic training in European law/policies. Her career has led her to work in three different European policies, from fisheries, agriculture to transport policy. After a short period in national administration in Slovenia, Alisa joined the European Commission as policy official in the area of agricultural policy. She later worked in the area of transport policy where she had the opportunity to co-create the concept of smart villages with Violeta Bulc, then Commissioner for Transport, and MEP Franc Bogovic. Alisa is currently assisting the Deputy Director General in the Commission’s department for agriculture, in charge of the policy on agricultural markets, legal and institution issues as well as audit.