

International Virtual Event: Global Smart Villages

Smart Villages as Communities of Connected, Cooperative and Empowered People

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If we want to develop sustainable practices in our cities and villages, we need this development fully based on participation of people who live there. Therefore, such development is not possible with top-down public policies. Moreover, if we want to support the development of communities with technology, instead of enslaving communities to support technology, we must insist that social innovations and technological innovations walk side by side. Many examples in social cooperatives and other social economy practices show that this is possible. Also, that's why the topics of participation and social innovation must be included in education and training for sustainable development and smart cities management.

About the speaker

Dr. Karolina Babič is an expert associate of Association CAAP – Centre of Alternative and Autonomous Production, social enterprise in Maribor, Slovenia. She holds a PhD in philosophy. She is dedicated to research and development of alternative social and economic practices, so in desk research as in the field work.

In the past ten years, she has professionally supported more than fifty organizations and initiatives of social economy (cooperatives and other types). She also constantly collaborates with expert organizations in Slovenia and Europe in the field of development of social and solidarity economies and follows scientific development in this area. She is a higher education lecturer for social economy at Doba Business School.