

## ITS Webinar – Beyond Smart Cities: smart villages and smart territories

**Sponsor:** Academic Host – Edinburgh Napier University

**Length:** 60 minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, June 9 @ 3:00 PM CET (9:00 AM EST)

### Summary:

Academics, practitioners and policymakers have long debated on the concept and practice of smart cities but only recently have started to investigate how smartisation can be pushed beyond the urban boundaries. New models have been proposed and put in practice to leverage the potential of digital technologies in a rural or suburban context. This webinar aims to shed further light on two of these - smart villages and smart territories – with academic experts and practitioners involved in the design of these initiatives.

Smart villages refer to local communities leveraging digital technologies to co-create innovative services in different domains, from smart mobility to smart tourism. They have multiplied over the past ten years in both developed and developing countries. The concept of smart territory is more recent and has been proposed as an alternative to both smart cities and smart villages to overcome the dichotomy rural/urban and push for the design of holistic smart policies that are not constrained by administrative boundaries.

Both smart villages and smart territories are seen as a driver of economic growth, social cohesion and sustainable development of rural areas, but their development remains geographically limited and many operational aspects have yet to be finalised. This webinar aims to explore the current state of art on smart villages and territories in order to understand how public and private actors in the ICT industry can sustain these initiatives and help to maximise their potential for rural development.

In particular the webinar aims to clarify

- how sectorial regulations and other ICT policies can favour the creation of smart villages and territories;
- how telecom providers and infrastructures can sustain the development of these initiatives; and
- how the diffusion of smart villages and territories is affected by and can help to fix the rural digital divide.

### Speakers

#### GrowBiz Scotland

GrowBiz Scotland is a public organisation providing community-based enterprise support in rural Scotland. They are the promoters and coordinators of Smart Village Scotland, a network of smart villages stretching across Scotland and linked with the EU Smart Rural projects.

Ms Tania Marcos Paramio

Ms Marco Paramio is the Vice Chairman of the [“United Nations for Smart Sustainable Cities”](#) (U4SSC), an initiative coordinated by ITU, UNECE and UN-Habitat to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". She is also the Head of Quality & Smart Sustainable Cities at UNE, the Spanish association for standardisation.

Dr Julio Navio Marco

Dr Navio Marco is the director of the Cátedra Jean Monnet de Economía Digital en la Unión Europea, at UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) in Madrid. He was the guest editor of [a special issue on the governance of smart cities for Telecommunication Policy](#) and published [a paper on the ‘Smart territory’ concept](#) in Land Use Policy.

Dr Anna Visvizi

Dr Anna Visvizi is an Associate Professor at Deree - The American College of Greece in Athens, researching the intersection of politics, economics and ICT. She was the guest editor of a [special issue on smart villages for Sustainability](#) and co-authored the book [“Smart villages in the EU and Beyond”](#), published by Emerald.

The webinar will be moderated by [Dr. Paolo Gerli](#), Lecturer of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Edinburgh Napier University and member of the International Telecommunications Society.