



Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



PROGRAMME



DAY 1 – 15 June 2022

Pre-events Collecting inputs and outcomes of preparatory discussions

8:00 – 9:00	Registration and welcome coffee
9:00 – 10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS</p> <p>These sessions will present initiatives that various levels of government and stakeholders have taken in the run-up to the Conference. Participants will have the opportunity to highlight how they think each level can best contribute.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session #A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The national dimension of the Rural Pact</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Klaus HEIDER, Director-General for Rural Development and Digital Innovation, German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture • Ms. Sabrina LUCATELLI, Senior Policy Expert, Italian Presidency of the Council, Department for Cohesion Policy Director of Riabitarel'Italia, Italy • Dr. Torben Dall SCHMIDT, Senior Research Fellow Helmut Schmidt University, Germany • Ms. Ana GÓMEZ GARCÉS, Project Coordinator, El Hueco - ONGD Cives Mundi, Spain • Ms. Fátima BACHAREL, Innovation and Data Management for Territorial Indicators at the Directorate-General for Territory, Portugal
	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The local and regional dimension of the Rural Pact</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Franc BOGOVIC, MEP, European Parliament • Ms. Ulrika LANDERGREN, Chair of the Committee of the Regions, Commission for Natural Resources • Mr. Adrian Ovidiu TeBAN, Confederation of Towns and Municipalities of Europe • Ms Dorthe NIELSEN, Executive Director, Eurocities
10:30 – 11:00	Networking coffee
	<p style="text-align: center;">PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session #D</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Revitalising rural areas lagging behind</p> <p>This session will focus on practical actions needed to boost vitality and viability of rural</p>

11:00 - 12:30	<p>areas facing population loss, building on the insights and outputs emerging from the ENRD Thematic Group on Rural Revitalisation.</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Begoña GARCIA BERNAL, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, Population and Territory, Government of Extremadura, Spain • Ms. Dorota KORENICKA-ZABAD, Chief Specialist-Coordinator, Marshal's Office of Westpomerania Region, Poland • Mr. Enrique NIETO, Policy Analyst, European Network for Rural Development Contact Point (ENRD CP)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #E</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Combining funds to achieve the vision goals</p> <p>This session will inform on the work on the 'Toolkit on the use and combination of EU funds for rural areas' and will present projects who have successfully combined EU funds. Participants will be asked where they see the major difficulties in combining funds in rural areas.</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Marek TEPLANSKY, Head of Unit for Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission • Ms. Aikaterini PROESTAKI, Project Manager, Managing Authority of OP Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation , Greece • Ms. Ivana KASPAROVA, Senior Officer, Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic
12:30 - 14:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #F</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What evidence for better rural policies?</p> <p>This session aims at presenting the state of the art in the provision of statistics, data and analyses from Eurostat and the JRC, enabling a better understanding of rural areas and tailored policy design. It will explore which evidence is needed for various uses, for example for rural proofing, or to map "Functional Rural Areas". The audience will be invited to provide its own expectations and help identify data gaps, with the final objective to become actors of the soon to be established "Rural Observatory"</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Teodora BRANDMUELLER, Deputy Head of Unit for Regional Statistics and Geographical Information, EUROSTAT, European Commission • Mr. Davide AUTERI, Policy Analyst, Joint Research Centre, European Commission • Mr. Lewis DIJKSTRA, Head of Economic Analysis, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy , European Commission • Ms. Antonia HUSBERG, Ministerial Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland • Mr. Lilian NIACȘU, Head of Geography Department, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Faculty of Geography and Geology , Romania <p>Networking Lunch</p>



High-level – Strengthening multi-level and participatory governance for rural areas

<p>14:00 - 14:45</p>	<p>1. High-level opening</p> <p>President von der Leyen will open by highlighting the importance of rural areas considering latest developments in Ukraine and their impact on rural areas.</p> <p>Panellists will then discuss what they see as the main challenges and opportunities facing rural areas.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ursula VON DER LEYEN, President of the European Commission • Ms. Dubravka SUICA, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, European Commission • Ms. Isabel CARVALHAIS, MEP, Rapporteur on the Long-term vision for the EU's areas for the AGRI Committee, European Parliament • Mr. Vasco ALVES CORDEIRO, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions (tbc) • Mr. Peter SCHMIDT, President of the European Economic and Social Committee's NAT section • Ms. Marion ECKARDT, President of European LEADER Association for Rural Development (ELARD)
<p>14:45 - 15:45</p>	<p>2. Cooperating across departments and governance levels</p> <p>This session will highlight the role public authorities at the national and regional level can play in acting for rural areas. Representatives of authorities will present implemented successful strategies dealing with rural areas and will explain how these strategies came about and how they reflect on them moving forward.</p> <p>Rapporteurs from pre-event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ulrika LANDERGREN, Chair of the Committee of the Regions, Commission for Natural Resources • Ms. Emmeline ALLIOUX, Councillor at the French Permanent Representation to the European Union <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patrice JOLY, Senator for the Nièvre, President of the French Rural Parliament, France • Mr. José Luis MARTÍNEZ GUIJARRO, Vice-President of the Region Castilla-La-Mancha, Spain • Mr. Gareth MAKIM, Assistant Principal Officer, Rural Strategy, Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland
<p>15:45 - 16:15</p>	<p>Networking coffee</p>
<p>16:15 - 17:15</p>	<p>3. Empowering local communities and engaging stakeholders in building the future of rural areas</p> <p>This session will be about the action local authorities and stakeholders can take to act in their rural area. Project holders from local authorities, civil society and business organisations who have successfully implemented actions at the local level as well as businesses will take the floor.</p>

	<p>Rapporteur from pre-event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anita SELICKA, Executive Director, Latvian Rural Forum <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Christian JONET, Coordinator of the Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise, Belgium • Mr. Thomas FISHER, Director of Community Development Lens, UK • Mr. Aris ADLERS, President of PREPARE - Partnership for Rural Europe • Ms. Eva-Lotta OBERG, Business Developer for the Municipality of Härnösand, Sweden
17:15 - 18:00	<p>4. High-level stakeholder panel: shaping the Rural Pact together</p> <p>This roundtable will reflect on the previous sessions and present the proposal for the Rural Pact. The goals and governance of the Rural Pact will be presented for all interested parties to discuss and give feedback.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Juanan GUTIERREZ LAZPITA, President of EUROMONTANA • Ms. Ilaria BUGETTI, Regional Councilor for Tuscany, Italy, Member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions • Mr. Petri SALMINEN, President, SME United • Ms. Doris LETINA, Vice-President and farmer, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)
	End of 1st day – Networking cocktail

DAY 2 – 16 June 2022

	<p>PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS</p> <p>Session #5.1</p> <p>Rural youth as leaders of change</p> <p>Rural aspirations for 2040 will be explored from different angles: young farmer, entrepreneur, activist and youth worker. Youth led initiatives and actions supporting generation renewal and positive rural demography will be presented and will feed into the broader participatory discussion on youth engagement in the Rural Pact.</p>
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Rapporteur: Mr. Maarten KOREMAN, PhD researcher, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Charalampos PAPAIOANNOU, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission • Ms. Anu SUOTULA, Youth worker and head of the national working group on Rural Youth, Keskipiste-Leader Ry Local Action Group (LAG), Finland • Ms. Doris LETINA, Vice-President and farmer, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA), Slovenia

- **Mr. Nicolas VERDEROSA**, Founder and CEO, Ruralis.com, Italy

Session #5.2

Digitalisation, transforming rural areas

The session will highlight new opportunities to improve connectivity, including 5G communities and new broadband state aid guidelines alongside practical examples of how these can be used in various domains. It will engage stakeholders in considering how they can take action to benefit from these opportunities.

Rapporteur: **Ms. Emilija STOJMENOVA DUH**, University of Ljubljana

Speakers:

- **Mr. Franco ACCORDINO**, Head of Unit for Investments in High-Capacity networks, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- **Mr. Fabio NASARRE DE LETOSA**, Senior Legal Expert, Investments in High-Capacity network, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- **Ms. Carina DANTAS**, CEO SHINE 2Europe, Chair of the COST Action NET4Age-Friendly and Coordinator of the SHAFE Network – Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments

Session #5.3

Community driven sustainable energy action in rural villages

Energy communities promote the uptake of renewables and energy security in rural areas, and provide social, economic, and environmental benefits. Project holders will present how they have overcome institutional and financial barriers to implement their strategies to kick-off the participatory discussion.

Rapporteur: **Ms. Eugenia BONIFAZI**,

Consultant Climate Change Policies, Ricardo Energy & Environment, Italy

Speakers:

- **Mr. Sergio OLIVERO**, President of the Scientific Committee, Renewable Energy Community “Energy City Hall” of Magliano Alpi, Italy
- **Ms. Maria CREHUET WENNBERT**, Association of Catalonia micro-villages, Spain

10:30 - 11:00

Networking coffee

PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

Session #5.4

Rural research and innovation ecosystems: social innovation, tourism and cultural and creative industries, start-up villages

11:00 - 12:30

The session will raise awareness on the concept of rural innovation ecosystems, illustrate it through inspirational examples and discuss drivers, enabling conditions and barriers to their development. Participants will then discuss to identify concrete actions that stakeholders can take to support rural innovation ecosystems.

Rapporteur: **Prof. Simona TONDELLI**, Deputy Rector, Full Professor Of Urban And Regional Planning, Alma Mater Studiorum - University Of Bologna, Italy

Speakers:

- **Prof. Simona TONDELLI**, Deputy Rector, Full Professor Of Urban And Regional Planning, Alma Mater Studiorum - University Of Bologna, Italy
- **Mr. Daniel BASULTO**, Project Coordinator TExTOUR, , Fundación Santa María La Real, Spain
- **Ms. Edina OCSKO**, Director of E40 Group
- **Mr. Sotiris TSOUKARELIS**, Community Member, The High Mountains Social Cooperative , Greece

Session #5.5

Sustainable mobility solutions to connect rural areas with urban centres

Public authorities and transport sector stakeholders will hear about examples on mobility management at the local and regional level, including on better urban planning to connect rural and suburban areas and on promoting the roll-out of digital solutions allowing people to use different modes of transport to reach their destination.

Rapporteur: **Ms. Lucia CRISTEA**, Managing Director, European Integrated Projects (EIP), Romania

Speakers:

- **Mr. Piotr RAPACZ**, Team Leader, Directorate General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission
- **Ms. Lucie KIRSTEIN**, Scientific Advisor, National Academy of Science and Engineering, Germany
- **Mr. Giorgio AMBROSINO**, CEO, MemEx, Italy
- **Mr. Manuel TSCHENET**, CEO, Kufstein Mobil , Austria

Session #5.6

Services for socially resilient and welcoming rural communities

This session will address access to social and care services and the integration of minorities, people with a migrant background and refugees in rural areas. It will look into how these services can be provided, also by benefitting from services across national borders.

Rapporteur: **Prof.Dr.ir. Tialda HAARTSEN**, Groningen University, Netherlands

Speakers:

- **Mr. Adolfo PATÓN MONGE**, CEPAIM Foundation, Spain
- **Ms. Jessica CARRENO LOURO**, Project Manager, Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM), Belgium
- **Ms. Julia WINKLER**, Project Manager, Health Agency of Lower Austria/ Healthacross

12:30 - 13:30

Networking Lunch

PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS

Session #5.7

Place-based approaches for rural development: LEADER, CLLD and Smart Villages

This session will explore the potential of place-based development in creating broader rural coalitions for action and advocacy. LEADER and CLLD networks and Smart Village initiatives grow from local needs and opportunities bringing together private and public stakeholders and NGOs in most corners of rural Europe.

Rapporteur: **Ms. Edina OCSKO**, Director of E40 Group

Speakers:

- **Ms. Maria GAFO GOMEZ-ZAMALLOA**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- **Mr. Friedrich PICHLER**, Mayor, Municipality of Stanz, Austria
- **Mr. Matías María RUBIO**, Youth Leader, Jr21 Local Action Group (LAG), Spain
- **Ms. Linda TÖRNER**, Chair and Leader of Women on Wednesday (WOW), Sweden

Session #5.8

Social economy as catalyst to boost resilience and twin transition in rural areas

The session will present examples the role of social enterprises in promoting the twin transition. Participants will reflect on how they could engage with social enterprises and stakeholders in the various policy domains contributing to reaching both the goals of the LTVRA and the Transition Pathway for the 'Proximity and Social Economy' ecosystem.

Rapporteur: **Victor MESEGUER**, Director, Social Economy Europe

Speakers:

- **Mr Karel VANDERPOORTEN**, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission
- **Ms. Patricia ANDRIOT**, Vice-President, RTES (Social Economy Local Authority Network), France
- **Ms. Marta LOZANO MOLANO**, President, WAZO COOP, Spain
- **Ms. Sandra BERTHOLET**, Vice-president, RURAL TOUR - European Federation of Rural Tourism

Session #5.9

The strategic role of rural areas for climate and food security

The EU's rural are simultaneously a cradle of carbon storage and provide food for the EU's population. These roles can be complementary as local food value chains provide more stable income and involve small farms, which can be more easily incentivised to adopt climate friendly schemes, e.g., peatland restoration on soils.

Rapporteur: **Mr. Liam MACHALE**, Director of European Affairs, Irish Farmer's Association of COPA-COGECA

Speakers:

- **Mr. Fabien SANTINI**, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

13:30 - 15:00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Aldert VAN WEEREN, CEO Wetland Products Foundation , Germany • Ms. Monica COLETTA, Vice-President, Italian Association of Organic Agriculture (AIAB) • Ms. Laura ARNALTE MUR, Researcher, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain
15:00 - 15:30	<i>Networking Coffee</i>
15:30 - 16:15	<p>6. Actions, ideas and commitments for the work programme</p> <p>The rapporteur of each breakout session will come up on stage and present the commitments made in each of the sessions.</p> <p>Speakers: Rapporteurs from each breakout session</p>
16:15 - 17:00	<p>7. High-level round table: the way forward for the Rural Pact</p> <p>This roundtable will assess the outcome of the breakout sessions and the work programme for the Rural Pact that comes out of them.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elisa FERREIRA, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reform • Mr. Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development • Mr. Radim SRSEN, Deputy Minister , Ministry of Regional Development Of The Czech Republic • Mr. Daniel BUDA, MEP, Vice-Chair COMAGRI, European Parliament • Mr. Josep PUXEU, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee's , NAT section • Mr. Tom JONES, President of ERCA - European Rural Communities Alliance
17:00 - 17:15	<p>8. Conclusions</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Normunds POPENS, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission • Mr. Wolfgang BURTSCHER, Director-General, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

