



Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



PROGRAMME





DAY 1 – 15 June 2022

Pre-events Collecting inputs and outcomes of preparatory discussions

8:30 – 9:00	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 #1</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, German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture • Ms. Sabrina Lucatelli, Director of ‘Riabitare l’Italia’ – Cohesion Policy Department, Service for evaluation and analysis for programming, Italy • Dr. Torben Dall SCHMIDT, Senior Research Fellow Department of Economics, University of Southern Denmark • Ms. Ana GÓMEZ GARCÉS, El Hueco NGO, Spain • Ms. Fátima BACHAREL, Innovation and Data Management for Territorial Indicators at the Directorate-General for Territory, Portugal
	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #2</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 Forum of Smart Villages • 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
	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inputs from local communities and stakeholders</p>
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Piroska KÁLLAY, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee’s NAT Section • Ms. Lidija PAVIĆ-ROGOŠIĆ, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee’s Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Section • Ms. Anita SELICKA, Latvian representative in the European Leader Association for Rural Development • Mr. Ben VAN ESSEN, Director of the European Rural Community Alliance • Mr. Leotrim GĚRMIZAJ, Board member of PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe

10:30 - 11:00	<i>Networking coffee</i>
11:00 - 12:30	PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS Session #1 Revitalising rural areas lagging behind This session will focus on practical actions needed to boost vitality and viability of rural areas facing population loss, building on the insights and outputs emerging from the ENRD Thematic Group on Rural Revitalisation.
	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maria Begoña GARCIA BERNAL, Regional Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development, Population and Territory, Autonomous Community of Extremadura, Spain • Ms. Dorota KORENICKA-ZABAD, Chief Specialist-Coordinator, Western Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland • Mr. Enrique NIETO, Senior expert, European Association for Information on Local Development
	Session #2 Combining funds to achieve the vision goals 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.
	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Marek TEPLANSKY, Head of Unit for Urban and Territorial Development, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission • Ms. Katerina PROESTAKI, Management Organisation Unit of Development Programme, Greece • Ms. Ivana KASPAROVA, Senior Officer, Ministry of Regional Development, Czechia
	Session #3 What evidence for better rural policies? 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"
	Speakers: <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 officer for territorial development, Joint Research Centre, European Commission • Mr. Lewis DIJKSTRA, Head of economic analysis, DG REGIO, European Commission • Ms. Antonia HÜSBERG, Ministerial advisor, Ministry of agriculture and forestry, Finland



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lilian NIACȘU, Head of Geography Department, University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iasi, Romania
12:30 - 14:00	Networking Lunch

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

14:00 - 14:45	<p>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. 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 • Mr. Vasco ALVES CORDEIRO, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions (tbc) • Mr. Peter SCHMIDT, Chair of the European Economic and Social Committee's NAT section • Ms. Marion ECKARDT, President ELARD, member of the European Rural Parliament
14:45 - 15:45	<p>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>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Patrice JOLY, Senator for the Nièvre, France • Mr. José Luis MARTÍNEZ GUIJARRO, Vice President of the Region Castilla-La-Mancha, Spain • Mr. Gareth MAKIM, Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland <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
15:45 - 16:15	Networking coffee
16:15 - 17:15	Empowering local communities and engaging stakeholders in building the future of rural areas

	<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>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, Scotland • Mr. Aris ADLERS, President of the Partnership for Rural Europe, PREPARE • Ms. Eva-Lotta OBERG, Business Developer for the Municipality of Härnösand, Sweden <p>Rapporteur from pre-event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anita SELICKA, Latvian representative in the European Leader Association for Rural Development
17:15 - 18:00	<p>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"> • Ms. Elisa FERREIRA, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reform • 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 • Rural youth Europe, Speaker tbc
<p>End of 1st day – Networking cocktail</p>	

DAY 2 – 16 June 2022

09:00 – 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session #1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>
	<p>Rapporteur: Mr. Maarten KOREMAN, PhD researcher, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Anu SUOTULA, Keskipiste-Leader youth worker and Head of the Finnish national working group on rural youth

- **Ms. Doris LETINA**, Vice-president, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)
- **Mr. Nicolas VERDEROSA**, Founder and CEO, Ruralis.com, Italy

Session #2

Digitalisation as a chance for 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 STOJMEANOVA 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 expert, Investments in High-Capacity network, Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission
- **Ms. Carina DANTAS**, SHINE 2 Europe CEO and University of Coimbra, Portugal

Session #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**, Associate Director, Ricardo Energy & Environment

Speakers:

- **Mr. Sergio OLIVERO**, 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 #1

Rural research and innovation ecosystems: social innovation, cultural tourism 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**, Department of Architecture, Università di Bologna, Italy

Speakers:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Simona TONDELLI, Department of Architecture, Università di Bologna, Italy • Mr. Daniel BASULTO, Project coordinator, TExTOUR, Cultural Tourism, Spain • Ms. Edina OCKSO, Managing director of E40, coordinator of Smart Rural 21 and Smart Rural 27 • Mr. Sotiris TSOUKARELIS, Tzoumakers Community Open Lab, Greece
	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sustainable mobility solutions to connect rural areas with urban centres</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Rapporteur: Ms. Lucia CRISTEA, European Integrated Projects</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Piotr RAPACZ, Policy Coordinator, Directorate General for mobility and transport, European Commission • Ms. Lidia SIGNOR, Combined Mobility Manager, International Association of Public Transport (tbc) • Ms. Giorgio AMBROSINO, CEO, MemEx, Italy • Mr. Manuel TSCHENET, CEO, Kufstein mobil eGen, Austria
	<p style="text-align: center;">Session #3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Services for socially resilient and welcoming rural communities</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>Rapporteur: Prof.Dr.ir. Tialda HAARTSEN, Groningen University, Netherlands</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Adolfo PATÓN MONGE, CEPAIM Foundation, Spain • Ms. Jessica CARRENO LOURO, Project Manager, Association Internationale des Mutualités (AIM) • Ms. Julia WINKLER, Project Manager, Health Agency of Lower Austria
12:30 - 13:30	Networking Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	<p style="text-align: center;">PARALLEL THEMATIC SESSIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session #1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Place-based approaches for rural development: LEADER, CLLD and Smart Villages</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ms. Edina OCKSO, Managing director of E40, coordinator of Smart Rural 21 and Smart Rural 27</p>

	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Friedrich PICHLER, Mayor of Stanz, Austria • Mr. Matías María RUBIO , Asociación LaBardal, Spain <p style="text-align: center;">Session #2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Social economy as catalyst to boost resilience and twin transition in rural areas</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Rapporteur: Victor MESEGUER, Director, Social Economy Europe</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Karel VANDERPOORTEN, Policy Officer, Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs • Ms. Patricia ANDRIOT, Rurality project manager, National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, France • Ms. Marta LOZANO MOLANO, WAZO COOP, Spain • Ms. Sandra BERTHOLET, Lecturer in Tourism, Ecole d'hotellerie et de tourisme du Luxembourg <p style="text-align: center;">Session #3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The strategic role of rural areas for climate and food security</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Rapporteur: Mr. Liam MACHALE, Irish Farmer's Association & COPA-COGECA</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Fabien SANTINI, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission • Mr. Aldert VAN WEEREN, Founder of the Wetland Product Foundation & Farmer, Germany • Ms. Monica COLETTA, Italian Association of Organic Agriculture (AIAB) • Ms. Laura ARNALTE MUR, Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain
15:00 - 15:30	Networking Coffee
15:30 - 16:15	<p>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 and place them on the wall of pledges.</p> <p>Speakers: Rapporteurs from each breakout session</p>
16:15 - 17:00	<p>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"> • Mr. Janusz WOJCIECHOWSKI, Commissioner for Agriculture • Mr. Radim SRSEN, Deputy Minister for Cohesion, Czech Republic • Mr. Daniel BUDA, European Parliament - COMAGRI vice-chair • Mr. Josep PUXEU, Vice-President of the European Economic and Social Committee's Section for Agriculture, Rural Development, and the Environment • Mr. Tom JONES, ERCA European Rural Communities Association
<p>17:00 - 17:15</p>	<p>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

