

Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

22-26 MARCH 2021

Rural Vision Week



Towards a Fair and Inclusive Citizen-Centric European Union

Assya Kavrakova

European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)

23 March 2021

Workshop 3: Fair and Inclusive Rural Futures

Challenges

- Fragmented societies, Disconnect and Isolation
- Collapse of structures for debates around social issues and social bonds in local communities
- Mistrust and online disinformation

Opportunities

- Digital transformation
- Realization of our interdependence and the value of solidarity
- Recovery and Reconstruction process

Rural communities are an integral part of a
prosperous, inclusive, fair, transparent, citizen-centric and democratic
European Union

in which citizens' rights are at the heart of decision making at all levels and
in which citizens are informed, consulted and active participants in
shaping their future.

What is needed to get to the desirable future?

- Foster EU communication and engagement in rural communities
- Bridge the digital divide
- Restore the public sphere of dialogue and discussion
- Complement representative democracy with collaborative elements of participatory democracy
- Provoke traditional parties to innovate and seek new tailored solutions to citizens' concerns
- Support civil society at local/community level
- Tackle online disinformation at all levels
- Invest in formal and informal citizenship education
- Boost internationalisation/Europeanisation through exchanges – horizontal, vertical and multi-stakeholder involving non-metropolitan areas

Thank you

assya.kavrakova@ecas.org

www.ecas.org

Twitter: @ecas_Europe

Facebook: @ecas.Europe