

ENRD Thematic Group | Rural Revitalisation

Key enabling factors for rural revitalisation: from diagnosis to practical action

Agenda

15 December 2021

On 30 June 2021, the European Commission put forward the [vision](#) for rural areas in 2040, based on a thorough diagnosis of the challenges and concerns that they are facing, as well as highlighting some of the most promising opportunities that are available¹. Central to the vision is the ambition to revitalise Europe's rural areas, and mitigate the impact of negative trends, so that by 2040 they are stronger, more connected, resilient and prosperous. It proposes a number of actions, flagships and tools with the ambition to drive the revitalisation of rural areas, including the setting-up of a Rural Revitalisation Platform that should be a one-stop-shop for rural communities, project holders and authorities to collaborate.

This is the first meeting of the ENRD Thematic Group (TG) on Rural Revitalisation, which is launched with the ambition to focus in more detail on this specific theme, and in turn to support the roll out of the vision in the Member States (MS) including at regional and local levels. The meeting provides a space for exchange on the key enabling factors that support rural revitalisation, with particular attention to those rural areas affected by population loss, ageing and a lack of economic opportunities.

Aims of the meeting

- To take stock of the key enabling factors for rural revitalisation based on existing analysis and reports produced by relevant institutions and projects and TG members' practical experience;
- To learn from strategic approaches implemented by countries and regions to revitalise rural areas;
- To get a common understanding on the key enabling factors for rural revitalisation and how to promote the design and uptake of policy tools to promote it; and
- To exchange on the possible further direction of the Thematic Group, and how it can best contribute to the roll out of the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, including the shaping of the future Rural Revitalisation Platform.

¹ See Staff Working Document part 1, 2 & 3. https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en



Indicative Timing 🕒	15 December 2021 Agenda Items
09.30 - 10.15	<p>Introduction to the ENRD Thematic Group (TG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objectives of the TG & Agenda of the day (ENRD CP) ▪ Rural revitalisation and the Long Term Vision for Rural Areas, Maria Gafo (DG AGRI)
10.15 - 11.15	<p>Identifying the key enabling factors for rural revitalisation. <i>Key results from relevant analytical work on rural revitalisation and feedback from the Expression of Interest (Eoi).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small Places Matter, Territorial Agenda 2030 Pilot Action. Dr Irene McMaster (European Policies Research Centre) ▪ Lessons from the Smart Rural 21 Pilot Project. Edina Ocsko (E40) ▪ Key results from the Eoi and analytical work on enabling factors for rural revitalisation. Enrique Nieto (ENRD CP) <p>Q&A</p>
11.15 - 11.30	<p>Virtual Break</p>
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Understanding the key enabling factors from existing national and regional strategic initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lessons from the Inner Areas Strategy in Italy, Francesco Mantino (Council for Agricultural Research and Economics) ▪ Regional Law to combat depopulation, Castilla la Mancha (Spain). Francisco Martínez Arroyo (Regional Minister for Agriculture, Water and Rural Development of Castilla la Mancha) <p>Group discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What are the key enabling factors which need to be considered when designing policy strategies for rural revitalisation? Including collection of other examples of rural revitalisation initiatives.</i> - <i>What needs to be done to ensure the enabling factors are put in place? Including challenges, solutions and support needs</i>
13.00 – 14.00	<p>Lunch</p>
14.00 - 14.30	<p>Reporting back from group discussion.</p>



<p>14.30 – 15.30</p>	<p>Planning the future work of the Thematic Group to support strategic initiatives for rural revitalisation and shape the future Rural Revitalisation Platform.</p> <p>Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What enabling factor(s) should the TG explore more in detail? How can the TG support the design and uptake of policies targeting rural revitalisation?</i> - <i>What are stakeholders needs and expectations from the future Rural Revitalisation Platform? What elements and thematic priorities should it contain, and how can it provide a distinct added value as compared to existing tools?</i>
<p>15.30 - 16.00</p>	<p>Next steps.</p>

