






LEADER Thematic Lab on Maintaining and widening stakeholder engagement

Session 2 - introduction

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Rural responses to the COVID-19 crisis





COMMUNITY LOCAL TOGETHER RESILIENCE

The outbreak of COVID-19 has significantly affected all aspects of life across Europe. In addition to threatening our health, the pandemic is also posing serious challenges to our socio-economic systems. In rural areas, farmers, businesses and communities are particularly affected.

This page provides examples of projects and initiatives primarily launched by rural communities in coping with the COVID-19 emergency, supporting rural businesses and fostering solidarity with those more vulnerable in this exceptional situation. It also provides information about European Commission initiatives and actions aimed at alleviating the current difficulties faced by rural Europe.

We invite you to share your experience and projects! Please send your contribution to publications@enrd.eu

-  [How farmers and rural business are coping with the emergency](#)
-  [Solidarity examples – supporting the community and responding to practical needs](#)

Session 2 (11:35-12:50)

- Maintaining stakeholder engagement and ensuring RD policy delivery during the COVID-19 crisis (MA, Slovenia)
- NRN support to crisis response in rural communities (NRN, Portugal)
- What LAGs are saying on how COVID-19 is affecting their work (ELARD)
- Working with LAGs in developing local responses to COVID-19 (4PDIH and LAG Istra, Slovenia)

Key questions

How does stakeholder engagement change in a crisis situation?

How have LAGs and their networks adapted to the COVID-19 crisis?

How MSs have adapted to facilitate continuity of LEADER implementation and make best use of its potential?

What do the lessons learnt tell us regarding the future role of LEADER/LAGs and the structure of LAG partnership?