



ENRD Workshop on 'Combatting rural depopulation: Creating new opportunities for vibrant rural areas'

Agenda

21 May 2019

Rue de la Loi, 42
Brussels, Belgium



Rural depopulation is an increasing trend across Europe. Many rural areas are locked into a 'circle of decline' by two mutually reinforcing trends i) a **shortage of sustainable business activity**; and ii) inadequate and **declining services**. Rural Development policy can play an important role in combatting depopulation through the toolkit of measures it provides to Member States. However, this fundamental challenge requires interventions that go beyond the remit of the CAP and require more joined up work with other EU, national, regional and local policies.

Objectives

In this context, the ENRD workshop on 'Combatting Rural Depopulation' seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance the understanding of the key drivers of population decline in rural areas across the EU and their effects, with a focus – among others – on the barriers faced by marginalised groups, women, people with disabilities and migrants;
- Allow participants to learn from national and local initiatives and to share lessons on how to address rural depopulation and turn it to opportunities;
- Explore the role of the RDPs and other EU policies in creating an enabling environment to counter demographic decline.

Timing 	Agenda item 
08.45 – 09.15	Registration
09.15 – 09.30	Welcoming participants and introduction to the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opening speech, Maria Gafo Gomez-Zamalloa, DG AGRI ➤ Introduction to the day, ENRD CP
09.30 - 10.30	Setting the scene Overview of key drivers and consequences of rural depopulation in the EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andrew Copus, The James Hutton Institute / ESPON ➤ Klára Fóti, Eurofound Overview of the available tools to address depopulation under the current Rural Development policy and in the future CAP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Orsolya Frizon-Somogyi, DG AGRI Q&A
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee</i>
11.00 – 13.00	<u>Group work 1: How Rural Development Programmes & other EU policies respond to demographic challenges in practice?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobility & basic services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Giorgio Ambrosino, SMARTA, EU ➤ Patricia Sanchon, Pueblos Vivos, Spain ➤ Blandine Camus, SIMRA, EU • Entrepreneurship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ville Laitila, SILTA project, Finland ➤ Juan Lazaro, Rural Ticket, Spain ➤ Zoltán Dezsény, MagosVölgy Organic Farm, Hungary • Vulnerable groups (women, elderly, youth, people with disabilities, migrants) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ines Bulic-Cojocariu, European Network on Independent Living (ENIL), EU ➤ Marta Corella, From the forest to your home, Spain ➤ Kerstin Carlsson, Step by Step, Sweden
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 14.15	Feedback from group work 1

Timing 	Agenda item 
14.15 – 15.30	<p><u>Group work 2: Integrated approaches - Member States' experiences in combining different policy instruments to reverse the trend of depopulation, making rural areas attractive</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mediterranean MSs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aránzazu Benito Sánchez-Camacho/María Concepción Arias Calle, Spain ➤ Sabrina Lucatelli, Italy • Nordic MSs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jouni Ponnikas, Finland ➤ Johanna Lindberg, Sweden • Central & Eastern MSs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ George Sinca, Romania ➤ Michael Fischer, Austria ➤ Valentina Cattivelli, Alpine region of Italy, Germany and Austria
15.30 – 15.45	<i>Coffee</i>
15.45 – 16.00	Feedback from group work 2
16.00 – 16.45	<p><i>Closing Panel – How to move forward</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Klára Fóti, Eurofound ➤ Ines Bulic-Cojocariu, European Network for Independent Living (ENIL) ➤ Sara Bianchi, Southern Sparsely Populated Areas Network (SSPA) ➤ Andor Urmos, DG REGIO ➤ Orsolya Frizon-Somogyi, DG AGRI
16.45 – 17.00	Concluding remarks