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Project of the month the good one

Learn how the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) has supported the deployment of [broadband in rural Greece](#), to close the digital divide in remote and sparsely populated rural 'white areas'. The project was short-listed for the 2019 ENRD [Rural Inspiration Awards](#).

Find more good practices on [rural broadband](#) in the ENRD Project Database.



News

Share your rural bioeconomy initiative with us!

The ENRD is looking for EAFRD co-funded rural bioeconomy initiatives that contribute to fighting against climate change, and those that invest in applying and scaling up innovation in rural areas.

Selected cases may be presented in the activities of the ENRD Thematic Group '[Bioeconomy and Climate Action in rural areas](#)', and related events, publications and a video. For inspiration, you can see the new [EAFRD Projects Brochure on Bioeconomy](#) and the ENRD bioeconomy [videos](#) from Sweden and the Netherlands.

Send your ideas to bioeconomy@enrd.eu



New Smart Villages toolkit

Discover the [new toolkit](#) on the Smart Villages portal that includes policy briefs on how to support Smart Villages in the current programming period and under the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The ENRD thematic work on [Smart Villages](#) will continue for a third year, focusing on producing capacity building tools to help rural stakeholders, and in particular Managing Authorities, assess what conditions are in place for supporting Smart Villages initiatives in their own context. The outcomes of the Thematic Group will be fed into the existing toolkit, a one-stop-shop for all actors interested.

#RuralEurope on Social Media



Over 1 000 posts have been shared on social media on #RuralEurope, the online campaign run by the ENRD Contact Point, aiming to highlight the rural landscape and life across Europe.



The campaign, run between 15 July – 15 September 2019, has been well received by social media users from across rural Europe, who have contributed with their own snapshots of rural areas. Browse through all the pictures shared on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Join in and share your rural pictures by using the #RuralEurope hashtag and tagging ENRD.

The professional status of rural women in the EU

A new [study](#) commissioned by the European Parliament gives an overview of the professional status of rural women in the EU, as well as their employment situation and position in the labour market in rural areas in most relevant Member States.

Women in rural areas of the EU make up below 50% of the total rural population, they represent 45% of the economically active population, and about 40% of them work on family farms. Their importance in the rural economy is even greater but hard to quantify precisely, since their participation through the informal rural economy is not statistically recognised.

The study identifies best practices implemented in EU Member States and includes policy recommendations on the improvement of the employment situation and legal status of women living in rural areas of the EU.

Investing in social innovation

New financing opportunities for rural Europe's social economy were explained at the [fi-compass workshop](#) organised by the European Commission, on 10 September 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal.



Examples of social innovation and entrepreneurship financing under the European Social Fund (ESF) were presented from Portugal, Spain and Italy. Special attention was directed to success factors involved in using repayable EU funding as 'impact investment' tools providing social and environmental benefits. Further information on the presented case studies and presentations is available [online](#).

Read more about social innovation in rural areas in this [factsheet](#) and the EAFRD Projects Brochure on '[Digital and Social Innovation in Rural Services](#)' produced by ENRD.

Climate change and the future of farming

A [new report](#) by the European Environment Agency (EEA) warns about the dangers of climate change for parts of Europe's Southern and Mediterranean regions.

The study reports that crop and livestock production is projected to decrease and may even have to be abandoned in parts of Europe due to negative impacts of climate change. The EEA says adapting to climate change needs to be made a top priority for the EU agricultural sector if it is to improve resilience to extreme weather events.

CAP 2021 – 2027: environmental performance

A recent [report](#) by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), looks at the proposals regarding CAP 2021-2027 made by the European Parliament's Agriculture and Rural Development Committee (COMAGRI) and the Environment Committee (COMENVI).

The comparative analysis document highlights the stark differences between the two Committees' proposals in terms of their environment and climate performance. However, the EP's final position - not yet adopted in plenary - can help to enhance

the Commission's CAP proposals and increase their environmental and climate ambition.

Horizon 2020 energy funding available

A total of €297 million in EU support is now [available](#) through the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for projects on energy.



Applications are open for 15 energy topics. Nine topics relate to renewable energy solutions, while six others cover smart and clean energy for consumers, smart citizen-centred energy systems, smart cities and communities, and smart airports.

All the information on deadlines and application requirements can be found [online](#).

Promoting medical care in rural areas

LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, want to find and promote good examples of how to maintain healthcare services in rural areas.



The group of 14 LAGs have launched a [competition](#) for new projects and ideas. Financially supported by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Agriculture of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, the competition will award winners with up to 90% support for their projects.

The aim is to provide the rural population with medical care close to where they live. The application deadline is 15 November 2019.

EIP- AGRI call for participants

Join the [Seminar 'New skills for digital farming'](#), organised by EIP-AGRI and the European Commission, on 5-6 February 2020, in Spain. Register [here!](#)



The seminar aims to identify tools and approaches that can help the farming community develop the skills they need to fully benefit from the digital transition. The event will explore ways to stimulate the uptake of digital technologies.

Events

26 September 2019

[Annual Event of the Broadband Competence Offices \(BCOs\)](#), Brussels, Belgium

26 - 27 September 2019

[Agriculture & Food Summit](#), Paris, France

26 - 28 September 2019

[Rural Development 2019: Research and Innovation for Bioeconomy](#), Kaunas, Lithuania

29 September - 05 October 2019

[Forest Research and Cooperation for Sustainable Development](#), Curitiba, Brazil

30 September - 02 October 2019

[European LEADER Study Visits](#), Germany

03 October 2019

[Digital Education Hackathon](#), Europe

03 October 2019

[Cooperation as a Lever of Development](#), Mayenne, France

03 October 2019

[Cross-sectoral Services of Energy Supply from Agriculture and Forestry for Climate Protection](#), Vienna, Austria

04 - 06 October 2019

[Rural Film Festival](#), Lake Orta, Italy

07 - 10 October 2019

[European Week of Regions and Cities](#), Brussels, Belgium

10 October 2019

[Ten Years of Local Observatories of the Community Life](#), Paris, France

14 - 16 October 2019

[Alpine Soil Forum](#), Innsbruck, Austria

15 October 2019

[Promoting the Mobility of Young People in Rural Areas](#), Mauron, France

15 - 16 October 2019

[Appraising Intervention Strategies under the CAP: Experiences and Outlook](#), Rome, Italy

16 October 2019

[European Bioeconomy: Regions, Cities and Civil Society](#), Brussels, Belgium

16 October 2019

[Climate Change - Projects and Strategies in Rural Development](#), Lambach, Austria

16 October 2019

[World Food Day](#), Brussels, Belgium

16 October 2019

[Learning Territories: Issues and Realities](#), Caen, France

17 October 2019

[ENRD LEADER 'Thematic Lab on Smart Villages'](#), Brussels, Belgium

17 October 2019

[Farming for Biodiversity](#), Brussels, Belgium

17 - 18 October 2019

[Strengthening Democracy and Participation in Rural Areas](#), Gleichen, Germany

18 October 2019

[Cooperation as a Lever of Development](#), Carrouges, France

21 October 2019

[12th Rural Networks' Steering Group Meeting](#), Brussels, Belgium

24 October 2019

[Supporting Rural Business Success Across Europe](#), Brussels, Belgium

24 October 2019

[Awaken the Entrepreneur in You](#), Online, Austria

29 - 30 October 2019

[EIP-AGRI Workshop 'Small is smart' - Innovative solutions for small agricultural and forestry holdings](#), Bucharest, Romania

04 - 06 November 2019

[2nd European Rural Youth Parliament](#), Candás, Asturias, Spain

04 - 06 November 2019

[Youth Ag Summit](#), Brasilia, Brazil

06 November 2019

[Towards a climate smart European livestock farming](#), Brussels, Belgium

06 - 09 November 2019

[4th European Rural Parliament](#), Candás, Asturias, Spain

07 November 2019

[Digitalisation and Rurality: New Links and Transformation of the Territory](#), Paris, France

10 - 16 November 2019

[AGRI TECHNICA](#), Hanover, Germany

11 - 15 November 2019

[Forest Festival 2019](#), Bergamo, Italy

12 - 13 November 2019

[National LEADER meeting](#), Merseburg, Germany

13 - 14 November 2019

[Water savings in irrigation](#), Montpellier, France

13 - 15 November 2019

[National Congress on Ecotourism](#), Guadix, Spain

14 November 2019

[Sustainable Future Summit](#), Brussels, Belgium

14 - 15 November 2019

[DATAGRI](#), Zaragoza, Spain

20 - 22 November 2019

[South-East Europe LEADER](#), Opatija, Croatia

25 - 26 November 2019

[Territories Taking Up the Ecological and Social Challenge](#), Paris, France

03 December 2019

[European Broadband Awards 2019](#), Brussels, Belgium

03 December 2019

[Go local: Supporting regions, cities and rural areas in migrants' inclusion](#), Brussels, Belgium

03 - 04 December 2019

[Post-2020: Local action in a changing world](#), Brussels, Belgium

03 - 04 December 2019

[Organic Innovation Days 2019](#), Brussels, Belgium

04 - 05 December 2019

[FI Campus 2019](#), Brussels, Belgium

10 - 11 December 2019

[EU Agricultural Outlook 2019](#), Brussels, Belgium

16 December 2019

[6th Rural Networks' Assembly Meeting](#), Brussels, Belgium

05 - 06 February 2020

[EIP-AGRI seminar: New skills for digital farming](#), Spain

22 February - 01 March 2020

[Salon International de l'Agriculture](#), Paris, France

08 - 10 May 2020

[Swedish Rural Parliament](#), Jönköping, Sweden

22 May - 30 June 2020

[Forum LEADER 2019-2020: 12 projects to discover](#), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, France

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