



# Enhancing policy coordination for vibrant rural areas

Learning from experience to build a sustainable rural future

**28 November 2024**

Venue: Le Plaza Hotel, Adolphe Maxlaan 118/126, 1000, Brussels (Belgium)

## Agenda

Timing	Agenda items
09.30 – 9.45	<p><b>Welcome and introduction to the day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Welcoming words</b> Marek Teplansky, Head of Unit of the Territorial Unit, DG REGIO, European Commission</li> <li>&gt; <b>Introduction to the day</b> Urszula Budzich-Tabor, Rural Pact Support Office</li> </ul>
09.45 – 10.45	<p><b>Setting the scene: Integrating EU policies at EU and Member State levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Key challenges of integrating rural policies</b> Jose Enrique Garcilazo, Deputy Head of Division and Head of Regional and Rural Policy Unit at OECD</li> <li>&gt; <b>Stakeholder Panel: Coordinating policy tools at Member State level</b> Panel composed of representatives of Member States/regions that have in place national or regional strategies or action plans to support rural areas in a comprehensive way. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Péter Benkő, Head of Agriculture and Environment Unit of the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union (Spokesperson at the Special Committee on Agriculture at the Council of the EU), &amp; Attila Nagy, Head of CAP Coordination Department, Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Radim Sršeň, Deputy Minister for Regional Development (Czechia), Member of the European Committee of the Regions</li> <li>• Klaus Heider, Director-General for Rural Development and Digital Innovation, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Germany)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Enrique Nieto, Rural Pact Support Office</p>
10.45 – 11.15	<b>Networking Break</b>



**11.15 – 12.30 Fostering integrated approaches to rural policies at national/regional levels: lessons learned and ways forward**

Interactive session in working groups:

- Analysis of lessons from existing strategies or action plans for rural development (including examples and experiences from Belgium-Flanders, Finland, France-Grand Est Region, Greece, Italy-Piemonte, Italy-Sardinia, Netherlands, Poland, Spain).
- Identify challenges to put in place integrated rural policies and develop recommendations on how the EU can help Member States and regions.

**12.30 – 13.45**

**Lunch Break**

**13.45 – 14.15 Challenges of monitoring funding in rural areas**

- > **Learnings from the [study on funding for EU rural areas](#)**  
Francesco Mantino, Research Center for Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy (Italy)
- > **Perspectives of monitoring EU funds in rural areas**  
Presentations from the European Commission:
  - Sophie Helaine, DG AGRI, European Commission
  - Mathilde Prilleux, DG EMPL, European Commission
  - Eoin Mac Aoidh, DG MARE, European Commission

**14.15 – 15.00 Ensuring availability of information without increasing administrative burden**

Interactive session in working groups:

- What kind of information would be needed (and at which level) to effectively monitor support to rural areas and inform policymaking?
- How can this information be collected without increasing reporting obligations by beneficiaries (e.g. LAGs, Managing Authorities, etc.)?
- Reflection on the current frameworks of EU information collection and scope for improvement

**15.00 – 15.20**

**Networking Coffee Break**

**15.20 – 16.15 Co-creating conclusions and proposals**

Report back of outcomes from group discussions

- > **[Key listeners panel](#)**: what recommendations for the future EU policy tools can be drawn from the group discussion?
  - Kevin Grauwels, Flemish Land Agency (Belgium)
  - Anita Sejicka, Latvian Rural Forum (Latvia)
  - Magda Porta, Evaluator of EU Funds
  - Edina Ocsko, Vice-chair of the Rural Pact Coordination Group & Smart Village Network Services

**16.15 – 16.30 Closing remarks**

- > **Next steps**  
Pascale van Doren, Rural Pact Support Office
- > **Closing words**  
Mario Milouchev, Director D, DG AGRI, European Commission

