



RURAL

PACT

THE RPCG DECLARATION OF THE FUTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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4th RPCG Meeting -- 8 Nov 2024

STRONG PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

1. Defining methodology: roles & responsibilities (Chair/Vice-Chair / DG AGRI / DG REGIO / RPSO)
2. Informing RPCG members about the process & collecting inputs
3. Developing draft declaration with RPSO support (V1)
4. 1st online Discussion on the draft Declaration
5. Shortened and refined declaration (V2)
6. 2nd online Discussion on the draft Declaration
7. Refinement of declaration (V3)
8. Final refinements/ feedback on declaration
9. Adoption of Declaration (simple majority)
10. Disseminating and using the Declaration

TIMELINE

Summer 2024

20 Sept 2024
(extended)

9 Oct 2024

14 Oct 2024

22 Oct 2024

29 Oct 2024

5 Nov 2024

8 Nov 2024

Dec 2024 (tbc)

2025...



ENGAGEMENT OF MEMBERS

- Commission requested that RPCG provides its Declaration in response to the 9 questions set out in the LTVRA Report – Latest doesn't strictly follow the structure
- RPCG ownership (Commission / RPSO – support & 'observer')
- Simple survey designed based on 9 questions. **8 responses:**

Meetings: 59% of members participated at least at one of the meetings (76% of members involved if we take into account the written comments)

- 1st meeting: 15 participants
- 2nd meeting: 17 participants

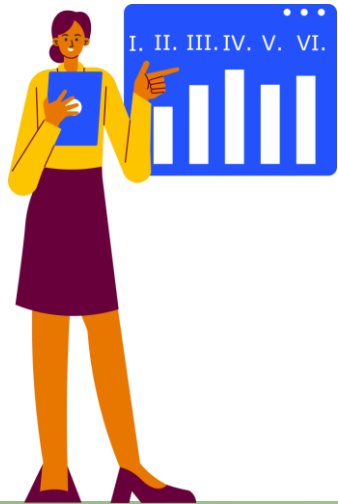


First Name	Surname	Type of contribution	Organisation
Karen	Keaveney	Institutional	University College Dublin
Thibaut	Guignard	Institutional	ELARD
Edina	Ocsko	Institutional	E40 / SVN Services
Laurence	Modrego	Institutional	ECOLISE
Roland	Eszenyi	Individual	Ministry of Agriculture
Kevin	Grauwels	Individual	Vlaamse Overheid (Government of Flanders)
Rafael	Amorim	Individual	Comunidade Intermunicipal do Cávado
Michael	Schmitz	Individual	Deutscher Landkreistag

STRUCTURE OF DECLARATION

Preamble

- I. Rural areas represent new opportunities and our joint future
- II. Key Challenges and the Added Value of EU Interventions
- III. Enhancing Financial Support and Synergies
- IV. Turning the Long-Term Rural Vision into a Concrete Strategy
- V. Capacity Building and Local Ownership
- VI. Improving Monitoring and Assessment of EU Funds



MAIN MESSAGES: THE SITUATION & COMPLICATION

- Rural areas are not just places of challenges but also places of opportunities.
- The future of rural areas is not just the concern of rural people but our whole society.
- Rural areas and communities face capacity constraints and lack of access to funds.
- CLLD approaches are underfunded and not used to their full potential.
- Future rural development policy must take the needs of rural areas seriously.



MAIN MESSAGES: THE SOLUTION

- There is a need for holistic, multi-funded and multi-policy rural development framework. 'Rural proofing' in practice.
- Community-led and placed-based approaches have to be reinforced
- No longer sufficient to leave it to Member States how much funding they allocated to rural areas.
- Compulsory allocation of given percentage (e.g. min. 30%) of all funds to rural.
- Compulsory application of CLLD approaches (such as LEADER and SV (e.g. min. 10% of RD funds).
- Alternatively: dedicated European Rural Development Fund (ERUDF)
- Rural Development Strategies at all (EU, national, regional, ...) levels
- Compulsory Rural Pact implementation model: Consider dedicated DG RURAL, more coordination between various DGs at EU level. Dedicated government member, inter-ministerial committee, etc.



MAIN MESSAGES: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Capacity-building:

- Capacity-building at the local level: LAGs, networks, preparatory actions, etc.
- Flexibility in the application, inc. SCO, simplified rules
- Focus on innovation and international exchange (incl. better access to programmes like Horizon)

Improved monitoring and assessment

- Better use of data (also qualitative, and long-term sustainability)
- Sectoral and territorial tagging (nuanced according to type of rural area as well)
- Developing menu of SMART indicators for local actions, technical support (without increasing administrative burden at local level)



DISCUSSION

- ✓ Extensive consultation process. (Only) final refinements at this stage.
- ✓ Discussion on next steps: (i) overall feedback, (ii) specific suggestions for refinement, (iii) approval
- ✓ We discuss dissemination in separate session later.

