



Rural proofing: looking at policies through the rural lens

12 June 2025

Webinar - Online

Agenda

Timing (CET)	Agenda items
09.30 – 10.00	Welcome and introduction to the day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Welcoming words & overview of rural proofing at EU level Mario Milouchev, Director, EC Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission > Work of the Polish presidency of the Council of the EU on rural proofing Magdalena Montaigu, SCA Spokesperson at the Polish Presidency > Introduction to the day Urszula Budzich-Tabor, Rural Pact Support Office
10.00 – 11.00	Setting the scene: How can rural proofing improve policies? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The role of rural proofing to improve policies Betty-Ann Bryce, OECD > Rural proofing as a key element of an integrated rural strategy developed with EU technical support: example from the Netherlands Irene van Luijken, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (The Netherlands) > Panel discussion Exchange among public authorities' representatives of Member States/regions at different stages of progress on rural proofing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinéad Quinn, Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (Ireland) • Hanna-Mari Kuhmonen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Finland) • Cristina Massot Berna, Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Catalonia, Spain) <p>Moderator: Rural Pact Support Office</p>

11.00 – 11.15

Virtual coffee break

11.15 – 12.30

A strategic approach to rural proofing (Round 1)

Group discussions | Interactive session presenting examples from Member States & regions, followed by discussion in groups on:

- **What is expected** as a result of the rural proofing process?
- **What** should be rural proofed in priority?
- **When** to rural proof policies?
- **Which** governance and structures are needed for rural proofing?

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch Break

13.30 – 14.45

Putting rural proofing into practice (Round 2)

> **Drawing inspiration from Territorial Impact Assessment**

Marjan van Herwijnen, European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion

Group discussions | Presentation of useful tools and approaches developed by European projects or initiatives ([RUSTIK](#), [GRANULAR](#), [Coop4RuralGov](#)), followed by a group discussion on:

- **Who** should be involved in rural proofing?
- **How** should the process be organised?
- How to address **data limitations**?

14.45 – 15.00

Virtual coffee break

15.00 – 16.00

Co-creating conclusions and proposals

- > Report back of outcomes from group discussions
- > Keynote listener
Jane Atterton, Scotland's Rural College
- > Final discussion
 - **Stephanie Van Opstal**, Flemish Land Agency (Belgium)
 - **Maria José Murciano**, Spanish Network for Rural Development (Spain)
 - **Hilkka Vihinen**, Natural Resources Institute – LUKE (Finland)

16.00 – 16.30

Closing remarks

- > **Next steps**
Enrique Nieto, Rural Pact Support Office
- > **Closing words**
Antonia Gámez Moreno, Head of Unit, EC Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

