



### Rural Pact Conference: 'From vision to action: Empowering rural areas for the future'

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- 1st RP <u>Conference</u> took place in June 2022 (almost 3 years):
  - Endorse the proposal for the Rural Pact with rural stakeholders
  - Took place in an urban area
- New European Parliament & European Commission –> New policy players in place
- 3 years of implementation of the Rural Vision 2040, Rural Action Plan and Rural Pact
- RPCG Declaration
- Vision for Agriculture (commitment to update the Rural Action Plan)
- Consultation with RPCG members in December 2024

### **Rural Pact proposal**



osals from the Rural Pact preparatory group for the Rural Pact conference on 15-16 June 2022

Introduction

With the adoption of the Communication on a Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, the European Commission committed to setting up a Hural Pact. This Pact will contribute to reaching the braned goals of the Long-term Vision for the EU's nural areas but also fits into the EU's broader commitment of implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring balanced territorial development.

Following the launch of the Rural Pact Community, in December 2022, over 1000 individuals and organisations have endorsed the shared goals of the rural vision and want to work towards their achievement. This draft is the next tap in the Rural Pact process. Drafted by EU institutions and rural stakeholders<sup>1</sup>, it outlines the main features of the Rural Pact. Rural Pact Community members were invited to express their views on this proposal in May through a survey. Their fendback was taken on board for the final proposal which was presented at the Rural Pact conference on 15 and 16 june 2022.

#### Objective

The Rural Action Plan, which was adopted with the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, represents the European Commission's commitment to acting for rural areas. One of its action is to propose a Rural Pact, which aims to strengthen multi-level governance for the EU's rural areas. This means that the Pact will engage the European, national, regional and local level, all of which have a key role to play in the future of rural areas, towick together.

The activities of the Rural Pact could be classified as contributing to three broad objectives:

Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, ELARD, PREPARE and ERCA from the European Rural Parliament, as well as the European Parliament ind the European network for Rural Development as doserver.







### Focus & approach

- > This 2nd RP Conference will **take place in a rural area in Belgium (Pècq)**,
- > A clear focus and target on the **Rural Pact Community and action at local level**

#### Focus:

- Exchange and draw lessons from the Rural Action Plan and co-create ideas to keep advancing towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas through an updated Rural Action Plan and future policies;
- Boost networking opportunities among the Rural Pact community members and build capacities for action;
- Facilitate exchanges to collect ideas and recommendations to guide future Rural Pact action.

### Agenda (Structure)

Day 1 Political discussion + networking

**Policy session**: Advancing with the Rural Vision, the Rural Pact and rural policies

#### Networking session:

Rural Pact Community committing to action for the Rural Vision

Day 2 Policy exchanges + capacity building

#### **Participatory sessions**:

- Co-create proposals to update the rural action plan and advance with Rural Pact
- Exchange on actions and policy recommendations to advance in key topics for rural areas

Main recommendations: Report backs from the participatory sessions and main conclusions and recommendations



### RURAL PACT

### **Conference - Overview**

- Date: 16-17 September 2025
- Participants: 250 Balance type of stakeholders and countries
  - Accepted participants informed (More than 500 applications)
    - 125 will be supported with travel and accommodation
- Countries: All EU MS + 5 Non-EU (UK, Georgia, Albania, Armenia and Ukraine)

	Public authority (21%)		al Action Group (LAG) (10%)		ers to be
Non-governmental / civil society organisation (28%)	EU Institution (18%)	Academic/re search institution (5%)	Private Business (5%) Internation al	s N	lural/CA P Network (3%) Citiz (1%) en

### Conference – Agenda (Day 1)



- Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms & Commissionaire for Agriculture and Food (confirmed)
- Citizens perspective
- Member State Advancing with the Rural Vision and Rural Pact (Minister level)
- Key challenges and opportunities ahead for the future of rural areas (Dorothée Allain-Dupré, Head of the Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and cities, OECD)
- Amplifying rural voices through the Rural Pact, Rural Pact
   Coordination Group
- Interinstitutional panel

16 September 2025 (Day 1)					
entative timing	e timing Draft agenda items				
14.00 – 15.00	Registration to the event*				
15.00 - 15.45	Welcome and opening interventions				
	<ul> <li>High-level opening</li> <li>Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms</li> <li>Christophe Hansen, Commissionaire for Agriculture and Food</li> </ul>				
	> Living in Europe's rural areas today: A citizen perspective Member of the Rural Pact				
15.45 - 16.30	Setting the scene: Integrating EU policies at EU and Member State levels				
	> Advancing with the Rural Vision and Rural Pact in Member States A high-level representative of a national government				
	> Key challenges and opportunities ahead for the future of rural areas Keynote speaker				
	> Amplifying rural voices through the Rural Pact Rural Pact Coordination Group				
16.30 - 17.00	Coffee Break				
17.00 - 18.15	Key priorities for the future of rural areas				
	Inter-institutional Panel: High-level representatives from EU institutions/organisations				
18.15 - 18.30	Transition to the Networking session				
18.30 - 19.30	Networking session: the Rural Pact Community committing to action				
	Networking spaces led by key organisations within the Rural Pact Community for focused exchanges, networking and plan join actions on key topics.				
19.30 - 21.00	Conference Dinner*				

## Conference – Agenda (Day 1)

#### RURAL PACT

#### Networking corners (Rural Pact Coordination Group)

No.	Tentative titles of the networking sessions	Leading Organisations
1		Rural Youth Europe, European Rural Youth Observatory,
	rural development!	GAL Meridaunia
2	Environmental actions in rural areas: toolbox for a community-led transition	ECOLISE
3	LEADER LAGs supporting the Rural Pact at local level	ELARD
4	Rural Research & Evidence-Based Policy Making for the	University College Dublin UCD), Ireland Natural Resources
	LTVRA	Institute (Luke), Finland European Rural Development Network (ERDN)
5	Mountain areas	Euromontana
6	Village Vibes: Smart Villages for Rural Future	Smart Villages Network Services
7	Bottom-up Village Plans: Communities building their own future	Rural Pact Netherlands
8	Implementing the rural vision in practice	Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary
9	Community-Led Innovation in Action (Project exhibition)	PREPARE

### **Conference – Agenda (Day 2)**

- Acting for rural areas under a new political landscape (Mihail Dumitru, Acting Director General, DG AGRI, European Commission - to be confirmed)
- Group discussions
  - Driving rural society to the **digital** era
  - Benefitting from the **energy transition**
  - Making rural attractive places young generations
  - Empowering **local communities** to enhance resilience
  - Boosting innovative and competitive rural economies and businesses
  - Ensuring the right to stay of rural citizens combatting depopulation with **adequate services**
  - Building inclusive rural communities
  - Driving local prosperity through **bioeconomy**
- Key recommendations for the future: Report back and stakeholder panel.

### **Conference – Group Discussions**

- Identify the main outstanding deficits and needs and emerging opportunities which require focus or attention.
- Exchange on actions and policy recommendations needed to advance.
- Develop concrete proposal to update the Rural Action Plan or contribute to further develop ideas proposed by Commission services and advance with the Rural Pact.

Presentation from the EC (AGRI, REGIO, CNECT, ENER, EAC, GROW, EMPL, ENV)

Inspirational examples

Discussion in groups





# Thank you!

#### Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform

www.ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member\_en



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