



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

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5th Rural Pact Coordination Group meeting

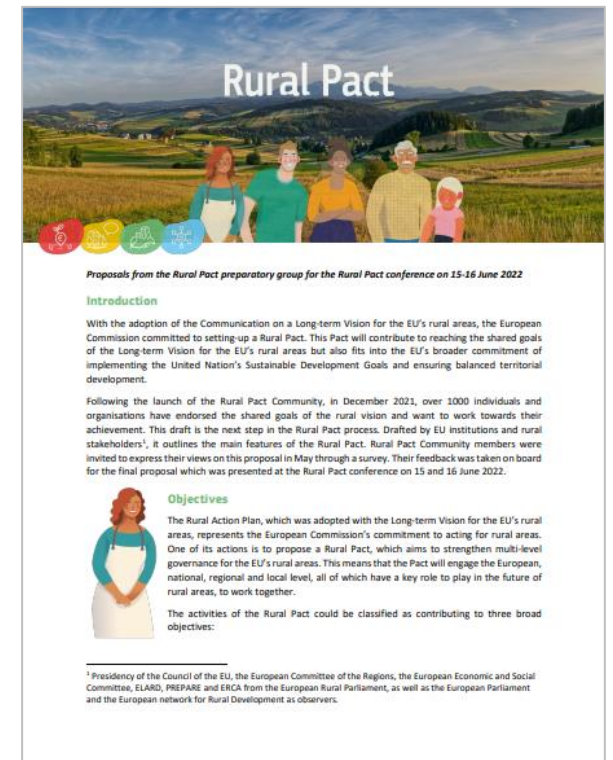
4 June 2025



Background

- ▶ 1st RP [Conference](#) 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



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

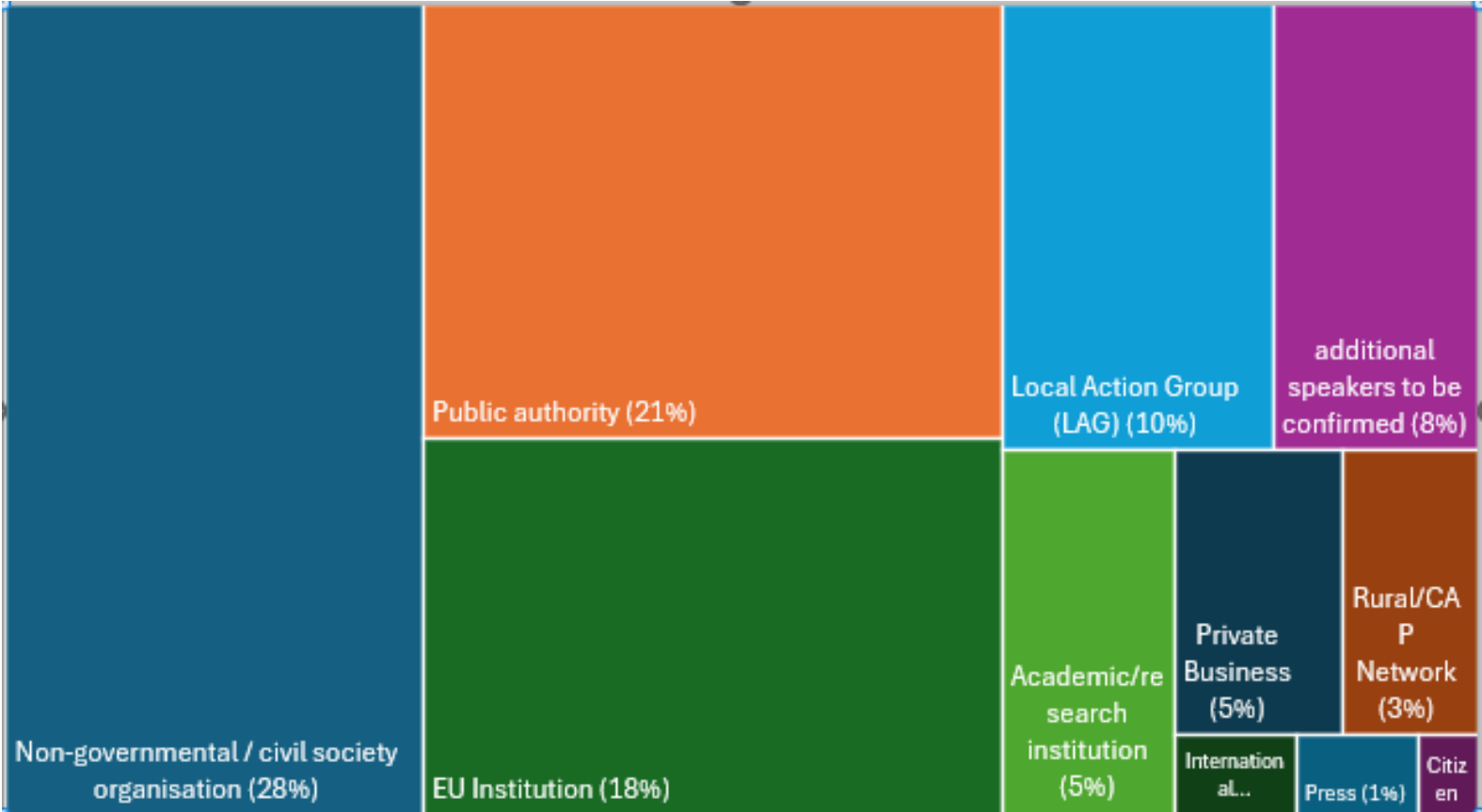
Participatory sessions:

- 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

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)



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 (**Dorothee 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)	
Tentative timing	Draft agenda items
14.00 – 15.00	Registration to the event*
15.00 – 15.45	Welcome and opening interventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > High-level opening Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms Christophe Hansen, Commissionaire for Agriculture and Food > 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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 <u>Inter-institutional Panel:</u> 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)

- Networking corners (**Rural Pact Coordination Group**)

No.	Tentative titles of the networking sessions	Leading Organisations
1	Rural Youth: Together for the present and the future of rural development!	Rural Youth Europe, European Rural Youth Observatory, 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 LTVRA	University College Dublin UCD), Ireland Natural Resources 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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