



# Anchoring rural areas in the National and Regional Partnership Plans

3 June 2026

Brussels, Belgium (Thon Hotel EU, Rue la Loi, 75)

## Agenda

Timing (CEST)	Agenda items
09.00 – 09.30	<b>Reception and welcome coffee</b>
09.30 – 09.50	<b>Welcome and introduction to the day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Welcoming words</b> Peter Berkowitz, Director, DG REGIO, European Commission</li> <li>&gt; <b>Introduction to the day</b> Paweł Krzeczunowicz, Rural Pact Support Office</li> </ul>
09.50 – 11.00	<b>NRPPs: targeted measures to address diverse rural needs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Opportunities for rural areas coming from the NRPPs</b> Hugo Almeida, DG AGRI, European Commission</li> </ul> <p>Questions &amp; answers</p> <p><b>Measures to improving living standards and address territorial disparities</b></p> <p>Inspirational experiences from Member States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>Addressing territorial imbalances regarding citizens' access to essential services</b> Sabela Festa, Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain</li> <li>&gt; <b>Rural innovation laboratories – experiences in Saône-et-Loire</b> Justine Watremez, Rural Policy Officer, Prefecture of Saône-et-Loire, France</li> <li>&gt; <b>Integrated territorial development under 'Toscana Diffusa'</b> Dr Alessandra De Renzis, Member, President's Cabinet, Government of Tuscany, Italy</li> </ul>
11.00 – 11.30	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Tracking and monitoring support for rural areas</b> Understanding how support to rural communities will be tracked and monitored.



> **Proposed provisions on tracking and monitoring from the performance regulation including territorial coding**

Sophie H elaine, DG AGRI, European Commission

Questions & answers

> **Member States experiences on territorial tagging and performance measurements**

• **Using statistics to inform decision making**

Marianne Selk ainaho, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland

• **Tracking and monitoring support targeting rural areas**

Konstantinos Asikis, Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Greece

Questions & answers

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch Break

13.30 – 14.30

**Engaging rural stakeholders in the NRPP design and implementation**

Understanding how rural actors and communities could best be involved in line with the Partnership Principle.

Plenary presentations

> **The implementation of the Partnership Principle**

Nevena Bi evac, DG REGIO, European Commission

Questions & answers

> **Member States experiences in involving rural actors in policy design and implementation**

• **Stakeholder participation in the preparation of the NRPP**

Ewa Orleańska and Bo ena S ekalska, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Development, Poland

• **Enhancing rural stakeholder participation in Estonia's Partnership Plan**

Aare Kasemets, Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture, Estonia

• **Improving stakeholder engagement in rural stakeholder participation**

Christian Rosenwirth, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria

Questions & answers

14.30 – 15.00

Coffee break

15.00 – 16.30

**Engaging rural stakeholders in the NRPP design and implementation**

Interactive session: Group discussions to identify actions on how best to involve rural actors and communities in the design and implementation of NRPPs, in line with the Partnership Principle.

Report back main messages from the interactive session.

16.30 – 17.00

**Closing remarks**

> **Next steps**

Enrique Nieto, Rural Pact Support Office

> **Closing words**

Mario Milouchev, Director, DG AGRI, European Commission

