



# Seventh meeting of the Rural Pact Coordination Group

5 May 2026

Venue: L42, Rue la Loi 42, Brussels, Belgium

## Agenda

Timing	Agenda items
09.00 – 09.30	<b>Registration &amp; welcome coffee</b>
09.30 – 09.35	<b>Welcome and introduction to the day</b> Radim Sršen, RPCG Chair & Edina Ocsko, Vice-Chair
09.35 – 10.00	<b>Continuation of activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Intervention from the European Commission Mario Milouchev, Director, DG AGRI, European Commission</li> <li>&gt; Intervention from the RPCG Radim Sršen, RPCG Chair</li> </ul>
10.00 – 11.30	<b>Post-2027 EU policy framework for rural areas</b> Moderation: Radim Sršen, RPCG Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; <b>RPCG position paper</b> Edina Ocsko, RPCG Vice Chair</li> <li>&gt; <b>What are the new policy developments since the last meeting (i.e. rural target)?</b> Mario Milouchev, Director, DG AGRI, European Commission</li> <li>&gt; <b>IE presidency of the council planned action</b> Michelle McKiernan, Ministry of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (Ireland) Michael Keane, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Ireland)</li> <li>&gt; <b>Reflections from the European Parliament</b> Rosa Serrano, Member of European Parliament</li> <li>&gt; <b>CoR opinion: The future of rural development 2028+</b> Radim Sršen, Member of the Committee of the Regions</li> <li>&gt; <b>EESC Opinion on rural proofing</b> Lidija Pavić-Rogošić, Member of the EESC</li> </ul>

Open discussion: **What are the elements of the position paper that RPCG members are going to promote to maximise its impact?**

11.30 – 12.00

Coffee break

**12.00 – 12.45 The future of the dialogue and stakeholder engagement on rural issues**

Moderation: [Edina Ocsko](#), RPCG Vice-Chair

Open discussion: **What key features/characteristics would you consider necessary for a space to facilitate dialogue and stakeholder engagement on rural issues at EU level?**

12.45 – 14.00

Lunch Break

**14.00 – 15.00 The Rural Pact: 2026 Annual Work Plan and needs for the future**

Moderation: [Radim Sršen](#), RPCG Chair

> **RPSO Y1 Annual Work Programme (2026)**

[Enrique Nieto](#), Rural Pact Support Office (RPSO)

Group discussion facilitated by the Rural Pact Support Office

• **Group 1: Providing spaces to exchange to promote the development of integrated strategies for rural areas, and inspiring the future NRPPs**

Questions

- > What are the relevant aspects you would find useful to address in 2026 Rural Pact policy events?
- > Are you aware of good practices to be presented in the 2026 Rural Pact policy events?
- > Are there any aspects that should be addressed in the 2026 policy briefing on "How to foster integrated approaches for rural areas in NRP Plans" that you would find particularly useful?
- > How could you help promote [political commitments](#) of national and regional governments under the Rural Pact to implement concrete actions that contribute to the EU's rural vision?

• **Group 2: Build capacities of Rural Pact community members to take a proactive role in the development of the NRPP in their countries**

Questions

- > What are relevant aspects that should be addressed in the 2026 Good Practice webinars (generational renewal in non-farming businesses, rural competitiveness, rural resilience)?
- > Are you aware of relevant good practices to be shared during the Good Practice Webinars (generational renewal in non-farming businesses, rural competitiveness, rural resilience)?
- > Are you organising a relevant event in 2026 that the Pact should help promote? Would you need any support? How can the RPSO support?
- > Are you expecting to publish a relevant report that the Pact should promote?
- > What are interesting topics to cover with web articles (authored by stakeholders / experts) to be published in the Rural Pact platform?



## 15.00 – 15.45 Guiding the direction of future Rural Pact activities, RPSO

Participatory exercise facilitated by the RPSO to identify priorities of work for the future of the RP until 2027.

Moderation: [Radim Sršen](#), RPCG Chair

### > Introduction to the group discussions

[Enrique Nieto](#), Rural Pact Support Office (RPSO)

Group Discussions facilitated by the Rural Pact Support Office.

### Questions:

- > Considering that the NRPPs will be developed, what are the policy issues that could be tackled in the 2027 policy labs and/or in national Rural Pact events?
- > What would be focus and possible topics for the 2027 policy brief, studies or reports?
- > Which thematic areas of the Rural Vision should be prioritised for capacity-building activities, such as Good Practice Webinars, or for the development of Good Practices for the platform?
- > Would you organise a Rural Pact event in 2027 for which you would need support from RPSO and its experts for its organization?

## 15.45 – 16.00 Sharing relevant activities from the RPCG members

Moderation: [Radim Sršen](#), RPCG Chair

Open floor for RPCG members to share current and future activities (if any) that their organisation is taking forward to support the EU Rural Pact.

### **Closure of the meeting**

- > [Radim Sršen](#), RPCG Chair & [Edina Ocsko](#), RPCG Vice-Chair
- > [Hugo Almeida](#), acting Head of Unit, European Commission

## 16.00 – 17.00 Farewell networking moment