

High-level Rural Policy Forum

Europe's Rural Future - Responding to rural priorities through integrated national and regional strategies and **LEADER**

RURAL PACT

3 - 4 November 2026

Naas, County Kildare, Ireland

Draft agenda



Tentative Timing (GMT)	Draft agenda items
02 November 2026	
From 18:00 (tbc)	Shuttle buses from Dublin Airport to the town of Naas
03 November 2026 – Integrated rural strategies at national and regional levels	
09:30 – 10:30	Registration and welcome coffee
10:30 – 11:15	Welcome and high-level opening interventions. Integrated rural development: From Cork 1.0 to today
11:15 – 12:30	Keynote speakers on integrated rural policies as engines for the future of rural areas > Enhancing policies for competitive, resilient and sustainable rural areas through integrated national rural strategies OECD > Designing a comprehensive policy response to address rural needs and opportunities in the future NRPPs European Commission > Experiences from Member States designing and implementing integrated, national and regional rural strategies • Our Rural Future: Advancing integrated support to rural communities (Ireland) Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht • National Strategy for territorial equity and the demographic challenge (Spain) Ministry of ecological transition and the demographic challenge
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Panel Debate: How can whole-of-government policy approaches help foster rural attractiveness under future National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs)? > Council of the European Union Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht > European Commission DG AGRI, European Commission
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:45	Group discussions: Ensuring effective design of integrated rural strategies at national and regional levels



- > **Group 1: A forward looking rural vision implemented through a whole-of-government strategy and rural proofing**
- > **Group 2: Mechanisms to coordinate action and funding across governance levels to deliver innovative, place-based solutions**
- > **Group 3: Structures to engage rural communities and civil society with decision makers and build capacities**

17:45 – 18:00	Transition to plenary
18:00 – 18:30	Report back from the Group Discussions
18:30 – 20:30	Networking dinner
21:00	Shuttle buses from the venue to the town of Naas



04 November 2026 – LEADER/CLLD

08:00	Shuttle buses from the town of Naas to the venue
08:30 – 09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 – 09:30	Opening > High-level opening: 35 Years of LEADER in Ireland: From local action to lasting impact > Introduction of the agenda of the day
09:30 – 10:45	LEADER: A European success story delivering value for rural communities and Europe > Stronger rural communities: The added value and impact of LEADER/CLLD Keynote speaker > Stakeholder Panel: Local stakeholder stories outlining their experience with LEADER and the impact in their territories
10:45 – 12:00	LEADER/CLLD in the future > LEADER/CLLD in the post-2027 EU policy Iwona Lisztwan, DG AGRI, European Commission > Stakeholder Panel: Exchanging views about the future of LEADER/CLLD
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (combined with the LEADER showcase)
13:30 – 14:15	Panel Debate - Infusing the National-Regional Partnership Plan with strategic rural policy approaches: Conclusions from the Forum and next steps
14:15 – 14:30	Conference close
15:00	Shuttle buses to Dublin Airport



Ní neart go cur le chéile



Strength with unity