Agenda

Rural Pact Community Group: Women in Rural Areas

Online Roundtable on Women-Led Rural Entrepreneurship and Innovation

2 December 2026 (10:00–12:00 CET – Online)

Objectives

- Position the Women in Rural Areas Community Group within the wider Rural Pact ecosystem and strengthen links with other Community Groups and complementary initiatives.
- Connect the Community Group's broader rural-development perspective with current EU and international action on women in agriculture and agrifood systems.
- Give visibility to concrete, transferable practices supporting women-led entrepreneurship, diversification, innovation and local development in rural areas.
- Identify common enabling conditions, challenges and opportunities for future cooperation, mutual learning and policy dialogue.

The **Rural Pact Community Group on Women in Rural Areas**, coordinated by the European Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL), brings together 180 stakeholders committed to strengthening the role, visibility and participation of women in rural areas. The Group promotes knowledge exchange, networking and policy dialogue on women-led entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable rural development.

This roundtable brings together Community Group members, the Rural Pact Support Office, EU and international initiatives, and rural practitioners to showcase women's contributions to rural development, share practical experiences and explore opportunities to strengthen support for diversified, women-led rural entrepreneurship and innovation.

Time	Agenda item	Key topics	Speakers
10:00–10:10	Welcome and introduction	Opening remarks, objectives of the meeting and a brief look back at the Community Group's 2026 activities, including the October campaign on rural women.	Miranda García, AEIDL
10:10–10:25	The Rural Pact: connecting rural communities	The Rural Pact Community Groups and opportunities for collaboration. The Women in Rural Areas Community Group's journey, areas of action and connections with the wider Rural Pact community.	Anja Fortuna, Rural Pact Support Office (RPSO) Blanca Casares, AEIDL
10:25–10:45	European and international perspectives	Ongoing initiatives and policy priorities for women in agriculture and rural areas; links between the Women in Agriculture Platform, international action and wider rural development.	Elena Schubert – DG AGRI, Women in Agriculture Platform Clara Park – FAO, Gender Team
10:45–11:35	Women-led rural entrepreneurship: experiences and solutions	Examples of women-led initiatives in agriculture and food, tourism, culture, rural services, the social economy and innovation. Lessons on access to support, opportunities and challenges across rural territories.	Members of the Women in Rural Areas Community Group and invited initiatives Moderator: Blanca Casares, AEIDL
11:35–11:50	Research insights and future priorities	Insights from GRASS CEILING and FLIARA Horizon Europe projects on women's contributions to rural innovation and entrepreneurship; remaining knowledge gaps and priorities for future research and policy.	Maura Farrell – FLIARA Bettina Bock – GRASS CEILING
11:50–12:00	Conclusions and next steps for 2027	Shared takeaways from the discussions, opportunities for cooperation and priorities for the Community Group's activities in 2027.	Miranda García, AEIDL Anja Fortuna, Rural Pact Support Office (RPSO)