Rural Pact in my country: Flanders

21 October 2026

10:00 – 12:30

Online

Draft Agenda

Timing CEST	Agenda items
10.00 – 10.10	**Welcome and introduction** > **Outline of the event objectives and agenda** Pierre-Bernard Van Acker, LEADER Netwerk Vlaanderen
10.10- 10.50	**Moving towards the post-2027 EU policies for the development of rural areas in Flanders** > **National and Regional Partnership Plans: What are the opportunities for rural areas in the next programming period?** Jo Govaerts, DG AGRI, European Commission Questions & Answers > **The Flemish Rural Pact: progress towards implementation and next steps** Kevin Grauwels, Flemish Land Agency Questions & Answers
10.50 – 11.30	**Learning from European experiences** > **Integrated rural development strategies: experience from the Pacte pour les ruralités in Grand Est region, France** Marie Clotteau, Grand Est Region Questions & Answers > **Strengthening multilevel governance: The example of the Rural Pact in the Netherlands** Bart Soldaat, Dutch Rural Pact Questions and answers

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11.30 – 12.15 **Stakeholder discussion: How to proceed with the Flemish Rural Pact?**

Moderator: Johny Geerinckx, policy advisor rural development and environment/

Panel Members:

- Wim Poelmans, Director of RURANT
- Karel L'hermitte, Expert rural development
- Eva Roeykens, Food and rural development policy coordinator

The session will open with reflections from a small panel of stakeholders, followed by an open discussion with participants. Building on the Flemish experience and the European examples presented during the webinar, the discussion will explore the governance arrangements, partnerships and capacity building needed to implement the Flemish Rural Pact, strengthen integrated approaches to rural development and contribute to the future National and Regional Partnership Plans.

12:15-12:30 **Closing remarks**

> Pierre-Bernard Van Acker, LEADER Netwerk Vlaanderen

> Stephanie Van Opstal, Flemish Land Agency

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