

Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

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Rural Vision Week



Community-led initiatives as catalyzers of diversity and resilience in rural areas

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Workshop 7: Diverse and resilient rural areas



ECOLISE

EUROPEAN NETWORK
FOR COMMUNITY-LED
INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE
CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Challenges and threats to rural diversity and resilience

Current Challenges

- Diverse planetary health crises
- Growth-based, profit-oriented, complex and globalized economy
- Hegemonic cultural paradigms
- EU and national policies

Present and future shocks

- Natural disasters
- Economic crises
- Social conflicts

Bouncing forward instead of bouncing back

Transformative Capacity

- Capacity of understanding the situation and anticipating the future

Collaboration across scales:

- Adaptive cycle of socio-ecological systems
 - Local innovations affecting change at higher levels
 - Community-led initiatives as local innovators
 - European networks and policy frameworks as innovation spreaders

Rural areas able to meet the basic needs of human survival and flourishing through...

- Diverse and inclusive rural communities
 - Holistic conceptions of sustainability
- Localization and appropriate scale
 - Localized, social-solidarity economy
 - Cooperation & backup-systems at different scales
- Re-designing human impact on earth
 - Systemic, bio-inspired design

What is needed to get to the desirable future?

Addressing barriers for community-led initiatives (CLIs)

- Acting upon scientific evidence
- Ensuring support of CLIs through policies and funds
- Funding more research

Territorial / Bioregional Partnerships

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards agreed broad goals
- Analysis, visioning and planning processes at the local and regional level

Supporting meta-networks as interface between the EU and local level

- ENRD
- ECOLISE & Communities for Future
- Other networks involved in local development and sustainability

Thank you

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www.ecolise.eu & www.communitiesforfuture.org

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