

Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

22-26 MARCH 2021

Rural Vision Week



#Rural2040 #RuralVisionEU

Workshop 8: People, Policy, Practice: proofing and implementing a new rural reality

Draft reflections from the workshop

ENRD Contact Point

What are the key ideas/strands that should go into the vision. Where do we want to go?

- Ensuring **better horizontal and vertical collaboration**
- Putting in place **simple and easily implementable mechanisms to ensure rural proofing** to support rural areas through different public policies beyond rural development and agricultural policy
- Establishing **governance mechanisms** to clearly identify the targets for rural proofing
- Promoting/bringing rural aspects into **coordination mechanisms** like the ‘**European Semester**’
- Developing **rural agendas/rural strategies** (at the EU and national/regional levels), capitalising on the **momentum** and **political commitment** to ensure their concrete implementation, collecting specific data from the local level to better tailor the policies to the needs of different rural territories (‘rural intelligence’)
- Promoting bottom-up inputs reflected in the **multi-level government dialogue & cooperation**
- Securing **connection between knowledge centers and local stakeholders**, directly involving citizens in data collection (‘citizen science’), raising awareness about the value and benefits of their contribution – collecting specific data from the local level to better tailor the policies to the needs of different rural territories
- Establishing a **rural think tank / rural observatory** to streamline the collection and analysis of data ensuring that common data set are used to inform different public policies

What are the step changes/conditions needed to get to the vision from where we are now?

- Promoting concrete mechanisms to establish an effective ‘rural proofing’:
 - e.g. **task force(s)** involving civil society + policy makers
 - e.g. include reference to **territorial impact assessment** for rural areas into the ‘better regulation rules’
- Defining **specific targets**, measures, indicators and **development of guidelines adapted to the specific rural context**, balancing harmonisation and flexibility
- Creating a facility for **capacity building for public authorities** to implement changes, develop targets establish new governance processes, design and implement ‘rural proofing’
- Supporting **active local leadership**, to animate the rural communities and facilitate the collection of data at the lowest level, closer to the citizens
- Simplifying heavy administrative processes – **reducing red tape**

