

The 5th European Rural Parliament – Outline Workshop Programme (Draft)

	Title	Description
VILLAGES and NGOs		
1.	Smart Future villages in Europe	Main lessons learnt through the EU-funded Smart Rural projects will be presented. Participants are to discuss and build optimal villages and futures in different rural contexts and realities. How should villages be taken into account in programmes and policies?
2.	Village Networks/ Rural Movements	Following research into the rural movements of Europe this year, researchers from Scotland have interviewed many of the rural/ village movements in Europe, and produced a full report on this. This is only the 2nd report since the original one in 2005. This workshop will provide information about the findings of this work. The discussions will provide an opportunity for our national partner organisations to exchange and learn from each other about how they undertake their work, what they do, how they organise themselves, relations with government, etc.
3.	Rural Pact – Village pact	As an outcome of the current consultation process, involving the ERP-partners, as expected the European Commission launched the Rural Pact in June. The Rural Pact is a key part of the implementation of the Long Term Vision for Rural Areas The process to implement the Rural Pact is taking shape . Many factors are important in that process, but what is definitely necessary is connecting the Rural Pact with the local communities. In this ERP-workshop we want to explore if and how a bottom-up instrument like a Village Pact could be helpful in empowering local communities to become a full-fledged partner in building the Rural Pact.

Future of Rural Europe – Vision, Pact and Actions

4.	Future of Rural Europe	<p>This is a future looking discussion workshop on Europe’s rural future. The Long Term Rural Vision and the Rural Pact objectives will be openly discussed from a rural citizen’s and local actor’s perspective. What kind of scenarios, challenges or futures do the participants see? What actions are needed to reach the vision?</p>
5.	Rural Europe in action. No more business as usual.	<p>Book “Rural Europe in Action. No more business as usual” takes rural action stories from all over Europe as a starting point to serve as a guide from good practices to good policy for rural areas. In this workshop, we will try to find out how to make rural actions qualified as against the mainstream the new normal in rural development policies as well as explore the role of transmission of knowledge and know-how with emphasis on intergenerational cooperation. The workshop will share the main learnings from key stories and discuss proposed policy recommendations.</p>
6.	Towards a real rural local development policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will there be a change? How to make the change? - Are existing structures and financial flows supporting a real local policy? - Discussing structures and methods (semester, proofing, delegation models, partnership models, bottom-up models) - Main question: what is really needed for the actual paradigm to change.
7.	A rural Agenda	<p>The objective of this workshop is not only to present the process and the contribution of the French rural agenda, but also to discuss the existing approaches in each Member State and to discuss the place of the European rural agenda in the European Commission's long-term vision. In 2019, France committed to the implementation of a rural agenda, i.e. an action plan in favor of rural areas intended to be long-term. With 181 measures, the French rural agenda makes it possible to have a real national policy in favor of rurality. Since then, several Member States have been reflecting on national</p>

		rural agendas and the European Commission has launched work around the “Rural Pact”.
8.	Rural Proofing	The EU’s Long Term Vision for Rural Areas includes a commitment to introduce rural-proofing as part of the Better Regulation Agenda, and calls for Member States to consider implementing the rural proofing principle at national, regional and local levels. Accordingly, during 2022 an ENRD task group is meeting to support the design and implementation of rural proofing mechanisms within Member States. A background paper reviewed experiences of rural-proofing in several countries, noting that these experiences have been widely criticised but that they nevertheless offer a number of useful lessons. Furthermore, even if a policy approach works in one country, it cannot simply be transferred and adopted in another. One of the criticisms of previous approaches is the lack of engagement of local stakeholders, so the proposed workshop would review experiences of rural proofing from the perspective of rural communities across Europe, while also drawing on the ENRD’s work and other studies. By the time of the ERP we may also have the EU’s proposals for how they will approach rural proofing.
Social action		
9.	Small Community schools	Certain inefficiencies of the public school system, combined with grass-root initiatives, have resulted in the growth of hundreds of small community schools all over Poland since the 1990s. Today many of these schools continue to thrive and offer high quality education in spite of their small size; moreover, they are very often the centre of community action and a key source of new ideas. Based on this experience, the participants will be invited to discuss the best methods to improve educational opportunities of children in remote rural areas.
10.	Care farming	Farms offer much more to the society than just food, and care farming, providing on-farm social services to elderly or disabled people, is one of the

		ways to make sure that farmers – especially those who find it difficult to make ends meet from small-scale agriculture – can be compensated and appreciated for their contribution. The experience of advisory services supporting farmers in such transition, legal and administrative issues, mentality barriers, etc. will be some of the elements addressed in the workshop.
11.	Meeting social challenges	Europe faces many challenges that affect life in rural areas. Today we are dealing with Covid, inflation, climate change, food security, migration, health issues aso... How are these challenges met in rural development policies and programmes? We discuss possible solutions to these very challenging issues.
LEADER in action		
12.	LEADER/CLLD Total or global LEADER	On the overall approach to Leader funds in Asturias: from the integral point of view, READER and its LAG act not only on the agricultural activity, but also on variety activities of diversification. Leader in Asturias and its agents create an integrative strategie that acts, not just plan, on all sectors of the economy: associations, companies and public organisations. All of them are direct beneficiaries of the Leader funds in their respective areas
13.	LEADER/CLLD : 30 years of success and showing added value	We will show good practices of succesful LAG work in different countries to get inspired from, and raise the question on evaluation of added value and why this is important, also in the wake of the European Court of Auditors report on LEADER.
14.	Introduction of the Armenian LEADER initiative	The implementation of the LEADER approach started in Armenia last year. The first local action groups operate in the highmountains of the Caucasus. The goal of the workshop is to introduce the new 'LEADER family members'

CLIMATE ACTIONS

15.	Communities & the European Green Deal: Help us design the transformational local development policies of tomorrow	<p>This workshop will present a draft policy position by ECOLISE and partners on the role of communities in the sustainable development of European rural areas. The aims of the workshop are to provide a critical analysis of key opportunities and barriers within the EGD, the Rural Vision and LEADER/CLLD and discuss recommendations for Local Development Planning for 2023-2027. Moreover, we would like to hear your insights on how LAGs can be empowered, e.g. with the help of an adequate funding and capacity building network. The harvest of the workshop will be integrated into our policy position, and shared with decision-makers at the European level.</p>
16.	Energy communities	<p>Climate change and the need to reduce the carbon footprint, rising prices of fuel and energy, the desire to strengthen local identity and social cohesion – many reasons encourage more and more communities to work together for innovative energy solutions. The starting point of the discussion will be the recent rapid growth of energy cooperatives and other collective forms of energy production/supply, and participants will be invited to share and reflect on the possibilities offered by this new trend, as well as factors of success or failure.</p>
17.	Community climate actions	<p>This workshop will introduce the Community Climate Coaches project an exciting Europe wide partnership that is being led by a consortium of ECOLISE members. The aim is to develop a system to train, support and enable facilitators, animators, coaches and mentors across Europe. The initiative will support local engagement in climate action through Community Led Local Development, and catalyse the creation of practical and relevant projects to make local places and their environments more climate resilient. There is a pressing need for a massive transformative change to a sustainable low carbon future, and a realisation that community-based climate action is a key way to bring this change about. Community climate coaches will be trained in creating this change in communities across Europe.</p>

18.	Green & Blue infrastructure in the context of Climate change	In many places, especially in Central and Eastern Europe and in accession countries, public investments in rural infrastructure remain a priority. How to design such infrastructure to be sustainable, biodiversity-friendly, respectful of the landscape, adaptable to climate change, while contributing to local resilience? How to avoid “greenwashing” or “solving one problem by creating another”? The workshop will involve exchange of good and bad practices and a brainstorm for innovative approaches.
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Research for rural well-being

19.	Rural trends, scenarios and solutions – views from 20 multi actor platforms	Within the Horizon 2020 project SHERPA, 20 Multi actor platforms gathering representatives from science, society and policy have explored rural trends and developed a vision for their territories. This workshop will build on these results to explore solutions to achieve desirable future for rural areas. Two SHERPA multi actor platforms will present their work with a focus on the long term vision for rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy.
20.	Does anyone listen? Intensifying the science, policy and practitioner dialogue and closing research gaps relevant for rural people.	Scientists can generate many helpful models but often they sit in academic papers behind paywalls never seeing the light of day in the real world. Practitioners can be frustrated with the goldfish bowl approach of scientists, as the scientists watch, observe and analyse but the practitioners may never see the results. Policymakers need good information, well analysed and presented in a readable and understandable format, but where are they getting their information from?
21.	Polirural H2020: Future Oriented Collaborative Policy Development for Rural Areas and People: measuring the attractiveness of rural areas	In this workshop we analyse and discuss the attractiveness of rural areas, how to increase it and steps to take in the future. Slovakia is the only pilot region covering the territory of a whole country thus providing a unique opportunity to use the outcomes of the Polirural H2020 project for both the

		regional and national policies. The vision of this PoliRural pilot is to increase the attractiveness of the region, well-being of the existing rural population and attract newcomers, while not affecting the symbiosis between city and rural areas, by introducing policies reflecting the needs of local entrepreneurs and demand of local population, safeguarding the environment and biodiversity at the same time.
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Rural Economy

22.	Job creation in rural areas	This workshop will build on the examples presented during the study visits around Kielce region and will look for innovative ways of bringing jobs and incomes to rural areas. Partners will be invited to share inspiring examples, to think out of the box and look for solutions that help rural areas overcome barriers to job creation such as remoteness, lack of public services, ageing, low level of education/skills etc., and to take advantage of opportunities linked with green and blue economy, experience and creative economies, remote working arrangements etc.
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23.	Rural Tourism, trends and possibilities	<p>Rural tourism has a high potential to stimulate local economic growth and social change because of its complementarity with other economic activities, its contribution to GDP and job creation.</p> <p>As rural tourism is an activity in which the visitors experience a wide range of products linked to nature, rural lifestyle and culture, we need to discuss the right balance between the number of tourists, environment and local communities.</p> <p>In recent years, the expectations and choices of tourists have changed. The rural tourism Industry has to adjust their businesses to these changes, eg. by developing digital ways of marketing, introducing new added-value products and increasing cooperation.</p> <p>Rural tourism trends and possibilities will be discussed during this workshop.</p>
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24.	Short supply chains	The workshop will look at new solutions of shortening food chains, including systems that emerged during the COVID pandemics, and foster reflection on key factors that determine the success of some of these solutions, especially at appropriate legal and institutional frameworks that need to be put in place to enable supply chains that bring benefit to small-scale producers and offer sustainable alternatives to the globalised food market.
25.	A boost to local economy, small-scale economy, territorial solutions	Local economies are constant topic of the ERP events, discussing different approaches towards resilient local communities. Local communities often build the businesses, originating from the local needs on the collective and on the individual level. Often local initiatives emerge from the non-formal groups of citizens, trying to boost local economy for the better quality of life in the remote areas. Best practices are known in the fields of Local currencies, Circular economy, Transition towns and Eco villages.
26.	How can digital and new technologies make communities thrive?	Welcome to a discussion workshop on how digitalisation and new technologies bring added value to the rural areas. The question of equal access and what actions need to be taken to have a positive digital transition are being discussed.
27.	Networking and Advocacy for Green Economy - NAGE	<p>Presenting the project and results of NAGE – a project on strengthening of the grassroots' CSOs capacities in generic work, advocacy and networking in green actions/economy as well as looking into entrepreneurial models for rural diversification and sustainability.</p> <p>We will discuss green economy and its future.</p>
28.	Social economy and social entrepreneurship	In this workshop we analyse and discuss social enterprise today and in the future as a subject of social economy with the main objective to achieve

		<p>measurable positive social impact. A case study will be presented during the workshop. Social enterprises could solve socio-economic problems, environmental problems, be a tool of unemployment policy or local development. Most often this companies arises from the public needs. The management philosophy must be based on working with local people for local people and using local resources. From the social entrepreneurship we expects social improvement of economic situation of socially disadvantaged groups, their integration into society, increase basic work habits and skills, expand partnerships, improve and increase customer relations, expand production, workshops, increase adaptability of vulnerable groups, increase independence and responsibility for social inclusion and improving housing and hygiene conditions. Social enterprises should carry out a number of activities aimed at training employees and supporting their skills, as the aim is not only employment but also job creation and to be a positive role model in this area. The main aspect is employment, because without it, it doesn't work.</p>
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Some other topics... citizen's as actors, youth employment, rural-urban,

<p>29.</p>	<p>Self-commitment and local decisionmakers</p>	<p>Discussion and examples on how individuals' decisions and actions has personal influence but also affects the local community and region. How to encourage local people to change their habits to be more economical and ecological way. Results from the Estonian Rural Parliament will be presented.</p>
<p>30.</p>	<p>Meeting the needs of Rural communities</p>	<p>The European Economic and Social Committee (<u>EESC</u>), which represents the voice of European organised civil society at EU level, is heavily engaged in promoting a holistic approach for sustainable rural/urban development, calling on policy-makers to implement a comprehensive and holistic strategy harnessing the role of local communities, boosting traditional industries and creating new economic activities and job opportunities in rural areas, while fostering synergies with urban areas. The EESC recently adopted 2 opinions on <u>Towards a holistic strategy on sustainable rural/urban development</u> and</p>

		<p>on the <u>long-term vision for the EU's rural areas</u> that makes several recommendations, based on multi-stakeholder involvement and a "bottom-up" approach, which are key ingredients for ensuring sustainability and local ownership of rural policies. The EESC is furthermore committed to further contribute to the facilitation process of the Rural Pact. The aim of this workshop is to discuss what actions and policy solutions should be put in place to ensure that the needs of rural communities are met.</p>
31.	Youth employment in rural areas - Cowork4YOUTH	<p>How to boost the youth, especially NEETs and young mothers employment in peripheral rural areas? The territorial focus of the workshop will be on tourism-dependent, island or remote coastal regions, on the one hand, and regions facing energy transition, decarbonisation or intense industrial decline on the other, which suffers from relatively high NEET rates. We will explore employment possibilities through collaborative practices, co-working spaces- as- 'learning middlegrounds' and other alternatives, as well as tackle the question of the role of supportive communities in order to reach out to this specific youth target grou</p>