



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Directorate A – Strategy & Policy analysis
The Director

Brussels,

AGRI.A.1 FC (2024)

(UPDATED) DRAFT AGENDA

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON SOLIDARITY AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

**JOINT MEETING WITH
THE MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP
ON CAP STRATEGIC PLANS AND HORIZONTAL MATTERS
AND
THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CAP STRATEGIC PLANS REGULATION**

**Taking place from 14:00 on Thursday, 16 May
to 13:00 on Friday, 17 May**

**in Brussels, Centre de Conférences Albert Borschette CCAB (Room 2.A)
Rue Froissart 36, 1040 – Etterbeek
and online, via the Interactio platform (connection limited)**

With a view to future policy developments, the workshop aims to collect evidence, views and experience in relation to challenges, needs, opportunities and issues that diverse rural communities and territories in the EU are facing, and possibilities for addressing them.

To this end, stakeholders will be invited to examine and exchange on **key strategic questions across different topics**:

- Considering the diversity of EU rural areas and communities, what are their key challenges and opportunities stemming from on-going transitions, demographic trends, structural changes, and what are the ways to address them?
- How to ensure better synergies between farming and rural communities' needs to ensure prosperity and resilience of rural areas? What social sustainability questions are at stake?
- What are the best policy tools to deliver institutional capacity, governance and integrated planning and support for rural areas and communities at all levels, while ensuring improved synergies and complementarities of public funds?

If they wish so, stakeholders are invited to share studies, reports or position papers, they have developed, which are relevant to topics discussed and send to AGRI-A1@ec.europa

Indicative timing

Thursday, 16 May

- 14:00 – 14:30** Registration and welcome coffee
- 14:30 – 14:40** Introduction to the workshop’s context and objectives – *DG AGRI*
Chair: *Gijs Schilthuis, Head of Unit Policy Perspectives*
Framing: *Mario Milouchev, Director CAP Strategic Plans II*
- 14:40 – 16:10** **Block 1 - EU rural areas and communities: key challenges and policy responses adapted to their diverse needs**
- (1) Scene setter: key challenges of rural areas in transition – *Prof. Maura Farrell, University of Galway*
- (2) Policy responses
- Fostering agricultural and rural policy dialogue: experiences from recent OECD work– *Masayasu Asai, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD*
- Addressing rural regions’ needs in view of the Long-term vision for rural areas – *Prof. Janet Dwyer, Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)*
- Questions for reflection and exchange of views:**
- *What are the key rural communities’ challenges and opportunities arising from ongoing trends and transitions for which EU interventions provide or could provide added value?*
 - *Policies for farming and rural communities: which synergies for resilience and prosperity? What are the trade-offs?*
- 16:10 – 16:30** **Break**
- 16:30 – 18:00** **Block I – continued**
- (1) Diving deeper into rural diversity – *Prof. David Miller, James Hutton Institute – partner of the Horizon Europe Project GRANULAR*
- (2) Example from an EU Member State – *Speaker TBC*
- Questions for reflection and exchange of views:**
- *Different rural areas, different challenges: do we need more targeted approaches? Where to put the policy focus?*

- *How can rural areas, particularly remote and constrained ones, be best supported in view of the shared goals of the long-term vision of rural areas?*

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| Friday, 17 May |
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08:30 – 09:00 Registration and welcome coffee

09:00 – 10:30 **Block 2 - Integrated planning mechanisms and governance needs to deliver effective results at territorial level**

- (1) Do ‘holistic approaches’ for rural areas make a difference? Key findings from a forthcoming study on funding for EU rural areas - *Arndt Münch, OïR GmbH*
- (2) National example of integrated planning – *Renáta Kučerová, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (CZ)*
- (3) The Cilento Master Plan - *Stefano Pisani, Mayor of Pollica, Salerno (IT)*

Questions for reflection and exchange of views:

- *How to enhance financial support for rural areas and communities through EU, national and regional funds, including improving synergies and complementarities between them?*
- *On what level does planning make sense (especially considering constraints in terms of funding, capacities) and how to ensure vertical integration? How to ensure rural voices are heard?*
- *What are the best policy tools to deliver integrated planning at all levels? How to improve quality of delivery and effectiveness (including of territorial tools such as CLLD/LEADER)?*

10:30 – 11:00 **Break**

11:00 - 12:30 **Block 3: Socio – economic sustainability challenges for farming and rural communities**

- (1) Structural changes in farming and labour needs – *Prof. François Purseigle, INP-ENSAT (FR)*
- (2) Is farming an attractive job with career prospects? - *Aine Macken-Walsh, TEAGASC (IE)*
- (3) Views from stakeholder organisations

Questions for reflection and exchange of views:

- *What new / improved policy solutions can be put in place to make farming an attractive and inclusive profession with lifelong career prospects?*

- *Is the CAP well equipped to respond to the needs of an evolving agricultural workforce, including in terms of skills? Is a shift of focus from “active farmer” needed? What is missing?*

12:30 – 13:00 **Summary and closing remarks**

13:00 **End**

In addition to the members of the Civil Dialogue Group and the Member States a number of other organisations have been invited to contribute to the debate based on their sector perspective and relevant expertise on the subject matter: Enrique Nieto (Rural Pact Support Office), Edina Ocsko (Rural Pact Coordination Group), Michael Schmitz (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), Anja Fortuna (Rural Youth Europe), Alen Mujcinovic (Rural NEET Youth Network), Gianluca Pastorelli (DIESIS Network)