

ENRD Workshop on

‘Combating rural depopulation: Creating new opportunities for vibrant rural areas’

Draft Agenda

21 May 2019

Rue de la Loi, 42
Brussels, Belgium

Rural depopulation is an increasing trend across Europe. Many rural areas are locked into a ‘circle of decline’ by two mutually reinforcing trends i) a **shortage of sustainable business activity**; and ii) inadequate and **declining services**. Rural Development policy can play an important role in combatting depopulation through the toolkit of measures it provides to Member States. However, this fundamental challenge requires interventions that go beyond the remit of the CAP and require more joined up work with other EU, national, regional and local policies.

Objectives

In this context, the ENRD workshop on ‘Combating Rural Depopulation’ seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Enhance the understanding of the key drivers of population decline in rural areas across the EU and their effects, with a focus – among others – on the barriers faced by marginalised groups, women, people with disabilities and migrants;
- Allow participants to learn from national and local initiatives and to share lessons on how to address rural depopulation and turn it to opportunities;
- Explore the role of the RDPs and other EU policies in creating an enabling environment to counter demographic decline.

Timing 🕒	Agenda item 📅
08.45 – 09.15	Registration & coffee
09.15 – 09.30	Welcoming participants and introduction to the day
09.30 - 10.30	Setting the scene <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of key drivers and consequences of rural depopulation in the EU - Overview of the available tools to address depopulation under the current Rural Development policy and in the future CAP - Q&A
10.30 – 11.00	<i>Coffee</i>
11.00 – 13.00	<u>Group work 1</u>: How Rural Development Programmes & other EU policies respond to demographic challenges in practice?
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 14.15	Feedback from group work 1
14.15 – 15.30	<u>Group work 2</u>: Integrated approaches - Member States' experiences in combining different policy instruments to reverse the trend of depopulation, making rural areas attractive
15.30 – 15.45	<i>Coffee</i>
15.45 – 16.00	Feedback from group work 2
16.00 – 16.45	<i>Closing Panel – How to move forward</i>
16.45 – 17.00	Concluding remarks