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Project of the month

Angelic Gardens / Anielskie Ogrody - Poland

Discover how a small productive garden on a family farm can be beautiful and provide high quality bio food, aiming to create an oasis of biodiversity in farms and gardens. [Angelic Gardens](#) leads the way in the times of pandemic and climate change with high quality 'step by step' educational materials and easy internet communication. It has also won the public's choice in the [Rural Inspiration Awards \(RIA\) 2021](#) competition!



News

Conference on the Future of Europe: multilingual digital platform launched

[The Conference on the Future of Europe](#) is a unique and timely opportunity for European citizens to debate on Europe's challenges and priorities. No matter where you are from or what you do, this is the place to think about what future you want for the European Union and to make your contribution to help shape it. A [multilingual digital platform](#), launched on 19 April 2021, is the central hub and interactive tool of the Conference where you can share your ideas, find events or read input from all Conference events, in the 24 official EU languages. Make your voice is heard by logging in to the platform for the Conference on the future of Europe!



The European Commission has published CAP strategic plans recommendations

The European Commission has provided each EU country with tailor-made recommendations, accompanied by a Communication. They aim to assist in the drafting of the national CAP strategic plans by identifying the key areas on which each EU country should focus. Based on an analysis of their agricultural sector and rural areas, the recommendations aim to ensure:



- The achievement of the nine specific CAP objectives, touching upon environmental, social and economic challenges and a cross-cutting objective on knowledge and innovation.
- The compliance with [Green Deal](#) ambitions and more specifically six [Farm to Fork](#) and [Biodiversity](#) strategy targets.

Visit the dedicated CAP Strategic Plans [webpage](#) and scroll down to find the recommendations for your country!

The impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas



The European Commission concluded an evaluation which aimed to assess whether the instruments offered by the CAP are sufficient – and sufficiently used – to promote generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas. The ageing of Europe’s farmers is one of the greatest challenges that rural areas are facing. The evaluation finds that the support provided by the ‘CAP generational renewal measures’ have a positive impact in the increase of the number of young farmers, although to a limited extent. This positive impact also depends on other factors, including socio-cultural and wider economic incentives/disincentives for people to farm and live in rural areas.

Read the press release [here](#), the full evaluation [here](#) and visit [this page](#) for more related info including the [executive summary](#).

The European Commission launches a public consultation to review the promotion policy for EU agri-food products

The European Commission has launched a [public consultation](#) to gather views on different policy options for ensuring that future EU agri-food promotion policy will support the transition to more sustainable food systems and nudge consumers towards balanced diets, whilst strengthening the global competitiveness of EU farmers and agri-food businesses. In addition, the consultation will provide an opportunity to obtain feedback on different options for updating its implementation, making it simpler and more effective for beneficiaries, implementing bodies and national authorities. The consultation is open until **23 June 2021**. For more information visit this [webpage](#).

More Foresight expected to help reinforce rural resilience

A speech by the European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič to the European Parliament's AGRI Committee anticipates more use of strategic Foresight exercises to help reinforce rural resilience.



The speech highlights the role of strategic Foresight for the upcoming Communication on a [Long Term Vision for Rural Areas](#) and also notes: "By June, we will also carry out some Foresight work on green jobs and skills which will focus on key social and labour market implications of the green transition, including in the food and agricultural sectors as well as in rural areas." You can [read the full speech here](#).

Cohesion Policy supporting rural areas and communities

A new web-based [resource](#) by the European Commission summarises how Cohesion Policy can support the rural areas. Data, interactive charts, links and videos show the amount of Cohesion Policy investments flowing to EU rural areas and how these can help address the challenges and opportunities they face. The page also explains how integrated approaches can help rural areas to address complex challenges and opportunities and presents some project examples.



The page was launched during the [Rural Vision Week](#) and is a useful resource for the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas.

New EU Action Plan to boost organic production

The European Commission has presented an [Action Plan for the development of organic production](#). Its overall aim is to boost the production and consumption of organic products, to reach 25% of agricultural land under organic farming by 2030, as well as to increase organic aquaculture significantly. The Action Plan is designed to provide the already fast growing organic sector with the right tools to achieve the 25% target. It puts forward 23 actions structured around three axes – boosting consumption, increasing production, and further improving the sustainability of the sector – to ensure its balanced growth.



Women farmers drive digital transformation in rural areas

Women farmers are key in driving the digital transformation of rural areas, explains a video by the European Broadband Competence Offices (BCO) Network. High-speed connectivity is needed to allow the use of cutting edge technology in both agriculture and forestry, as well for everyday management. In addition, it enables entrepreneurship and allows the inhabitants of remote areas to connect with the wider community.



[This video](#) is part of the BCO Network's work to promote awareness of the need for ubiquitous high-speed broadband in the EU, as well as of the EU's support and funding for broadband deployment, and good practices in broadband projects.

Pollinator Park virtual reality experience – Coming soon!

The European Commission's forthcoming Pollinator Park offers "a mesmerising glimpse into a bleak future without pollinating insects, and a powerful wake-up call to humanity to repair its broken bond with nature."



Designed in collaboration with the world renowned 'archiobiotect' Vincent Callebaut, this 30-minute interactive and emotionally engaging virtual reality experience hopes to change viewers' perspective and help turn the tide of pollinator decline. Learn more on [DG Environment's Pollinator Park webpage](#).

Sherpa's contribution to the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas

The Horizon 2020 project [SHERPA](#)—Sustainable Hub to Engage into Rural Policies with Actors -published a [contribution](#) for the development of a future vision for rural areas.

The paper concludes that: "European rural areas are attractive in their own right and, as a consequence of the high quality of life available, many such areas are appealing places to live, work and visit."



SHERPA aims to gather knowledge that contributes to recommendations for future policies relevant to EU rural areas, by creating a science-society-policy interface which provides a hub for knowledge and policy.

The Swedish National Rural Network (NRN) is running a social media campaign on approaches to rural climate action

The Swedish National Rural Network (NRN) is running a social media campaign on approaches to rural climate action, building on cases presented in the ENRD [Thematic Group on Bioeconomy and Climate Action in rural areas \(2019-2020\)](#). The articles are addressed to Swedish farm advisors and to other stakeholders and include interviews with advisory services and projects from different European Member States. "The idea is to learn from what is done in other countries and then be inspired to improve our own efforts toward a more climate friendly agriculture", says Nils Lagerroth from the Swedish Rural Network.



Learn more about it on the Swedish web page of the campaign [here](#).

Networking goes digital!

The ENRD CP office in Brussels remains closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 outbreak but ENRD activities are all going ahead using digital approaches adapted to the new context. The team is as busy as ever networking, organising and delivering virtual events, producing publications and keeping you abreast of the latest news. We invite you to keep an eye on the [Upcoming Events](#) section of our website, where we list relevant forthcoming events. Feel free to contact us at any time!

Past Events

Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

The ENRD, in close cooperation with the European Commission, organised a virtual event - 'Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas' between 22 and 26 March 2021. This interactive event included high level presentations and discussions, a marketplace, workshops and 'fringe' activities.

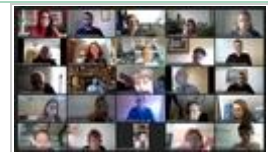
Presentations, videos and other resources are available [here](#).



Improving data-management and information systems for the purpose of evaluation

The Good Practice Workshop organised by the European Evaluation Helpdesk for Rural Development, took place on 16-17 March 2021. It had the overall objective of reflecting on innovative experiences in data management and information systems for evaluations in the context of the CAP.

Presentations are available [here](#).



Publications

Rural Connections magazine available in 6 languages

Download the latest [Rural Connections](#) magazine in 6 languages to read news and views from rural development stakeholders, updates on recent EU policy developments and the latest ENRD activities.



Delivering Climate Change Mitigation and Rural Development – Lessons from EAFRD support 2014-2020

This is the [third](#) of a series of briefings to orient CAP Strategic Plans emerging from the work of the [ENRD TG on Bioeconomy and Climate Action](#). It stresses that Member States must ensure that their CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs) demonstrate greater overall ambition towards the achievement of the CAP's environmental and climate objectives, when compared to the previous programming period.



Evaluating Hungarian Gross Nutrient Balance Data

This [factsheet](#) from the Evaluation Helpdesk focuses on the evaluation of Hungarian gross nutrient balance data through a counterfactual approach based on histograms.



Events

04 May 2021

[ENRD Workshop for NRNs on Working together: linking Rural Networks](#), ENRD Contact Point, webinar

05 May 2021

[4th meeting of the Thematic Group on the Long Term Rural Vision](#), ENRD Contact Point, webinar

06 May 2021

[Smart villages – Finnish experience and vision](#), Estonian Rural Network, webinar

10 May 2021

[Getting the CAP Strategic Plans done: the voice of regions and stakeholders](#), ENRD Contact Point, webinar

19 May 2021

[Animal health and welfare](#), EURACTIV, webinar

19 May 2021

[Approaches in promoting place-based and participative action](#), RELOCAL, webinar

20 May 2021

[4th meeting of the Thematic Group on the European Green Deal and rural areas](#), ENRD Contact Point, webinar

20 May 2021

[Adaptive Economies: Strategies for Resilient Policy Making](#), OECD, online, OECD, webinar

25 May - 10 June 2021

[European Climate Change Adaptation – Webinar Series](#), the European Commission, webinar

25 May - 08 June 2021

[Teachers bioeconomy summer school](#), BE-Rural, webinar

25 May 2021

[15th Rural Networks Steering Group Meeting](#), DG AGRI, webinar

26 - 27 May 2021

[The 'European Social Economy Summit' \(EUSES\)](#), the European Commission and the city of Mannheim, webinar

27 May 2021

[Social economy and social innovation as a motor of rural resilience](#), the European Commission and ENRD Contact Point, webinar

27 May 2021

[Climate adaptation: opportunities for mountain businesses](#), Euromontana, webinar

28 May 2021

[Support of young adults in rural areas](#), ADRETS et CIPRA France, webinar

31 May - 04 June 2021

[EU Green Week 2021](#), the European Commission, webinar

01 June 2021

[Zero pollution farms with biogas](#), European Biogas Association, webinar

16 - 18 June 2021

[European organic congress](#), IFOAM Organics Europe and AGROBIO, webinar

22 June 2021

[ECCA 2021 - 5th European Climate Change Adaptation conference](#), the European Commission, webinar

23 - 24 June 2021

[European Research and Innovation Days](#), DG Research and Innovation, webinar

20 - 23 July 2021

[Raising the impact of agricultural economics](#), the European Association of Agricultural Economists - EAAE, webinar

06 - 10 September 2021

[Organic world congress](#), Rennes, France

27 - 29 September 2021

[Agritravel and slowtravel expo](#), Bergamo, Italy

11 - 14 October 2021

[European Week of Regions and Cities](#), DG AGRI, webinar

19 October 2021

[16th Rural Networks Steering Group Meeting](#), the European Commission, webinar

25 - 29 October 2021

[EU Sustainable Energy Week](#), the European Commission, webinar

07 December 2021

[8th meeting of the EU Rural Networks Assembly](#), DG AGRI, webinar

10 - 14 April 2022

[European farming systems conference](#), The Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development (MED)

ENRD Contact Point

Rue de la Loi, 38 (bte 4)

B-1040 Bruxelles

info@enrd.eu

Tel. +32 2 801 38 00

<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

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