

Thematic working group "LEADER/CLLD"
National network CAP

Thematic conference of TWG LEADER/CLLD NN CAP
The future of rural development policy after 2027.

March 23 – 25, 2026
Terme Tuhelj, Croatia

Agenda

March 23, 2026 (Monday) – Day 1

Timing (CET)	Agenda items
<i>until 13.00</i>	<i>Participant registration</i>
<i>13.00 – 14.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
15.00 – 18.00	<p>LEADER-CLLD in the previous programming period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Results of CLLD within the framework of the Operational Programme for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Croatia 2014-2020 Jelena Jerbić; Directorate of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of the Republic of Croatia > Ex post evaluation of LEADER/CLLD within the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Croatia 2014-20. Danijela Mačković, Directorate for Support in Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of the Republic of Croatia/Mojca Hrabar, Krešimir Ivančić; Ernst & Young • <i>Interactive session with participants</i>
<i>19.30</i>	<i>Dinner</i>

March 24, 2026 (Tuesday) – Central Conference Day

Timing (CET)	Agenda items
<i>until 09.30</i>	<i>Participant registration</i>
09.30 – 11.00	<p>Welcome and opening of the conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Milan Medić, president of the Thematic Working Group LEADER/CLLD NN CAP > Denis Ranogajec, representative of the Prefect of Krapina-Zagorje County > Silvio Šimon, Head of the Sector for Implementation of Rural Development Measures and Interventions, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of the Republic of Croatia <p>Integrating EU policies at EU and Member State levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Karlo Ressler, MEP, BUDG– <i>video adress</i> > Marko Vešligaj, MEP, AGRI – <i>video adress</i>

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- > **Regional development and development policies in the new EU financial framework**
[Dubravka Lipovac Pehar](#), President of the Committee for Regional Development and EU Funds and member of the Committee for Agriculture of the Croatian parliament
- > **Making the Rural Vision and Pact happen in Member States (The significance of the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and the Rural Pact - What is the Rural Pact and how to join it)**
[Pawel Krzeczunowicz](#), Policy Coordinator of the Rural Pact Support Office (RPSO)

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break - stakeholder networking

11.30 – 13.00 The proposal for a new MFF after 2027 and what awaits EU rural areas

- > **Legal proposals for LEADER/Smart villages for 2028-34 (on-line adress)**
[Iwona Lisztwan](#), European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
- > **EESC recommendations for the future and financing of rural areas**
[Lidija Pavić Rogošić](#), European Economic and Social Committee
- > **Experiences of integrated territorial development of rural areas (CLLD) in the Czech Republic and a review of the future of rural development 2028+ in the light of proposals for the new MFF**
[Radim Sršen](#), European Committee of the Regions, Chair of the Rural Pact Coordination Group (RPCG)
- > **Strengthening LEADER and CLLD in the new programming period within the NRPP**
[Piotr Sadlocha](#), President of ELARD and Polish Network of LAGs
- > **Key messages from the RPCG on rural development policy and integrated local development approaches**
[Edina Ocsko](#), Smart Village Network Services, Vice-chair of the Rural Pact Coordination Group
- > **Rural proofing – the importance of evidence-based policies creation**
[Betty-Ann Bryce](#), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Panel discussion with presenters**

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 Rural development policy today and after 2027 in Croatia

- > **New VFO and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with a focus on generational renewal**
[Silvio Šimon](#), Head of the Sector for Implementation of Rural Development Measures and Interventions, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of the Republic of Croatia
- > **Croatian experiences with EU territorial tools – some lessons for the future**
[Jakša Puljiz](#), Institute for Development and International Relations

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- > **Right to stay. Developmental indicators of different types of rural areas in Croatia**
[Aleksandar Lukić](#), Department of Geography Faculty of Science University of Zagreb, Croatian Section of the European Council for the Village and Small Town (ECOVAST)
- > **The National Foundation's contribution to rural development through social innovation support programs: experiences and perspectives for the future**
[Branko Logarić](#), National Foundation for the Development of Civil Society
- **Panel discussion:**
 - [Vedran Kršek](#), Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds of the Republic of Croatia
 - [Silvio Šimon](#), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of the Republic of Croatia
 - [Jakša Puljiz](#), Institute for Development and International Relations
 - [Aleksandar Lukić](#), Faculty of Science University of Zagreb, ECOVAST

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee break - stakeholder networking

16.30 – 17.00

Together in the dialogue on the position of rural areas in policies after 2027.

- > **Good practice example: Catalan Rural Agenda 2030, a joint governance system in 2024 to implement the territorial Rural Agenda and address the needs of rural areas**
[Eduard Trepal Deltell](#), the Rural Development Network of Catalonia

17.00 – 17.30

Final institutional remarks for future action and policies

- > [Željka Gudelj Velaga](#), Director of the Directorate for Support to Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery of the Republic of Croatia
- > [Raffaele Fitto](#), European Commission Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms

19.30

Dinner

March 25, 2026 (Wednesday) – Day 3

Timing (CET)

Agenda items

until 09.30

Participant registration

09.30 – 12.00

Presentation of projects for the development of rural areas financed by the EU funds and other sources

- > **More Than a Village: Smart, competitive and attractive villages in Central Europe – Insights from the Interreg Central Europe Programme**
[Daniela Angelina Jelinčić](#), [Danijela Hrman](#), Institute for Development and

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International Relations

- > **The Renoverty project and the importance of LAGs in the establishment of Energy Communities and citizen-led renovation**
Mirna Kirigin, REGEA/Maja Čičko, LAG Sava
- > **Logreener (Composing Local Energy Transition) – an innovative approach for local transition towards green energy**
Heidi Eterović, LEADER Network Croatia
- > **Next Stop Local (transfer of Scandinavian Youth LEADER experiences)**
Matija Zamljačanec, LAG Izvor/Josip Marušić, LAG Vallis Colapis
- > **School cooperatives in LEADER/CLLD – a model of support for young people and generational renewal of rural areas**
Sanja Rukavina, LAG Mareta
- > **And where is the added value? - fisheries sector projects**
Eliana Zec Solina, FLAG Vela vrata
- > **The importance of knowledge and experience transfer in delivering added value of LEADER/CLLD**
Željko Marić, LAG Terra liburna

from 12.00

Departure of participants