

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	LEADER-CLLD in the previous programming period <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	Welcome and opening of the conference <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 Integrating EU policies at EU and Member State levels <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Karlo Ressler, MEP, BUDG– <i>video adress</i>> Marko Vešligaj, MEP, AGRI – <i>video adress</i>

Thematic working group "LEADER/CLLD" National network CAP

- > **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 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 MFF 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

Thematic working group "LEADER/CLLD" National network CAP

- > **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, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission 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 Hрман, IRMO

Thematic working group "LEADER/CLLD" National network CAP

- > **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