

# European Countryside Movement

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## Rural post-2020

### moving from sectoral policy to cross-sectoral efficiency with a European Rural Agenda



International Association Rurality-Environment-Development - RED  
European Association for Rural Development Institutions - AEIAR  
International Association for Family Movements for Rural Training - AIMFR  
Assembly of European Regions - ARE  
European Committee of Property Owners - CEDIP  
European council for rural law - CEDR  
European Leader Association for Rural Development - ELARD  
European Network of Outdoor Sports - ENOS  
European Federation of Rural Tourism - EUROGITES  
European Association of Mountain Areas - EUROMONTANA  
International Federation of Equestrian Tourism - FITE  
Peri Urban Regions Platform Europe - PURPLE  
European Network of rural communities of energetic neutrality - RURENER  
European Rural University - URE

# ATMTING FOR

## Real ambition for rural territories

- ▶ shared by the entire European Commission
- ▶ translated into a transversal European policy that builds on territorial diversity.

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### CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

- ▶ The potential of rural territories and the contributions they may bring to EU objectives is increasingly being recognized by DG Agri, as indicated by the first elements of its reflection on the future. This cannot be said of the Commission as a whole, where, the level of attention paid to the rural dimension varies across different DG, and still marginal for some.
- ▶ The European Countryside Movement is working together to promote a multi-sectoral and transverse dimension within future European policy for rural territories.
- ▶ The absence of coherence between the objectives and the indicators within each EC Directorate whose work impacts upon rural territories is really damaging consistent policy development. In reality, without territorial cohesion being one of the 2014-2020 Common Strategic Framework Objectives, there can be no real consistency. Moreover, we currently lack any shared policy position on the specific characteristics of rural territories.
- ▶ Currently, the transversal approach is not up and running. Organising occasional dialogue with Commissioners or Directorates-General in order to put a transversal development policy for rural areas in place is in itself insufficient. That only allows us to adjust and align measures in relation to Community rules and in particular to avoid their overlap or contradiction.

An efficient policy for rural territories relies on a shared ambition signed up to by all decision-makers. This shared ambition must be the key reference point for implementation at the sectoral level. It will lend itself to efficiency gains and ensure that all policies are coherent and simplified.

### Operational objective :

## a European Rural Agenda for transversal efficiency

Going from a series of sectoral approaches targeted to the specific objectives of each Directorate towards a politically transversal approach set as coherent objectives in a European Rural Agenda. A European Rural Agenda, in anticipated complementarity with the Urban Agenda, will provide the political and operational framework for future European policy for the development of rural territories, reflecting their diversity and the multi-sectoral dimension of their economic realities. It will allow an open dialogue going beyond sectoral constraints and will be the reference point for the Rural Proofing measures we expect and hope to see.