

# RURALITY-ENVIRONMENT-DEVELOPMENT

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## **For a European Rural Agenda post 2020!** **The expression of the European ambition in favor of integrated sustainable development of rural territories in their diversity**

### **A necessary paradigm shift**

- ⇒ The added value and the potential for innovation that rural areas can bring, in all their diversity, are significant but under-recognized and under-exploited.
- ⇒ The inequality of residents and local stakeholders in terms of access to public services and quality of basic infrastructure, such as high-speed broadband, is growing.
- ⇒ Local development dynamics, because they are more efficient and economical, must be better supported to provide more appropriate responses at the relevant territorial scales.

### **Three major stakes**

#### **◆ Recognizing rural territories as challenging areas for the E.U.**

- ⇒ Territories having their own personality and specific opportunities of development: *they are part of the solution because they have energy and spirit able to mobilize;*
- ⇒ A mosaic of territories structuring Europe and participating at the typical diversity of the cultures of the E.U., with the *Charter of Fundamental Rights* between the lines.
- ⇒ Innovating territories at the heart of the major European and global challenges of cohesion (territorial, economic, social, environmental...), climate change...;
- ⇒ Rural territories identified as development and *social and economic* innovation poles, able to adapt themselves and to tackle changes.

#### **◆ Strengthening rural-agricultural cooperation by structuring the EU's reply converging around two major operational ambitions with adequate financing:**

- ⇒ **A great and updated ambition supporting various agricultures and forestry** and taking care of the news challenges, i.e. food production, climate, generations, renewal of generations, increase of the number of active people, innovation in training, land regulation...
- ⇒ **A great ambition formulated in a European Rural Agenda for integrated sustainable development of rural territories in their diversity**, by highlighting their potential to take up the present and future European challenges and to achieve the objective of territorial cohesion.

#### **◆ Answering the rural-urban imbalance, which marginalizes the rural territories by hiding the richness of their real contributions, through balanced exchanges between urban and rural poles:**

- ⇒ Peri-urban territories that are emerging as promising areas of innovation;
- ⇒ An answer to the continuous extension of urban centers and the urbanization of agricultural land;
- ⇒ A Rural Agenda: a driver for a balanced cooperation between urban and rural poles and a complementary framework to that proposed for urban dynamics by the Urban Agenda.

## ***A European rural Agenda for modernization***

### **A framework for the European policy on rural territories post 2020:**

- ➔ **strengthening the capacity of rural territories to choose the directions that suit them:**
  - ⇒ reinforcing the power of initiative, the capacity-building and the mobilization of rural actors;
  - ⇒ supporting local initiatives with truly simple and accessible procedures that facilitate the articulation between poles and between strategies at different scales;
  - ⇒ recognizing the diversity of rural territories as a necessary factor for meeting the challenges of the future.
- ➔ **marking out the issue of recognition of rural territories as poles of development and innovation**, essential contributors to European challenges;
  - ⇒ **discovering and developing all the potential sources** of economic development and social and territorial added value that can exist in rural territories;
  - ⇒ supporting **network-based operations** to the extent of the support given to systems based on the critical masses.
- ➔ **implementing 3 fundamental principles to be respected for all European policies and means:**
  - ⇒ **Rural-urban equilibrium**, to be included as a principle at the base of all European policies in the same way as gender equality;
  - ⇒ **Equality of rights for all citizens**, whether they live in cities or rural territories (*ref. Charter of Fundamental Rights, articles 3 and 174 of the Treaty of Union*);
  - ⇒ **Equity in means and practices** among all actors and territories, especially exploiting exchanges and mutual competencies to compensate the specificities of rural territories.
- ➔ **adopting a transversal strategic approach in an innovative spirit claiming a rural dimension in all policies:**
  - ⇒ a cross-cutting approach integrating rural dimension in all European policies;
  - ⇒ an equitable share for the territories and rural actors.

### **a European rural Agenda post 2020**

An innovative proposal to modernize and simplify European policies for rural territories

The European Rural Agenda will provide the policy framework and operational guidelines for a future specific policy for the development of rural territories, responding to their diversity and the multisectoral dimension of their economic realities.

The adoption of this Rural Agenda, in an expected complementarity with the Urban Agenda, will be a secure vehicle for the necessary mobilization of all the territories to meet the objectives of the E.U.

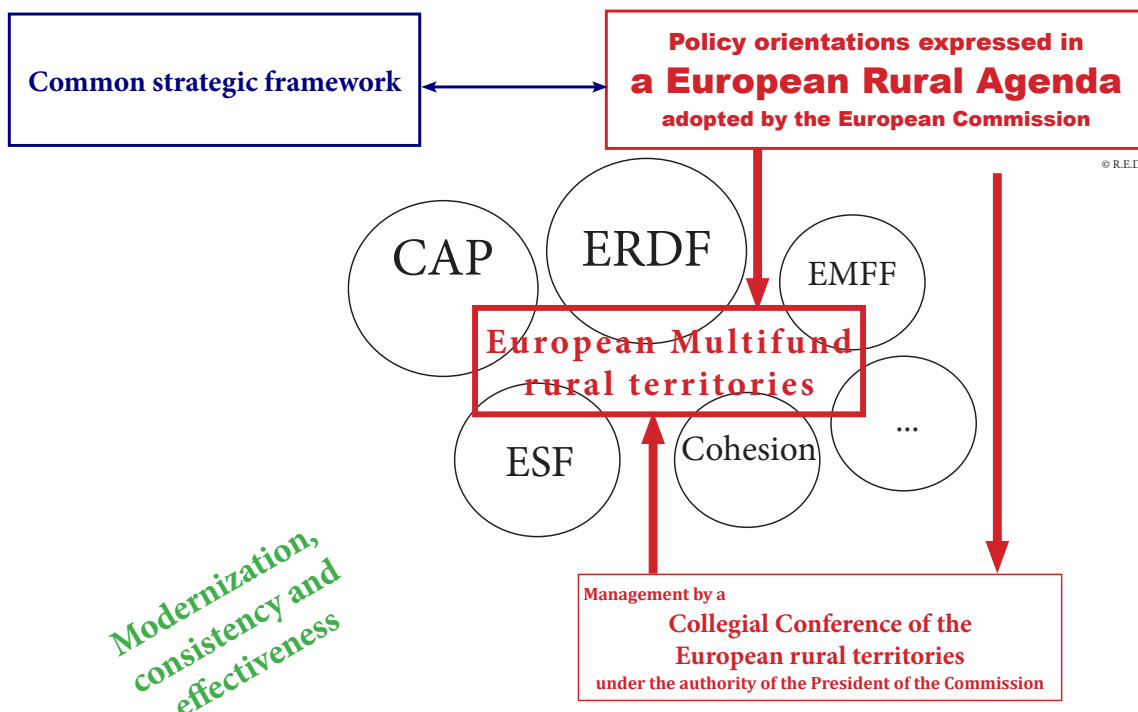
***Discover our orientations for rural territories after 2020  
on [www.ruraleurope.org](http://www.ruraleurope.org)***

## A European rural Agenda for consistency

### A transversal strategic and financial approach

### A European MultiFund for Rural Territories (EMFRT)

- The **European Rural Agenda** expresses the ambition of the European Union for the development of its rural territories. It provides the policy framework and operational guidelines for a future specific policy for the development of rural territories, responding to their diversity and the multisectoral dimension of their economic realities.
  - ⇒ The European Rural Agenda is one of the elements of the Common Strategic Framework and the Partnership Agreements. It is adopted by the whole Commission and by the co-decision bodies of the U.E. (European Parliament, Council). Its adoption, in an expected complementarity with the Urban Agenda, will set in motion the necessary mobilization of all the territories to meet the objectives of the U.E.
  - ⇒ The European Rural Agenda is the essential strategic and operational basis for an useful evaluation of the **Rural proofing**.
- The **European MultiFund for Rural Territories (EMFRT)** is the financial instrument by which the multidimensional ambition of the European Rural Agenda materializes.
  - ⇒ The **European Multifund "Rural Territories" (EMFRT)** is endowed by the different sectoral policies of the E.U. according to the above three fundamental principles. Maintaining its strong link with agricultural policy is considered essential. Whatever the number of pillars of the CAP, the principle is to reserve a part of the CAP budget as a contribution to the EMFRT<sup>1</sup>. Its implementation also clarifies the ERDF contributions for rural territories<sup>2</sup>.
  - ⇒ The management of the EMFRT is driven, under the authority of the President of the Commission, by a **Collegial Conference of European Rural Territories** mobilizing the relevant Commissioners and associating the authorities of the contributing European Funds.



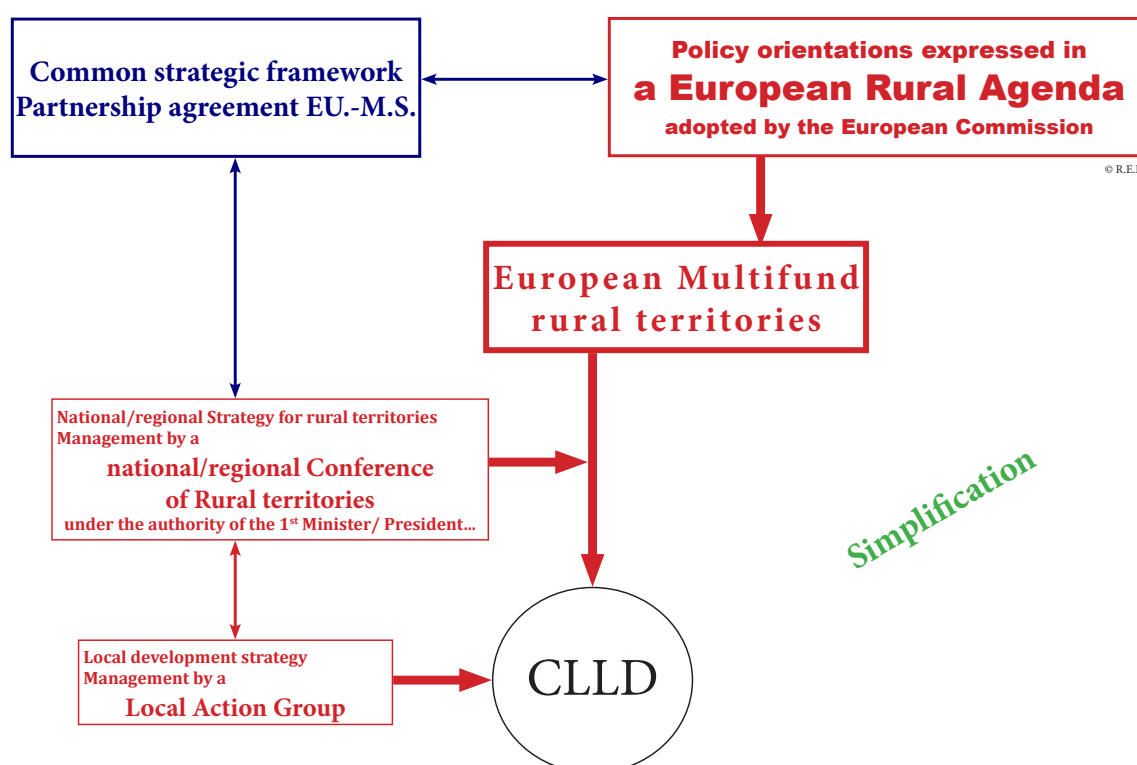
<sup>1</sup> If the hypothesis of a third "rural" pillar is chosen, this third pillar is part of the EMFRT.

<sup>2</sup> Currently shrinking: cfr the report "Evolution of the Budget dedicated for Rural Development Policy" for the European Committee of the Regions - Rosella Soldi – 2016 - ISBN: 978-92-895-0908-4

## ***A European rural Agenda for effectiveness***

### **A simplifying approach for the implementation of the CLLD**

- The integrated and participatory approaches (known as CLLDs) for the development of rural poles are generating savings in resources, thanks to better integration of local objectives and capacities.
- The priority source of funding for the CLLD programs is the European Multifund "Rural Territories" (EMFRT). Their management and implementation are simplified because this central mode of financing better responds to the multisectoral content of the development of rural areas.
- At the national and / or regional levels, a national / regional Conference of Rural Territories supervises the implementation of the funding of the CLLD programs, under the authority of the Prime Minister (or equivalent) and composed of the representatives of the authorities concerned, according to the same principle as at European level.



**« Making Europe grow with its rural territories »**

*Proactive contribution of R.E.D. for the European policy post 2020*

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**A European Rural Agenda post 2020**

**a call from R.E.D. and the European Countryside Movement  
for a common ambition**

**supported by the European Parliamentary Intergroup RUMRA  
by the European Committee of Regions  
by numerous national, regional and local entities**