

RURAL EUROPE – REVISITED

Title for Event:

**Rural Areas can provide more...
Contribution to sustainable solutions**

Basis for/ contributing to a sustainable future in Europe

Outline – 4th draft

Responsible officer: Micky Hickersberger

KEY PARAMETERS

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| Date: | June 14, 2022 |
| Time: | 5:00-7:00 p.m. |
| Location: | Haus der Europäischen Union (80 pers.) & Uniwersytet Rolniczy im. Hugona Kołłątaja w Krakowie (80 pers) & online (max 500 pers) |
| Joint Event: | Ecosocial Forum Austria & Europe and Ecosocial Forum Poland |
| Target Group: | Representatives of Ministries, Chambers, Regional Governments, Municipalities, entrepreneurs and NGOs |
| Co-operation: | Representation of the European Commission in Vienna and Poland |
| Language: | English |

Purpose

1. Cohesion is a fundamental pillar for a stronger European Union, the economic, social, ecological and political dimensions of cohesion are as relevant for member states/regions as for the European level. The project is intended to debate national and cross border considerations that focus in particular on the resilience of rural areas in face of climate change, sustainable recovery and current geopolitical considerations.
2. Moreover we ask, which role rural areas should play in strengthening national and European strategic autonomy in energy, food and resources. How regions can support each other and which prerequisites are necessary.
3. This event should contribute to a stronger cooperation between the Ecosocial Forums in Austria and Poland.

Key questions

- 1) What are the most pressing economic, social, ecological challenges in the EU today and how do these challenges affect rural regions?

- 2) How can rural regions (help to) tackle these challenges through instruments/funds of NextGenerationEU and CAP?
- 3) What contribution can regions make to strengthening strategic autonomy in the areas of energy, food security, resources? **How can European rural regions help member states and the EU to emerge stronger and more resilient from the current crisis?**
- 4) Which resources, prerequisites are necessary?
- 5) Which visions do we have for the role of rural regions in the EU? How can rural regions help to strengthen strategic autonomy?

Event timeline

| Timeline | | | |
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| 17:00 | Welcome procedure | Jacek Pijanowski / Hans Mayrhofer | Hosts |
| 17:05 | Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • challenges in times of crisis • concept of strategic autonomy • relevant questions for today's event | Wilhelm Molterer | |
| 17:15 | Rural Regions Contributing to Strategic Autonomy and European Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission's vision for better (cross-border) regional collaboration • which supporting mechanisms can European institutions provide? | Elisa Ferreira | Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, European Commission |
| 17:30 | Framework conditions for sustainable European resource security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of rural areas in the EU as production sites (food & feed) and an important space for adaptation to climate change • What is the role of rural areas and agriculture in the face of geopolitical, social, economic challenges? • How can the Commission support regions to fulfil these tasks? | Janusz Wojciechowski | Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission |
| 17:45 | How can European rural areas collaborate to strengthen strategic autonomy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How rural regions in Europe collaborate? • What can rural regions provide for European resilience? • What do rural regions need to better face today's challenges? | Martin Fritsch | Board Member, SOFIES Zurich |
| 18:00 | Impacts of Climate Change for European rural areas as production sites, as retention areas etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can rural regions in Europe adapt to climate change? • Forecast for food and energy production in times of climate change? • How must retention areas change? • What is needed so that rural regions can better adapt to climate change? | Zbigniew W. Kundzewicz | https://www.pik-potsdam.de/members/zbyszek |

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| 18:15 | <p>Discussion: How can European rural regions help member states and the EU to emerge stronger and more resilient from the current crisis?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can rural regions contribute to their resilience, to the resilience of member States and the EU? • What can rural regions provide? • How can rural regions better cooperate? • What are the necessary prerequisites? • The role of structural measures and spatial policy for the inclusion of peripheral rural areas – especially in Central and Eastern Europe. | <p>Marianne Penker</p> <p>Christoph Metzker</p> <p>Simone Schmiedtbauer</p> <p>Dacian Ciolos</p> | <p>Professor for Rural Sociology and Rural Development, Deputy Head, Institute for Sustainable Economic Development University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna</p> <p>Board Director, RWA Raiffeisen Ware Austria Aktiengesellschaft</p> <p>MEP, Vice-Chair – Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, Member – Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>MEP, Member – Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development</p> |
| 18:50 | Synopsis & Closing remarks | Wilhelm Molterer | |
| 19:00 | End | | |