

Agenda

4th Meeting

Subgroup on LEADER and territorial development

25 – 26 February 2026

DG AGRI Auditorium,
Rue de la Loi 102,
1000, Brussels



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1. Introduction

The Subgroup on LEADER and territorial development is part of the governance of the European CAP Network. The Subgroup's focus is on the thematic work with CAP stakeholders and EU Member States' administrations regarding LEADER and territorial development. This meeting of the Subgroup will take place over two half-days.

2. The objectives of the 4th meeting of the Subgroup are:

- To provide a policy update on LEADER implementation and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and CAP proposals 2028-2034, on LEADER and territorial development implementation, including Smart Villages, and other relevant initiatives,
- To provide an update on relevant activities of the EU CAP Network linked to LEADER and transnational cooperation.
- To provide an update on LEADER implementation and networking from the members.
- To provide an opportunity for Subgroup members to discuss LEADER's contribution to the strategic priorities identified by the EU CAP Network's Assembly in December 2025 and to identify topics for the next Annual Work Programme (AWP) of the EU CAP Network.



Timing	Agenda item
Day 1 – 25 February 2026	
13.30 – 14.00	Registration
14.00 – 14.10	Welcome and introduction by the Chair (DG AGRI)
14.10 – 14.40	Update on LEADER implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy updates on LEADER implementation and its context, including information on RDP & CAP Strategic Plans implementation, communicating the EU, counteracting disinformation and Pact for Eastern Border Regions, <i>DG AGRI</i> • Q&A
14.40 – 15.10	Responses of Local Action Groups and Member States - Community, democracy and fair information – Reflections and examples from the LEADER Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Action Groups’ activities for crisis preparedness and community resilience in Latvia, <i>Latvian Rural Forum, Latvia</i> • Local Action Groups’ activities for crisis preparedness and community resilience in Lithuania, <i>Lithuanian Rural Communities Association, Lithuania</i> • Crisis preparedness, local initiatives and communicating the EU in Finland, <i>National Network, Finland</i>
15.10 – 15.45	The future: LEADER and the MFF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on the state of play of the MFF and CAP proposals 2028-2034, <i>DG AGRI</i> • Q&A
15.45 – 16.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.15 – 17.00	EU CAP NETWORK ACTIVITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on LEADER-related activities, including support to LEADER networking and cooperation, key messages from past events, and good practices, <i>EU CAP Network</i> - with reflections from Subgroup members, • LEADER and social resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEADER, Local Action Groups and social capital, <i>Professor Elena Pisani, University of Padua, Italy</i> ○ Inputs from Subgroup members for the planned EU CAP Network workshop on LEADER and social resilience, <i>EU CAP Network</i> ○ Q&A



<p>17.00 – 17.45</p>	<p>Inspirations from members: LEADER, Smart Villages and other initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from Subgroup members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Our Common Future” – a TNC project involving 13 Member States, exploring the new LEADER Added Value, democracy, innovation, and other themes, <i>LEADER Forum, Austria</i> ○ Support to Smart Villages and specific good practices, <i>National Network (CREA), Italy</i> ○ Activities of the Rural Network and Local Action Groups in Spain, <i>National Rural Network, Spain</i> • Inspirational examples of LEADER Networking - <i>from Subgroup members</i> • Update on the activities of the Rural Pact Support Office, <i>Rural Pact Support Office</i>
<p>17.45 – 18.00</p>	<p>Closing the day</p>
<p>18.00 – 19.30</p>	<p>Networking cocktail and light buffet <u>Venue:</u> Building “The One” (<i>rue de la Loi 107</i>)</p>



Timing	Agenda item
Day 2 – 26 February 2026	
08.30 – 09.00	Registration
09.00 – 09.10	Introduction to Day 2 (DG AGRI)
09.10 – 10.10	<p>Strategic priorities identified by the EU CAP Network’s Assembly - Sharing experiences from Local Action Groups and Member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building for youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth engagement and Smart Villages in Poland, <i>LAG Dorzecze Bobrzy - Leader, Poland</i> • Leadership for women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mainstreaming gender equality in Austrian LAGs and increasing LEADER impact now and for the future, <i>National Network and Managing Authority, Austria</i> ○ Women in farming platform, <i>DG AGRI</i> • Unlocking and strengthening Rural Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The “SMART ERA – Your Community, Our Future” Horizon Europe project, <i>project manager – SMART ERA project</i> • Regional resilience and territorial aspects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The “Ready” initiative on rural readiness and crisis preparedness, <i>Swedish LEADER association, Sweden</i> • Reflections from Subgroup members
10.10 – 10.25	Introduction to the interactive session
10.25 – 10.55	<i>Coffee break</i>
10.55 – 12.25	<p>Interactive session to identify potential LEADER topics for the 2026/2027 Annual Work Programme of the EU CAP Network</p> <p><i>Groupwork in breakout rooms based on the strategic priorities identified by the EU CAP Network’s Assembly, listed in the background document shared with members on 02/02/2026</i></p>
12.25 – 12.45	Summary of the interactive session discussions
12.45 – 13.00	AOB, summary and closing the meeting

