

EUROPEAN POLICY FORUM

Session on public policy initiatives supporting rural women and farmers

Agenda

24 – March – 2025 (10 am – 12.30 pm CET)



Following the integrated transdisciplinary and multi-level approach of the [GRASS CEILING](#) project, the [online European Policy Forum](#) for women-led innovation in agriculture and rural aims to mobilise stakeholders and provide a space to foster impactful dialogue, between project stakeholders and the wider community of external actors, that goes beyond sharing results.

The [Forum](#) plays a key role in pushing for change and increase women-led socio-ecological innovations in farming, the rural economy and in rural communities.

After the [launching session last October](#), **this session seeks to showcase and examine existing good practices of public support in Member States**, identified through the project, in particular with civil servants responsible for schemes related to supporting women in agriculture and rural areas within the frameworks of the Common Agricultural Policy, cohesion, green and digital transitions, among others.

Additionally, the session aims to delve into the factors contributing to the success of these practices and explore the potential for a systemic approach to their design, implementation, and monitoring in the upcoming programming period post-2027.

It will be organised around the publication of the [Vision for Agriculture and Food](#) and the [Roadmap for Women's Rights](#).



Timing	Agenda item	Speakers
10.00 – 10.05	Welcome and introduction	AEIDL (European Association for Innovation in Local Development) – Blanca Casares
10.05 – 10.20	GRASS CEILING project: findings and lessons learned	South East Technological University (SETU) – Project coordinator, Professor Sally Shortall Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) – Charlene Lambert
10.20 – 10.35	Driving Change: EU Research and Innovation by and for Rural Women	DG AGRI- Research Programme Officer at European Commission - Arianna Pasa
10.35 – 10.45	The European Policy Forum for women-led innovation in agriculture and rural areas	AEIDL (European Association for Innovation in Local Development) – Blanca Casares
10.45 – 11.25	Good national practices in the use of European funds for the support of women in agriculture and rural life <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Gender Equality in Spain's CAP Strategic Plan 2) Spanish programme Rural Women's Challenge and the use of the European Social Fund 3) Mentorship programmes for rural women and/or Women's Farmer Capital Investment Scheme in Ireland 4) Women in Agriculture Taskforce in Scotland 	(ES) Deputy Director General of Programming and Coordination. General Directorate of Rural Development, Innovation, and Agro-food Training. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food – Isabel Aguilar Pastor (ES) Deputy Assistant Director General. Deputy Directorate for Female Entrepreneurship, Gender Equality in Companies and Collective Bargaining. Institute of Women. Ministry of Equality – Ana Lite Mateo (IE) Project Manager Irish CAP Network – James Claffey (Scotland) Lead official Agriculture and Rural Economy, Agricultural Policy. Scottish Government – Fiona Leslie
11.25 – 11.35	Coffee break	
11.35 – 12.20	Round-table How to systematise public support to women and opportunities to favour innovation ecosystem for women?	Moderator: Blanca Casares (AEIDL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG AGRI – Elena Schubert • CoR – Sari Rautio • EESC – Maria Nikolopoulou • EP – Cristina Guarda* • European Women's Lobby – Laura Kaun • GRASS CEILING – Sally Shortall • FLIARA – Maura Farrell • EU4Advice – Louise Méhauzen • University of Córdoba – Mar Delgado
12.20 – 12.30	Closing	AEIDL (European Association for Innovation in Local Development) – Blanca Casares

