



The European Policy Forum for women-led innovation in agriculture and rural areas: public policy initiatives and the use of EU Funds

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Exploring Gender Equality in Policy: Regional and Rural Perspectives (special session 13)





Gender Equality in Rural and Agricultural Innovation Systems

GRASS CEILING Horizon Europe project (2022-2025) aims to empower rural women and increase the number of socio-ecological innovations led by women in agriculture, the rural economy and rural communities.

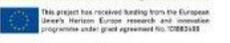
The project contributes to advancing the UN's goals on gender parity, realise the EU Gender Equality Strategy, and achieve the goals of the Green Deal, the Farm to Fork strategy, the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, and the European Pillar of Social Rights.



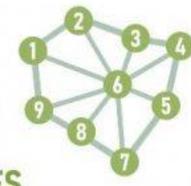
GRASS CEILING in a nutshell



Gender Equality in Rural and Agricultural Innovation Systems



29
PARTNERS
COVERING
9 COUNTRIES



9
LIVING
LABS



72
RURAL WOMEN
INNOVATORS



+1K
WOMEN
TRAINED



OBJECTIVES

1

Establish a testbed through Living Labs (LLs). A space for co-creation of knowledge.

2

Create tools to improve policies that impact on agriculture and rural women innovators.

3

Provide an analysis of the current position of women vis-a-vis the megatrends in European agriculture and rural areas.

4

Co-create knowledge of gender norms and the drivers/enablers of women-led innovation.

LIVING LABS



European Policy Forum for women-led innovation in agriculture and rural areas



Blanca Casares



Serafín Pazos-Vidal



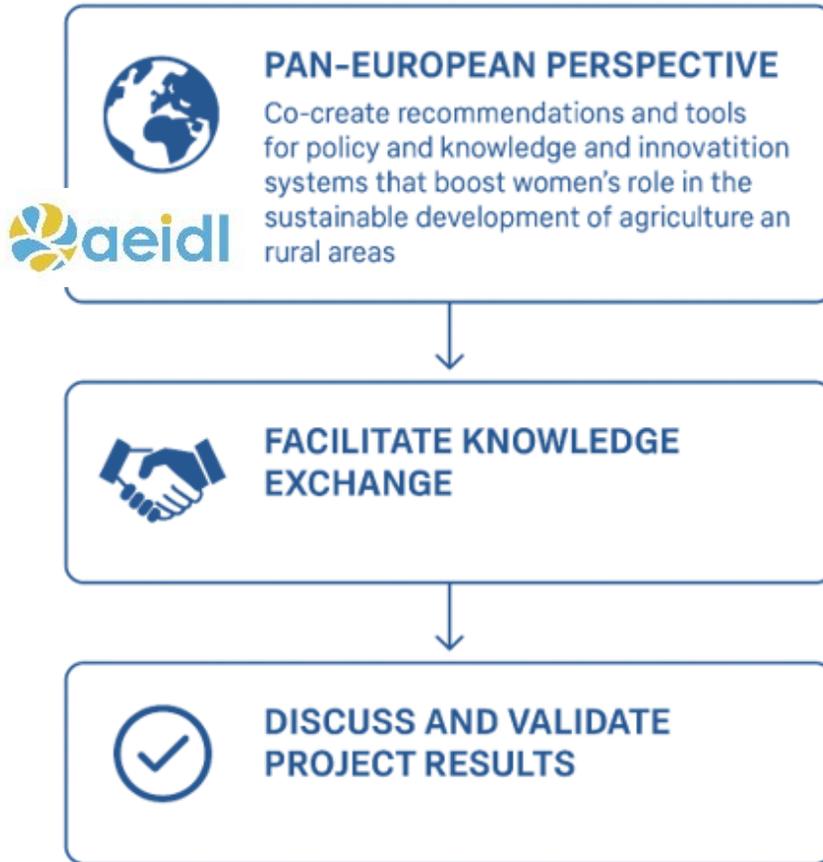
Raquel Pastor



Carla Lostrangio



Miranda García

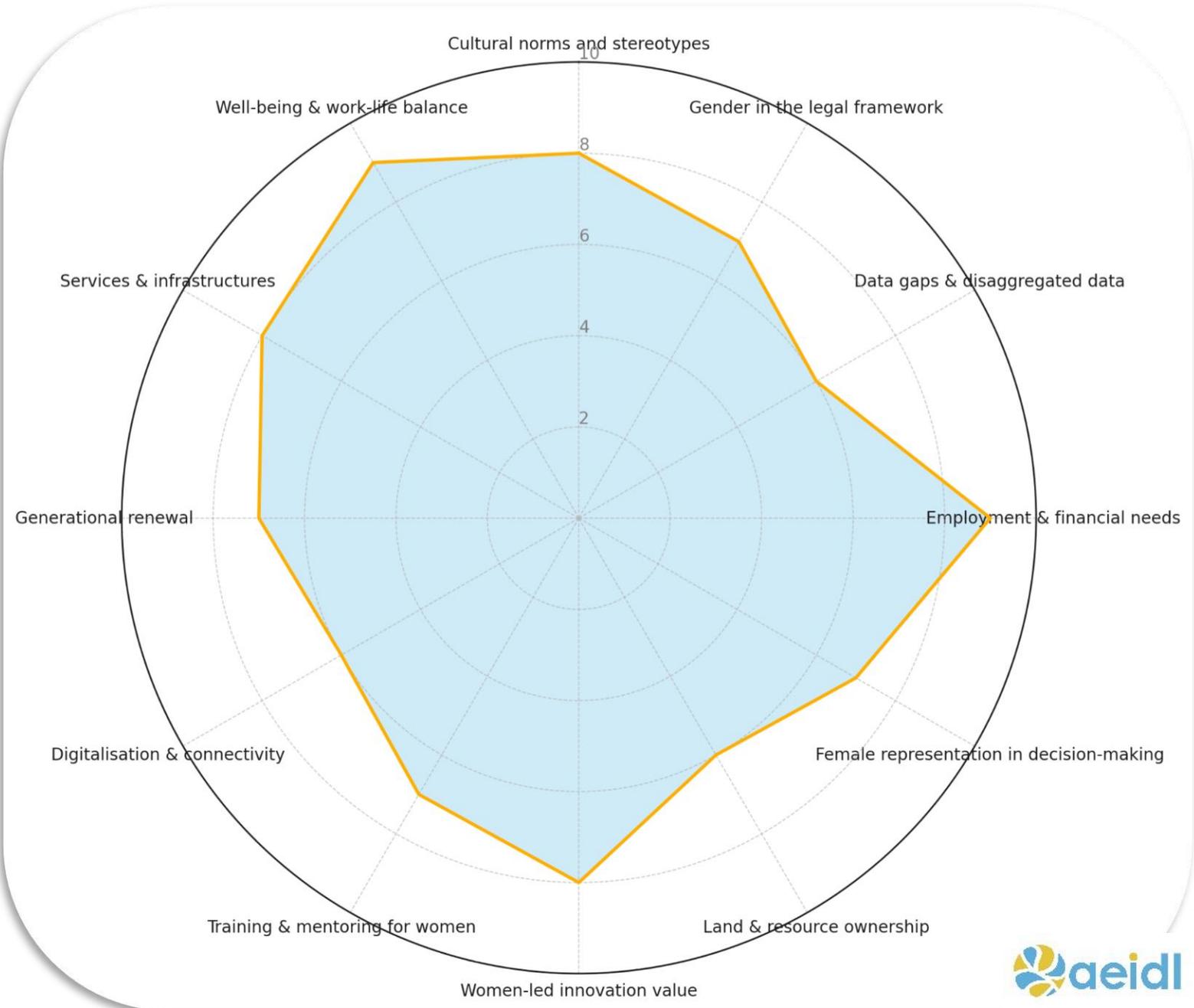


GROUP
Women in Rural Areas



Areas for policy recommendations

1. Cultural norms & stereotypes
2. Gender in the existing legal framework
3. Data gaps & lack of disaggregated data
4. Employment & financial needs
5. Female representation in decision-making
6. Land and other resources access and ownership
7. Women-led rural innovation added value
8. Training, mentoring & network for women
9. Digitalisation & connectivity
10. Generational renewal, involvement of young women
11. Services & infrastructures
12. Well-being and work-life balance



Public policy initiatives and the use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

- ▶ Rural digital hubs and incubators (promote female entrepreneurship & Improve women's labour market participation)

Cohesion Fund (CF)

- ▶ Care infrastructure
- ▶ STEM/digital literacy for rural women
- ▶ R&D and agritech cluster co-funding

European Social Fund (ESF+)

- ▶ Education and skill-building
- ▶ Social inclusion for rural women

European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

- ▶ Gender-sensitive CAP interventions
- ▶ Higher aid intensity & extra points in funding selection for women
- ▶ Start-up aid for female farmers & support for women-led cooperatives
- ▶ Training and leadership programmes
- ▶ Cooperation and AKIS
- ▶ Support for LAGs (Local Action Groups)

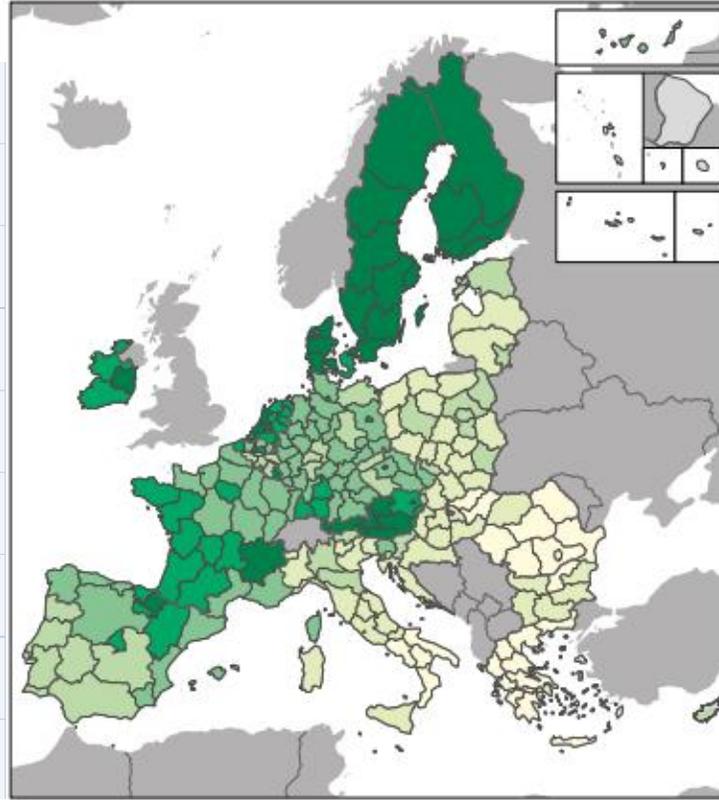
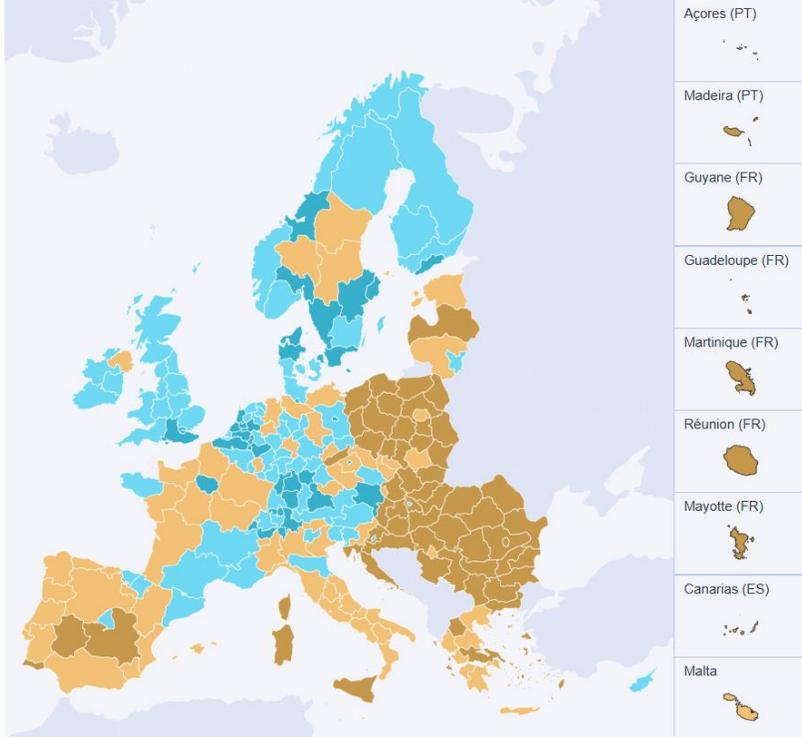
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)

- ▶ Capacity-building and training for women in coastal communities.
- ▶ Support for diversification: e.g. helping women in fishing families transition into tourism, processing, or aquaculture.
- ▶ Support for FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Groups) that included women's representation and targeted gender-sensitive local development initiatives

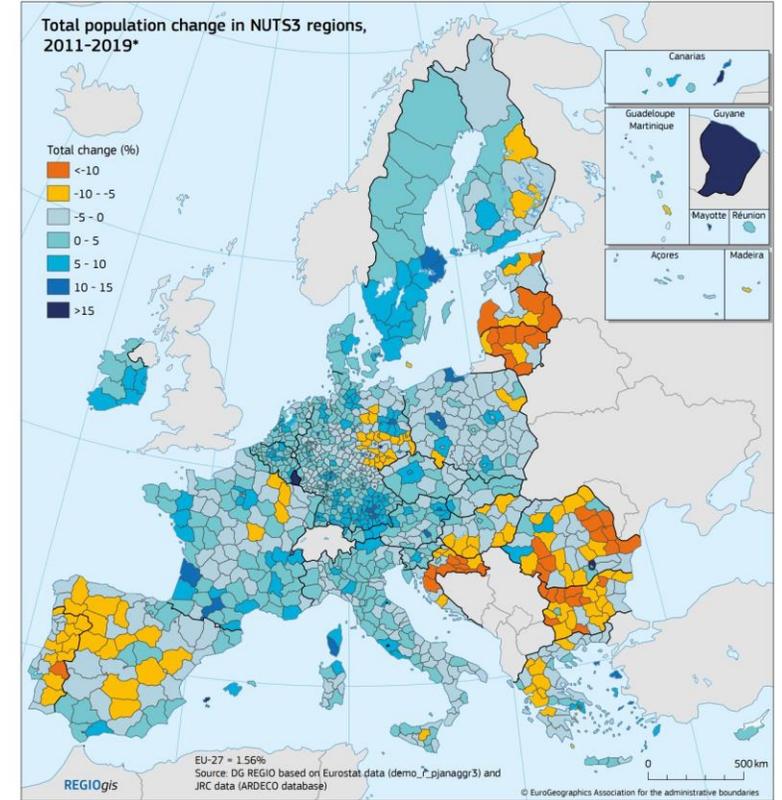
Other opportunities to support innovation ecosystems for women

- ▶ Articulation of the EU Vision for agriculture and Food and the Roadmap for Women's Rights
- ▶ Post-2027 National Plans for EU Funds such as: ESF, ERDF, EARDF, EAGF, EMFAF
- ▶ In Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):
 - ▶ Amendment of strategic plans - since the CAP simplification regulation can be two per year; redesign of CAP interventions & new programming period
 - ▶ Transposition of EGS post 2025 into national strategies
 - ▶ National/regional for
 - ▶ Brain drain/depopulation
 - ▶ Just transition
 - ▶ Smart rural
 - ▶ Generational renewal
 - ▶ National social-climate plans (2025)
 - ▶ EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

The EU regions with the highest gender equality are also the most innovative and have gained population



Female Achievement Index



Declining territories in EU27

Regional Innovation Scoreboard

- Emerging Innovators
- Moderate Innovators
- Strong Innovators
- Innovation Leaders

Low index = low achievement
High index = high achievement

- 0 - 40
- 40 - 50
- 50 - 60
- 60 - 65
- 65 - 70
- > 70
- no data

EU-27 = 57.4
This index measures the regional differences in achievement relative to the region with the highest female achievements. If women score as well as those in the region with the best performing women, the index is high.

Thank you!

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