

EUROPEAN POLICY FORUM

Draft Agenda

Session on Validating Policy Tools for Inclusive Innovation in Agriculture & Rural Areas

4 – November – 2025 (9.30 am – 11.30 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.

This session aims to present the three core instruments of the **GRASS CEILING Policy Toolkit**, currently in its finalisation phase:

- **Gender Proofing Template** for inclusive policy design.
- **Policy Benchmarking Template** to assess and compare gender responsiveness.
- **Design and development framework** for a **Rural Women Innovation Compass**.

The group discussion will focus on **jointly assessing the proposal to develop the Rural Women Innovation Compass**, which seeks to address a critical gap in current monitoring systems, **the availability of disaggregated and rural-specific data**.

The session will bring together approximately **fifteen selected participants**, including **representatives from EU institutions, key GRASS CEILING partners**, and **sister projects** advancing monitoring systems from a **gender and rural perspective**.

Timing	Agenda item	Speakers
9.30 – 9.40	Welcome and introduction	AEIDL (European Association for Innovation in Local Development) – Serafín Pazos-Vidal
9.40 – 9.55	Gender proofing and policy benchmarking in practice: evidence from the GRASS CEILING Project	Newcastle University – Project coordinator, Professor Sally Shortall
9.55 – 10.15	Design and development framework for a Rural Women Innovation Compass	AEIDL (European Association for Innovation in Local Development) – Blanca Casares Guillén
10.15 – 10.55	Group Work – feedback from participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU Monitoring systems mapped ▪ Proposal to the Rural Observatory ▪ Steps for building the compass (barriers and opportunities) 	All participants
10.55 – 11.00	Closing	AEIDL (European Association for Innovation in Local Development) – Blanca Casares Guillén

