



GRASS CEILING

European Policy Forum

for women-led innovation in
agriculture and rural areas

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project coordinator





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.



**HORIZON
EUROPE**

Enhancing the European R&I system



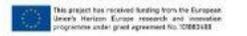
GRASS CEILING in a nutshell

OBJECTIVES

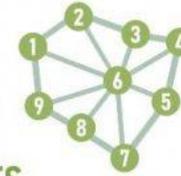
LIVING LABS



Gender Equality in Rural and Agricultural Innovation Systems



29
PARTNERS
COVERING
9 COUNTRIES



9
LIVING
LABS



72
RURAL WOMEN
INNOVATORS



+1K
WOMEN
TRAINED



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.



Croatia



Ireland



Sweden



Spain



Netherlands



Italy



Norway



Lithuania



Scotland



Funded by the European Union

GRASS CEILING – European Poli

Webinar



Structure

What is benchmarking?

Benchmarking and GRASS CEILING

What is the Gender Equality Strategy (GES)?

Gender Mainstreaming and the GES

What documents did we benchmark?

Some examples



What is benchmarking?



Assessing a policy
against key targets

The rationale is to
identify opportunities
for improvement

Initial benchmarking
provides baseline
information against
which future progress
can be measured



What is the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025?



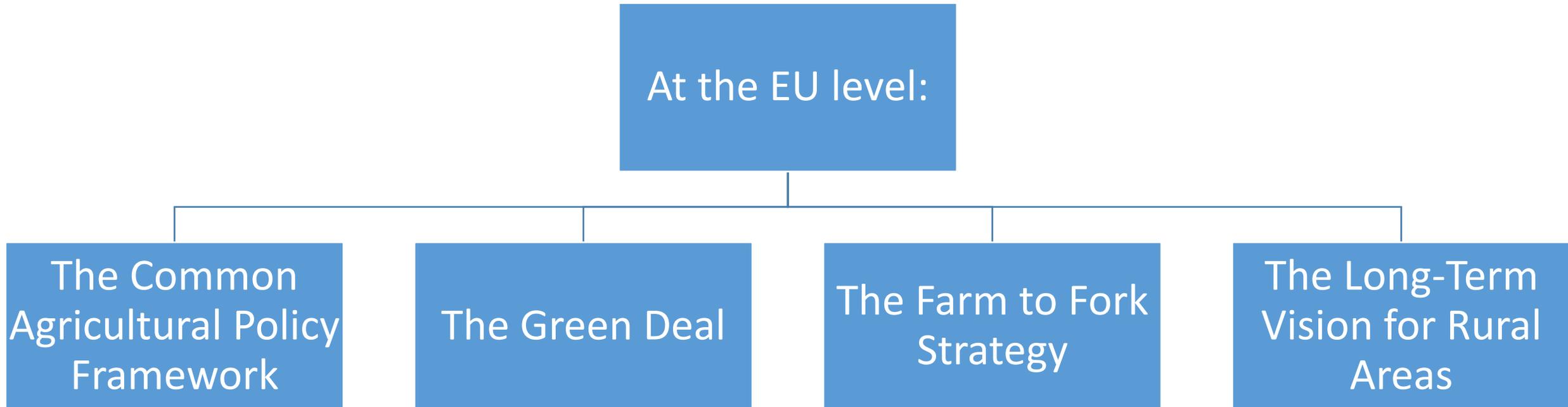
The EU is conscious that gender equality has not been achieved and progress is slow

It identifies key policy and actions to eliminate gender differences

It strives to ensure women and men have equal opportunity to pursue their chosen path and have equal opportunity



What documents did we benchmark?



Template & training webinar for gender benchmarking farm and rural policy



- A toolkit was developed and delivered in Month 4 with training resources for the consortium for benchmarking EU and national policy documents. These resources provide guidelines and frameworks for best practice in benchmarking
- **This toolkit provides: Explanatory materials on benchmarking:** key documents i.e. the GES 2020-2025 and European Pillar of Social Rights, key terms (i.e. benchmarking, gender mainstreaming), links to further resources;
- **A recorded training webinar** by GRASS CEILING project leader on benchmarking best practice;
- **Templates** for benchmarking EU and national policy documents.



Benchmarking: some key findings



- No national equivalents of EU documents
- Poor take-up of gender mainstreaming in CAP national plans
- Sometimes special measures (without eligibility being checked) and no integration in the mainstream
- Women sometimes included in a list of minority or ‘vulnerable’ groups
- **Synergies with digital/AI policies and/or climate change policies are often missing or only lightly identified**

Synthesis report on benchmarking legal frameworks for land transfer



Legal tradition	Countries	Case study	Differences
Napoleonic Law	Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands	Italy	In the Netherlands, governed by Napoleonic Law where all assets must be distributed amongst children, 5% of farm owners are women.
Allodial Law	Norway, Sweden	Norway	In Norway, where the Allodial law was amended in 1974 to make the eldest child the legal heir to the farm in order to address gender inequalities, 14% of farm owners are women (Eurostat, 2016).
Common Law	Ireland, United Kingdom	Ireland	Where English Common Law is practiced and the land can be transferred to a sole heir, 11% of farm owners are women.



Gender Proofing Template Agriculture



- Some of the difficulties of rural proofing and gender mainstreaming
- Unclear goals
- Seen as a positive development because it covers all policies
- Questioned if this approach means it covers *anything*
- Our gender proofing template informed by benchmarking exercise
- Our approach:
 - Clear goals
 - Clear issues to be addressed

Gender Proofing Template Agriculture



Goals:

- **Improve the collection and availability of gender disaggregated data at EU and Member State level**
- **To increase the percentage of land owned by women**
- **To increase women's digital literacy in agriculture**
- **To reduce pension gaps for women on farms**
- **Increase women's access to farm training**

Gender Proofing Template Agriculture



Goals:

- **Ensure gender fair distribution of farm income supports**
- **Increase women's representation in farming organisations**
- **Consideration of senior civil servants with responsibility for implementation of these policies and gender balance**
- **Consultation and monitoring of measures proposed.**



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Thank you!



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