



The Cork Action Plan, from declaration to implementation

European Rural Networks' Steering Group 7th Meeting

Guido Castellano
DG AGRI F1
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The Cork 2.0 Declaration

A Better Life in Rural Areas



The Cork 2.0 Declaration



Policy Orientations

1. Promoting Rural Prosperity
2. Strengthening Rural Value Chains
3. Investing in Rural Viability and Vitality
4. Preserving the Rural Environment
5. Managing Natural Resources
6. Encouraging Climate Action
7. Boosting Knowledge and Innovation
8. Enhancing Rural Governance
9. Advancing Policy Delivery and Simplification
10. Improving Performance and Accountability



Commissioner Hogan's response



"As European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, I accept the Declaration that you have delivered and I commit myself to its implementation."

"Together, we now have the shared objective to ensure that the contents of this Declaration are heard far and wide and by the people that matter."





Implementation of Cork 2.

- Cork 2 offers a vision for EU rural areas
- It emphasises the partnership principle in programming; better targeting of the entire CAP to clearly defined objectives, the need to ensure accountability of our policies.
- Rural and Agricultural policy must interact within the wider context of national and regional strategies, focussing on complementarity and coherence of policies
- Rural Proofing: macro and sectorial policies must pay attention to impacts and implication on rural areas
- The upcoming communication on the "Modernisation and Simplification of the CAP".
- Summary of actions and fora where Cork will be fed in: [Cork 2.0 Action Plan](#) published on DG AGRI web site.



The Cork 2.0 Declaration



From Cork 2.0 Declaration to action

- **Improve public awareness of the potential of rural areas**
 - Activities of the European Network for Rural Development, e.g. workshops on farm resilience, rural business innovation, green economy etc.
 - National rural networks
 - Policy debates and discussion papers
- **Prosperity of rural areas**
 - Conference in June in Ireland on digital innovation hubs
 - Work with Member States and the EIB on better use of financial instruments and the possibilities offered under EFSI



The Cork 2.0 Declaration



From Cork 2.0 Declaration to action

• Invest in rural areas

- EU initiative for smart villages - joint project between several Commission departments
- Conference in Lisbon in October to discuss what Rural Development Policy can do to stimulate innovation and digitisation
- Potential offered by the bio-economy - build on the lessons of the European Innovation Partnership

• A living countryside

- Work with Commissioner Vella on sustainable use of water
- Initiatives starting in Member States on rural community plans looking at improved energy use, circular economy and food processing leading to more tourism activity and a higher attractiveness of rural life
- Community Led Local Development



The Cork 2.0 Declaration



From Cork 2.0 Declaration to action

- **Result-oriented and simple policy**
 - Working group set up in DG AGRI
- **Future of the CAP**
 - Public consultation process just ended
 - Internal Commission work on various policy scenarios is ongoing
 - Conference on 7 July 2017 to present findings of the public consultation
 - Commission Communication to follow later this year



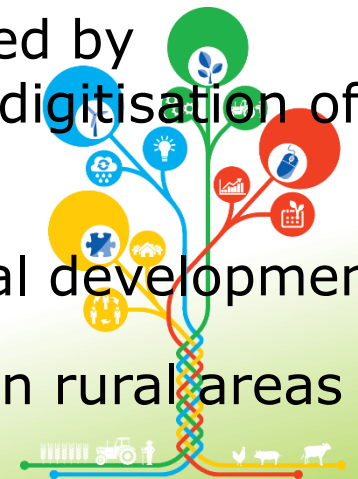


"People and communities are the beating heart of the Cork 2.0 Declaration, which aims to foster a "better life for our rural areas". Our role as policymakers and key stakeholders is to keep people at the heart of the process and involve them closely in every stage of the journey."



Smart village concept

- Reverse outmigration from rural areas
- Attract young people
- Improve job opportunities
- Ensure basic services and infrastructure
- Develop the potential offered by improved connectivity and digitisation of rural areas
- Ensure a balanced territorial development
- Improve the quality of life in rural areas



Smart Village Action Plan

- Compiles actions to develop villages and countryside
- Focuses on policy tools supported by EU funds and helping villages to become "smart"
- Introduces digital technologies for rural businesses, in view of supporting entrepreneurship and enhancing quality of life
- Combines operations and actions of several Commission departments dealing with rural and agricultural policy, regional policy, transport, and connectivity



Relevant recent/upcoming events

- ENRD is running a "Thematic working group on Smart Rural Businesses"
- ENRD Seminar on Rural Business (March 2017)
- Launch of a pilot project on smart eco-social villages (March 2017)
- EIP-AGRI workshop in Bratislava (April 2017)
- Event in Ireland for Digital Innovation Hubs in the agriculture sector (June 2017)
- Innovation conference for rural areas in Lisbon (October 2017)





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Thank you for your attention!



Agriculture
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