

Rural Inspiration Awards 2022: The Future is Youth

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY SUBMISSION

Purpose of the competition:

- To increase the visibility of agriculture and rural development
- To demonstrate innovative solutions affecting rural communities
- To recognise projects that involve young people (under 40 years old) in rural areas
- To present best practice examples
- To demonstrate the geographic region in which the projects are located
- To identify projects which signal a step change in approach, are innovative or have potentially wide transferability within rural communities and thereby may contribute to inspire the future development path for rural areas (as set out in the [long term vision for rural areas](#))
- To promote knowledge exchange and networking among rural stakeholders.
- To assist the common work of NRNs and the ENRD, in the following tasks:
 - o the collection of examples of projects and best practices
 - o the contribution of the projects to the work of the ENRD
 - o facilitating thematic and analytical exchanges.

Thematic categories linked to the long-term vision for rural areas:

1. **Green Rural Futures:** Projects or initiatives tackling climate change, demonstrating sustainability, and/or contributing to the green recovery which signal or demonstrate a step change or a more widely transferable approach.
2. **Digital Rural Futures:** Projects that show a sustainable approach which advances the benefits of digitalisation in farming and rural communities, whether about improving digital and broadband infrastructure, provision of digital services, uptake of new technology or in improving digital skills or knowledge.
3. **Resilient Futures:** Projects that demonstrate their contribution to strengthening the economic resilience of rural Europe, particularly for rural communities and businesses.
4. **Socially Inclusive & Innovative Futures:** Projects that address social aspects in an innovative manner that contribute to the inclusiveness of rural society and support rural entrepreneurs.

Popular vote on youth

The **popular vote** will award one shortlisted project that involves young people (under 40 years old) and it will be available for a public vote. Only applications that indicate the involvement of young people will be eligible for the popular vote.

Award Criteria:

The award criteria will include the following:

- Direct benefits (e.g. job creation, benefits to the environment, market and/or policy uptake, demonstration of sustainability or resilience, etc.).
- Networking benefits e.g. links to other projects, connection to NRN activities/priorities, stakeholder participation.
- Synergy with other EU policies / Contribution to other EU policies.
- Transferability potential (geographical, sectoral, organisational etc)
- Innovative aspect

- Integration of young people in rural areas

Submitted projects:

- All projects must be 2014-2022 EAFRD or EAGF- funded.
 - None of the previously [shortlisted RIA entries](#) may be (re)submitted.
 - Projects should, as a general rule, be completed. Exceptions are made for land management actions under annual/multi-annual commitments (e.g. agri-environment, forestry) or long-term infrastructure initiatives or where finalisation steps were not done due to COVID-19 related delays. For entries by on-going projects, these must already be sufficiently advanced to be able to demonstrate impact or transferability.
 - The projects may only be submitted by NRN/NSUs.
 - Up to eight (8) projects can be submitted per NRN/NSUs.
 - Each NRN/NSU can submit entries across the four themed categories and is responsible for nominating projects to the most appropriate category.
 - The templates must be submitted in **English**.
 - NRN/NSUs should submit outlined templates to be screened for suitability during the preparatory period.
 - The submission period for NSUs ends on 22 July 2022. This date will only be communicated to NRN/NSUs, who can select their own deadlines for project submission in their Member State.
 - There will be 24 shortlisted candidates and 5 prize winners.
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- **Submit your entries & ask any question to: awards@enrd.eu**

Rural Inspiration Awards - ENTRY TEMPLATE

Competition category

Please assign only one category from the drop-down menu.

Does this project involve young people (under the age of 40)?

Project title

Reason for submission

Please summarise the reason why this project should win the competition, its main added value, what makes it special. (max 100 words)

Summary description of project/action

Please summarise briefly what the project/action is about. The summary should indicate i) what was the opportunity, and ii) what were the project activities. (max. 100 words)

Context

Why was the project/action needed? What was the situation to begin with? Please do not mention the objectives here, focus only on the context. (max.300 words)

Objectives

In response to the context set out above, what did the project/action hope **to achieve** and what was its overall approach for doing this? Do not simply list planned activities that will be covered below. (max 100 words).

Activities

What did the project do (or is doing) and in what order did it implement its activities? If possible, include a timeframe; who/which stakeholders are or were involved; the reasons and logic of the approach taken. The aim is to enable readers to really understand what the project did and how so please provide a brief explanation of each activity. (max 500 words)

Results

What did the project/action achieve (or expect to achieve in case of an on-going project)? What has changed (or will change) and how were the identified needs addressed? (max 350 words)

Direct benefits: Where possible, include **quantified** improvements (expected improvements in case of an on-going project). **Qualitative** progress can also be described.

Networking value: *Can the project be considered as an example of good networking? Is it the result of the cooperation of different stakeholders? Please explain how.*

Transferability: *Is the initiative transferable to other areas facing the same issue? Has it been already replicated elsewhere in Europe?*

Synergies with other EU policies: *Have other sources of EU funding been used for this initiative? If yes, which ones and how? Does the project contribute to the objectives of other EU policies? If yes, which ones and how? Does this link, for example, to the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, EU Digital Strategy, EU SME Strategy, EU Gender Equality Strategy? Contribution to more than one EU RD policy objective/FA also applies as 'synergy with other policies'.*

Innovative aspect: *Can the project be considered as innovative? How did the project demonstrate innovation in a local context? Did it result in the creation of new or significantly improved processes, services, products and/or technologies?*

Integration of young people: *Please describe how young people (under 40 years old) have been involved in the project and what has been the impact for them.*

Project general info

Name (project title)	
Dates (Indicate both start and end dates)	
Member State (or region if regionalised RDP)	
Type of beneficiary (public/SME/farmer/EIP OG/NGO, etc.)	
Measure (or measures)	
Priority & Focus Area	

Funding in EURO¹

Total project budget (i)+(ii)+(iii) =	
+ (i) Rural Development Programme support (a)+(b)	
+ (a) EAFRD/EAGF (EU) contribution	
+ (b) National / Regional contribution	
+ (ii) Private / Own funds	
+ (iii) Other funding sources	

Contact details

Project beneficiary name/organisation	
Contact person	
Contact Email	
Telephone	
Address of beneficiary or implementing body	
Other contact details	

Further information

Website	
Additional info sources, links	

Quotes from beneficiaries/project participants

(if available) Please choose quotes that highlight the key message of the project

Project/action photos and/or videos with information on copyrights

A number of photos and/or videos, as available. Photos should be 3MB or larger. Copyrights may be the name of the photographer or in general, the owner of the material's copyrights as indicated by the provider of the project's content. A maximum of 3 photos will be used in the final entry

Additional note

¹ In case more than one measures were used then please provide the above financial data for all measures involved.