



Intergroup Newsletter

October 2021

Overview

We hope you had a good 'back to work' after the summer break. September has been a busy month, but don't worry, the Secretariat's Newsletter is here to update you on what you missed.

The Secretariat is happy to present you the activities carried out by our Intergroup and its members over the past month. In this third edition of the Newsletter, you will find relevant information concerning:

- Intergroup news
- MEPs' Corner
- Member's Corner
- Events
- Twitter Updates

Share your latest updates with us! We would love to hear from you and include your events and news in our next newsletter, so don't forget that you can email us about anything you have been up to.

Happy reading!

Intergroup News

- **Welcome MEP Colm Markey and MEP Alessandro Panza to the Intergroup!**

We are delighted to welcome MEP [Colm Markey](#) (IE, EPP) and MEP [Alessandro Panza](#) (IT, ID) as new members of our Intergroup.

MEPs' Corner

- **MEP Andreas Schieder and former mayor of Bad Ischl, MEP Hannes Heide, hosted the *Europa Frühschoppen***

The "Frühschoppen" is an Austrian folk custom where people meet in the morning for a get together to exchange ideas while enjoying drinks.

The main topics were the alpine associations, which are responsible for the maintenance of hiking trails, the hospitality of huts, plus offering a wide range of leisure activities in the alpine region.

Alpine associations are largely based on voluntary work. Especially associations like "Naturfreunde" support the right to free access to nature. Everyone can join the association and get to know nature as a place to relax and rest, but also as an adventure.

Climate change was also mentioned in this context. According to MEP Heide, voluntary alpine associations play a major role in raising awareness for climate change. Hannes Heide, whose roots lie in the alpine region of the Salzkammergut, has a special appreciation for the voluntary alpine services such as the "Naturfreunde", as well as for their preservation of the natural heritage.

- **MEP Niklas Nienass is organising the Zukunft.Land.Leben Conference on 18-21 November**

The rural areas as the home of the good life ?! Yeah sure! That can succeed if we all get involved. Many people, initiatives and institutions have already rolled up their sleeves.

They founded village shops, opened multigenerational houses in the village centre, and converted train stations for culture and socialising. Imaginative, courageous and future-oriented. Now it's time for the next step: The establishment of good structures, even where the strength for renewal was previously lacking.

Learn more about it [here](#)!

Members' Corner

- **EUMA – “3 Million members, 27 organisations and one goal: Make the voice of the mountains heard in Europe!”**

The European Mountaineering Association – short EUMA – stands for 3 million people, 27 organisations and everything, which is connected to sustainable mountaineering.

Its mission is simple: The EUMA stands in on one hand for free – and responsible – access to mountains and on the other hand for environmental, social and economic sustainability for European mountain regions which are mostly in rural areas.

The third main goal is to strengthen the European Community spirit and bring the issues of sustainable mountaineering closer to the responsible players in the European Union. EUMA projects, like the mountain hut map of Europe, are making this happen on a practical level.

Learn more about it [here](#)!

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- **CEJA – “UN Food Systems Summit: we won’t solve the sustainability equation without farmers**

Find here the last edition of Territorial, the ESPON magazine on rural areas. It features an interview with Commissioner Suica on the Long Term Vision for Rural Areas.

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- **CEJA – CEJA President and winegrower Diana Lenzi addressed EU agriculture Ministers today during the informal AGRIFISH Council meeting in Kranj (Slovenia) on the topic of strengthening dialogue between urban and rural areas.**

Find the full speech [here](#).

Events

Upcoming Events!

- **12 October - Being Young in a Mountain Area in 2021 organised by EUROMONTANA**

Can young people fulfil their aspirations by staying in the mountains? What are the obstacles that slow down those who want to settle in the mountains or those who want to stay in the mountains?

We will present the **results of our wide European study on mountain youth**, give the floor to some inspiring young people and involve policymakers in the discussions.

More information [here!](#)

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- **NSPA: 12 October - Arctic green, digital transition: solutions for recovery through cross-border cooperation**



Arctic green, digital transition: solutions for recovery through cross-border cooperation" will showcase regional examples from Arctic and near-Arctic regions, to inspire discussions on a high-level political panel in collaboration with the audience.

The workshop will explore **how regional cross-border cooperation contributes to the EU Green Deal and Europe's recovery, and how EU policy must enable a green and digital transition, by also learning from the forerunners in green projects.**

More information [here!](#)

- **12 October - Daily Mobility: How To Improve The Quality of Life of Mountain Inhabitants?**

EUROMONTANA is organising an online conference to discuss how can the specific constraints of mountain areas can be considered to improve daily mobility? Representatives of the European Commission and speakers will explore how the combination of different solutions can concretely improve mobility in the daily life of mountain inhabitants while investigating greener and more sustainable solutions.

More information [here!](#)

- **13 October - Connectivity To Spark Rural Innovation: Building The Future for Remote Areas!**

Join the discussion with MEP Maria de Graca Carvalho and Enda Stenson, Rapporteur for the Revitalisation of rural areas trough Smart Villages, on **how to build the future for remote areas**.

Registration and full details are [available here!](#)

GET YOUR TICKET NOW!
<https://bit.ly/3ignnnU>

13th October '21
11:30 - 12:30 CEST

REInA eu40[®]
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RUMRA Rural Urban Mission for the Atlantic
& SMART VILLAGES

CONNECTIVITY TO SPARK RURAL INNOVATION:
BUILDING THE FUTURE FOR REMOTE AREAS!

 Reinald Krüger Group Public Policy Development Director at Vodafone Group	 Sandra Isabel Novo Founder & CEO, Market Sostenibles	 Cllr. Enda Stenson Rapporteur for the Revitalisation of rural areas through Smart Villages, European Committee of the Regions	 Maria da Graça Carvalho Member of the European Parliament	 Isidro Laso Member of Mariya Gabriel's Cabinet European Commission	 Méabh McMahon Journalist Euronews
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#StartupOLÉ #REInA #EU40 #RUMRA

An official side event of the **#EURegionsWeek 2021** programme

- **13 October - Get Out of Town #2 webinar: Rural Barometer - Unveiling Citizens' Needs**

Don't miss our next **Get out of Town webinar** hosted by **MEP Franc Bogovič** and organised by the FREE Initiative (Future of Rural Energy in Europe) and the RUMRA & Smart Villages Intergroup, where we will present **the results of a Rural Barometer survey conducted across Europe** and **unveil the citizens' needs!**

Registration and full details can be found [here](#)!

- **NSPA: 14 October - 2021 Arctic Circle Assembly**

The largest annual international gathering on the Arctic will take place as an in-person event.

Click [here](#) for more!



Save the Date!

- **Smart Villages: 2 November - Rural areas in 2040: Addressing global challenges of rural areas with Smart Villages at the Dubai 2020 World Expo**

Dubai is one of the most forward-thinking, technologically-advanced cities in the world. A man-made marvel, it is no surprise that Dubai is on its way to becoming a model smart city. Besides smart cities, we must, however, also consider the smaller players: Smart Villages.

Embracing technological advancements are the way of the future and can have a significant impact on rural and remote communities. In this two-part event, major global industry players come together with high-level European institution representatives and national politicians, for an insightful debate on the opportunities and challenges of smart villages, followed by a three-dimensional, holographic presentation of their vision for smart villages. The event will be live-streamed online.

- **NSPA: 10-11 November - EU Arctic Forum and Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue**

The European Commission and the European External Action Service will organise a **high-level EU Arctic Forum and the Annual Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Dialogue** on 10 and 11 November 2021 in Brussels. The High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell and Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius will host the events.

To register, click [here](#)!

- **NSPA: 16-17 November - Rovaniemi Arctic Spirit 2021**

Rovaniemi Arctic Spirit Conference 2021 is a place where the Arctic meets Europe. The conference discusses **current and future developments in the Arctic with focus on European Arctic regions**.

The themes include:

- 1) The international public launch of Finnish presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council;
- 2) Arctic security;
- 3) Regional cooperation with focus on Barents, Finland and the European Union in the Arctic.

Find more about it [here](#)!

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- **Smart Rural 21 Project: 4-5 November - 2nd Smart Rural Regional Workshop: Enabling Future Smart Villages**



The workshop is organised in the framework of the EU-funded 1st Preparatory Action on Smart Rural areas in the 21st Century (shortly called Smart Rural 21) project in cooperation with Stanz im Mürztal (selected Smart Rural 21 village), with the purpose of:

- 1) Presenting the outcomes of the Smart Rural 21 project to date including lessons learnt from working with 21 selected rural communities;
- 2) Exchanging about the state-of-play of Smart Villages and how to create a supportive Smart Villages policy framework with particular focus on post-2020 CAP, Cohesion Policy and other relevant policies;
- 3) Presenting inspiring smart village cases;
- 4) Learning more about how Smart Villages can contribute to reduction of CO2 emissions including renewable energy and local energy communities.

The 2nd Smart Rural 21 Regional Workshop is planned to be face-to-face while live-streaming will be provided for those who cannot travel to the venue. It is important for us to know as soon as possible who is willing to travel in November to Stanz, so that we can reserve sufficient number of rooms and arrange other logistics.

To help you plan your trip, please find attached a detailed practical information document. Please complete the registration form by no later than 15 October whether you are planning to attend the online sessions or participate face-to-face.

Register [here!](#)

- 30 November to 3 December 2021 – LEADER 30 Years celebration & conference.

For more info, click [here](#)!

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 3

SAVE THE DATE

LEADER 30 Years celebration & conference |
Halmstad, Sweden

After thirty years of working with LEADER, it is time to celebrate our successes, but also to look forward!

We will take a look on successful LEADER-implementation during 30 years, but also investigate how we can work for local democracy and participatory approaches all over rural Europe in order to build a viable Europe.

We look forward to a programme full of LEADER-friends and to your participation!

Enjoy the summer!

Best of greetings,
Marion Eckardt

Preliminary programme

30.11 – Arrival Day
Arrival to Halmstad, Sweden
Common dinner

1.12 – Conference Day
30 years of LEADER-Fame and success-stories
Long term Vision of Rural Areas – Stock-taking. How is the implementation running?
Workinggroups on future steps
Common Dinner

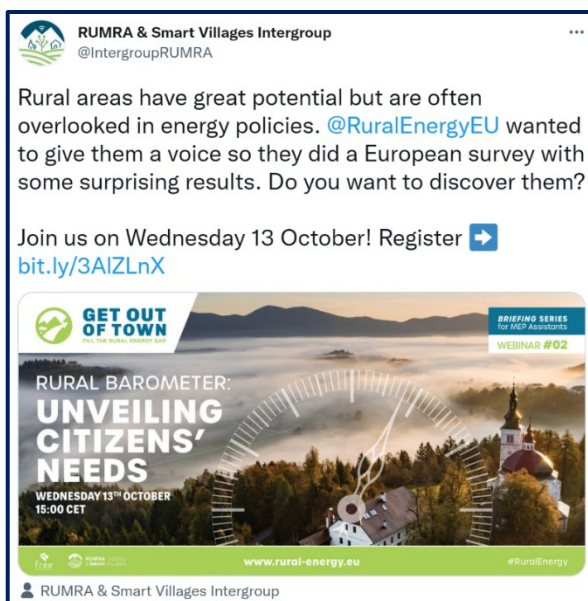
2.12 – Excursion and celebration
Workinggroup continues
Excursions to different rural development and LEADER-venues
Common Dinner and PARTY!

3.12 – Going home

European Leader Association for Rural Development
Brussels, www.elard.eu

SWEDISH PRESIDENCY
2020-2021

Twitter



- We kindly invite you to follow our [Twitter handle](#) and to interact with our publications.
- We invite you to [retweet](#) our upcoming events with your contacts. Let's spread the word and **fill the rural energy gap!**
- We are proud to share with you the **most successful [tweet](#) of the month**. The tweet, on the occasion of the event Health Access in Rural Areas, co-organized with *All Policies for Healthy Europe*, generated 142 impressions and 22 total engagements.

