



# Achievements and initiatives of the European Commission concerning support and promotion of women in rural areas

***03 December 2012, Warszawa  
György Mudri- DG AGRI unit G1-  
Consistency of rural development***

# The situation of women in rural areas

- **The situation of women in rural areas is very diverse across** the Member States, as regards possibilities and requirements.
- **Training problem:** lack of education vs educated women leave rural areas- no adequate job and private life.
- **Specific interests and potential** in order to mobilise the development potential of an area and improvement of the **local development**.
- Women can contribute by active entrepreneurship, decision making, etc.

**Complexity!**

# Analysis of the situation

- Promoting women in rural areas and stimulation of gender mainstreaming **plays a crucial role in rural areas** that are aiming at building on their human and social potential.
- Mid-term evaluation of RDPs 2007-2013, SWD on a view on employment, growth and innovation in rural areas
- Member States and regions have to carefully **analyse the situation and design**, within the framework provided by the future policies, tailor-made measures linked to the local conditions and taking account of specific problems women face there.

# Different recommendations on community level

- European Parliament (2008, 2010), The Advisory Group "Women in Rural Areas,,, the Inter-service Group on Equality between Women and Men, EESC, etc.
  - **Employment-related**, with difficulties for women to access employment and having a status as workers with regular social protection.
  - Equal **access to work and salary** too.
  - **The difficulties of the quality of life in rural areas** (infrastructure- linked) means further challenges, there is a need for improving the general living conditions of women in rural areas by offering accessible rural services, to open up more possibilities.
  - The reports are calling women to favour entrepreneurship and the **participation of women in the decision making processes**.
- The systematic integration of the gender equality should be ensured at each step of the policy cycle from the definition of the objectives to their evaluation, supporting specific gender actions when needed.

# Different gender-focused research projects (FP6 and FP7)

- - CAHRV, *Co-ordination action on Human Rights violation (2004-2007)*
- - FEMAGE, *Needs for female Immigrants and their integration in ageing societies (2006-2008)*
- - FEMCIT, *Gender Citizenship in multicultural Europe: the impact of the contemporary women's Movements (2007-2011)*
- - FeMiPol, *Integration of female immigrants in labour market and society. Policy assessment and policy recommendations (2006-2008)*
- - GEMIC, *Gender, migration and intercultural interactions in the Mediterranean (2008-2011)*
- - GEMMA, *Enhancing evidence based policy-making in gender and migration (2008-2010)*
- - GENDERACE, *The use of racial anti-discrimination laws: gender and citizenship in a multicultural context*
- - MAGGIE, *Major ageing and gender issues in European Commission*
- - QUING, *Quality in gender equality policies (2006-2011)*
- - VEIL, *Values, equality and differences in liberal democracies. Debates about female Muslim headscarves in Europe (2006-2009)*
- - WAVE, *welfare and values in Europe: transitions related to religion, minorities and gender (2006-2009)*
- - FLOWS, *Impact of local welfare systems on female labour force participation and social cohesion (2011-2014)*

# Women in the EU RD Policy 2007-2013

The principle of non-discrimination is strongly embedded into the EU rural development legislation (in line with Articles 2 and 3 of the EC Treaty)

The Rural Development policy addresses equality between men and women at different stages of the policy development and implementation:

- **Community Strategic Guidelines**
- **Rural Development Regulation**
- **Programming principles**
- **Monitoring and evaluation**

# Overview of the women in RDPs- based on the Mid-term Evaluation

- Member States **generally remained gender neutral**, following the principles of equality between men and women
- Gender equality is a **horizontal issue**
- There are examples on **specific actions** to encourage female participation in the programme
- Priority to women in the selection criteria
- Women are better targeted by Axis 3 and 4 in most cases
- There is a positive trend in the number of women applying for support- indicating a move towards a more equal gender distribution
- The representatives of LAGs are gender equal or dominated by women.

# Gender mainstreaming in the future policies



# Rural development in a new framework

## Europe 2020 strategy

## Common Strategic Framework (CSF)

– covering the EAFRD, ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund and EMFF, and reflecting EU2020 through common thematic objectives to be addressed by key actions for each of the funds

## Partnership Contract

– national document outlining the intended use of the funds in the pursuit of EU2020 objectives

## Rural development policy: EAFRD

## Other CSF funds (ERDF, ESF, CF, EMFF)

*Innovation, Environment and Climate Change as cross-cutting objectives*

Priorities

*Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas*

Enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and farm viability

Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture

Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry

Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors

Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

Rural Development Programme(s)

# General principles for gender issues in the CSF

- 1. Article 7** of the proposed common provision regulation the horizontal principle of the promotion of equality between man and women and non-discrimination for all Common Strategic Framework (CSF) funds
- 2. The Code of conduct on partnership in CSF** (under elaboration): gender equality and the involvement of women a basic principle
- 3. Ex-ante conditionality on gender equality:**  
respect of equality and addressing gender related issues a fundamental precondition for approval of programmes

#### **4. Partnership Contract and each programme:**

Member States shall organise a partnership also with bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination (Art 5, paragraph 1 c)

#### **5. Requirements on representation of women and minority groups in the policy implementation cycle (monitoring committee, ensuring publicity of the programme, e.g.)**

# Principles in relation to the future RD

- **General principles** for gender issues under RD
- **Possibilities for Managing Authorities and Local Action Groups (LAGs)** to stimulate and prioritise women issues in the rural socio-economic life
- **Several tools are provided that can be used to promote gender equality:**
  - training and knowledge transfer measures
  - co-operation measures
  - farm and business development support
  - farm relief services (replacement of a farmer)
  - access to credit/ financial engineering
  - infrastructure
  - LEADER

# Specific targeted actions for gender equality

- Programming procedure:
  - **Analysis of the situation in SWOT context.**
  - **Definition of needs and strategy**
  - **Identifying instruments**
  - **General instruments: selection criteria**
  - **Talior made, targeted actions.**

# Thank you!

More information on the future legislations:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/proposals\\_2014\\_2020\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm)