



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

Budapest, Hungary
6-8 June 2023

Language: English and Russian
Venue: [Radisson Blu Beke Hotel](#), Budapest, Hungary

CONCEPT NOTE

Rural communities, smallholders and family farmers in Eastern Europe and Central Asia usually face many development constraints and problems, which are complex and inter-related in their nature. In order to accelerate the development of rural areas, contribute to rural transformation and poverty reduction and not to leave anybody behind, an integrated and cross-sectoral approach is often needed. The Agenda 2030 and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals also require a more integrated and cross-sectoral approach to development, addressing several problems at the same time in a coordinated and coherent way.

In Europe and Central Asia for more than a decade FAO has supported or is currently working on different initiatives and projects related to local rural development/integrated community development in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Based on country experiences, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) aims at further developing the concept of integrated community development for the region. As part of the FAO REU Regional Initiative on empowering smallholders, family farms and youth through inclusive rural transformation, digitalization and innovation, in 2019 FAO REU organized the 1st Regional Workshop on integrated community development during which established an informal regional technical network on community development. To support the development of the network and strengthen partnerships with key regional and national stakeholders FAO REU will organize the 3rd Regional Workshop in 2023.

Participants are expected to be from Governments, civil society, academia, private sector and international organizations with an interest in and working with local rural development and community development.

The workshop will be held on **6-8 June 2023 in Budapest**. On the first day a **field visit** near Budapest will be organized where good practices on rural development will be showcased and discussed. The following **two days of sessions and discussions** will cover the below-mentioned topics:

- Discuss country needs and support provided at policy level for local rural development;
- Present the main results of the ongoing FAO study on *Integrated community development and other territorial approaches in Europe and Central Asia*, and discuss its recommendations;
- Present and discuss different approaches, practical experiences and lessons learnt in local rural development;
- Discuss policy options for supporting the development of rural communities in the region with special focus on rural youth;
- Raise awareness on resilience of family farming and the situation of rural youth;
- Showcase country experiences on local rural development, including EU LEADER approach for non-EU countries;
- Continue the development of the technical network on community development and contribute to the establishment of new partnerships between governments, international organizations, donors, civil society, academia and private sector with interest in local rural development.

We are looking forward to welcoming all partners in Budapest.

AGENDA

6 JUNE 2023 – TUESDAY	
FIELD TRIP	
08:00 – 21:30 (lunch and dinner are included in the countryside)	
<p><i>The primary objective of the field trip and workshop is to provide participants with hands-on experience in local food systems, encompassing small-scale agriculture production, community gardens, short food chains, and other elements. These experiences aim to demonstrate an environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable alternative to industrial agriculture. During the field trip, we will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from the local rural development association (LEADER LAG) and explore a comprehensive socio-economic project. This project encompasses agricultural production and trade, as well as cultural and community development in a small settlement.</i></p> <p><i>In the workshop, we will engage in discussions with the participants, reflecting on our observations during the field trip. Together, we will brainstorm how these experiences can be adapted to their own national environments, fostering strategic pathways for progress.</i></p>	
08:00	Meeting at the Radisson Blu Beke Hotel in the lobby
08:15-09:15	Transfer by bus to the territory of the Börzsöny-Duna-Ipoly Rural Development Association Local Action Group (LAG)
09:30-12:15	<p>Rural development through the local food system <u>Project visits:</u> Kismaros – Kismaros Monostori Ízek – fruit processing from local products</p> <p><i>Transfer to Szob/Zebegény</i></p> <p>Visit in Zebegény/Szob:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADER approach and funded projects • INTERREG project
12:15-12:45	Transfer to Kóspallag
12:45-13:45	Lunch at Kóspallag
13:45-17:30	<p>Youth in rural development in the settlement of Kóspallag - a small developing village</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction by the mayor • Walking tour in the organic farm operating as a social enterprise • <i>Opportunity to buy local products made by small scale producers</i> <p>Workshop on the role of local products and short food supply chains in local development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Local food systems as the accelerators of rural/community development • Group work • Wrap-up and conclusions
17:30-18:00	Transfer to Lek-vár-lak (LEADER supported project) - Nagybörzsöny
18:00-18:50	Traditional fruit processing manufacture and rural tourism guided tour
19:00-20:00	Dinner at Malomkert Restaurant - Nagybörzsöny
20:00-21:30	Bus transfer back to the hotel

7 JUNE 2023 - WEDNESDAY	
08:30–09:00	Registration - Coffee and tea
Session 1 – Introduction and overview Moderator: <i>Sophie Treinen, Communication for Development Officer, FAO HQ</i>	
09:00–09:10	Welcoming words and reflection on the importance of community development in the region by Vladimir Olegovich Rakhmanin , FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia
09:10–09:20	Welcoming words and reflections on the importance of territorial approaches in the region by the co-organizer, Vesna Djuteska-Bisheva , Regional Team Leader, Inclusive Growth, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
09:20–09:30	Overview of the Programme by Katalin Ludvig , FAO REU
09:30–09:50	Reflections of the participants on the field trip
09:50–10:05	Enhancing sustainable local development to improve resilience of rural communities by István Fehér , Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences
10:05–10:20	Integrated community development – needs and solutions from the perspective of the civil society by Aida Jamangulova , on behalf of Nyeleni ECA
10:20–10:30	Questions and discussion
10:30–10:50	Coffee and tea break
Session 2 – Country needs and support provided at policy level for local rural development Moderator: <i>Sophie Treinen, Communication for Development Officer, FAO HQ</i>	
10:50–11:05	The Rural Development Approaches of Kazakhstan by Nurbolat Kurmetuly , Director of the Quality of Life Department of the Economic Research Institute, and Galiya Akimbekova , Associate Professor, Deputy Chair of the Board of the Kazakh Research Institute of Economy of Agro-Industrial Complex and Rural Development.
11:05–11:20	Rural development policy implementation, including the LEADER approach and supporting rural youth by Ekaterine Zviadadze , Head of Primary Structural Unit of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Policy from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
11:20–11:35	Questions and discussion
11:35–11:50	Montenegro's experiences and needs at policy level on local rural development by Andrijana Rakočević , Head of the IPARD Managing Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Montenegro
11:50–12:05	Experiences with rural development and LEADER in Albania considering the EU candidacy by Albana Meta , Head of the Trade Policies, Cooperation and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Albania
12:05–12:20	Questions and discussion
12:20–12:30	Group photo
12:30–13:40	Lunch
Session 3 – FAO study on good practices on integrated community development and territorial approaches in Europe and Central Asia Moderator: <i>Morten Hartvigsen, Regional Initiative Coordinator, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU</i>	
13:40–13:50	FAO study on <i>Integrated community development and other territorial approaches in Europe and Central Asia</i> – Introduction, background and objective by Bianka Laskovics , Regional Initiative Coordination and Rural Development Specialist, FAO REU

13:50–14:10	Main recommendations of the FAO study on <i>Integrated community development and other territorial approaches in Europe and Central Asia</i> by Viktorya Ayvazyan , International Rural Development Specialist, FAO REU
14:10–14:40	Panel discussion on institutional environment and policy directions to enhance integrated territorial approaches to foster local rural development Panelist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elena Danilova-Cross, Policy Specialist on Poverty and Inequality, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub; - Denis Kabiito, Facilitator of Youth Committee of the World Farmers' Organisation; - Aida Jamangulova, Representative of Nyeleni ECA - Tinatin Odilavadze, Chief Specialist of the Committee on Agrarian Issues at the Parliament of Georgia
14:40–15:00	Facilitated discussion with workshop participants
15:00–15:20	Coffee and tea break
Session 4 – Practical country experiences on local rural development	
Moderator: <i>Sophie Treinen, Communication for Development Officer, FAO HQ</i>	
15:20–15:35	Supporting local agricultural and rural development planning in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Sabahudin Bajramovic , Consultant, FAO Bosnia and Herzegovina
15:35–15:50	Gender Rural Equality and Tourism (GREAT project) by Merita Mece , FAO Albania and Deni Guga , Project manager, UNWOMEN Albania
15:50–16:00	Questions and discussion
16:00–16:15	Promoting inclusive growth in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - Aid for Trade project by Vesna Djuteska-Bisheva , Regional Team Leader, Inclusive Growth, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
16:15–16:30	Support to the implementation of the “Smart Village” concept in an integrated community approach by Anetta Szilágyi , International Rural Development Specialist, FAO REU and Katerina Antanevich , Digital Agriculture Specialist/Sociologist, FAO REU
16:30–17:00	Questions and discussion
8 June 2023 - Thursday	
Session 5 – The EU LEADER approach for local rural development	
Moderator: <i>Anetta Szilágyi, International Rural Development Specialist, FAO REU</i>	
09:00–09:15	Implementation of LEADER under ENPARD in Georgia by Jumber Maruashvili , Senior National Policy Advisor, FAO Georgia
09:15–09:30	Experiences with the introduction and implementation of LEADER in Moldova by Vitalie Jereghi , National LEADER Network in the Republic of Moldova
09:30–09:40	Questions and discussion
09:40–09:55	EU Local Empowerment of Actors for Development in Armenia - LEAD4Shirak by Husik Sargsyan , ADA Armenia
09:55–10:15	EU Local Empowerment of Actors for Development in Armenia - LEAD4Lori and Tavush (UNDP in cooperation with FAO) by Hasmik Kocharyan , FAO Project Manager, FAO Armenia and by Marta Marczis , UNDP LEAD International Expert, UNDP Armenia
10:15–10:30	Questions and discussion
10:30–10:50	Coffee and tea break

Session 6 – Engagement of rural youth in local rural development	
Moderator: <i>Katalin Ludvig, International Rural Development Specialist, FAO REU</i>	
10:50–11:05	FAO's contribution to youth inclusion at global, regional and country level by Francesca DallaValle , Programme Officer, FAO HQ and Katalin Ludvig , Rural Development Specialist, Regional Youth Focal Point, FAO REU
11:05–11:20	Perspective of rural youth in local rural development by Denis Kabiito , Youth Committee of the World Farmers' Organisation
11:20–11:35	Supporting rural youth and local development – EU level perspective by Veronika Korcekova and Peter Toth , European CAP Network
11:35–11:50	Questions and discussion
11:50–12:30	Group work Guiding questions for the group work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Who are the main stakeholders in your country or at regional level related to issues on rural youth and young farmers?</i> • <i>Are you aware of any finalized, ongoing or planned youth related projects or programmes (both government and/or donor funded) in your country?</i> • <i>Please provide concrete suggestions to government representatives, to CSOs and to international organizations on how to foster rural youth empowerment and engagement in developing rural areas and specifically in agriculture and food systems?</i>
12:30–13:40	Lunch
13:40–14:00	Reporting back from group work
Session 7 – Resilience of Family Farming - multidimensionality and innovations of Family Farming	
Moderator: <i>Viktorya Ayvazyan, International Rural Development Specialist, FAO REU</i>	
14:00–14:15	Good practices on Family Farming by Anna Korzenszky , Partnerships Officer, FAO HQ
14:15–14:30	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas by Leonardo van den Berg , on behalf of Nyeleni ECA
14:30–14:45	Questions and discussion
14:45–15:00	Short food supply chain development as an accelerator for improving resilience of family farms by Katalin Kujáni , Kislépték Association Hungary
15:00–15:15	Learning by experimenting: Sheep Farmer Field Schools in Azerbaijan by Eran Raizman , Senior Animal Health & Production Officer, FAO REU
15:15–15:30	Questions and discussion
15:30–16:00	Wrap-up and closing of the workshop Moderator: <i>Morten Hartvigsen, Regional Initiative Coordinator, Land Tenure Officer, FAO REU</i>
16:00	Coffee and tea break