***Rural Inspiration Awards 2021: Our Rural Future***

**GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY SUBMISSION**

**Purpose of the competition:**

* 1. To increase the visibility of rural development policy and showcase the contribution EAFRD supported initiatives are already making on key themes which are expected to be at the heart of the future Long Term Vision for Rural Areas.
  2. To promote knowledge exchange and networking among rural development stakeholders.
  3. To assist the common work of NRNs and the ENRD, in particular in the following tasks:
     + the collection of examples of projects at national level;
     + promoting their sharing at European level via the ENRD;
     + facilitating thematic and analytical exchanges.
  4. To contribute to the work of ENRD’s Thematic Group on the Long Term Vision for Rural Areas, organised by the ENRD CP for 2020-2021.

**Thematic categories linked to the LTVRA[[1]](#footnote-2):**

1. **Green Futures:** Projects or initiatives addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation), biodiversity protection or restoration, demonstrating sustainability and contributing to the green recovery whether at level of individual farm/forest holdings or rural communities, and which demonstrate a step-change or a more widely transferrable approach.
2. **Digital Futures:** Projects which advance digitalisation in farming and rural communities, whether improving digital and broadband infrastructure, provision of digital services, uptake of new technology or in improving digital skills or knowledge.
3. **Resilient Futures:** Projects which demonstrate their contribution tostrengthening the resilience of Rural Europe. This category can cover a wide range of community, value chain and business initiatives including from a primarily economic perspective or encompassing a broader definition of sustainable and future-proof projects.
4. **Socially Inclusive Futures:** Projects which demonstrate the ability to address diverse aspects which contribute to the inclusiveness of rural society. These could include, for example, actions targeting gender, generational renewal, disability and seniors. This category could also include social economy initiatives.

**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).
* Inspirational/visionary aspect

**Submitted projects:**

* 1. All projects[[2]](#footnote-3) must be 2014-2020 EAFRD-funded.
  2. None of the previous shortlisted RIA finalists from 2019 or 2020 may be re-submitted.
  3. Projects may be on-going or finalised. If on-going, their implementation should be well-advanced.
  4. The projects must be submitted by the NSU/NRN.
  5. One NSU can submit in total up to 8 projects. Each NSU can submit entries across the four categories and is responsible for nominating the projects to the most appropriate category.
  6. The templates must be submitted in **English**.
  7. The final project entry as edited will be no more than 1500 words in total, with a maximum of three images per entry.
* **Submission period:** 24 November 2020 – 18 January 2021. **Note:** NSUs have the possibility to submit outline templates to be screened for suitability up to 15 December 2020
* **Submit your entries & ask any question to:** [**awards@enrd.eu**](mailto:awards@enrd.eu)

***Rural Inspiration Awards* - ENTRY TEMPLATE**

**Competition category**

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

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| Choose an item. |

**Project title**

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**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)*

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**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)*

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**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)*

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**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).*

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**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)*

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**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)*

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| **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 or the Farm to Fork Strategy? Digital and/ or social policy?*  *Contribution to more than one EU RD policy objective/FA also applies as 'synergy with other policies'.* |

**Project general info**

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

**Funding in EURO 1**

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

**Contact details**

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

**Further information**

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| **Website** |  |
| **Additional info sources, links** |  |
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**Quotes from beneficiaries/project participants**

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

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**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.

1. There will be 5 winners in total – in 4 thematic categories and one Popular Vote - selected out of the short-listed projects. The thematic categories winners will be selected by a jury and the Popular Vote via on-line voting. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The term ‘project’ encompasses activities under all RD measures: from **typical investment type projects** (e.g. under M04, M06

   M07) as well as **broader projects** (e.g. training under M01, advisory services M02, co-operation M16) as well as examples of **area-based activities** (for example use by a farmer/group of farmers of agri-environment climate support under M10, or organic support under M11 or forestry related activities under M08), and other EAFRD co-funded initiatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)