

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - Filiala Asociației Se Poate - FSP
PIC number:	917277009
Project name and acronym:	Euroscepticism to Euro-engagement: Rural Dialogues about Europe's Future - Euro-engagement

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP8
Event name:	Euro Harvest Summit
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	online
Location:	online
Date(s):	28.05.2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://filialasepoate.ro/2026/07/03/euro-harvest-summit-online-event-of-euroengagement-cerv-project-28th-of-may-2026/
Participants	
Female:	75
Male:	37
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 - Romania:	39
From country 2 - Poland:	15
From country 3 - Spain]:	4
From country 4 - Bulgaria:	14
From country 5 - Italy:	18
From country 6 - Lithuania	21

From country 7 - Ukraine]	1		
Total number of participants:	112	From total number of countries:	7

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The "EU Investments in Rural Initiatives" roundtable and project finale is a high-profile virtual concluding event structured to bring together more than 100 active participants alongside seven exceptional regional and European experts. Serving as a collaborative platform for project partners, stakeholders, policymakers, and civic leaders, the summit provides a dedicated space to reflect deeply on the project's cumulative outcomes and regional impact. The core mission of this finale is to celebrate and recognize the hard work of all involved partners while highlighting successful strategies used to mitigate Euroskepticism and promote robust rural engagement across the EU. By fostering direct knowledge exchanges and presenting structured, actionable policy recommendations, the event aims to bridge the gap between local rural communities and central European institutions, ultimately laying the groundwork for future cross-border partnerships and initiatives.

Detailed Activities and Agenda

Project Outcomes Exhibition

The event opens with the Project Outcomes Exhibition, a dynamic digital showcase designed to review, celebrate, and honor the collective work of all participating European partners. During this session, every project partner takes the floor to present the specific details, successes, and methodologies of their respective Work Package (WP) events. Utilizing a customized online exhibition format, the session highlights key project deliverables by displaying comprehensive reports, media files, event videos, photography, and direct participant testimonials. To ensure a standardized, high-quality recap that can be preserved for future reference, partners utilize a comprehensive catalog template to log critical event metadata, output links, and major milestones. This structural review allows stakeholders to visually grasp the widespread regional reach of the project before moving into policy discussions.

Policy Recommendations Presentation

Led by the Filiala ASP (FASP) team, the agenda shifts from a retrospective review to future systemic impacts during the Policy Recommendations Presentation. This segment focuses on the formal unveiling of the Joint Policy Declaration, which outlines comprehensive rural development proposals derived directly from extensive field consultations and project actions within rural communities. Rather than operating as a one-way presentation, the session opens into a public forum where invited experts, stakeholders, and general attendees participate in a feedback session. This allows for a live Q&A where participants can critique, refine, and expand upon the proposals. The final output of this block is the compilation of a highly detailed, comprehensive report featuring actionable policy proposals designed to guide future EU, national, and regional rural development frameworks.

Expert Online Roundtable Discussions

The centerpiece of the afternoon is an expert panel moderated by FASP, featuring six diverse cross-sector specialists representing each participating country—including local government officials, NGO leaders, academic researchers, and public administration experts. After a brief introduction of the panelists, the roundtable proceeds through six highly targeted thematic segments designed to dissect the practical realities of rural engagement:

- **Opening Position:** The panel responds as a collective to the newly unveiled Joint Policy Declaration. Each expert identifies which specific structural points, investments, or strategies feel most critical and urgently needed for the immediate future of the rural communities in their respective countries.
- **Section 1: Trust & EU Engagement:** Featuring Kristiana Kazandzhieva (Bulgaria) and Adelina Sfăt (Romania), this debate addresses whether rural citizens find it harder to trust European institutions

compared to their local or national governments. The speakers analyze what specific types of information or messaging about EU support are required to build genuine institutional trust, and identify the best local messengers to successfully deliver that information.

- **Section 2: Civic Participation:** Panelists Adelina Sfăt (Romania), Silvia Di Passio (Italy), and Paweł Prochasek (Poland) discuss the structural design of rural dialogue formats. They explore how to actively involve citizens *before* major political decisions are made, how to ensure that shy or historically silent demographics are genuinely heard, and how to make regular citizens feel that their opinions are being translated into real EU policy rather than serving as a superficial, token checkbox exercise.
- **Section 3: Rural Youth Activation:** Led by Paweł Prochasek (Poland) and Silvia Di Passio (Italy), this section covers the physical spaces, activities, and local support structures required to encourage young people to remain in or return to rural zones after completing their studies. The conversation also debates whether digital tools and social media platforms can effectively help rural youth become influential in local decision-making, or if physical presence remains completely necessary.
- **Section 4: Green Deal & Rural Transition:** Senior researcher and economist Mantas Švažas (Lithuania) breaks down how rural communities and agricultural workers perceive the European Green Deal. He maps out the specific financial, educational, and logistical support farmers need to adapt to these sweeping ecological changes without feeling fear or resistance, while highlighting inspiring, successful national examples of rural renewable energy or localized food systems.
- **Section 5: Mobility and Digital Access:** Alberto Lorente Saiz (Spain) and Mantas Švažas (Lithuania) explore the physical and digital realities of modern rural infrastructure. They analyze how limited public transport options severely isolate both aging populations and youth demographics, outline why public transit investments are vital, and evaluate whether digital connectivity access gaps remain a major roadblock to equity in their countries.
- **Section 6: Local Identity and Cultural Heritage:** Alberto Lorente Saiz (Spain) and Kristiana Kazandzhieva (Bulgaria) round out the panel by discussing how local traditions, crafts, regional food, and historical identity can be leveraged as practical economic tools for development. They share insights on how to use cultural heritage to make the younger generation feel deeply proud of and connected to their rural roots, while simultaneously helping them feel more integrated into the broader European community.

Following the final thematic panel, the floor opens to an interactive audience Q&A session utilizing specialized engagement software like Wooclap to gather live feedback, answer pressing questions, and maintain high audience involvement.

Collaborative Networking Sessions

The finale concludes with a highly structured Networking Session designed to turn theoretical discussions into future real-world initiatives and cross-border cooperation. Using interactive Mentimeter polling, organizers push four to five targeted questions to the audience to build real-time word clouds and diagrams. These questions actively crowdsource project ideas, pinpoint pressing community needs, and identify the largest systemic problems currently facing European rural areas. Building directly on these live insights, participants engage in open dialogue to lay the groundwork for future consortiums and funding bids. To ensure long-term utility, all partners and allied organizations fill out a specialized form to log their organizational capabilities, project interests, and contact information into a centralized partnership database. This complete database is emailed to all participants immediately following adjournment to facilitate ongoing, direct European cooperation and network building.

Outputs from the meeting:

- Project Outcomes Exhibition Catalog:
- Policy Recommendations Report:
- Expert online Roundtable Summary Report:

Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IMUmdK-nrmNjvzypIb_4E4proNNzn2K3?usp=sharing

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).