

ENRD Thematic Group (TG) on Rural Proofing

Rural Proofing Actions at different levels


Key considerations

Outcomes of the 2nd Thematic Group meeting
19/05/2022


July 2022


This table summarises key considerations discussed during the 2nd Thematic Group meeting (19/05/2022).


For further details, please visit the ENRD website: https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/2nd-meeting-enrd-thematic-group-rural-proofing_en

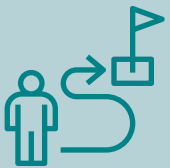
Rural Proofing Action	Responsibilities at different levels in addressing the rural proofing actions		
 <p>Action 1: Clear statement of strong and real political will and commitment</p>	national	regional	local
	Any statement should come from a 'neutral place' i.e. it should be cross-party and non-political		
	Role of EU important in supporting and providing wider context for MS work on rural proofing		
	Need to ensure that rural proofing work involves local people (who understand rural realities and can provide lived experiences)		
		Bridging role for 'translating' commitments, vision etc. from national to local level and vice versa	
			Connecting local actors, validating local evidence and providing legitimacy to rural proofing activities Potential for local level actors to provide greater stability in terms of rural evidence (while national level may change from election to election)

Rural Proofing Action	Responsibilities at different levels in addressing the rural proofing actions		
 <p>Action 2: Establish a positive, shared vision of rural areas and clarity about the role of rural proofing in achieving this</p>	national	regional	local
	Get the language right, clearly communicate regional and local benefits		
		Generate a common understanding between administrative levels (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding on rural proofing) - relates to Actions 1 and 3	
		Set up a regional policy agenda that sits within shared vision and is based on results of rural proofing	
		Communication campaigns / translations	
			Feeling of urban areas moving ahead vs rural areas catching up - focus on shared urban-rural interests instead
			Don't leave people behind - ensure local stakeholders and communities can 'sign up to' the shared vision

Rural Proofing Action	Responsibilities at different levels in addressing the rural proofing actions		
 <p>Action 3: Establish clear and coordinated roles and responsibilities</p>	national	regional	local
	Right timing and pace to ensure policy-makers across departments are as informed as possible about the process and can fully engage and "buy-in"		
	People are critical - need to establish a shared culture across policy areas, RP lead body needs to provide right expertise at right time		
	Be clear about consequences of not adequately rural proofing early enough in the policy design process - enforcement important		Local stakeholders, including communities, have a key role to play in evidencing the 'real-life' consequences of inadequate rural proofing and emphasising the need for strong enforcement
		Clarify about roles and steps to simplify the process	
		Resources needed, capacity-building will likely be required	
	Multi-actor approach		
			Coordination requires action at and between different levels
			Need greater appreciation of diversity of ruralities (up-to-date and local level evidence base is critical in understanding this diversity)
			Bottom-up pressure for coordinated rural proofing

Rural Proofing Action	Responsibilities at different levels in addressing the rural proofing actions		
 <p>Action 4: Develop a clear template and guidance and robust accompanying evidence</p>	national	regional	local
	Identify & clarify competences & responsibilities		
	Data / evidence to underpin guidance, templates		
	Flexible templates, frameworks		
		Important to collect data at regional level	
		Adapting templates, guidance to be used	
			Toolbox (guidance, templates + capacity to use them)
			Clear & simple, flexible templates (to reflect diversity of ruralities)
			Feedback on templates / guidance from local level (not imposed on them), ideally they should be co-designed with local stakeholders

Rural Proofing Action	Responsibilities at different levels in addressing the rural proofing actions			
 <p>Action 5: Establish clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms</p>	national	regional	local	
	Important to have mechanisms that are relevant for other levels, working jointly on this whenever possible			
	Consider setting up a national digital platform to collect data for monitoring/ evaluation (from other levels)			
	Coordination at national level, with flexibility for / involvement of other levels			
			Self-evaluation of RP processes, annual reporting	
			Evaluation of impacts, regional role: collecting specific data, indicators & criteria	
				Local level engagement when monitoring / evaluation frameworks are used (feedback reciprocity)
				Holding the national level accountable (local level not receiver, but beneficiary of policy)
	Constant monitoring is important to ensure template is flexible and as relevant as possible to different 'rurals' (i.e. remote/accessible/ coastal/upland, etc.)			

Rural Proofing Action	Responsibilities at different levels in addressing the rural proofing actions		
 <p>Action 6: Longer-term work in support of rural proofing</p>	national	regional	local
	Transitional period may be useful (incl. pilot actions, establishing 'national network for RP')		
	Avoid overloading existing public structures - create synergies, complementarity		
		Capacity building (regional level = trendsetter, new practices, inspiring other levels)	
		Evaluation of impacts, regional role: collecting specific data, indicators & criteria	
			Need to engage local stakeholders / communities on a continuous basis through appropriate mechanisms which ensure all voices are heard
			Involvement in regular reporting / feedback processes