

Also see workshop hand-out and PowerPoint

<p>Climate change and its implications for rural areas</p>
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<p>Name of Rapporteur Irene Marcic</p>
<p>Vision of the theme Climate-resilient communities</p>
<p>Main issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure destruction through extreme weather, insect plagues for agriculture, heat days, drought (Montenegro) • Lack of awareness of climate change and action • Economic cost of adaptation is cheaper (eg. in Holland) than repairing damage
<p>Suggested actions / policy – and who should implement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy as part of circular economy • Local ownership of food and energy production • Community owned assets • Food security through sustainable food production and regional and fair value chains <p>1. Building climate-resilient communities in rural areas to better mitigate and adapt to climate change</p> <p>2. Invasions and newly emerging insects and diseases in all parts of Europe particularly affecting agriculture and forestry</p> <p>3. Extreme weather events affect rural infrastructure, agriculture and the economy, causing high costs and reducing productivity</p> <p>4. Promotion of community-owned assets, renewable energy and fair food systems in line with the local and circular economy concept</p> <p>5. Lack of awareness of climate change and action in the rural civil society is a serious point of attention</p> <p>6. Rural Europe will better contribute to the below 2°C global warming goal by launching a climate change awareness program and supported by strong climate change policies also for rural areas</p>
<p>How should ERP work in the future in this theme? What is the role of the ERP partners?</p> <p>Climate change should be a main issue of ERPs focus. Combine with other main themes: climate – food – health – water</p>
<p>Amendments or messages to the manifesto</p> <p>Amend the information on climate change in the Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change as a global phenomenon, but affecting individuals, small businesses, industry, societies, governments, urban and rural areas locally • Different regions in Europe are differently affected, and therefore require specific mitigation and

adaptation strategies on a local scale.

Climate change and natural resources. We welcome the growing public and political recognition of the hard reality of climate change and its increasingly damaging impact; and the commitments which European governments made at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris 2015. **We assert the major role which rural areas can play in combatting climate change and sustaining environmental resources.** Over 40 percent or 182 million hectares of the land surface of Europe is in forests, which can capture and sequester carbon and contribute massively to renewable resources of raw material and energy. Compared to other continents, Europe has a very long coastline (180,000 km), which makes the European rural and urban coastal highly vulnerable to climate change, e.g. sea level rise. Rural or coastal areas are well placed to meet the growing demand for renewable energy from wind, hydro, tide, solar, geothermal and wood-fuel sources, in ways which respect untouched nature and the environment of land and water, and which bring direct benefit and employment to rural communities. **We call for widespread action to raise public awareness of climate change and of the action which is needed at all levels – households, communities, enterprises, public authorities – to reduce carbon emissions and to mitigate adapt to the impacts of climate change. Urgent actions include investment in community-owned renewable energy, promotion of circular economies, particularly for regional and fair food value chains. We also urge that the conditions created by climate change should be taken into account in the definition of disadvantaged regions when assessing the allocation of financial support for developing climate-resilient communities.**

Messages to the Venhorst Declaration

We support the Paris Agreement with 2 degrees global warming goal, therefore we need direct action starting with awareness programmes and action in climate friendly transport in rural areas, promoting circular economy and short value chains, and funding support for renewable energy in a community owned system.

Ideas and case-study examples relating to the theme

- Rural homes with sun-cells on roofs
- App to link smaller farmers to supermarkets for direct and local production
- Increase awareness on meat consumption.