

## ERP-Gathering Kielce

Number of the workshop: 8

Name of the workshop: **Rural Proofing**

### Our responses to challenges:

Participants had many similar challenges:

- Decline in Democracy, need to be more flexible.
- Agricultural administration don't believe rural development is outside of agriculture. There is no distinction made between them.
- There is a lack of cooperation. Very often the rural part of regional development is missing and focus is on the larger towns and urban centres.
- There isn't an acceptance of Rural Proofing by Politicians and policy makers and skills need to be developed for implementation of this.
- Complication of the new CAP - it doesn't fit with current challenges - war in Ukraine, energy crisis and restrictions.
- There is no rural youth proofing - different approach is needed and must empower youth.
- Access to land for farmers and young farmers.
- Barriers for civil society into the Rural Proofing space and in the implementation of rural proofing.
- More diverse Rural economies needed. Do you bring in experts and how do you measure social capital.
- The lack of recognition of rural areas by urban areas and how we can make it work for everyone. Need to find ways on how both are connected and work on this.
- Lack of listening by politicians and policy makers. During Covid showed that the Government can do something when it has to.

### Our three proposals for governments & EU

1. At EU Level:

- We support the Commitment by the EU Commission to deliver Rural Proofing and call on them to now move ahead with this. Civic Society organisations are available to support and help in its delivery.
- We propose a Pilot of Rural Proofing be developed.
- Regional sensitivities must be considered when Rural Proofing policies and programmes.
- A platform for sharing examples of rural proofing should be developed.

It is important that local is linked to national and EU level.

2. Build resource capacity of local actors in the rural proofing process. This should include funding for personnel and knowledge building.

Transparency in Rural Proofing Programmes in all relevant departments and at all Government levels.

3. Promote better understanding of rural proofing among urban and rural. It is a two way street that benefits all.

Success of Rural Proofing also depends on support and buy-in of citizens.

Some policies should be tailored made for rural e.g. housing policy, and not just tagged on to urban policies.

### Good ideas, practices, processes

The workshop called on the ERP to champion Rural Proofing on its Manifesto and that Partner organisations champion and advocate for rural proofing at a local and national level.