



# EU CAP Network Workshop

## Advancing gender equality in rural areas in the EU

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# Content

1. Commission's holistic approach towards gender equality
2. Key challenges of women in agriculture and rural areas – overview of the statistical data and indicators, references to the main drivers of inequalities
3. Commission's response to the challenges
4. Success stories of EAFRD funding

# 1. Commission's holistic approach towards gender equality

- First ever Commissioner for Equality – Helena Dalli
- **Equality Task Force** – the network of Equality Coordinators representing all Commission services => mainstreaming of equality and non-discrimination into all EU policies and funding
- Gender Equality – Commission's top priority => GENDER EQUALITY STRATEGY 2020-2025

# 1.1. Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025

## KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Ending gender-based violence
- Challenging gender stereotypes
- Closing gender gaps in the labour market
- **Achieving equal participation of women across all different sectors of the economy including agriculture and rural development**
- Addressing the gender pay and pension gaps; closing the gender care gap and achieving gender balance in decision-making and in politics.

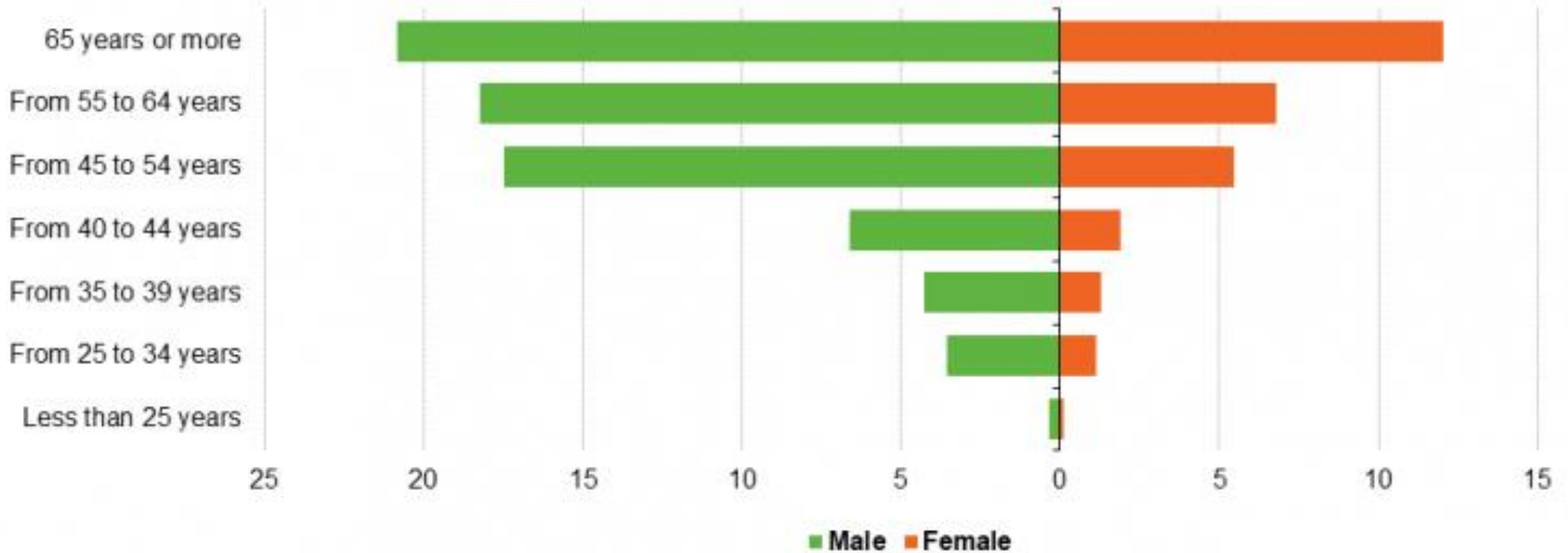
## 2. Gender inequalities in agriculture and rural areas – statistical data and indicators

- AGRI action in the field of gender equality feeds into the Commission's overall policy and objectives which are defined in the Gender Equality Strategy and are anchored in the EU legislation (Article 2 and 3 of the Treaty on the European Union)
- AGRI focus – gender equality in agriculture sector and rural areas
- **The indicators reveal ample gaps between women and men in agriculture sector and between rural women and rural men.** This concerns a number of areas such employment, education and training and income.

# 2.1. Agriculture sector - Farm managers by sex and age

29% of farm managers are female, the majority of which are older than 65.

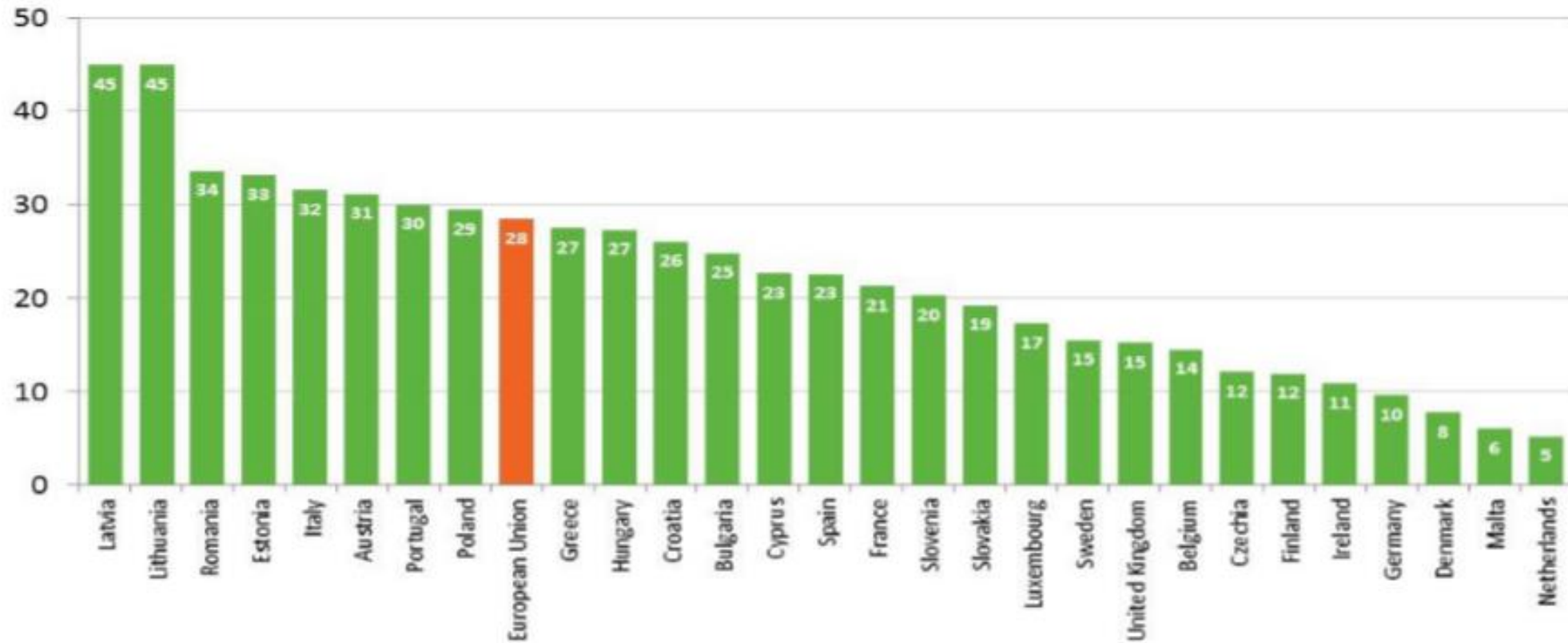
**Farm managers by age class and sex, EU-27, 2016**  
(%)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ef\_m\_farmang)

## 2.2. Agriculture sector – female farm managers

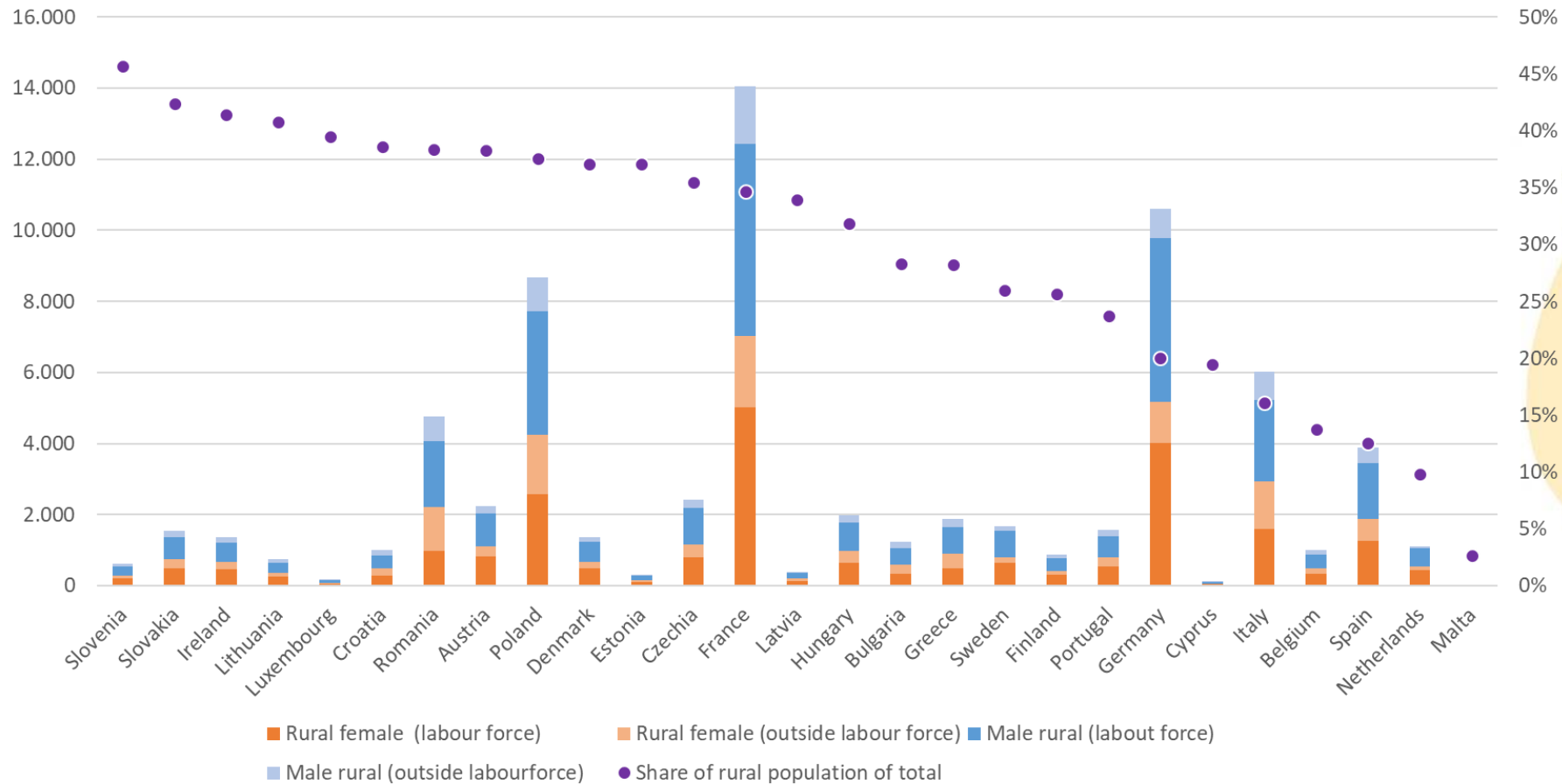
Proportion of farm managers who are women, 2016 (%)



Source: Eurostat

# 2.3. Rural areas – Active Rural Population

Active rural population in 2021 and share of total population (from 15 – 64 years; in thousands)



**EU-27:**  
**34.9 million female + 36.7 million male**  
**25% of EU active population is rural;**  
**12% of EU active population are rural women**

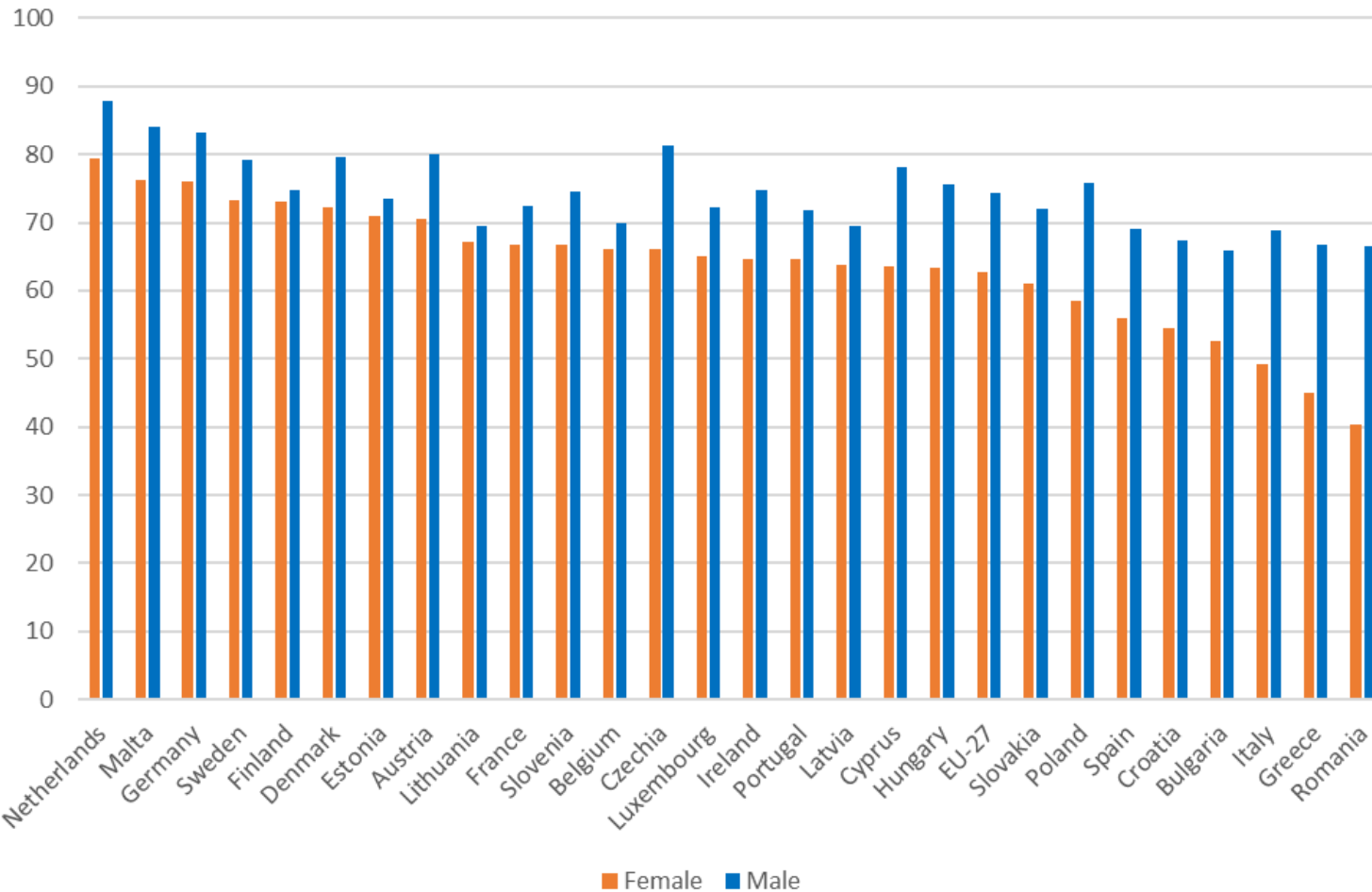


Source: Eurostat 2022 (LFST\_R\_PGAUWSN)

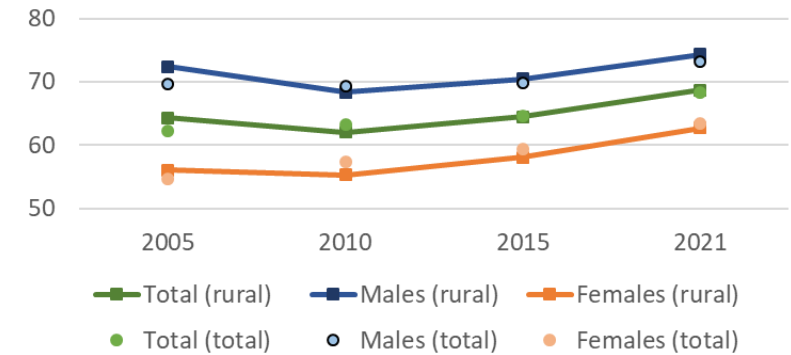


# 2.4. Rural areas - Employment rate

Employment rate in rural areas in 2021 (people between 15-64 years; in %)



Employment rates (2005-2021, EU-27, from 15-64 years, Eurostat)

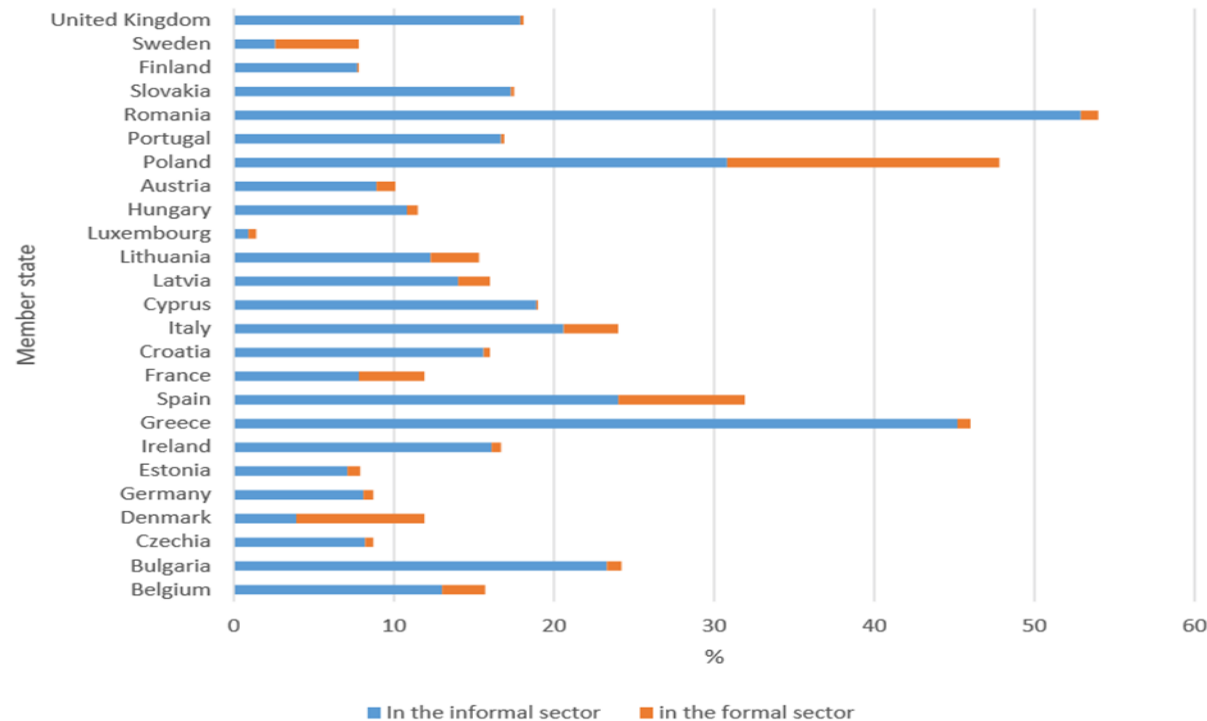


The employment rates have been increasing in recent years. **However, the employment rate of rural women is consistently lower than for rural men.** NL has the highest employment rate for rural women at ca. 80%. Romanian rural women are only employed at 40%.

Source: Eurostat 2022 (LFST\_R\_ERGAU)

# 2.5. Rural areas – Informal Employment

Figure 4: Share of informal employment in total employment in rural areas of the EU

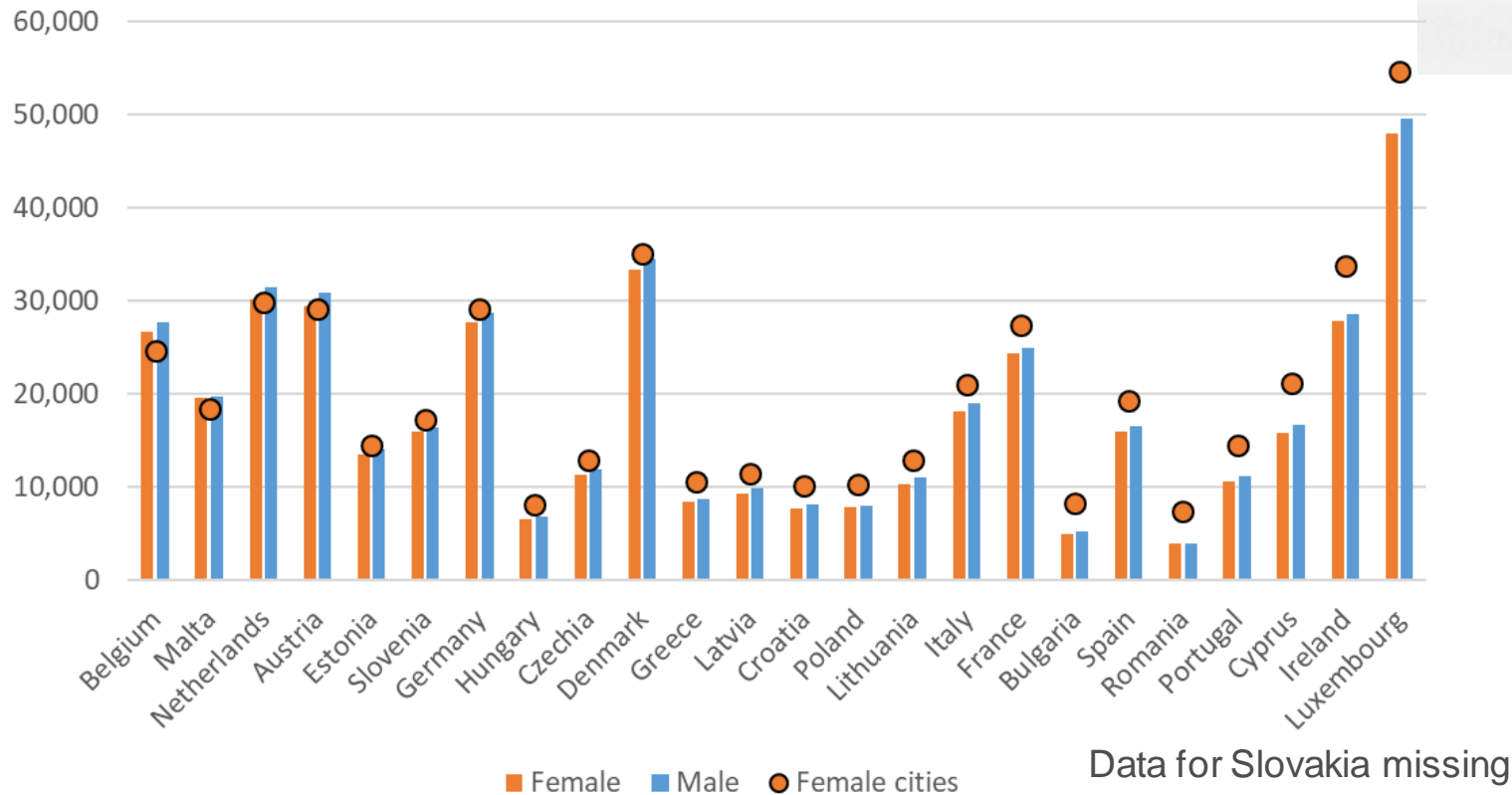


The share of informal employment in rural areas is disproportionately higher than in the formal sector.

Source: ILO, 2018: pages 91-96

## 2.6. Rural areas - Income

Mean equalized net income in rural areas in 2021  
(by sex; in €)



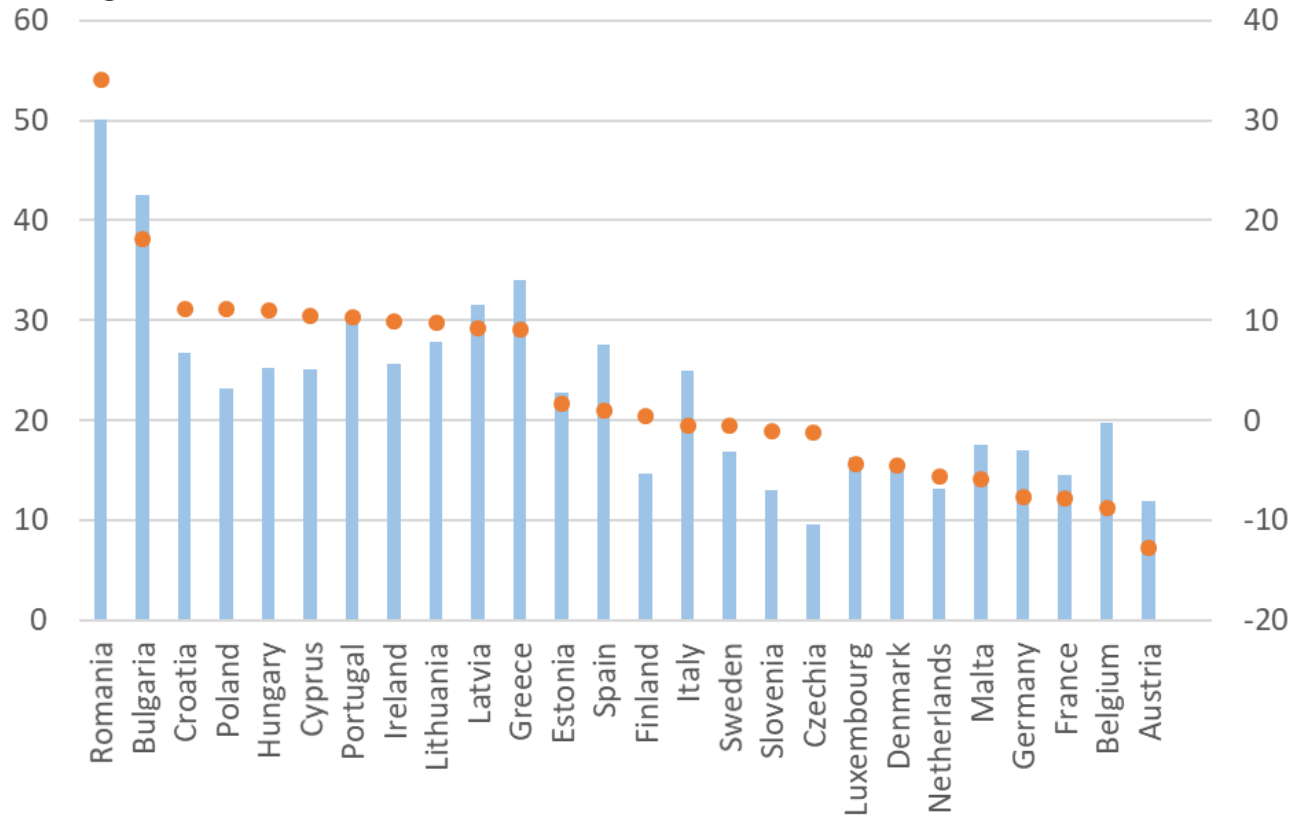
Source: Eurostat 2022 (ILC\_DI17)



**Income for rural women is lower than for rural men in all Member States.** In the majority of MSs the income for women in cities is higher than the income of rural women.

# 2.7. Rural areas - risk of poverty

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in rural areas in 2021



■ Share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion (left axis)  
 ● difference to cities (in ppt) (right axis)

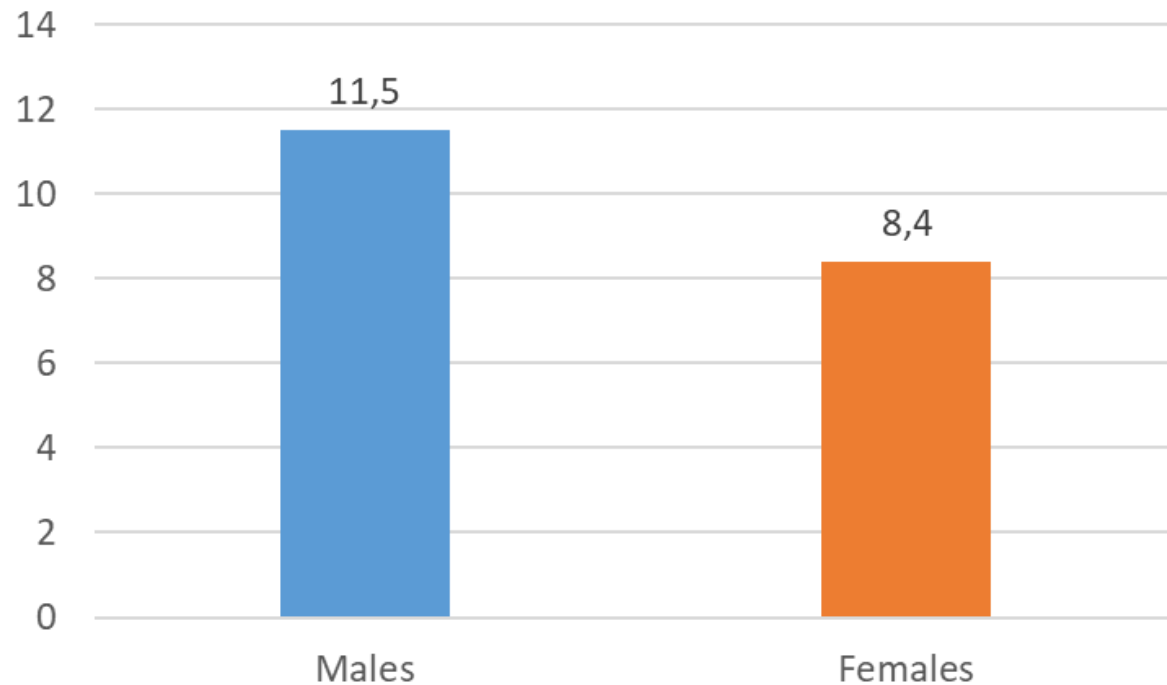
Data for Slovakia missing



In roughly half of the EU Member States, the risk for poverty is greater rural areas than in cities.

## 2.8. Rural areas – Education/training

**Early leavers from education or training in rural areas in 2021**  
(EU-27; 18-24 years; in percentage of all)

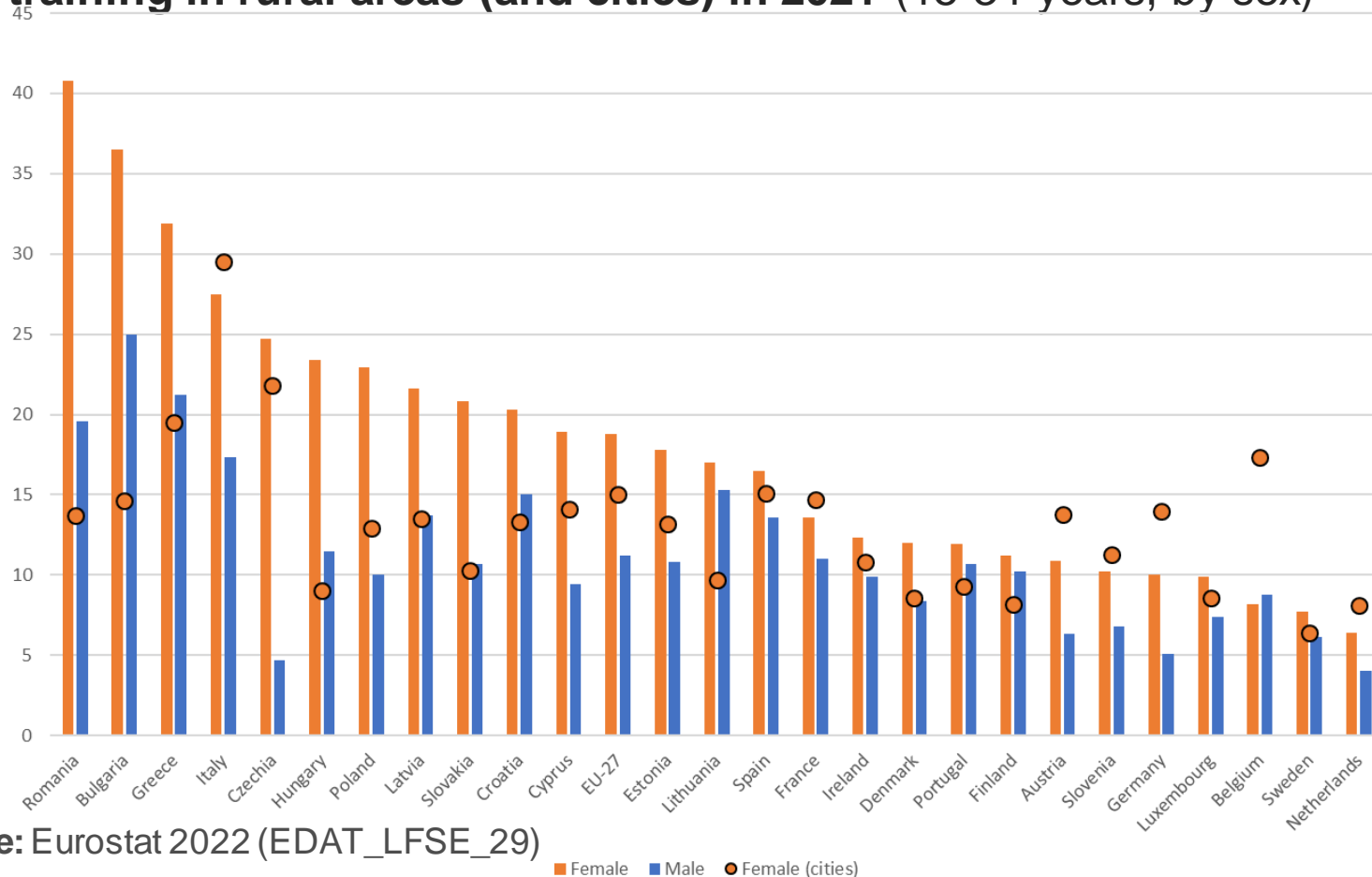


**Rural women leave less often training/education than men.**



## 2.9. Rural areas – young people neither employed nor in education

Young people neither in employment nor in education and training in rural areas (and cities) in 2021 (15-34 years, by sex)



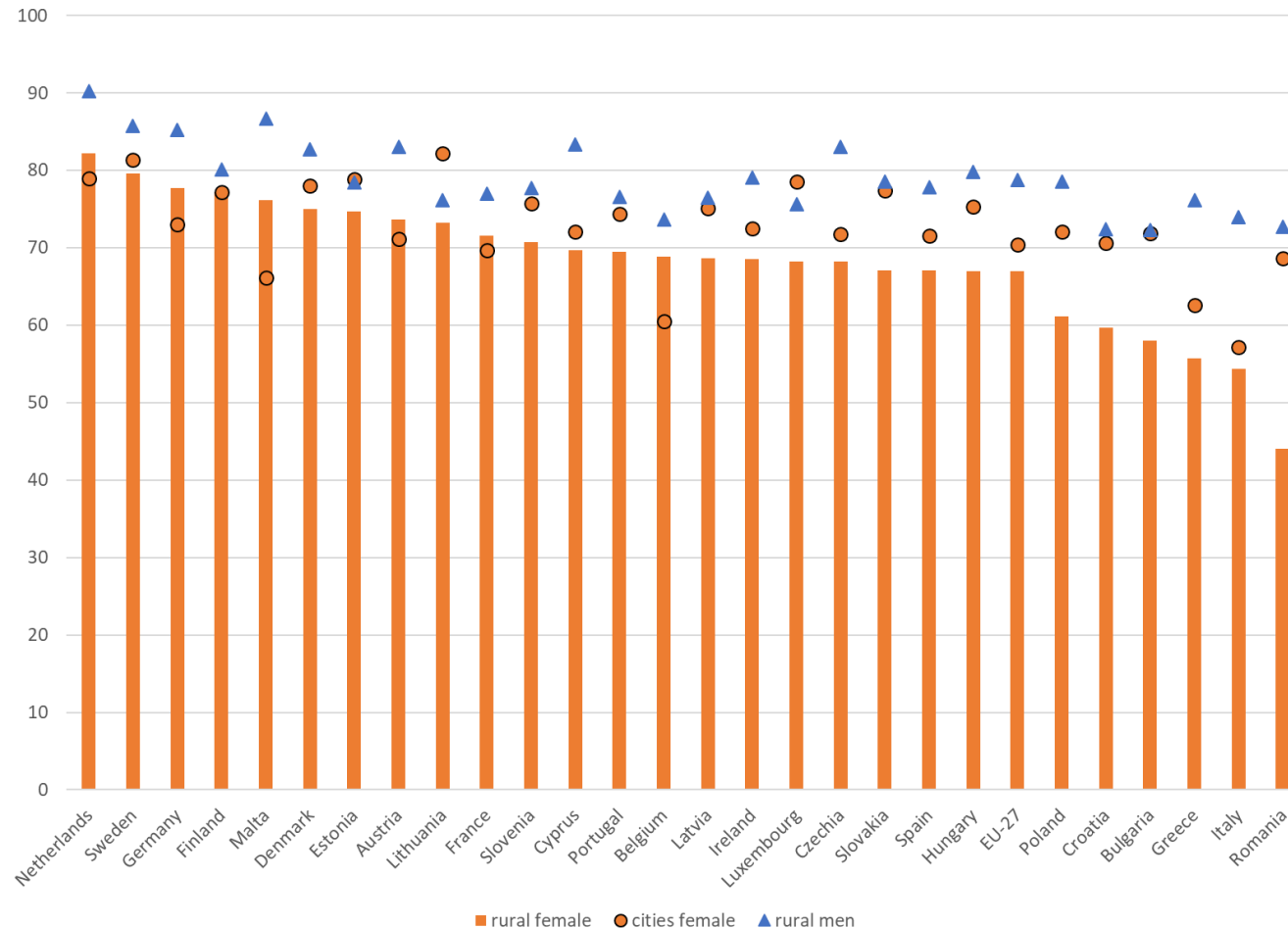
Source: Eurostat 2022 (EDAT\_LFSE\_29)

**Young women in rural areas are more often neither employed or in training than young men in rural areas.**

However, in some EU Member States the rates for young women is even higher in cities.

## 2.10. Rural areas - Activity rate

Activity rate of rural women vs. rural men and cities' women in 2021 (15-64 years, by sex)



**In all MSs rural men have higher activity rate than rural women.** In the majority of MSs cities' women have higher activity rate than rural women.

Source: Eurostat 2022 (LFST\_R\_AREDNU)

## 2.11. Agriculture and rural areas – summary of challenges faced by women

- Less than 30% of EU's farm managers are women and their farms are smaller than of their male counterparts;
- Only 30% of women work in agriculture sector;
- Women are **more likely than men to work in the informal economy and on part time basis**, however, their participation through the informal rural economy is not statistically recognized;
- **Rural women have lower income than rural men** in all EU Member States
  - Due to the structural deficiencies of local labour markets, **women** (mostly highly-qualified) **outmigrate from rural areas** at a higher rate than men.
  - Some rural areas **lack infrastructure (physical and digital), provisions of social support services is limited.**



# 3. Commission's action against gender inequalities in agriculture and rural areas

- **For the first time in the history of CAP – specific objective number 8 that refers explicitly to women** by promoting gender equality, including the participation of women in farming.
- CAP funds, European Social Fund+, the European Regional Development Fund and Recovery and Resilience Facility support:
  - Investments into infrastructure and services – enablers of social inclusion of women;
  - Provision of incentives for local employment opportunities for women;
  - Enhanced support and incentives for female farmers
  - Improving the access to loans for women for entrepreneurial activities;
  - Empowering women in decision making
- Enhanced monitoring of gender equality implementation – **gender budgeting** - a methodology to **measure the relevant expenditure at programme level in the MFF 2021-2027.**

# 3.1. Commission's action for gender equality in agriculture and rural areas

## ➤ Long Term Vision of Rural Areas

- Through Flagship initiative called '**Social resilience and Women in rural areas**' the supports for women will be provided to entrepreneurship, participation in decision-making and investments in work-life balance services, such as early childhood education and care, as well as services for older people.
- **Mainstreaming of the needs of women in agriculture and rural areas into the various relevant Commission's files** including regional policy, social policy, demography and ageing policy, energy policy, educational policy etc.

## 3.2. Commission's action for gender equality in agriculture and rural areas

- **Social conditionality** - the historic step towards ensuring better workers' conditions in agriculture sector.
- With the introduction of social conditionality into the CAP there is an added incentive for farmers to respect the rules relating to working conditions of agriculture workforce. Farmers who do not respect workers' rights will be faced by the serious reductions of CAP payments.
- The social conditionality legislation will enhance workers' rights independently from their origin or working contract – this will be a great win for women equality.

## 4. Success stories – EAFRD funding



**CZ female farmer becomes one of the largest goat milk producers thanks to EAFRD funding**



- [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/michaela-hlubkova-dairy-farm-start\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/michaela-hlubkova-dairy-farm-start_en)

# 4.1. Success stories –EAFRD funding



## Three rural women in Romania start a successful patisserie

- [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/upscaling-confectionary-and-patisserie-workshop-rural-romania\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/upscaling-confectionary-and-patisserie-workshop-rural-romania_en)





## 4.2. Success stories – EAFRD funding



**LT village women  
create successful  
organic goodies  
brand**

- [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/“goodies-village”-lithuania\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/“goodies-village”-lithuania_en)



# Thank you



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