

Rural women

Projects brochure



- 4** Boosting a sheep farming business in rural Czechia
- 5** Popsi Kitchen
- 6** Boosting a rural oil processing business
- 7** Improving a farm's resilience to climate change
- 8** Social farming supports rural women who have faced domestic violence
- 9** Business Boost - Collaboration for more regional food
- 10** Interregional workshop on gender equality
- 11** Advancing gender equality in Spain's remote rural areas



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CAP Implementation Contact Point

As an integral part of the EU CAP Network, the CAP Implementation Contact Point supports and coordinates networking activities relating to the design and implementation of the CAP's strategic plans.

We do this by connecting people and encouraging colleagues from across Europe to learn from one another and to exchange their experiences and their inspirations. We help develop knowledge by providing a platform for networking and by engaging with people at the local, national and European level. We share the outcomes of our work with a broad audience through a mixture of different communication products and channels.



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/
support/cap-implementation](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/support/cap-implementation)

EU CAP Network

The European CAP Network brings together stakeholders from the previous European Network for Rural Development (including the Evaluation Helpdesk) and EIP-AGRI network and welcomes new stakeholders.

The EU CAP Network has been set up by the European Commission in line with the [Regulation](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council to support the design and implementation of CAP strategic plans (CSPs) while optimising the flow of information about agriculture and rural policy within the EU.

The EU CAP Network builds on the work of the previous two networks and merges them to support the achievement of the specific objectives of the new CAP.



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Introduction

In line with the European Commission's 2020-2025 Gender Equality Strategy, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) now includes a Specific Objective¹ aimed at enhancing the position of women in farming and accelerating the social inclusion of rural women. This will be key in reducing the gender gap and advancing gender equality – a core principle of the European Union, yet still not a reality in any EU Member State.

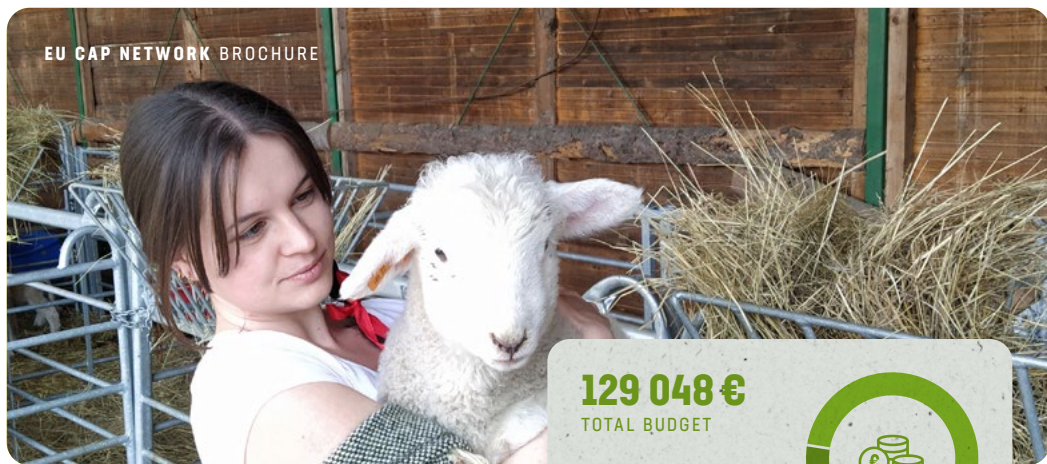
As inclusion is about involvement and empowerment, the CAP holds the potential to foster more inclusive rural areas by promoting rural women's participation and recognition in local decision-making processes, businesses and communities.

This edition of the Projects Brochure builds on the EU CAP Network's work on gender equality in rural areas². The publication highlights examples of CAP-funded projects led by women and initiatives that are advancing gender equality in rural areas.

¹ agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/cap-overview/cap-2023-27/key-policy-objectives-new-cap#briefs

² See the EU CAP Network, Policy Insights 'Enhancing gender equality in EU agri-food systems', eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/publications/policy-insights-enhancing-gender-equality-eu-agri-food-systems and the EU CAP Network workshop 'Advancing gender equality in rural areas in the EU', November 2022, eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/advancing-gender-equality-rural-areas-eu-2022-11-15

Figures in this publication have been rounded. For the precise figures, please refer to the full description of each project on the EU CAP Network website.



Boosting a sheep farming business in rural Czechia

A young Czech farmer has improved her sheep farming business as part of a conversion to organic farming.

129 048 €

TOTAL BUDGET

22 275 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 06

Farm & business development

PROJECT PERIOD

2019-2021

In 2017, Tereza Teichmannová took over the family farm, located in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm (eastern Czechia). Here she breeds Romney Marsh sheep and uses the wool to create felt products, such as shoes and hats, which have received a regional quality label and are sold at local and international fairs.

In the context of the farm's conversion to organic farming, Tereza applied for European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) funding to establish new grazing areas with diverse plant species and to purchase useful equipment (mobile sheep handling equipment, a bale carrier, etc.). She also increased the flock size and strengthened its genetic diversity.

The investments improved the farm's productivity and animal welfare while also making the work less physically demanding. The project supported the long-term viability of the farm and is contributing to maintaining wildlife habitats dependent on sheep grazing. These successes boosted Tereza's confidence.

Tereza acknowledges the importance of receiving support and advice from other farmers, like her parents, as well as networking with peers and increasing customers' awareness of livestock farming and sheep wool processing.



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/start-aid-young-farmers-farma-pod-radhostem-sro





Popsi Kitchen

A young rural entrepreneur has made her bakery more competitive and attractive to customers.

26 219 €

TOTAL BUDGET

12 019 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 19

LEADER/CLLD

PROJECT PERIOD

2016-2022

Popsi Kitchen is a small bakery housed in one of the oldest buildings in Abja-Paluoja (southern Estonia). For the last 12 years, they have been producing high-quality fresh pastries and pies, as well as a range of culinary and confectionery products.

Sigrid Saare, the bakery's 28-year-old owner, was keen to grow her business. However, both the building and the bakery's equipment needed renovation.

Between 2016 and 2022, LEADER supported three successive interventions that gradually allowed the modernisation of the bakery. Activities included: purchasing and installing a new kitchen and equipment; renovating the electrical system to increase the production capacity; and renovating the exterior of the building. Overall, EAFRD support improved both the business and the staff's working conditions.

Thanks to these investments, Popsi Kitchen has become one of the best-known manufacturers of culinary, bakery and confectionery products in its region and is now a tourist attraction. The bakery has secured jobs for another six women, all under 40 years of age.



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/
development-popsi-kitchen-estonia](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/development-popsi-kitchen-estonia)





Boosting a rural oil processing business

A Romanian rural entrepreneur has developed her family business while sustaining local jobs.

After quitting her job at a multinational company, Felicia Tulai returned to her home village, Luna (central Romania), to take over the family business, Taf Pressoil, which processes oilseeds provided by local sunflower growers.

Felicia quickly identified a growing market potential for organic oils. She established a network of local certified organic sunflower growers and created the 'Luna Solai' brand. The envisaged business development, however, required separate processing of organic seeds to ensure the purity of the organic oil while also making the production more efficient. Felicia turned to EAFRD funding to co-fund her investments.

Two presses dedicated to organic production were purchased so that the company could increase and diversify its production. Newly-purchased bottling and labelling machines allow them to package up to 2 000 bottles/hour (versus 700 bottles/day with manual processes). The company's workers have been retrained on these new machines and all the original nine jobs have been maintained. Six of the workers are women and three of them are under 40 years old. A refrigerated van, also bought thanks to the EAFRD funding, enables the company to quickly and efficiently serve over 25 stores across Transylvania.

134 821 €

TOTAL BUDGET

46 740 €

EAFRD FUNDING

RDP MEASURE 04

Investments in physical assets

PROJECT PERIOD

2019-2021



eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/development-and-modernisation-taf-press-oil-processing-unit





Improving a farm's resilience to climate change

A Slovenian farmer has modernised her family farm to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The family farm of Mateja Reš is located in the Slovenian alps. Most of the farm's revenue comes from organic fruit production (especially berries) and processed products, including herbal teas, vinegars and jams.

Mateja designed a business modernisation plan to increase the farm's resilience and ensure its long-term sustainability despite changing climate conditions, such as extremely heavy rains, hail and drought, which posed a threat to her crops.

Using EAFRD co-funding, Mateja installed a modern, resource-efficient drip irrigation system that covers 0.22 ha planted with berries and 0.08 ha of herbs. The entire plot was also secured with a 500 m fence. In addition, she planted a new walnut orchard with 20 trees over 0.2 ha and installed hail protection.

Improved water management and crop protection actions helped the farmer secure and diversify her production, reducing the risk of crop damage from extreme weather events. The farm has become a go-to place for local schools, associations and groups and has become a venue for hosting private events.

18 357 €

TOTAL BUDGET

5 207 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 04

Investments in physical assets

PROJECT PERIOD

2019-2020



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/
installation-irrigation-system-and-setting-organic-orchard](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/installation-irrigation-system-and-setting-organic-orchard)





Social farming supports rural women who have faced domestic violence

A farm in the Canary Islands has become a haven for female victims of domestic violence.

91 000 €

TOTAL BUDGET

21 000 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 19

LEADER/CLLD

PROJECT PERIOD

2022

'La Jaira de Ana' is a goat farm located in Agüimes, Gran Canaria (Spain), established with LEADER co-funding. Here, families and schools get acquainted with rural life, sustainable agriculture and animal welfare.

The young farm owner, social worker Anabel Calderín Castro, decided to develop specific activities on the farm to support women who are victims of gender-based violence - a problem reported by over 61% of women living in the Canary Islands.

'La Jaira de Ana' now offers activities for young mothers who are victims of domestic violence and their children, helping to strengthen mother-child bonds. Women are also offered psycho-social support and self-care activities, while the children can develop their own social and emotional skills through play and animal care. The success of these activities led to a regionally funded project, 'OCIRIF', which, in 2021, offered 11 workshops for women and children, benefitting almost 180 people across the island. Activities will continue in 2023.

The farm also supports professional networking, for instance among local women producers, and has established successful cooperations with the local government, institutions and other NGOs.



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/
social-farming-spains-canary-islands-supports-rural-women-and-families](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/social-farming-spains-canary-islands-supports-rural-women-and-families)





Business Boost - Collaboration for more regional food

**Promoting short food chains creates
new business opportunities for local
producers - particularly women.**

398 313 €

TOTAL BUDGET

358 481 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 16

Cooperation

PROJECT PERIOD

2019-2021

Southern Sweden's Västra Götaland region has experienced a growing demand for high-quality local food. Two non-profit associations of local producers, Agroväst and Lokalproducerat i Väst, joined forces with the County Administrative Board to promote and increase the demand for local food.

The project focused on supporting collaborations and networking among agricultural and horticultural companies, local grocery stores and restaurants. Interesting results were achieved despite the unexpected challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 55 local producers participated in the project, 30 SMEs received marketing guidance and 14 small-scale producers received advice and co-funding to upscale their production. The project also provided training, guidelines and advice. Food fairs brought together up to 110 purchasers (restaurants and retailers) and 22 small-scale producers, while other networking events helped establish further collaborations.

Although women were not the primary target group of the project, 134 out of the 210 participants in the seminars, study visits and workshops series were women. This suggests that support for networking and establishing collaborations is particularly beneficial for this group of professionals.



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/
business-boost-collaboration-more-regional-food](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/business-boost-collaboration-more-regional-food)





Interregional workshop on gender equality

Raising awareness among French EAFRD stakeholders to promote gender equality in rural areas.

10 000 €

TOTAL BUDGET

5 300 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 20

**Technical
assistance**

PROJECT PERIOD

2018

Based on studies and research highlighting gender inequalities in agriculture and rural development, the French National Rural Network (NRN) decided to organise an awareness-raising workshop in 2018. The workshop took place in Paris and brought together over 70 participants, including Local Action Groups (LAGs), regional networks and EIP-AGRI Operational Groups from all over the country. Participants discussed challenges and possible solutions; indicators and evaluation systems; practical tools to boost women's access to EAFRD funding (from awareness raising to combatting stereotypes); and the NRN's role in improving the situation. Presentations and discussions resulted in a concrete action plan and common tools to ensure gender equality in the delivery of rural development policy.

The project helped improve cooperation and networking, reaching well beyond the participants of the workshop. A similar workshop was organised by the Mayotte rural network at the regional level and gender equality in rural areas has been given a particular focus in France's current rural development policy.³

³ See the material of the EU CAP Network workshop entitled 'Advancing gender equality in rural areas in the EU', Andolsheim (France), 15-16 November 2022 and particularly the presentation by David Armellini, ANCT:

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/advancing-gender-equality-rural-areas-eu-2022-11-15>



[eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/
interregional-workshop-gender-equality](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/interregional-workshop-gender-equality)





Advancing gender equality in Spain's remote rural areas

**Increasing women's active
participation in rural communities
is key for gender equality.**

180 000 €

TOTAL BUDGET

113 400 €

EAFRD FUNDING



RDP MEASURE 19

LEADER/CLLD

PROJECT PERIOD

2020-2022

The Nordeste territory in the province of Murcia (southern Spain) is struggling with the problem of depopulation. Remoteness and the lack of basic services are leading to more gender inequalities and more women being isolated.

To tackle this situation, the Nordeste LAG developed the LEADER-funded project 'Territorio Igualdad' ('Territory Equality'). The initiative consisted of three sub-projects: 'Women Protagonists of Rural Development', 'Flexible and Innovative Conciliation Services' and 'Smart Rural for Gender Equality', developed under a consistent visual identity.

'Territorio Igualdad' successfully delivered networking and training activities and produced on- and off-line communication materials, including a documentary film showcasing women-led LEADER projects. Summer schools for children and young people were also organised thanks to the project. Delays in the implementation of the project caused by the Covid-19 pandemic were turned into an opportunity to fine-tune the activities and to promote internet access in social centres in the local districts.


Overall, the project boosted social participation, improved women's digital skills and fostered female entrepreneurship and networking.




eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/good-practice/territorio-igualdad-promoting-gender-equality-remote-rural-areas





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