Our action focuses on highlighting and promoting proposals to the attention of all the EU authorities.

OUR PROPOSALS:

FOR A RECOGNITION OF RURAL TERRITORIES;
MAKING EUROPE GROW WITH ITS RURAL TERRITORIES.

- The establishment of a specific European policy for the development of rural territories is an essential condition for ensuring the social, economic and territorial cohesion of the European Union.
- The recognition of rural areas as centers of development and innovation, and not only as natural and agricultural areas. The reduction of the rural world to the only functionalities of agricultural or recreational space would be an impoverishment of the society as a whole.
- The challenge of developing strong and balanced interrelations between urban and rural centers.
- The development of a European Rural Agenda «post 2020», in line with the European Urban Agenda, as a strategic framework for a specific development policy for rural areas.
- The proposal of an Interfund for an adapted financing of the integrated strategies of sustainable development of the rural territories.
**A Rural Development Pole**

Inhabited significantly area where the social, economic and territorial evolutions are led within the framework of an integrated and prospective development plan. The rural pole is not an agglomeration, but a rural territory as a whole, which may include one or more small towns.

The integrated and territorial development plan determines objectives of results in short, medium and long term. It specifies the guidelines for development, the human and material means to achieve the results targets.

The civil society, public and private actor, must be partner for its development and its assessment.

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**European Rural Agenda**

- Provides the political framework and the operational guidelines for a future specific development policy for rural territories (including peri-urban areas) which suits to their diversity and to the multisectoral dimension of their economic realities.
- Expresses the ambition of the European Union for the development of its rural territories.
- Facilitates intelligent cooperation between rural and urban centers, as a feedback on the Urban Agenda.

**Interfond Rural Territories**

- Is the financial instrument that realizes the multidimensional ambition of the European Rural Agenda.
- Is financed by the various sectoral policies of the European Union, of which part of the agricultural budget is reserved for it. Anchoring with the agricultural policy is essential. Its implementation also clarifies ERDF contributions for rural areas.

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**Our story**

- 1980: Setting up of the R.E.D. international association
- 1997: Setting up of the European Countryside Movement (E.C.M. – 20 European organisations), which, since then, has been in charge of his presidency and coordination

**Our expertise**

- Advisory group on Rural Development of the EU
- Liaison group between the EESC and the organized civil society
- Coordinating Committee of the European Rural Development Network
- Department of the European Parliamentary Intergroup RUMRA « Rural, mountainous and remote areas »

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**80% of the Territory of the European Union is Predominantly Rural**

That is to say that 58% of the population lives there and 56% of the employment is suggested.

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**Organization of international and European operational conferences and seminars on the various aspects of rural development**

**Edition of brochures and thematic files:**
- Energy performance of built heritage
- Digital challenges for rural territories
- Smart Rural

**Associated with the European « Smart Eco-social Villages » pilot-project, with the ultimate goal of presenting a definition.**

**Management of interregional projects in the Greater Region:**
- Reflection and implementation of a «Reference Center of Rurality in the Great Region».
- Harmonious revitalization of village centers and small towns: search for criteria and reflection tracks.
- **Heritage and energy:** recommendations for an energy renovation of buildings of architectural or heritage interest.