



Breaking Down the Barriers Between Local Action and European Policies

Agenda

While decision-making generally occurs at the EU or at the local level, and focuses either on strategy or actions, this session offers to combine bottom-up and top-down approaches into a constructive dialogue. We want to question **how to inform the dialogue between local actions and EU policies for an optimized impact?**

This dialogue is necessary as strategies must be put in perspective with what is the most effective and achievable at the local level, and local action must be guided by a clear strategy for an optimal efficiency. But how do we do? This central challenge will be addressed by our panel composed of various stakeholders: local and regional authorities' representatives committed to the energy transition, and European figures. The different levels of decision-making will be put at the same table to discuss how they can best inform one another.

A short introduction of the topic and challenges to be discussed will be given by the moderator of this session, Céline Seince, European coordinator of the RURENER network. The floor will then be given to the panelists for a short presentation (5 minutes each) of themselves and the structure they represent.

The discussion will be organized around three topics, giving space for questions and interventions from the audience between each section. These topics only seek to structure the discussion and there is no hermetic barrier between them, on the contrary!

1. What does it mean to conduct the energy transition for rural territories in Europe and how to change scale? The panelists will give their perspectives on the question, building on their own experiences. The different approaches will be discussed and illustrated by on the ground concrete examples of local initiatives.

2. How can we reinforce the dialogue between local action and the European institutions? This section will identify the barriers often refraining a constructive dialogue between local and global levels and propose tools and approaches to facilitate the dialogue (monitoring evaluation, cooperation...). Starting by confronting local needs and EU requirements, this section will move on to the identification of solutions, as a transition to the last section.





3. This third and final topic will conclude the discussion by turning our eyes onto the future. What has to be done and how can we achieve it? What is the role that the European Union (through the post 2020 programmes and funds) and the local stakeholders (through the implementation of local actions) have to play in the energy transition? It is time to take up the challenge together!

Each topic will be discussed for about 15 minutes by the panelists to give time for questions from the audience. The last 5 minutes will be dedicated to a synthetic summary of what has been said and the questions that may remain, and a short conclusion by the moderator. We will use sli.do to give everyone the chance to express their opinion and livestream the session.

This session is designed to include local, operational insights from rural territories and a strategic vision of EU policies. The session wants to improve the recognition of rural territories at the EU level, but also to develop the knowledge of rural territories about EU policies and tools through an informed dialogue between the local and global levels.

Join us to break down the barriers between local action and European policies!

