

RURENER CHARTER

Addressing the complexity of ecological and solidarity transitions is a challenge that requires placing each project, action, and policy within the system of actors and issues to which it belongs, and in its relationship with other systems with which it interacts. The classical, topic-centered, centralized approach is no longer suitable for addressing the complexity of transitions, and many rural areas across Europe find themselves ill-equipped to lead and manage this necessary transformation. This deficiency is the *raison d'être* of RURENER, which aims to support European rural communities by providing them with expertise, an opening to all possibilities, opportunities for funding and skills development, and a network of peers at the European level.

The RURENER network brings together European territorial actors, public or private (local authorities, inter-municipal cooperation structures, local action groups, cooperatives, associations, research institutes, individuals) committed, or wishing to commit, to ecological and solidarity transitions. It is open to all actors who recognize themselves in this charter, share its values and vision, and decide to join the association.

VISION AND VALUES

RURENER members share the vision of a Europe where rural communities are at the forefront of ecological and solidarity transitions and have successfully, with the support of the EU and Member States, developed innovative multi-actor approaches to successfully transition towards socially and economically prosperous societies, a preserved and regenerated environment, climate change adaptation solutions, and fair and effective decision-making systems, mobilizing synergies with rural, urban, and peri-urban territories.

They recognize themselves in values that they place at the heart of their action:

- **Optimism:** The conviction that rural communities are territories of opportunity in the implementation of environmental and social transitions.
- **Realism:** The need to **cooperate** at the local and European levels to successfully conduct territorial transitions and innovation and contribute to a balanced Europe.
- **Sharing:** The key role of sharing successes but also difficulties and failures, to guide others wishing to learn from our experience as accurately as possible.
- **Solidarity:** Solidarity among rural communities in Europe, with different possibilities, languages, cultures but united by common social, economic, climate, environmental, and governance challenges.
- **Sustainability:** Just action, transversal to all public policies or activities carried out, capable of not undermining the shared principles of a sustainable society.

OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION

RURENER members share common objectives for the future of their community:

- Seizing the transition as an opportunity to bring life back in rural areas.
- Implementing systemic approaches to lead and manage the transition, integrating social, economic, environmental, climate, and governance dimensions.
- Providing the means to locally manage the transition by training their teams, facilitating capacity building of rural stakeholders, and surrounding themselves with the necessary resources (human, technical, etc.).
- Inspiring other communities by transferring good practices so that they become the norm and are widely adapted to different contexts.
- Bringing up the voice of rural communities to be heard by European institutions and adapt European tools, policies, and funding to rural challenges.

To achieve this, RURENER members:

1. Share a strategic framework to subject all actions and decisions to the scrutiny of sustainability principles **operationally**.
2. Know how to co-construct with the actors of their community a desired future to **stay on course in the long term** through collective narratives and projections.
3. Capture the opportunities offered by European projects to **test new innovative approaches** and benefit from the experience of their peers in Europe.
4. Place the **sharing of experience and capitalization** at the heart of the success of territories through study missions or exchanges (webinars, return of experience' sheets, etc.) at the European level.

I approve of the principles and values mentioned above and I wish to register personally or on behalf of my municipality/organization as a member of the RURENER network, in order to participate in and benefit from the aforementioned activities.

Name of community/ organization: _____ Pays: _____

In: _____

On : __/__/____

Name (and position) of the signatory: _____

Signature: _____

