

The profound changes experienced by rural areas in Europe over recent decades have led to a loss of employment because of changes in the agricultural sector, the migration of young people towards urban centres and a resulting demographic imbalance, and insufficient population and infrastructural density to support economic development and entrepreneurial activity. However, one resource that rural areas may be able to draw upon is their 'social capital': the interaction of individuals participating and communicating in formal or informal networks in which higher levels of trust develop.

The aim of this conference is to identify strategies for job creation in rural Europe through social capital initiatives. Belonging to networks can increase a person's knowledge base, employability and creativity. In local rural areas, this can in turn stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth. Practitioners, researchers and policymakers will participate in the conference, which is taking place during the Portuguese EU Presidency.

Foundation reports addressing social capital and rural issues:

- Social capital and job creation in rural Europe
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0718.htm>
- Regional social capital in Europe
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef04114.htm>
- First European Quality of Life Survey: Urban-rural differences
<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef0663.htm>



European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

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European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Social capital and job creation in rural Europe

Lisbon, 8–9 November 2007

Organised by the
European Foundation for
the Improvement of Living
and Working Conditions,
in cooperation with the
European Commission's
Leader+ Observatory,
the Leader+ Portuguese
Network and the
Portuguese Ministry of
Agriculture, Rural
Development and Fisheries



Venue: Holiday Inn, Av. Antonio José de Almeida 28-A,
1000-044 Lisbon

DAY ONE

Thursday 8 November 2007: Setting the scene

9.00–9.30	Registration Chair: Jorma Karppinen , Director, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
9.30	Opening and welcome Rui Nobre Gonçalves , Secretary of State for Rural Development and Forestry – Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Portugal
9.45	Background and aims of the conference Jorma Karppinen , Director, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
10.00	'Quality of life in Europe: Urban–rural differences' Mark Shucksmith , University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom
	DISCUSSION
10.45	Coffee break and press conference
11.15	'Social capital initiatives and job creation in rural areas' Irene Mandl , KMU Forschung Austria
11.45	'Social capital initiatives: The experience of the Leader Programme in Portugal' Maria do Rosário Serafim , Leader+ Portuguese Network
	DISCUSSION
12.20	Introduction to workshops Robert Anderson , European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
12.30	Buffet lunch
14.00	Four workshops will be held, presenting practical experiences of social capital and job creation initiatives in rural areas. Each workshop should identify three policy recommendations, based principally on the case studies presented. Rapporteurs should: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• outline the policy context and organisation;• describe the social capital initiative;• consider the positive and negative impacts;• address the sustainability of job creation and the gender dimension;• identify policy implications (especially at EU level). <i>A coffee break is scheduled during the workshops, from 15.30 to 15.45. Simultaneous English/Portuguese interpretation will be provided in Workshop 3.</i>

Workshop 1: *Creating and supporting public–private partnerships for employment (between government, social partners, NGOs and private business)*

Location:	'Navegadores' meeting room
Chair:	Iñigo Isusi , IKEI, Spain
Rapporteur:	Antonio Coimbra , TECNINVEST, Portugal
Case studies and presenters:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany 'Joint policymaking, Altmark region' – Sibylle Paetow, Regional Planning Unit, Altmark• Poland 'The Heatherland Partnership' – Leszek Frąckowiak, Municipality of Przemkow, Poland• Slovakia 'Rural parliament' – Juraj Poledna, Peritus s.r.o., Slovakia

Workshop 2: *Creating and supporting business networks that promote employment in rural areas*

Location:	'Galeão' meeting room
Chair:	Elena Krastenova , Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development, Bulgaria
Rapporteur:	Jean-Pierre Vercruyse , Association for Information on Local Development, Belgium
Case studies and presenters:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulgaria 'Focus on individual target groups: young people and ethnic groups in Strumyani' – Elena Krastenova, Foundation for Entrepreneurship Development• Portugal 'Building on the local tradition of production and services: the network of taverns in Alto Tâmega' – Francisco Tavares, Associação de Desenvolvimento da Região do Alto Tâmega• Ireland 'Rural Enterprise – an integrated approach' – Eileen Linehan, IRD, Duhallow

Workshop 3: *Attracting new businesses to rural areas; entrepreneurship; revitalising the rural economy; supporting enterprises*

Location:	'Açores' meeting room
Chair:	Carmel Fox , CEO, Ballyhoura Development Ltd, Ireland
Rapporteur:	Hans Westlund , Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan, Sweden
Case studies and presenters:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Slovenia 'Implementation of rural heritage and job creation in the municipality of Ljubljana' – Maruša Markovčič, Advisor for Rural Development, Office for Agriculture, Ljubljana• Spain 'The LIFE Micovaldorba Project' – José María Gallo• Denmark 'Multifunctional meeting places for local businesses: Economic sustainability and bridging social capital' – Gunnar Lind Haase Svendsen, Danish Institute of Rural Research and Development

Workshop 4: *Engaging NGOs in job creation; social capital in rural areas*

Location:	'VIP' meeting room
Chair:	Vanessa Halhead , Coordinator, European Rural Community Association
Rapporteur:	Marili Parissaki , ECOTEC Research and Consulting, Spain
Case studies and presenters:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poland 'Active Village: Building an IT-literate society – e-VITA' – Klara Malecka, Rural Development Foundation, Poland• Greece 'Employment for women' – Fouli Papageorgiou, PRISMA, Greece• Finland 'The role of local action groups' – Sirpa Karjalainen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

17.30	Close of Day One
17.30–17.45	Meeting of rapporteurs in 'Açores' meeting room
19.30	Dinner at the Holiday Inn

DAY TWO

Friday 9 November: Policy implications

Chair: Ana Vale, Head of EQUAL, Portugal

9.30	'Current EU rural development policy and the Leader+ programme' Rui Veríssimo Batista , Head of Leader+ project for Portugal, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
	DISCUSSION
10.00	Lessons learnt from Day One on practical experiences relevant to policymakers Deirdre Carroll (Ireland), conference rapporteur
10.30	Commentary: 'How policy-makers must respond' António Manuel Figueiredo , Head of Quaternaire, Portugal
10.45	Coffee break
11.10	Round table debate 'Making social capital work' Moderator: Samuel Thirion , CRITICA, Belgium NGOs: Norman MacAskill , Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, United Kingdom European Parliament: Ilda Figueiredo , MEP, Committee on Employment and Social Affairs European Foundation Governing Board – Employers: Jan Boersma , Federatie Land- en Tuinbouw-organisaties (LTO-Nederland) Representative of the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development,
12.15	OPEN DEBATE
12.45	Conclusions and close of conference: Representative of the Portuguese Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity