



# The consideration of women in policies and initiatives for rural areas in Europe

The European Evaluation Society (EES) has published an article written by Blanca Casares, rural development officer at AEIDL, on integrating a gender dimension into policies for rural areas in Europe.

The article presents the role of women in rural areas, some of the challenges they face, and the lack of definition of European statistics in terms of disaggregation by gender and at rural territorial level.

It also reviews how the needs of rural women are integrated into current European policies and initiatives for rural areas, such as the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) regulation, the EU Long Term Vision for Rural Areas, and the Farm to Fork Strategy within the European Green Deal.

Finally, the article highlights some opportunities and conclusions focusing on the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system of the objectives associated with rural women in existing EU strategies and policies.

The article includes a reference to the work carried out by the AEIDL team around the AEIDL Talks on Women in Rural Areas, which led to the publication of an article on the role of women in rural development and innovation in the EU.

The AEIDL article contains a series of recommendations on opportunities and actions to be taken to improve the situation of women in rural areas by using public support and through enhancing public-private agreements. Some of the opportunities specifically refer to policy improvements to address the lack of specification for rural women.

In relation to the use of public support (different funds, mechanisms, and instruments) there is space to review EU policies through a rural lens, ensuring rural and gender proofing. With regard to the CAP support programme, specific interventions for women are needed, as well as giving priority to women in the selection criteria for support.

**ESS article:** <https://europeanevaluation.org/2021/11/29/women-in-rural-development-integrating-a-gender-dimension-into-policies-for-rural-areas-in-europe/>