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(CMJ)**

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Addendum

**Explanatory Memorandum to the Recommendation of the
Committee of Ministers on Social, Economic, and Political
Participation of Rural Youth**

Addendum: Examples of Practices/Initiatives from member States

Strengthening an Enabling and Accessible Environment

To encourage member States to actively implement the measures outlined in the Recommendation, a collection of practices has been assembled. These practices, which focus on **creating an enabling and accessible environment for rural youth**, are presented below. They provide valuable examples of strategies and initiatives that can help foster an environment conducive to the development and well-being of young people in rural areas.

- **France Services Homes (France)**

The "France Services" centres are local, state-sponsored facilities that provide various administrative and digital services to residents, particularly in rural areas. These centres aim to simplify access to public services by offering a one-stop shop where citizens can handle tasks related to taxes, social security, family allowances, and more. By 2024, there will be 2,700 France Services centres, with the goal of having one within a 30-minute reach for every French citizen. This initiative addresses the rural population's need for easy access to essential services, thereby promoting social inclusion and supporting the well-being of rural communities. The beneficiaries are rural residents who need assistance with administrative procedures and digital literacy.

More information: [France Services](#)

- **Maisons de Santé (Health Centres) (France)**

The "Maisons de Santé" (health centres) are multi-professional medical facilities established to improve healthcare access in rural areas. These centres bring together doctors, medical auxiliaries, and pharmacists to provide coordinated healthcare services. Each centre must have a healthcare plan and sign a multi-year objectives contract with regional health agencies. By 2022, there were 1,889 such centres, with 657 located in rural areas. This initiative aims to address the shortage of healthcare services in rural regions, ensuring that residents have access to comprehensive medical care. Beneficiaries include rural populations, local healthcare professionals, and regional health agencies.

More information: [Maisons de Santé](#)

- **Connected Campuses and Mentoring Programmes (France)**

"Connected Campuses" allow rural students to pursue higher education remotely while living at home. These campuses provide the infrastructure for distance learning, supported by local authorities and higher education institutions. As of 2023, there were 66 connected campuses in rural areas, helping students overcome geographical barriers to higher education. Additionally, the "1 young person 1 mentor" initiative pairs young people with mentors to provide guidance, career advice, and personal support, aiming to help disadvantaged youth succeed in their education and professional lives. These programmes are designed to promote equal opportunities and social mobility for rural youth. Beneficiaries include rural students, young people, and educational institutions.

More information: [Connected Campuses](#) **More information:** [Mentoring Programmes](#) **More information:** [Cordées de la Réussite](#)

- **Youth Compass Youth Information Network and Driving License Initiative (France)**

The "Youth Compass" is a digital platform that connects young people with local services related to training, employment, housing, health, and mobility. It is particularly useful in rural areas where mobility and access to information are limited. The Youth Information Network provides state-approved centres offering advice on rights, education, employment, and cultural opportunities. To further support youth independence, the minimum age for obtaining a driving licence has been lowered to 17, and local public services offer driving test training to young people. These initiatives aim to enhance youth autonomy and facilitate access to opportunities. Beneficiaries include rural youth who gain access to information, resources, and mobility.

More information: [Youth Compass](#) **More information:** [Youth Information Network](#) **More information:** [Driving License Initiative](#)

- **School Forums (Czechia)**

School Forums are a practice where children from school parliaments come together to discuss and identify projects they want to work on, such as establishing bike stations. This process involves engaging various stakeholders, including school principals, who must approve and allocate funds for the projects. The initiative aims to involve young people in local decision-making processes, giving them a platform to express their ideas and influence their environment. By participating in these forums, students learn about civic responsibility and gain a sense of ownership over community projects. The practice has successfully empowered young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Quick and visible results, such as the creation of bike stations, encourage ongoing participation and demonstrate the impact of youth voices in local governance.

More information:

- **Walkers on Wheels - Mobile Youth Work in Rural Areas (Finland)**

Walkers on Wheels is a mobile youth work initiative by the organisation Children of the Station, supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, several Foundations and other donors. The programme uses specially equipped motorhomes, called "Wautos," to bring youth services directly to young people in rural and remote areas, following the Walkers model of youth work. This approach involves youth work professionals and volunteers providing time and presence to engage with youth. Wautos serve as mobile youth centres, making it possible to reach communities that lack traditional youth facilities. The aim is to create equal opportunities for young people to access safe, meaningful experiences, regardless of their location, and to promote positive interactions between youth and adults. Local communities can use Wautos to explore new approaches to youth work and develop their operational culture.

More information: [Children of the Station - Walkers](#)

- **Elderly Support Project (Apoio Maior) (Portugal)**

Launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Apoio Maior project mobilised young volunteers to support isolated elderly individuals in rural Alentejo. Volunteers provided essential services such as delivering groceries and medications, helping with household tasks, and offering social interaction to alleviate loneliness. The project aimed to break social isolation, ensure the well-being of vulnerable elderly people, and foster intergenerational solidarity. Beneficiaries included isolated elderly residents who received vital support during the pandemic, young volunteers who gained valuable experience and community connection, and local communities that benefited from strengthened social bonds.

More information: [Voluntariado jovem de proximidade e apoio, em tempo de pandemia](#)

- **National Youth Strategy 2024 – 2027 (Romania)**

The National Youth Strategy 2024 – 2027 recognises the challenges faced by rural youth, such as limited access to education, job opportunities, and leisure activities. The strategy aims to reduce disparities between urban and rural areas by creating and supporting opportunities for rural youth. It focuses on developing the youth sector, strengthening youth work in rural areas, and increasing access to sustainable jobs. Key measures include providing digital and entrepreneurial skills training, supporting rural youth participation in learning mobilities, and improving information systems about training and professional development. The strategy also promotes the establishment of youth advisory councils and forums at the local level, ensuring that rural youth are actively involved in decision-making processes.

More information: [Anexă Strategia Națională pentru Tineret 2024-2027](#)

- **Perspectives for Youth in Rural Areas of Serbia (Serbia)**

The project "Perspectives for Youth in Rural Areas of Serbia," running from 2021 to 2025, is implemented by GIZ in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Youth of Serbia, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The project focuses on

improving economic, social, and cultural opportunities for rural youth, aiming to reduce migration to cities. Key initiatives include leadership development, youth entrepreneurship, local initiatives, and political engagement. To date, the project has supported over 185 youth-led projects, certified 52 youth as youth workers or leaders, and equipped 10 rural youth spaces. Additionally, more than 1,300 young people have received advisory services on entrepreneurship, rural tourism, and digital marketing, benefiting around 3,000 participants across 35 municipalities.

More information: <https://nemackasaradnja.rs/projects/podrska-mladima-u-ruralnim-podrucjima-srbije/>

Promoting Youth Engagement and Democratic Participation for All

To encourage member States to implement the measures outlined in the Recommendation, a selection of practices has been compiled. These practices, which emphasise **promoting youth engagement and democratic participation across all segments of society**, are presented below. They offer useful examples of effective approaches and initiatives that can enhance the involvement of young people in democratic processes and decision-making.

- **Bridges of Inclusion - E9G (Portugal)**

Funded by the Choices Programme, Bridges of Inclusion - E9G aims to promote social inclusion for children and youth in the municipality of Bragança, particularly those in vulnerable situations. The project focuses on educational support, vocational training, and community engagement to help participants succeed academically and develop life skills. It also promotes social integration through arts, sports, and personal development activities. By engaging young people in meaningful activities, the project seeks to empower them to become active members of society. The primary beneficiaries are children and youth in Bragança, including those from ethnic minorities and migrant backgrounds, who gain support and opportunities to improve their life prospects.

More information: [O Projeto Pontes de Inclusão](#)

- **Ecological Campaigns (e.g., #SprzątaMY) (Poland)**

Ecological campaigns such as #SprzątaMY are initiatives aimed at shaping pro-ecological attitudes among young people. These campaigns focus on increasing ecological awareness and encouraging active participation in environmental protection activities, such as nationwide forest clean-up events. Such campaigns often involve scouts and school youth, promoting collective action for the environment. The campaigns have successfully mobilised young people to take part in hands-on environmental protection activities.

More information:

- **Young LEADER Programme (Czechia)**

The Young LEADER programme provides young people living in areas covered by Local Action Groups the opportunity to apply for funding and gain practical experience in project management. Participants must submit project proposals and advocate for their ideas, competing for funds to implement their projects. These projects can range from organising community events to local reconstructions, offering youth the freedom to manage funds and execute their ideas. The programme aims to involve young people in local decision-making and project management, nurturing leadership skills and fostering civic responsibility. It has led to increased awareness and engagement among youth, resulting in successful initiatives such as event organisation, monument restoration, and the creation of tourist trails. The programme's accessibility and flexibility in managing projects make it an attractive and successful avenue for youth involvement.

More information:

- **Civic Service and Territorial Volunteering in Administration (France)**

Civic service in rural areas allows young people aged 16 to 25 to volunteer for 6 to 12 months in projects that benefit the community. Volunteers receive a monthly allowance and social protection. By 2022, 35,000 volunteers were involved in rural civic service. Additionally, the "Territorial Volunteering in Administration" programme enables young graduates to work on local development projects with rural

local authorities, with the aim of addressing local needs and fostering youth employment. These programmes encourage young people to engage with their communities, gain professional experience, and contribute to local development. Beneficiaries include rural youth, local communities, and public administration bodies.

More information: [Civic Service](#) **More information:** [Territorial Volunteering in Administration](#)

- **Enhancing Youth Participation in Rural Slovenia through Amendment of the Act on Youth Councils (Slovenia)**

This legislative amendment allows for the creation of inter-municipal youth councils in Slovenia, enabling youth from smaller municipalities to participate in neighbouring councils. The change aims to address administrative fragmentation and enhance youth participation in local decision-making processes. By mandating active involvement of youth in governance, the amendment promotes active citizenship and ensures that young people have a voice in decisions affecting their communities. Beneficiaries include rural youth who gain more opportunities to participate in governance, and local governments which benefit from increased youth engagement and representation.

More information: <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/slovenia/12-national-youth-law>

- **Youth Innovation Lab (Kreaktivator) (Montenegro)**

The Youth Innovation Lab, known as Kreaktivator, was launched by UNICEF Montenegro in April 2016 with the goal of empowering young people, especially those from marginalised backgrounds, to address community challenges through innovation and creativity. The lab provides tools and an environment for youth to tackle local issues using modern technology. Key activities include workshops such as "UpShift," where participants identify community problems and develop solutions with mentor support, potentially receiving funding to implement their ideas. The initiative has engaged many rural youth, helping them develop practical and entrepreneurial skills while contributing positively to their communities.

More Information:

Strengthening Youth Structures

To support member States in implementing the measures detailed in the Recommendation, a set of practices has been gathered. These practices, which focus on **strengthening youth structures in rural areas**, are outlined below. They illustrate effective methods and initiatives for building and supporting robust youth organisations and networks in rural communities.

- **The White Paper on Rural Youth (Romania)**

The White Paper on Rural Youth, created in 2023, is a strategic document that outlines the priorities and needs of young people in rural areas, developed collaboratively with them. This initiative was led by the Governance of the European Youth Village programme, alongside the Romanian Youth Council, the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania, the National Council of Students, and the Timiș County Youth Foundation. The White Paper sets strategic priorities such as developing rural youth in rural areas, promoting inclusive and responsible participation, supporting local, national, and international visibility of rural youth initiatives, and providing resources for quality development and learning. It also emphasises strengthening the youth sector, enhancing the role of civil society, and ensuring that rural youth are represented in decision-making processes. The document seeks to connect local, county, national, and European policies to the real needs of rural youth, while fostering values such as inclusion, diversity, equity, and respect for youth rights.

More information:

- **European Youth Village (Romania)**

The European Youth Village programme, initiated by the Association for Active Development and Go Free Association, aims to foster youth development and organisation in rural areas. By awarding the title of "European Youth Village" to communities that demonstrate a commitment to youth participation, the programme encourages local activities and projects that address the needs of rural young people. It focuses on enhancing public policies, promoting best practices in youth engagement, and creating autonomous youth communities. Beneficiaries include rural youth who gain opportunities for participation and community development, and local authorities that receive support and recognition for their efforts in youth engagement.

More information: [European Youth Village Programme](#)

- **International Youth Advisory Board (IYAB) (Holy See)**

The International Youth Advisory Board (IYAB) is a consultative body established to enhance the active participation of young people in the governance of the Catholic Church. Created following the 2018 Synod of Bishops' recommendation, the IYAB includes young people aged 18-30 from various countries who are appointed for a five-year term. The board serves as a platform for engaging youth in dialogue on key issues, supporting reflection on and implementation of action programmes, and contributing to decision-making processes within the Church. Its purpose is to ensure that the voices and perspectives of young people are actively represented and considered in the Church's activities and governance.

More Information:

4th International Congress on the Care of Creation (Lisbon, August 2023): <https://www.fondazionegiovani.va/en/2023/08/01/lifestyles-for-a-new-humanity-the-4th-care-of-creation-conference-at-the-wyd-in-lisbon/>

IYAB: <https://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/l-ufficio-giovani-del-dicastero/iyab.html>

MIJARC: <http://www.mijarcworld.net/>

IMCS Pax Romana: <https://imcsap.org/>

Ensuring Access to Quality Education (Formal and Non-Formal)

To encourage member States to follow through on the measures outlined in the Recommendation, a collection of practices has been assembled. These practices, which relate **to ensuring access to quality education—both formal and non-formal—for rural youth**, are detailed below. They provide practical examples of strategies and initiatives for improving educational opportunities and outcomes for young people in rural areas.

- **Rural Educational Areas, Boarding Schools of Excellence, and Artistic and Cultural Education (France)**

This set of educational initiatives focuses on enhancing educational opportunities for rural youth. Rural educational areas connect schools with local professionals and community organisations to provide multidisciplinary learning and career guidance. As of 2023, these programmes involved 155 primary schools, 27 collèges, and 20 lycées across various regions. Boarding schools of excellence provide residential education for students, offering a structured environment to foster academic success. In addition, the rural agenda supports artistic and cultural education by funding projects that bring cultural activities to rural areas. These initiatives aim to improve educational outcomes, provide career guidance, and enhance cultural awareness among rural youth. Beneficiaries include rural students, schools, and cultural organisations.

More information: [Rural Educational Areas](#) **More information:** [Boarding Schools of Excellence](#) **More information:** [Artistic and Cultural Education](#)

- **Online Lessons with Forest Educators (Poland)**

These online lessons are designed to adapt environmental education to a virtual format, encouraging interaction and learning about forests and environmental protection. A total of 68 lessons have been conducted, engaging 1,395 participants. The lessons, led by educators, can be viewed live or as recordings and cover various topics related to forest conservation and ecology. This format allows for broader reach and flexibility in learning.

More information:

- **Meetings with a Forester in Schools and Kindergartens (Poland)**

These meetings aim to raise ecological awareness and educate students about the role of foresters. Led by foresters, the lessons cover topics related to nature, environmental protection, and forestry, often using play-based methods for younger children. The initiative has reached over 188,000 participants through more than 4,000 meetings. These sessions help demystify the work of foresters and inspire a sense of responsibility towards nature among students. An example is the "A Forest Full of Life" seminar series conducted to celebrate the International Day of Forests.

More information: <https://www.gov.pl/web/climate/the-forest-school-with-climate-programme-is-starting>

- **Art, Photography, and Literature Competitions (Poland)**

These competitions encourage creative expression on forest-related topics, aiming to educate participants about nature and forests through artistic activities. Over 567 competitions have been held, with more than 73,000 participants engaging in creative projects. These activities not only foster a love for nature but also promote environmental awareness through creativity. An example is the "Bison - King of the Forest" art competition held on Earth Day.

More information:

- **Online Workshops (Poland)**

The online workshops aim to activate participants through manual tasks and develop their practical skills, focusing on environmental and forest protection. With 30 workshops held and 786 participants involved, these sessions offer an engaging way to learn about ecology and sustainability. Participants perform tasks such as creating objects from recycled materials under the guidance of educators, making these workshops an interactive and hands-on learning experience.

More information:

- **Science Picnic (Poland)**

The Science Picnic aims to popularise science and natural knowledge among young people, shaping positive attitudes towards science and nature conservation. This outdoor event features educational stands, interactive exhibits, and presentations, providing a platform for youth to engage with scientific concepts related to environmental protection. The State Forests collaborate with partners such as Polish Radio and the Copernicus Science Centre to offer a rich learning experience at these events.

More information: <https://www.kopernik.org.pl/en/special-projects/science-picnic>

- **Outdoor Activities and Guided Tours (Poland)**

This activity focuses on environmental education and developing environmental awareness among young people. It involves outdoor classes led by forest guides, where participants learn to recognise different species and understand sustainable forest management. The aim is to foster a deep connection with nature and teach responsible environmental stewardship. With 1,079 classes conducted and 2,125 participants, including primary and secondary school students, these activities have successfully engaged youth in hands-on learning experiences. Examples include "Clean Forest Around Us" classes on Earth Day for primary students and "Biological Diversity of the Forest" classes for Forestry Technical School students.

More information: <https://www.gov.pl/web/climate/cleaning-polish-forests-together>

- **Fiskeskolan (Fishing School) (Finland)**

Fiskeskolan is an educational initiative by Finland's Swedish 4H designed to teach children and youth about fishing, the blue industries, and sustainable practices. The programme includes summer camps where younger participants learn about local fish stocks, seamanship, and sustainable fishing practices, while older participants (14+) take on leadership roles under professional supervision. The project aims to address the decline in practical skills and knowledge about fish preparation, foster active citizenship,

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- **Living Lab of Agriculture 4.0 (Portugal)**

The Living Lab of Agriculture 4.0 is an innovative project launched by the Associação dos Jovens Agricultores de Portugal (AJAP) to support young farmers and rural entrepreneurs. This initiative focuses on enhancing competitiveness and sustainability in agriculture through the use of modern technology and knowledge dissemination. It includes an online information platform, a mobile application, and a series of events and roadshows to provide training and resources for young farmers. By offering up-to-date information on agricultural production, market trends, and entrepreneurship, the Living Lab aims to promote sustainable rural development, retain qualified young people in rural areas, and foster innovative economic activities. The project is designed to help young farmers make informed strategic decisions, thus improving their livelihoods and contributing to the sustainability of rural territories. Beneficiaries include young farmers, rural entrepreneurs, and the broader agricultural community, all of whom gain from increased knowledge, improved practices, and the overall enhancement of rural life.

More information: [AJAP - Agriculture 4.0](#)

- **Co-creation of the National Action Plan for Working with Young Farmers 2024-2030 (Slovenia)**

This initiative, led by the Slovenian Rural Youth Association (ZSPM) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Food, focuses on developing a comprehensive action plan to support young farmers in Slovenia. The action plan was created through a participatory process involving key stakeholders, ensuring that the voices and needs of young farmers are central to the strategy. It addresses critical issues such as access to land, financial resources, market opportunities, and the promotion of agricultural careers among the younger generation. The plan also aims to enhance intergenerational cooperation within the agricultural sector, ensuring that knowledge and skills are passed down to younger farmers. By involving youth organisations and other relevant stakeholders, the initiative ensures a comprehensive and effective approach to supporting young farmers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing the long-term viability of farming in Slovenia. The primary beneficiaries are young farmers, rural youth, and agricultural communities who will benefit from improved policies, support systems, and opportunities for development.

More information:

- **4H Enterprise - A Programme Organised by 4H Finland (Finland)**

The 4H Enterprise programme offers young people aged 13 to 28 the opportunity to start and manage their own businesses. Through this initiative, participants learn essential business skills, develop an entrepreneurial mindset, and gain hands-on experience in managing a business. The programme supports young entrepreneurs by providing training, mentoring, and resources, enabling them to become their own bosses and set their own working hours. Participants can earn ECTS credits and digital badges, enhancing their academic and professional profiles. The programme aims to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship among young people, helping them create job opportunities and build a foundation for future career success. The beneficiaries are young people interested in entrepreneurship, local communities that benefit from increased economic activity, and the broader society, which gains from a more entrepreneurial workforce.

More information: <https://4h.fi/en/4h-enterprises-learn-and-earn/>

- **Moped and Engine Workshops for Youth (Finland)**

Moped and engine workshops, coordinated by the Finnish Association for Children and Youth (LNK), provide young people with the opportunity to engage in hands-on work with mopeds, motorcycles, and engines. These workshops are set up across Finland, with a particular focus on rural areas, offering a safe environment where youth can learn technical skills, receive social support, and gain work

experience. The workshops aim to prevent social exclusion, support holistic growth, and strengthen social skills among young people, particularly those at risk of being left out of traditional education and employment opportunities. By engaging youth in practical activities, the workshops help them build confidence, develop a sense of responsibility, and integrate into their communities.

More information: [Moped and Engine Workshops](#)

- **Programme “Cultiva” (Spain)**

The Cultiva programme is a training initiative funded by the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, aimed at young farmers and livestock owners. It provides practical training opportunities at model farms across Spain, where participants can learn about innovative farming techniques, business models, and new technologies. The training sessions last between 5 to 14 days and cover all aspects of modern farming. The programme’s primary objective is to equip young farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop and sustain their own agricultural enterprises. By providing hands-on experience, Cultiva aims to foster entrepreneurship, improve farming practices, and support generational renewal in agriculture. The main beneficiaries are young farmers under 41 who own agricultural holdings and are looking to enhance their farming knowledge and skills.

More information: <https://www.mapa.gob.es/va/desarrollo-rural/temas/jovenes-rurales/visitas-formativas/default.aspx>

- **Multiregional Training Programmes for Professionals in Rural Areas (Spain)**

These programmes are centrally managed by Spain’s Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, specifically through the General Directorate of Rural Development and Forestry Policy. The initiative aims to finance training activities for rural professionals, helping them update their skills in line with national and European strategies focused on technological innovation, employment generation, and gender equality. The training covers a broad spectrum, including agricultural practices, digitalisation, and sustainability, with a special focus on young people, rural women, and other vulnerable groups. By enhancing professional skills, the programme seeks to modernise agricultural practices, promote rural employment, and strengthen the social and economic fabric of rural areas. Beneficiaries include farmers, young professionals entering the agricultural sector, rural women, and other groups contributing to rural economies.

More information:

- **Programme Desafío Mujer Rural (Rural Women Challenge) (Spain)**

The “Rural Women Challenge” is an initiative led by the Spanish Women’s Institute, supported by the European Social Fund, and aligned with the Strategic Plan for Gender Equality and the Sustainable Development Goals of the European 2030 Agenda. This programme aims to boost the economic and social growth of rural areas by empowering women through training, resources, and support for entrepreneurial activities. It encourages women to start and grow businesses, thereby creating jobs and fostering economic development in rural communities. The programme also focuses on reducing gender disparities by providing digital skills training and supporting sustainable, eco-friendly projects. The beneficiaries are young women living in rural areas of Spain, who receive training and support to become active contributors to their communities’ economic and social growth.

More information: <https://www.one.gob.es/en/aid-and-calls/rural-women-challenge-program>

- **Campus Rural (Spain)**

The “Campus Rural” programme is an initiative managed by Spain’s Ministry for Environment and Demographic Challenge, in collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities, and the Conference of Spanish University Rectors. This programme places university students in rural areas with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants to carry out internships. The goal is to promote territorial balance by encouraging students to bring human capital to depopulated areas, thereby activating local economic, social, and institutional networks. Through these internships, students gain valuable work experience and create connections that can lead to future job opportunities in rural communities. The programme is designed to benefit both the students, who receive a monthly stipend and social security coverage, and the rural entities that host them, which incur no costs for participation. Beneficiaries include students

from various academic backgrounds, rural communities facing depopulation, and local public and private entities that gain from fresh talent and ideas.

More information: https://www.miteco.gob.es/en/reto-demografico/temas/campus_rural.html

- **Transhumance Festival (Portugal)**

The Transhumance Festival, organised by the Cultural and Recreational Association of Fernão Joanes, is a vibrant cultural event dedicated to celebrating and preserving the pastoral traditions of the Serra da Estrela region. Held annually in Fernão Joanes, the festival showcases a variety of activities, including the Pastoral Heritage Walk, live demonstrations of cheese making and sheep milking, and religious elements such as the pilgrimage to Nossa Senhora do Soito. The festival aims to honour the shepherds, preserve ancestral traditions, promote regional identity, and attract tourism, thereby revitalising the local economy and enhancing the social fabric of the community. The festival engages local residents, visitors, and tourists, serving as a bridge between past traditions and contemporary cultural expressions, thus benefiting the entire region by fostering community spirit and cultural pride.

More information: [Festa da Transumância](#)

- **Rural Clustering and Transformation Project (Montenegro)**

The Rural Clustering and Transformation Project, supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), aims to enhance the economic prospects of rural youth in Northern Montenegro. The project provides access to financing, modern agricultural technologies, and tailored training programmes to improve skills and employability in the agricultural sector. Activities include comprehensive support packages for starting or improving agricultural businesses and practical training in modern farming techniques and business management. The project has created opportunities for rural youth to stay in their communities and contribute to the local economy, reducing migration trends.

More Information: