



# European Rural Development Network

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Institute of Agricultural Economics - Romanian Academy  
Romanian Association of Rural and Agri-Food Economy "Virgil Madgearu"  
Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development – Academy of Agricultural and  
Forestry Sciences  
& European Rural Development Network

invite to the

XXI European Rural Development Network Conference

## "Food systems transition for sustainable rural development"

23-25 September 2025

Bucharest, Romania

we are very pleased to invite you to the international scientific conference of the European Rural Development Network (ERDN) that will be held in Bucharest, Romania on **23-25 September 2025!**

*The conference registration is now open until 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2025.*

Conference email: [conference@erdn.eu](mailto:conference@erdn.eu)

Conference web site: <http://erdn.eu/conference/21erdn2025/>

*Registration form will be available on the conference website soon!*

### Important dates:

- Abstract submission (for oral presentation or poster): 1 June 2025.
- Acceptance of the abstracts: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- Registration to the conference: 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2025.
- Submission of research letters – 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- Conference: 23<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- Publication of research letters (short papers) in Rural Areas and Development in 2025.

Our conference has an inclusive character. Participants can decide to do an oral presentation or poster. Your proposal will be accepted but we reserve the right to ask you to prepare a presentation in the form of a poster, which will allow us to actively manage the agenda.

Together with FoodPathS ([foodpaths.eu](http://foodpaths.eu)) project we warmly invite EU cofinanced projects related to food systems, rural development and soil issues to present their results, which will serve to develop conclusions that are valuable for the development of rural, agricultural and food systems in Europe.

The conference will be subsidised, which means that according to ERDN custom, participants will mainly cover their travel expenses. However, the number of conference places is limited.

## INVITATION LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

ERDN is organizing its 21<sup>st</sup> international scientific conference:

### Food systems transition for sustainable rural development

It will be co-hosted by our network member – Romanian Academy – Institute of Agricultural Economics together with Romanian Association of Rural and Agri-Food Economy “Virgil Madgearu”, Research Institute for Agriculture Economy and Rural Development – Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, and will take place on 23-25 September in Bucharest!

The aim of the conference is to present current research and to discuss the future development of rural areas in Europe in the context of food systems' transition, modern rural communities and endogenous rural resources. We will seek for recommendations for the creation of effective policies for [stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040](#). Our activities are also in heart of [Food 2030- the EU's research and innovation policy framework supporting the transition towards sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems](#) and [the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'](#). The exchange of experiences of research teams from various countries, that share the values of the ERDN, of an interdisciplinary and intergenerational character, is extremely valuable here to talk together, above all to exchange views and experiences, to make recommendations and to have a real impact on the process of building a better, more sustainable Europe, both within the EU and beyond! ERDN is a member of **Rural Pact Coordination Group, Soil Mission, Pact for Climate, Pact for Skills, New European Bauhaus, Sustainable Food Systems Network** and many other EU initiatives to support research, policy making and development in Europe. Our conference will be an opportunity to promote your knowledge and experience in these bodies, to share research results and jointly developed recommendations!

The formula of the conference is innovative, involving the organisation of 3 days in sessions with most of the focus on debate and discussion- moderated by great experts, focused on the results that will flow from the added value we will generate during the conference, through the collation of individual research results, in the process of collective working sessions.

### Description of the sessions

**Research sessions** will be held on 23 and 25 September.

Following the welcome and the opening plenary session, the conference most important part are thematic sessions that will bring together the valuable papers you provide. But you will only have 7-10 minutes to present your approach and, above all, your results, reflections and conclusions of your work!

The 4-5 papers in this format will serve as an introduction to an open, hour-long debate with the other participants and the moderator (carefully prepared for this role) will guide the discussion, and also will wrap-up and collect recommendations, which will be brought together and published in our Rural Areas and Development yearbook, as a collective work.

**Horizon Projects Discussion Session** will be held on 24 September.

Our members are partners of various Horizon Europe consortia, acting as a bridge between researchers from different organisations and countries. We want to make use of this rich activity of our members and create a platform of dissemination of results and also of active pooling of knowledge, developed in projects. We therefore especially invite representatives of consortium leaders and HE projects' representatives to join our special session that will take place on the second day of the conference. We plan short project presentations and structured debate aimed at exchanging experiences and project findings in three discussion panels:

- I. Contribution to Rural Pact and Long Term Vision for Rural Areas in Europe.
- II. Engaging our societies in the transformation towards Sustainable Food Systems.
- III. Heathy Soil for our future: Land governance in the local communities.

Equally important will be our **Poster Sessions**, which will provide a graphic introduction to the moderated discussion of the presented research results, which will also serve to develop conclusions, combining the results of the various studies. In this way, all active participants in our conference will have the chance to include their thoughts in the collective work that the ERDN wants to promote in Europe. Let this unique formula be the hallmark of our environment. The ERDN has always distinguished itself by valuing community as the core value that unites scientists, free thinkers and people with real passion, bringing them together in our Network.

We hope you will honour us with your presence and become actively involved in our conference!

*Paweł Chmieleński, Barbara Wieliczko, Monica Tudor, Dan Marius Voicilas*  
*on behalf of the Organising Committee of the ERDN Conference*

## XXI ERDN 2025 Conference

# Food systems transition for sustainable rural development

## Provisional agenda

### 23.09 TUESDAY

10.00 **WELCOME and PLENARY**

11.30 **Research sessions** (coffee included)

13.00 **LUNCH** and activities to refresh the mind

14.30 **Research sessions**

16.00 Refreshment break

16.30 **Poster sessions / Presentations** by our friends (books, achievements, projects)

19.00/20.00 Dinner and the Traditional Romanian Party

### 24.09 WEDNESDAY

10.00 **Horizon Projects Discussion Session I** (and coffee break)

12.00 **Horizon Projects Discussion Session II** (and refreshment break)

14.00 **Horizon Projects Discussion Session III** (and tea break)

15.30 **LUNCH and the STUDY VISIT**

*... to be announced!*

19.00 Dinner

*... and the ERDN Party (optional).*

### 25.09 THURSDAY

10.00 **Research sessions**

11.30 Refreshment break

12.00 **Research sessions**

13.30 **LUNCH**

14.30 **Research sessions/Posters II**

16.00 Closing

*16.00-22.00 Various activities in Bucharest for those who are willing to stay:)*