

Workshop: How to foster sustainable development through rural entrepreneurship – Success stories from the Mediterranean

Brussels, 21 October 2020 | 14:30-16:00 | European Committee of the Regions, room JDE 51

The ARLEM award for Young local entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean has shown how regions and cities can use rural entrepreneurship as a tool to foster sustainable development in their territories. Based on success stories from the three shores of the Mediterranean, the workshop will explore how policy-makers can best address the specific challenges to entrepreneurial development in rural areas and foster environments in which entrepreneurs can thrive. It will pay particular attention to the consequences of the Coronavirus crisis for areas such as productivity, supply chains, access to labour, demand for agricultural products, and consumer preferences, and analyse how rural entrepreneurship can help mitigate the economic impact. By creating a dialogue between local and regional authorities, entrepreneurs and civil society, the workshop will identify good practices to support entrepreneurs in sparsely populated areas, tap into the entrepreneurial capacity of women and young people, and harness the business potential of traditional economic sectors.

SPEAKERS

Chair: Mr **Olgiard Geblewicz** (PL/EPP), President of West Pomerania Region, Poland, Member of the CoR CIVEX Commission, ARLEM rapporteur on youth entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean

Panelists: Ms **Agnès Rampal**, CoR Member, ARLEM rapporteur on agriculture and food security in climate sensitive areas, Member of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Regional Council, France

Ms **Ana María Vega Fernández**, Director-General for Enterprise, Regional Government of Extremadura (Spain)

Mr **Hammou Boussada**, Co-Founder of Rima Dates, Ghardaia, Algeria

Ms **Lora Thebian**, Mentorship Program Coordinator, Rural Entrepreneurs, Shouf Region, Lebanon

AGENDA

14:30 Opening
14:40 Presentation of good practices, success stories and lessons learned
15:20 Discussion and Q&A
15:50 Conclusions
16:00 End of the workshop

18th EUROPEAN WEEK of REGIONS and CITIES

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Interpretation: English, Spanish and Arabic (active and passive)
plus French (only passive – you will be able to ask questions in French)
This is a digital event: Participation is possible via the Interactio platform.
Only the chair, speakers and CoR members will be allowed into room JDE51 upon prior
registration should they so prefer.



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