



## T1.3 Initial Case Study Assessment and Selection Framework

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## ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

CO	University of Galway Coordinator
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
WHO	World Health Organisation
WP	Work Package

## PROJECT PARTNERS

<b>Galway</b>	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY
<b>TU Delft</b>	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT
<b>TEAGASC</b>	TEAGASC - AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
<b>UNICAL</b>	UNIVERSITA DELLA CALABRIA
<b>LWL</b>	LONGFORD WOMEN S LINK CLG
<b>UTU</b>	TURUN YLIOPISTO
<b>UL</b>	UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
<b>CE</b>	CONSULTA EUROPA PROJECTS AND INNOVATION SL
<b>HNEE</b>	HOCHSCHULE FUR NACHHALTIGE ENTWICKLUNG EBERSWALDE
<b>ELARD</b>	ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE LEADER POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL
<b>UOULU</b>	OULUN YLIOPISTO
<b>ECOLISE</b>	RESEAU EUROPEEN POUR DES INITIATIVES COMMUNAUTAIRES SUR LES CHANGEMENTS CLIMATIQUES ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
<b>MENDELU</b>	MENDELOVA UNIVERZITA V BRNE
<b>LNU</b>	LINNEUNIVERSITETET
<b>HLK</b>	HOGSKOLAN FOR LARANDE OCH KOMMUNIKATION I JONKOPING - HLK SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 THE FLIARA PROJECT

The FLIARA project aims to create an inclusive and empowering innovation ecosystem for rural women, ensuring they are recognised, supported, and celebrated in their accomplishments.

The project aims to achieve this by:

- Showcasing rural women's achievements and contributions;
- Providing them with inspiration and knowledge resources;
- Facilitating connections with key players in the innovation landscape;
- Amplifying their presence in national and international decision-making circles
- Enhancing their capacity and skills to take on leadership roles in the innovation sector.

Specifically, FLIARA focuses on addressing the challenges faced by women driving agricultural and rural innovative development practices. Through this initiative, women's innovations will receive increased visibility and recognition, ultimately contributing to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas. A variety of systematic approaches and procedures are used to carry out the FLIARA project's goals and objectives, one of which is the execution of 200 interviews on sustainable innovations led by rural women in ten EU nations.

### 1.2 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The initial case study assessment and selection framework (T1.3 - D1.4) aims to integrate the insights gained from the FLIARA Conceptual Framework and the FLIARA Knowledge Review, along with the findings generated in WP 2, the Envisioning Process. Based on this accumulated knowledge, it will formulate the initial criteria for choosing case studies in WP3. These criteria will encompass the early identification of subtopics within the realms of sustainability innovation, which include environmental, economic, social, and cultural aspects. Additionally, this task will lay the foundation for guidelines concerning the evaluation of pathways leading to innovations led by women in farming and rural settings, as well as a comparative analysis of case studies in WP3.

### 1.3 DELIVERABLE OVERVIEW

In this deliverable, we will delve into the structured framework for our FLIARA (Female-Led Innovations in Agriculture and Rural Areas) case studies. This comprehensive document will guide the selection process, assessment criteria, and comparative analysis across countries and regions, all while considering various dimensions of sustainability. The chapter will be organised as follows:

1. **Building on Prior Knowledge:** We will start by exploring the insights gained through our Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Review, and the Foresight Envisioning Exercise. This foundation will inform our approach and enrich the context for the subsequent stages.
2. **Case Study Selection:** We will outline the four key criteria employed for selecting the FLIARA case studies. These criteria include:

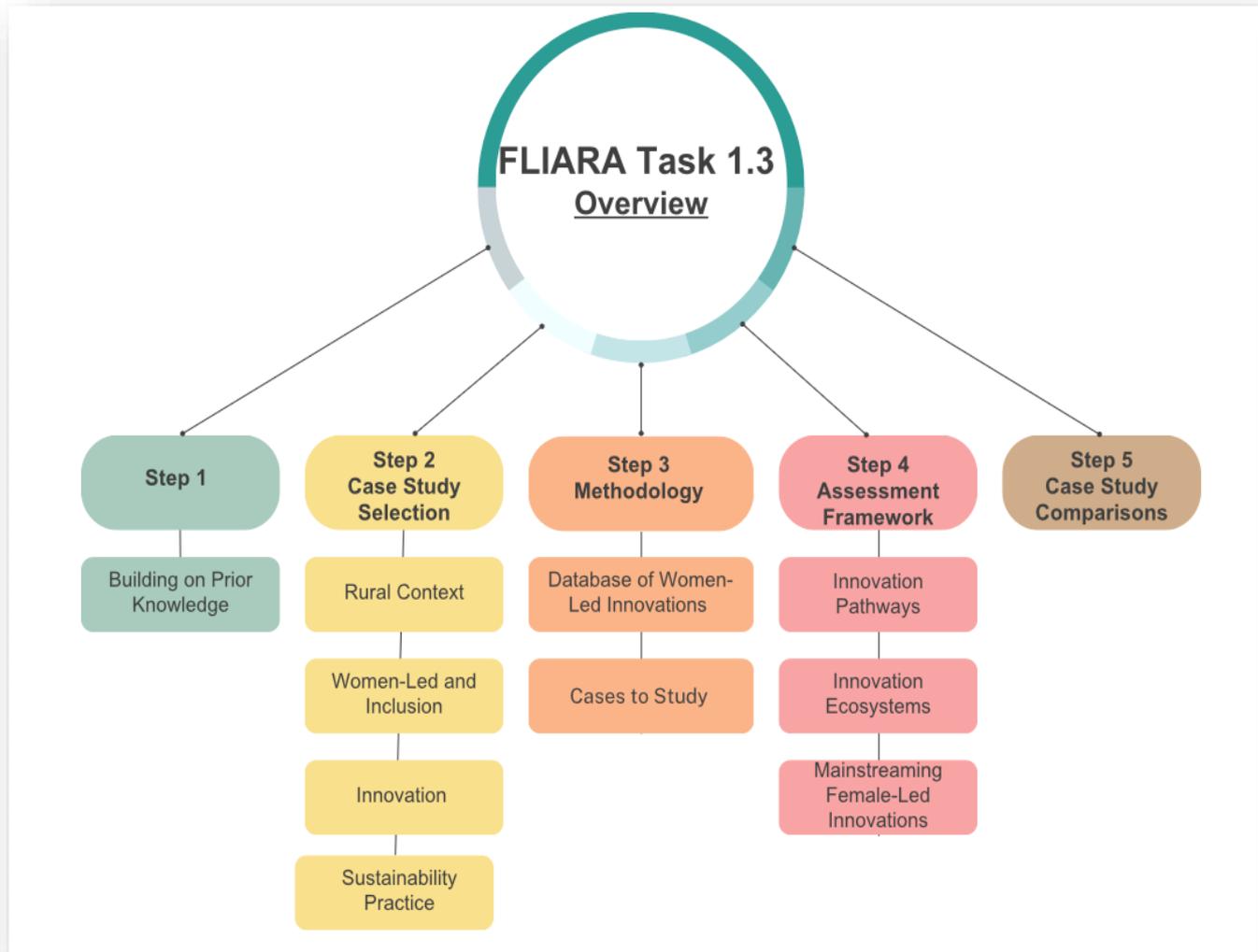


- **Rural Context:** Examining innovations in rural settings to understand their unique challenges and opportunities.
  - **Women-Led and Inclusion:** Focusing on innovations driven by women and their potential to foster inclusivity.
  - **Innovation:** Assessing the innovative aspects of these cases and their potential for transformative change.
  - **Sustainability Practice:** Investigating the sustainability practices embedded within these innovations.
3. **Methodology:** Our methodology consists of two distinct stages:
- **Stage 1 - Data Base of Women-Led Innovations:** We will explain the process of building a database comprising women-led innovations in agriculture and rural areas. This stage serves as the foundation for our case study selection.
  - **Stage 2 - Cases to Study:** Here, we will elaborate on the criteria and process for choosing specific cases from the database for in-depth study.
4. **Assessment Framework:** We will introduce our assessment framework, which will be instrumental in evaluating the selected case studies. This framework comprises three key components:
- **Innovation Pathways:** Examining the evolution and impact of innovations in agriculture and rural areas led by women.
  - **Innovation Ecosystems:** Analysing the supportive ecosystems and networks that enable and sustain female-led innovations.
  - **Mainstreaming Female-Led Innovations:** Exploring strategies to integrate these innovations into mainstream agricultural practices and policies.
5. **Case Study Comparisons:** The chapter will conclude with a discussion on how we plan to compare the case studies at both national and regional levels. We will also explain the methodology for evaluating the case studies based on various dimensions of sustainability, ensuring a comprehensive assessment.

T1.3 (D1.4) will therefore serve as a set of guidelines for the FLIARA case studies to be developed further and carried out via WP3. These guidelines will provide a clear structure and methodology for our investigation into the vital role of women-led innovations in agriculture and rural development. The following graphic provides a visual overview of the Initial Guidelines for Case Study Assessment and Selection (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Task 1.3 Overview





## 2. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR

### 2.1 FLIARA'S CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Rural areas are far from being devoid of historical and political significance, and they certainly are not static in time. Instead, they possess unique histories and developmental trajectories that carry substantial implications for both gender equality and sustainability, both today and in the future. It is crucial to acknowledge that rural women cannot be categorised as a single, homogenous category; they exhibit a wide range of needs, opportunities, social networks, and access to resources. Moreover, they grapple with a multitude of stereotypes and are often confined to predefined societal roles.

A gender perspective, within our conceptual framework, recognises that innovations led by women are embedded within intricate socio-cultural contexts. We propose the reconstruction of policies, innovation ecosystems, sustainability and equality paradigms, gender roles, stereotypes, and associated norms. These transformations are instrumental in steering rural areas toward sustainability and gender equality. In doing this, the FLIARA Conceptual Framework identified six different but interlinked perspectives which underpin the process of the FLIARA project. These include, Rural, Gender, Resilience, Sustainability, Innovation and Policy and Governance (Figure 2).

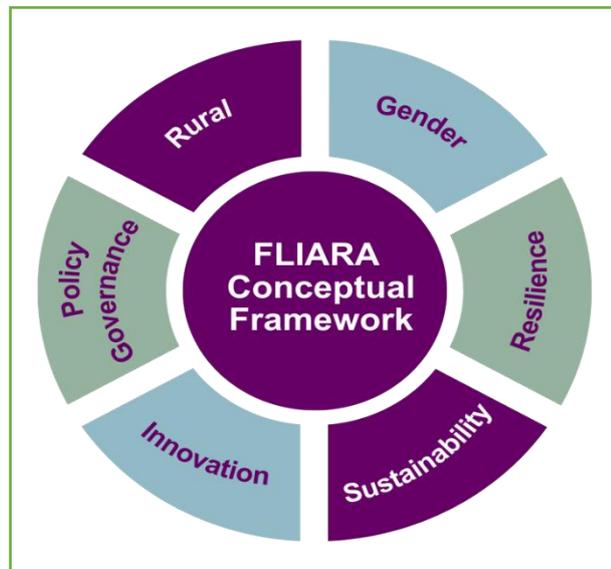


Figure 2. FLIARA Conceptual Framework

From a resilience perspective, understanding the dynamics of change and stability in female-led innovations is essential. Resilience is commonly defined as the capacity of a system, organisation, individual, or enterprise to uphold its fundamental functions and processes in the face of disruptions. When assessing resilience, it is vital to determine what resilience is for, and for whom. This "whom" element underscores power dynamics and the inherently political nature of resilience, which can manifest in both positive and negative forms.

The sustainability perspective underscores that challenges in rural areas, particularly those faced by rural women, span economic, social, cultural, environmental, and institutional dimensions. Within FLIARA, we aim to identify a comprehensive spectrum of sustainability visions held by diverse rural women.

The innovation perspective introduces three critical considerations. Firstly, the FLIARA framework acknowledges that female-led innovation journeys comprise a series of stages, beginning with aspirations related to improving rural life or addressing existing sustainability challenges and emerging crises. Secondly, these innovations evolve within innovation ecosystems that can offer resources, expertise, knowledge, and networks to



female innovators. Thirdly, scaling female-led innovations is a pivotal aspect of the framework, encompassing various means by which these innovations can diffuse throughout society.

Lastly, the policy and governance perspective asserts that an effective policy and governance framework can facilitate female-led innovations. Policies not only stimulate innovation but also provide structure and security to individuals, including female innovators. While patriarchal principles have historically shaped legal frameworks, some progress has been made, at least in principle, in the European Union. Positive actions, feminist governance, and policy benchmarking are available tools to enhance gender equality within policy frameworks.

## 2.2 KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

The FLIARA Knowledge Review delves into the drivers of female-led innovation, successful instances of women-led innovation, and the existing gaps within the innovation ecosystem. It also scrutinises the key elements and factors that facilitate a higher degree of female-led innovation in farming and rural settings. The report covers these critical facets under a series of headings (Figure 3).

**THE RURAL CONTEXT**, which concentrates on female innovations within agriculture and rural areas. It starts by acknowledging the diverse perspectives on 'rural' in academia and policy, along with how multifaceted changes have transformed rural landscapes. The review also discusses the importance and sustainability of family farms in rural Europe, highlighting the natural connection between agriculture and rural regions.

**GENDER IN RURAL AREAS** underscores the long-standing patriarchal norms that have marginalised the roles and contributions of rural and agricultural women. It emphasises the adverse effects of traditional gender roles and structures on rural women's opportunities and actions, including the out-migration of rural women. The review delves into the impact of gender-based assumptions on farm succession, viability, and farm work, as well as the gendered divisions of labour in agriculture and rural areas, which historically rendered women's contributions invisible.

**SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT** is a global concern, and its application in rural development varies based on local context. The FLIARA knowledge review acknowledges the importance of involving all rural residents in sustainable rural development.

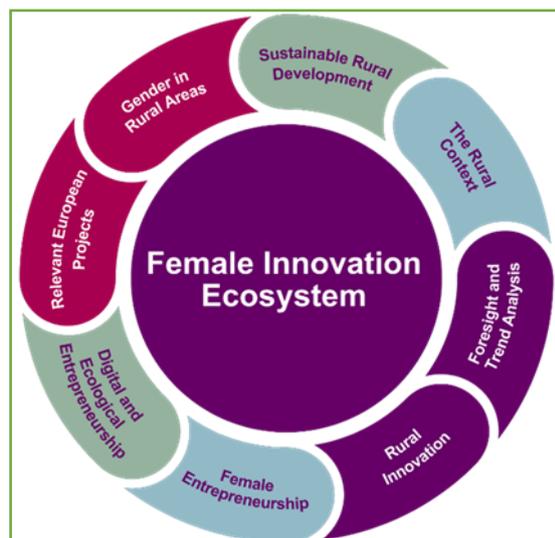


Figure 3: Female Innovation Ecosystem



The report explores how rural women contribute to the environmental, economic, social, and cultural sustainability of rural communities.

**RURAL INNOVATION** is examined as increasingly recognised as a driver of sustainable growth, even in rural areas. However, women's contributions to innovation, particularly in rural regions and agriculture, have often been overlooked. The review highlights how women lead rural innovation can potentially bring significant advancements to rural areas and agriculture. It also examines innovation ecosystems and identifies gaps in these systems, as well as social and behavioural drivers of female-led innovation and their impact.

**FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP** is explored as a common pathway for sustainable rural development through innovation. The review explores the economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits of entrepreneurship in rural areas. It specifically examines the motivations behind rural women's decision to pursue entrepreneurship and the challenges they face when establishing businesses in rural settings.

**OPPORTUNITIES IN DIGITAL AND ECOLOGICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP** are examined as emerging sectors of entrepreneurship, which hold promise for sustainable rural development. The review discusses the relevance and impact of these areas on rural communities, particularly for women, and explores the opportunities they offer for driving innovation and sustainability in rural regions.

### 2.3 FUTURE VISIONS MANIFESTATIONS

The Future Vision Manifestations (D2.2) showed us that futures shaped by human choices remain open, with the capacity for divergence, albeit within certain limits. The absence of data from the future and the nonexistence of a definitive theory of the future underscore the complexity of academic futures research. Rather than forecasting or prescribing a single future, it entails planning, design, and assessment of various potential futures. Futures research empowers us by presenting different future possibilities, thereby expanding our present-day choices. Various forms of alternative futures, such as scenarios, futures images, and visions, are employed. Scenarios map potential paths from the present to the future, while futures images depict disconnected future states, and visions represent normative future ideals. FLIARA's objective is to uncover diverse sustainable futures for farms and rural areas, facilitating the identification of necessary innovations to bring them to fruition.

Activities in Task 2.1 identified a comprehensive array of rural sustainability challenges and the corresponding visions that address these issues. Each vision represents a pathway towards enhancing sustainability in rural areas. These visions were developed for nine regions, spanning nine countries, four geographical regions, and three types of rural areas, involving input from 93 stakeholders through interviews and workshops.

In total, 322 sustainability challenges were identified, with the most frequent issues being the lack of infrastructure, services, and amenities (9%), followed by deficits in social capital and cohesion (9%). Inefficient and bureaucratic policies (7%), selective population decline (6%), economic diversification challenges (6%), and gender and social inequalities (5%) also ranked high among the problems.



Respondents then prioritised these problems for inclusion in the visions. The most common issues centred on infrastructure and social capital deficits. These were followed by concerns related to population decline, policy inefficiencies, a lack of sustainability awareness, and the marginalisation of local culture and traditions.

A total of 109 visions, built upon these challenges, encompassed 762 vision elements. The most prevalent elements included environmentally friendly land and resource management (6%), comprehensive infrastructure (5%), collaborative networks (4%), innovative funding models (4%), social engagement opportunities (4%), and aesthetically pleasing, environmentally friendly settings (4%). These top elements constituted a quarter of all vision elements.

Other commonly cited vision elements included diversified tourism (3%), easy access to land and nature (3%), local ownership and openness to newcomers (3%). Further elements focused on community centres, sustainable agriculture, educational opportunities, facilitators, transitioning to circular and the bioeconomy, streamlined bureaucracy, and youth engagement.

While this diversity of rural sustainability problems and visions provides a promising foundation for the next phase of the FLIARA project (identifying innovations to realise these visions) it is important to note that results are based on a limited number of informants and cannot be generalised broadly.

#### 2.4 BUILDING ON THE EVIDENCE

Building upon the evidence presented above, T1.3 (D1.4) will formulate the initial criteria for selecting case studies in WP3. This will involve:

1. Selecting the case studies via the FLIARA project partners and their countries.
2. Identifying initial sub-topics within the four dimensions of sustainability innovation, which encompass environmental, economic, social, and cultural aspects.
3. Creating initial guidelines for evaluating the pathways leading to innovations driven by women in farming and rural regions.
4. Establishing a framework for comparing case studies at both the national and thematic levels within WP3 (D1.4).
5. Finally, T1.3 will outline a framework for a comparative analysis of the case studies carried out in WP3.



## 3. CASE STUDY SELECTION APPROACH

### 3.1 SELECTION CRITERIA

The FLIARA project (WP3) will carry out 20 case studies resulting in 200 interviews of women in farming and in rural areas who are leading rural and on farm innovations. The case studies will be selected based on WP1 and WP2 results (D1.1, D1.2 and D2.2).

When choosing the case studies for women-led sustainable innovation, it is important to emphasise that the FLIARA project's primary focus is not to evaluate the success, innovation level, or initiative/enterprise/practice outcomes. Instead, its core objective is to assess the journeys and pathways followed by the women who are at the helm of these projects.

The following four criteria need to be considered when selecting case studies for the FLIARA Project:

1. The Rural Context
2. Women-Led and Inclusive
3. Innovative
4. Sustainability Practice

#### 3.1.1 RURAL CONTEXT (TYPOLOGY)

In the FLIARA context, three distinct rural typographical regions have been selected and used in WP2 and again in WP3. These include Rural Villages, Remote Rural Areas and Rural Areas Close to a City. This approach provides a comprehensive understanding of challenges and opportunities faced by women-led innovations in varying rural contexts. For instance, women in remote rural areas may encounter distinct challenges compared to those in rural areas near cities. Thus, it is crucial to gather case studies from these diverse regions. This typology has been successfully applied in WP2 for FLIARA and in the previous RURALIZATION Horizon 2020 project (2019-2023). However, it is relevant to acknowledge that rural areas differ across countries. Remote rural may be applicable in one partner country but not in another. Therefore, we urge all partners to consider the general characteristics of each typology outlined below and adapt them to the available rural areas or regions in their respective countries to create three diverse rural regions for case study selection.

Here's an explanation of how each of these regions can be valuable for case study selection:

1. **Rural Villages:**
  - **Characteristics:** Rural villages are typically small, close-knit communities with limited access to urban amenities. They can rely on traditional agricultural practices, while providing for the essential needs of surrounding populations. They can be limited in infrastructure and services, but still highly functional.



- **Use for Case Studies:** Selecting case studies from rural villages can shed light on grassroots-level innovations driven by women who are deeply embedded in their communities. These innovations may be aimed at addressing local and farming needs and challenges specific to these settings. Case studies from rural villages can provide insights into how women leverage traditional knowledge and community networks to bring about change.
2. **Remote Rural Areas:**
- **Characteristics:** Remote rural areas are often located far from urban centres, with limited infrastructure and access to basic or modern services. These areas may face greater isolation and geographical challenges.
  - **Use for Case Studies:** Case studies from remote rural areas can highlight the resilience and resourcefulness of women who innovate in conditions of isolation and limited resources. These areas may witness innovations related to sustainable agriculture, alternative energy sources, or community-based solutions to address the remoteness. Understanding the strategies employed by women in these regions can offer valuable lessons for addressing unique rural challenges.
3. **Rural Areas Close to a City:**
- **Characteristics:** Rural areas near cities may experience urbanisation pressures and have better access to markets, education, and infrastructure compared to more remote regions. However, they may also face issues related to land use change and competition for resources.
  - **Use for Case Studies:** Case studies from rural areas close to a city can showcase how women navigate the dynamics of rapid urbanisation while preserving rural livelihoods. Innovations in these regions may focus on diversifying income sources, for example they may focus on, agri-business ventures, or bridging the rural-urban divide through value-added processing and market-oriented strategies. Examining these cases can provide insights into the interface between rural and urban influences on women-led innovations.

By selecting case studies from these three distinct rural typographical regions, the FLIARA project can capture a broader spectrum of experiences and challenges faced by women innovators. It allows for a more comprehensive analysis of the contextual factors that influence innovation and helps identify commonalities and differences in approaches and outcomes. This approach contributes to a more holistic understanding of women-led innovations in rural areas and can inform policies and interventions tailored to specific rural contexts. This process is used in WP2 of FLIARA, but has also been used previously in the Horizon 2020 RURALIZATION Project.

### 3.1.2 WOMEN-LED AND INCLUSIVE

#### **Women-Led:**

The FLIARA project case studies will focus on women-led innovations on farms and in rural areas. Women-led innovations within the context of the project refer to initiatives, projects, or practices in rural settings that are primarily conceived, developed, managed,



and implemented by women, and that bring about positive changes, improvements, or novel approaches in various aspects of rural life. It is important to note that while the list provided below contains comprehensive criteria for case study selection, partners should be aware that complete data for all criteria may not always be available. You are encouraged to utilise the list to the best of your ability, even if you cannot obtain information for all aspects.

**A more defined definition is:**

**Women-Led:** Women play a central and active role in driving the innovation. They are the key decision-makers, leaders, and implementers of the initiative. Women's leadership may manifest in various ways, such as owning, managing, or co-founding the initiative, actively participating in its design, or taking the lead in its execution.

**Inclusion:**

When considering the inclusion of women from a rural setting, it is important to adopt an inclusive and comprehensive approach that takes into account the diversity and various roles women play within rural communities. The following reflections should be considered:

**Age Diversity:** Include women from various age groups, from young women to elderly women, with each age group having a unique perspective.

**Economic Backgrounds:** Include women from different economic backgrounds, including those who are economically disadvantaged and those who may have access to resources or financial capital. This ensures a holistic understanding of rural economic dynamics.

**Ethnic and Cultural Diversity:** Recognise the diversity of cultures and ethnicities within rural areas. Ensure that women from different ethnic backgrounds have opportunities for inclusion.

**Education Levels:** Involve women with different levels of education, from those with limited formal education to those with advanced degrees. This accounts for variations in knowledge, skills, and access to information.

**Family Status:** Recognise the roles of both married and single women, as well as women with and without children. Family status can influence women's priorities, responsibilities, and opportunities for engagement in innovative practices.

**Community Roles:** Include women who hold various community roles, such as community organisers, leaders, activists, and volunteers. These women often play critical roles in driving change within rural areas.

Inclusion efforts should aim to be comprehensive and reflective of the rich tapestry of rural life. By considering these factors and involving a diverse range of women from rural settings, the FLIARA project can ensure that innovative practices and development initiatives are more inclusive, effective, and sensitive to the needs and realities of rural communities. As such the above list is not exhaustive and can be added to as partners see fit.



### 3.1.3 INNOVATION

In the process of selecting case studies for FLIARA, innovation plays a pivotal role. Specifically, women-led innovations pertain to innovative endeavours in rural settings that are spearheaded or substantially guided by women. These initiatives result in fresh approaches, values, commodities, services, and methods of governance, all of which have the potential to positively impact various aspects of sustainable rural development, including advancements in gender equality.

Taking the FLIARA definition of innovation into account (D1.1: Appendix B, p. 123) the following criteria could be considered when selecting the FLIARA case studies under the heading of innovation: (Not all the following criteria will or need to be in place for the case study to be suitable, but most if not all should be given consideration). It is also important to note however, that all of the information may not be available to partners while carrying out the initial case study selection via the long data-base or indeed for the exact number of case studies needed, particularly via a desk-based study of the case studies. As such, the innovation criteria below should be used as a guiding framework rather than strict directive for case study selection.

**Contextual Relevance:** Consider the specific context of farming and rural areas, as innovations in these settings may have unique challenges and opportunities.

**Diversity of Innovation Types:** Look for a diverse range of innovations, which may include technological, political, social, economic, institutional or market-related innovations. Ensure that the selected cases represent various types of innovations to capture the breadth of female-led initiatives.

**Potential for Social Impact:** Evaluate the potential for these innovations to have a meaningful impact on the lives of rural women and the broader community. Select cases with the potential for positive social and economic change.

**Novelty and Creativity:** Look for innovations that introduce new practices, technologies, approaches, or solutions to existing agricultural or rural problems. Creativity and uniqueness are valuable criteria.

**Impact on Rural Development:** Assess the potential impact of the innovation on sustainable rural development. This can include improvements in agricultural productivity, income generation, food security, and environmental sustainability.

**Community Benefits:** Assess how the innovation benefits the broader rural community, beyond individual or household gains. Community-level impacts are important for rural development.

**Partnerships and Networks:** Consider whether the innovation involves collaborations with organisations, institutions, or networks that can provide support, resources, and expertise.

**Scalability and Replicability:** Assess whether the innovation has the potential to be scaled up or replicated in other rural contexts. Scalable innovations can have a broader impact and can be used to entice other women to engage in similar innovations.

**Documentation and Learning:** Prioritise innovations that have been documented, allowing for the sharing of best practices and lessons learned with others.



### 3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY SUB-THEMES

In pursuit of FLIARA's primary aim of enhancing innovations led by women in farming and rural settings, the project partners will focus on investigating the innovative practices of these two distinct groups: female farmers and rural women. Adopting a thematic case study methodology, FLIARA's exploration will encompass women-led innovations in farming and rural areas across all four sustainability dimensions: environmental, economic, social, and cultural. All four dimensions have been explored in the knowledge review, but as part of T1.3 preliminary sub-themes under the four dimensions have been identified (Table 3.1). The identification of these sub-themes will provide project partners with examples of sustainability innovations that women may be leading in their rural locations.

The FLIARA Glossary of Terms provides a series of definitions of terms used within the context of the FLIARA project (D1.1). In brief and as a recap, the following are definitions of each sustainability dimension:

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** stresses the preservation and prudent use of ecosystems and natural resources. It entails minimising resource depletion, cutting down on waste and pollution, supporting biodiversity preservation, and lessening the effects of climate change.

**ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY** fosters long-term economic growth that is socially and environmentally conscious is a key component of economic sustainability. It places a focus on economic development that does not jeopardise the welfare of future generations. Economic sustainability calls for ethical commerce, fair trade, the development of jobs, and the promotion of economic opportunities that improve societal well-being in general.

**SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY** stresses the importance of building diverse, equal, and thriving communities. It involves advancing human rights, social fairness, and equal access to opportunities and resources. Addressing social injustices, advancing healthcare and education, making sure basic needs are satisfied, encouraging social cohesiveness, and valuing cultural variety are all components of socially sustainable activities.

**CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY** promotes a community's identity and well-being and refers to the preservation and promotion of cultural variety, heritage, and customs. In order to achieve sustainable development, it acknowledges the significance of cultural expressions, customs, languages and the arts. Within the confines of the FLIARA Conceptual Framework.

To-date the following preliminary sub-themes under the four areas of sustainability innovation have been identified. These subheadings are outlined in Table 3.1 below but are depicted and described in greater detail in Annex 2. More specific themes under each dimension will be identified in WP3. In line with the project call, an emphasis will be placed on environmental, economic and social themes, with a smaller number of cultural innovations being explored. Although many examples have been identified there may be other examples that partners may encounter that fall within the bounds of what is required, therefore the example list is not exhaustive and can be added to throughout the project.



Table 3.1: Sustainability Innovation Sub-Themes

SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION SUB-THEMES		
Sustainability Dimension	Sub-theme	Examples
Environmental	Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar Energy</li> <li>• Wind Energy</li> <li>• Bioenergy</li> <li>• Geothermal</li> </ul>
	Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart Grids</li> <li>• Energy-Efficient Buildings</li> <li>• Energy Management Systems</li> <li>• Energy Efficient Farm Systems</li> </ul>
	Waste Management and Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste-to-Energy Conversion</li> <li>• Recycling Innovations</li> </ul>
	Water Conservation and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Purification Technologies</li> <li>• Smart Irrigation Systems</li> </ul>
	Sustainable Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precision Farming</li> <li>• Vertical Farming</li> <li>• Agroecology and Permaculture</li> <li>• Organic agriculture</li> <li>• Permaculture</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> </ul>
	Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Product Life Extension</li> <li>• Sharing Economy</li> </ul>
	Sustainable Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Transportation Innovations</li> <li>• Electric Vehicles (EVs)</li> </ul>
Economic	Value-Added Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small-Scale Food Processing</li> <li>• Cottage Industries</li> <li>• Craft Industries</li> </ul>
	Rural Tourism and Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agri-Tourism</li> <li>• Ecotourism</li> </ul>
	Community-Based Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperatives</li> <li>• Social Enterprises</li> </ul>
	Microfinance and Access to Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)</li> <li>• Digital Banking and Mobile Money</li> </ul>
	Value Chain Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Linkages</li> <li>• Contract Farming</li> <li>• Aquaponics</li> </ul>
	Rural Innovation Hubs and Incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrepreneurship Development</li> <li>• Digital Skills Training</li> </ul>
	Sustainable Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Forestry</li> <li>• Water Resource Management</li> </ul>



<b>Social</b>	Social Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Farming</li> <li>• Community-Owned Enterprises</li> <li>• Social Impact Businesses</li> </ul>
	Community-Based Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Clinics</li> <li>• Telemedicine</li> </ul>
	Education and Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Learning Centres</li> <li>• Distance Education</li> </ul>
	Women's Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Help Groups</li> <li>• Gender Mainstreaming Programs</li> </ul>
	Digital Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Broadband Connectivity</li> <li>• Digital Skills Training</li> </ul>
	Social Services and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Resource Centres</li> <li>• Sustainable Infrastructure</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural</b>	Cultural Tourism and Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Tourism</li> <li>• Cultural Experiences</li> </ul>
	Cultural Preservation and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral History Projects</li> <li>• Digital Archiving</li> </ul>
	Indigenous Knowledge and Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Ecological Knowledge</li> <li>• Indigenous Art and Crafts</li> </ul>
	Community Cultural Centres and Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Cultural Centers</li> <li>• Rural Museums</li> </ul>
	Cultural Exchange and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Exchange Programs</li> <li>• Artist Residencies</li> </ul>
	Cultural Festivals and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Festivals</li> <li>• Cultural Performance Spaces</li> </ul>
	Traditional Agricultural Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seed Banks and Agrobiodiversity Conservation</li> <li>• Traditional Farming Methods</li> </ul>

In summary the 20 women-led innovators and entrepreneurs case studies will be identified in ten different EU countries covering a geographical spread across central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Northern Europe (100 interviews of women leading farm innovations and 100 women leading innovations in rural areas, see Table 2.3 and 2.4).



## 4. METHODOLOGY USED FOR CASE STUDY SELECTION

In using the above selection criteria phase two of the FLIARA case study selection will commence. This is a two-pronged approach:

- **Stage 1:** Create a database of innovative practices of women in farming and in rural areas in nine EU partner countries.
- **Stage 2:** Reduce the full database to identify suitable women-led projects in farming and in rural areas for a more in-depth case study assessment.

### 4.1 STAGE 1: DATE-BASE OF INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

The FLIARA project will carry out 20 case studies consisting of 200 interviews with women in farming and in rural areas. To select the required amount, a larger database will initially be required, to A) ensure the above four criteria are taken into account (Rural context, Women-led, Innovative, Sustainability), and B) to provide further evidence of the sustainable innovative activity currently in place and being led by rural women across the EU. The following method has been used to accumulate the initial larger database:

- **All Partner Engagement:** The WP3 team have developed a template (excel sheet) based on the case study selection process criteria (Appendix B). All partners will utilise the template to identify and document women who are leading sustainable innovations. This can be achieved via a desk-based study exploring local, national and regional knowledge documented innovations via local media and grey literature as well as collaborations with Local Action Groups and CAP Networks. The partners own local knowledge can also come into play, to identify suitable case study examples.

**Expanding the Database:** Within the FLIARA project, our partners, ELARD and ECOLISE, will collaborate with their national counterparts in all project countries to further enrich the project's database. This expansion will be executed through the following steps:

- **Dissemination of Information:** ELARD and ECOLISE will circulate a flyer among their affiliated organisations within the nine partner countries involved in the database collection process. This informative flyer will be translated into the respective languages of each partner country by our collaborating organisations.
- **Incorporating Feedback:** The flyer will include an attached brief questionnaire designed to capture valuable input from women who have potential contributions to the project. Respondents will fill out these questionnaires, and the collected data will be seamlessly integrated into the existing FLIARA database.
- **Unified Resource:** This larger, augmented database will subsequently serve as a shared resource across all nine partner countries, facilitating the selection of an appropriate number of relevant case studies for subsequent interviews. (For reference, please see Appendix C for the Flyer and Questionnaire).



This collaborative effort ensures that our database remains comprehensive and representative, ultimately strengthening our capacity to identify and analyse pertinent case studies that align with the FLIARA project's objectives.

#### 4.2 STAGE 2: CASE STUDY SELECTION

Stage 1 will result in each WP3 partners producing a long list or database of suitable women-led projects, initiatives or enterprises from their respective countries. To reduce the list down to suitable case studies, partners will:

1. Follow the selection criteria laid out in 3.1 for selecting the long list, but now reconsider the selection criteria to create a shorter definite list for case study assessment.
2. In addition to criteria laid out in 3.1, partners may also have additional supportive material, which they feel is important to consider and which makes the example a good women-led project, imitative or enterprise case study for selection. Such local knowledge is welcome, however, partners also need to be cognisant that the other criteria are considered.
3. Each partner is give a set number of case studies to carry out and these are laid out in 4.2.1.

##### 4.2.1 STAGE 2: CASE STUDY LOCATIONS

WP3 case study locations involves project partners in various countries, including Ireland (University of Galway, LWL, and Teagasc), Netherlands (TU Delft), Italy (UNICAL), Slovenia (UL), Czech Republic (MENDELU), Sweden (LNU), Finland (UOULU), Germany (HNEE), Romania (ECOLISE), and Spain (CE). Following the completion of Stage 1, all partners will have a long list of potential women-led innovations in the nine partner countries. This long list will be reduced to the required 220 case studies (200 individual interview), one hundred interviews with women who are spearheading innovative changes in agriculture and an additional one hundred interviews to explore innovative practices initiated by women within rural areas. During the **selection process**, and within the **creation of the larger database**, FLIARA partners will select women-led innovations in farming and rural areas observing all four dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic, social and cultural). In line with the project call, an emphasis has been placed on environmental, economic and social themes, with a lesser number of cultural innovations being explored.

The FLIARA case study approach will encompass nine EU countries. To ensure a well-rounded and diverse representation, the case study process will adopt a regional approach. FLIARA will, therefore, be active in four distinct European regions, namely the Atlantic, Nordic Baltic, Mediterranean, and Central and Eastern regions. Within this framework, three FLIARA case study countries belong to the Atlantic region, two to the Nordic Baltic region, two to the Mediterranean region, and three to the Central and Eastern region. These countries also reflect a variety of socio-economic conditions, as indicated by the data presented in Table 4.3, including figures related to GDP, the Gender Equality Index score, and the Global Entrepreneurship Index score. All of the



above selection process via countries, regions and thematic areas are displayed in Table 4.1 and Table 4.2.

**Table 4.1: Country Case Studies by Farm Innovations and Thematic Area**

Thematic areas covered		COUNTRY CASE STUDIES									
		Atlantic			Central and Eastern		Nordic Baltic		Mediterranean		Total Interviews by Theme
		Ireland	Netherlands	Germany	Czech Republic	Slovenia	Sweden	Finland	Spain	Italy	
1	Environmental	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
2	Economic	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
3	Social	6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30
4	Cultural	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Total Interviews per Country		20	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100

**Table 4.2: Country Case Studies by Rural Innovations and Thematic Area**

Thematic areas covered		COUNTRY CASE STUDIES										
		Atlantic			Central and Eastern			Nordic Baltic		Mediterranean		Total Interviews by Theme
		Ireland	Netherlands	Germany	Czech Republic	Romania	Slovenia	Sweden	Finland	Spain	Italy	
1	Environmental	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	
2	Economic	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	
3	Social	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	30	
4	Cultural	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	
Total Interviews per Country		10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100	



Table 4.3: Country Data

COUNTRY DATA											
	EU	Atlantic			Central and Eastern			Nordic Baltic		Mediterranean	
		Ireland	Netherlands	Germany	Czech Republic	Romania	Slovenia	Finland	Sweden	Italy	Spain
GDP (per capita in PPS) <sup>1</sup>	100	209	132	123	93	72	89	113	123	94	84
Gender Equality Index Score 2021 <sup>2</sup>	68	73.1	75.9	68.6	56.7	54.5	67.6	75.3	83.9	63.8	73.7
Global Entrepreneurship Index <sup>3</sup>	n/a	73.7	68.1	65.9	43.4	38.2	53.8	67.9	73.1	41.4	45.3

Sources:  
<sup>1</sup> Eurostat, 2021: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/tec00114/default/table?lang=en>  
<sup>2</sup> EIGE, 2021: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2021/ES>  
<sup>3</sup> GEDI: 2019: <https://thegedi.org/global-entrepreneurship-and-development-index/>

#### 4.2.1 THE RURAL CONTEXT

When selecting the case studies, it is imperative that all partners take into account the rural setting and adhere to the categorisation of the three rural typologies detailed in section 3.1.1. During the proposal phase, ECOLISE, representing Romania, opted to exclusively focus on a rural context, which is elaborated upon in the table provided (Table 4.6). For Ireland, which involves three partners (University of Galway, Teagasc, and Longford Women’s Link), a total of 30 interviews have been allocated. Consequently, their approach to the rural context is detailed separately in a dedicated table (Table 4.5). Within the context of the long list of projects partners selected in Stage 1

WP3 involves project partners in various countries, including Ireland (University of Galway, LWL, and Teagasc), Netherlands (TU Delft), Italy (UNICAL), Slovenia (UL), Czech Republic (MENDELU), Sweden (LNU), Finland (UOULU), Germany (HNEE), Romania (ECOLISE), and Spain (CE). The additional project partners also engaged in WP3 have less time allocations, therefore they will engage in the desk-based work, which will contribute to the database in each country, instead of the case study data collection.

As outlined in section 3.1.1 above all partners need to select women-led innovative case studies within the context of the three typological regions (Remote Rural, Rural Village and Rural Close to a City). However, as outlined above, it is important to recognise that rural areas vary among nations. In one of the partner countries, remote rural may be relevant, but not in another. In order to produce three distinct rural regions for case study selection, we therefore ask all partners to take into account the general traits of each



typology listed above and adapt them to the accessible rural areas or regions in their respective nations.

**Table 4.4: Quantity of Case Studies Conducted by All Partners (Excl. Ireland and Romania) Categorised by Sustainability Aspect and Rural Environment.**

<b>All Partners (excl. Ireland and Romania)</b>			
		<b>Farm Innovations</b>	<b>Rural Innovations</b>
<b>Sustainable Dimensions</b>			
	Environmental	3	3
	Economic	3	3
	Social	3	3
	Cultural	1	1
<b>Rural Context</b>			
	Environmental - Remote Rural	1	1
	Environmental – Rural Village	1	1
	Environmental – Rural Close to City	1	1
	Economic – Remote Rural	1	1
	Economic – Rural Village	1	1
	Economic – Rural Close to City	1	1
	Social - Remote Rural	1	1
	Social – Rural Village	1	1
	Social – Rural Close to City	1	1
	Cultural	Choose 1 from any rural context	Choose 1 from any rural context
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>



**Table 4.5: Quantity of Case Studies Conducted by Ireland, Categorised by Sustainability Aspect and Rural Environment.**

<b>IRELAND CASE STUDIES</b>			
		<b>Farm Innovations</b>	<b>Rural Innovations</b>
<b>Sustainable Dimensions</b>			
	Environmental	6	3
	Economic	6	3
	Social	6	3
	Cultural	2	1
<b>Rural Context</b>			
	Environmental - Remote Rural	2	1
	Environmental – Rural Village	2	1
	Environmental – Rural Close to City	2	1
	Economic – Remote Rural	2	1
	Economic – Rural Village	2	1
	Economic – Rural Close to City	2	1
	Social - Remote Rural	2	1
	Social – Rural Village	2	1
	Social – Rural Close to City	2	1
	Cultural	Choose 2 from any rural context	Choose 1 from any rural context
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>



**Table 4.6: Quantity of Case Studies Conducted by Romania, Categorised by Sustainability Aspect and Rural Environment.**

<b>ROMANIA CASE STUDIES</b>	
	<b>Rural Innovations</b>
Environmental	3
Economic	3
Social	3
Cultural	1
<b>Rural Context</b>	
Environmental - Remote Rural	1
Environmental – Rural Village	1
Environmental – Rural Close to City	1
Economic – Remote Rural	1
Economic – Rural Village	1
Economic – Rural Close to City	1
Social - Remote Rural	1
Social – Rural Village	1
Social – Rural Close to City	1
Cultural	Choose 1 from any rural context
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>



## 5. FLIARA CASE STUDY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

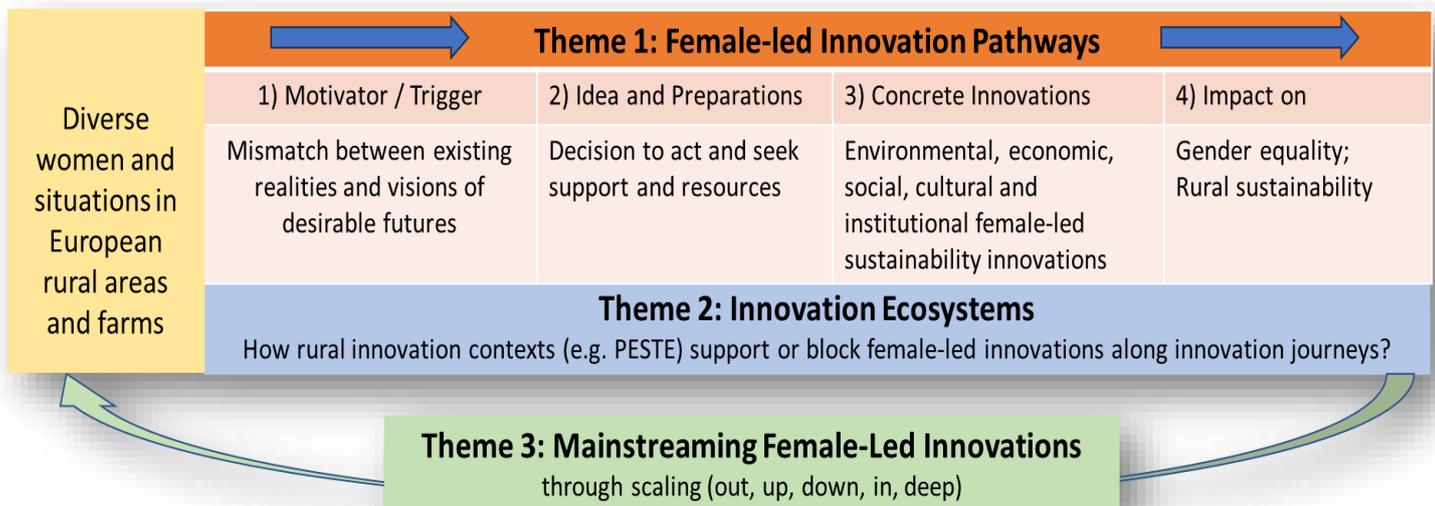
The goal of WP3 is to identify, explore and document the pathways rural women have taken in order to lead a farm or rural innovation. As such, the FLIARA assessment framework will comprehensively analyse the routes and obstacles these women have taken, it will uncover disparities and prejudices, prospects, opportunities and the diversity among women involved in leading innovation across the four realms of sustainable innovation, each nation will scrutinise the case studies of female-led innovations in farming and rural settings. To achieve the above the FLIARA Assessment Framework will include a three pronged approach:

**Stage 1:** An exploration of the **Innovation Pathways**

**Stage 2: Innovation Ecosystems**

**Stage 2:** Using a **Scaling Potential** to explore innovation expansion

**Figure 4:** FLIARA Case Study Assessment Framework





## 5.1: STAGE 1: EXPLORATION OF THE INNOVATION PATHWAYS

To assess the pathways of women engaged in the FLIARA case studies, we will use the "Innovation Pathways Approach" as outlined in D1.1 (FLIARA Conceptual Framework) as a structured approach:

### Step 1: Motivators for Innovation

- Begin by understanding what motivates women to initiate innovation in rural contexts. Explore their aspirations for improving rural lives, addressing sustainability challenges, or responding to emerging crises. Additionally, consider how individual professional and life stage concerns may serve as catalysts for innovation, ultimately benefiting a wider population. Recognise that female-led innovations are driven by the current realities and needs of rural areas.

### Step 2: Decisions and Preparatory Activities

- Examine the decisions made by these women to act upon their motivations for innovation. Investigate the preparatory activities they undertake, such as networking, resource-seeking, and skill-building. Assess their involvement in building an innovation ecosystem that supports their specific innovations.

### Step 3: Concretisation of Innovations

- Analyse the tangible outcomes of these innovations. Identify whether they manifest as economic, technological, social, cultural, environmental, or institutional changes, or a combination of these dimensions.

### Step 4: Impacts of Innovations

- Evaluate the effects of these innovations on the contexts where they are implemented. This includes their contributions to various dimensions of sustainability and gender equality. Recognise that women-led innovations can have different levels of impact, ranging from incremental improvements to disruptive changes that challenge existing norms. Incremental, sustaining, radical, and disruptive innovations should be identified and analysed. Understand how these innovations can lead to positive impacts on rural sustainability and gender equality, aligning with the EU Rural Vision.

By systematically applying these four steps to the case studies, the FLIARA project can gain a comprehensive understanding of the innovation pathways of women in rural contexts and their contributions to sustainable rural development and gender equality. All the above steps will be further expanded in WP3 to devise the interview guidelines required to complete the FLIARA case studies.

### Considering SUCCESS and FAILURE

FLIARA will pay careful attention to the notion of successful innovation. It is anticipated that the female-led innovations under examination will exhibit diversity and exist at various stages of their innovation journeys. Some may have expanded and been implemented in other locations, while others may still operate solely in their original setting. Furthermore, locally focused innovations can be deemed successful if they enhance the innovator's quality of life, even if they are not suitable for replication or scaling elsewhere.



FLIARA aims to shine a spotlight on female-led innovations, recognising that the term "success" must be used thoughtfully to avoid dismissing emerging, location-specific, or even perceived "failed" innovations as unsuccessful. There is much to glean from various types of innovation processes, and those considered "failed" can provide valuable insights into the obstacles encountered by female-led innovations. FLIARA will deem innovations successful if the innovators themselves perceive them as such, and likewise, they will label innovations as failures if the innovators themselves view them as such.

Furthermore, female-led innovation pathways may range from the preparatory phase to having substantial impacts and potential for scaling and diffusion in other areas. Instead of categorising these innovations as successes or failures, FLIARA will develop concepts that capture the positive aspects of diverse innovations, such as designations like 'Rising Stars' or 'Innovation Ambassadors'.

### 5.3: STAGE 2: INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

In this stage / Theme 2, the cases on female-led innovations are analysed in terms of innovation ecosystems. Specific focus will be on how the innovation ecosystems hinder or support female-led innovation journeys in their different phases. Innovation ecosystems are thereby seen to consist of holistic operational environments in which female-led innovations in rural areas and farms take place. To understand varying factors within innovation ecosystems, FLIARA utilises the PESTE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, and Environmental) framework. It is thus considered that the PESTE dimensions provide an operational environment and context for female led innovations. It is important to understand such context, to draw conclusions on hindering and supporting factors that the female-led innovation pathways phase. Below, we outline some potential ways how PESTE dimensions link to the female-led innovations.

#### 1. **Political (P):**

- **Innovation Pathway:** Political factors may include government policies, regulations, and initiatives that either support or hinder women-led innovations in rural areas. Assess how political decisions impact the motivations, opportunities, and challenges for women entrepreneurs in rural settings. The FLIARA case analysis will identify political support or obstacles that can affect the female-led innovation journeys. Advocacy for policy changes and political alignment with the objectives of women-led innovations may be necessary for enhancing support towards female-led innovations.

#### 2. **Economic (E):**

- **Innovation Pathway:** Economic factors encompass financial resources, access to funding, and economic conditions in rural areas. Evaluate how economic conditions influence women's decisions to innovate and the resources available to them. FLIARA will explore funding mechanisms, investment opportunities, and economic incentives that can facilitate the expansion of viable / successful female-led innovation journeys.

#### 3. **Social (S):**

- **Innovation Pathway:** Social factors include cultural norms, gender roles, community support, and social networks. Understand how these factors shape the motivations and challenges faced by women involved in rural innovations. Social acceptance and community engagement are critical



for female led innovation journeys. FLIRA will analyse how social factors can either facilitate or hinder the evolution of female-led innovations in rural areas. Awareness campaigns and social inclusion strategies may be needed.

4. **Technological (T):**

- **Innovation Pathway:** Technological factors encompass the availability of technology, digital infrastructure, and access to information. Explore how technological advancements enable or constrain women-led innovations in rural areas. Leverage technology to support the female-led innovation journeys. Digital platforms, communication tools, and access to information can facilitate the dissemination of successful innovations to a broader audience.

5. **Environmental (E):**

- **Innovation Pathway:** Environmental factors may include climate conditions, natural resources, and environmental sustainability. Assess how these factors influence the type of innovations that emerge in rural settings. FLIARA will explore if the female-led innovation journeys aligns with ecological considerations, benefit from access to natural resources, and contributes to sustainable rural development.

Integrating the PESTE analysis into the Innovation Pathway and Scaling Potential Approach allows for a holistic understanding of the external factors that impact women-led rural innovations. It helps identify opportunities, challenges, and strategies to navigate the dynamic external environment while advancing gender equality and sustainability.

## 5.2: STAGE 3: SCALING APPROACH

The forms of scaling outlined in the social innovation literature can be used as a framework to explore the scaling up process for women-led rural innovations. Each form of scaling can be examined to explore the potential woman have in expanding their innovations and the challenges and opportunities they face in doing so.

### Scaling Potential

- Explore how successful women-led innovations can be scaled up to create broader, systemic change. Consider different forms of scaling, including horizontal diffusion, which can have far-reaching impacts on society, gender relations, and sustainable development. Assess the role of policy in mainstreaming women-led innovations through supportive policies, incentives, regulations, and guidance to enhance sustainability and gender equality. For a broader exploration of scaling within the case studies, additional details are outlined in Section 5.2 below, which uses the Five Forms of Scaling approach outlined in D1.1 (Table 1).



1. **Scaling-Up:**
  - **Definition:** Initiating changes in laws, policies, institutions, or norms based on promising lower-level practices.
  - **Application:** Women-led rural and agriculture innovations that have demonstrated success at a local or community level can be scaled up by advocating for changes in higher-level systems. This may involve influencing policy changes, reforming institutional practices, or even challenging existing norms that hinder the adoption of these innovations on a larger scale. By showcasing the positive outcomes of these innovations, advocates can make a compelling case for scaling up at the regional, national, or international level.
2. **Scaling-Out:**
  - **Definition:** Geographically replicating or broadening the range or scope of good practices.
  - **Application:** This form of scaling involves spreading successful women-led rural and agriculture innovations to different geographical areas. Women entrepreneurs can collaborate with local communities, organisations, or even government agencies to replicate and adapt their innovations to various rural contexts. By expanding the reach of these innovations to new regions, they can address similar challenges and opportunities, thereby amplifying their impact.
3. **Scaling-Down:**
  - **Definition:** Resource allocation, for example by policy, to support the implementation of promising practices at the local level.
  - **Application:** Scaling-down focuses on allocating resources and support to implement successful innovations at the grassroots level. Policymakers and organisations can allocate funding, technical assistance, and capacity-building programmes to empower rural women to implement and sustain their innovations locally. This form of scaling ensures that innovations are not only created but also effectively implemented at the community level, where they can have a direct and meaningful impact.
4. **Scaling-In:**
  - **Definition:** Ensuring that organisations have the capacity to deliver the type and number of good practices.
  - **Application:** Scaling-in involves building the capacity of organisations and institutions to deliver and support women-led rural innovations. This may include training programs, partnerships with educational institutions, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge needed to implement these innovations effectively. By strengthening the organisations that work with rural women, the innovations can be scaled within the existing infrastructure.
5. **Scaling-Deep:**
  - **Definition:** Change in society at the level of values to enable the uptake of good practices.
  - **Application:** This form of scaling delves into societal change by influencing values and attitudes. Advocates of women-led rural innovations can engage in awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and community dialogues to shift cultural norms and values. By changing the way society perceives and values the roles of rural women and their innovations, it becomes easier to foster the uptake and acceptance of these practices.



By considering and strategically applying these forms of scaling, women-led rural innovations can effectively expand their reach, influence, and impact, ultimately contributing to sustainable rural development and gender equality.

## 6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### 6.1 THE NEED FOR COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Case study comparative analysis exercises are significant once the qualitative case studies have been completed. Comparing the FLIARA women-led innovative case studies in different countries, regions, different rural locations and under different thematic headings will allow the following.

Comparing FLIARA case studies will help us gain a deeper understanding of the **contextual factors** that influence a particular phenomenon, whether it is the motivations or drivers of women-led innovation, the innovations themselves or the challenges women face in a rural context. By comparing different cases or contexts, FLIARA can identify commonalities, differences, and unique features that contribute to a comprehensive understanding.

In comparing all the work carried out in the nine countries the FLIARA project can '**Learn from Others**'. Comparing the different case studies in different regions etc. will allow the FLIARA team to learn from the experiences and good practices of others. By examining successful or innovative approaches in different settings, we can extract valuable lessons that can be applied to different context, problem-solving efforts or policy design.

Carrying out a comparative analysis in WP3 provides a basis for '**Informed Decision-Making**'. This is particularly important as FLIARA considers what changes can be implemented by policymakers and key organisations and practitioners implementing rural development. Informed decisions also allow women themselves make more effective choices by considering the outcomes and impacts of similar initiatives in various contexts.

Comparing cases will allow the '**Identification of Patterns and Trends**' that may not be apparent when examining individual cases in isolation. These patterns can help the FLIARA team inform future strategies, policies or actions. Comparative analysis also helps in '**Assessing the Impact**' of interventions or initiatives. By comparing outcomes across different situations, FLIARA can determine the effectiveness and sustainability of various approaches.

Carrying out a comparative analysis of the case studies at regional level and under thematic headings helps '**Highlight Challenges and Barriers**' that may be common across different contexts, and for rural women in various circumstances and in diverse rural regions. This information is crucial for devising strategies to overcome obstacles and improve outcomes. In doing this a comparative analysis can also '**Promote Equity and Inclusivity**'. It can reveal disparities and inequities in different settings. This insight can



guide efforts to promote greater equity and inclusivity in policies and practices in different regions and locations.

Importantly comparing cases in different locations and under different sustainability themes can '**Enhance Innovation**'. It does so, by encouraging the exploration of new ideas and approaches and inspiring creative solutions and the adaptation of successful practices to new contexts.

Comparing the 20 FLIARA case studies in different regions and under different thematic sustainability headings assists in '**Efficient Resource Allocation**' by identifying where resources can have the most significant impact. This is especially important when resources are limited and need to be prioritised. Finally, a comparative analysis of the FLIARA case studies provides a **European Wide Perspective** for the FLIARA project. It allows for cross-cultural understanding and collaboration, fostering a European exchange of ideas and knowledge.

Overall, a comparative analysis is a valuable tool for the FLIARA project to gain an insight insights, make informed decisions and drive positive change across a wide range of disciplines and contexts.

## 6.2 FLIARA COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

A detailed methodology for comparative analysis will be completed in WP3 by M12, based on the following guidelines:

### 1. Scope of Comparison

- The comparative analysis will encompass the evaluation of 20 Case Studies and 200 Interviews conducted across multiple countries and sustainability innovation dimensions.

### 2. Task Leadership

- UNICAL and LNU will spearhead this task, while all partners engaged in WP3 and case study collection will actively participate.

### 3. Timeline and Reporting

- The comparative analysis will be completed by Month 24 (M24) and documented in Report D3.4.

### 4. Framework Utilisation

- The comparative analysis will be grounded in the assessment framework as outlined previously and further elaborated upon in WP3 (T3.1).

### 5. Country-Level Focus

- The analysis will primarily operate at the country level, concentrating on understanding the challenges encountered by women innovators and elucidating the pathways to realising women-led innovations in both farming and rural settings.



## 6. Sustainability Dimensions

- Comparative analysis will categorise case studies based on the four sustainability innovation dimensions: environmental, economic, social, and cultural. This categorisation will enable in-depth comparisons within and across these dimensions.

## 7. Regional Groupings

- Initially, the analysis will commence with comparisons within four macro-regional groupings (Atlantic, Nordic Baltic, Mediterranean, Central and Eastern). This intra-regional examination will provide insights into regional dynamics.

## 8. European-Level Insights

- Subsequently, the analysis will extend to encompass cross-regional comparisons, facilitating the derivation of European-level insights. This broad perspective will enable the identification of overarching trends and patterns.

## 9. Rural Typologies

- Special consideration will be given to the diversity inherent in the three rural contexts, specifically Rural Village, Peripheral Rural, and Rural Areas close to a City. These rural typologies will be factored into the comparative analysis to capture the nuances of each setting.

**10. Data Collection and Analysis:** Data collection for the comparative analysis will involve reviewing and synthesising case study reports, interview transcripts, and relevant documentation. This will be carried out at a national level. Comparative analysis will employ thematic analysis, and statistical methods as appropriate to extract meaningful insights.

**11. Reporting and Dissemination:** Findings from the comparative analysis will be reported in a structured manner, highlighting key insights, lessons learned, and recommendations. The results will be disseminated through project reports, presentations, and other relevant channels to inform policymakers, stakeholders, and the wider community.

By implementing this comprehensive comparative analysis methodology, the FLIARA project aims to gain a nuanced understanding of women-led innovations in various contexts, identify successful strategies, and contribute valuable insights to the advancement of sustainable rural development and gender equality. The following Infographic displays the key guidelines for D1.4 (T1.3) case study assessment and selection framework.



### Infographic 1: FLIARA D1.4 Initial Case Study Assessment and Selection Framework

**FLIARA D1.4 Initial Case Study Assessment and Selection Framework**

- D1.4 provides a set of guidelines for the FLIARA case studies to be developed further and carried out via WP3. These guidelines will provide a clear structure and methodology for our investigation into the vital role of women-led innovations in agriculture and rural development.
- The document will guide the selection process, assessment criteria, and comparative analysis across countries and regions, all while considering various dimensions of sustainability.



**1. Building on Prior Knowledge**

- Exploring the insights gained through our Conceptual Framework, Knowledge Review, and the Foresight Envisioning Exercise to inform our approach and enrich the context for the subsequent stages.

**2. Case Study Selection**

The four key criteria for selecting the FLIARA case studies:

- Rural Context:** Examining innovations in rural settings to understand their unique challenges and opportunities.
- Women-led and Inclusive:** Focusing on innovations driven by women and their potential to foster inclusivity.
- Innovation:** Assessing the innovative aspects of these cases and their potential for transformative change.
- Sustainability Practice:** Investigating the sustainability practices embedded within these innovations.



**3. Methodology**

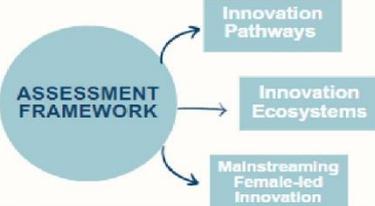
Our methodology consists of two distinct stages:

- Stage 1 - Data Base of Women-Led Innovations:** Create a database of innovative practices of women in farming and in rural areas in nine EU partner countries.
- Stage 2 - Cases to Study:** Reduce the full database to identify suitable women-led projects in farming and in rural areas for a more in-depth case study assessment.

**4. Assessment Framework**

The assessment framework is comprised of three key components:

- Innovation Pathways:** Examining the evolution and impact of innovations in agriculture and rural areas led by women.
- Innovation Ecosystems:** Analysing the supportive ecosystems and networks that enable and sustain female-led innovations.
- Mainstreaming Female-Led Innovations:** Exploring strategies to integrate these innovations into mainstream agricultural practices and policies.



**5. Case Study Comparisons**

- How we plan to compare the case studies at both national and regional levels. We will also explain the methodology for evaluating the case studies based on various dimensions of sustainability, ensuring a comprehensive assessment.



## 7. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the FLIARA Selection and Assessment Framework serves as a robust and multifaceted tool for the project's mission to explore, understand, and promote women-led innovations in farming and rural areas. By emphasising the unique challenges and opportunities faced by rural women, this framework guides the selection of case studies that offer diverse perspectives.

Through its holistic approach, the framework ensures that the focus is not solely on the outcomes of innovations but on the journeys and pathways of the women leading them. It recognises that sustainable rural development and gender equality are deeply interconnected and that innovations play a pivotal role in driving positive change.

Furthermore, the framework's incorporation of the PESTE analysis enriches the assessment process by considering external factors that influence women-led innovations. This broad perspective enables a more comprehensive understanding of the contextual nuances and challenges faced by women in rural settings.

The comparative analysis methodology, embedded within the framework, underscores the importance of cross-contextual learning. It facilitates the extraction of valuable lessons, the identification of patterns, and the development of evidence-based policies and practices that can enhance the impact of women-led innovations across diverse regions and rural typologies.

In essence, the FLIARA Selection and Assessment Framework embodies a commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability. It is a dynamic tool that can be enhanced in WP3 but in principle empowers rural women, informs decision-makers, and contributes to a more equitable and prosperous rural future.



**Annex 1: Inventory for Case Study Selection**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
Name of business/innovation/practice	Innovation in Rural Area or Farming (drop-down)	Sustainability dimension (environmental, economic, social or cultural) (drop-down)	Name of person	If so, who else is involved in the innovation	Country	Location	NUTS 3 region found through: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/nuts-maps">https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/nuts/nuts-maps</a>	Territorial Typology found through: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/figures/urban_rural_urban_rural_typology_lang-en">https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/figures/urban_rural_urban_rural_typology_lang-en</a>	Type of rural context. See WP2 deliverable 2.1 for more information. (drop-down)	Sector	Description of the practice/business. Approx. 150 words	Duration (e.g. year of establishment if ongoing practice, duration if fixed term project)	Is the innovation initiative funded? (drop-down)	Description of the innovation. Approx. 100 words	Does the innovation lead to novel practices, values, products, services or governance arrangements? (drop-down)	Success indicators you find. Approx. 100 words	What effects does the innovation at local, regional, or national level? Approx. 100 words.	Social media and/or website	Found through/ Referred by:	Contact is established?	Additional information	Relevance/ Overlap with other dimensions of sustainability (environmental, economic, social, cultural)



Annex 2:

**SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION SUB-THEMES**

Sustainability Dimension	Sub-Theme	Examples
Environmental	Renewable Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Solar Energy:</b> Advancements in solar panel technology and the increasing affordability of solar power have led to widespread adoption of solar energy as a clean and sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.</li> <li>• <b>Wind Energy:</b> Onshore and offshore wind farms harness the power of wind to generate electricity, reducing reliance on traditional energy sources.</li> <li>• <b>Bioenergy:</b> Innovations in biofuels and biomass energy production enable the use of organic materials, such as agricultural waste and algae, to generate renewable energy.</li> </ul>
	Energy Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smart Grids:</b> Intelligent energy grids optimise energy distribution and consumption, reducing wastage and improving overall energy efficiency.</li> <li>• <b>Energy-Efficient Buildings:</b> Innovations in building design, insulation, lighting, and HVAC systems help minimise energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings.</li> <li>• <b>Energy Management Systems:</b> Smart meters and energy monitoring systems enable consumers to track and manage their energy usage, encouraging responsible consumption.</li> </ul>
	Waste Management and Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Waste-to-Energy Conversion:</b> Technologies that convert organic waste into biogas or biofuel for energy production help mitigate landfill emissions and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.</li> <li>• <b>Recycling Innovations:</b> Advanced recycling processes and technologies enable the recovery of valuable materials from waste, reducing resource depletion and landfill waste.</li> </ul>
	Water Conservation and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Purification Technologies:</b> Innovations in water treatment and purification enable access to clean drinking water and support efficient water use.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Smart Irrigation Systems:</b> IoT-based systems and sensors optimise irrigation practices, delivering water precisely where and when it is needed, minimising water wastage.</li> </ul>
	Sustainable Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Precision Farming:</b> Utilising digital technologies like drones, satellite imagery, and IoT devices, precision farming optimises crop management, reduces water and fertiliser usage, and minimises environmental impact.</li> <li>• <b>Vertical Farming:</b> Vertical farming systems enable year-round crop production in controlled environments, utilising limited space and reducing water and pesticide usage.</li> <li>• <b>Agroecology and Permaculture:</b> Nature-inspired farming methods focus on ecosystem resilience and sustainable land management, reducing reliance on chemical inputs.</li> <li>• <b>Biodiversity:</b> Planting crops that support pollinators and insect and life, preservation of endangered plant varieties/species, growing rare or endangered crops or species, rewilding farmland, growing wildflowers, and preserving hedgerows.</li> </ul>
	Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Product Life Extension:</b> Repair, refurbishment, and remanufacturing initiatives prolong the lifespan of products, reducing waste and conserving resources.</li> <li>• <b>Sharing Economy:</b> Peer-to-peer sharing platforms for goods and services promote resource sharing and reduce the need for excessive production and consumption.</li> </ul>
	Sustainable Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Transportation Innovations:</b> Enhanced public transportation systems, such as electric buses, light rail transit, and bike-sharing programs, promote sustainable mobility options and reduce traffic congestion.</li> <li>• <b>Electric Vehicles (EVs):</b> EV technology has advanced significantly, providing viable alternatives to traditional gasoline-powered vehicles and reducing carbon emissions.</li> </ul>



<b>Economic</b>	Value-Added Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Small-Scale Food Processing:</b> Establishing local food processing facilities allows farmers to add value to their agricultural products by transforming them into processed goods such as jams, sauces, or dried products.</li> <li>• <b>Cottage Industries:</b> Encouraging the development of small-scale artisanal or handicraft businesses can provide rural communities with income opportunities and preserve local traditions and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
	Rural Tourism and Hospitality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Agri-Tourism:</b> Promoting tourism activities on farms or in rural areas, such as farm stays, guided tours, or agricultural experiences, attracts visitors and generates income for local farmers and communities.</li> <li>• <b>Ecotourism:</b> Highlighting natural landscapes, biodiversity, and sustainable practices can create tourism opportunities while preserving the environment and promoting conservation.</li> </ul>
	Community-Based Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cooperatives:</b> Facilitating the formation of agricultural cooperatives or producer groups allows farmers to pool resources, collectively market their products, access credit, and share knowledge and expertise.</li> <li>• <b>Social Enterprises:</b> Encouraging the establishment of social enterprises that address community needs, such as local healthcare services, renewable energy projects, or community-owned businesses, can foster economic growth and social development.</li> </ul>
	Microfinance and Access to Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Microfinance Institutions (MFIs):</b> Establishing or supporting MFIs provides rural entrepreneurs, especially women, with access to small loans and financial services to start or expand their businesses.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Banking and Mobile Money:</b> Expanding access to digital banking and mobile money services can help rural communities overcome geographical barriers and facilitate financial transactions, savings, and access to credit.</li> </ul>
	Value Chain Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Market Linkages:</b> Building connections between rural producers and urban markets or export markets through</li> </ul>



		<p>cooperatives, fair trade initiatives, or online platforms can enhance income generation and expand market opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Contract Farming:</b> Promoting partnerships between farmers and agribusinesses through contract farming arrangements ensures market access, reduces production risks, and improves rural incomes.</li> </ul>
	Rural Innovation Hubs and Incubators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Entrepreneurship Development:</b> Establishing innovation hubs and incubators in rural areas provides training, mentorship, and networking opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs, fostering innovation and economic diversification.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Skills Training:</b> Equipping rural communities with digital literacy and skills training enables them to leverage technology, access online markets, and engage in remote work or digital entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>
	Sustainable Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sustainable Forestry:</b> Implementing sustainable forestry practices, such as agroforestry, community-managed forests, or forest restoration initiatives, can generate economic opportunities while preserving forest ecosystems.</li> <li>• <b>Water Resource Management:</b> Encouraging community-based water management systems, water conservation practices, or decentralised water treatment initiatives promotes sustainable water use and creates employment in water-related sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Social</b>	Social Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Farming:</b> Offering activities or work/volunteering opportunities on a family farm as a form of social support service</li> <li>• <b>Community-Owned Enterprises:</b> Facilitating the establishment of cooperatives or community-owned businesses, such as agricultural cooperatives, crafts or artisanal cooperatives, empowers rural communities and promotes local economic development.</li> <li>• <b>Social Impact Businesses:</b> Encouraging the creation of social enterprises that address local social or environmental challenges, such as renewable energy enterprises, recycling initiatives, or fair trade</li> </ul>



		organisations, fosters community resilience and sustainable development.
	Community-Based Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mobile Clinics:</b> Mobile healthcare units bring medical services, including primary care, vaccinations, and health education, directly to rural communities with limited access to healthcare facilities.</li> <li>• <b>Telemedicine:</b> Telecommunication technologies enable remote medical consultations, diagnosis, and monitoring, bridging the gap between rural patients and healthcare professionals.</li> </ul>
	Education and Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rural Learning Centres:</b> Establishing community-based learning centres or libraries provides access to educational resources, vocational training, and skill development programs for children and adults in rural areas.</li> <li>• <b>Distance Education:</b> Utilising online learning platforms and video conferencing technologies allows rural students to access quality education, regardless of their geographical location.</li> </ul>
	Women's Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Self-Help Groups:</b> Forming self-help groups for women in rural areas provides a platform for collective saving, skill-building, and entrepreneurship, enabling them to enhance their economic and social status.</li> <li>• <b>Gender Mainstreaming Programs:</b> Implementing initiatives that promote gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes, such as training programs, leadership development, and awareness campaigns, empower women in rural communities.</li> </ul>
	Digital Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rural Broadband Connectivity:</b> Expanding access to high-speed internet in rural areas enables connectivity, digital literacy, e-commerce opportunities, telecommuting, and access to online services, enhancing social and economic participation.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Skills Training:</b> Providing digital literacy training to rural communities equips individuals with essential skills for using digital technologies, accessing online resources, and participating in the digital economy.</li> </ul>



	Social Services and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Resource Centres:</b> Establishing community centres that offer a range of social services, such as childcare facilities, counselling services, legal aid, and social support programs, strengthens social networks and enhances well-being in rural areas.</li> <li>• <b>Sustainable Infrastructure:</b> Implementing sustainable infrastructure projects, such as renewable energy systems, clean water supply systems, or eco-friendly sanitation facilities, improves the quality of life in rural communities and supports environmental sustainability.</li> </ul>
Cultural	Cultural Tourism and Experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heritage Tourism:</b> Promoting visits to rural areas that have significant historical, architectural, or cultural landmarks, such as ancient sites, heritage buildings, or cultural festivals, to generate income and preserve local heritage.</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Experiences:</b> Offering immersive cultural experiences, such as traditional craft workshops, cooking classes, music and dance performances, or storytelling sessions, to tourists helps preserve traditional knowledge and practices while creating economic opportunities for local communities.</li> </ul>
	Cultural Preservation and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oral History Projects:</b> Initiating projects to record oral histories and traditions of rural communities helps preserve intangible cultural heritage and facilitates intergenerational knowledge transfer.</li> <li>• <b>Digital Archiving:</b> Using digital technologies to digitise and preserve cultural artefacts, documents, photographs, and traditional knowledge ensures their long-term accessibility and protection.</li> </ul>
	Indigenous Knowledge and Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traditional Ecological Knowledge:</b> Integrating traditional ecological knowledge systems into sustainable resource management practices, such as agroecology, sustainable forestry, or natural resource</li> </ul>



		<p>conservation, promotes environmental sustainability while preserving indigenous knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Indigenous Art and Crafts:</b> Supporting the production and marketing of traditional indigenous art, crafts, and handicrafts helps sustain traditional livelihoods, preserve cultural practices, and generate income for indigenous communities.</li> </ul>
	Community Cultural Centres and Museums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Cultural Centers:</b> Establishing community-based cultural centres provides spaces for showcasing local traditions, hosting cultural events, and offering cultural education and training programs.</li> <li>• <b>Rural Museums:</b> Setting up museums dedicated to rural heritage, local history, or specific cultural themes allows for the preservation and exhibition of artefacts, cultural objects, and stories unique to rural communities.</li> </ul>
	Cultural Exchange and Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cultural Exchange Programs:</b> Facilitating cultural exchange programs between rural communities, indigenous groups, and urban areas promotes mutual understanding, fosters cultural diversity, and creates opportunities for shared learning and collaboration.</li> <li>• <b>Artist Residencies:</b> Organising artist residencies in rural areas encourages artistic and cultural exchange, supports local artists, and stimulates creativity and cultural expression.</li> </ul>
	Cultural Festivals and Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rural Festivals:</b> Celebrating traditional rural festivals, seasonal events, or cultural ceremonies provides opportunities for the community to come together, strengthen social bonds, and promote cultural identity.</li> <li>• <b>Cultural Performance Spaces:</b> Establishing performance spaces or open-air theatres in rural areas encourages the staging of cultural performances, including music, dance, theatre, and storytelling, and enhances cultural vibrancy.</li> </ul>
	Traditional Agricultural Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seed Banks and Agrobiodiversity Conservation:</b> Promoting the conservation of traditional seeds, crop varieties, and agrobiodiversity through community-led</li> </ul>



initiatives and seed banks helps preserve agricultural heritage and foster food security.

- **Traditional Farming Methods:** Supporting and promoting traditional farming practices, such as organic farming, permaculture, or traditional irrigation systems, not only preserves cultural heritage but also contributes to sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.



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**Annex 3:**

**JOINT CALL FOR INNOVATIVE WOMEN – FLYER AND QUESTIONS**

**Joint Call Flyer:**

**Call for Innovative Women**  
In Agriculture and Rural Areas from our Partner Countries

Czech Republic • Ireland • Italy • Spain • Finland  
Netherlands • Slovenia • Germany • Romania • Sweden

**OPEN CALL** **2nd October**  
Female-Led Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas

**We are looking for you, if...**

- You are a rural woman leading an innovative practice or enterprise on a farm or in a rural community.
- Your farm or rural innovation has an environmental, social, economic and/or cultural sustainability aspect.

**By taking part:**

- You will gain access to all the material that the FLIARA project will produce and all of our results including, knowledge and training tools that draw on the experiences of other women innovators in farming and in rural areas.
- You can keep up to date with FLIARA's gender innovation events and workshops across the EU.
- You will be aiding in FLIARA's efforts to improve and influence policy which supports women and their innovative practices in farming and in rural areas.
- You could be selected as one of your country's national case studies for the FLIARA project and connect with a Europe-wide Community of Practice Network.

[Click here to connect!](#)

**What is FLIARA about?**

FLIARA is a project funded by the EU that aims to improve the understanding of the needs and challenges faced by women who lead innovative practices in farming and rural areas in the EU.

FLIARA will raise awareness of the current innovations led by women and their crucial role in achieving EU policies for sustainable rural futures. It will showcase the innovative abilities of women in farming and rural areas, with a specific emphasis on sustainability in terms of the environment, economy, society, and culture. Read more about the project at [www.fliara.eu](http://www.fliara.eu)



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### Annex 4: Database Questionnaire

#### Survey Questions:

- Name of your innovative practice or enterprise

\_\_\_\_\_

- Is your innovative practice or enterprise based in agriculture or based in a rural area?

Agriculture  Rural Area

- Country (*Drop down arrow of all partner countries*)

- Type of rural area

Rural Village  Remote Rural Area  Rural Area close to city

- How long has your practice or enterprise been running for?

Less than 2 years  3-6 years  7-10 years  10+ years

- Which of these elements of sustainability (economic, environmental, social, cultural) does your innovative practices or enterprise address? Please arrange these elements of sustainability in order of relevance to your innovative practice or enterprise (1- most relevant, 4 – least relevant)

Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Please describe your practice or enterprise and how it is innovative?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Please describe the effects your innovative practice or enterprise has had at a local, regional or national level?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Social Media/Website link

\_\_\_\_\_

- Please tick here if you would like to be considered in the selection of case studies for the FLIARA project.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please tick here to subscribe to the FLIARA newsletter



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## Female-Led Innovation in Agriculture and Rural Areas

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