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- to foster closer relations between rural sociologists, other social scientists, and practitioners with an interest in agricultural development, rural society and the environment
- to promote international co-operation and the exchange of information and experience in the field of rural sociological research
- to provide a forum in Europe for the discussion of issues related to rural change
- to encourage the training of young social scientists within an international framework.

The Society tries to realise these objectives through the publication of a scientific journal, *Sociologia Ruralis*, and an electronic newsletter *ERS*-news, through the organization of a European congress every two years, and through the organization of international training and research seminars (summer school). The *ESRS* is chaired by an elected President who, together with the Executive Committee, is responsible for its management.

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