



The Rural Pact Coordination Group Mandate and governance

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European Commission

21 June 2023 – Rural pact coordination group



#RuralPact



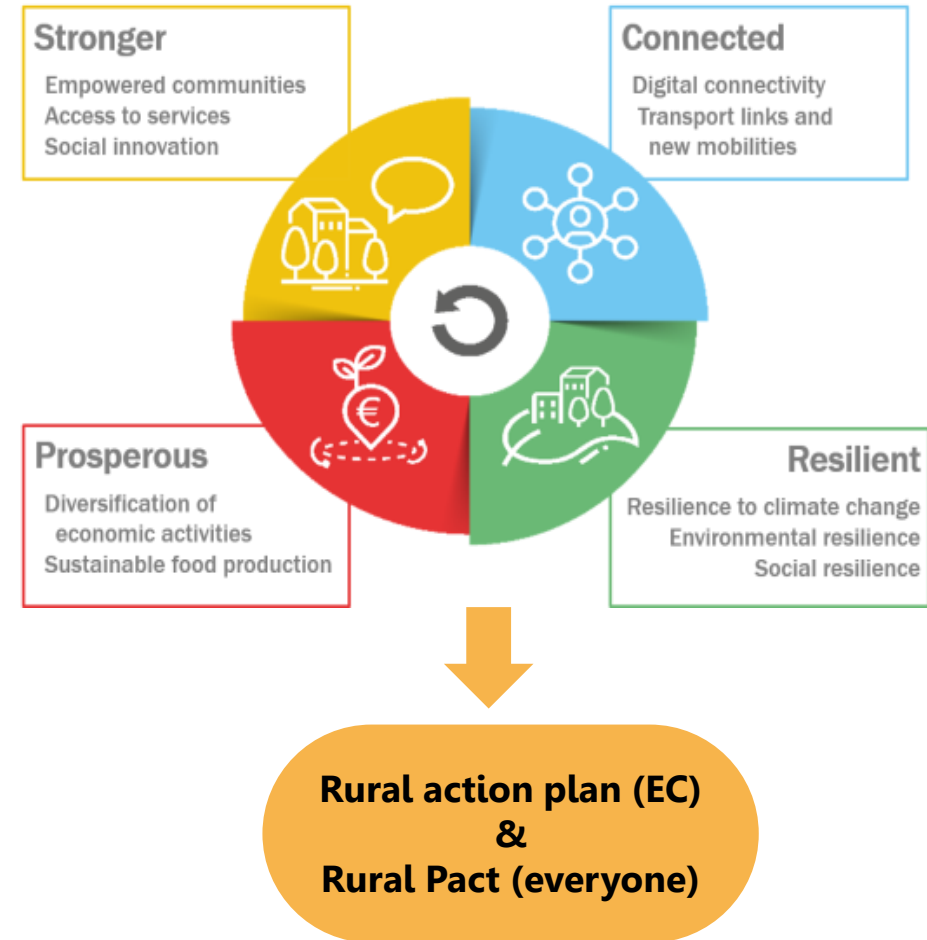
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The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas



10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

1. **Attractive spaces**, developed in harmonious **territorial development**
2. Engaged in **multi-level** and **place-based governance**
3. Providers of **food security**, economic **opportunities**, goods and **services** for wider society
4. Dynamic communities focusing on **well-being**
5. **Inclusive communities**
6. Flourishing sources of **nature**
7. Fully benefiting from **digital innovation**
8. **Entrepreneurial, innovative** and **skilled** people
9. Lively places equipped with efficient, accessible and affordable **public and private services**
10. Places of **diversity**



The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

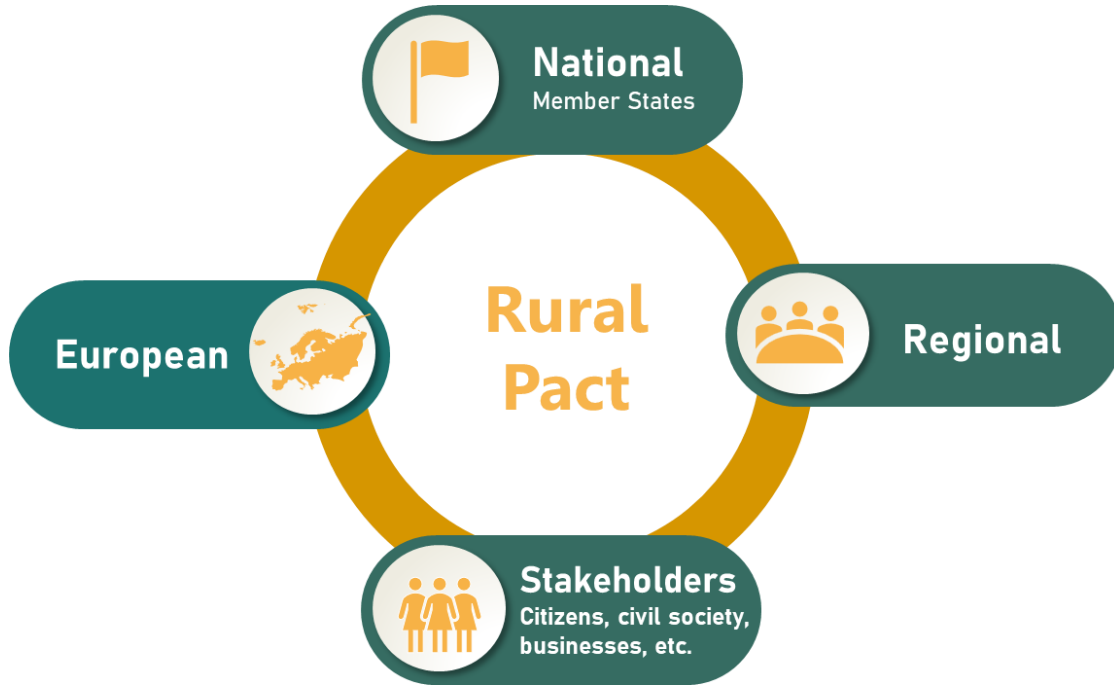
EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

6
Horizontal
actions

1. Rural Observatory
2. Functional Rural Areas
3. Improved Statistics
4. Rural Proofing
5. Toolkit on EU funding
6. **Rural Pact**



The Rural Pact



What is the Rural Pact ?

The Rural Pact is a formal space and framework to boost **cooperation** between national, regional and local governments, civil society organisations, businesses, academics and citizens to act towards the shared goals of the rural vision.

#RuralPact



Participatory process

Rural Pact

Proposals from the Rural Pact preparatory group for the Rural Pact conference on 15-16 June 2022

Introduction

With the adoption of the Communication on a Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, the European Commission committed to setting-up a Rural Pact. This Pact will contribute to reaching the shared goals of the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas but also fits into the EU's broader commitment of implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring balanced territorial development.

Following the launch of the Rural Pact Community, in December 2021, over 1000 individuals and organisations have endorsed the shared goals of the rural vision and want to work towards their achievement. This draft is the next step in the Rural Pact process. Drafted by EU institutions and rural stakeholders¹, it outlines the main features of the Rural Pact. Rural Pact Community members were invited to express their views on this proposal in May through a survey. Their feedback was taken on board for the final proposal which was presented at the Rural Pact conference on 15 and 16 June 2022.

Objectives

The Rural Action Plan, which was adopted with the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, represents the European Commission's commitment to acting for rural areas. One of its actions is to propose a Rural Pact, which aims to strengthen multi-level governance for the EU's rural areas. This means that the Pact will engage the European, national, regional and local level, all of which have a key role to play in the future of rural areas, to work together.

The activities of the Rural Pact could be classified as contributing to three broad objectives:

¹ Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, ELARD, PREPARE and ERCA from the European Rural Parliament, as well as the European Parliament and the European network for Rural Development as observers.

Proposal endorsed Rural Pact Conference (15-16 June 2022)

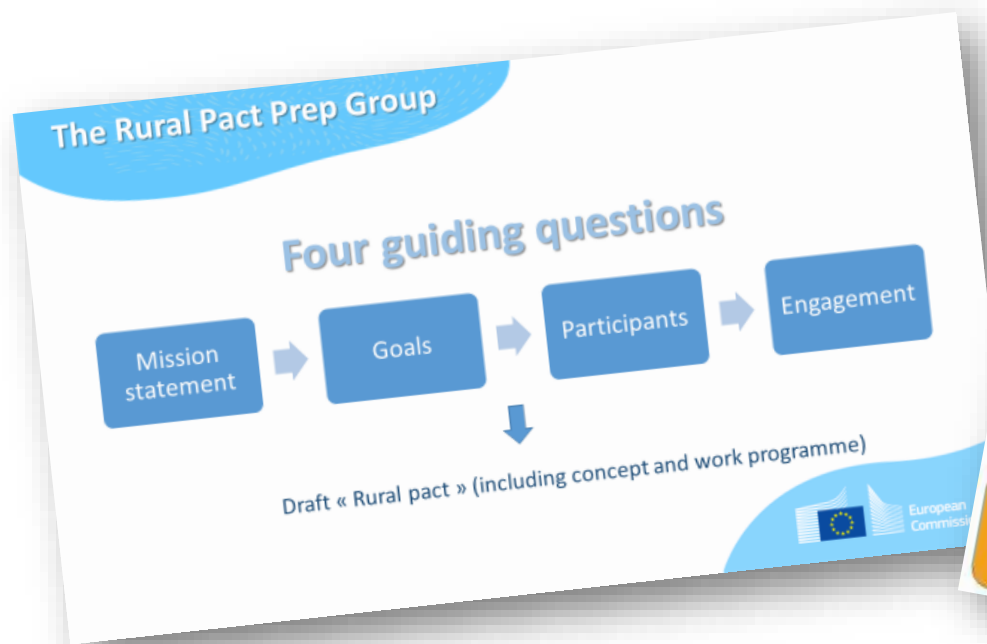
The Rural Pact preparatory group



Rural Pact Preparatory Group



The Rural Pact preparatory group



13 Meetings between February and November 2022

- Review examples of similar initiatives, raise questions, and answers
- Build a practical proposal > Prepare the June conference to discuss it
- Sept > Prepare the creation of the Rural pact coordination group

The Rural Pact - Objectives



Amplify the voice of rural areas and bring them up in policy agendas



Networking, collaboration & mutual learning



Commitments to act



Join the Rural Pact Community! <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>



Rural Pact Proposal: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/rural-pact-proposal_en.pdf

The Rural Pact Community Members

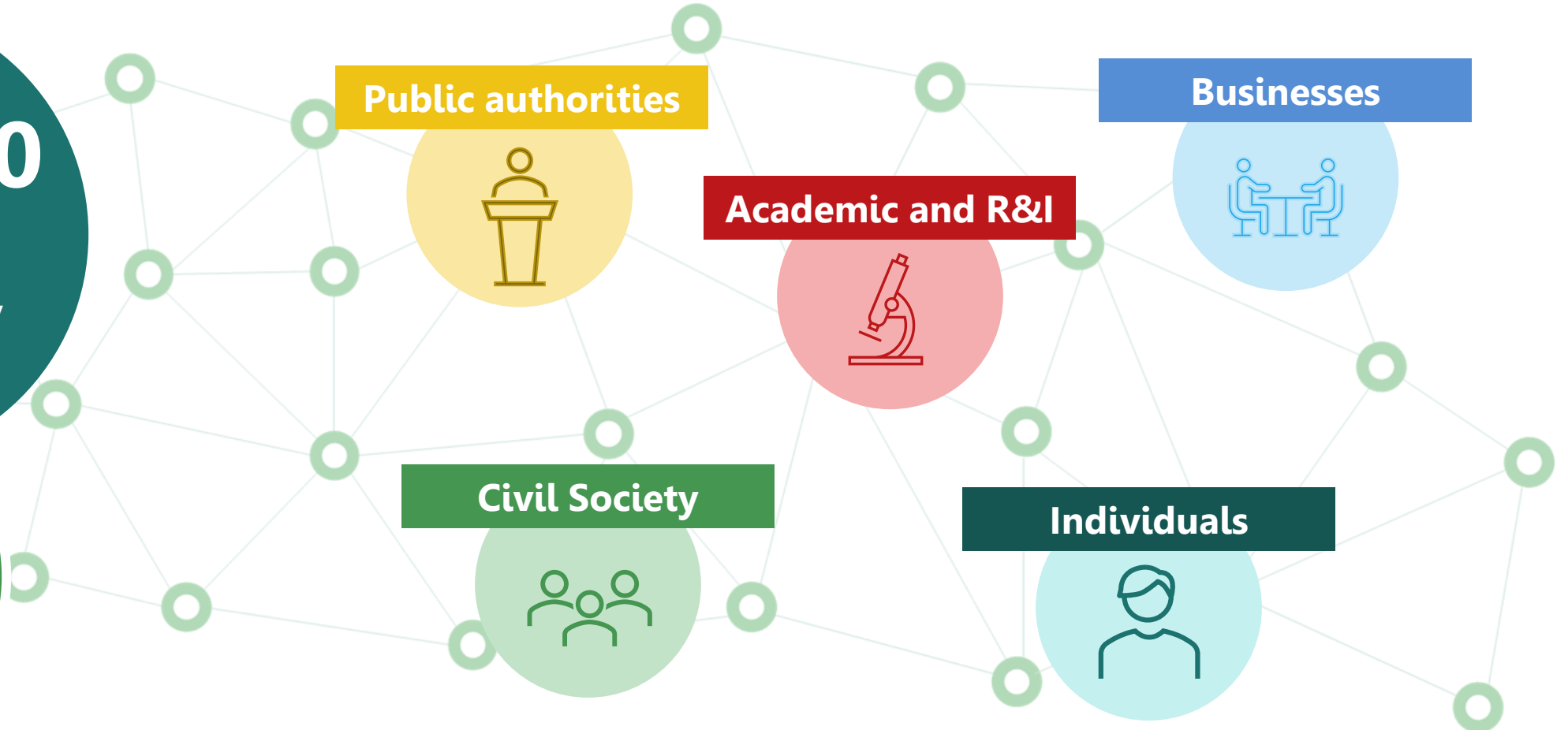


+1850

Rural Pact
Community
Members by
May 2023

+115

Commitments to
act



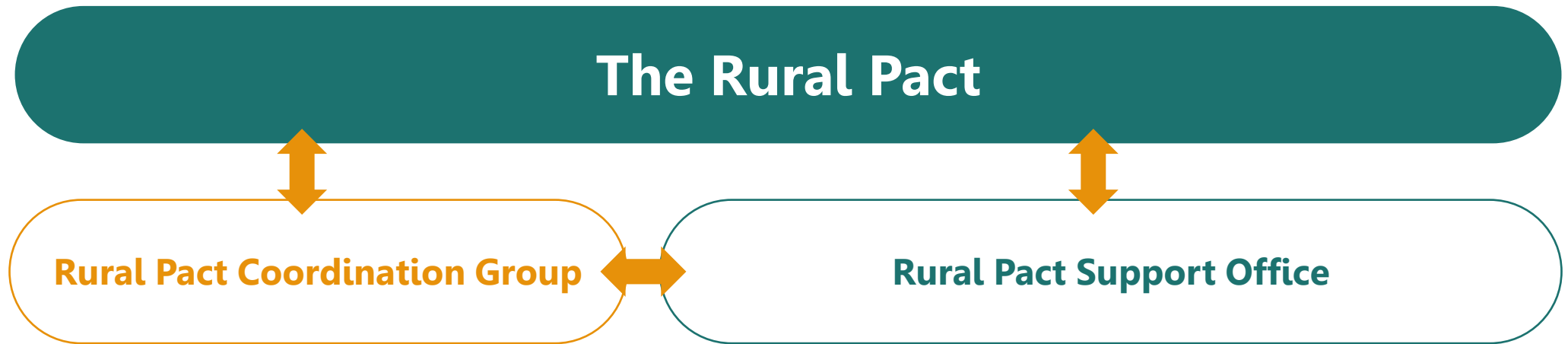
Participating in the Pact = Committing to act for one or more of its objectives



Join the Rural Pact Community! <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>

#RuralPact

Rural Pact Support Office



- Informal group steering the Rural Pact process
- Three-year mandate
- Learn more [here](#)

- Provide facilitation services to the Rural Pact community
- Networking and information
- Build synergies with networks and governing bodies
- Evaluate needs of the RP community and support its work



Rural Pact Coordination Group

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure



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Terms of Reference

- Reference document defining **substantial aspects** of the work of the Coordination Group;
- Defines: tasks, membership, selection process, chair, operation, sub-groups, invited experts, observers, professional secrecy, transparency and meeting expenses.
- Comments are welcome!
- **Next steps:** Adoption of the ToR at the next meeting of the Coordination Group by consensus or possibly by written procedure

Terms of Reference - Mandate



Acting as a network of institutions and organisations, the group will be responsible for:

- Exploring ways to **develop the Rural Pact further** for its different types of participants, by **agreeing on activities to be taken by the group members** or Pact participants, and **themes to address**.
- **Engaging and encouraging their stakeholder groups** or partners to **become members** of the Rural Pact and **disseminate information about the EU rural vision** and activities the Rural Pact members are taking.
- **Monitoring the commitments** to action of Rural Pact members at their level of governance.
- Evaluating **progress towards the objectives of the Rural Pact** and, ultimately, the **ten shared goals** of the rural vision.
- **Suggesting events or tasks** to be organised under the Rural Pact or subjects to be addressed in communications to the Rural Pact community by the Rural Pact support office (pending agreement of the European Commission and conformity with the support office contract).

Terms of Reference - Composition

Public authorities



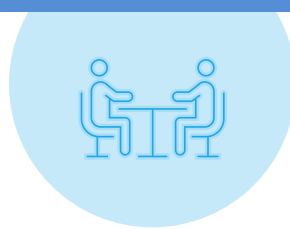
- Committee of the Regions (NAT and COTER)
- Trio of presidencies of the Council
- CEMR
- METREX

Civil Society



- European economic and social committee (NAT and ECO)
- Networks steering the European Rural Parliament (ELARD, ERCA, PREPARE)
- EUROMONTANA
- Ruralité environnement développement
- ECOLISE
- Smart Village Network
- Rural Youth Europe

Businesses



- RURAL TOUR
- SME United
- DIESIS Network

Individuals



- European Parliament (COMAGRI & COMREGI)

Academic and R&I



- Rural NEET Youth Network
- European Rural development Network
- Natural Resource Institute Finland
- Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Rural UOC Network)
- University College Dublin

19 countries represented
40% Females representatives

Terms of Reference – Governance

Chairmanship

- One of the group members to be elected at the second meeting at the latest
- *How do you want to choose your chair?*

Operation

- DG AGRI and DG REGIO will act as Secretariat, with the support of the Rural pact Support Office

Meetings

- Twice a year (one in person, one virtual)
- *Group members can decide to meet more often*

Transparency

- Members list published on LTVRA website
- Agendas, minutes and participant's submissions published
- Deliberations

Replacement

- 3 years term
- Members can be excluded and/or replaced

Rules of Procedure



- Operational document governing **procedural aspects** of the work of the group – cannot introduce new elements on substance;
- Defines: convening a meeting, agenda and other documentation to be shared with members, sub-groups, invited experts, observers, written procedure, secretariat, correspondence and transparency.
- Comments are welcome!
- **Next steps:** Adoption of the RoP at the next meeting of the Coordination Group by consensus or possibly by written procedure

Rules of Procedure - Governance

Agenda

- Under the responsibility of the Chair, the Secretariat draws up an agenda, with the support of the Rural Pact Support Office

Opinion of the group

- As far as possible, opinions are taken by consensus

Sub-groups

- Possible to create upon your request

Invited experts and observers

- Invited experts with ad hoc expertise
- Observer status by direct invitation, no voting rights

Written procedure

- Opinion or recommendation can be delivered by written procedure
- A simple majority can ask for a meeting to examine the question

Open questions for discussion



What is the role of the chair?

How should the chair be selected?

How would like to work together?

Would you like to interact between the meetings? How?

Actions to take

- ▶ **Formalities needed to complete the group setup**
 - Elect the chair at the latest at the second meeting (October 2023)
 - Adopt the ToRs and RoPs at the second meeting (October 2023)

- ▶ **Start discussing the concrete actions of the group**
 - In relation with the Annual work plan of the RPSO
 - Create your own programme



THANK YOU

Rural Pact Community – Join us
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>



<https://rural-vision.europa.eu/>

