



The long-term vision for rural areas & the Rural Pact

Alexia ROUBY

European Commission – DG Agriculture and rural development

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ERCA Webinar Web-event on the EU Long-Term Vision for the Rural Areas, the Rural Pact and the Rural Funding Toolkit



#RuralPact



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the European Union

The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



Rural areas are the fabric of our society and the heartbeat of our economy.

The diversity of landscape, culture and heritage is one of Europe's most defining and remarkable features.

They are a core part of our identity and our economic potential. We will cherish and preserve our rural areas and invest in their future.

President Von der Leyen



The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



Vice-president of EC
Demography & Democracy
Dubravka Šuica

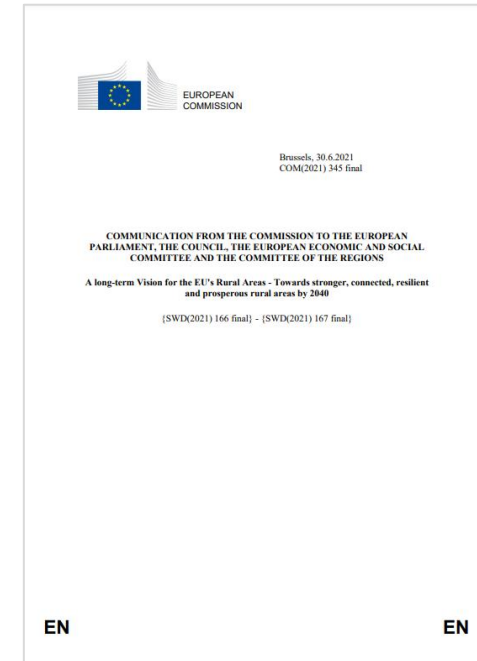


Commissioner (Agriculture)
Janusz Wojciechowski



Commissioner (Cohesion and reforms)
Elisa Ferreira

Communication from the EC
(June 2021)

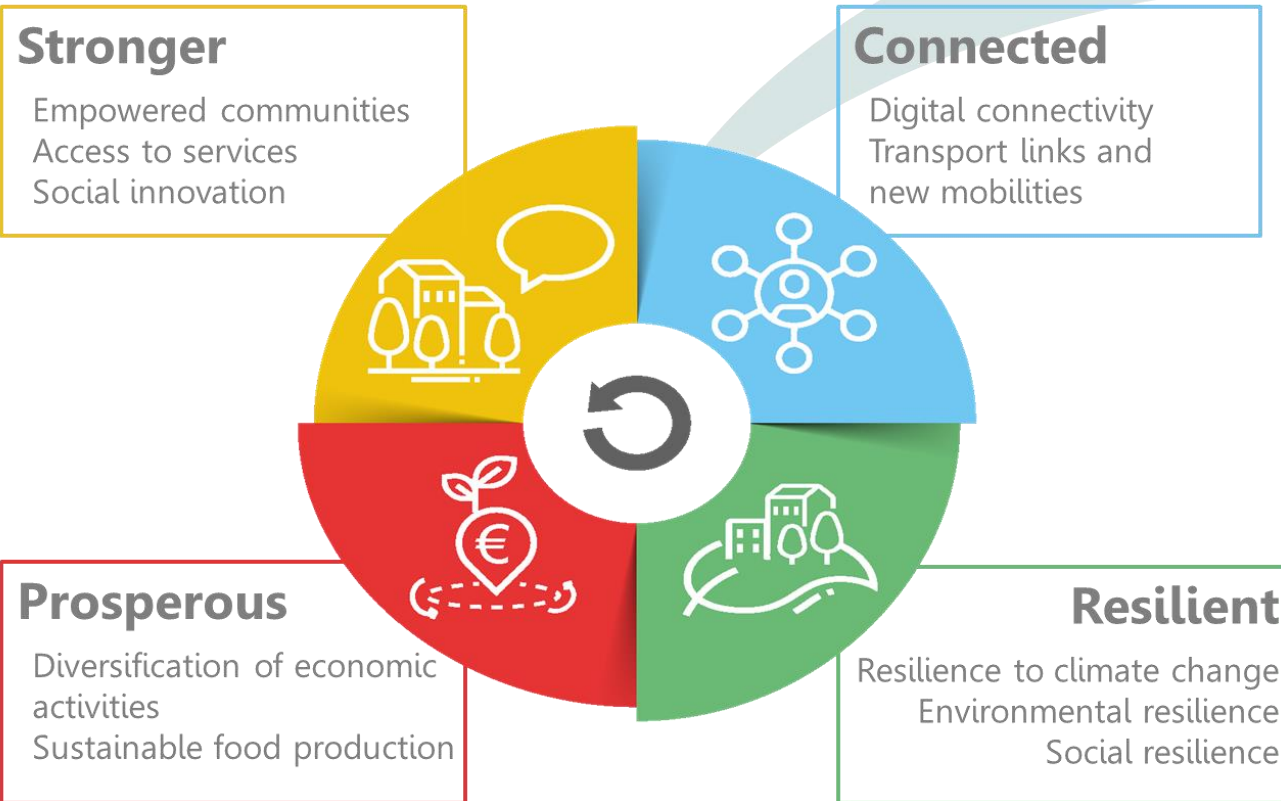


The rural vision by 2040



Shared goals for 2040

Rural action plan (EC) & Rural Pact (everyone)



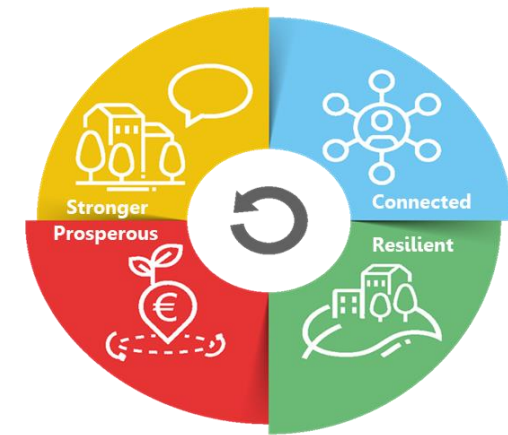
The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas



LONG-TERM VISION FOR 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



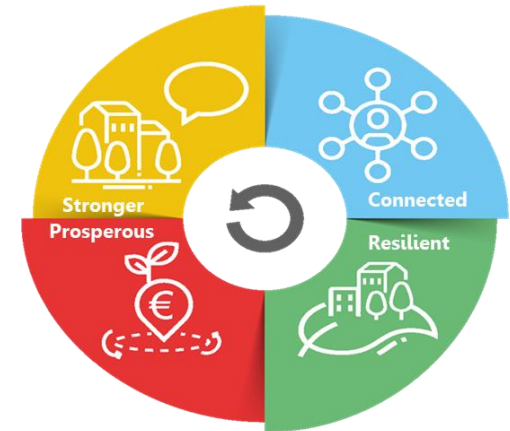
LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

9 Flagship initiatives

-  1. **Rural revitalisation platform**
-  2. **Research and innovation** for rural communities
-  3. Sustainable multimodal **mobility** best practices for rural areas
-  4. Rural **digital futures**
-  5. Support rural municipalities in **energy transition** and fighting climate change
-  6. Climate action in peatland through **carbon farming**
-  7. **EU mission** : a soil deal for Europe
-  8. **Social resilience** and **women** in rural areas
-  9. **Entrepreneurship** and **social economy** in rural areas



The rural action plan: 24 thematic actions



▶ Rural revitalisation platform

- Enabling factors, self-assessment tool
- Launch 29 June 2023



▶ Research and innovation for rural communities

- Horizon 2021-2024 launched (120 M€)
- Startup village forum
- EIP-AGRI, RIS3
- Horizon 2025-2027



▶ Education and youth

- Study on rural young people access to ERASMUS and ESCP



▶ Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas

- SMARTA NET Networking for municipalities



▶ Urban mobility framework published

▶ Rural Digital Futures

- Horizon + DEP WP published
- EDIH
- Digital skills and jobs platform
- Pilots on digital education for children in remote areas
- 5G for smart com.
- Rural digital index



▶ Rural municipalities in energy transition & Climate change

- Rural energy communities advisory hub



▶ Climate action in peatland /carbon farming

- Comm "Sustainable C cycles"
- 3 LIFE projects
- Just transition fund
- CAP assessments
- Certif. C removals



▶ EU mission: A soil deal for Europe

- Calls published



▶ Entrepreneurship and social economy

- Clusters of social and ecologic innovation (rural focus) report published – study by RTD
- Euroclusters call
- European cluster collaboration platform
- Transition pathway for proximity and social economy



▶ Social resilience and Women in rural areas

- European care strategy (2022)

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

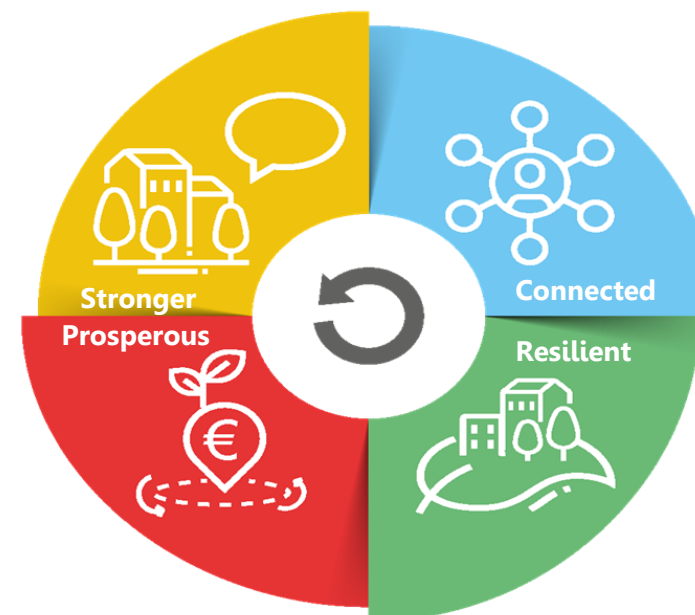
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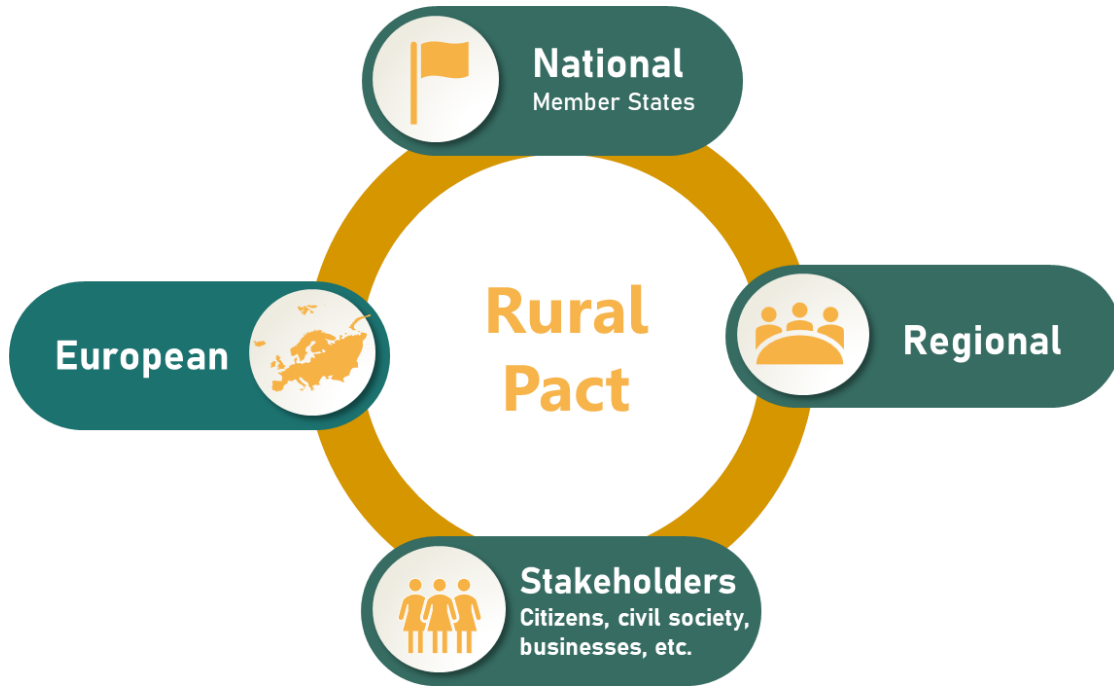
EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

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 - Objectives



Amplifying the voice of rural areas and bringing them up in policy agendas



Networking, collaboration & mutual learning



Commitments to act



Join the Rural Pact Community! [Become a member of the Rural Pact | Rural Pact Community Platform \(europa.eu\)](#)



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

The Rural Pact Community Members

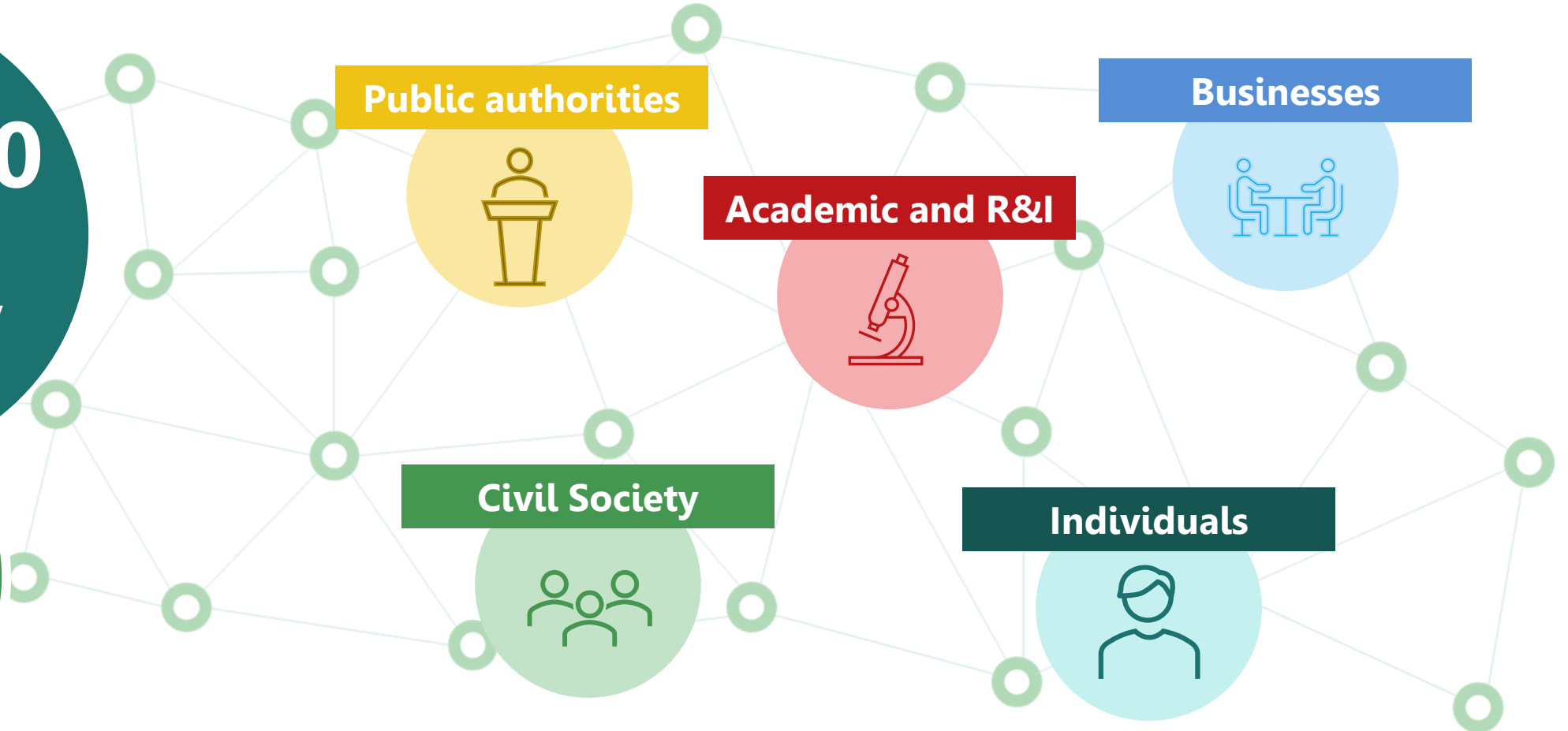


+2150

Rural Pact
Community
Members by
Nov 2023

+119

Commitments to
act



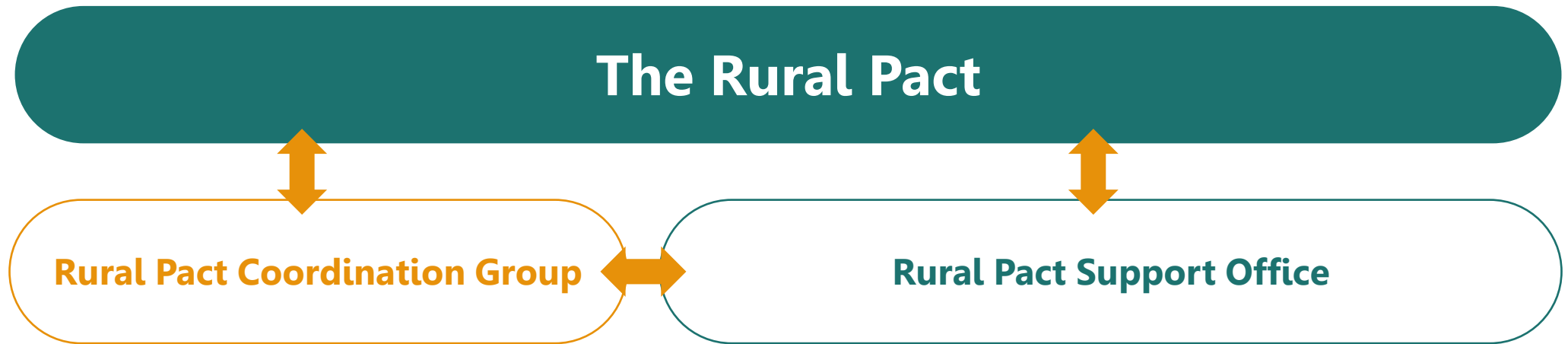
Participating in the Pact = Committing to act for one or more of its objectives



Join the Rural Pact Community! [Become a member of the Rural Pact | Rural Pact Community Platform \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-operations/infographic-116396.attachments)

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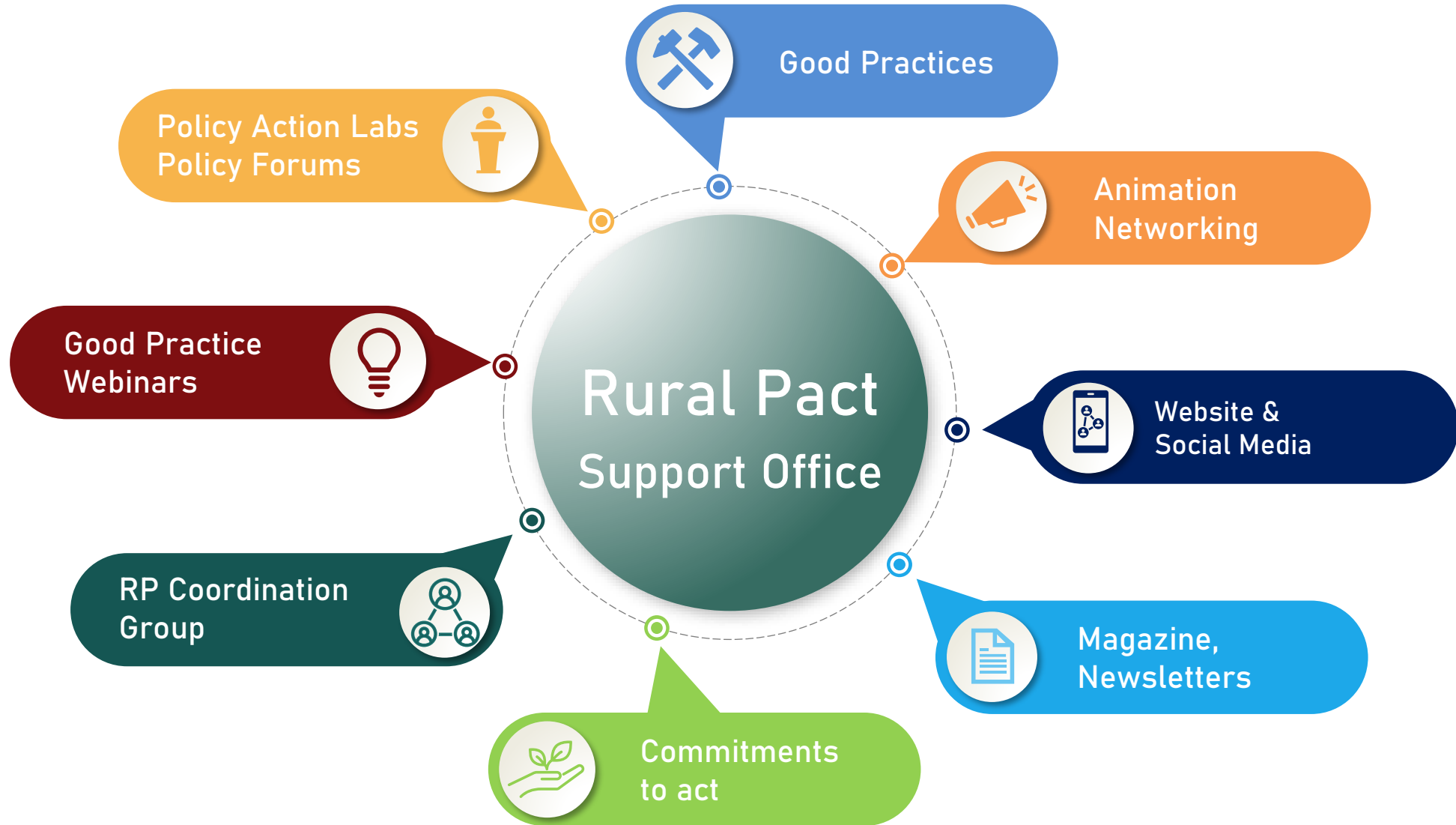
Rural Pact Support Office



- 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

The Rural Pact Support Office



Main Events in 2023



Policy Labs

- ▶ Taking action to tackle **rural depopulation**, Brussels, Belgium **(29 June)**
- ▶ Online - **EU funds paving the way to the rural vision** **(14 December)**



Good Practice Webinars

- ▶ Fostering **social entrepreneurship** in rural areas through local action **(11 May)**
- ▶ Strengthening **digital skills of rural people to benefit** from the digital era **(8 June)**
- ▶ Rural areas in the **energy transition** **(24 October)**
- ▶ Enhancing **access to health services** in rural areas **(30 November)**



All events | Rural Pact Community Platform (europa.eu)
Upcoming events: <https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/events/upcoming>

#RuralPact



Main Events in 2023



Spanish Presidency
of the Council of the EU



High level Policy Forum

Shaping the future of rural areas

(27-29 September), Sigüenza (Spain)

Organised by Spanish presidency & European Commission with the support of the RPSO

https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events/shaping-future-rural-areas-2023-09-27_en



Interinstitutional dialogue



Council of the
European Union



European Committee
of the Regions

[Opinion](#) LTVRA (26 Jan 2022)
[Opinion](#) Smart Rural Europe
(15 March 2023)



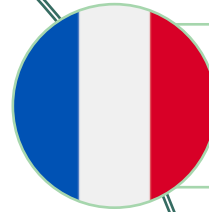
European Economic
and Social Committee

[Opinion](#) (23 Mar 2022)

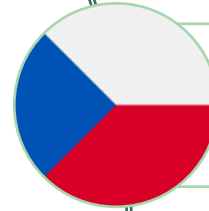


European Parliament

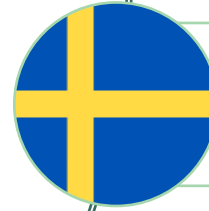
[Report](#) (13 December 2022)



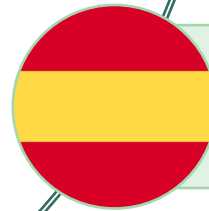
French Presidency – [GAC Cohesion conclusions on Cohesion report](#) (2 June 2022)



Czech Presidency – Lednice [declaration](#) + [launch of CZ Rural Pact](#) (28 October 2022)



Swedish Presidency – [Rural pact Conference in Sweden](#) (3-4 May 2023, Sweden)



Spanish Presidency – [High-level rural policy forum](#) (27-29 Sept. 2023, Sigüenza)
[Council conclusions](#) (20 November 2023)

Council conclusions

Unanimously adopted on 20 November 2023



► Highlights:

- rural areas as **key contributors to the EU's economies and societies**
- the need for a **holistic approach** to address multifaceted challenges
- The need to make sure **rural voices are heard**
- the importance of better **connectivity and digital skills**
- the importance of **investments from EU, national, regional and local** sources

► Next steps:

- Calls on the Commission to **consider developing the vision into an EU rural strategy**, with a **comprehensive and flexible approach** and **relevant indicators**
- Encourages **Member States to further engage in the Rural Pact** and develop **strategies and actions plans at national, regional and local level** for the benefit of rural areas.

[PRESS RELEASE: A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas: Council approves conclusions - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/112023-council-conclusions-rural-pact/)



The Rural Pact community platform



Rural Pact Community Platform

Rural Pact ▾ Rural revitalisation ▾ The platform ▾ Resources ▾ News and events ▾

View published New draft Delete Revisions Translate



Welcome to the Rural Pact community platform!

Join us



This is your space

Find the latest information about the [Rural Pact](#) and [rural revitalisation](#), connect with your peers and get inspired!

Go and check the existing "[Community Groups](#)" to discuss the topics of your interest. Or create one to gather all the actors around one place or one topic.

We wish you an inspiring discovery of all the good things happening in rural Europe.



The Rural Pact community platform



GROUP
Social economy

- European Union
- Access to services Democracy and participation...
- English



GROUP
Migrants and refugees' inclusion in rural areas

- European Union
- Demography Education and training Research and...
- English



GROUP
Mountain areas

- European Union
- Stronger Rural Areas Access to services Buildings...
- English



GROUP
Women in Rural Areas

- Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechia...
- Stronger Rural Areas Connected rural areas Resilient...
- English



GROUP
Smart Villages

- Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechia...
- Stronger Rural Areas Access to services Democracy an...
- English



GROUP
Rural Pact Coordination Group

- Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechia...
- Stronger Rural Areas Connected rural areas Resilient...
- English

What's in it for you & what can you do?



What's in the Rural Pact for you?	What can you do for the Rural Pact?
 <p>Momentum created at EU level for more and better action for rural areas</p>	<p>Use this momentum in your respective countries to ask for improvements</p>
 <p>Rural Pact Coordination group: a new cross-sectoral, inter-institutional body with stakeholders on equal footing</p>	<p>Use ERCA's membership of the group to make your ideas better known and contribute to positive outcomes at EU and national levels</p>
 <p>Rural Pact Community platform to learn from and exchange with others & create your own on-line space to share information</p>	<p>Engage and share to enrich collective knowledge and help ideas for actions to emerge</p>
<p>Increased visibility for what actors do & ideas of initiatives to take (Commitments to act)</p>	<p>Get inspired and inspire: promote what you do in the Pact context to create critical mass</p>
 <p>Tools created by the EU Rural action plan: EU Rural Observatory (access to data) & EU Rural toolkit (help identify the right funding schemes)</p>	<p>Use the tools and tell us how you would like to see them improved (mindful of resources)</p>
<p>Opportunities for funding created under various programmes</p>	<p>Stay tuned and apply to benefit! If you find it difficult, help us understand why</p>

Be informed, participate and take action



Steps

1

Join the Rural Pact Community

Form: <https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member>

2

Take action contributing to the vision & share it with us

Form:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TheRuralPactCommitmentCanvas>



Next steps on the rural vision



June 2024
EU Elections

March 2024
Commission
public report
on the LTVRA

Report 2024

- ▶ **Taking stock of implementation** (policies and rural action plan)
- ▶ Proposing a **set of reflections on how to enhance support for rural areas** and the ways forward
- ▶ To feed the **debate on future EU policies**



THANK YOU

Rural Pact Community – Join us
<https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member>



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

