

JRC projects potentially relevant for ERCA members

Giulia TESTORI and Terry STAVROPOULOS

Joint Research Centre – Unit B.3 Territorial Development

22 November 2023

A few words about the JRC

The JRC provides independent, evidence-based knowledge and **science, supporting EU policies** to positively impact society.

Develops innovative tools and make them available to policymakers

Analyses emerging issues that need to be addressed at EU level

5
countries

2000
scientists

60
years experience

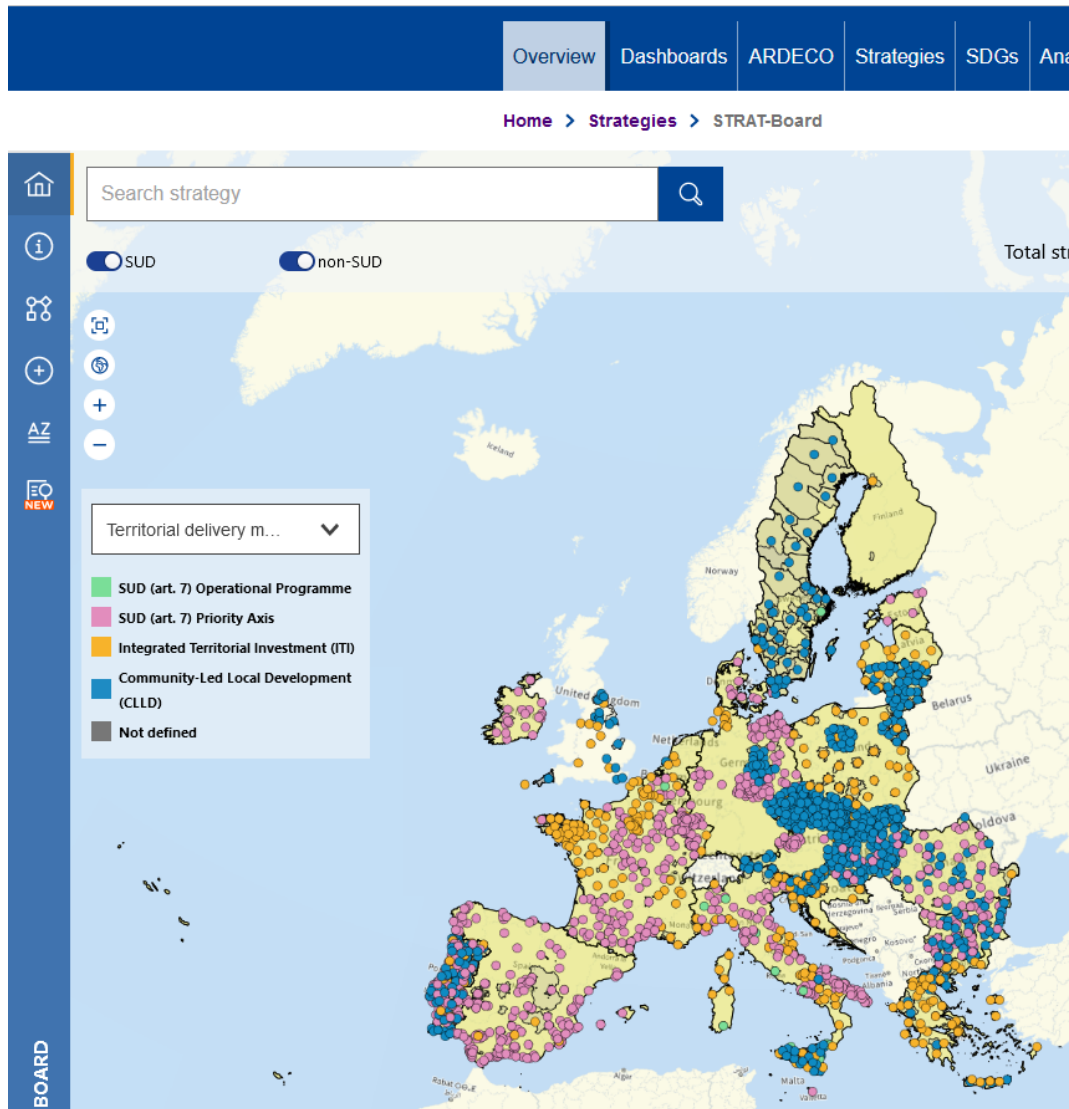


Tool that will be presented:

1. STRAT-Board
2. Handbook of Territorial Development strategies
3. SAT4TER- Self-Assessment Tool for Territorial and Local Development strategies
4. Policy Atlas of Sustainable Urban Development for Small Urban Areas
5. Rural Observatory
6. European Startup Village Forum
7. Rural toolkit

STRAT-Board

STRAT-Board



- **Database and online mapping tool** to visualize and analyze urban and territorial strategies supported by the Cohesion Policy in 2014-2020
- First online version June 2018
- Two surveys to MAs
- Almost 2000 strategies have been mapped
- allows users to explore strategies on different geographical levels (from countries to localities), as well as by spatial focus, thematic objectives, size of population, funding arrangements and implementation mechanisms.
- 2021-2027 on going

STRAT-Board: focus on strategies

WHY

- EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 put great emphasis on the concept of integrated approach to territorial and urban development, but **no detailed information on its implementation** on the ground

WHAT

- Strategies for **Sustainable Urban Development (SUD)**,
- **Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)**, both SUD/non-SUD),
- **Community-led Local Development (CLLD)** strategies (non-SUD).

Searching

The screenshot displays the STRAT-BOARD search interface. At the top, there is a search bar labeled 'Search strategy' with a magnifying glass icon. Below it, there are several filter sections: 'SUD' (checked) and 'non-SUD' (unchecked) radio buttons; 'Country' and 'Country/Region' dropdowns; 'ESIF Type' and 'And/Or' dropdowns; 'Thematic Objective' and 'And/Or' dropdowns; 'Keywords' dropdown; 'Territorial delivery me...' dropdown; 'Territorial focus' dropdown; 'Population covered' dropdown; and 'ESIF contribution' dropdown. A 'Filtered strategies : 1048' indicator is present. The main map shows Europe with colored dots representing strategies. A legend on the left side of the map identifies the colors: green for 'SUD (art. 7) Operational Programme', pink for 'SUD (art. 7) Priority Axis', orange for 'Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI)', blue for 'Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)', and grey for 'Not defined'. At the bottom of the map, there are two checkboxes: 'Show strategy area' (checked) and 'Show strategy reference points' (unchecked). The bottom of the interface includes a 'STRAT-BOARD' logo and a footer with 'OpenStreetMap contributors, Credit: EC-GISCO © EuroGeographics for the administrative boundaries. | Disclaimer'.

Filtering

On/Off options:

- SUD and non-SUD

AND and OR operators available for ESIF Type and Thematic Objectives

Filters apply to strategies in the map but also under the tabs Overview, Funding, Thematic Objectives and Datable positioned on the right of the map

Strategy Fact-sheet

Accessible by clicking on the reference point

Map

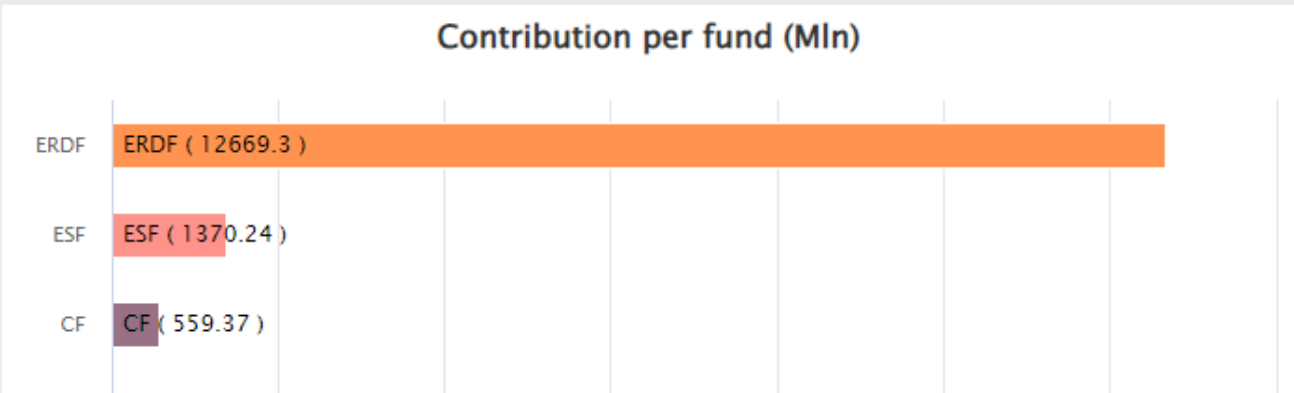
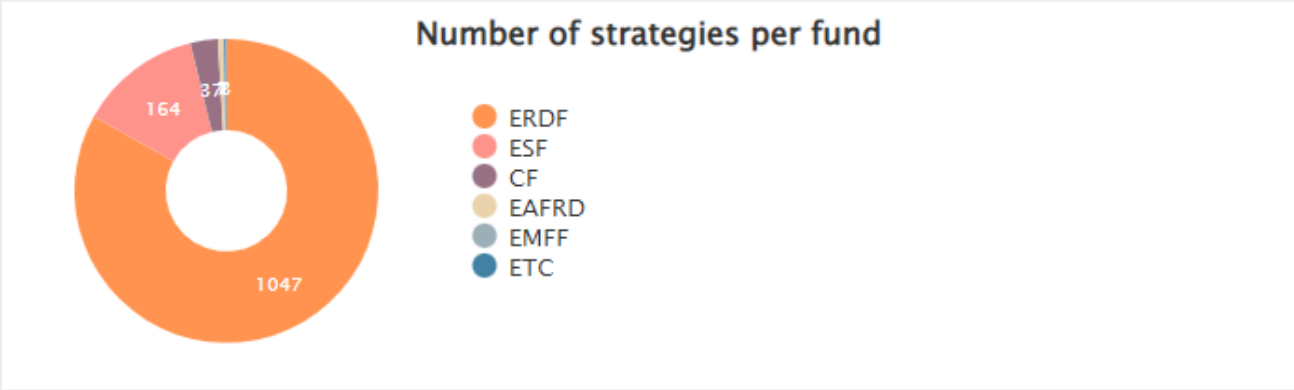
Strategy identification and localisation by reference point. Colour coded map (more options)

Tabs

Overview, Funding and Thematic Objectives are dynamic charts that work together for filtering strategies

Strategies can be filtered by clicking directly on pie-charts and bar-charts, also in combination

Overview	Funding	Thematic Objectives	Country Factsheet	Datatable
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Pie-charts

Some of the information in the pie-charts can be visualised also through the colour-coded maps

Bar-charts

Country Fact-sheet

Aggregated info at Country level

Map with territorial coverage

Key facts in short

Link to the UDPplus

Thematic Objectives **Country Factsheet** Datable

COUNTRY FACT-SHEET
Italy

Total Population: 60,583,445
National Urban Policy: not existing
Share of population by degree of urbanisation: 45.1% (Urban, Town and Suburb, Rural)

Number of Strategies: 105
Number of OPs: 32

TYPE OF REGIONS
More Developed Region, Less Developed Region, Transition Region

THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

- T01 Research & Innovation
- T02 Information & Communication Technologies
- T03 Competitiveness of SMEs
- T04 Low Carbon Economy
- T05 Climate Change Adaptation & Risk Prevention
- T06 Environment Protection & Resource Efficiency
- T07 Network Infrastructures in Transport and Energy
- T08 Sustainable & Quality Employment
- T09 Social Inclusion
- T10 Educational & Vocational Training
- T11 Efficient Public Administration

TERRITORIAL DELIVERY MECHANISM

- 1 OP
- 2 Priority Axis
- 3 IPI
- 4 No data

TERRITORIAL FOCUS

- 1 Area within city/town (district/neighborhood)
- 2 City, town or village
- 3 Functional area
- 4 City network
- 5 Specific territory
- 6 No data

POPULATION COVERED PER STRATEGY

- No data
- 1: 200k - 250k
- 2: 250k - 500k
- 3: 500k - 750k
- 4: > 750k

ESIF CONTRIBUTION PER STRATEGY

- No data
- 1: 5 Mio - 10 Mio
- 2: 10 Mio - 25 Mio
- 3: 25 Mio - 50 Mio
- 4: > 50 Mio

KEY FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- In the 2014-2020 programming period Italy shows a fairly heterogeneous and complex situation, with several implementation tools chosen for Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) due to the diversity of the urban and territorial situations, the complexity of the administrative and governance mechanisms, and the highly different financial allocations across the regions.
- Italy is the only country where SUD is channelled through both a dedicated multi-fund national programme on Metropolitan Cities (known as PON Metro) and 16 ERDF Regional Operational Programmes.
- Overall, Italy implements around 150 SUD strategies across the country. Few regions only do not have SUD strategies (Mare of Apulia, Basilicata, Lazio) and the two autonomous provinces of Trentino and South Tyrol.
- PON Metro involves 14 metropolitan cities (ten mandated, three in Sicily and one in Sardinia), including the capital city. Despite its name PON Metro does not address metropolitan cities but rather the core municipalities. In fact, metropolitan cities are not responsible for the management of the SUD strategies, which fall onto the respective capital cities, in the person of the Mayor. It is under the responsibility of the capital city to decide whether and how to involve the respective metropolitan cities.
- With regards to Thematic Objectives (TOs), Italy has decided to focus the PON Metro on two main drivers for SUD: services to citizens and city users (TO1 and TO4) and Social Inclusion (TO9). Regional Programmes follow the same logic, but are more flexible having the opportunity to insert an additional TO according to the local needs (most of the time TO3 for interventions to protect, promote and develop natural and cultural heritage). This flexibility allowed to cover almost all TOs.
- SUD strategies are mainly supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), with the contribution of the European Social Fund (ESF) for a number of strategies as in the case of the PON Metro. Most of the cities under the PON Metro receive additional support from regional programmes.
- Ten regions use the ITI instrument for the implementation of the National Strategy for Inner Areas (Strategie Area Interne) with the aim of improving the quality of life and economic wellbeing of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas and meeting specific demographic trends. The national budget includes the need to provide adequate education, health and transport services to reduce socio-economic disparities and to support the development of inner areas.

Overview	Funding	Thematic Objectives	Country Factsheet	Datable
				Download data table
Country	Strategy name	Operational program code	Operational program	
Austria	Smart City Wien Framework Strategy	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for the Mattighofen city region	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for Braunau city region	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for Ried im Innkreis city region	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for Schärding city region	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for Obere Feldaist city region (Freistadt)	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for Untere Feldaist city region (Pregarten)	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	
Austria	Urban regional strategy for Aist-Naarn city region (Perg)	2014AT16RFOP001	Investments in Growth and Employment - AT - ERDF	

Datable

The datatable shows strategies according to the filters applied

Strategy Fact-sheet

Accessible by clicking on the dot representing the strategy in the map

Basic info at strategy level

Map with territorial coverage

STRATEGY FACT-SHEET : NL-002

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - ITI OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROTTERDAM 2014-2020

Netherlands - ESF (2014NL05SFOP001 [↗](#))

West Netherlands - ERDF (2014NL16RFOP002 [↗](#))



Country:

Netherlands



Territorial focus:

Area within city/town



Population covered:

200,739



Total ESIF contribution:

€ 37,073,709



ESIF type:

1 - ERDF 2 - ESF



% ESIF granted (2017):

Between 30 and 40 %



% ESIF spent (2019):

Not defined



Territorial delivery mechanism:



LEARNING FROM PRACTICE

Learn more about this strategy in the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies



LEARNING FROM PRACTICE

Learn more about this strategy in the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development Strategies

THEMATIC OBJECTIVES (ERDF-ESF-CF)



04 - Shift towards a low-carbon economy



08 - Sustainable and quality employment and labour mobility



09 - Social inclusion, poverty and discrimination

Implementing body: Rotterdam Municipal Executive Committee / Managing Authority (Mayor and Aldermen)

Managing authority: Municipality of the city of Rotterdam; Managing Authority Kansen voor West

Type of region: More developed regions

Selection procedure: Designation

Novelty: Adapted

Link to the Handbook

Link to related initiatives and relevant websites

Other relevant initiatives and networks:



UDN peer-review on Sustainable Urban Development strategies



Partner profiles: [Partner profile](#)



Jobs and skills in the local economy

KEYWORDS:

Social inclusion

Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Youth

Low carbon

Disadvantaged neighbourhoods

Jobs and skills

NATIONAL/REGIONAL WEBSITES:

Go to National/Regional website [↗](#)

Go to National/Regional website [↗](#)

Go to National/Regional website [↗](#)

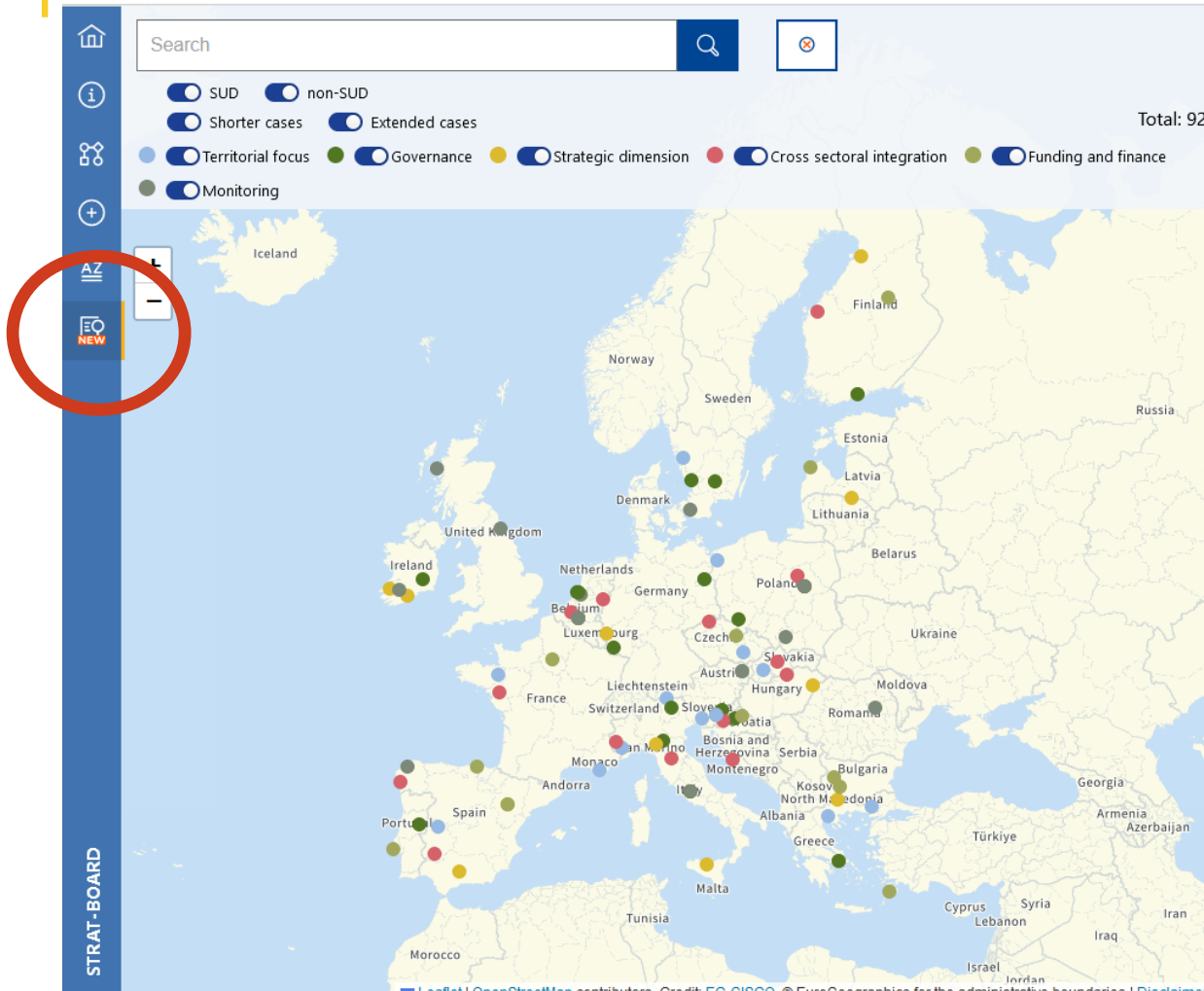
LOCAL WEBSITES:

Go to local website [↗](#)

PROJECT WEBSITES:

Go to project website [↗](#)

New page! Learning from practice



ID_27 (X) ID_22 (X) ID_48 (X) ID_5 (X)

LEBACH Germany



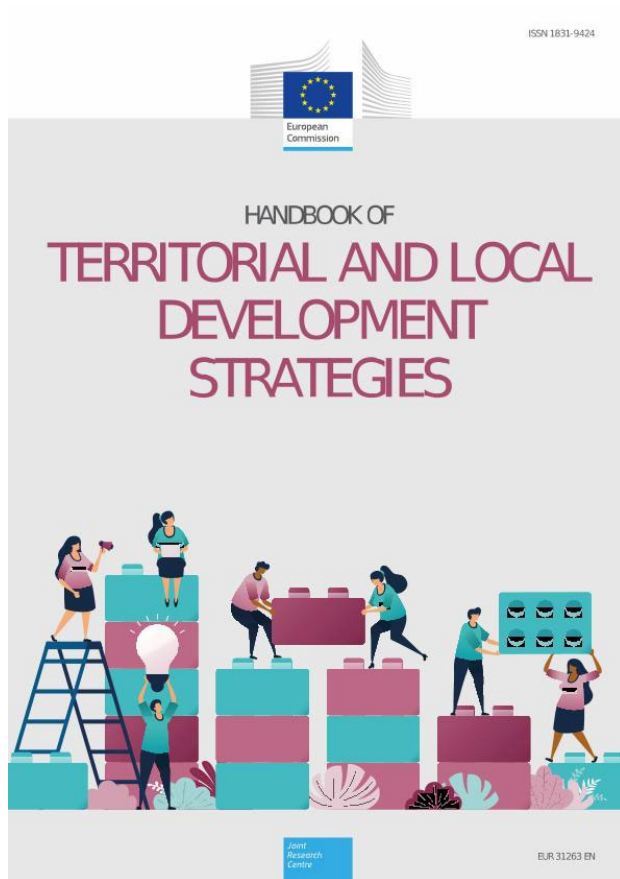
Territorial context

Lebach is located in the centre of the German state of Saarland, close to the French and Luxembourg borders. Due to its geographical location, Lebach fulfils important functions for the surrounding area, which is predominantly rural. It is a central residential and business location and its public and vocational schools serve the local population. The town has a high recreational value and is connected to Saarland's network of cycle paths, with various themed walks and numerous sports facilities. The Graf-Haeseler barracks in the town centre, home to the Eurocorps Telecommunications Company and the Airborne Reconnaissance Company, contribute to the economic activity. Lebach is easy to reach by car and train. A dense network of roads and motorways connects it with other cities, such as its state capital of Saarbrücken which is about a 30 minute drive. It is also close to important international hubs such as Frankfurt am Main and Luxembourg. The construction of the Saarbahn, a railway linking Lebach with Saarbrücken and other regions, has contributed to the population growth in recent years.

Main development challenges

Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies

Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies



The 'Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies' provides valuable knowledge on how to **design and implement** integrated strategies in areas **other than urban areas**.

It aims to serve managing authorities of operational programmes, local strategy owners as well as other stakeholders involved in the process.

Link to JRC Publications Repository:

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC130788>

Link to interactive page: <https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/territorialstrategies/>

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SAT4TER

Self-Assessment Tool for Territorial and Local Development strategies



- This tool helps **Local Authorities** and national and regional Managing Authorities of **EU Cohesion Policy** to evaluate new or existing integrated territorial development strategies under the Policy Objective 5, specific objectives 2.
- to identify those elements that **need to be strengthened** as well as **opportunities** for improvement
- Built around the **six building blocks** of the Territorial Handbook
- Can be used in **all the steps of the policy cycles** (design, implementation, evaluation)

Link to the tool:
<https://urban.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sat4ter/en>

Strategy name

Automatically chosen from the STRAT-Board repository

Statements

26 questions on which to reflect on, divided by Building Block

The tool

AT-001:Smart City Wien Framework Strategy

+ 1. STRATEGIC DIMENSION

+ 2. TERRITORIAL FOCUS

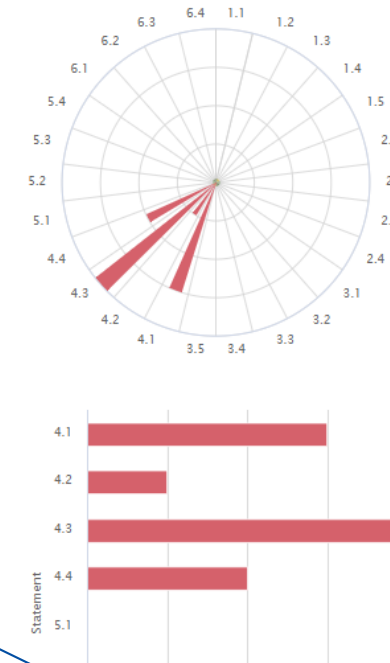
+ 3. GOVERNANCE

- 4. CROSS SECTORAL INTEGRATION

N.	STATEMENT	SCORE *
1	The strategy envisages an integrated response considering the economic, social and environmental dimension of the challenges identified in the analysis, fostering sustainable urban development and the transition to the productive, just and green city.	3
2	Cross-sectoral integration is pursued throughout the actions of the strategy triggering complementarities and synergies between them.	1
3	The strategy takes advantage of contributions from different departments, agencies and stakeholders in order to overcome policy silos, even in case the strategy has a main thematic focus.	4
4	The strategy indicates which bodies/departments are responsible for the implementation of each action and provides mechanisms for coordination among them.	2

Strategy factsheet

* The scoring system goes from 1 to 4:
 1 = the statement is relevant for the strategy, but currently there are no or very few approaches to comply with it
 2 = the strategy partly complies with the statement, although there is still significant space for improvement
 3 = the strategy complies with all the components of the statement, but some aspects could be improved
 4 = the strategy fully complies with the statement and can be counted as a good practice on this matter
 NA = the statement is not applicable to the strategy



Factsheet

Link to the strategy's factsheet from STRAT-Board

Graphs

Downloadable summarising the whole results – visual tools for discussion

Scores

From 1 to 4 plus NA

Additional resources

Links to the SUD Handbook, challenges and learning from practice to help improving the scores

Notes

Useful to share reasoning with the others

Strategy factsheet

SCORE *

3

1

4

2

* The scoring system goes from 1 to 4:
 1 = the statement is relevant for the strategy, but currently there are very few approaches to comply with it
 2 = the strategy partly complies with the statement, although there is still significant space for improvement
 3 = the strategy complies with all the components of the statement, but some aspects could be improved
 4 = the strategy fully complies with the statement and can be considered as a good practice on this matter
 NA = the statement is not applicable to the strategy

The tool

AT-004:Urban regional strategy for Ried im Innkreis

+ 1. STRATEGIC DIMENSION

+ 2. TERRITORIAL FOCUS

+ 3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE

+ 4. CROSS SECTORAL INTEGRATION

N. STATEMENT

1 The strategy envisages an integrated response considering the economic, social and environmental dimension of the challenges identified in the analysis, fostering sustainable urban development and the transition to the productive, just and green city.

2 Cross-sectoral integration is pursued through the implementation of the strategy triggering complementarity between them.

Additional info

RESOURCES from the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development strategies

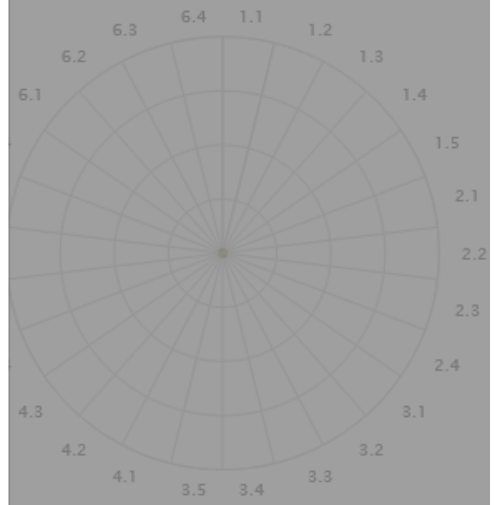
Statement 4.1 : *The strategy envisages an integrated response considering the economic, social and environmental dimension of the challenges identified in the analysis, fostering sustainable urban development and the transition to the productive, just and green city.*

Here you can find resources and recommendations to help you improve the scoring for this statement:

- [How to ensure that SUD strategies bridge operational programmes and local policies?](#)
- [How to integrate themes at operational programme level?](#)
- [How to achieve cross-sectoral integration with a limited number of thematic objectives available \(thematic concentration\)?](#)
- [How to achieve cross-sectoral integration at local level in the implementation phase?](#)

Here you can find inspirational examples:

- [Berlin](#)
- [Tuscany](#)
- [Novo Mesto](#)



Policy Atlas of Sustainable Urban Development for Small Urban Areas

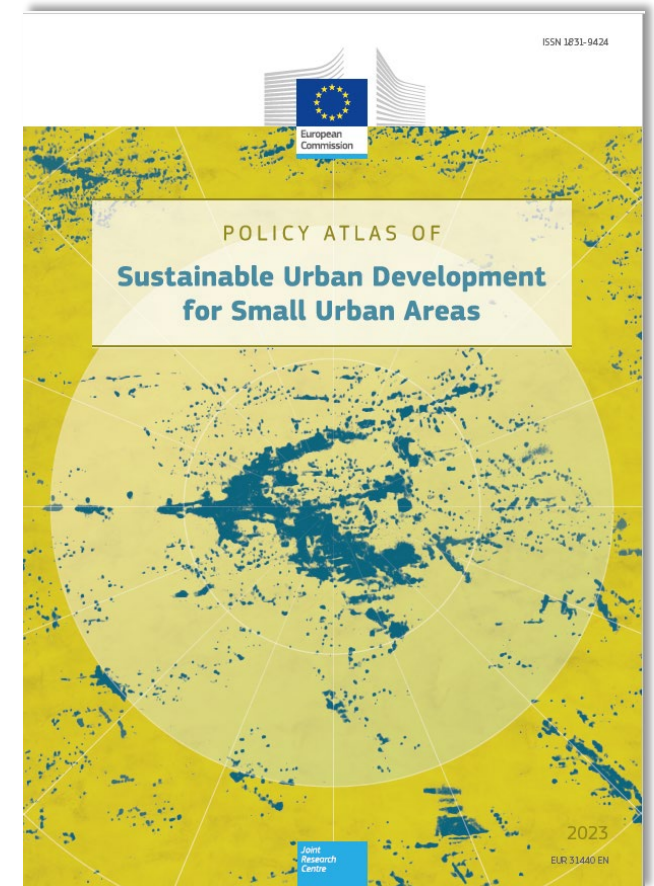
The Policy Atlas of Sustainable Urban Development for Small Urban Areas

Target: Policy-makers (local authorities), practitioners, academics

Aim: It provides for a compass for **navigating the policy challenges** of sustainable urban development in SUAs, facilitating the promotion of **strategies tailored** to their needs

To download the report:

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC132926>



Objectives and structure of the Atlas

PART I

- To provide an **operational definition of SUAs** that can be adopted at EU level.
- To identify the **main trends** concerning SUAs and, linked to this, the specific **development challenges** they are facing.

PART II

- To uncover the main **policy approaches** put forward by SUAs in facing the above-identified challenges.

PART III

- To analyse how SUAs implemented **SUD strategies in the 2014-2020** programming period, providing **inspirational examples** from which to draw **recommendations** for the current programming period.

Five policy approaches

1. **Re-activating places for people and community.** Improving the built environment and activating these spaces for the benefit of the local community.
2. **Re-discovering uniqueness.** Projects to capitalise on endogenous local assets linked to the specificity of their territories.
3. **Re-connecting with nature for a sustainable future.** Initiatives that utilise nature as the key pillar for sustainable local development
4. **Re-inventing smart public services.** Improving the access and functionality of public services to promote individual and community well-being in SUAs.
5. **Re-imaging governance and partnerships.** Transforming the way SUAs build multi-stakeholder, multi-level and cross-departmental structures to better address local challenges.

Rural Observatory

Rural Observatory

- is a flagship initiative of the European Union, foreseen in the European Commission's **Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas** and developed by the JRC + DG AGRI + DG REGIO.
- This platform will provide more and better **data about rural areas**. In particular, the platform will help you to visualise how rural areas stand with respect to key **economic, social and demographic indicators** thanks to interactive maps and graphs.
- It is structured across four functionalities:

To access the page: <https://observatory.rural-vision.europa.eu/?lng=en&ctx=RUROBS>



Rural Focus

"Rural Focus" shows how areas that are classified as "rural" in each country compare with those classified as "urban" or "intermediate". Where available, data take into account also the concept of remoteness, defined as the driving time to an urban centre exceeding 45 minutes.

 Go >

My Place

"My Place" offers a 360 degrees overview of any place, be it a region, sub-region, district or municipality. Select your place of interest and discover how it compares to other places in the EU (please note that the widest range of indicators is available at the regional - NUTS2 - level).

 Go >

Trends

"Trends" offers an easy way to compare, for a specific indicator, all areas in Europe at a specific level of granularity (regions, sub-regions, municipalities) by displaying it in a map view. Changes overtime (trends) are also provided and, for some experimental indicators, future projections are made available.

 Go >

Thematic Analyses

"Thematic Analyses" combine data with analytical capabilities, trying to connect the dots and draw meaningful messages. The final aim consists in making sense of geo-spatial statistical information by transforming data mapping into sound multi-dimensional analysis at various territorial levels, with a clear focus on rural areas.

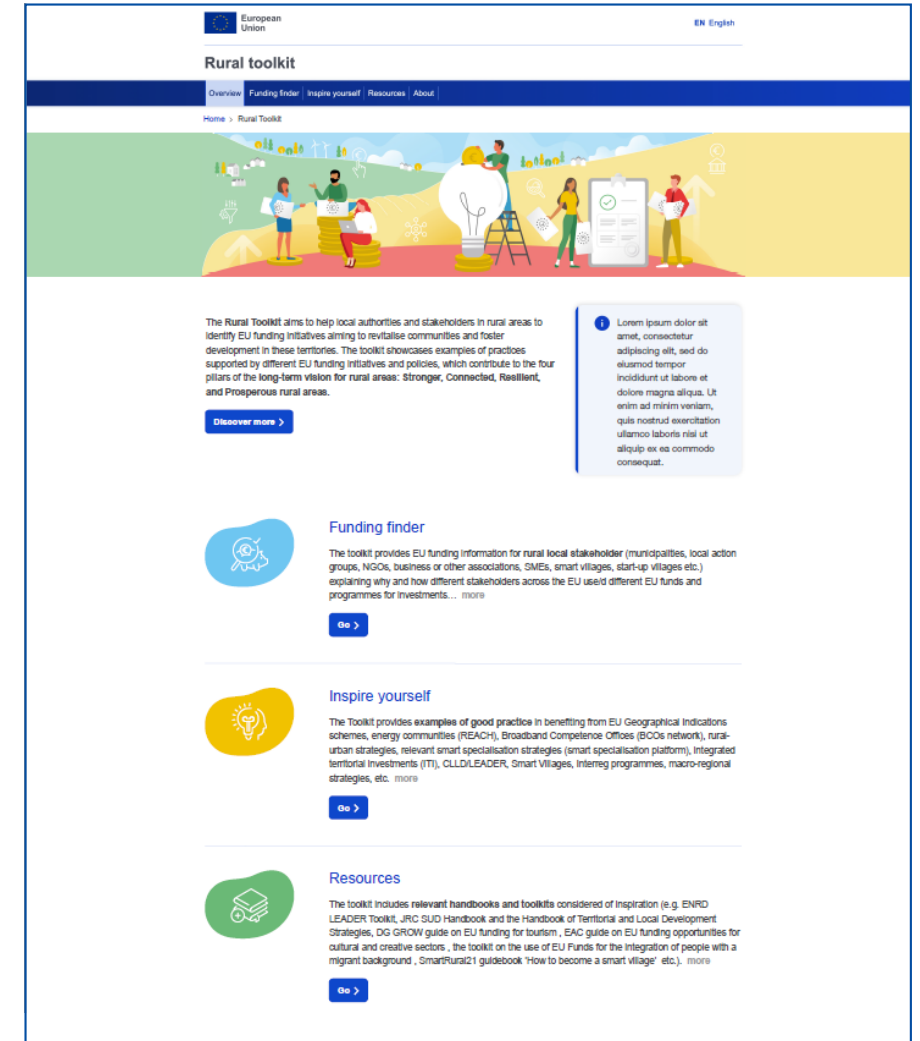
Rural toolkit

Main info

The Rural toolkit is an **online dashboard** of funding opportunities for rural development

Hosted under the **Rural Vision platform** (together with the Rural Observatory)

- Multi-stakeholder validation: **June 2023**
- Second multi-stakeholder validation: **Oct 23**
- Final version: **December 2023**
- Official launch: **February 2024** (date TBC)



Where it will be hosted: <https://rural-vision.europa.eu/action-plan/cross-cutting/toolkit>



Objectives of the Rural toolkit

Be a **guide** on the **different funding opportunities** offered by the 2021-2027 budget, **centralising information** in one web tool

Provide a framework on how to trigger **revitalisation of rural areas**, giving special attention to **integrated territorial and local development strategies**

Be **accessible to rural local actors**

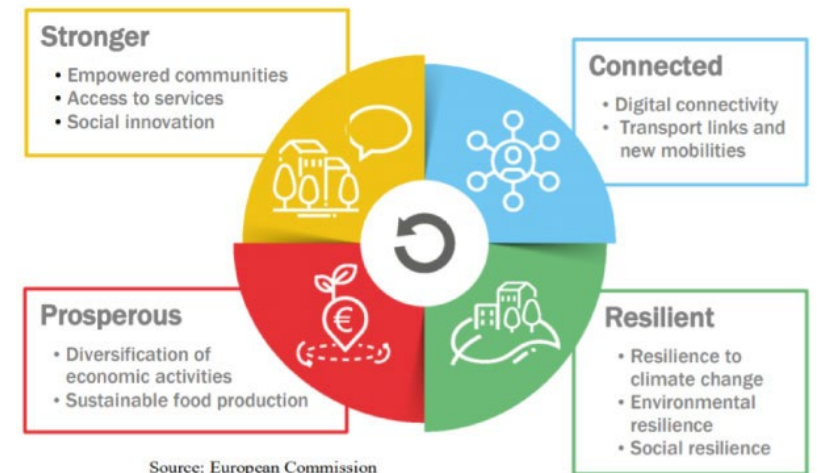
Be written in plain language, **easy to understand**

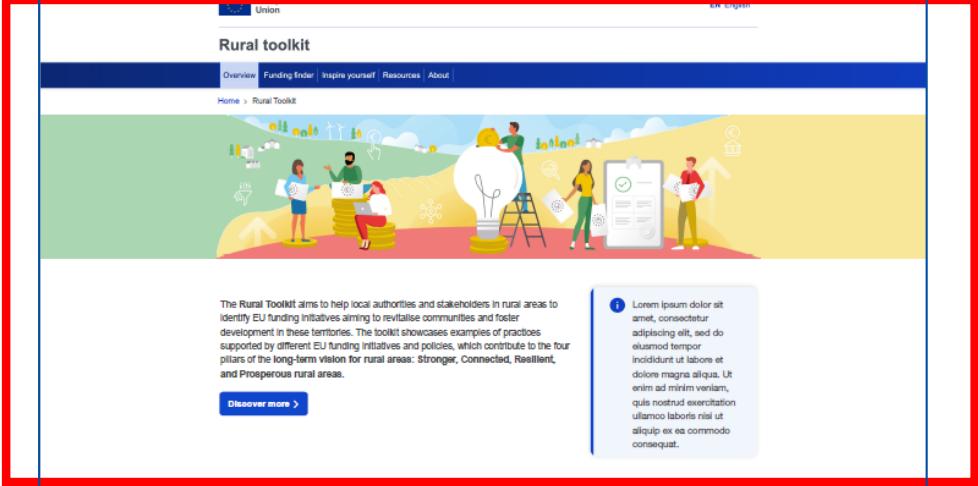
Provide inspirational solutions and **examples**

Key aspects that characterize the toolkit

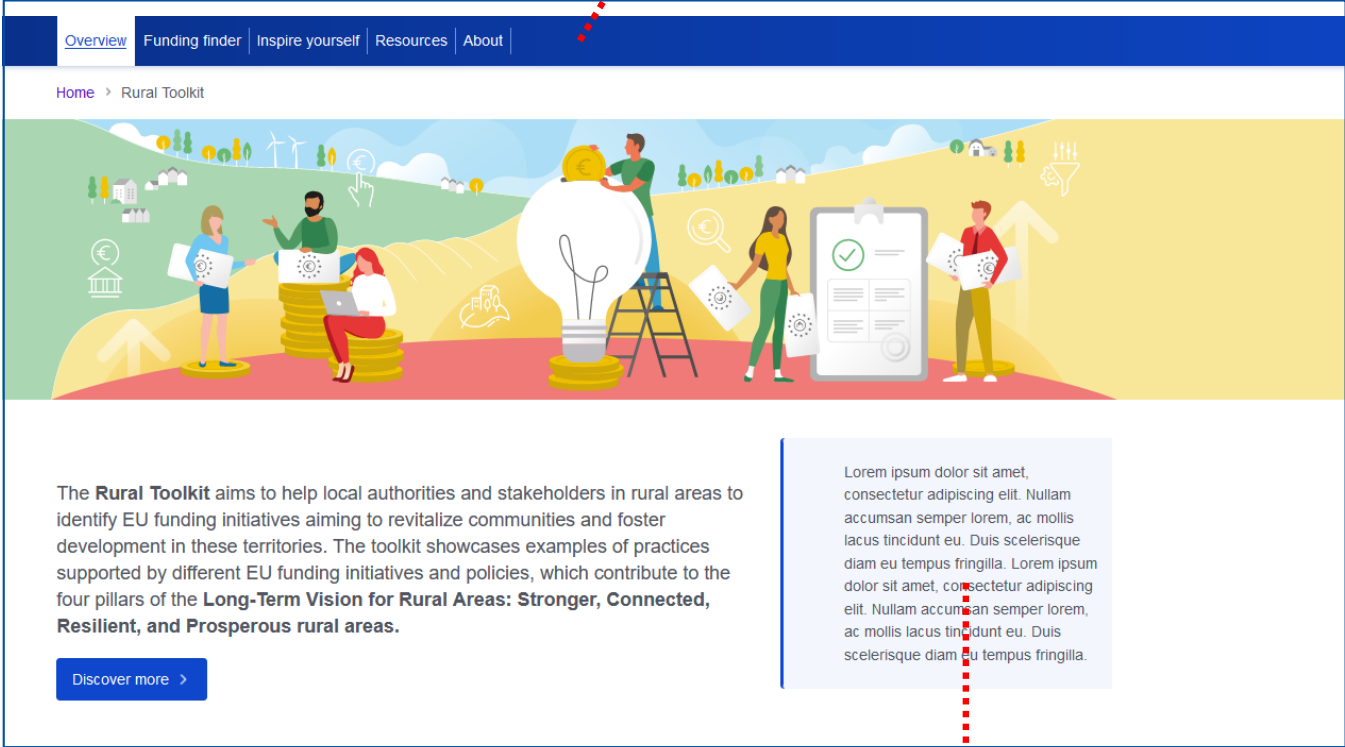
The final aim is that of **promoting revitalisation and sustainable local development** to tackle existing challenges, and unleash the potential of **rural areas**:

- Support to **place-based policy in rural areas**
- Promote **integrated actions** (in the 4 areas of the LTVRA) and **combination of funding sources**
- **Target rural local stakeholders** (municipalities, local action groups, smart villages, start-up villages, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, etc.)

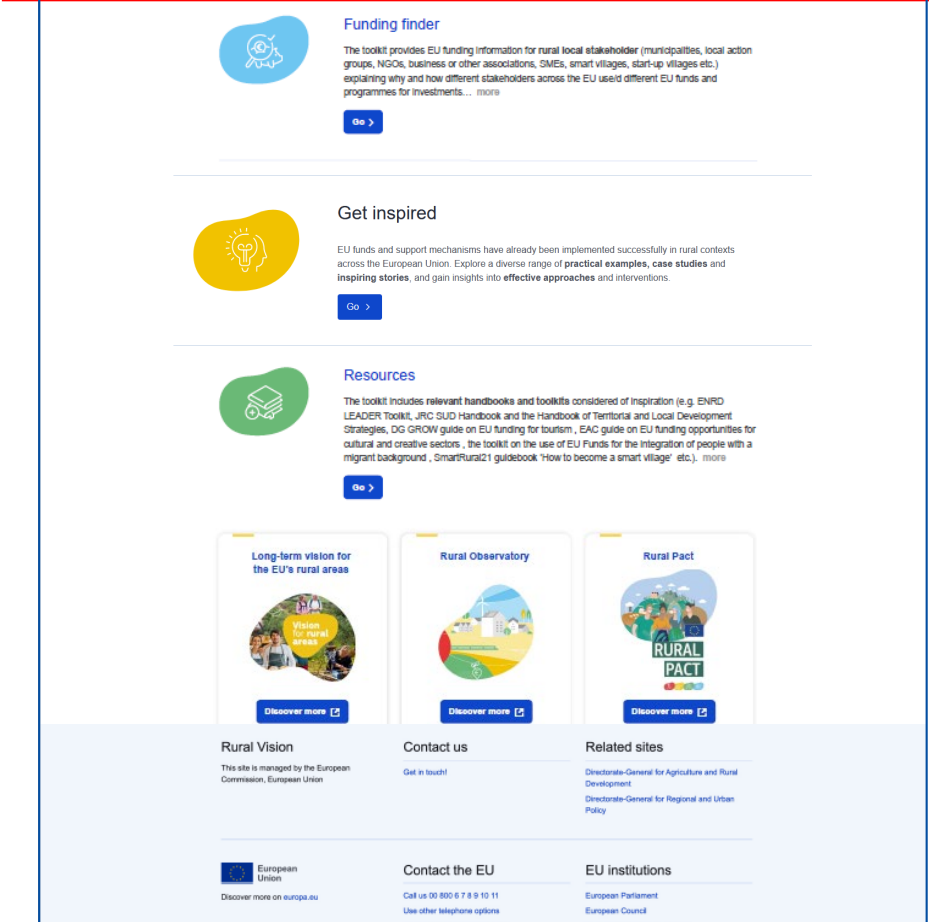




There will be a Q&A and glossary section



Explanatory and promotional video



European Union EN English

Rural toolkit

Overview Funding finder Inspire yourself Resources About

Home > Rural Toolkit

The Rural Toolkit aims to help local authorities and stakeholders in rural areas to identify EU funding initiatives aiming to revitalise communities and foster development in these territories. The toolkit showcases examples of practices supported by different EU funding initiatives and policies, which contribute to the four pillars of the long-term vision for rural areas: **Stronger, Connected, Resilient, and Prosperous rural areas.**

[Discover more >](#)

1 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Funding finder

The toolkit provides EU funding information for rural local stakeholder (municipalities, local action groups, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, smart villages, start-up villages etc.) explaining why and how different stakeholders across the EU used different EU funds and programmes for investments... [more](#)

[Go >](#)

Get inspired

EU funds and support mechanisms have already been implemented successfully in rural contexts across the European Union. Explore a diverse range of **practical examples, case studies and inspiring stories**, and gain insights into **effective approaches** and interventions.

[Go >](#)

Resources

The toolkit includes **relevant handbooks and toolkits** considered of inspiration (e.g. ENRD LEADER Toolkit, JRC SUD Handbook and the Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies, DG GROW guide on EU funding for tourism, EAC guide on EU funding opportunities for cultural and creative sectors, the toolkit on the use of EU Funds for the integration of people with a migrant background, SmartRural21 guidebook 'How to become a smart village' etc.). [more](#)

[Go >](#)

Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

[Discover more >](#)

Rural Observatory

[Discover more >](#)

Rural Pact

[Discover more >](#)

Rural Vision

This site is managed by the European Commission, European Union

Contact us

Get in touch!

Related sites

Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Contact the EU

Call us 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11
Use other telephone options

EU institutions

European Parliament
European Council

European Union Discover more on europa.eu

Funding finder

Financing opportunities (28)

Tailor your search

What kind of rural stakeholder are you? Close -

Please select only one option

- Academic institution
- Association of civil society
- Business/SME (including farmer)
- Cooperative
- Energy community
- Individual citizen
- Local Action Group
- Local authority/Public entity
- NGO

What type of activities are you looking to fund? Open +

What type of activities are you looking to fund? Open +

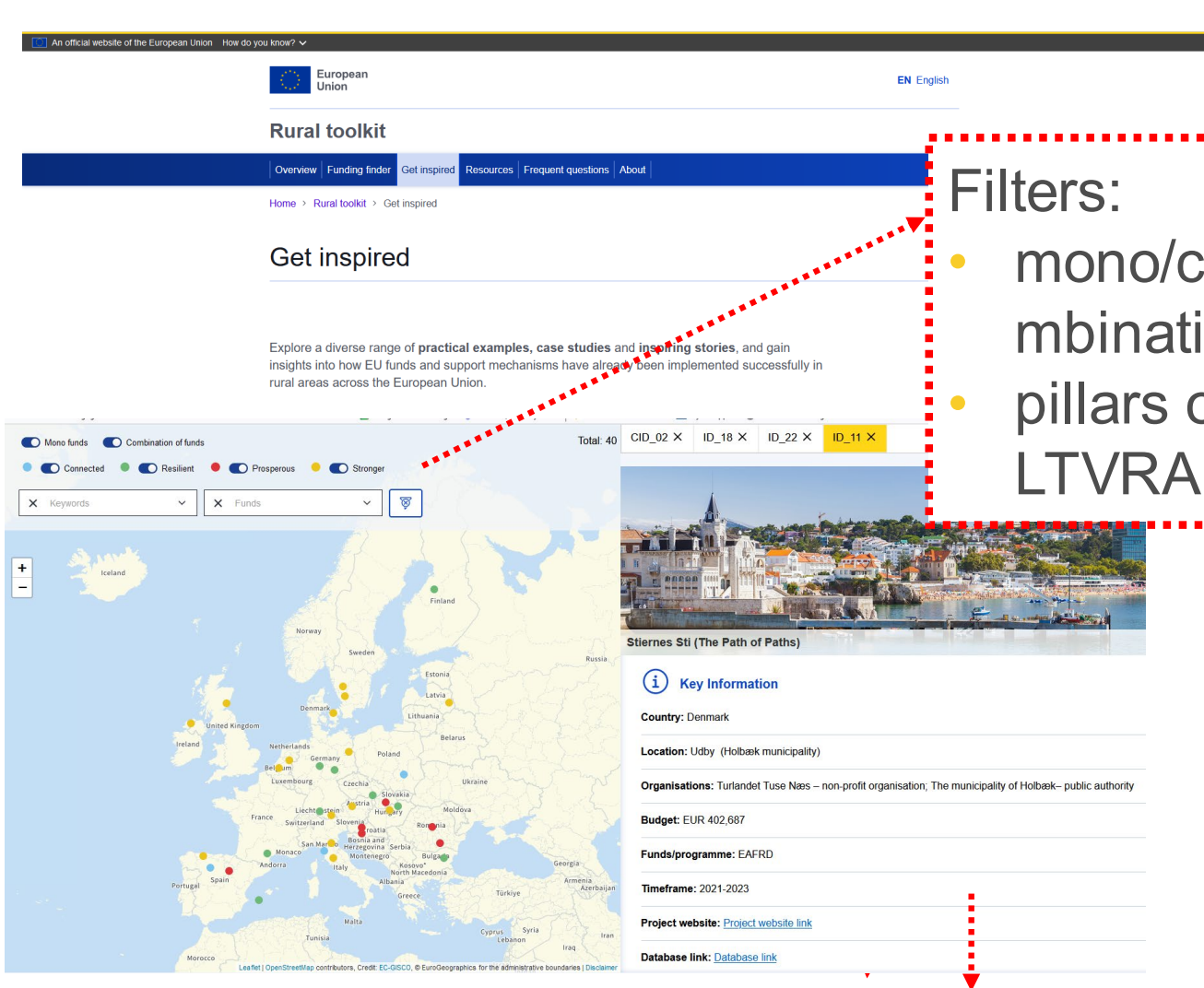
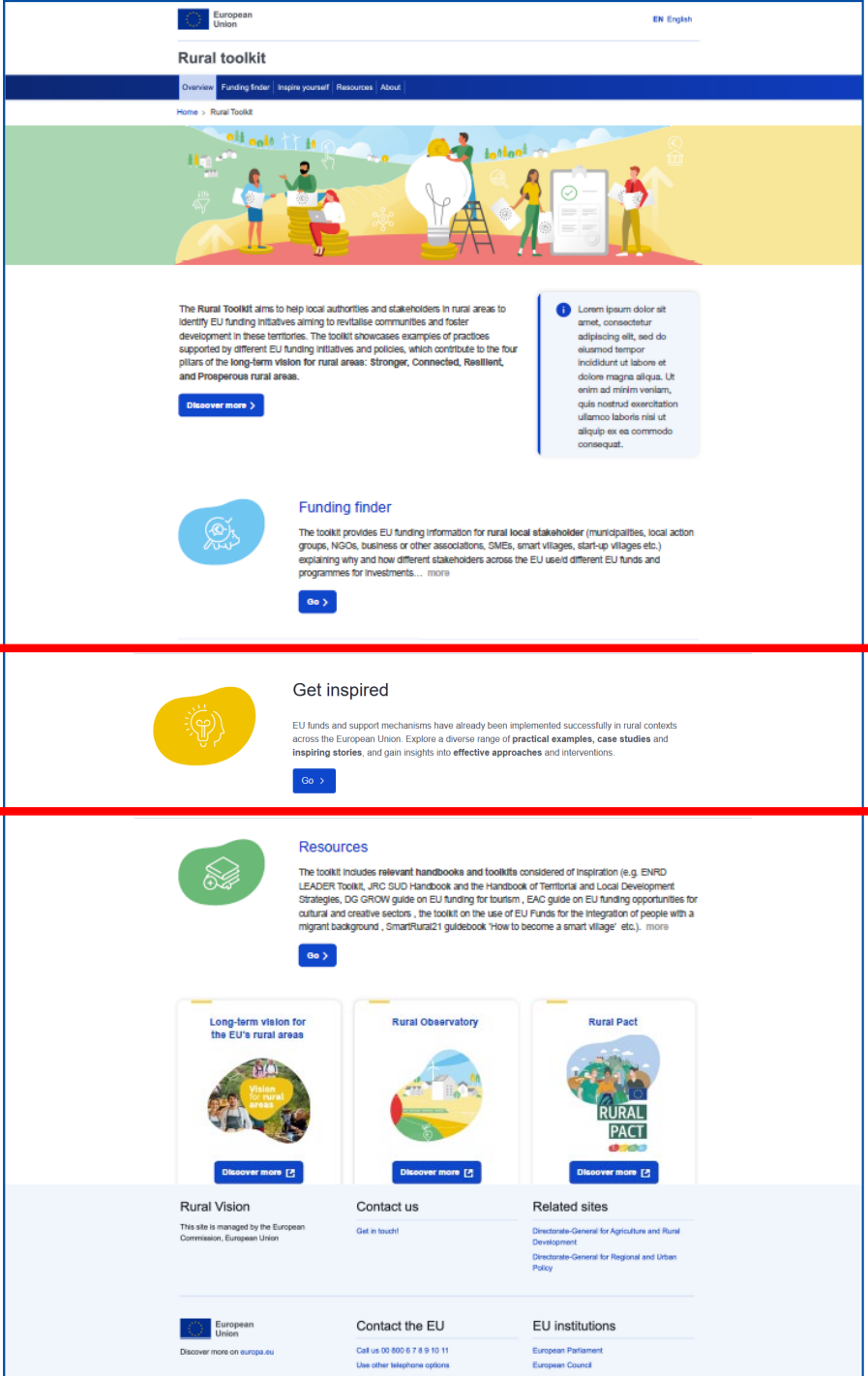
Which type of support are you looking for? Open +

EU level initiatives to which you can apply directly

EIT	SMP - SME Pillar	RECAH
CERV	LIFE	SMP - EUROCLUSTERS
Horizon Europe Cluster 2	5GSC	b-solutions
EUTeens4Green	JTP GROUNDWORK and PEERS	CREA
EUTeens4Green	JTP GROUNDWORK and PEERS	CREA

EU initiatives to which you can apply via your National/Regional authority

European Solidarity Corps	AMIF	Erasmus+
JTF	EMFAF	ERDF
ESF+	Interreg	CF
EAFRD-ENVCLIM	EAFRD-ANC	EAFRD-INVEST
EAFRD-KNOW	EAFRD-COOP	EAFRD



Filters:

- mono/co mbination
- pillars of LTVRA



- ID cards with key info on successful project using mono-fund
- Extended fiches combining funds



The Rural Toolkit aims to help local authorities and stakeholders in rural areas to identify EU funding initiatives aiming to revitalise communities and foster development in these territories. The toolkit showcases examples of practices supported by different EU funding initiatives and policies, which contribute to the four pillars of the long-term vision for rural areas: stronger, Connected, Resilient, and Prosperous rural areas.

Discover more >

1 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.



Funding finder

The toolkit provides EU funding information for rural local stakeholder (municipalities, local action groups, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, smart villages, start-up villages etc.) explaining why and how different stakeholders across the EU used different EU funds and programmes for investments... more

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Inspire yourself

The Toolkit provides examples of good practice in benefiting from EU Geographical Indications schemes, energy communities (REACH), Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs network), rural-urban strategies, relevant smart specialisation strategies (smart specialisation platform), Integrated territorial Investments (ITI), CLLD/LEADER, Smart Villages, Interreg programmes, macro-regional strategies, etc. more

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Resources

The toolkit includes relevant handbooks and toolkits considered of inspiration (e.g. ENRD LEADER Toolkit, JRC SUD Handbook and the Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies, DG GROW guide on EU funding for tourism, EAC guide on EU funding opportunities for cultural and creative sectors, the toolkit on the use of EU Funds for the integration of people with a migrant background, SmartRural21 guidebook 'How to become a smart village' etc.). more

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Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas



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Resources

This section of the Rural Toolkit collects detailed guides on the EU funding opportunities available in 2021-2027 for some specific sectors: broadband, culture, education, energy, environment and tourism. In addition, in this section it is possible to find guidance on the integrated approach to local development, with the final aim of helping rural communities in designing and implementing integrated strategies and projects (e.g. CLLDs and ITIs).



The Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies

The Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies provides valuable knowledge on how to design and implement integrated strategies in areas other than urban. It aims to serve managing authorities of operational programmes, local authorities and as well as other stakeholders involved in the process.

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EU funding for Broadband

This brochure features an overview of the funding and financial tools made available by the European Commission to boost broadband investment in the European Union. The goal is to achieve the ambitious targets to advance digital transformation and implement the vision for a Europe fit for the digital age.

Go >



The CulturEU funding guide

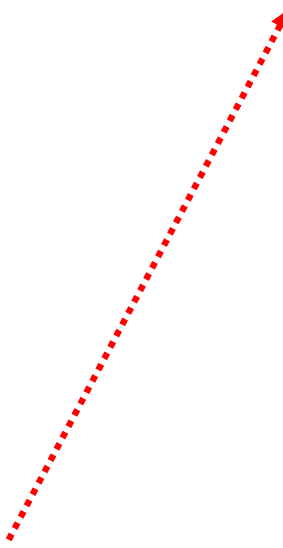
The CulturEU funding guide provides an overview of all EU programmes which are relevant for the cultural and creative stakeholders, including key information on who can apply and how, as well as the kinds of activities supported. The guide covers opportunities linked to the European Commission's flagship programme Creative Europe, which will provide €2.44 billion of support across 2021-2027.

Go >



EU funding opportunities for Education and Training

This guide provides a description of funding programmes and instruments that could support




European Union EN English

Rural toolkit

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About



Why a funding guide for rural areas?

While not explicitly designed for rural development, numerous EU funding programs and initiatives can play a significant role in revitalising and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. However, identifying the **right source of funding or support** and how to make the best use of it can be challenging.

The Rural toolkit aims to facilitate local institutions, businesses, associations and individuals in rural areas to navigate the diverse EU funding and support options, and to take full advantage of them.




How is the Rural toolkit helpful?

The toolkit provides a **unique entry point to all existing initiatives**, with comprehensive information on available resources, and explains why these are relevant for rural areas.

Pactical examples featured on the platform encourage knowledge sharing and peer learning among rural communities. The Get inspired section offers **insights on successful initiatives** implemented in rural areas across the EU, and **on how to combine EU funds** effectively to maximise their impact and **address specific local needs.**

Within the toolkit, users will find a range of valuable resources including **handbooks and guidance on EU funding opportunities.** These resources equip users and applicants with the knowledge and tools needed to address the unique challenges facing rural areas, with an effective, integrated and place-based approach.



What funding opportunities are available?

The toolkit offers a gateway to various EU Funding and Financing initiatives, categorised into 3 main groups:

Direct funding	Open +
Indirect and shared funding	Open +
Financial instruments	Open +

EUROPEAN STARTUP VILLAGE FORUM

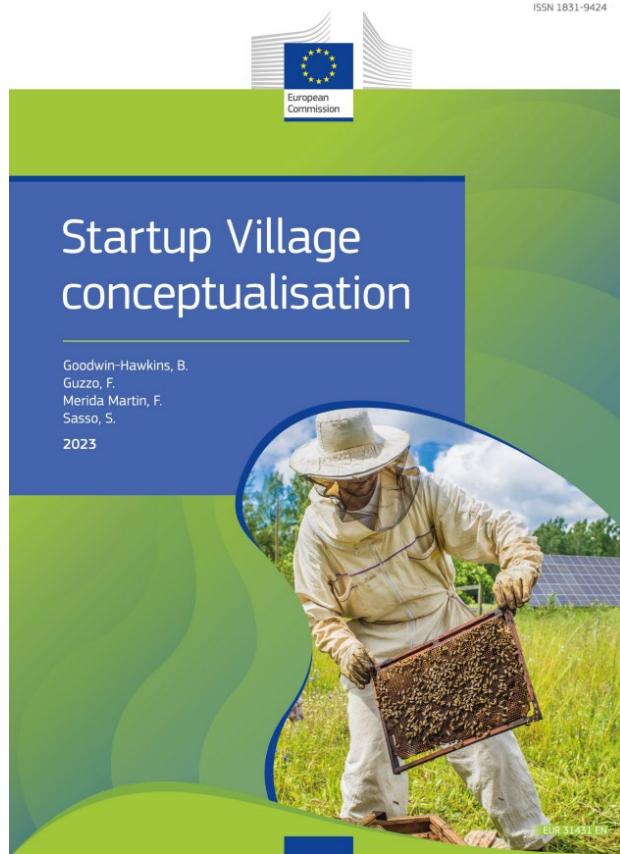
European Startup Village Forum



The **Startup Village Forum** initiative aims

- to create an **open and inclusive** space for rural stakeholders for sharing and learning from each other
- to better understand the dynamics of **entrepreneurship and innovation in rural areas**
- to strengthen territorial ecosystems and contribute to **accelerate the spread and adoption of innovation** in rural areas.

What is a Startup Village?



*A place (or a network of small places) that embraces **innovation** and **ambitious entrepreneurship** as a way to unlock development potential and support wellbeing in rural areas.*


*By combining local **place**, **people**, and **purpose** with external **knowledge**, **resources**, and **markets**, a Startup Village strives to provide favourable conditions for entrepreneurial and innovative **ecosystems** to flourish.*

<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC132646>

Startup Village Mapping Tool

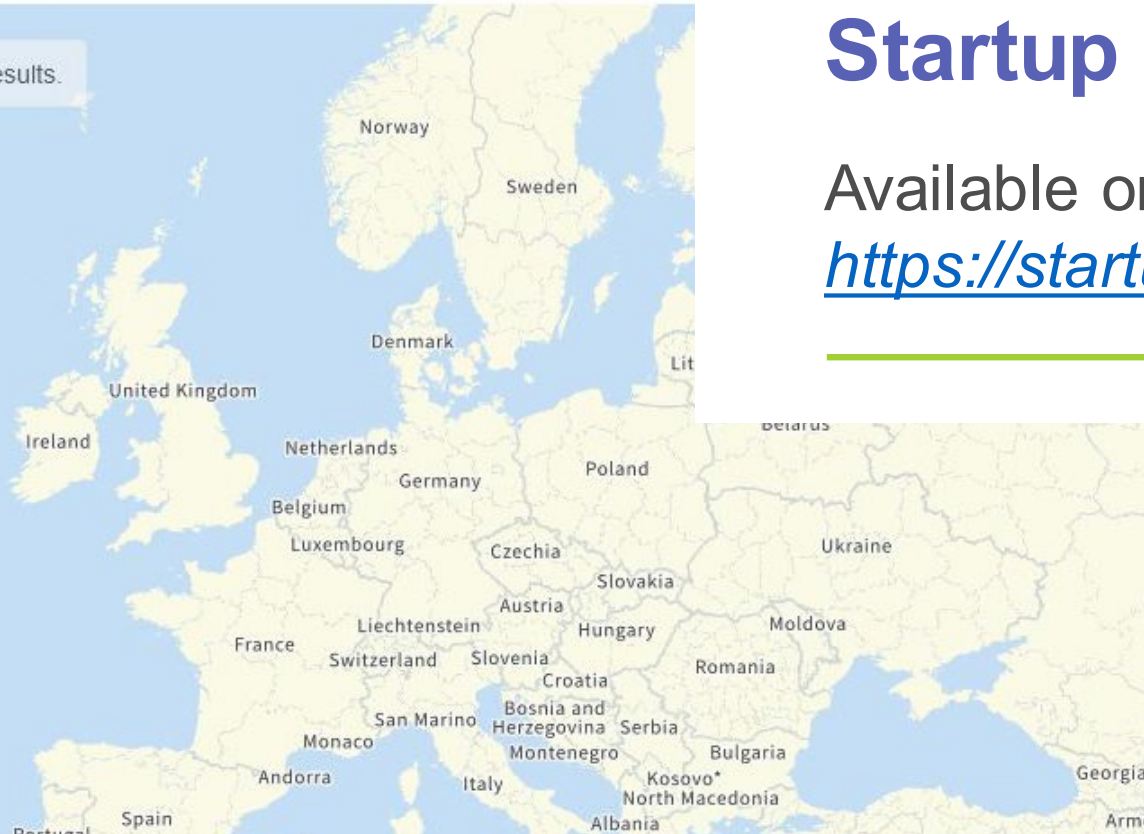
Understanding how innovation functions in rural areas is central for effective public and private sector's initiatives aimed at strengthening these territories. In February 2023, a rolling call for expression of interest was launched for all those European villages that intend to be Startup Villages. The map below will show the villages that have identified themselves as Startup Villages, and the information they provided. As the call remains open, the map will continue evolving.

If you represent a local authority and you think your village could qualify as a Startup Village, fill in the questionnaire!

[Go to survey](#) 



The map will show the existing results.



Startup Village Mapping Tool

Available on

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

Thank you

Giulia TESTORI: giulia.testori@ec.europa.eu

Terry STAVROPOULOS: Eleftherios.stavropoulos@ec.europa.eu



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