

JRC activities on Rural Development and financial

Policy Lab: EU funds paving the way to the rural vision

Giulia TESTORI

Joint Research Centre – Unit B.3 Territorial Development

14 Development 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



SAT4TER and the Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies

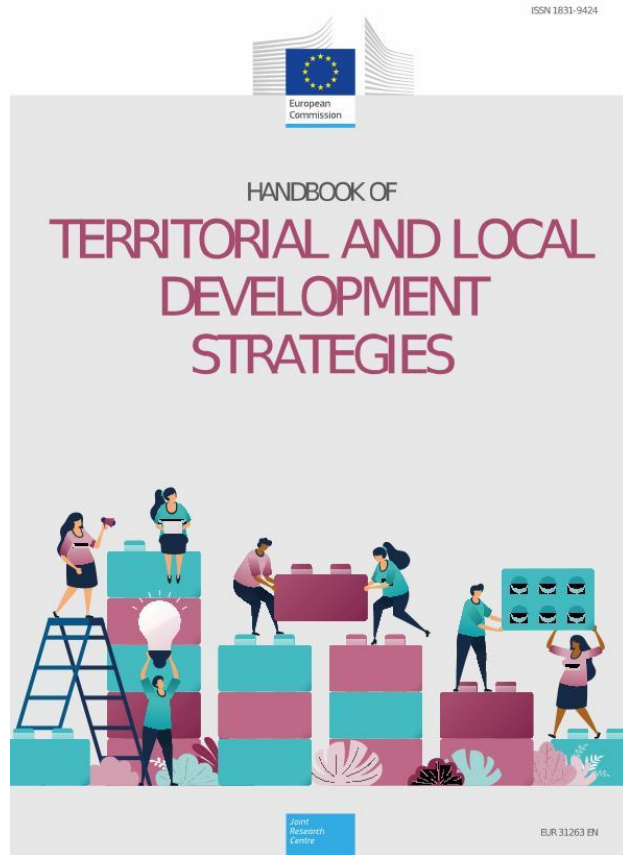
Self-Assessment Tool for Territorial and Local Development strategies



- 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>

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/>

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

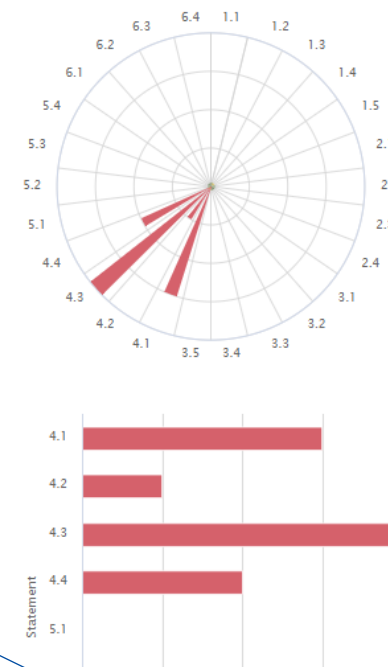
+ 3. GOVERNANCE

- 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

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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. THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

+ 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.

RESOURCES from the Handbook of Sustainable Urban Development strategies

Close

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](#)

Additional info



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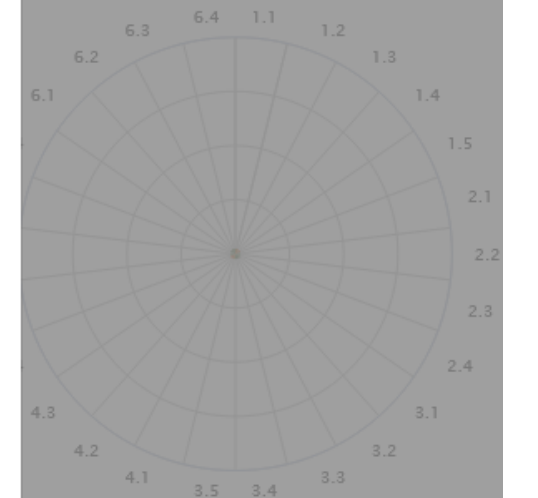


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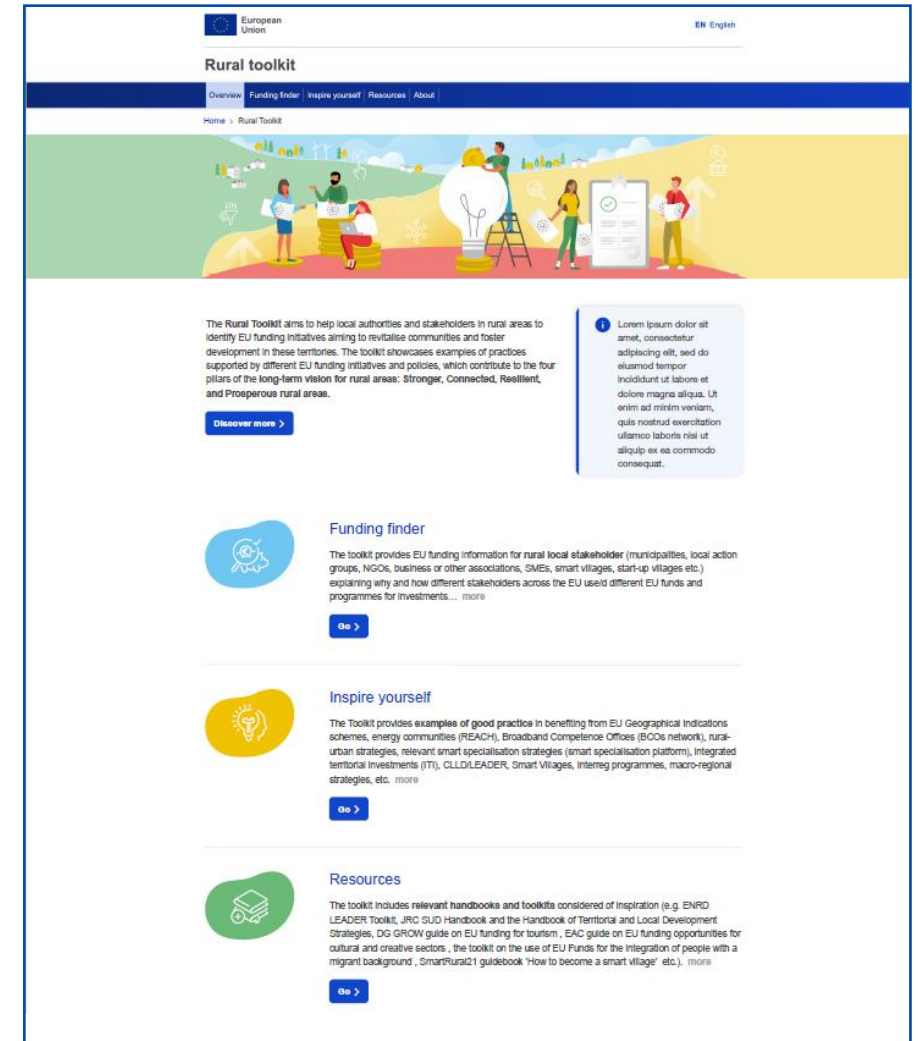
Rural toolkit

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>

DGs involved and team

JRC: collect information, analyse data, carry out data processing and testing, develop and maintain the dashboard

Implementing team: Giulia Testori (project leader), Terry Stavropoulos, Pier Saraceno, Carmelo Attardo, Glauco Prina (ext). Plus supporting team and synergies with other projects. Communication : Elisa Bazzani and Gabriel Resende

DG REGIO: collaborate in collecting, producing and analysing information, facilitate the required data, coordinate with DG AGRI, DG COMM and DG DIGIT the web presence of the online dashboard

Responsible officer: Merja Haapakka

DG AGRI: Advise on funding related on agriculture and rural development, facilitate the linkage with the LTVRA

Reference officers: Silvia Nanni & Alexia Rouby



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**

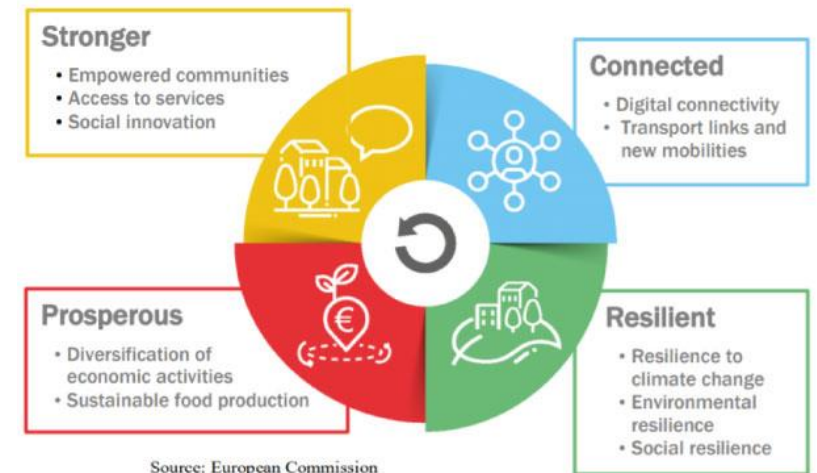
Be written in plain language, **easy to understand**

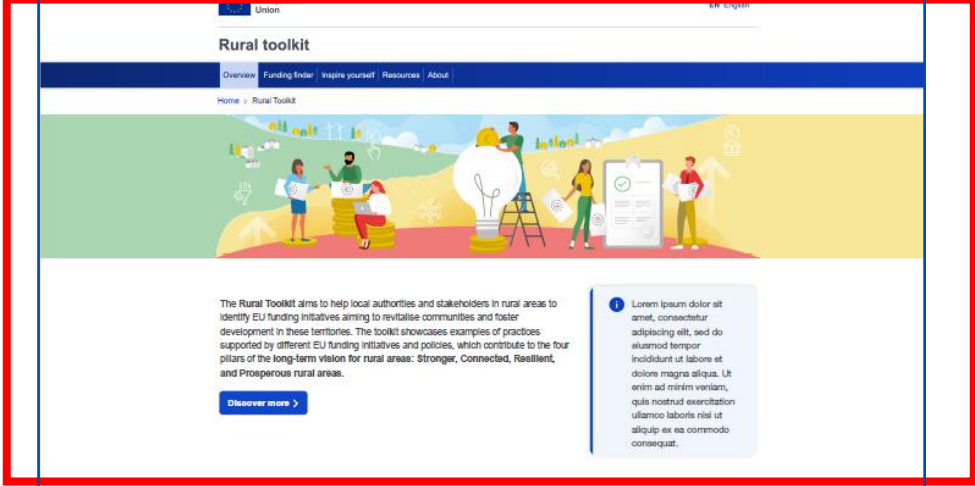
Provide inspirational solutions and **examples**

Key aspects that characterize the toolkit

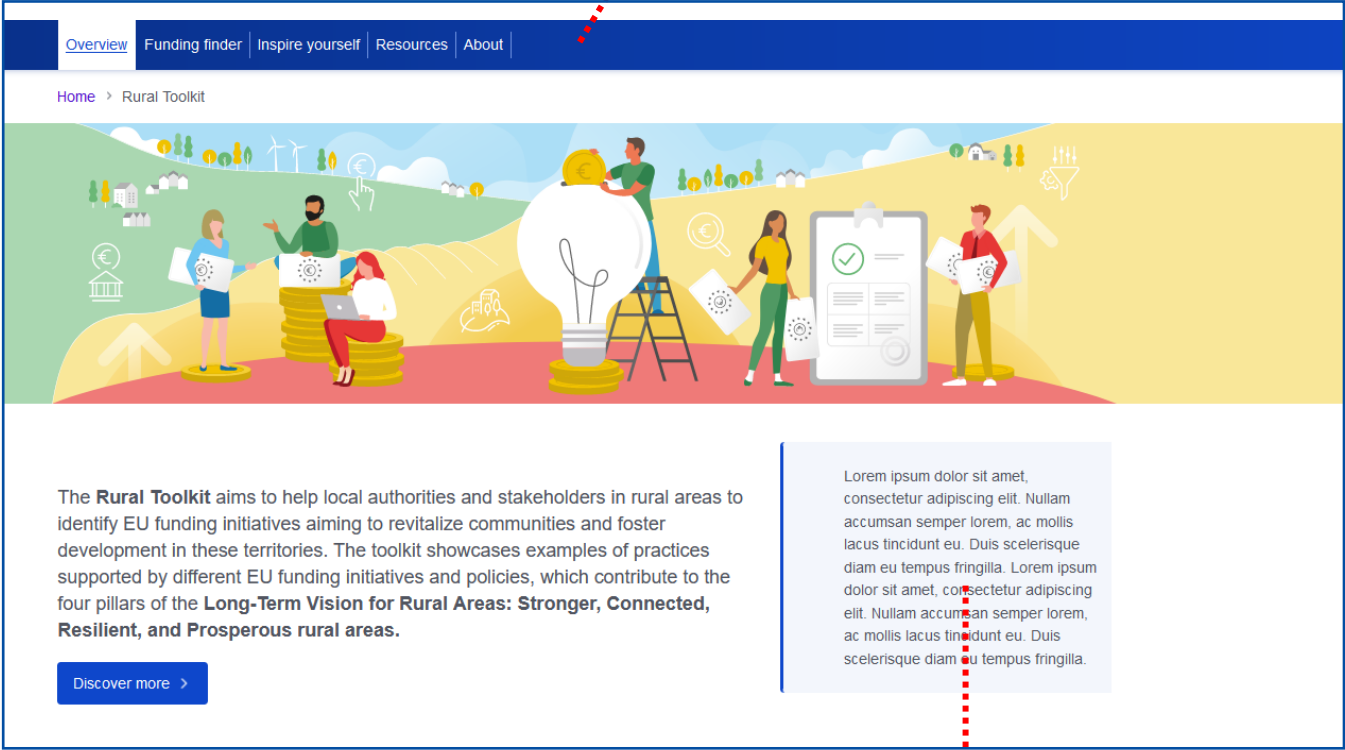
The final aim is that of **promoting revitalisation and sustainable local development** to tackle existing challenges, and unleash the potential of **rural areas**:

- 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.)

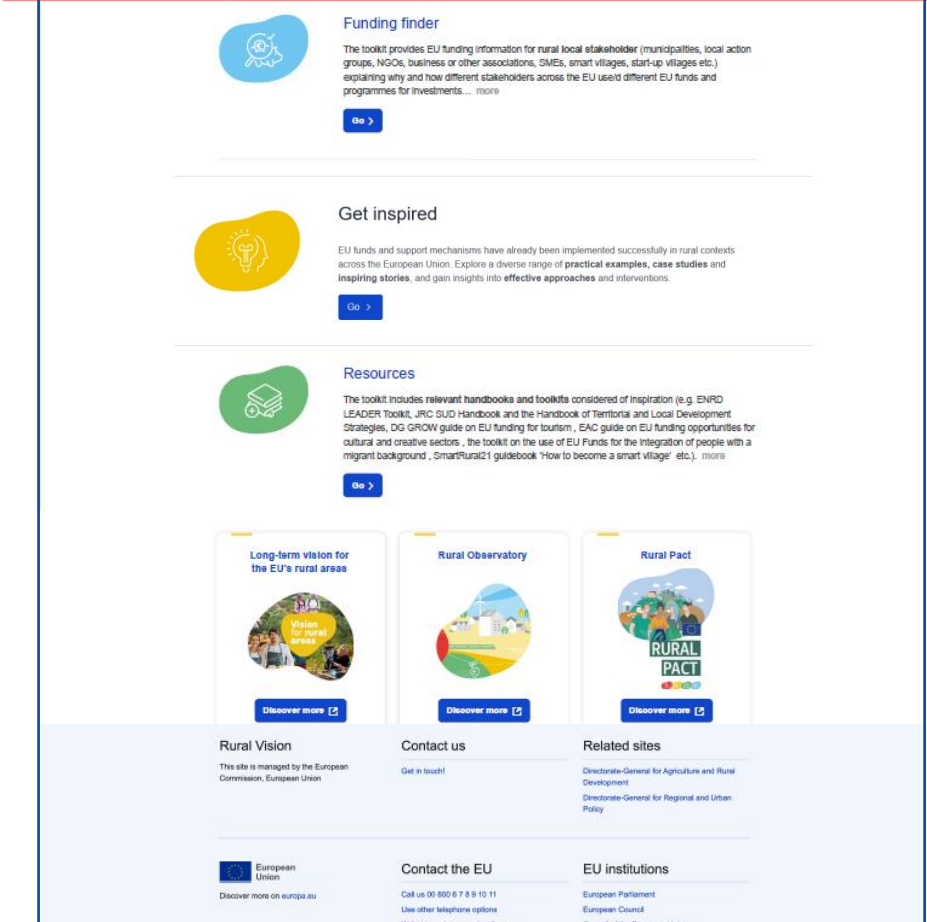




There will be a Q&A and glossary section



Explanatory and promotional video




European Union EN English

Rural toolkit

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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.

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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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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.


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Resources

The toolkit includes **relevant handbooks and toolkits** considered of inspiration (e.g. ENRD LEADER toolkit, JRC GUD 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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Financing opportunities (25)

EU initiatives – direct application

EIT	SMP - SME Pillar	CERV
LIFE	SMP - EUROCLUSTERS	Horizon Europe Cluster 2
5GSC	b-solutions	Just Transition Platform
CREA	EEN	Cluster 5
Cluster 6		

EU initiatives – application via national or regional authorities

European Solidarity Corps	AMIF	Erasmus+
JTF	EMFAF	ERDF
ESF+	Interreg	CF
EAFRD		

Financial instruments

InvestEU Advisory Hub	InvestEU Fund
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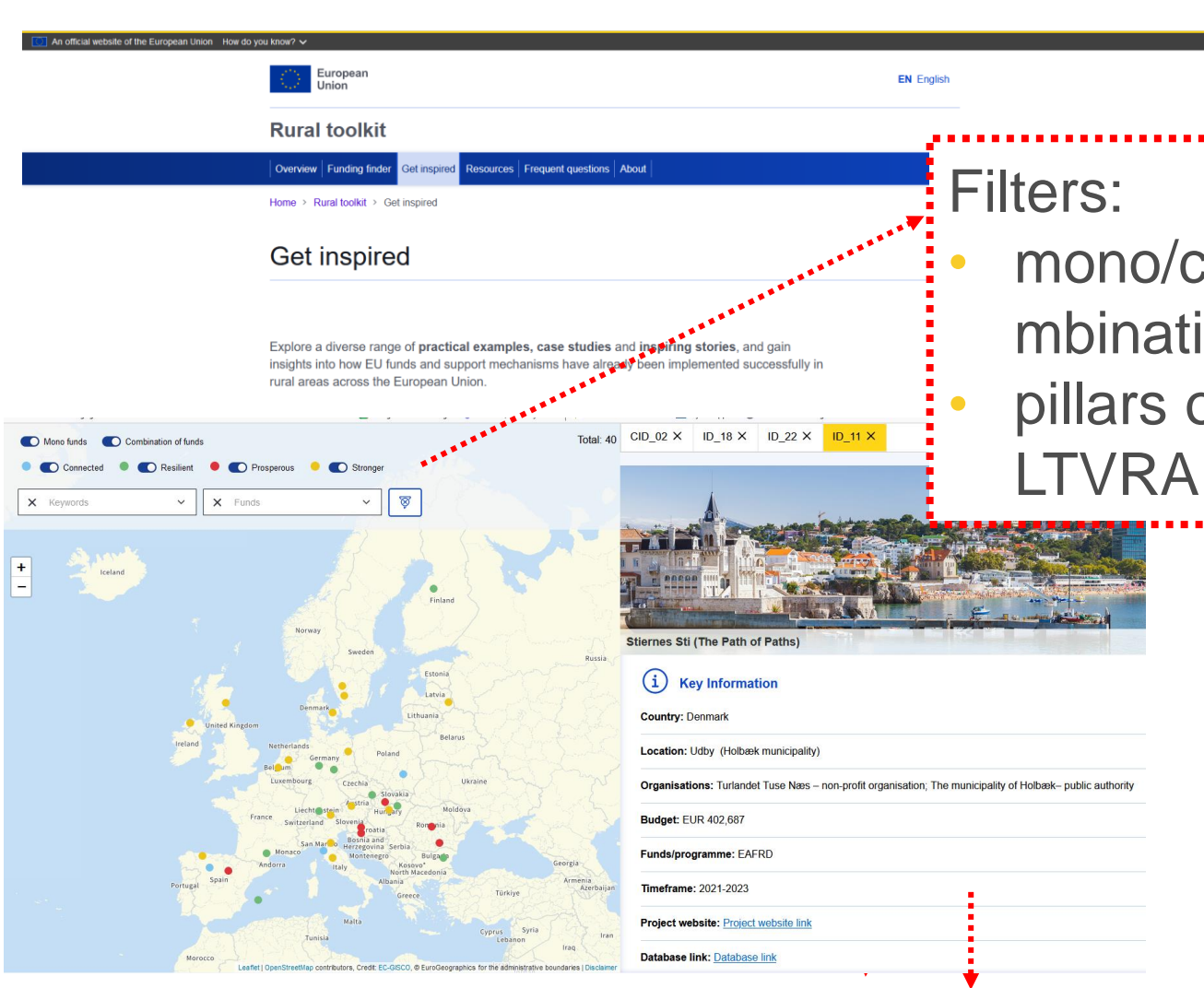
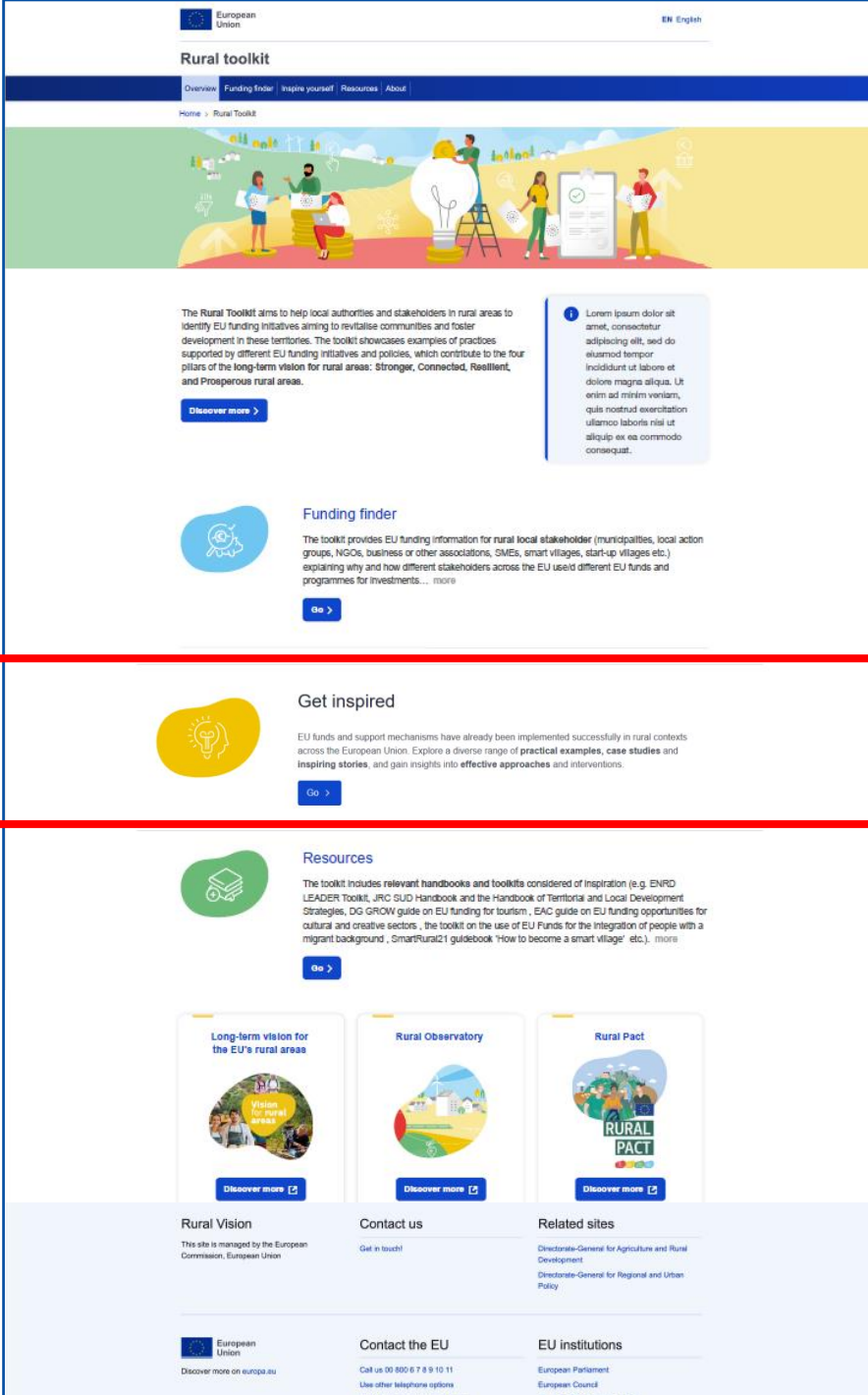
Tailor your search

Support available for... [Close -](#)

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

Activities to fund [Open +](#)

Type of support [Open +](#)




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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

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.

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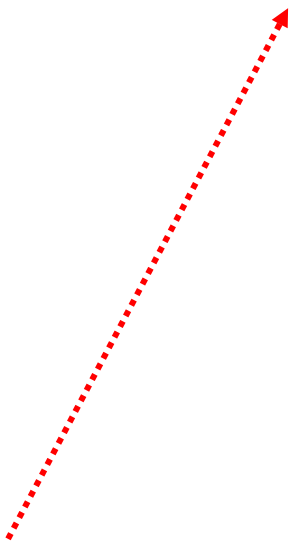
The CulturEU funding guide

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.

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EU funding opportunities for Education and Training

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




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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.

Practical 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 +

Thank you

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



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