



Shaping the activities of the Rural Pact and seeking for synergies between RPCG and RPSO

Overview of RPSO recent actions and presentation of the AWP 2025



Policy briefing: Empowering local communities to take action for the rural vision

 **Europe**

- ▶ 10 shared goals for 2040
- ▶ Action Plan (EC)
- ▶ Rural Pact (everyone)



 **National / regional**

Making the Rural Pact happen in Member States

- ▶ National & regional policymakers
- ▶ Seven key ingredients



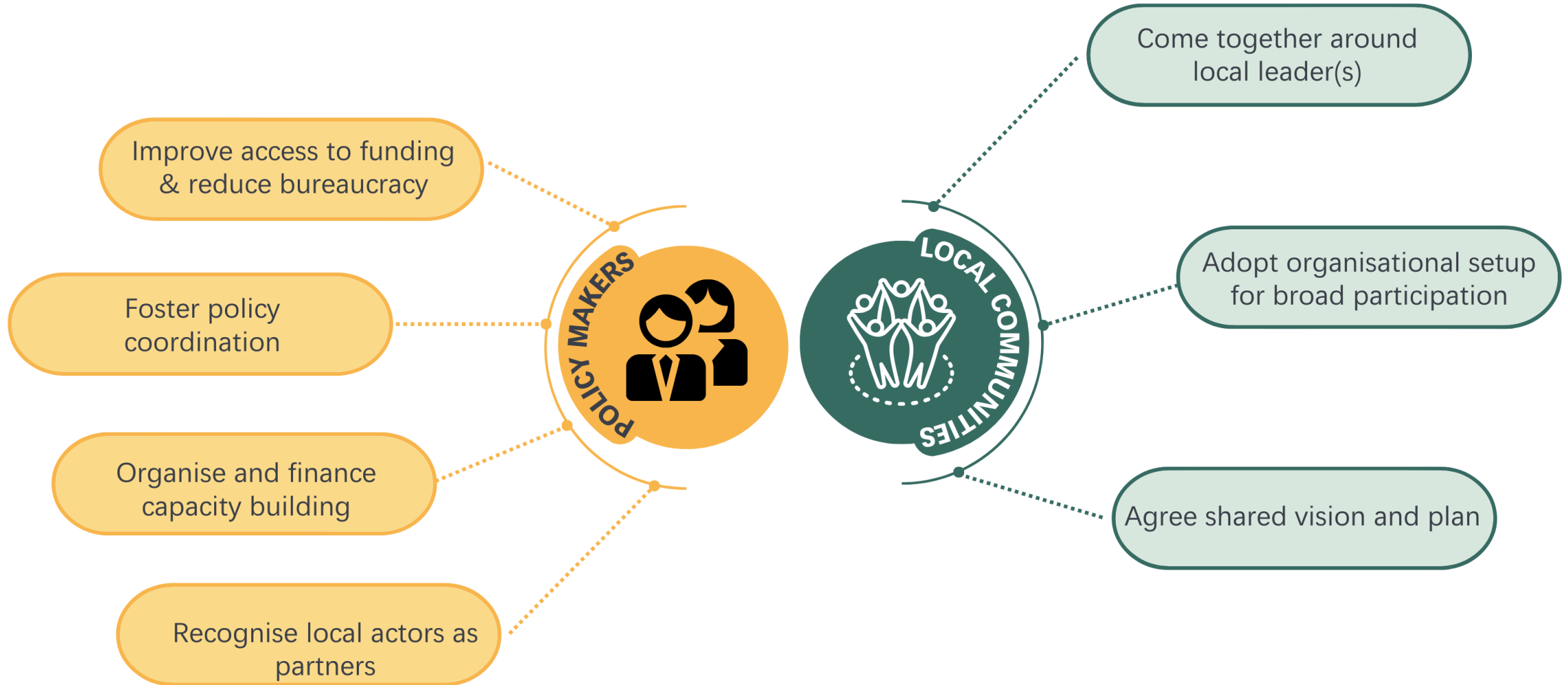
 **Local**

- ▶ **Policy level: enabling and supporting local action**
- ▶ **Local level: community organisation and initiative**

Transformative action to address local challenges and achieve the Rural Vision



Who should do what?



RPCG comments to Policy Briefing

- ▶ Comments received from:
 - SME United
 - EESC
 - ELARD
 - ERCA
 - Smart Village Network
- ▶ Many thanks, they are being addressed!

Country pages

► What is about

Policy brief: Making the Rural Pact happen in Member States

- National & regional policymakers
- Seven key ingredients



'Translated' into 6 country pages (CZ, ES FI, FR, IE, LV) in Year 2 that will:




1. Showcase efforts undertaken in MS making the Rural Pact happen by outlining the key initiatives implemented which aligned with the ingredients outlined in the Policy Briefing.



2. Present the information in an easy-to-use format on the Rural Pact Community Platform (RPCP) to facilitate the communication of up-to-date information and encourage other countries to take action towards the Vision and the Rural Pact.

Country pages

▶ Where we are

- ✓ Development of an information collection template
- ✓ Meetings with 6 national experts (NE)
- ✓ Analysis of all the information received from NE as well as collected by the RPSO central team
- ✓ Development of the content for the six country webpages (in a document) and submission to DG AGRI for approval
-  Consultation with Managing Authorities

End of 2024 Creation of individual country webpages on the RP Community Platform

▶ Main expected outcomes

- **Six country webpages** available on the RPCP and dissemination through social media, newsletters, events, publications, National Experts and RPCG members' network, etc.
- Contact us to update a country page if more relevant information is available

Needs survey – headline findings



662 responses from organisations & individuals



- 27 EU MS; 6 non EU countries
- Significant representation from Spain & Germany



- All RP stakeholders' categories
- Significant representation from LAGs

- ▶ Gap between involvement in Rural Pact activities and formal Rural Pact membership.
- ▶ Higher engagement correlates with positive views on RP activities & impact.
- ▶ Top policy challenges: depopulation, funding, territorial cohesion, promote innovation.
- ▶ 67% of respondents **actively involved in Rural Pact activities** see progress in OB1; Top activities social media and RPCG.
- ▶ 79% of respondents **actively involved in Rural Pact activities** see progress in OB2; Top activities Good Practices and Good Practice Webinars.
- ▶ Networking interest in all levels of governance - balanced across knowledge exchange & peer learning, partner identification, capacity building, good/bad practices, involvement in policy making.
- ▶ 43 respondents plan to **submit commitments** to the Pact.

Needs' survey – main suggestions

▶ **Objective 1: Amplifying rural voices**

- Use local multipliers & media to raise awareness of RP at local level.
- Raise awareness of rural needs at national & EU levels through meaningful participatory processes

▶ **Objective 2: Structuring and enabling networking**

- Increasing in-person interactions (ie. workshops & study visits).
- Providing financial support for the participation of local actors to physical events.

▶ **Objective 3: Encourage and monitor voluntary commitments to act**

- Guidance on submission process.
- Showcasing commitments to inspire others.

2024 RPSO events



2024 Policy Labs

- ▶ **ALL BUILDING BLOCKS:** In person: **Bringing the Rural Pact closer to rural citizens (22 May 2024)**
- ▶ **STRONGER:** Online: **Territorial development for the green transition: Harnessing the potential of rural communities (19 Sept 2024)**
- ▶ **ALL BUILDING BLOCKS:** In person: **Brussels: Enhancing policy coordination for vibrant rural areas (28 November 2024)**



Year 2 Good Practice Webinars

- ▶ **RESILIENT:** Rural communities tackling climate change (20 March 2024)
- ▶ **STRONGER:** Rural youth participation in policy making (24 April 2024)
- ▶ **CONNECTED:** Enhancing rural mobility through local action (20 June 2024)
- ▶ **ALL BUILDING BLOCKS:** In-person: **Advancing the Rural Pact: Fostering local action for the future of rural areas (8 October 2024 at EWRC)**

Draft RPSO annual work programme Year 3



Objective 1: Amplifying rural voices

- ▶ Newly elected European Parliament and Commission representatives
- ▶ EU policies and funds post-2027
- ▶ RP implementation at national level, regional, and local levels; country pages



Objective 2: Structuring and enabling networking

- ▶ Good Practice Webinars and Good practices on priority LTVRA topics
- ▶ Awareness raising and engagement of RP Community
- ▶ Collaboration with European networks and platforms, EU bodies and institutions



Objective 3: Encourage and monitor voluntary commitments to act

- ▶ Promote Rural Pact commitments via new online tool
- ▶ Consolidate existing commitments and encourage new ones

RPSO events 2025

2nd Rural Pact Conference

▶ 8-9 April 2025



Policy Labs

- ▶ **ALL BUILDING BLOCKS:** Rural proofing (June 2025)
- ▶ Policy Lab 7 topic - tbc (November 2025)



Good Practice Webinars

- ▶ **STRONGER:** Housing (March 2025)
- ▶ **PROSPEROUS:** Tourism, cultural heritage and rural regeneration (May 2025)
- ▶ **STRONGER:** Innovation (September 2025)

Open the floor for feedbacks

Do you have any suggestions regarding the RPSO Annual Work Programme for Year 3 strategic approach and the suggested themes?



Thank you!

Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform

www.ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member_en



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