



# From vision to action: Empowering rural areas for the future

2nd Rural Pact Conference, Château du Biez, Nearby Kortrijk/Courtrai (Belgium)

**8-9 April 2025**

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Rural Pact Support Office

4<sup>th</sup> RPCG meeting

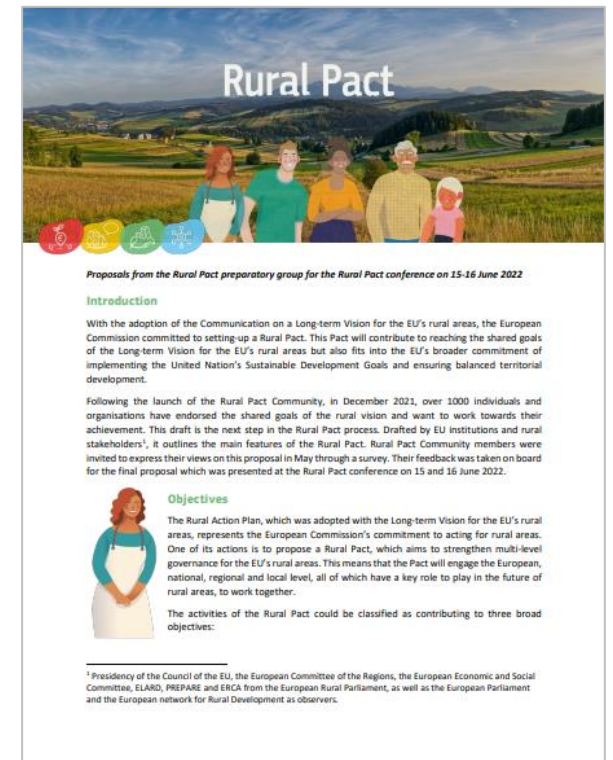
08 November 2024



# Background

- ▶ 1st RP [Conference](#) took place in June 2022 (almost 3 years):
  - Endorse the [proposal](#) for the Rural Pact with rural stakeholders
  - Took place in an urban area
- ▶ New European Parliament & European Commission → New policy players in place
- ▶ Almost 3 years of implementation of the Rural Vision 2040, Rural Action Plan and Rural Pact
- ▶ RPCG Declaration (being developed)

## Rural Pact proposal



**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 stakeholders<sup>1</sup>, 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:

<sup>1</sup> 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.

# Focus & approach

- ▶ This 2nd RP Conference will **take place in a rural area**, 250 participants 1.5 days
- ▶ A clear focus and target on the **Rural Pact Community and action at local level**

## Focus:

- ▶ Draw lessons and **co-create ideas to consolidate the implementation of the Rural Action Plan** and the future policy framework.
- ▶ Create **networking opportunities** and **build capacities** among the Rural Pact community to **take action at the local level**.
- ▶ Facilitate exchanges to collect ideas and recommendations to **guide the Rural Pact in the future**.

# Agenda (tentative structure)

## Day 1

### Political discussion + networking

**Policy session:** Moving forward with the Rural Vision and the Rural Pact

**Networking session:**  
Rural Pact Community committing to action for the Rural Vision

## Day 2

### Policy exchanges + capacity building

**Participatory sessions:** Co-create ideas to consolidate the implementation of the rural vision and pact

**Main recommendations:** Report backs from the participatory sessions and main conclusions and recommendations

# Agenda (draft ideas)

## Day 1 (Policy and networking)

- ▶ **Policy session: Moving forward with the Rural Vision and the Rural Pact**
  - Bring the new **High-level EC representatives** (President, Vice-president & Commissionaire)
  - Take stock on the work done so far by the EC to advance with the Rural Vision 2040, Rural Action Plan and the Pact, and provide inspiration from a Member States taking action
  - **Present the RPCG Declaration**
  - Give **voice to other EU institutions** (Council, EP, CoR, EESC) to express their future actions to advance with the vision and Pact as well as with the demands from the RPCG Declaration (inter-institutional panel)

# Agenda (draft ideas)

## Day 1 (Policy and networking)

### ▶ Networking corners: Rural Pact Community committing to action for the Rural Vision

- Create spaces to foster **networking and build capacities to take actions**. Spaces would be designed by e.g. Community Groups and RPCG members and RPSO.
- Further engage **local stakeholders in the Rural Pact process**
- Examples:
  - Share good practices, get in contact with Community Groups members, plan joint initiatives, open mic sessions, space to meet and exchange with RPCG members

**Question for RPCG reflections:** Would you / your organisation be interested to host a networking session? What would you like to do?

### ▶ Dinner

# Agenda (draft ideas)

## Day 2: RP Community ideas to consolidate the Rural Action Plan

- ▶ **Participatory session: Co-create ideas to consolidate the implementation of the rural vision and action plan**
  - Provide a space to valorise the work that has been done so far by the EC for the Rural Action Plan, explore stakeholder needs and **collect ideas to consolidate the vision and action plan** – There will be **4 break out rooms** to exchange on topics for *stronger, connected, resilient, prosperous* rural areas.
  - Give **voice to local stakeholders** to express their views

**Question for RPCG reflections:** What are **key topics / themes for the future of rural areas** which you wish explore more in-depth in the participatory sessions in day 2? Is there a theme for which you or your organisation would like to have a stronger involvement during the conference (e.g. provide a contribution, example, or lead a discussion table)?

- ▶ **Main recommendations: Report back from the participatory sessions and main conclusions and recommendations to advance with the Pact**
  - Final stakeholder panel: collect views from a range of stakeholder representatives (municipalities, LAGs, Civil Society, Researchers)

# Questions for input and your involvement

## Day 1: Policy and networking

Would you / **your organisation** be interested to host a **networking session**? What would you like to do?

## Day 2: RP Community ideas to consolidate the Rural Action Plan

What are **key topics / themes for the future of rural areas** which you wish explore more in-depth in the participatory sessions in day 2?

Is there a **theme** for which you or **your organisation would like to have a stronger involvement** during the conference (e.g. provide a contribution, example, or lead a discussion table)?





# Thank you!

**Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform**

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