



Flanders
State of
the Art

The Flemish Rural Pact: a broadened perspective on rural policy

► **Rural Pact Coordination Group**

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**FLEMISH
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Flemish Land Agency:

“Making the open space stronger together”

- ▶ 3 main strands
 - Environmentally-friendly and nature-friendly agriculture
 - Climate-robust open space
 - Vibrant and vital rural areas
- ▶ Independent agency within the ministry of environment
- ▶ Rural policy unit
 - MA for LEADER in Flanders
 - Competent authority for rural policy in Flanders
- ▶ Flemish Minister for Interior Affairs, Urban and **Rural** Policy



Rural policies in Flanders: from integrated to casuistic policy and back

- ▶ Relative young policy field in Flanders (since 2004)
- ▶ Integrated rural policy
 - Rural policy plan
 - Intergovernmental rural consultative body
 - Platform for rural research
- ▶ From 2016: more narrow interpretation of rural policy
 - 2019-2024 government: 3 focus areas + instruments
 - × Food and bioeconomy
 - × Landscape
 - × Vibrant villages
 - × Instruments: pilots, small project calls complementary to the CAP
 - Impact (?)
- ▶ New turning point: EU Long Term vision for Rural Areas, Siguenza conference and conclusions AGRI council (november 2023)

Start with demonstrating the need for an integrated and structured approach

Geography of discontent also in Flanders

- Linked with declining services (public transport, ATM's, local government services, local shops, ...)

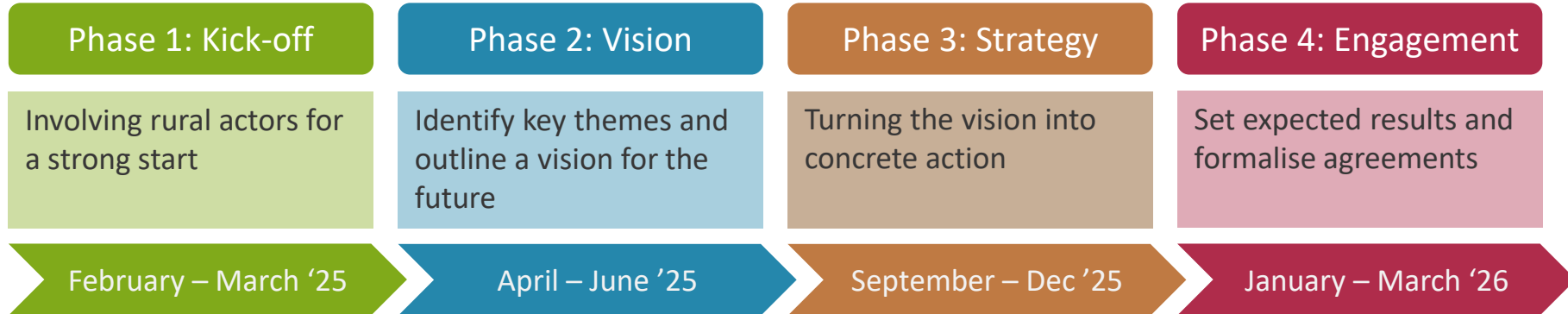
First Rural Report 'The state of Rural Flanders' was published mid June '24

- Quantitative and qualitative analyses of different indicators on demography, economy, spatial planning & environment and administrative power
- Comparing rural with urban and peri-urban
- Demonstrating a clear need for structural rural policy

Government agreement 2024-2029

- *We are drawing up a **cross-cutting rural pact** with comprehensive strategies and action plans to tackle the challenges facing rural areas and strengthen prosperity. In order to support community life and economic activity in rural municipalities, there is a need for adequate funding, guaranteed accessibility, assured services, utilities, incentives for economic growth and job creation, and room for self-development in a bottom-up approach at various levels of government and in various policy areas.*

Roadmap to Flemish Rural Pact



► 5 facets of Rural Flanders:

1. A qualitative, resilient and multifunctional OPEN SPACE
2. A vibrant, attractive and healthy LIVING ENVIRONMENT
3. Warm COMMUNITIES
4. A place of ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
5. Governments and citizens WORKING TOGETHER



Together we realise more



- ▶ Community building
→ www.plattelandspact.be
- Survey
 - × Priorities for future policies
 - × Inspiring examples

More information

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