

Innovation and entrepreneurship in European rural areas: the Startup Village Forum initiative

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European Commission, Joint Research Centre

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European Startup Village Forum

Overview About

Home > Startup Villages



Research and innovation play a key role in tackling challenges and reap opportunities for wellbeing and growth in rural territories.

The European Startup Village Forum facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise on how to **promote startup-driven innovation in rural areas**.

This initiative is part of the European Commission's long-term vision for the EU's Rural Areas, which includes a specific flagship action on research and innovation for rural communities.

What is a startup village?



What are the enabling conditions of a startup village?



Discover more

Startup Village Mapping

Express your interest and join the discussion on innovation and entrepreneurship in EU rural areas!

Understanding how innovative entrepreneurship operates in rural areas is essential for implementing effective public and private sector initiatives. Join the Startup Village Mapping initiative in the questionnaire. Share your experiences and insights with other EU rural stakeholders in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in their territories.

The information displayed in the mapping tool is the sole responsibility of the user. The European Commission does not verify the accuracy of the information provided. Therefore, being included in the map cannot be understood as any sort of endorsement by the European Commission of the Startup Village status.

Go to survey

For more info:



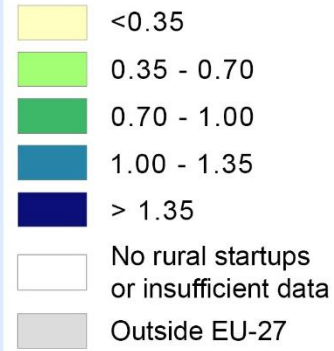
The Startup Village Forum initiative

The Startup Village Forum initiative provides new evidence and insights into the patterns, characteristics and drivers of **innovation and entrepreneurship in rural areas**—through **tailored metrics, indicators and analytical studies**—while offering an **open and inclusive platform** for rural stakeholders to exchange knowledge, share experiences and learn from one another.

Startups in rural vs non-rural areas

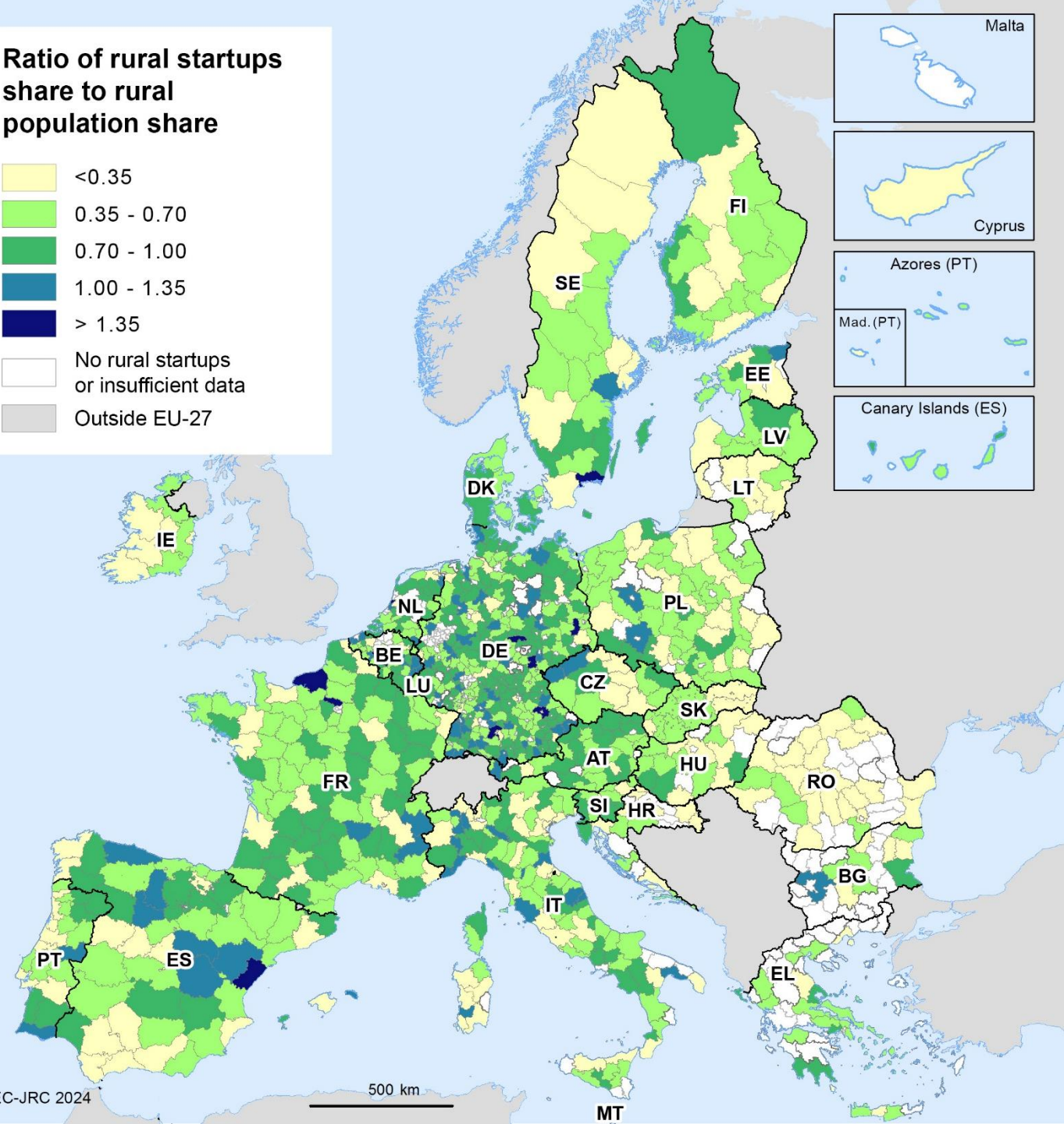


Ratio of rural startups share to rural population share



EC-JRC 2024

500 km



Upcoming studies and analyses

NEW METRICS

Primary data



EU-wide **Eurobarometer** survey targeting firms in rural vs urban areas



Special **CIS module** co-designed with Statistics Sweden

Secondary data



Downscaling of aggregated indicators

STUDIES ON DRIVERS AND OBSTACLES



The geography and impact of **Venture Capital** in rural Europe



Crowdfunding and complementarities with other investment channels



Regional specialisation and startup emergence in EU rural areas



Convergence paths in EU rural regions



Rural entrepreneurial profiles and socio-economic outcomes



Entrepreneurship in the EU: key insights into business dynamics in rural regions

Science for policy brief

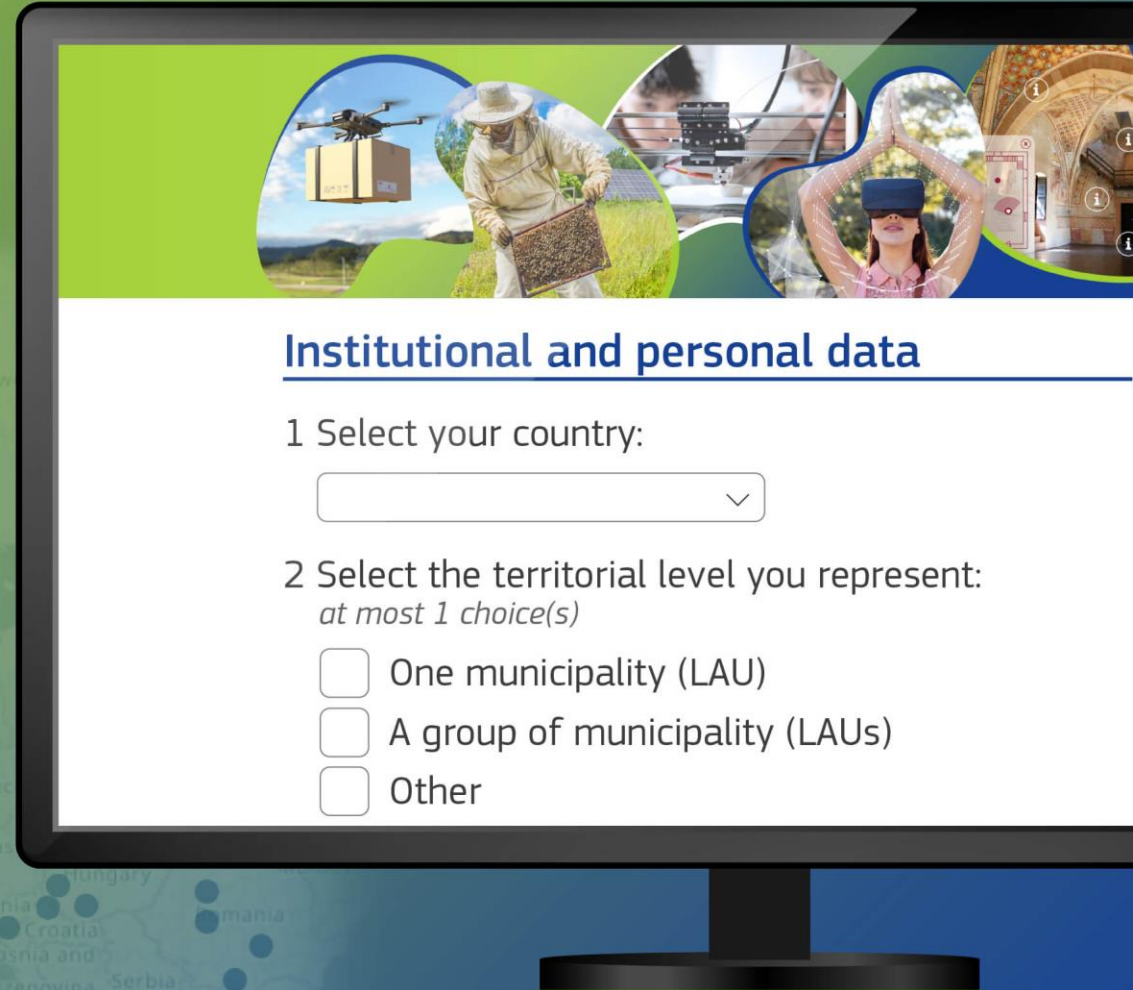
Download it here:



Startup Village Mapping Tool

Express your interest and join the discussion on innovation and entrepreneurship in EU rural areas!

For more info:

A computer monitor displaying the 'Startup Village Mapping Tool' interface. The top banner features four circular images: a drone carrying a package, a person in a beekeeping suit holding a frame of bees, a person using a VR headset, and a person holding a smartphone. Below the banner, the section is titled 'Institutional and personal data'. It contains two questions: '1 Select your country:' with a dropdown menu, and '2 Select the territorial level you represent: at most 1 choice(s)' with three radio button options: 'One municipality (LAU)', 'A group of municipality (LAUs)', and 'Other'. The monitor is set against a background of a stylized map of Europe with green hills at the bottom.

Institutional and personal data

1 Select your country:

2 Select the territorial level you represent:
at most 1 choice(s)

☐ One municipality (LAU)

☐ A group of municipality (LAUs)

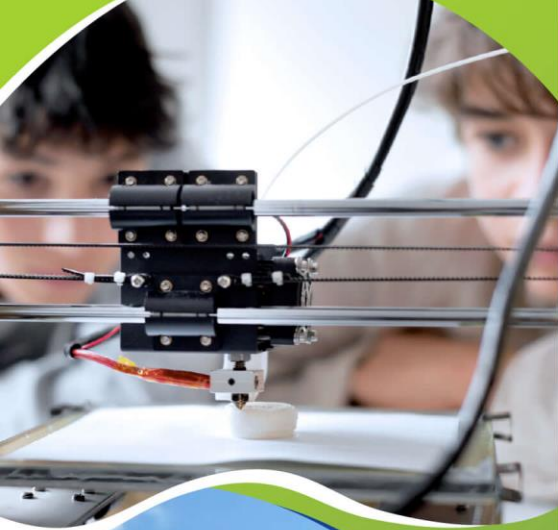
☐ Other

Join us for the EU Startup Village Forum 2025

29 OCTOBER 2025

Brussels, European Commission, Le Berlaymont

**Registrations
are now open!**



Thank you

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