



MFF 2028-2034

Support to rural areas and communities

Rural Pact Policy Lab – Brussels 5 November 2025

An ambitious budget

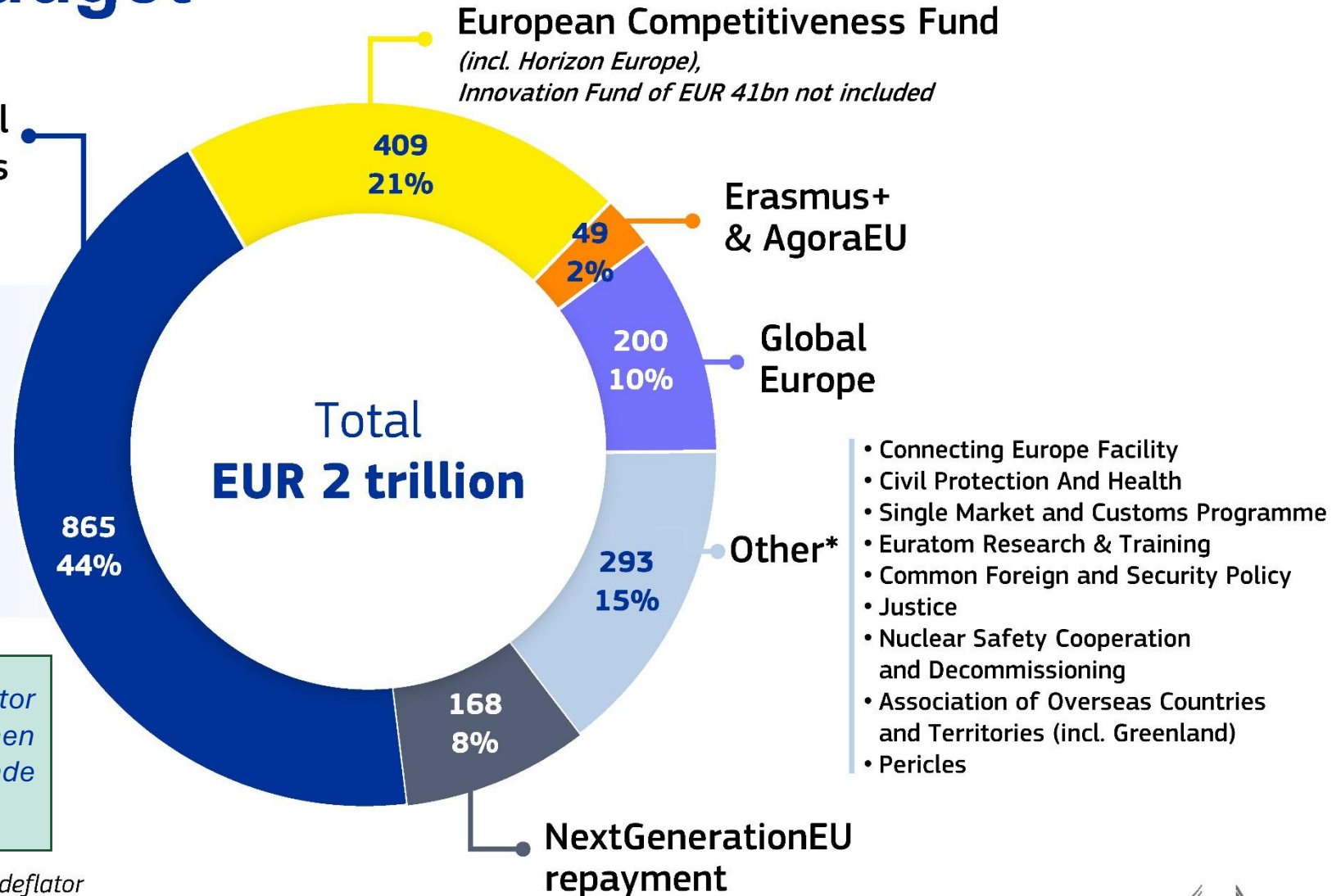
National and Regional Partnership Plans

- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile**

Ceilings continue to be based on a 2% fixed deflator when EU inflation is between 1% and 3%. When inflation is below 1% or above 3%, adjustment made based on actual inflation.

All amounts in EUR, **current prices**, adjusted with 2% deflator

* Also includes Administration and decentralised agencies



National and Regional Partnership Plans

One Plan

- Simpler framework: **simplified implementation, one set of rules, one programming**
- Holistic, consistent and coordinated framework
- Reforms, **investments** and other interventions
- Enabling **synergies**
- More flexibility and adaptability

Comprehensive partnership

- **Regional, local, urban, rural authorities** (and other public authorities/associations representing such authorities)
- **Economic and social partners**, including farmers, fishers and their organisations
- Civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, **youth organisations**, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, etc.
- Research organisations and universities, where appropriate

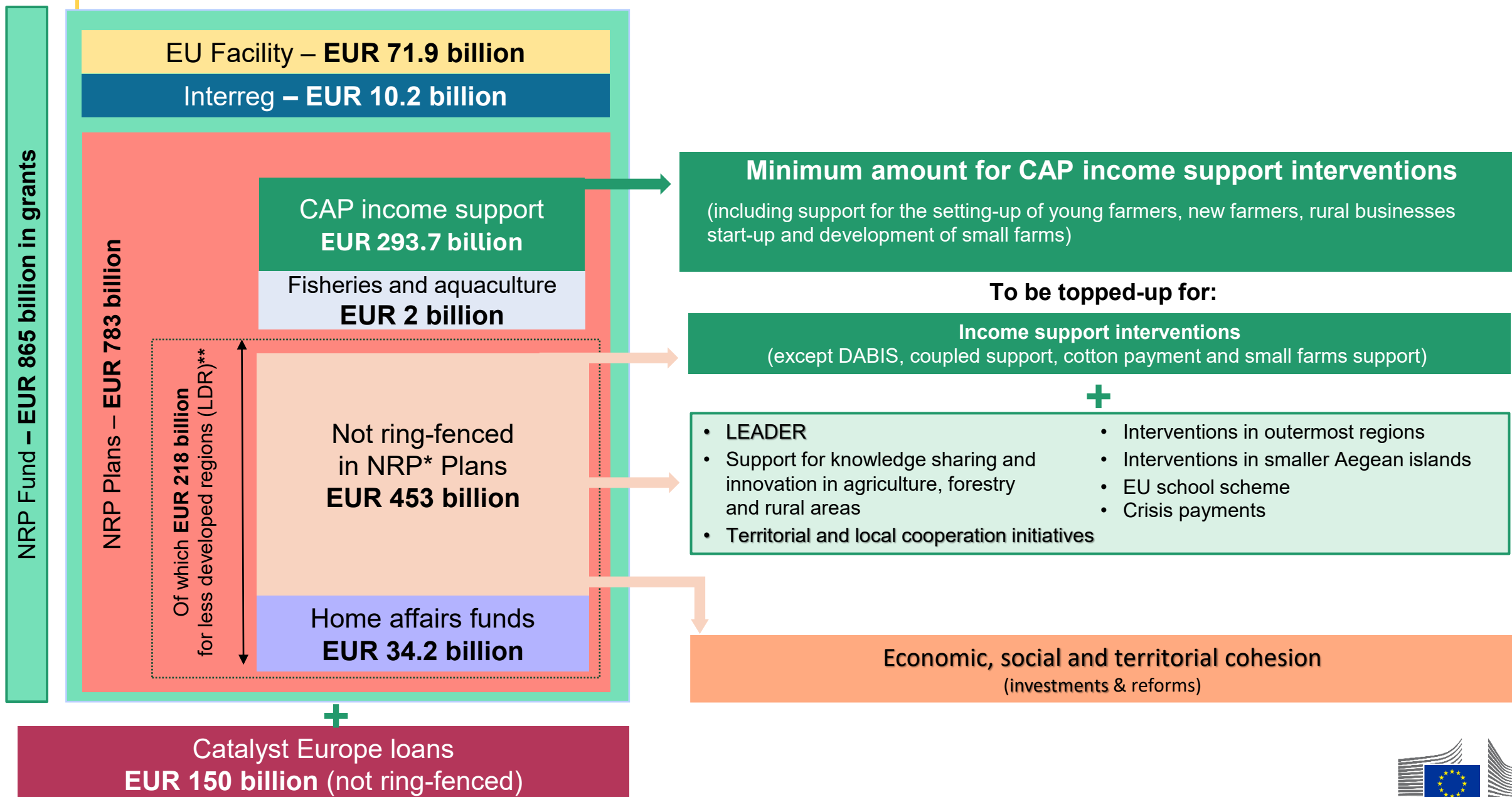
Tailored to MS' & regions' needs

- National, sectoral & **regional** and **territorial chapters** (depending on each Member State's administrative set-up, as is currently the case under cohesion policy/CAP)
- Tailored to each Member State's national and regional needs

EU-level steering

- Addressing challenges identified in the **European Semester, CAP national recommendations**, Digital decade recommendations, National energy and climate plans,...

In current prices

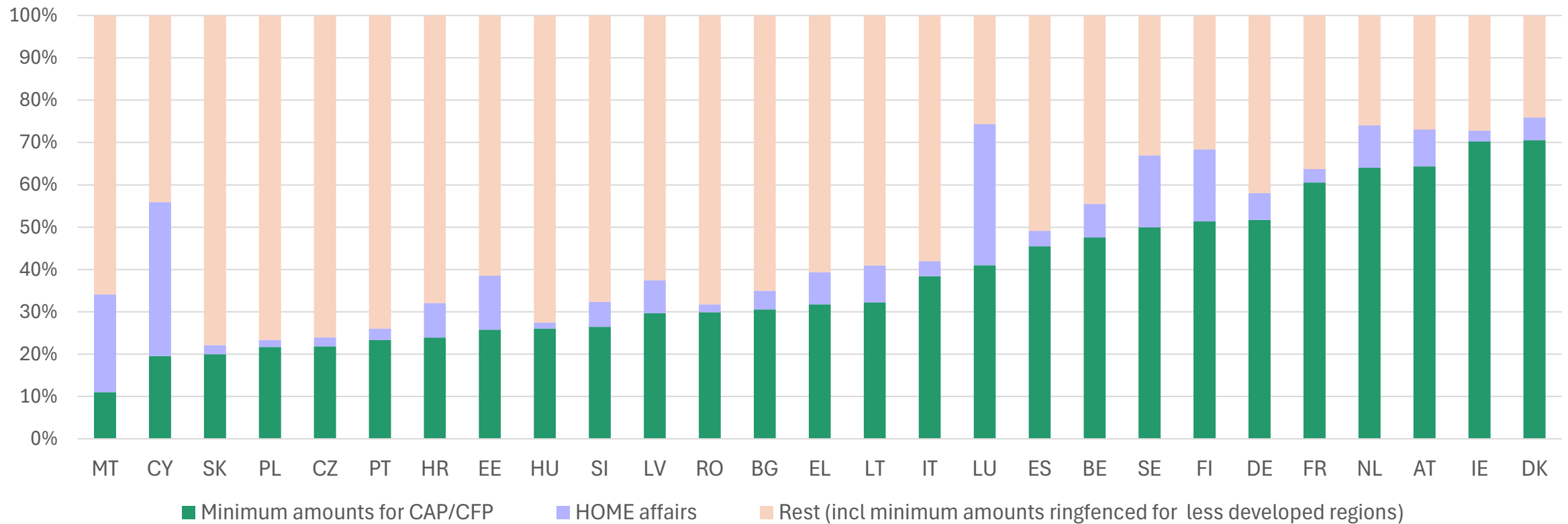


** CAP and CFP interventions above the ringfenced amounts may be counted towards the earmarking for less developed regions provided they are for the benefit of those regions



NRP Plans: Member States pre-allocated envelopes

Shares within each MS' total NRP fund allocation (excl. Social Climate Fund and loans)



NRPP specific objectives: rural areas

Art. 3 NRP Reg.

(a) To support the Union's **sustainable prosperity** across all regions

(b) To support the Union's defence capabilities and security across all regions

(c) To strengthen **social cohesion** by supporting people and strengthening the **Union's societies** and the Union's social model

(d) To sustain the **quality of life** in the Union

(e) To protect and strengthen fundamental rights, **democracy**, the rule of law and to uphold Union values by

(i) Fostering the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay including by supporting **strategies for the integrated development of urban and rural areas**, including support for territorial services and infrastructure.

(iii) Improving the **attractiveness and living standards, including access to healthcare**, in rural areas and fair work conditions and fostering generational renewal; improving farmers' preparedness and ability to cope with crisis and risks; enhancing the access to knowledge and innovation and accelerating the digital and green transition for a thriving agri-food sector



'Territorial' requirements for NRP Plans

- **Reduce economic, social and territorial disparities** in less developed, transition and more developed regions, including by
 - Allocate resources to the three typologies of regions according to their specific challenges (*different national contribution rates: 15% / 40% / 60%*)
 - Concentrating resources on **less developed regions**
 - Focusing on specific needs of **border regions, northern sparsely populated regions, rural, island and outermost regions, urban areas, and areas affected by industrial transition**
 - Strengthen economic and social development of **outermost regions**
- Effectively contribute to promoting the use of **territorial and local cooperation** interventions, including **integrated territorial investments** in ... **rural and coastal areas**, community-led local development or other territorial tools including just transition and smart specialisation strategies, **LEADER**



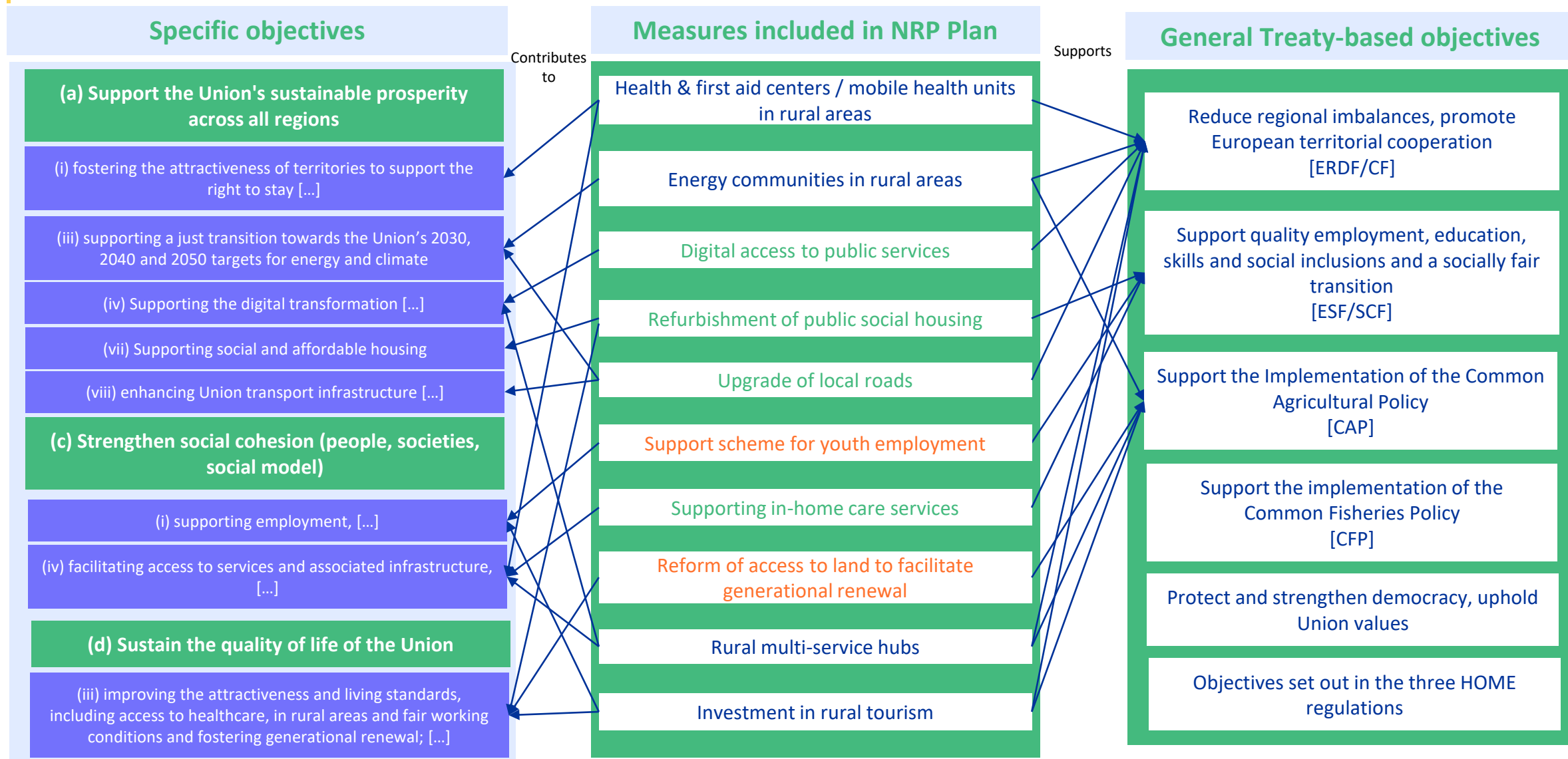
Strengthening synergies

(*example*)

Territorial rural chapter

National infrastructure chapter

Sectoral agricultural chapter (CAP)



Example provided solely for illustrative purpose

Examples of possible synergies

Education and skills



Today: several EU funds and spending programmes (CAP, ESF, Erasmus+) currently support education and training in rural and remote areas.

Tomorrow: Streamlined programming facilitates development of skills in rural areas allowing synergies between the EU and national funding and maximising impacts of EU spending.

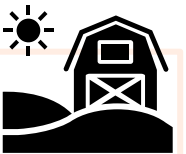
Infrastructure / connectivity



Today: Synergies among EU programmes implemented and monitored separately are difficult to leverage in the absence of a coordinated effort at both national and regional levels.

Tomorrow: Single programming and governance system can boost holistic infrastructure build (broadband, backhaul, access networks) in remote areas so households/businesses can connect to high-capacity networks.

Integrated local development strategies/CLLD



Today: LEADER local development strategies under the CAP can support the provision of **social services** to excluded groups in rural areas (e.g. persons with disabilities, older people, youth, families at risk of poverty, etc.) but... use of multi-fund CLLD has been used only to a limited extent due to perceived administrative complexities.

Tomorrow: harmonised rules under the National and Regional Partnership plans can further facilitate synergies and complementarities with social and other policies.



Governance & networks

- **Continuity and flexibility.** Member States may retain existing governance bodies (managing authorities, paying agencies).
- **Coordinating Authority:** required if more than one managing authority/paying agency, ensuring national coherence.
- **Monitoring Committees** (+ coordinating committee): Member States can establish dedicated committee for sectoral / regional chapter, ensuring stakeholder involvement. New tasks include approval of selection criteria and territorial development strategies.
- **EU and national CAP Networks** facilitate stakeholder involvement, improves plans, and enhances exchange of best practices.



Territorial development tools

Territorial and local cooperation initiatives (Art. 74 NRP)

- LEADER as a type of community led local development
- Smart Villages

Integrated territorial and urban development (Art. 75 NRP)

- Based on integrated territorial development strategies
- Relevant also to CLLD focused on rural areas

Community-led local development (Art. 76 NRP)

- Focus on subregional areas, rural and coastal areas
- Carried out through integrated territorial development strategies
- Designed and implemented by LAGs

Support under LEADER (Art. 77 NRP + Art. 18 CAP)

- Mandatory for Member States
- Use of simplified cost options mandatory / encouraged



Monitoring spending and results 1/2

Budget tracking and performance framework Regulation

Establishes:

- **a single system** to track expenditure and performance of the EU budget
- **a direct link** between (1) what we finance (the intervention fields), (2) the contributions of those activities to horizontal priorities (green and social policies), and (3) their expected outputs and results, measured by means of 'performance indicators'

Policy area (level 1)	Policy area (level 2)	#	Intervention field	CCM	CCA	ENV	SOC	Output indicator	Result indicator
Agriculture and fisheries	Agriculture	18	Investments in basic services and small infrastructure in rural areas	0%	0%	0%	0%	• Number of operations; • Number of funding agreements; • Number of smallholders in third countries;	• Share of rural population benefitting from investment support in basic services and infrastructure in rural areas
Multisector support	Integrated territorial tools	335	Community-led local development/LEADER and other integrated territorial tools	0%	40%	0%	0%	• Number of preparatory projects; • Number of implemented projects; • Number of implemented strategies; • Number of funding agreements; • Number of cooperation projects; • Number of local action groups supported;	• Population covered by projects in the framework of strategies for integrated territorial development; • Share of rural population covered by LEADER strategies; • Number of jobs sustained or created; • Number of businesses created; • Number of people trained; • Number of visitors attracted;

Monitoring spending and results 2/2

Budget tracking and performance framework Regulation

Annex II: territorial tracking and location will make it possible to illustrate where and in what types of EU territories the budget is driving change (in a single tracking table)

Mandatory

Part 1: CODES FOR THE TERRITORY TYPE DIMENSION (I)	
01	Urban areas
02	Rural areas
03	Areas affected by industrial transition
04	Islands and coastal areas
05	Other types of territories targeted
06	Sparsely populated areas
07	No territorial targeting

Part 4: LOCATION (NUTS2)	
XX	Code of region or area where operation is located or carried out, as set out in the common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) provided in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003.

Part 2: CODES FOR THE TERRITORY TYPE DIMENSION (II)	
01	Outermost regions
02	Small Aegean Islands
03	Eastern border region
04	Northern sparsely populated areas

Part 3: CODES FOR THE TERRITORIAL INITIATIVE AND LOCAL COOPERATION DIMENSION	
01	Integrated territorial and urban development
02	Community-led local development/LEADER
03	Other territorial tools

As appropriate

+ mandatory requirements for data collection and recording: location of recipients

To sum up: Rural support under the NRP Plans

NRP Plans

- ✓ Single plan with **regional / territorial dimension** (chapters) and governance
- ✓ Strategic planning by **specific objectives** relevant to rural areas / communities
- ✓ EU level steering via **national recommendations**
- ✓ Mandatory implementation of the **partnership principle**
- ✓ Territorial planning **requirements**
- ✓ Comprehensive toolbox: **investments, cooperation, LEADER... networks**
- ✓ **Territorial tracking** of measures / interventions
- ✓ **Integrated territorial development strategies**

Rural support

- **Address challenges**
- **Ensure ownership**
- **Concentrate resources**
- **Deploy tools**
- **Track outcomes**
- **Enhance synergies**

