



Main messages emerging from the Rural Pact Conference

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Rural Pact Conference, Sept. 16-17, 2025

- ▶ Took place in Pecq, Belgium
- ▶ **250 participants** from 27 EU Member States and four non-EU countries, including representatives of EU institutions, public authorities, NGOs, Local Action Groups (LAGs), businesses and researchers
- ▶ Focus on advancing the rural vision 2040, contributing to the update of the Rural Action Plan, and shaping the next steps for Rural Pact actions.
- ▶ Through interactive sessions, participants reflected on lessons learned from the current Rural Action Plan, co-developed ideas to strengthen its next phase, and explored ways to build capacities for local and national action.
- ▶ Interventions from **EU institutions and bodies**
- ▶ At least **11 different EC DGs** intervening (**more than 25 EC participants**)
- ▶ More than 65 speakers
- ▶ Highlights report available: <https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-11/rpso-conference-highlights-report.pdf>

RURAL PACT



From vision to action: Empowering rural areas for the future

Rural Pact Conference



**Executive Vice-President
Cohesion & Reforms**

Raffaele Fitto



**Commissioner
Agriculture & Food**

Christophe Hansen

Shaping the post-2027 rural policy framework



Secure a visible and guaranteed rural dimension in the post-2027 policy framework



Ring-fence funding for rural areas, LEADER/CLLD and Smart Villages



Strengthen data availability and evidence on rural territories



Guarantee genuine multi-level partnership

Enabling vibrant and resilient rural territories

1

Recognise that rural areas are part of the solution to Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and resilience challenges

2

Anchor the 'right to stay' within the long-term vision for rural areas

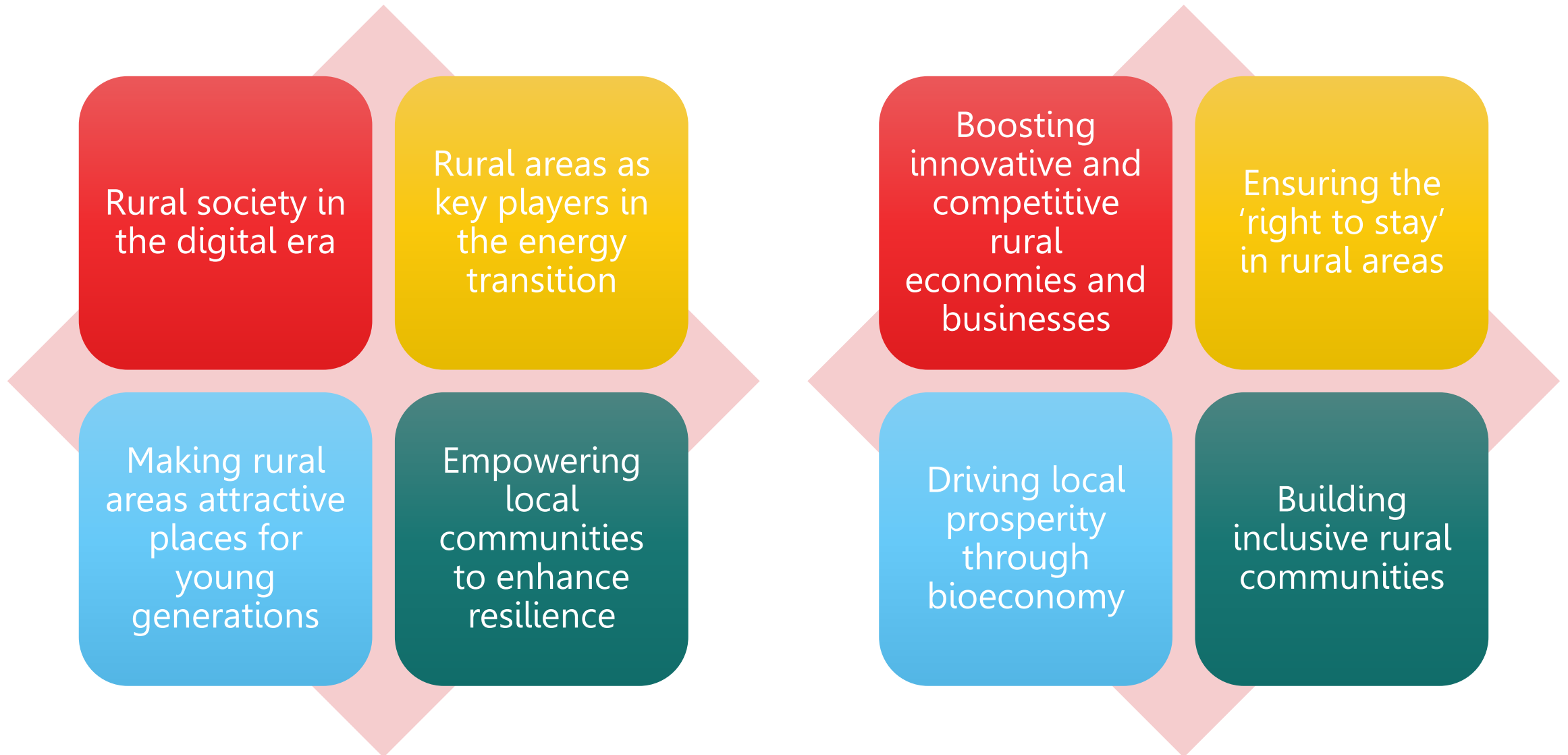
3

Empower rural communities, youth and civil society as co-creators of solutions

4

Strengthen the Rural Pact as a permanent mechanism for dialogue and coordination

Group Discussions on the Rural Action Plan



Key recommendations for the future

- ▶ Create national and regional Rural Pacts that mirror the EU Rural Pact
- ▶ Institutionalise multi-level and cross-sector cooperation
- ▶ Guarantee long-term, multi-annual, and earmarked support for rural development and LEADER/CLLD, not just within the CAP
- ▶ Embed rural proofing systematically at both EU and national levels
- ▶ Empower rural communities and youth as co-creators of solutions
- ▶ Invest in people and inclusion by expanding rural incubators



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