

National and Regional Partnership Plans

a rural perspective

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spatial



foresight

territorial policy support and [research](#)



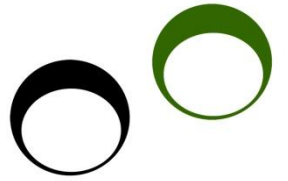
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Setting the scene



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EU budget and rural areas



MFF's ultimate aim:
increase the wellbeing of people in Europe

Rural areas an important part of Europe

Therefore, the MFF should:

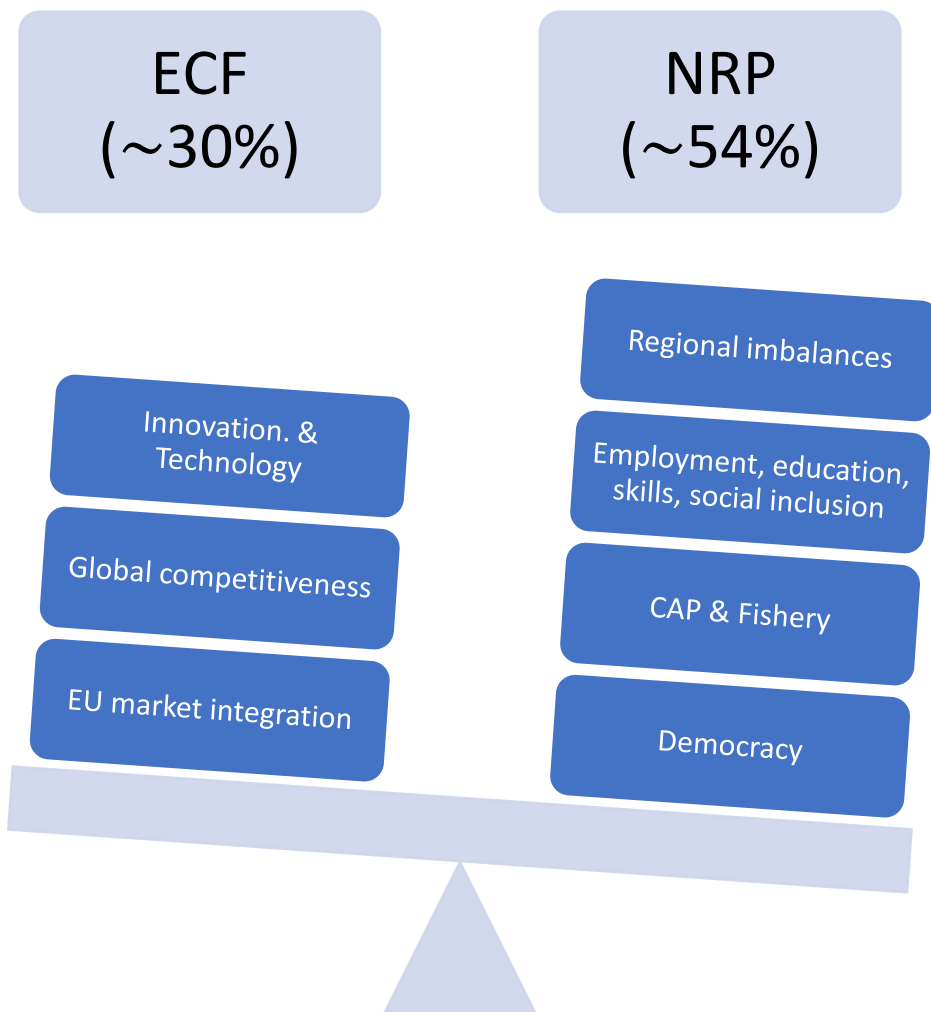
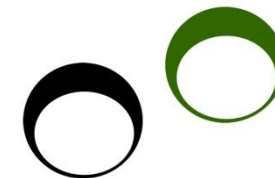
- Strengthen positive future perspectives in rural areas
- Strengthen diverse rural potential
- Utilise what rural areas offer Europe (incl. resilience, defence, innovation)

Eligible budget to beneficiaries by type of CBC programme in the 2014-2020 programming period at NUTS 3 level



Note: Data for the 2014–2020 INTERREG V-A Sweden–Finland–Norway (Nord) programme is unavailable.

Territorial level: NUTS 3 (2016).
Source: ESPON CHANEBO, 2024.
Origin of data: Eurostat GISCO (2024) and Keep.eu (2024).
© EuroGeographics for administrative boundaries
Map design: Spatial Foresight



NRP

~ €450 billion
for economic, social and
territorial cohesion
~ €218 billion
thereof for less developed
regions

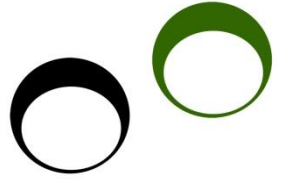
~ €300 billion
to support farmers' income

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Possible
developments



Some key points for discussion



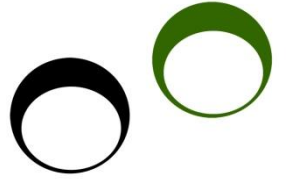
- Cohesion & competitiveness
- Where are the rural areas in the NRPs?
- Which role have rural players in the NRP design and implementation?
- Performance based approaches in rural areas?
- What happens to CLLD / LEADER?
- Networking of rural areas

Possible scenarios

- Rural areas as transfer recipients
- Selected rural areas as competitiveness centres
- Selected rural areas as centres for European resilience
- Cohesion & competitiveness tandem

What is rural narrative balancing cohesion and competitiveness?

Some key points for discussion



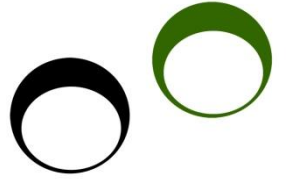
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Possible scenarios

- Own rural chapters
- Integrated in territorial chapters
- Mainstreamed across chapters
- Implicit in certain sector chapters

Will rural areas have the same prominence with the NRP approach?

Some key points for discussion



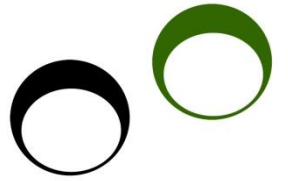
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Possible scenarios

- Rural stakeholders as beneficiaries
- Rural stakeholders in partnerships deciding over funding
- Rural stakeholders in partnerships designing NRP

Do (all) rural areas have the capacity to take active roles?

Some key points for discussion



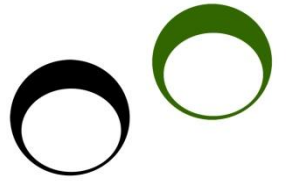
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Possible scenarios

- What targets and milestones for rural areas?
- What pricing of targets and milestones?
- Who defines milestones, targets and pricing concerning rural areas? (EU <> NRP & NRP <> operations)

Do (all) rural areas have the capacity to take active roles?

Some key points for discussion



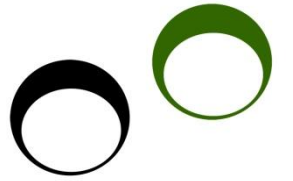
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Possible scenarios

- Performance-based CLLD / LEADER
- Rural-urban CLLD / LEADER areas (functional regions)
- Multi-fund CLLD / LEADER
- Centralised / mainstreamed approach to CLLD / LEADER (thematic and geographically larger areas)

What is the future of CLLD / LEADER without ring-fencing?

Some key points for discussion



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Possible scenarios

- Rural-urban partnerships
- EU wide networks of rural areas
- European Rural Initiative (ERI)

What is the future of rural networking in a more integrated policy approach?

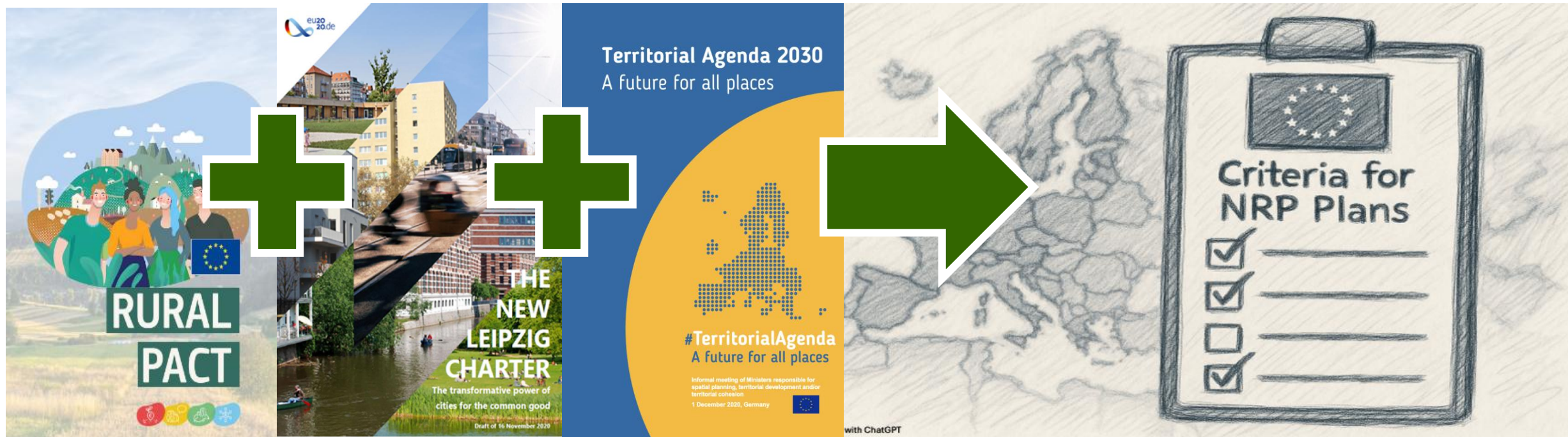
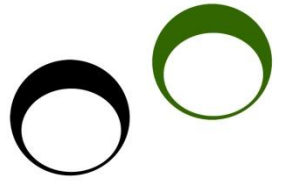
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As for the future

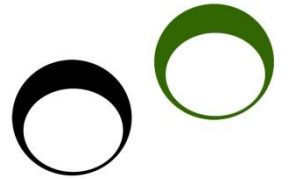
Quo vadis, Europa?



Place-based approach to NRPs



From a rural to a European vision



- MFF & NRP regulations lack references to key documents on rural development and place-based approaches
- EU needs a vision for the future to guide its MFF and NRP work
- Could the Rural Vision be a stepping stone / source of inspiration?



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Spatial Foresight

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