

The Rural Pact

In brief



What is the Rural Pact?

The Rural Pact is a framework for cooperation and exchange on rural matters between actors at European, national, regional and local levels willing to work together to achieve the 10 shared goals of the EU's rural vision.

It is one of the horizontal actions launched with the 2021 European Commission Communication on the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas.

The Pact pursues the following objectives:

-  Amplifying rural voices and bringing them higher on the political agenda.
-  Structuring and enabling networking, collaboration and mutual learning.
-  Encouraging and monitoring voluntary actions for the rural vision.

Who can take part in the Rural Pact?

- > Public authorities
- > Civil society organisations
- > Academic and research and innovation organisations
- > Businesses and entrepreneurs
- > Individuals

Why take part in the Rural Pact?

- > To use the political momentum created by the EU rural vision and build a critical mass to boost political will to drive improvements in EU rural areas
- > To voice your ideas and contribute to building the right policy framework and tools for rural areas
- > To get inspired, to inspire and learn from others by connecting and exchanging with peers from across Europe
- > To get informed about the latest news, events, funding opportunities, good practices and publications

How can EU Member States contribute to the Rural Pact?

The Rural Pact can be translated into action at national level by putting together the following ingredients:

1. Structures, mechanisms to engage with rural stakeholders
2. A designated government member and dedicated services to deal with rural issues across policies
3. Capacity-building and networking support for a broad array of actors and stakeholders
4. A forward-looking vision, implemented through a holistic strategy/action plan
5. Effective rural proofing and adequate data systems
6. Appropriate governance systems to facilitate coordination
7. Mechanisms to coordinate the allocation of funding and ensure synergies

How can the Rural Pact contribute to transformative local action in rural areas?

Both local communities and higher-level authorities can pursue a set of actions to enable tailored responses to rural challenges.

Rural communities need to: come together around the local leaders; adopt a participatory organisational set-up; and agree on shared vision and plan.

At the same time, regional, national and European authorities need to: recognise the local leaders as partners; enable local capacity building; coordinate actions on policies and funding streams; improve access to funding and reduce bureaucracy.

How is the Rural Pact supported?

The EU-funded Rural Pact Support Office coordinates, encourages and implements Rural Pact activities, including: events; animation of the Pact; good practices; dissemination of information and knowledge; and monitoring actions for the rural vision submitted by the members.

 Get in touch at info@rural-pact.eu.

Rural Pact Coordination Group policy recommendations

During its mandate (2023-2026), the Rural Pact Coordination Group (RPCG) – composed of up to 30 members including representatives of EU institutions and bodies, European Rural Parliament and European nongovernmental or civil society organisations – published policy recommendations for the future of rural areas.

The RPCG Declaration of December 2024 sets out a strategic proposal for the post-2027 EU funds and policies to address rural challenges. In May 2026, the RPCG further developed these recommendations in a position paper assessing the emerging post-2027 legislative proposals.

How to take part in the Rural Pact?

Become a member of the Rural Pact Community to:

- > Get priority access to Rural Pact Support Office events and knowledge
- > Get the monthly newsletter.
- > Connect with peers.
- > Join a Community Group to exchange on a specific topic.
- > Propose a voluntary action for thriving rural areas - everyone can contribute and no action is too small.

The Rural Pact

In figures



One EU-wide community

4 400+ Rural Pact members

30+ Countries

1 Rural Pact Support Office (RPSO)

... engaging through policy & networking events

2 Rural Pact Conferences

1 High-level Policy Forum

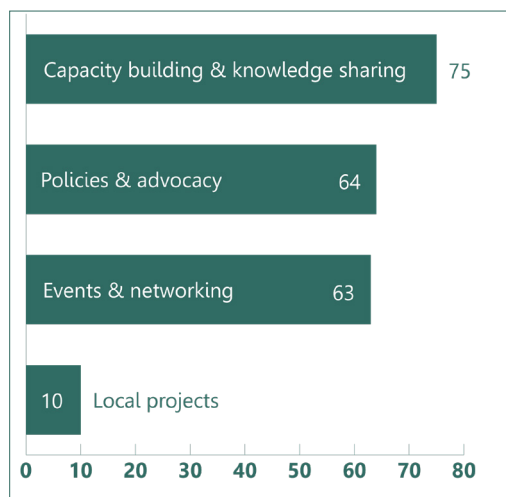
9 Policy Labs

14 Good Practice Webinars

- > represented at **114** stakeholder events
- > connected with **81** networks

A community taking action!

Voluntary stakeholder actions for the rural vision



Voluntary actions contributing to the rural vision



With a clear ambition



Amplify rural voices through

- 2** Policy briefings in **24** languages
- 1** Policy Declaration in **24** languages
- 12** Policy events (Conference, Forum, Policy Action Labs)



Enable networking through

- 4** Magazine editions in **3** languages
- 23** Networking events (Policy Action Labs & Good Practice Webinars)



Encourage action for the rural vision

- 104** Stakeholder actions towards the rural vision goals (**79%** by organisations – **21%** by individuals)
- 10** Political commitments by EU, national and regional public authorities

Connected and informed through an online Community Platform, including...



working at the international (**12%**), European (**27%**), national (**20%**), regional (**20%**) and local (**21%**) levels

Platform compiling information in all official EU languages

- 608** News (**93%** relevant for rural revitalisation)
- 423** 402 (**91%** relevant for rural revitalisation)
- 120** Good practices (**84%** relevant for rural revitalisation)
- 13** Community groups
- 34** Publications

8 800+ Followers on social media

This infographic contains the most recent data available to the RPSO as of 15 September 2026.