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The Rural Pact in Flanders, Belgium

HIGH-LEVEL RURAL POLICY FORUM
NAAS, IRELAND
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VLAAMSE
LAND
MAATSCHAPPIJ




HERBERG DE GOUDEN





Rural Pact: preparation (1)

RURAL REPORT, 2024

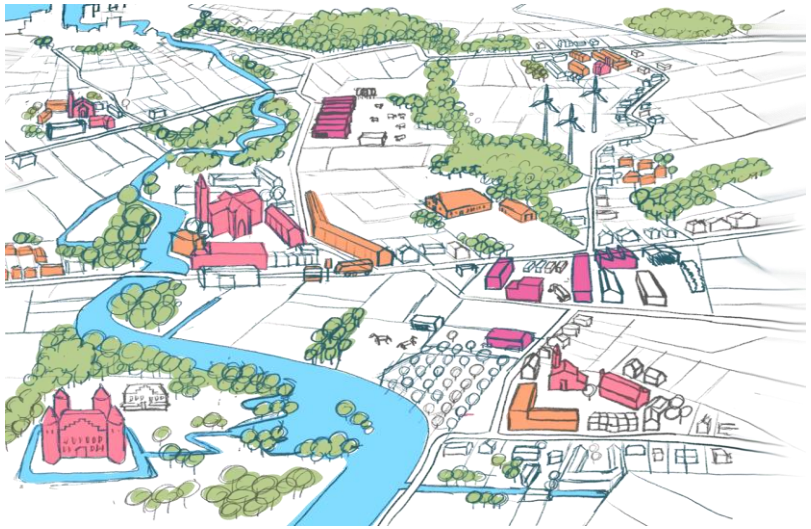
- **Overview of differences between rural, peri urban and urban areas**

- **Different topics**
  - Population
  - Economic development
  - Open space
  - Local government



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Rural Pact: preparation (2)



5 Vision workshops, > 300 participants

- A **warm community**
- A vibrant, attractive, and healthy **living environment**
- A high-quality, resilient, and multifunctional **open space**
- A space for **economic activity and innovation**
- Strong **local authorities**

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Rural Pact: preparation (3)

Hearing in the Flemish Parliament

- Presentations from researchers, civil society organisations, local authorities
- Discussions with political representatives



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Rural Pact, the connected countryside

3 Strategies

- **Livable, vibrant, and connected villages**
  - Strengthen social cohesion,
  - Guarantee basic services,
  - Promote the quality of housing,
  - Enhance administrative capacity and encourage citizen participation



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Rural Pact, the connected countryside

- **A future-oriented rural economy**
  - stimulating local entrepreneurship,
  - promoting local food production,
  - focusing on new forms of entrepreneurship



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Rural Pact, the connected countryside

- **Enhancing landscape quality and climate resilience**
  - protecting open space,
  - adopting an area-based approach,
  - focusing on multifunctional land use



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Rural Pact, the connected countryside

3 Supporting actions

- Rural Knowledge center
- Rural Proofing
- LEADER

Next steps

- Adoption by Flemish government
- Engagement actions by rural stakeholders

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