

RURAL POLICY COUNCIL
RURALPOLICY.FI

Finnish National Rural Policy Council

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The Rural Policy Council structure

The policy landscape

Institutional resources

- Legislation
- Government mandate
- Government rules of Procedure
- Rules of Procedure of Ministry
- Permanent Secretariat Staff: Secretary General and two officers
- Public funding (State budget)
- Expert contributions from member organisations (Vice Secretary Generals, Members of Council, Members in Working Groups and Thematic Networks)
- Project co-financing and implementing organisations

Structure

- **A multi-level governance network combining government, research, business and civil society actors in rural policy development since 1995 (beginning 1988).**
  - The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for preparing the appointment, issuing the call for nominations, and presenting the proposal to the Government for approval.

Funding

- **According to the Government Rules of Procedure, responsibility for rural development falls within the remit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**
  - Under the Rules of Procedure of the Ministry, it is responsible for matters relating to rural development and rural policy
    - Ministry acts as the competent authority, including the adoption of funding decisions
    - Funding allocated under a budget item in the administrative branch of the Ministry (not linked to CAP nor other EU-funding)
    - R&D-funding also in separate budget item
  - Project co-financing and implementing organisations and partnership organisations (ex. Rural Parliament)

Senior Secretariat
Secretary General and Vice-Secretaries General

The Rural Policy Council

Research

Public Sector

Private Sector

Civil Society

Government appointed for 5-6 years

Chaired by Minister

Vice-Chaired by Ministers and Head of Department

38 + 4 members
(55 organisations represented incl. deputy members)

Convenes 4-5 times per year

National Rural R&D-projects

- Approx. 500 000 €/year
- 2-4 financed projects/year
- Continuously ~6 projects
- Interministerial and cross sectoral steering groups

The Secretariat

- Serves as the preparatory body for Council
- Chaired by Secretary General
- 24 + 16 members
- Convenes 6-8 times a year
- Strategic and operational

Working Groups

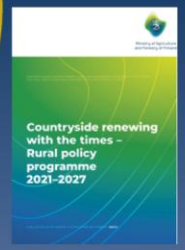
- The Working Group for Project Evaluation assesses applications for funding (permanent group, members appointed yearly)
- The Working Group for CLLD (with Urban Policy, interministerial, cross-sectoral)
- The Workin Group of Young Experts (upcoming)

Thematic Networks

- Approx. 400 000 €/year
- Expert dialogue
- Stakeholder engagement
- Sparring (i.e. Rural Proofing)
- Knowledge sharing
- Bi-weekly coordination with Permanent Secretariat

Outputs









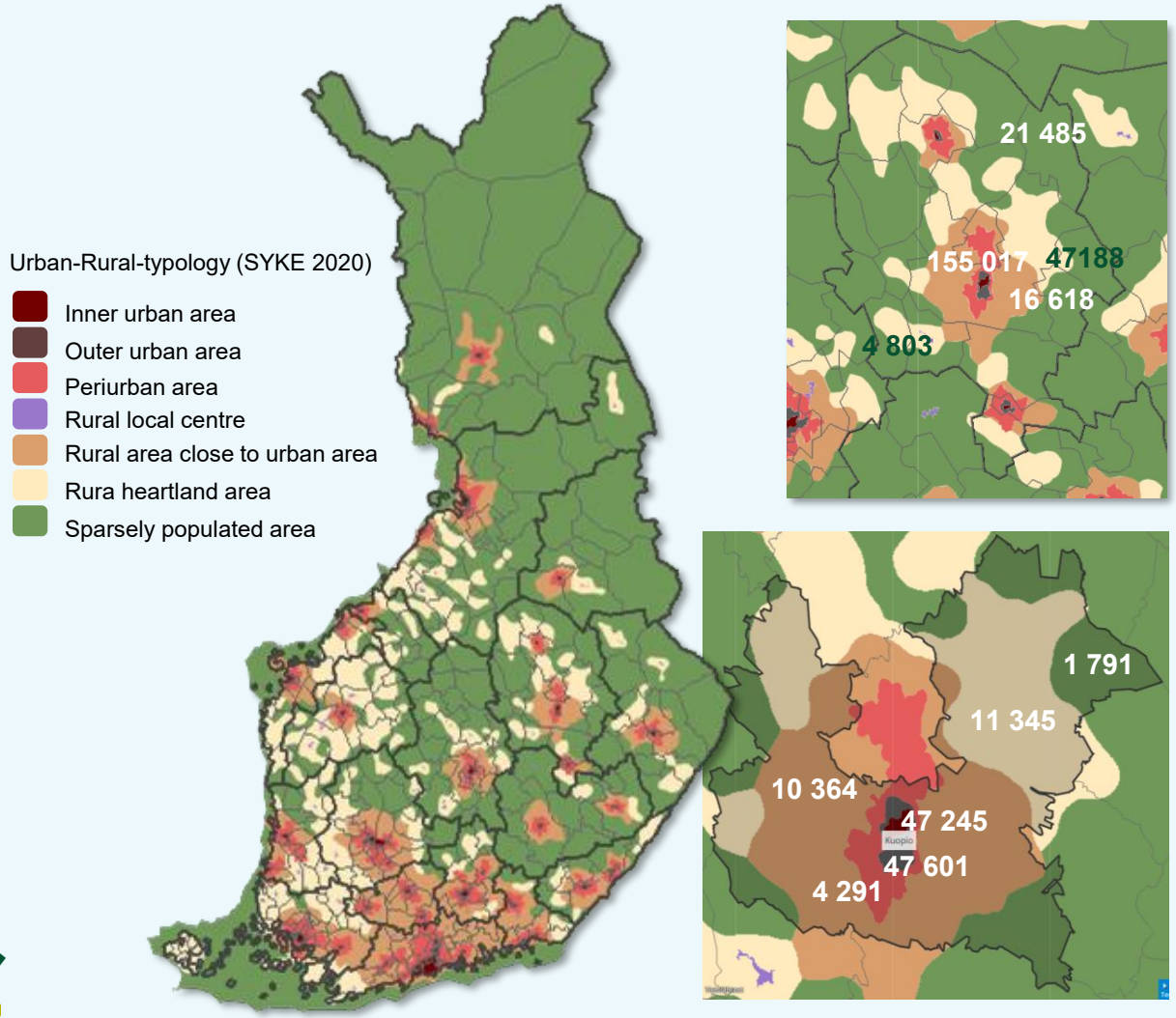
FINNISH NATIONAL RURAL PARLIAMENT

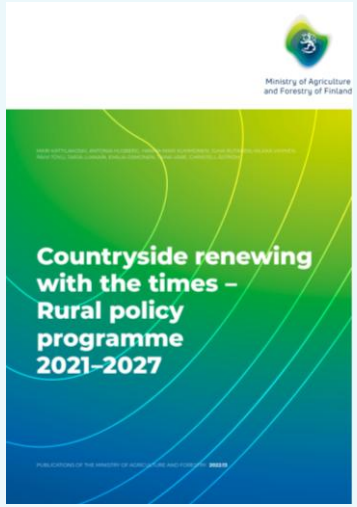
Kestävän kehityksen viikko
Hållbarhetsveckan

How does the Rural Policy Council create impact?

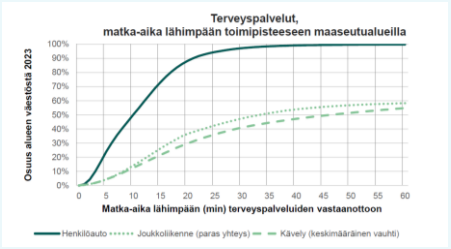
Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
• Institutional resources • Structure • Funding	• **Evidence-based knowledge** production and dissemination • Participation, **engagement** (i.e. Rural Parliament) • Policy **dialogue**, advocacy and influence • **Communication**	• Tools (Urban-Rural-typology, Rural Proofing, Rural Barometer) • Policy Strategies and programmes • Recommendations and proposals • Guidance and guidelines • Statements and position papers • Rural impact assesments • Reports and studies • Communication and outreach materials • Seminars, workshops, events, bilateral talks	• Better-informed policymaking through knowledge • Rural perspectives embedded accross policy sectors • Stronger coordination across sectors and levels of governance • Increased stakeholder engagement in rural issues • Greater public awareness and interest in rural issues • More accessible and widely available information	• Stronger competencies for addressing geographically diverse challenges and opportunities • A more comprehensive understanding of the country as a whole and its diverse place-based contexts • Greater participation of rural actors in decision-making • Improved conditions for achieving shared national goals • Stronger locally driven development and opportunities • A more just transition across urban and rural areas • More balanced urban-rural interaction and mutual understanding

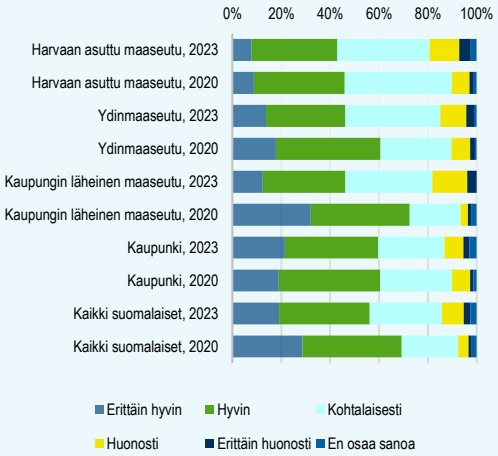
Tools: Bridging Evidence, Participation and Policy







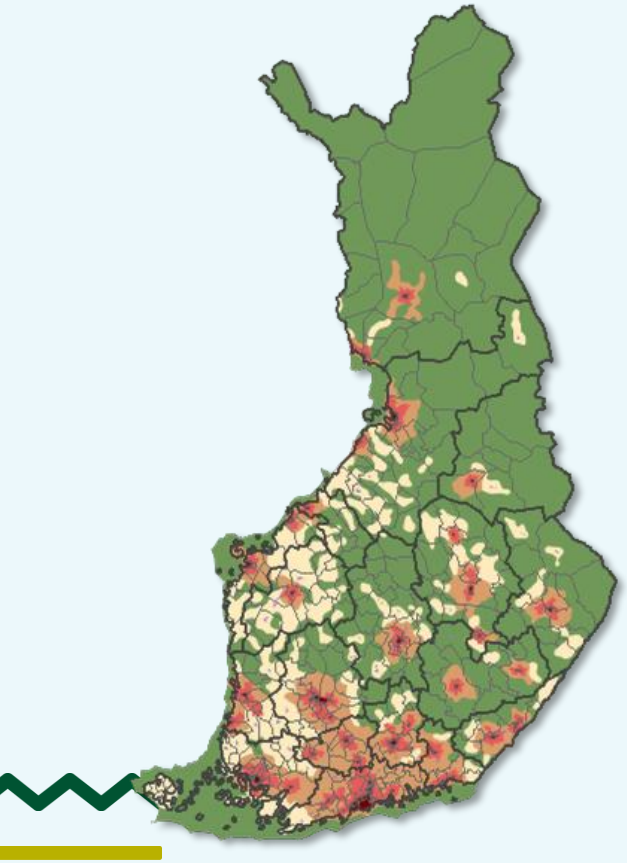




FINNISH NATIONAL RURAL PARLIAMENT

Added Value: Better-Informed Policymaking

The typology provides a common language for policy makers.





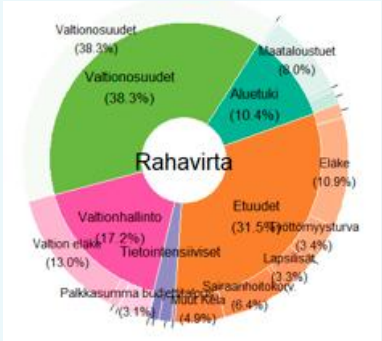
The Government Report on Rural Policy was jointly prepared by nine ministries and involved approximately 2,400 stakeholders, creating shared ownership across sectors rather than within one ministry.

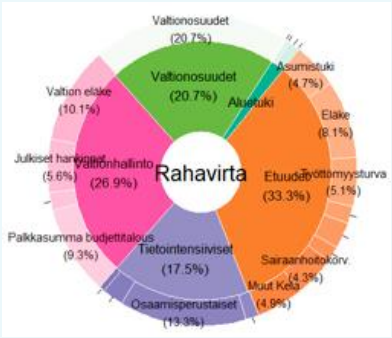
Turning local innovation into national solutions, locally emerged - scaling through national rural policy:

- Community-led broadband initiatives
- Village preparedness and resilience model
- Sustainability week
- Village Shops aid
- "ID for all"









Highlights synergies but also weak or blind spots between different funding and policies/ measures.



For the (minimum) 10% Rural Target to result in genuine rural development *rather than a statistical allocation of funds*, integrated rural strategies need both adequate funding and a permanent governance mechanism built on participation, evidence, rural proofing, interministerial coordination and multi-level governance.

Want to know more?

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