



The long-term vision for rural areas & the Rural Pact

Alexia ROUBY

European Commission – DG Agriculture and rural development

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European LEADER Congress 2023



#RuralPact



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the European Union

The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



Vice-president of EC
Demography & Democracy
Dubravka Šuica

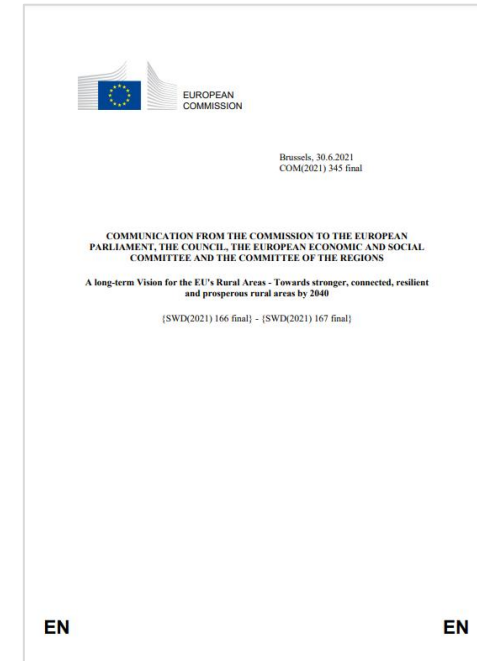


Commissioner (Agriculture)
Janusz Wojciechowski

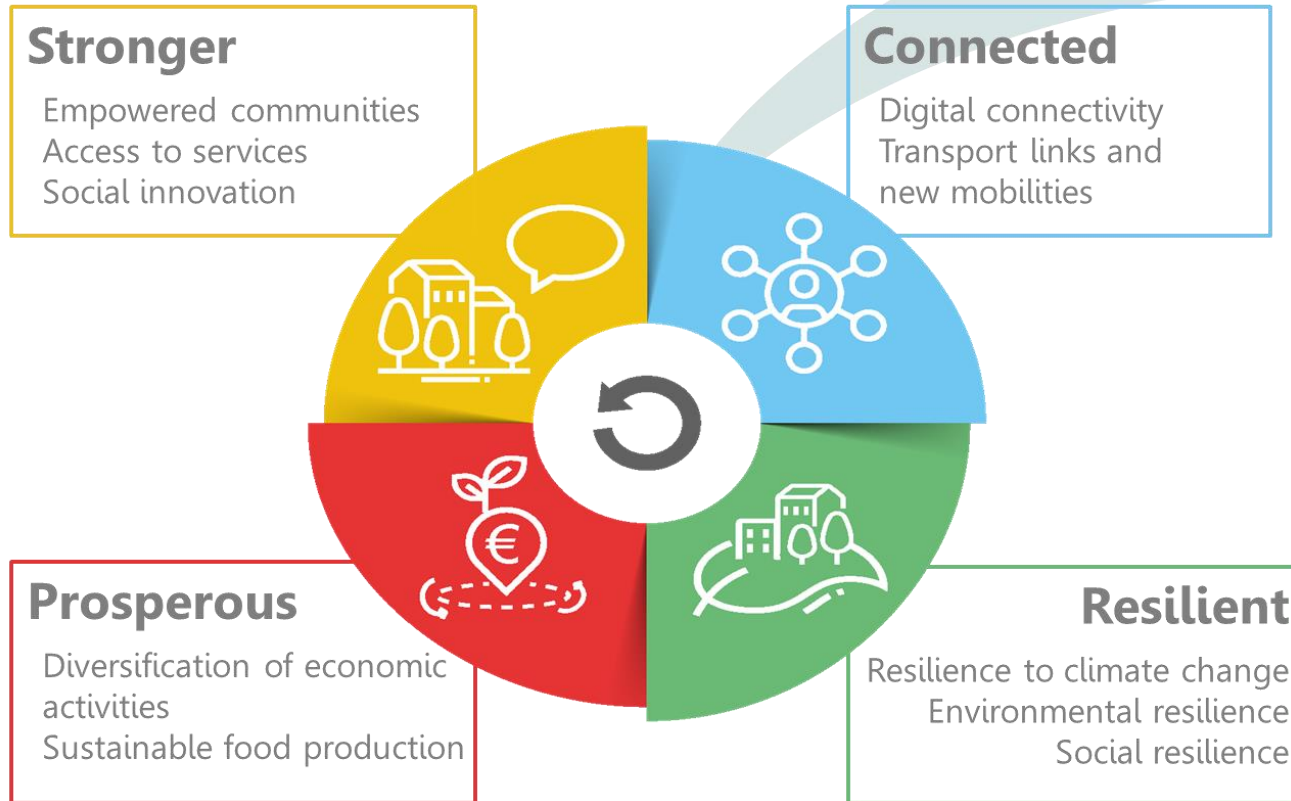


Commissioner (Cohesion and reforms)
Elisa Ferreira

Communication from the EC
(June 2021)



The rural vision by 2040



Shared goals for 2040



Rural action plan (EC) & Rural Pact (everyone)



The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

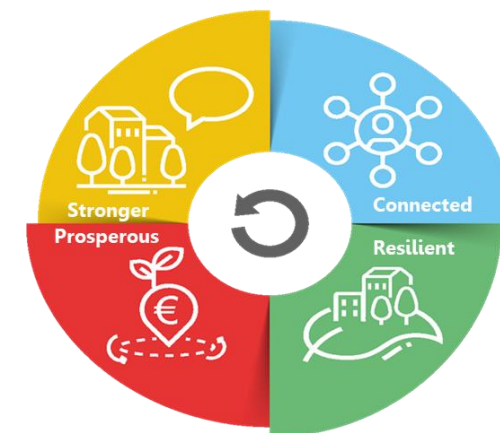
10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

9 Flagship initiatives



1. **Rural revitalisation platform**
2. **Research and innovation** for rural communities
3. Sustainable multimodal **mobility** best practices for rural areas
4. Rural **digital futures**
5. Support rural municipalities in **energy transition** and fighting climate change
6. Climate action in peatland through **carbon farming**
7. **EU mission** : a soil deal for Europe
8. **Social resilience** and **women** in rural areas
9. **Entrepreneurship** and **social economy** in rural areas



The rural action plan: 24 thematic actions



► **Rural revitalisation platform launched**

► **Research and innovation for rural communities**

- **120 M€** in **Horizon EU**
- European **Startup village forum** launched

► **Networking for LEADER** (EU CAP Network) **and Smart villages** (SmartRural21 & 27)

► **Study on land-use for sustainable agriculture** launched

► **Youth:**

- Inclusion in **ERASMUS**
- EU youth Strategy **Goal 6**
- **Study** on rural youth opportunities for learning



► **Networking on mobility for rural communities under SMARTA-NET**

► **Urban mobility framework published** & urban mobility plans being updated

► **Rural Digital Futures**

- **23,5 Bn €** invested in **connectivity**
- Pilot on digital education in remote areas "Learning from the extremes"
- **Rural digital index** published

► **Broadband competency office network renewed**

► **R&I projects for digitalisation of agriculture**



► **Rural energy communities advisory hub** (RECAH)

- **42 municipalities** received technical assistance
- **Guidance** for all

► **Certification of Carbon removals**

► **EU mission: A soil deal for Europe** (R&I calls)

► **Social resilience and Women in rural areas**

- European **care strategy** (2022) highlighting rural
- Study on **health and safety** at work for agricultural workers launched



► **Entrepreneurship and social economy (SE)**

- European social economy **action plan**
- **Good practices for rural** under "Transition pathway for proximity and social economy"
- Funding for **consortia in SE in rural areas**

► **Education for youth**

- WG education & values
- Rural under school education platform & on-line teacher community

► **Toolkit for producer groups in GIs**

► **Thematic group for forest-dominant municipalities**

The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

6 Horizontal initiatives



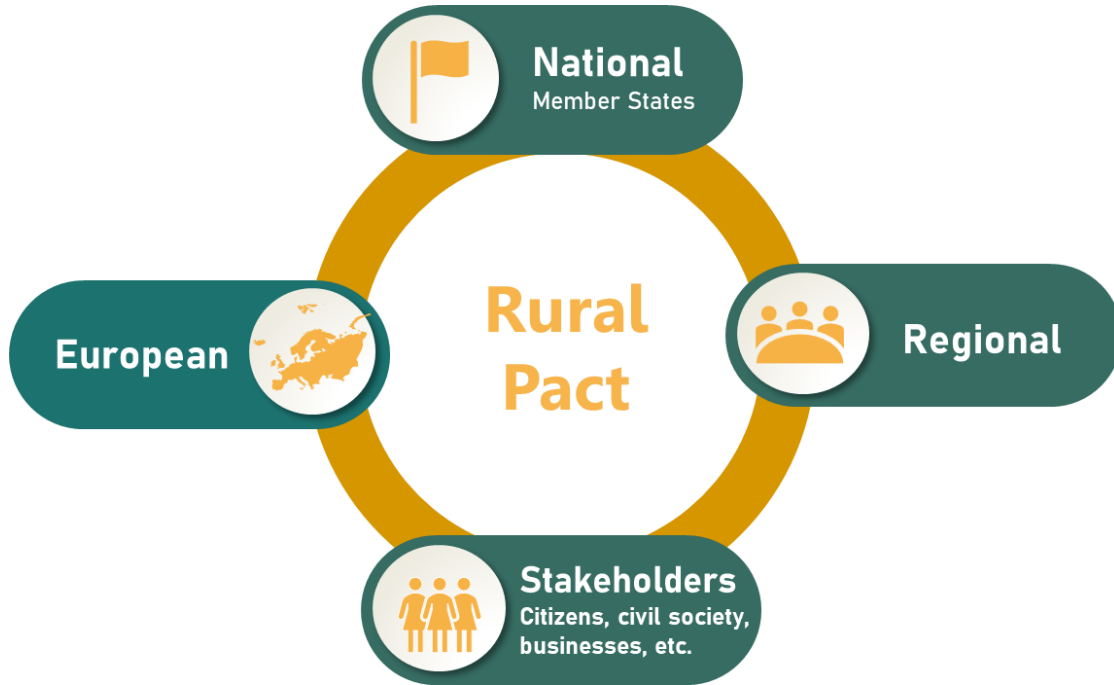
1. Rural Observatory
2. Functional Rural Areas
3. Improved Statistics
4. Rural Proofing
5. Toolkit on EU funding
6. Rural Pact

2023 Rural Observatory papers

- 1) Remote rural areas
- 2) Functional rural areas
- 3) Renewable energies in rural areas (coming soon)



The Rural Pact



What is the Rural Pact ?

The Rural Pact is a formal space and framework to boost **cooperation** between national, regional and local governments, civil society organisations, businesses, academics and citizens to act towards the shared goals of the rural vision.



Amplifying the voice of rural areas and bringing them up in policy agendas



Networking, collaboration & mutual learning



Commitments to act

The Rural Pact

All building blocks are operational

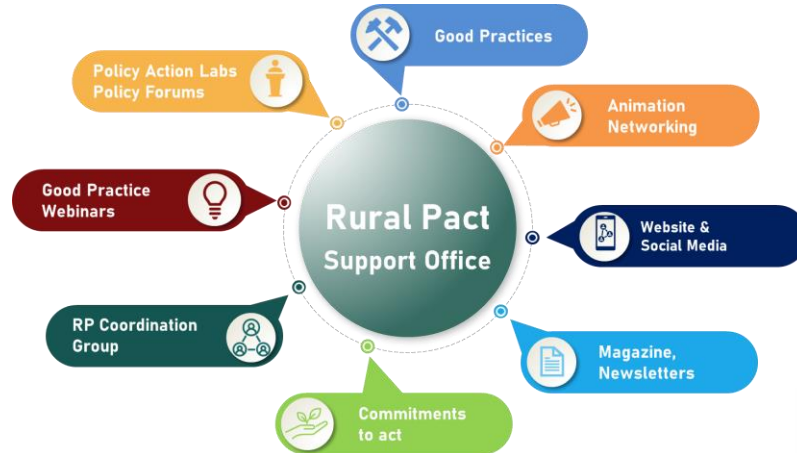


+2150

Rural Pact
Community
Members by
Nov 2023

+119

Commitments to
act



Rural pact
support
office
created
(Dec 2022)

Rural Pact
Coordination
Group



Rural pact
Coordination
group created
(June 2023)

Welcome to the Rural
Pact community platform!

Join us



Rural pact
community
platform
launched
(June 2023)

Amplifying rural voices



Spanish Presidency
of the Council of the EU



High level Rural Policy Forum

Shaping the future of rural areas

(27-29 September), Sigüenza (Spain)

Organised by Spanish presidency & European Commission with the support of the RPSO

https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events/shaping-future-rural-areas-2023-09-27_en



Council conclusions

Unanimously adopted on 20 November 2023



► Highlights:

- rural areas as **key contributors to the EU's economies and societies**
- the need for a **holistic approach** to address multifaceted challenges
- The need to make sure **rural voices are heard**
- the importance of better **connectivity and digital skills**
- the importance of **investments from EU, national, regional and local** sources

► Next steps:

- Calls on the Commission to **consider developing the vision into an EU rural strategy**, with a **comprehensive and flexible approach** and **relevant indicators**
- Encourages **Member States to further engage in the Rural Pact** and develop **strategies and actions plans at national, regional and local level** for the benefit of rural areas.

[PRESS RELEASE: A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas: Council approves conclusions - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/112023-council-concludes-rural-pact/)



Be informed, participate and take action



Steps

1

Join the Rural Pact Community

Form: <https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member>

2

Take action contributing to the vision & share it with us

Form:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TheRuralPactCommitmentCanvas>





THANK YOU

Rural Pact Community – Join us
<https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member>



<https://rural-vision.europa.eu/>

