

# The Rural Toolkit in a nutshell

Giulia Testori, Joint Research Centre – Unit B.3 Territorial Development

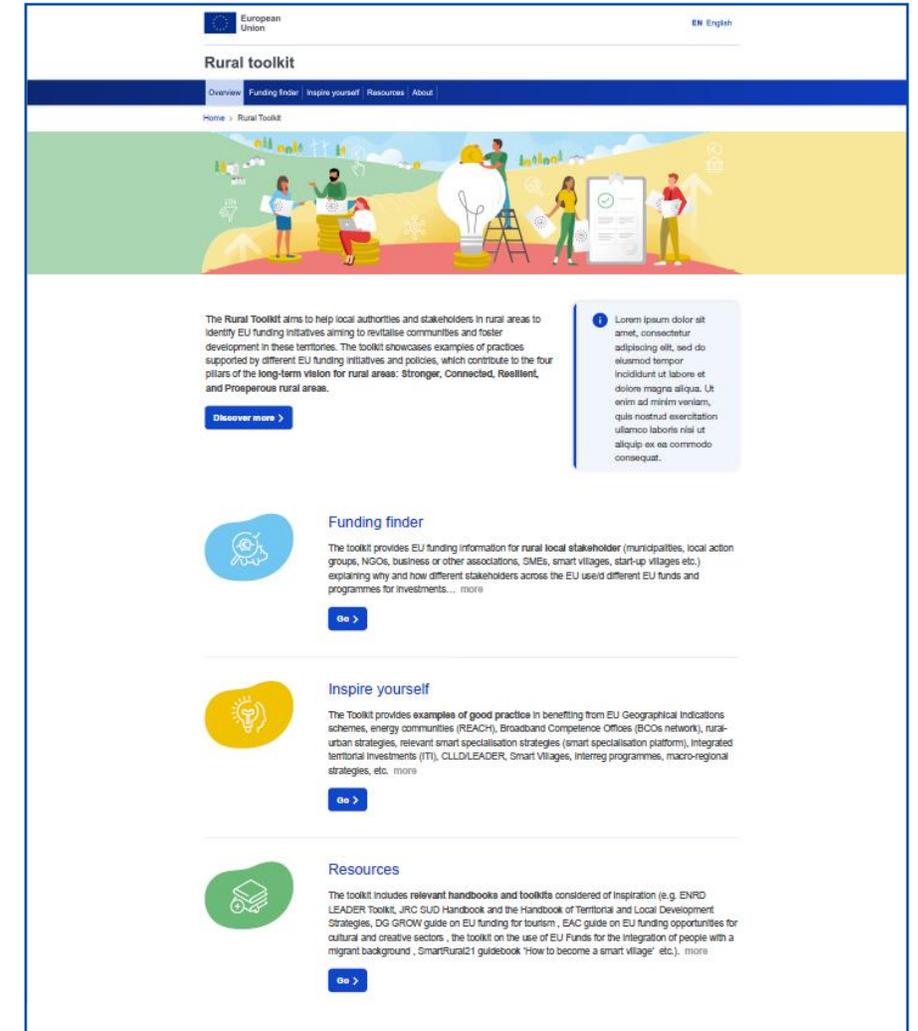
Civil dialogue group CAP implementation 14 September 2023

# Main info

The Rural toolkit is an **online dashboard** of funding opportunities for rural development

Hosted under the **Rural Vision platform** (together with the Rural Observatory)

Preliminary version released internally in **October 2023**. Final version **December 2023**.



Where it will be hosted: <https://rural-vision.europa.eu/action-plan/cross-cutting/toolkit>

# Background

**Policy framework:** the long-term vision for the EU's rural areas (LTVRA)

**Policy need:** local actors in rural areas - with limited administrative capacity - encounter challenges in finding, understanding, using and combining EU funding opportunities

**Target:** local authorities and other stakeholders in rural areas

**Focus:** funding opportunities, programmes initiatives by all relevant DGs and agencies

**Promoters:** DG REGIO +JRC in collaboration with DG AGRI (and with the support of other DGs) – preparatory work prior the AA (ISG LTVRA 10/11/22 – JRC workshop 18/11/22)

# DGs involved and team

**JRC:** collect information, analyse data, carry out data processing and testing, develop and maintain the dashboard

Implementing team: Giulia Testori (project leader), Terry Stavropoulos, Pier Saraceno, Carmelo Attardo, Glauco Prina (ext). Plus supporting team and synergies with other projects. Communication responsables: Elisa Bazzani and Gabriel Resende

**DG REGIO:** collaborate in collecting, producing and analysing information, facilitate the required data, coordinate with DG AGRI, DG COMM and DG DIGIT the web presence of the online dashboard

Responsible officer: Merja Haapakka

**DG AGRI:** Advise on funding related on agriculture and rural development, facilitate the linkage with the LTVRA

Reference officer: Alexia Rouby



# Objectives of the Rural toolkit

Be a **guide** on the **different funding opportunities** offered by the 2021-2027 budget, **centralising information** in one web tool

Provide a framework on how to trigger **revitalisation of rural areas**, giving special attention to **integrated territorial and local development strategies**

Be **accessible** to **rural local actors**

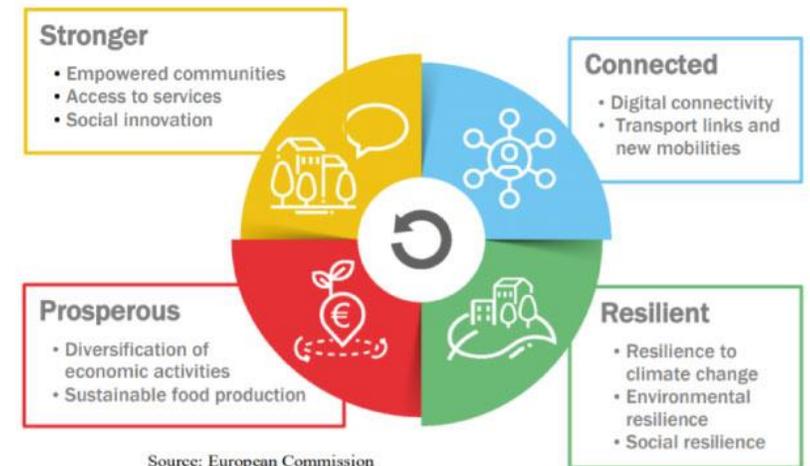
Be written in plain language, **easy to understand**

Provide inspirational solutions and **examples**

# Key aspects that characterize the toolkit

The final aim is that of **promoting revitalisation and sustainable local development** to tackle existing challenges, and unleash the potential of **rural areas**:

- Support to **place-based policy in rural areas**
- Promote **integrated actions** (in the 4 areas of the LTVRA) and **combination of funding sources**
- **Target rural local stakeholders** (municipalities, local action groups, smart villages, start-up villages, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, etc.)



# Exploring the current version of toolkit



<https://shorturl.at/jsvFP>

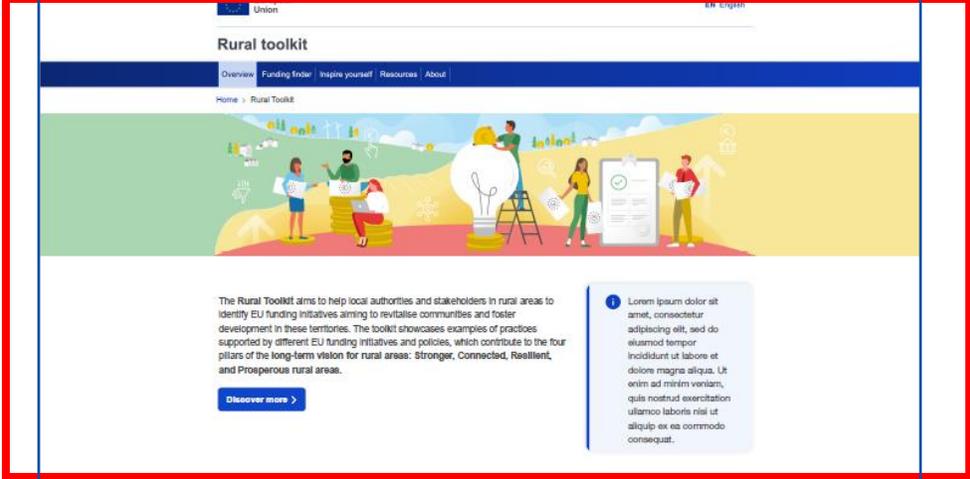
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pwd : **5THSjGPPWEvAF342**

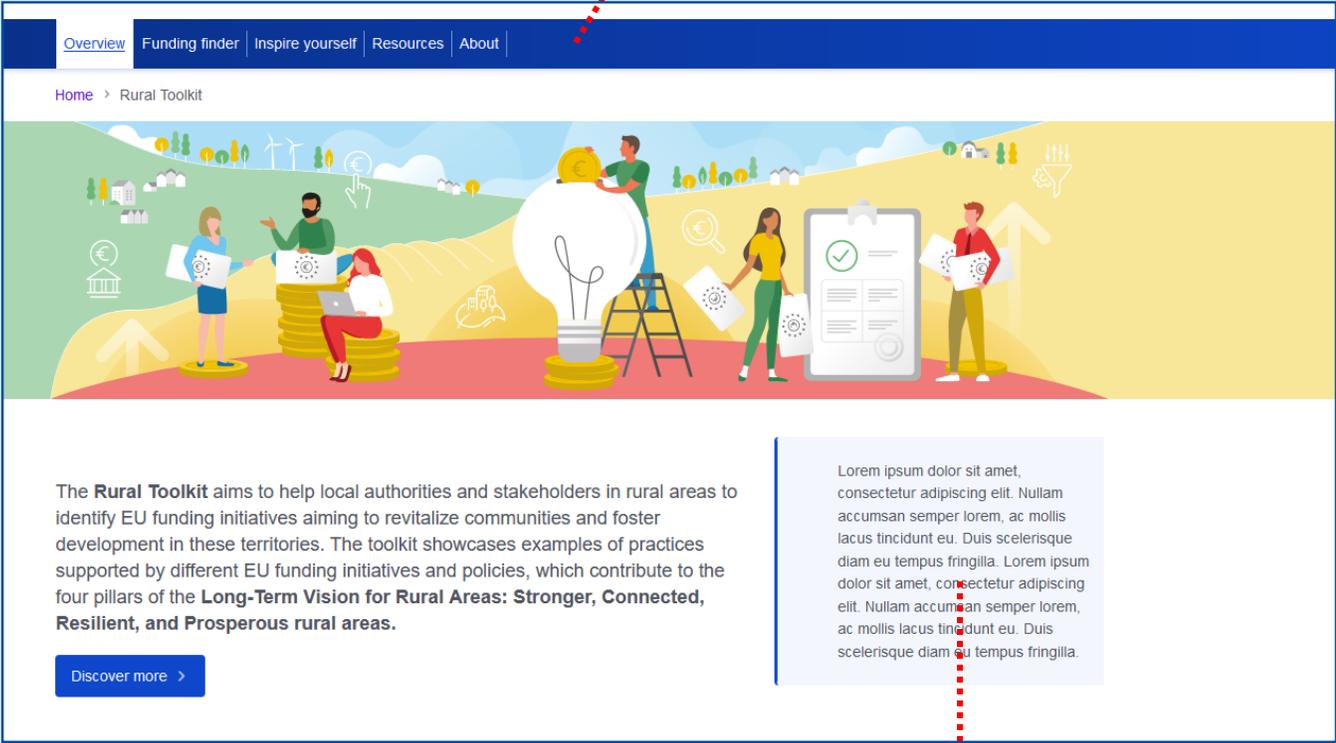


**Passwords NOT to be shared externally**

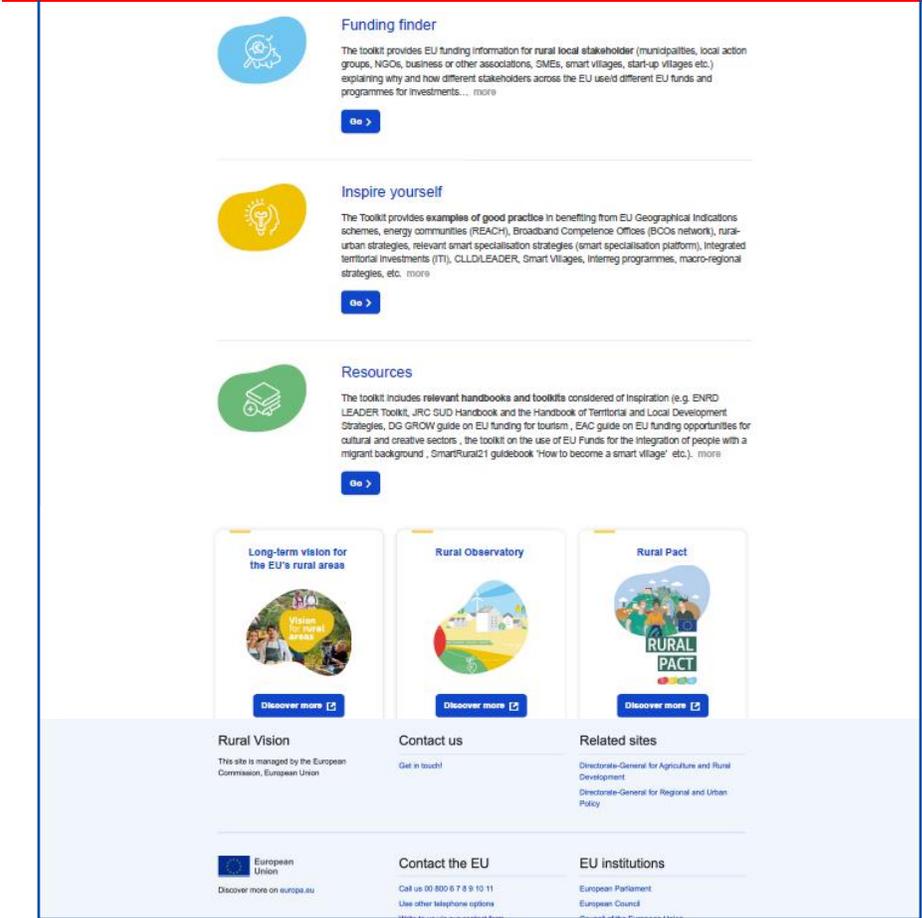
Later it will be hosted: <https://rural-vision.europa.eu/action-plan/cross-cutting/toolkit>



There will be a Q&A and glossary section



Explanatory and promotional video



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# Rural toolkit

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The Rural Toolkit aims to help local authorities and stakeholders in rural areas to identify EU funding initiatives aiming to revitalise communities and foster development in these territories. The toolkit showcases examples of practices supported by different EU funding initiatives and policies, which contribute to the four pillars of the long-term vision for rural areas: Stronger, Connected, Resilient, and Prosperous rural areas.

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**1** Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

**Funding finder**

The toolkit provides EU funding information for rural local stakeholder (municipalities, local action groups, NGOs, business or other associations, SMEs, smart villages, start-up villages etc.) explaining why and how different stakeholders across the EU used different EU funds and programmes for investments... [more](#)

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**Inspire yourself**

The Toolkit provides examples of good practice in benefiting from EU Geographical Indications schemes, energy communities (REACH), Broadband Competence Offices (BCOs network), rural-urban strategies, relevant smart specialisation strategies (smart specialisation platform), Integrated territorial investments (ITI), CLLD/LEADER, Smart Villages, Interreg programmes, macro-regional strategies, etc. [more](#)

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**Resources**

The toolkit includes relevant handbooks and toolkits considered of inspiration (e.g. ENRD LEADER toolkit, JRC GUID Handbook and the Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies, DG-GROW guide on EU funding for tourism, EAC guide on EU funding opportunities for cultural and creative sectors, the toolkit on the use of EU Funds for the integration of people with a migrant background, SmartRural21 guidebook 'How to become a smart village' etc.). [more](#)

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# Funding finder

Financing opportunities ( 28 )

Tailor your search

**What kind of rural stakeholder are you?** [Close](#)

Please select only one option

- Academic institution
- Association of civil society
- Business/SME (including farmer)
- Cooperative
- Energy community
- Individual citizen
- Local Action Group
- Local authority/Public entity
- NGO

**What type of activities are you looking to fund?** [Open +](#)

**What type of activities are you looking to fund?** [Open +](#)

**Which type of support are you looking for?** [Open +](#)

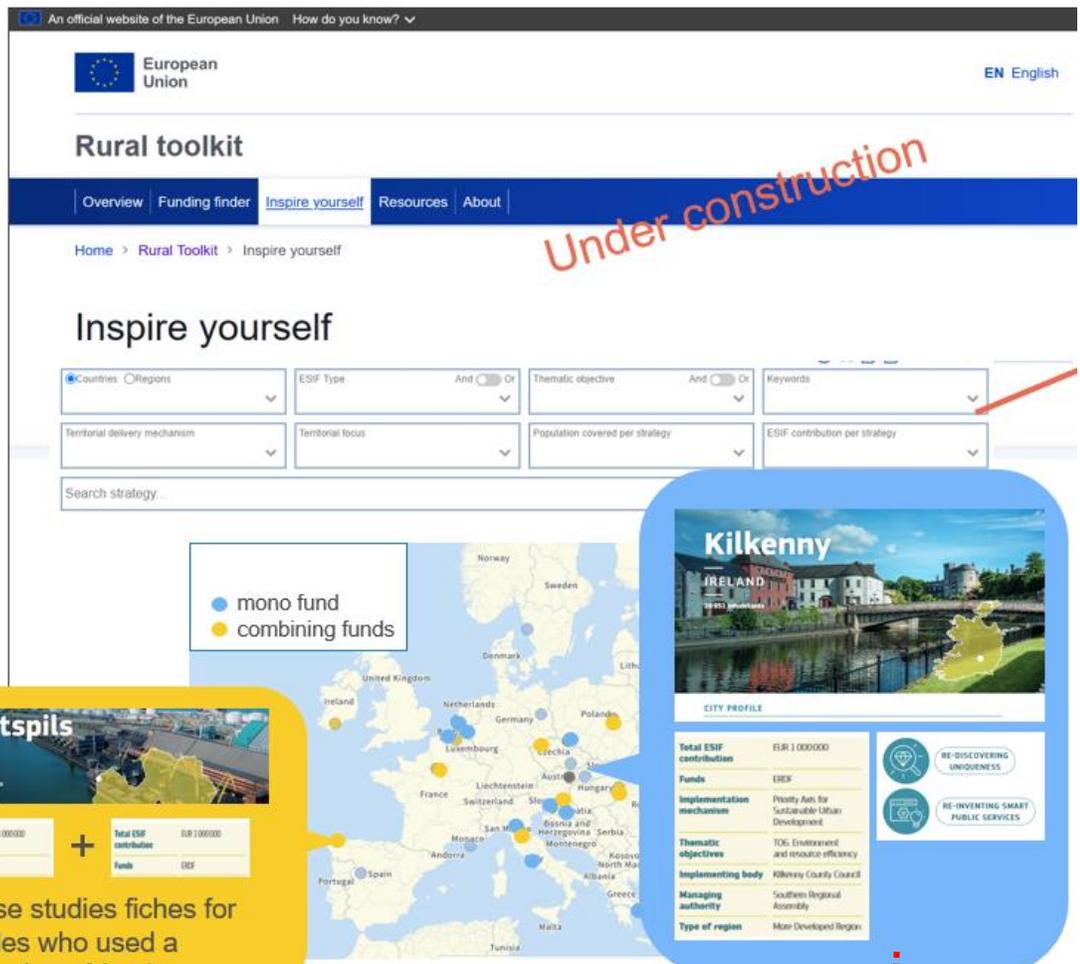
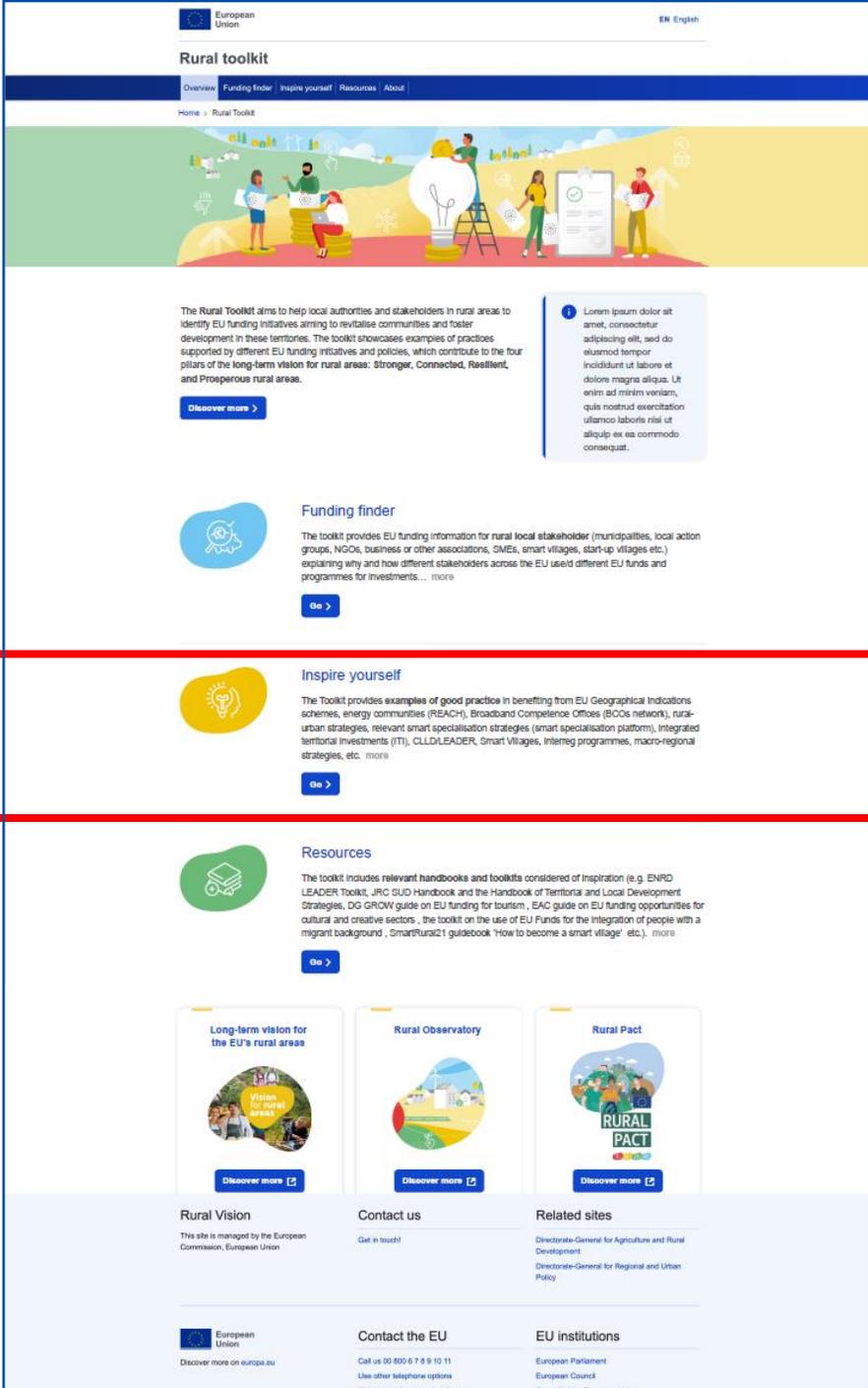
**EU level initiatives to which you can apply directly**

EIT	SMP - SME Pillar	RECAH
CERV	LIFE	SMP - EUROCLUSTERS
Horizon Europe Cluster 2	5GSC	b-solutions
EUTeens4Green	JTP GROUNDWORK and PFFRS	CREA
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**EU initiatives to which you can apply via your National/Regional authority**

European Solidarity Corps	AMIF	Erasmus+
JTF	EMFAF	ERDF
ESF+	Interreg	CF
EAFRD-ENVCLIM	EAFRD-ANC	EAFRD-INVEST
EAFRD-KNOW	EAFRD-COOP	EAFRD

Live demo



Under construction

Filtering

Full case studies fiches for examples who used a combination of funds

Simpler ID cards with key info on successful project using mono-fund

Fiches combining funds



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## Resources

This section of the Rural Toolkit collects detailed guides on the EU funding opportunities available in 2021-2027 for some specific sectors: broadband, culture, education, energy, environment and tourism. In addition, in this section it is possible to find guidance on the integrated approach to local development, with the final aim of helping rural communities in designing and implementing integrated strategies and projects (e.g. CLLDs and ITIs).

**The Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies**

The Handbook of Territorial and Local Development Strategies provides valuable knowledge on how to design and implement integrated strategies in areas other than urban. It aims to serve managing authorities of operational programmes, local authorities and as well as other stakeholders involved in the process.

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**EU funding for Broadband**

This brochure features an overview of the funding and financial tools made available by the European Commission to boost broadband investment in the European Union. The goal is to achieve the ambitious targets to advance digital transformation and implement the vision for a Europe fit for the digital age.

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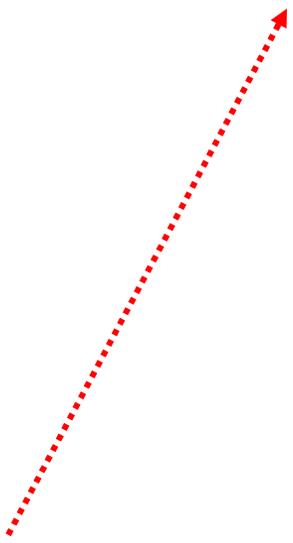
**The CulturEU funding guide**

The CulturEU funding guide provides an overview of all EU programmes which are relevant for the cultural and creative stakeholders, including key information on who can apply and how, as well as the kinds of activities supported. The guide covers opportunities linked to the European Commission's flagship programme Creative Europe, which will provide €2.44 billion of support across 2021-2027.

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**EU funding opportunities for Education and Training**

This guide provides a description of funding programmes and instruments that could support



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## About



### Why a funding guide for rural areas?

While not explicitly designed for rural development, numerous EU funding programs and initiatives can play a significant role in revitalising and enhancing the quality of life in rural areas. However, identifying the **right source of funding or support** and how to make the best use of it can be challenging.

The Rural toolkit aims to facilitate local institutions, businesses, associations and individuals in rural areas to navigate the diverse EU funding and support options, and to take full advantage of them.



### How is the Rural toolkit helpful?

The toolkit provides a **unique entry point to all existing initiatives**, with comprehensive information on available resources, and explains why these are relevant for rural areas.

Practical examples featured on the platform encourage knowledge sharing and peer learning among rural communities. The Get inspired section offers **insights on successful initiatives** implemented in rural areas across the EU, and **on how to combine EU funds** effectively to maximise their impact and **address specific local needs**.

Within the toolkit, users will find a range of valuable resources including **handbooks and guidance on EU funding opportunities**. These resources equip users and applicants with the knowledge and tools needed to address the unique challenges facing rural areas, with an effective, integrated and place-based approach.



### What funding opportunities are available?

The toolkit offers a gateway to various EU Funding and Financing initiatives, categorised into 3 main groups:

<b>Direct funding</b>	<a href="#">Open +</a>
<b>Indirect and shared funding</b>	<a href="#">Open +</a>
<b>Financial instruments</b>	<a href="#">Open +</a>

# Thank you

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