



The implementation of the Rural Action Plan as part of the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

Silvia Nanni (EC DG AGRI)

Civil dialogue group CAP and Horizontal matters

Brussels, 14/09/2023



The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



Vice-president of EC
Demography & Democracy
Dubravka Šuica

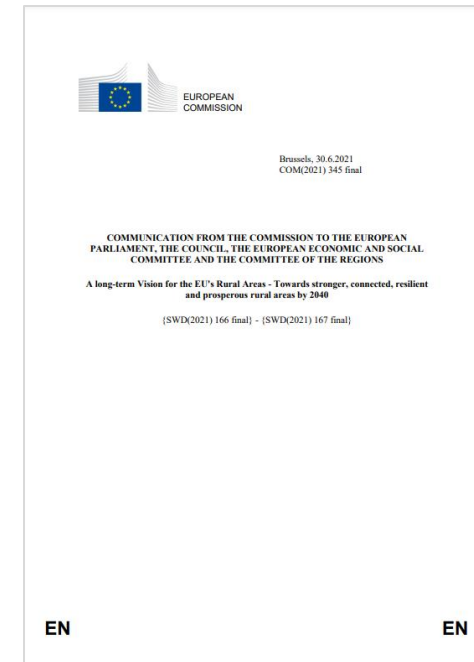


Commissioner (Agriculture)
Janusz Wojciechowski



Commissioner (Cohesion and reforms)
Elisa Ferreira

Communication from the EC
(June 2021)



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



LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

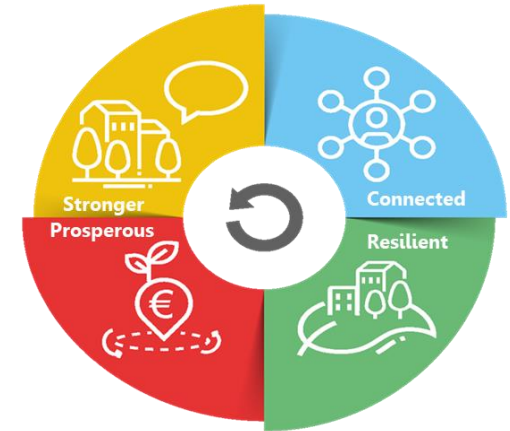
10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

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

- Enabling factors, self-assessment tool
- Launch 29 June 2023



► Research and innovation for rural communities

- Horizon 2021-2024 launched (120 M€)
- Startup village forum
- EIP-AGRI, RIS3
- Horizon 2025-2027



► Education and youth

- Study on rural young people access to ERASMUS and ESCP



► Sustainable multimodal **mobility** best practices for rural areas

- SMARTA NET Networking for municipalities



► Urban mobility framework published

► Rural Digital Futures

- Horizon + DEP WP published
- EDIH
- Digital skills and jobs platform
- Pilots on digital education for children in remote areas
- 5G for smart com.
- Rural digital index



► Rural municipalities in **energy** transition & Climate change

- Rural energy communities advisory hub



► Climate action in **peatland /carbon farming**

- Comm "Sustainable C cycles"
- 3 LIFE projects
- Just transition fund
- CAP assessments
- Certif.C removals



► EU mission: A soil deal for Europe

- Calls published



► Entrepreneurship and **social economy**

- Clusters of social and ecologic innovation (rural focus) report published – study by RTD
- Euroclusters call
- European cluster collaboration platform
- Transition pathway for proximity and social economy



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

- European care strategy (2022)

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



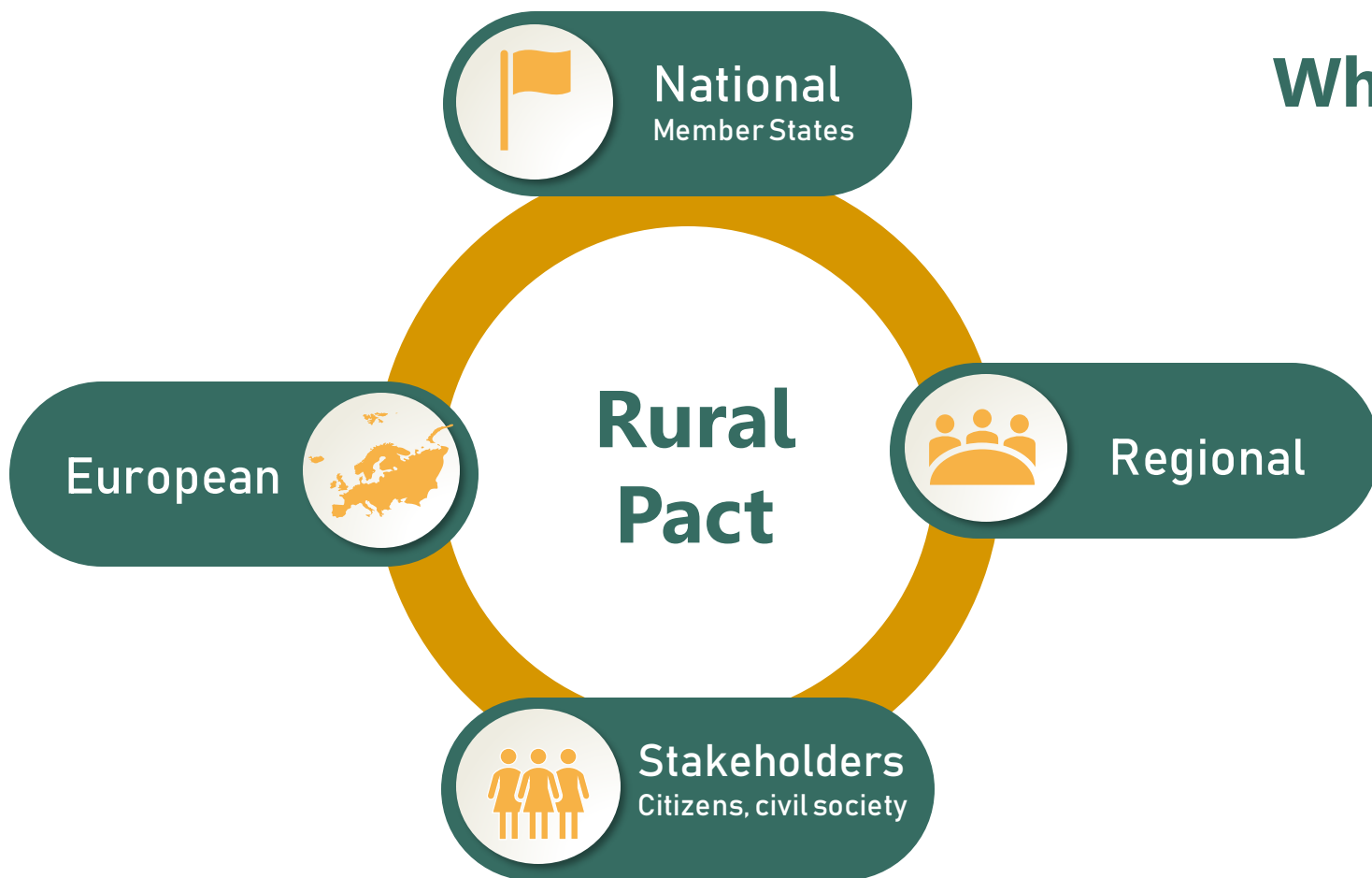
1. Rural Observatory
2. Functional Rural Areas
3. Improved Statistics
4. Rural Proofing
5. Toolkit on EU funding
6. Rural Pact

2023 Rural Observatory papers

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



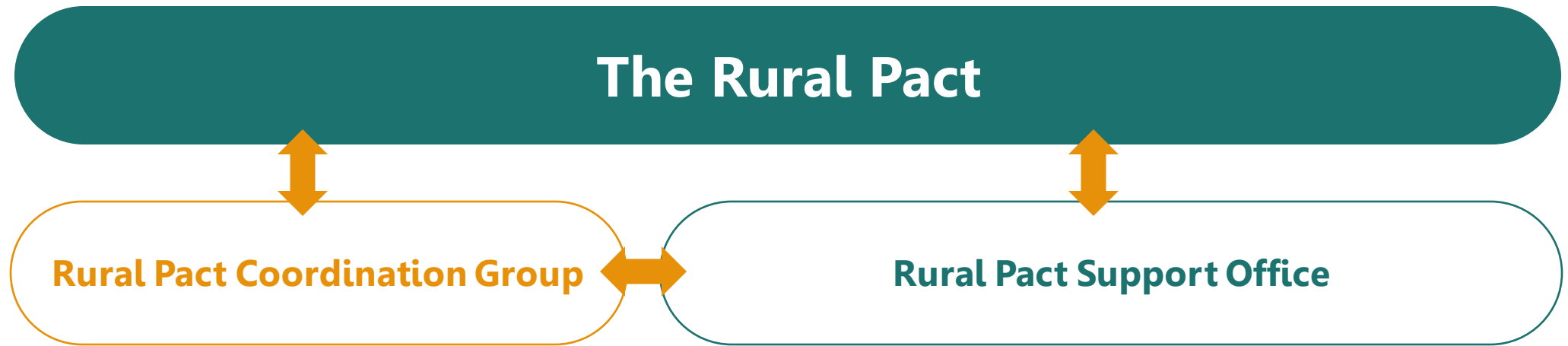
The Rural Pact



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.

Rural Pact Support Office & Rural Pact Coordination Group



- Informal group steering the Rural Pact process
- Three-year mandate
- Learn more [here](#)

- Provide facilitation services to the Rural Pact community
- Networking and information
- Build synergies with networks and governing bodies
- Evaluate needs of the RP community and support its work

Main Rural Pact Events in 2023



Policy Labs

- ▶ Taking action to tackle **rural depopulation**, Brussels, Belgium **(29 June)**
- ▶ Online - Designing **future support** for rural areas **(14 December)**



Good Practice Webinars

- ▶ Fostering **social entrepreneurship** in rural areas through local action **(11 May)**
- ▶ Strengthening **digital skills of rural people to benefit** from the digital era **(8 June)**
- ▶ **Energy transition** **(24 October)**
- ▶ **Access to health care** **(End November – tbc)**



https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events_en



Main Rural Pact Events in 2023



Spanish Presidency
of the Council of the EU



High level Policy Forum

Shaping the future of rural areas

(27-29 September), Sigüenza (Spain)

Organised by Spanish presidency & European Commission

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





THANK YOU

Rural Pact Community – Join us

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

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The Rural Pact Community Platform

Marie Lambert (EC DG AGRI)

Civil dialogue group CAP and Horizontal matters

Brussels, 14/09/2023



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



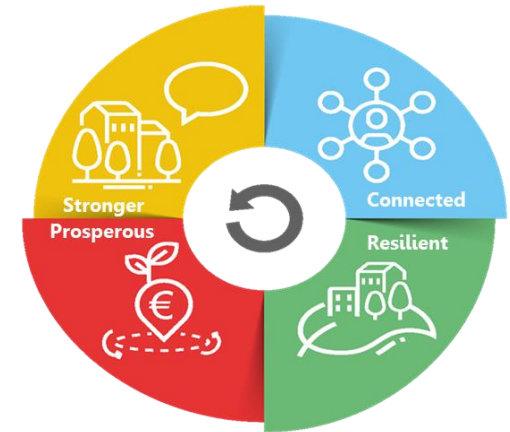
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The rural revitalisation platform...

... as part of the Rural Pact community platform



This is your space

Find the latest information about the [Rural Pact](#) and [rural revitalisation](#), connect with your peers and get inspired!

Go and check the existing “[Community Groups](#)” to discuss the topics of your interest. Or create one to gather all the actors around one place or one topic.

We wish you an inspiring discovery of all the good things happening in rural Europe.

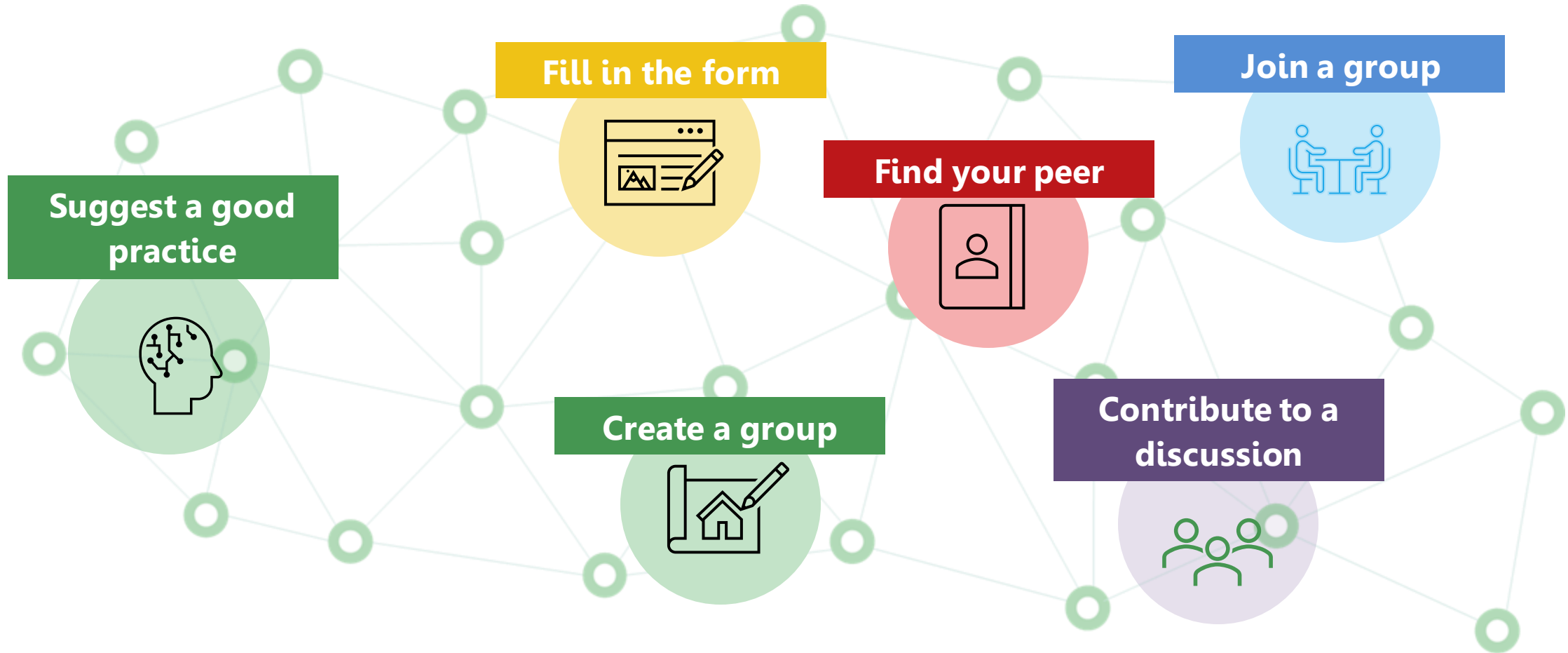
The platform - Objectives



- Stay informed
- Connect with each other
- Exchange and interact

Let's deep dive into it!

How can you contribute?



This tool is designed for you = Make the best use out of it!



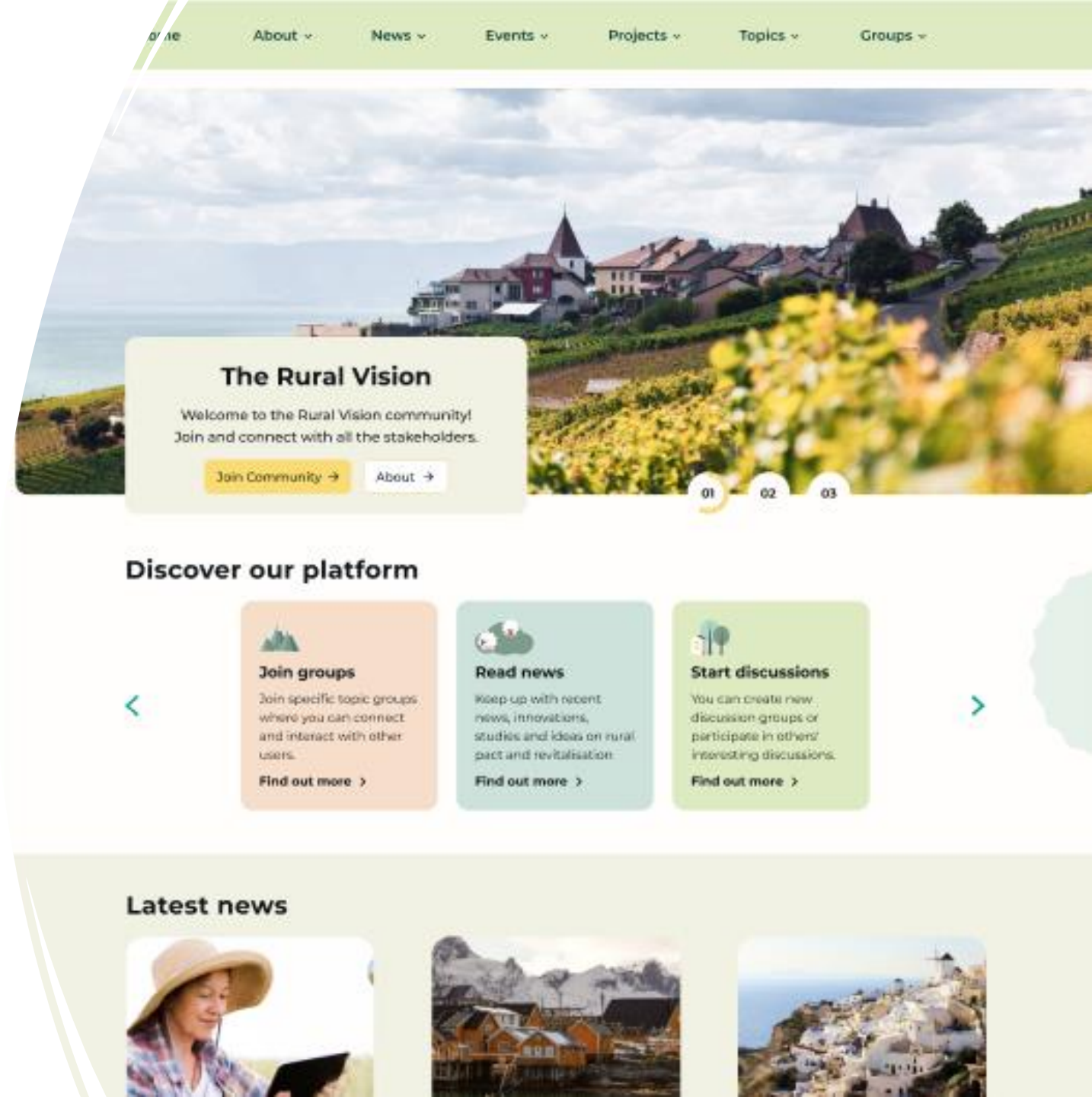
Join us! [Become a member of the Rural Pact | Rural Pact Platform \(europa.eu\)](https://ruralpact.europa.eu)

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Work in progress...



Hot topics



Climate Change



Smart villages



Women
Empowerment



Rural growth



Sustainable
energy

See more →



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Be informed, participate and take action



Steps

1

Join the Rural Pact Community

Form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>

2

Take action contributing to the vision & share it with us

Form:

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





Taking stock of how the Common Agricultural Policy strategic plans contribute to the objectives of the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

Alexia Rouby (EC DG AGRI)

Civil dialogue group CAP and Horizontal matters

Brussels, 14/09/2023



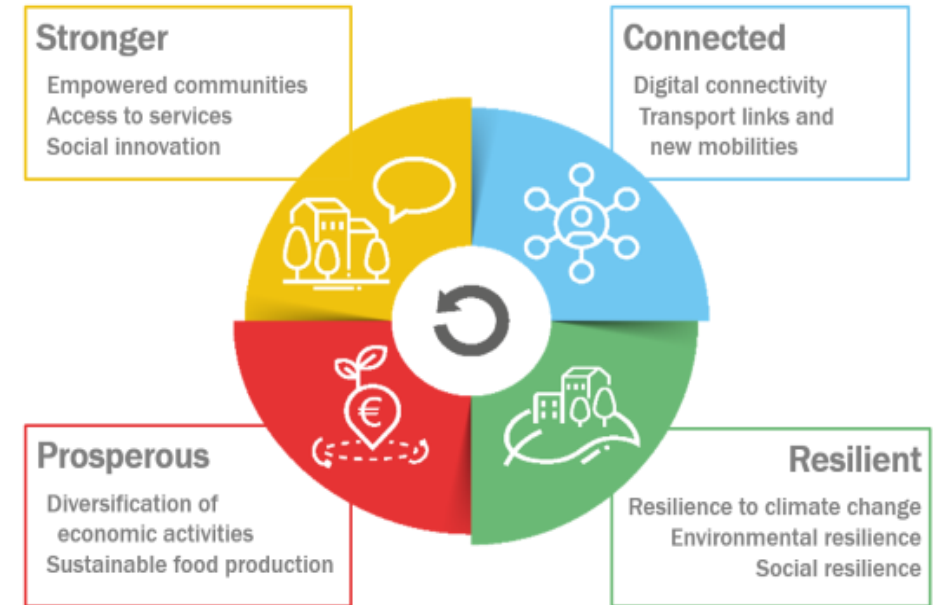
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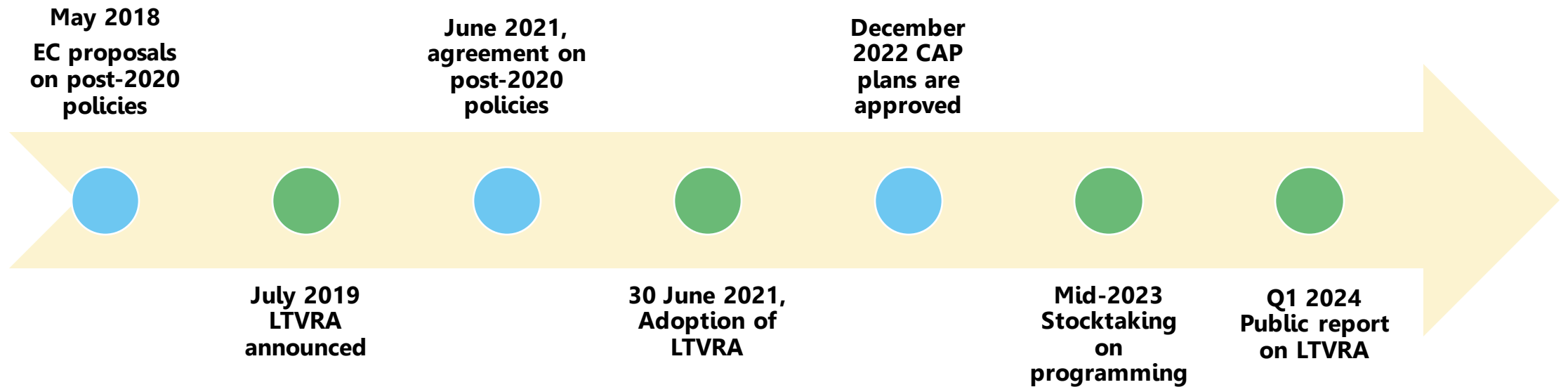
Contents

- ▶ Recalling the timeline
- ▶ Method and approach
- ▶ Most relevant interventions
- ▶ Contribution to the four blocks of action
- ▶ Complementarities and synergies
- ▶ Conclusions



*Scope not exactly
the same as for
Specific objective 8*

Policy and rural vision timelines



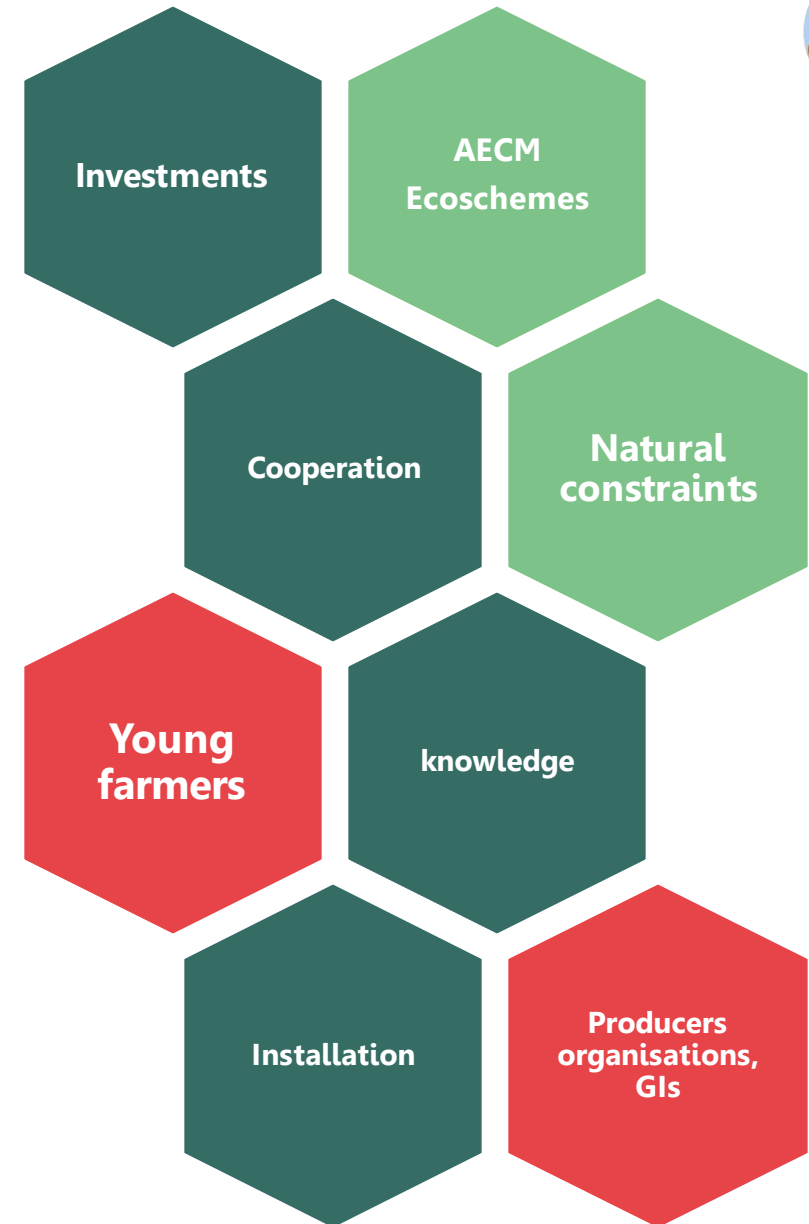
Method and approach



- ▶ Based on the **screening and mapping** of choices made by Member States as they appear in 28 CAP strategic plans
- ▶ Looks at what was **programmed** (execution only starting)
- ▶ **LEADER**: selection of local development strategies will complete the picture (but only in 2024-2025)
- ▶ The **whole CAP is relevant for rural areas**, because agriculture & forestry mostly happen in rural areas...
- ▶ ... yet study focused on **direct contribution to rural areas beyond farming**
- ▶ Approach to programming highly **variable**: this is a « **big picture** »

Interventions

- ▶ Screened all interventions (Pillar 1 and 2) for relevant elements e.g.:
 - Beneficiaries others than producers
 - Territorial objectives
 - Specific scope
- ▶ Four main types interventions
- ▶ Interventions supporting farmers only
 - Only where consistent with the scope of the rural vision (**resilient**, **prosperous**)
 - Financial allocations not included
- ▶ Differentiation using output indicators



Contribution to the rural vision blocks



Stronger – Empowerment, services, innovation, youth

LEADER (all MS – 13 with focus on youth)

Smart villages (most MS!) + others "health)

Investments in **infrastructures and services** (21 MS)

or in **cultural heritage**

*Supporting **knowledge and innovation**
(mostly agriculture, 7 MS broader)*

Connected – Physical and digital connectivity

Smart villages

***Innovation and knowledge** support for digital
solutions (mainly agriculture & forestry)*

Investments in **broadband** (4 MS)

Few on **mobility**: rural roads (2 MS),
and collective buses (1 MS)

Prosperous – Economy

Generation renewal in farming

Business start-up (8 MS beyond farming)

Cooperation (LEADER & other) and investments for:

- **Diversification** of farmers activities
- **Food and bioeconomy** value chains
- **Tourism** (small-scale)

Knowledge for rural entrepreneurs

Resilient – Environment and social

Greening agriculture and forestry

(Ecoschemes and agro-environment climate)

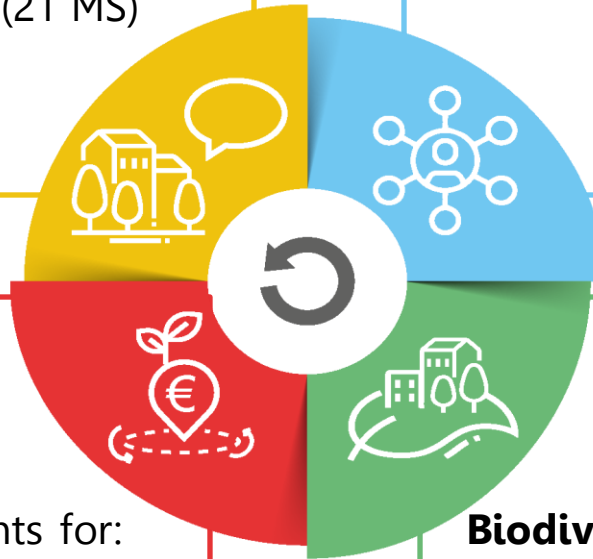
Biodiversity & landscapes (Natural parks, Natura 2000)

Areas facing natural constraints

Investments in **energy**

Inclusion: measures for **elderly** (4 MS), **minorities**,
migrants and **refugees** (4MS), people at risk of **poverty**

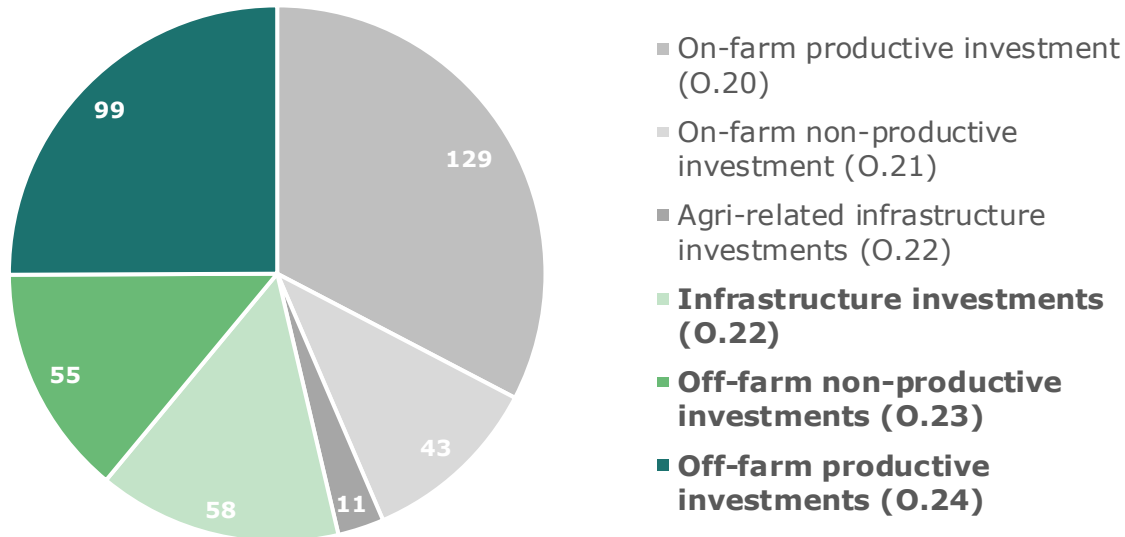
Gender in farming (50% of MS)



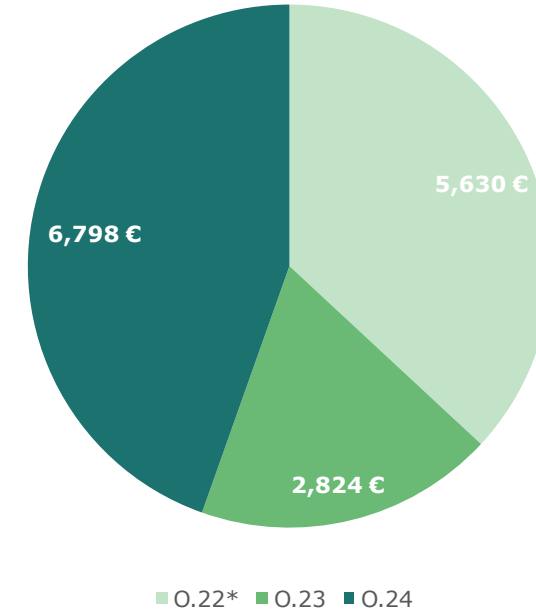
Investments



Nb of interventions



Total financial allocation (million EUR)



► **Focus on off-farm and infrastructure investments:**

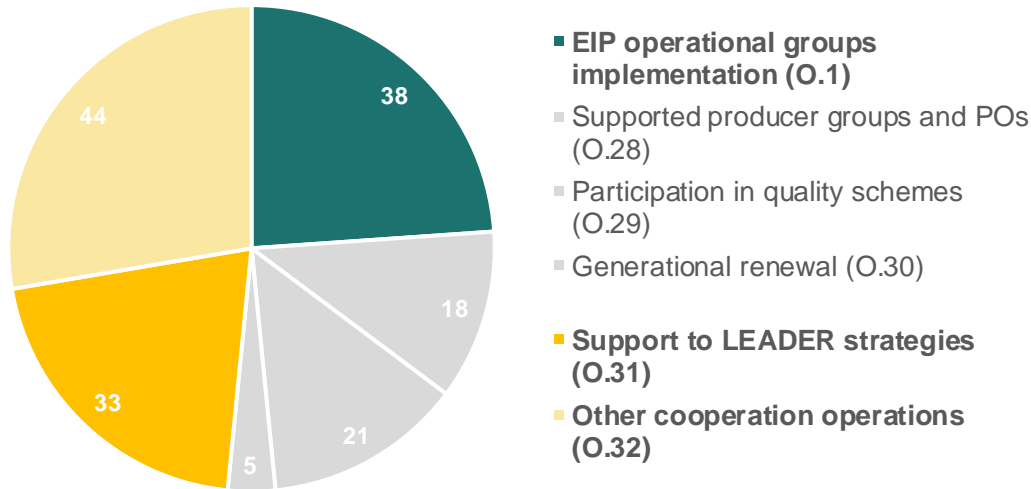
- **223 interventions (56%) – €15,2 bn (49%)**
- Infrastructures non-agri related (O.22) > €5,6 bn
- Off-farm productive and non-productive > €9,6 bn

'Preserve & restore cultural heritage'
(BG, SI)
General public infrastructure, basic services
Social and health services (AT, BE-W)

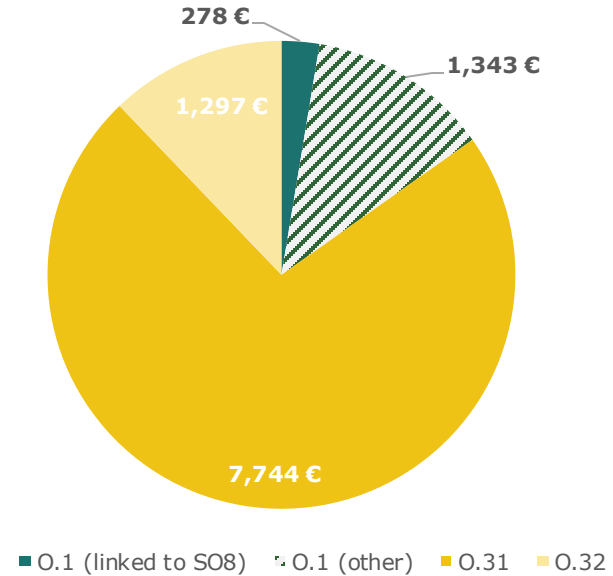
Cooperation



Nb of interventions



Total financial allocation (million EUR)



- ▶ Most relevant types of cooperation
 - **LEADER** (33 interventions) – **€7,7 bn**
 - « **Other** » (44 interventions) – **€1,3 bn**
 - **EIP operational groups** (7 interventions linked to specific objective 8) – **€278 Mio**

Cooperation for health and social work (BE-W)

Testing new products or businesses (FI, FR)

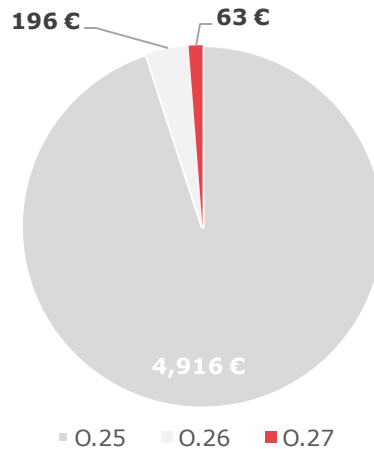
Smart villages

Investments in '**basic and other services**' (CZ, IE, LV, RO)
or **sustainable energy**' (LV)

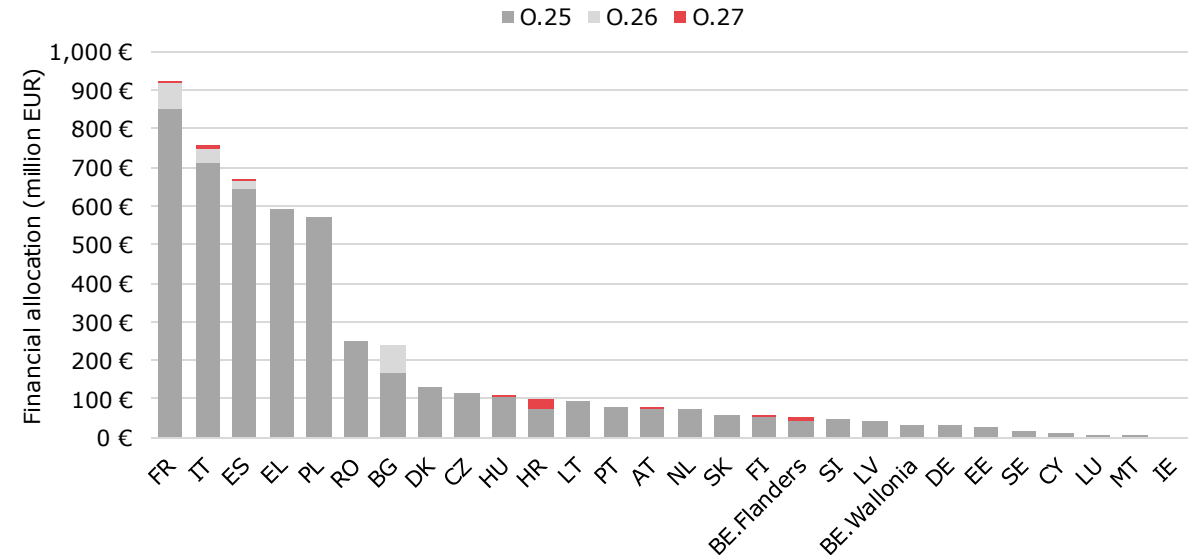
Installation



Total financial allocation (million EUR)



Financial allocation per output per MS (million EUR)
0.27 = rural businesses



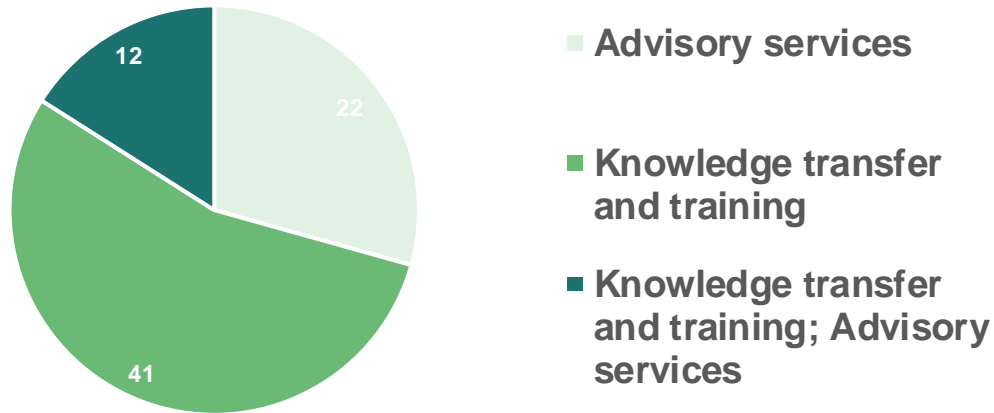
- ▶ 8 Member States use installation aid to support rural businesses (FR, IT, ES, HU, HR, AT, FI, BE-F)
 - €63 million (1%)

Rural start-ups (many), creation of small businesses (AT), young forest entrepreneurs (HU), non-agricultural startups (IT), farm income diversification (HR)

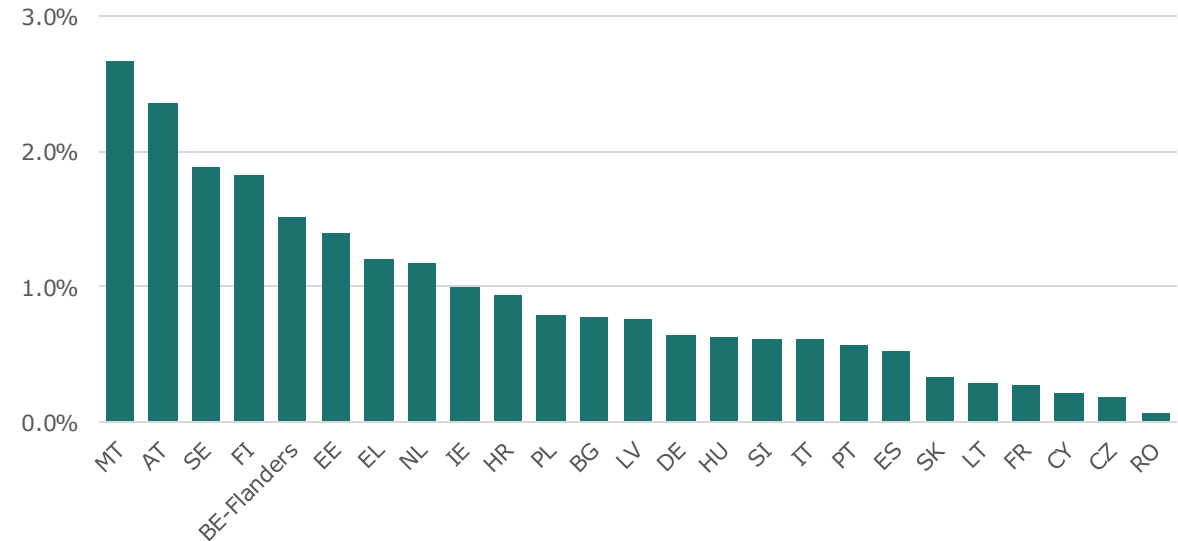
Knowledge & advice



Nb of interventions



Financial allocation to knowledge and advice as a shared of CSP



► **Knowledge and advice important for various pillars of the rural vision...**

- Support to innovation (stronger)
- Digital skills (Connected)
- Greening agriculture and forestry (Resilient)
- Entrepreneurship (Prosperous)

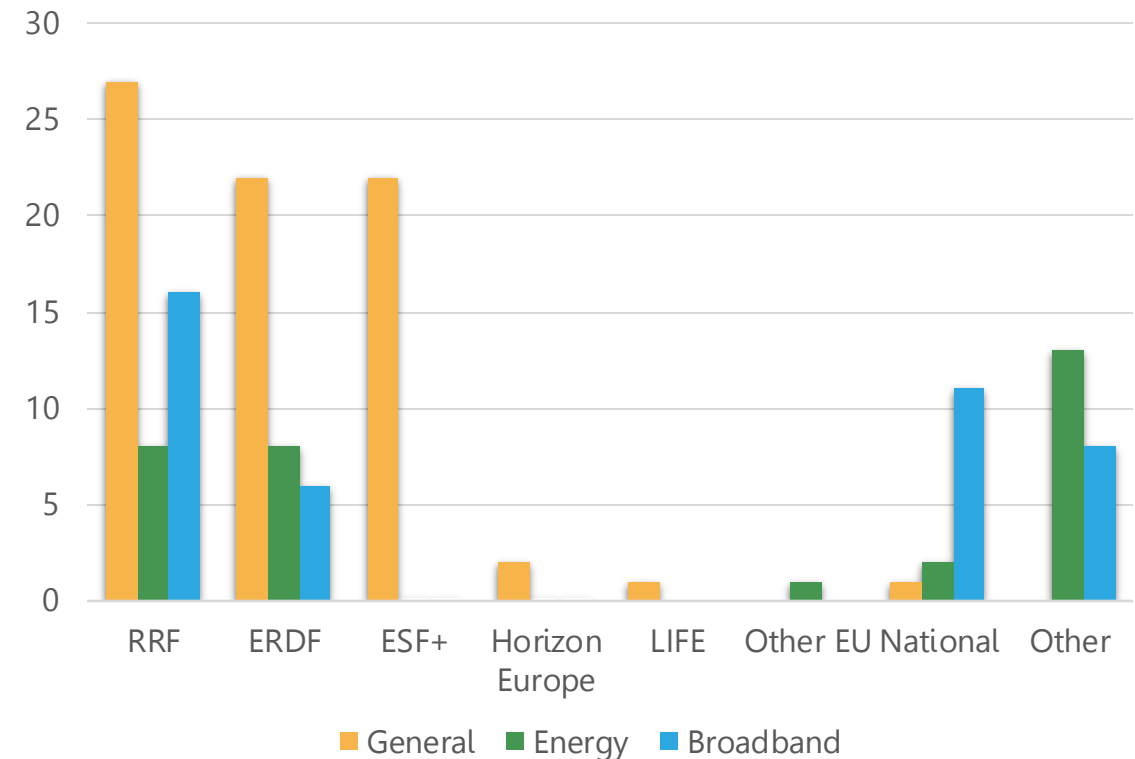
► **... programmed mostly for agriculture and forestry, but...**

Some examples:
Support to young people and startups (EE)
Knowledge for rural inhabitants (FI, PL)
and SMEs and entrepreneurs (9 MS)

Complementarities and synergies

- ▶ Other funds mentioned in CAP plans as used to meet rural needs:
 - **RRF, ERDF and ESF+** most quoted
 - Member States using mostly other funds for broadband, including « other than national »
 - Other sources even more prominent for energy
- ▶ Study on funding for rural areas on-going to assess better the « policy mix »

Nb of CAP plans quoting other funds as source of funding for rural areas
(in general, for energy and for broadband)



Possible gaps



- ▶ **LEADER population coverage increased** and more **demands** without substantial additional resources
- ▶ **Social services and inclusion** in rural areas covered only to a limited extent
- ▶ **Infrastructure** for digital and physical connectivity, including **rural mobility systems, mostly relying on other funds**
- ▶ Support to **knowledge and innovation mostly for the farming & forestry** sectors
- ▶ Support to **economic diversification too limited** beyond farming & forestry

Conclusions



- ▶ The CAP framework : **broad and flexible possibilities** to support rural areas
- ▶ ... used in **very various ways** and to **various degrees**
- ▶ Main contributor to **environmental and climate resilience** and **prosperity parts of the vision** (strongest links between agriculture and rural vision objectives)
- ▶ **LEADER as the main overarching instrument** - Review needed when local development strategies will be adopted – concerns on financial allocations
- ▶ Support beyond LEADER also probably **too limited to address all needs**



What's next for the rural vision?

Alexia Rouby (EC DG AGRI)

Civil dialogue group CAP and Horizontal matters

Brussels, 14/09/2023

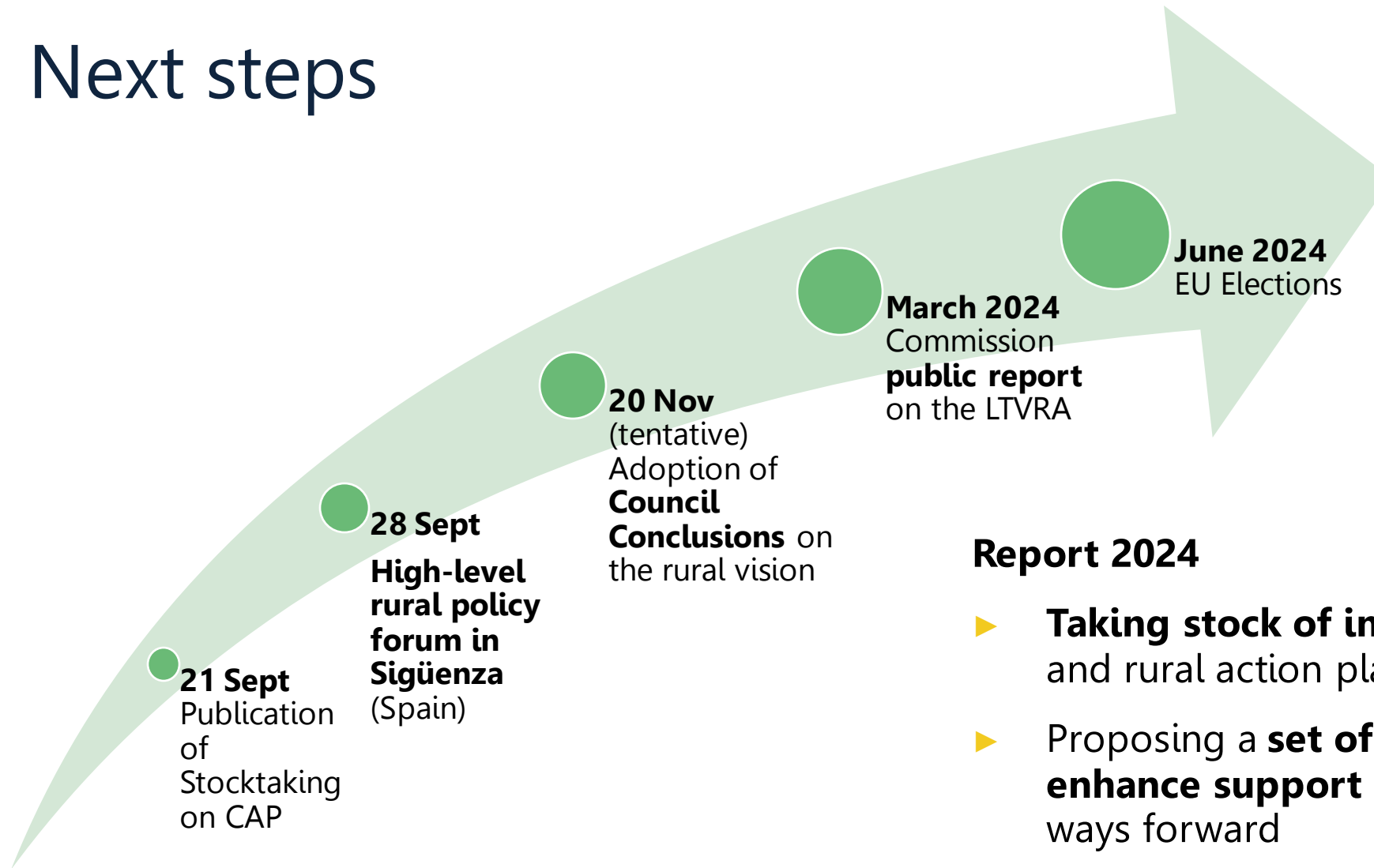


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Next steps



Report 2024

- ▶ **Taking stock of implementation** (policies and rural action plan)
- ▶ Proposing a **set of reflections on how to enhance support for rural areas** and the ways forward
- ▶ To feed the **debate on future EU policies**

Interinstitutional dialogue



Council of the
European Union



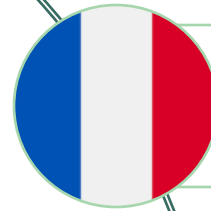
[Opinion](#) LTVRA (26 Jan 2022)
[Opinion](#) Smart Rural Europe
(15 March 2023)



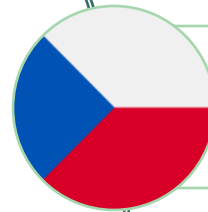
[Opinion](#) (23 Mar 2022)



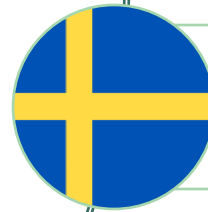
[Report](#) (13 December 2022)



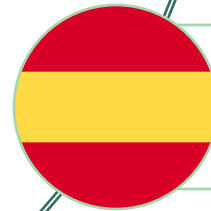
French Presidency – [GAC Cohesion conclusions on Cohesion report](#) (2 June 2022)



Czech Presidency – Lednice [declaration](#) + [launch of CZ Rural Pact](#)
(28 October 2022)



Swedish Presidency – [Rural pact Conference in Sweden](#) (3-4 May 2023, Sweden)



Spanish Presidency – [High-level rural policy forum](#) (27-29 September 2023, Sigüenza)

Public debate in AGRIFISH 18 September - Council conclusions (Nov)



THANK YOU AND LET'S DISCUSS!

Rural Pact Community – Join us
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>



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

