

The Rural Toolkit in a nutshell

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

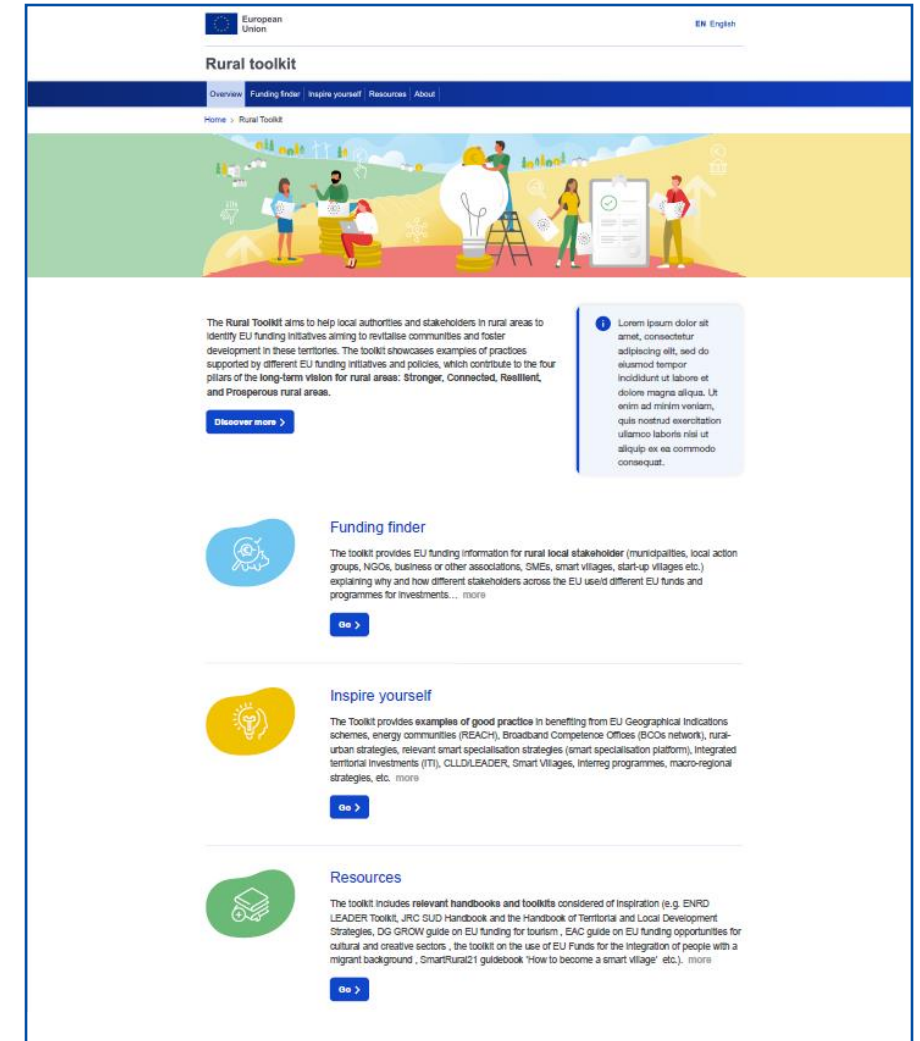
Civil dialogue group CAP implementation 14 September 2023

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**

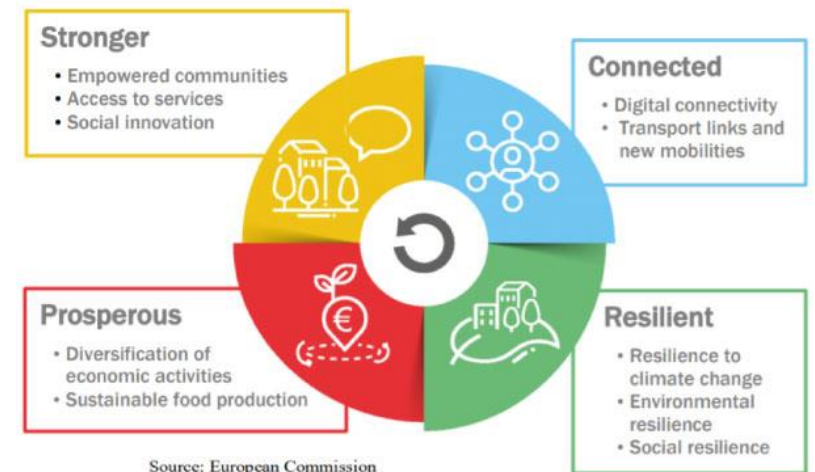
Be written in plain language, **easy to understand**

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.)



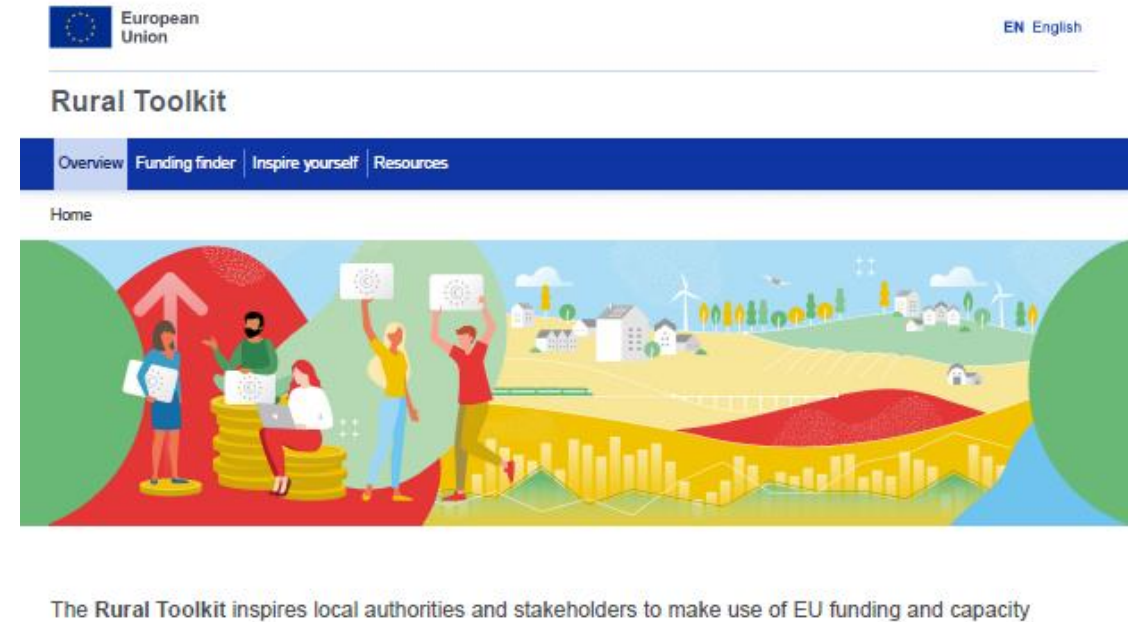
Exploring the current version of toolkit



<https://shorturl.at/jsvFP>

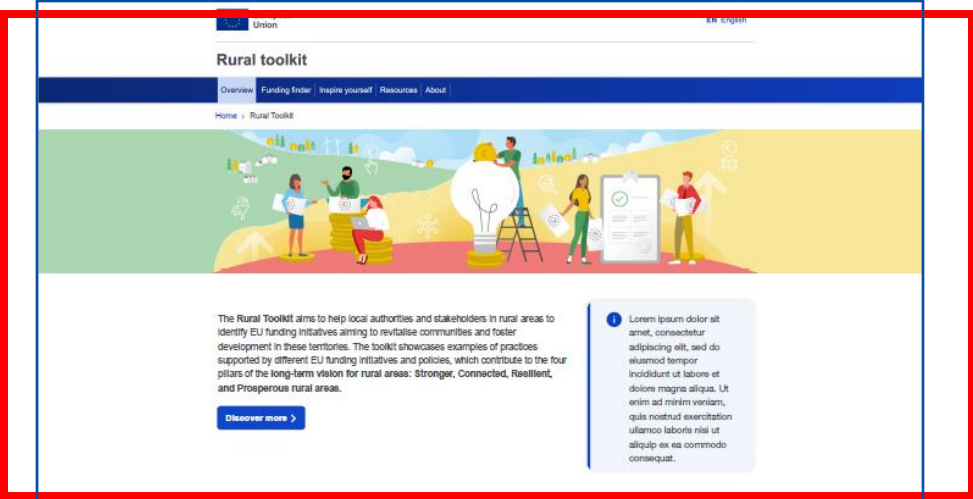
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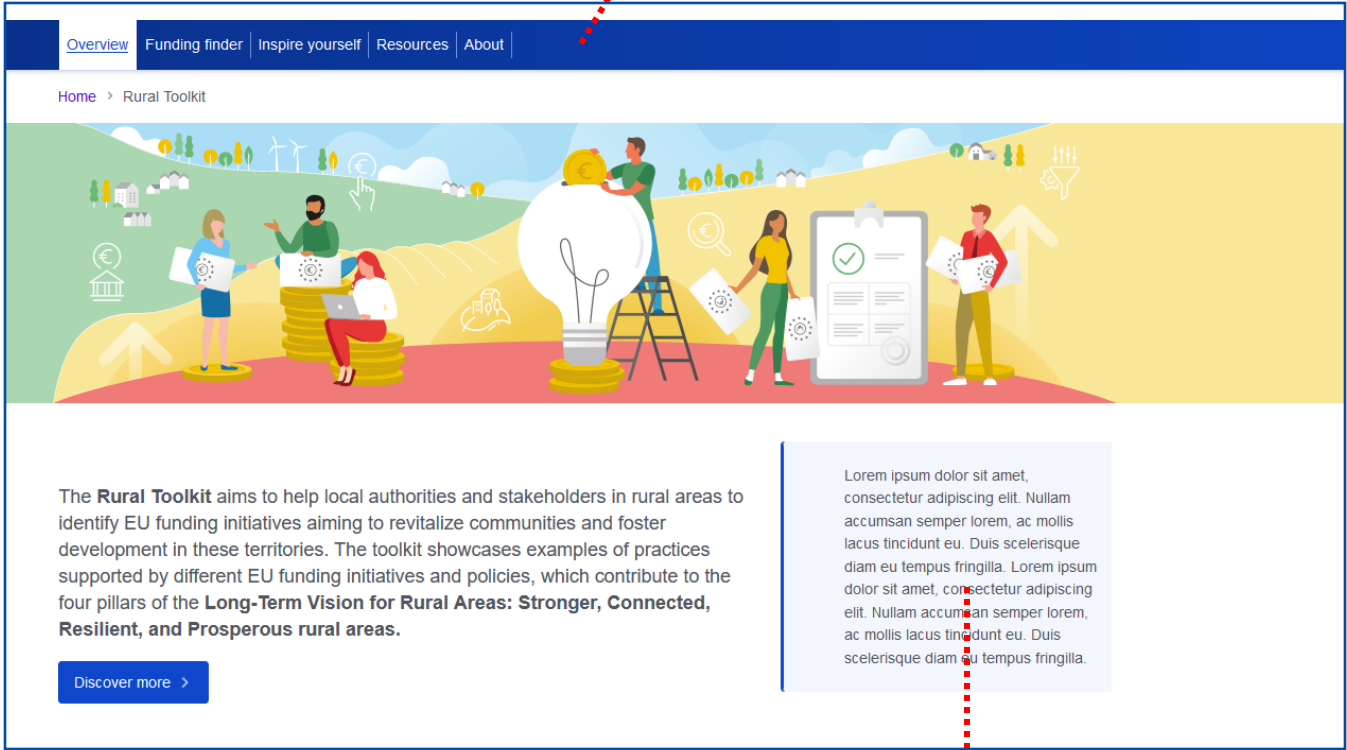
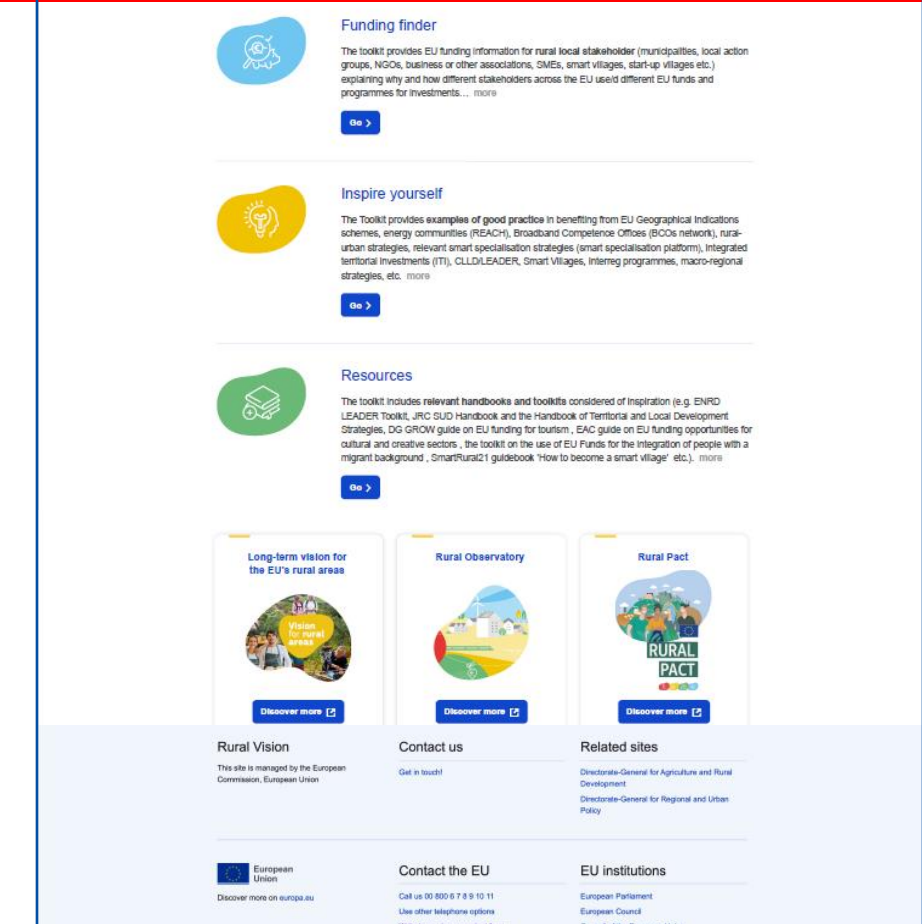


Passwords NOT to be shared externally

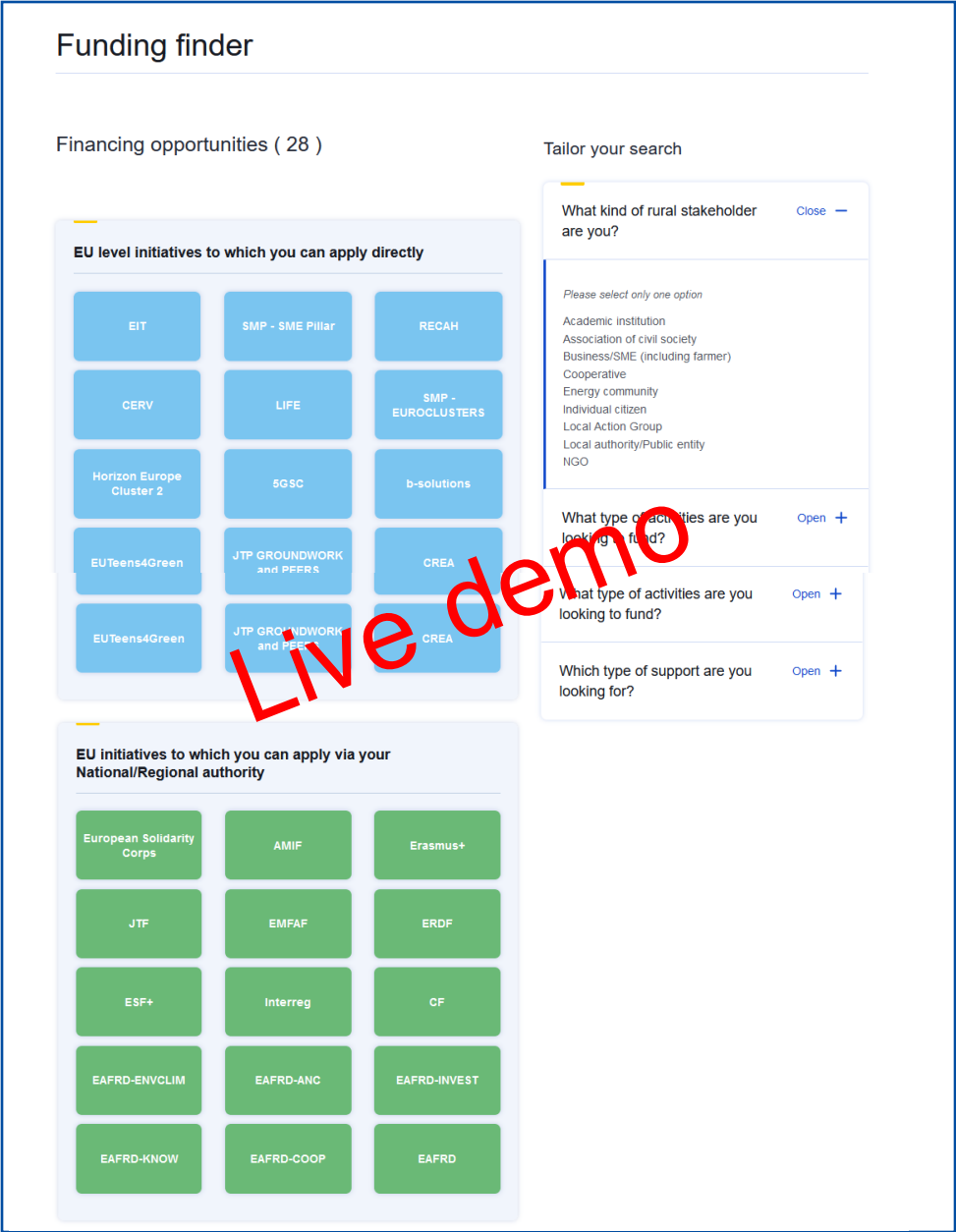
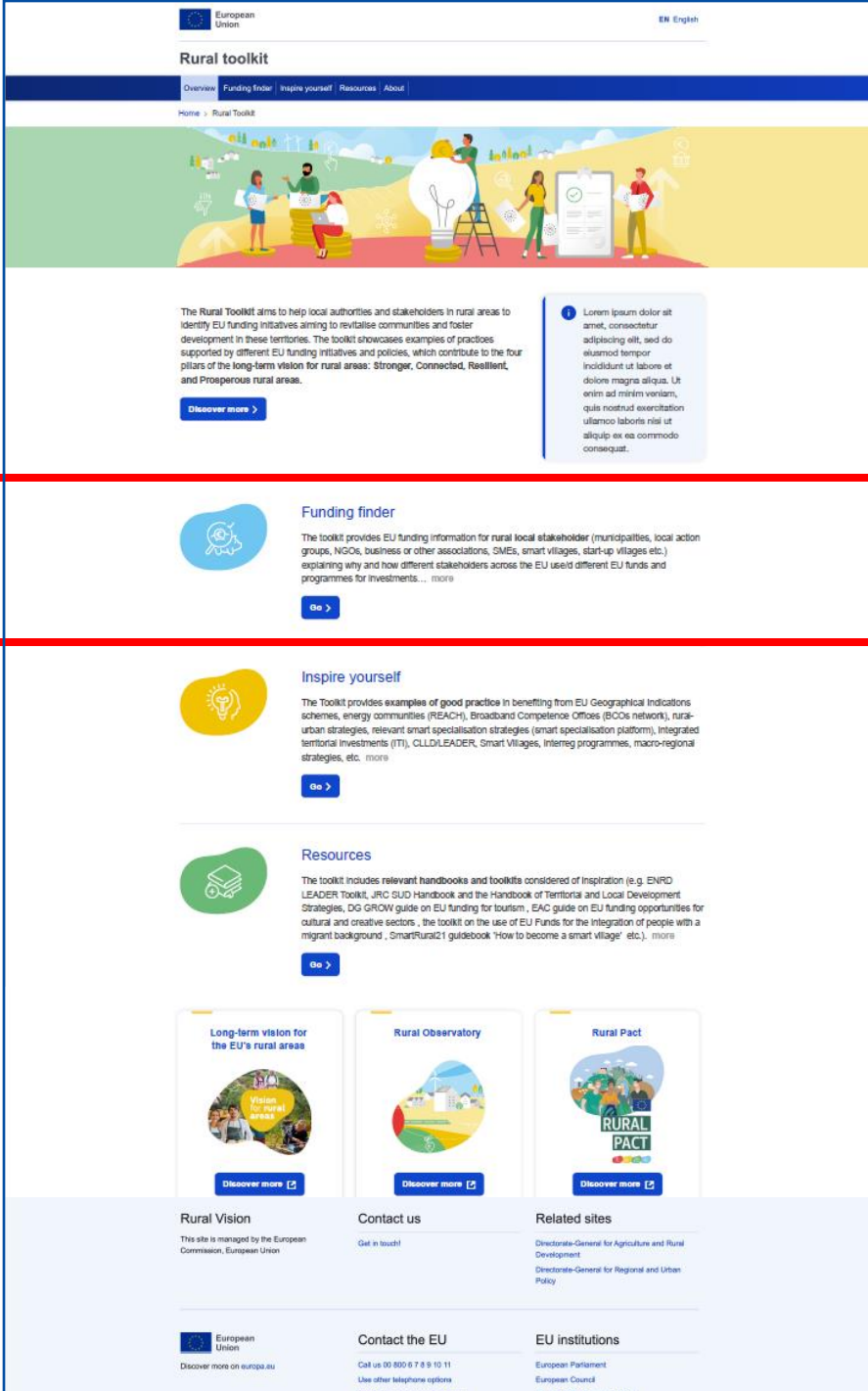
Later it will be hosted: <https://rural-vision.europa.eu/action-plan/cross-cutting/toolkit>

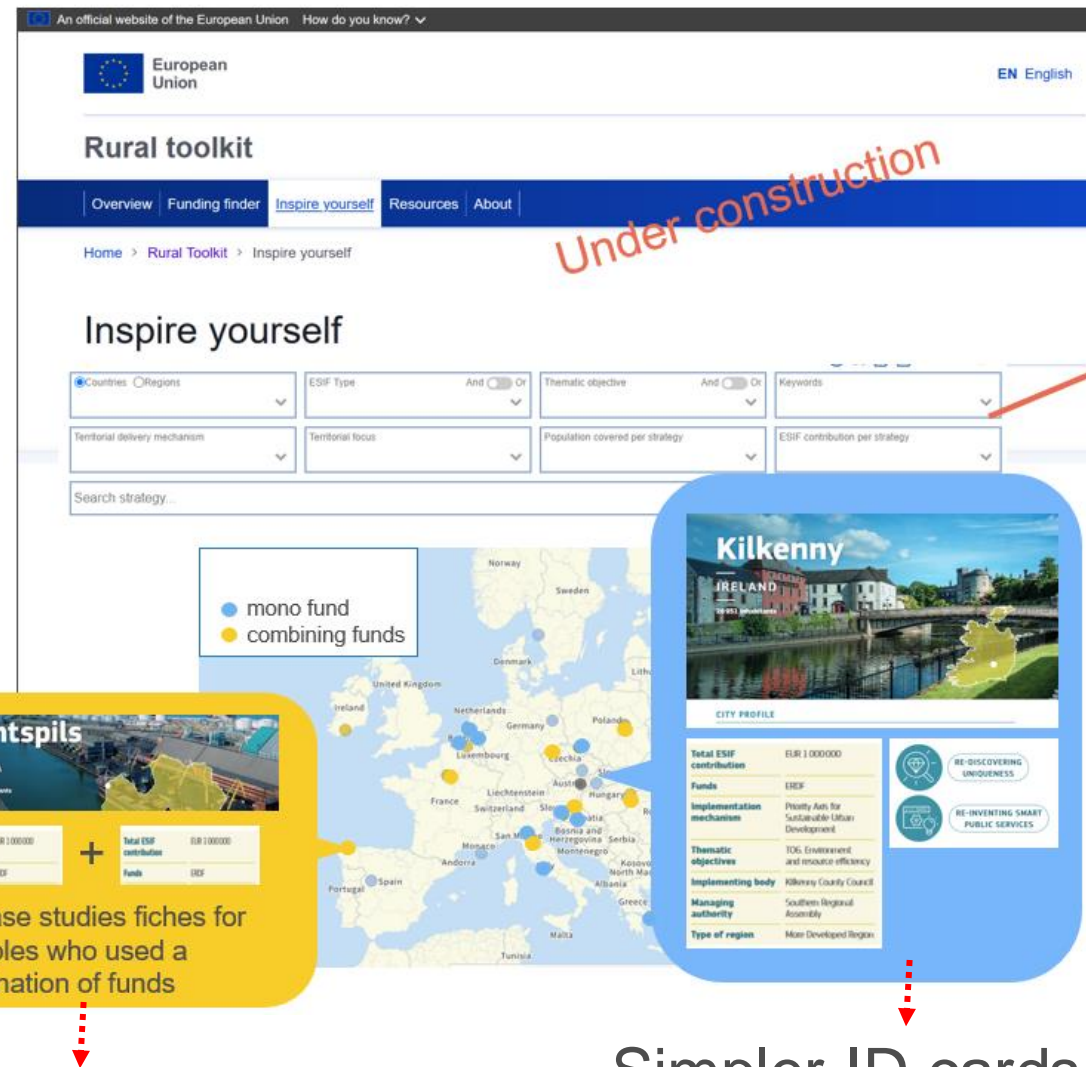
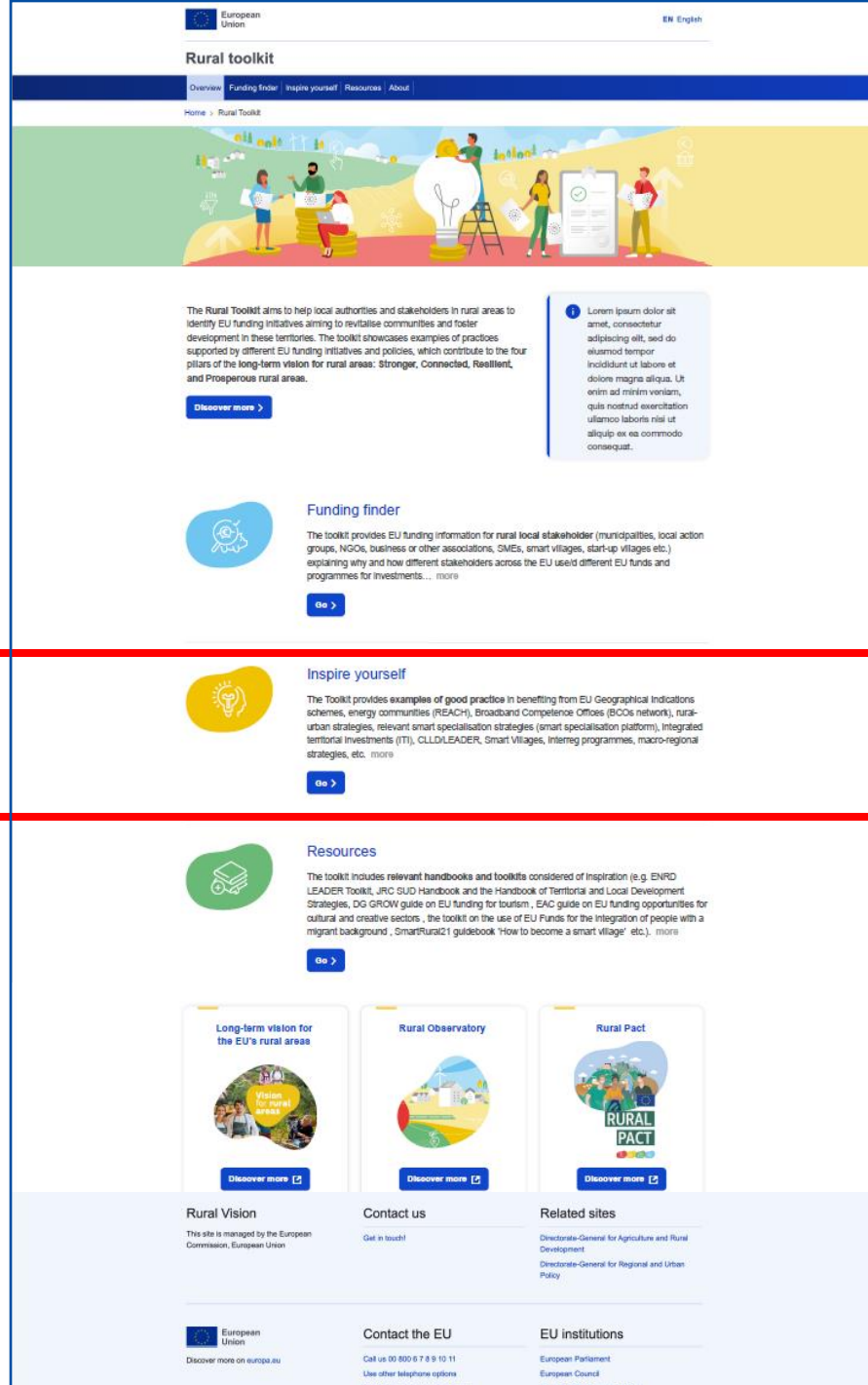


There will be a Q&A and glossary section




Explanatory and promotional video





Filtering

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

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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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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, DO 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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Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

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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.

Pactical 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:

Direct funding	Open +
Indirect and shared funding	Open +
Financial instruments	Open +

Thank you

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