



# Vision for rural areas

**Civil Dialogue Group RD – 11 February 2020**  
**María Gafo – Deputy Head of Unit E4**  
**DG Agriculture and Rural Development**





*“Our rural areas are the fabric of our society and the heartbeat of our economy. The diversity of landscape, culture and heritage is one of Europe’s most defining and remarkable features. They are a core part of our identity and our economic potential.*

*We will cherish and preserve our rural areas and invest in their future.”*

President Von der Leyen  
*Policy guidelines for 2019-2024*

# Vision for rural areas



#RuralVisionEU

## Communication from the Commission

- Scheduled for **June 2021**
- **Vision for the future of rural areas by 2040** and actions needed to achieve it
- Will Launch a **debate on the role of rural areas in society**



European  
Commission



@Peter Loffler

# How?



Public  
consultation



Analysis



Foresight



European  
Commission

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## Public consultation & engagement

- Online public consultation
- Eurobarometer
- Stakeholders engagement workshop toolkit
- Debates in CDG, RDC and other committees and groups
- A number of events
- Final conference in March 2021

**Vision for rural areas**



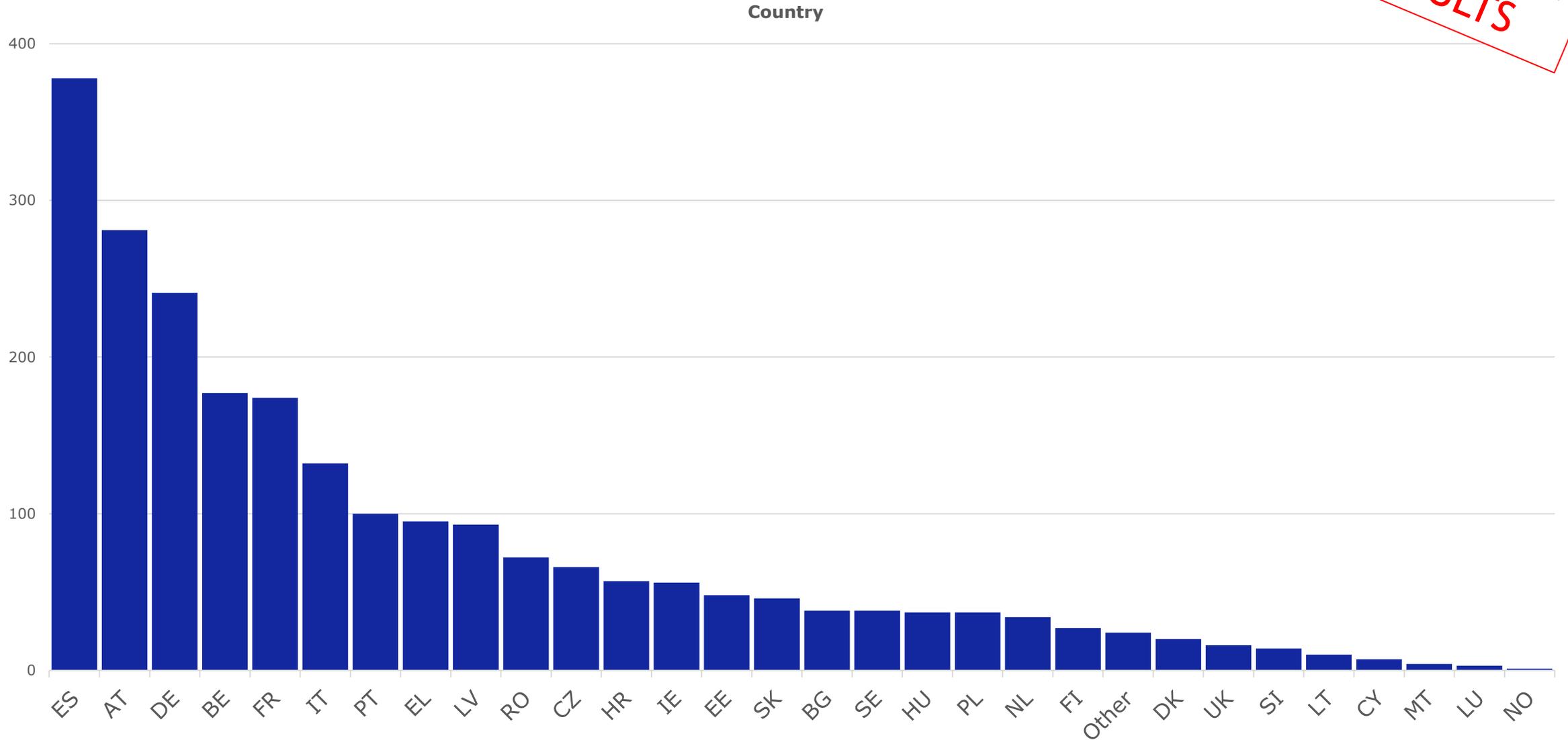
European  
Commission

PRELIMINARY  
RESULTS

# Open public consultation

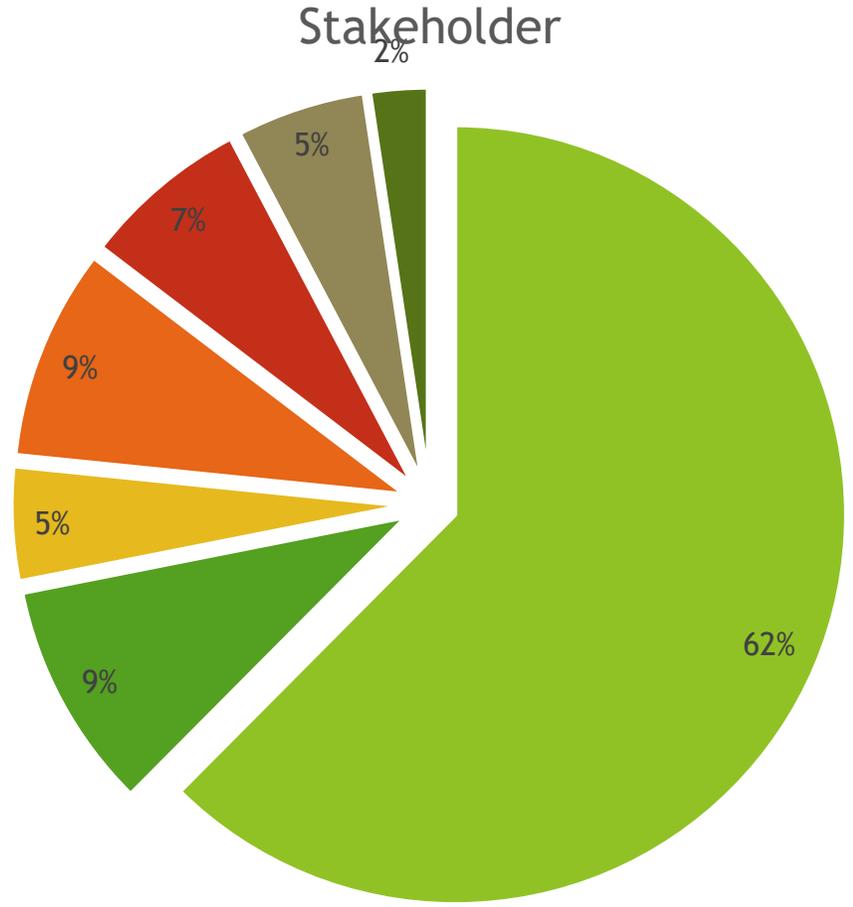
# Respondents to the OPC by country

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS**



# Respondents to the OPC by type of stakeholder

PRELIMINARY RESULTS



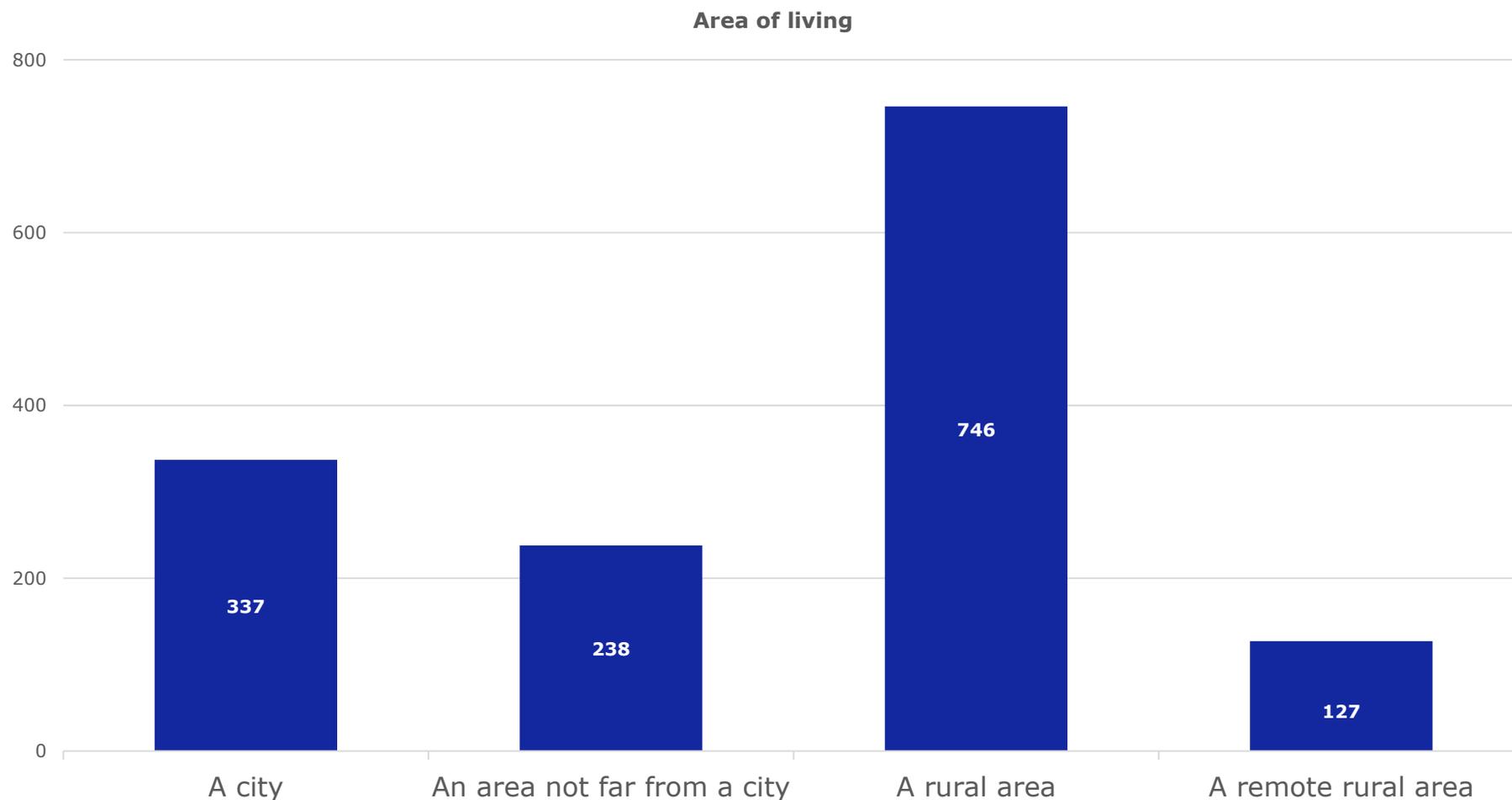
- Four out of five of the public authorities that replied from regional or local level
- Around 1/3 with relation with farming, forestry or food processing

- Citizens
- Public authorities
- Other
- Businesses and associations
- NGOs
- Academic/Research Institutions
- Rural Development Networks

# Breakdown of people identifying as citizens, by their area of living

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

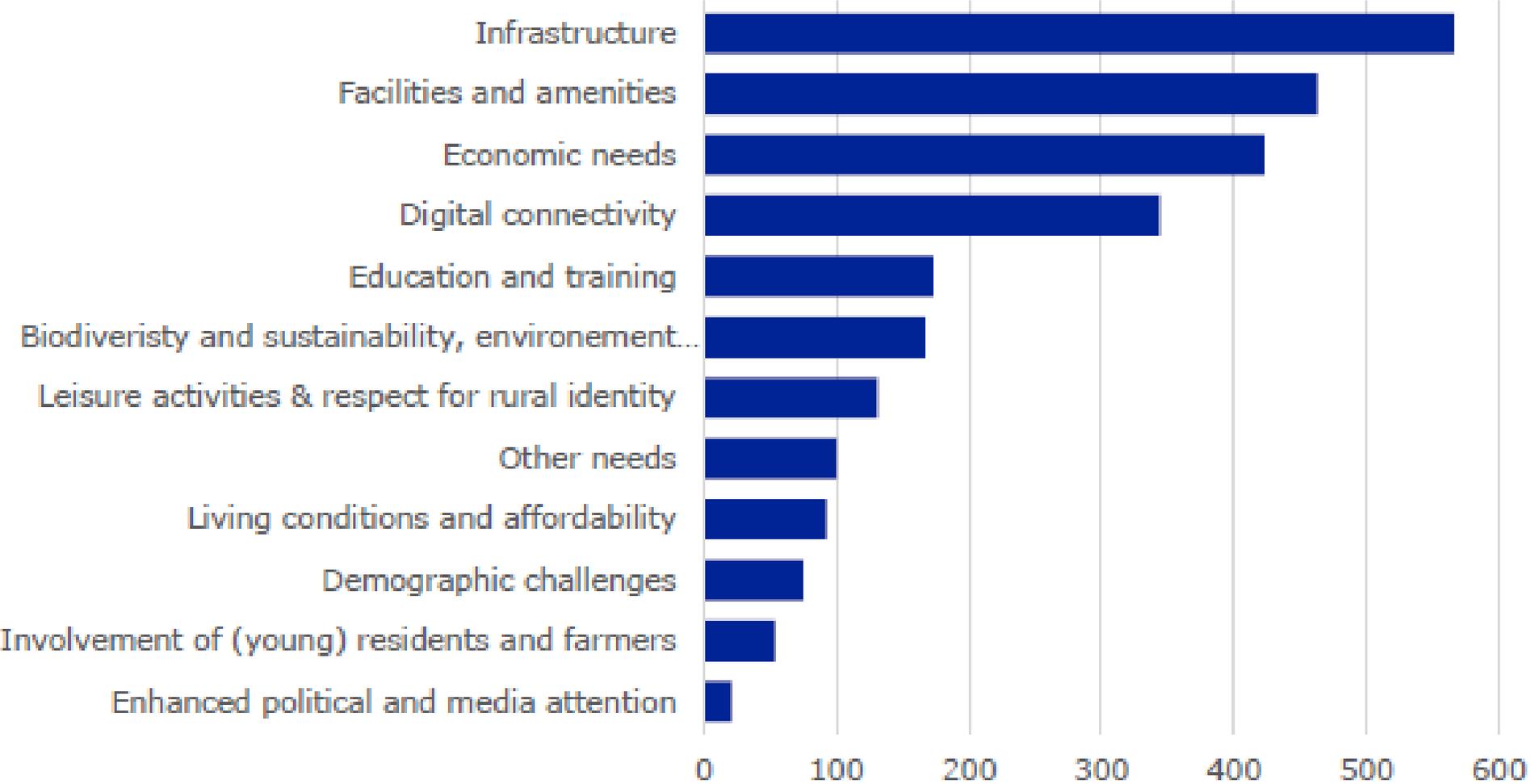
n=1,448



Three out of five from rural areas

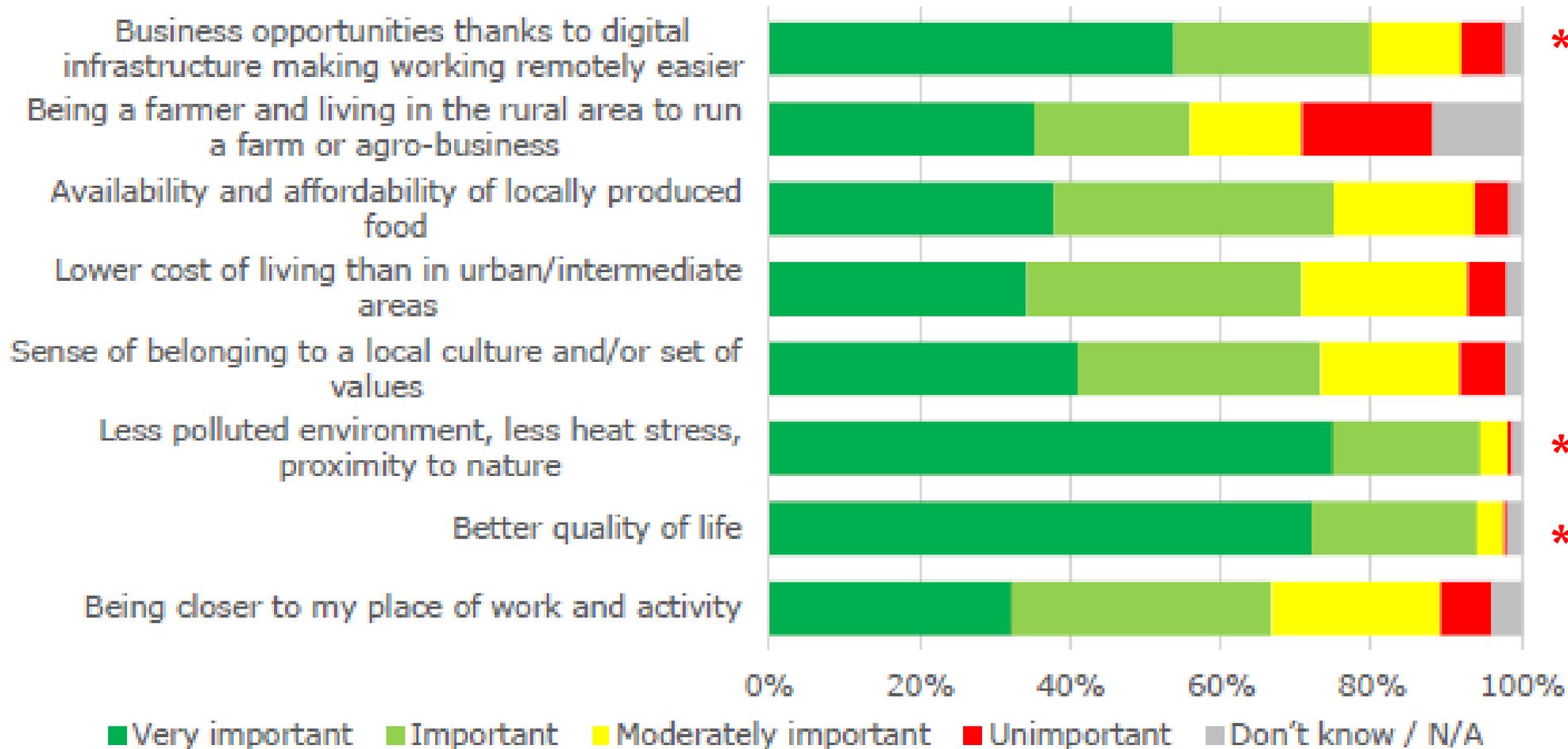
**PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

### Most urgent needs for rural areas



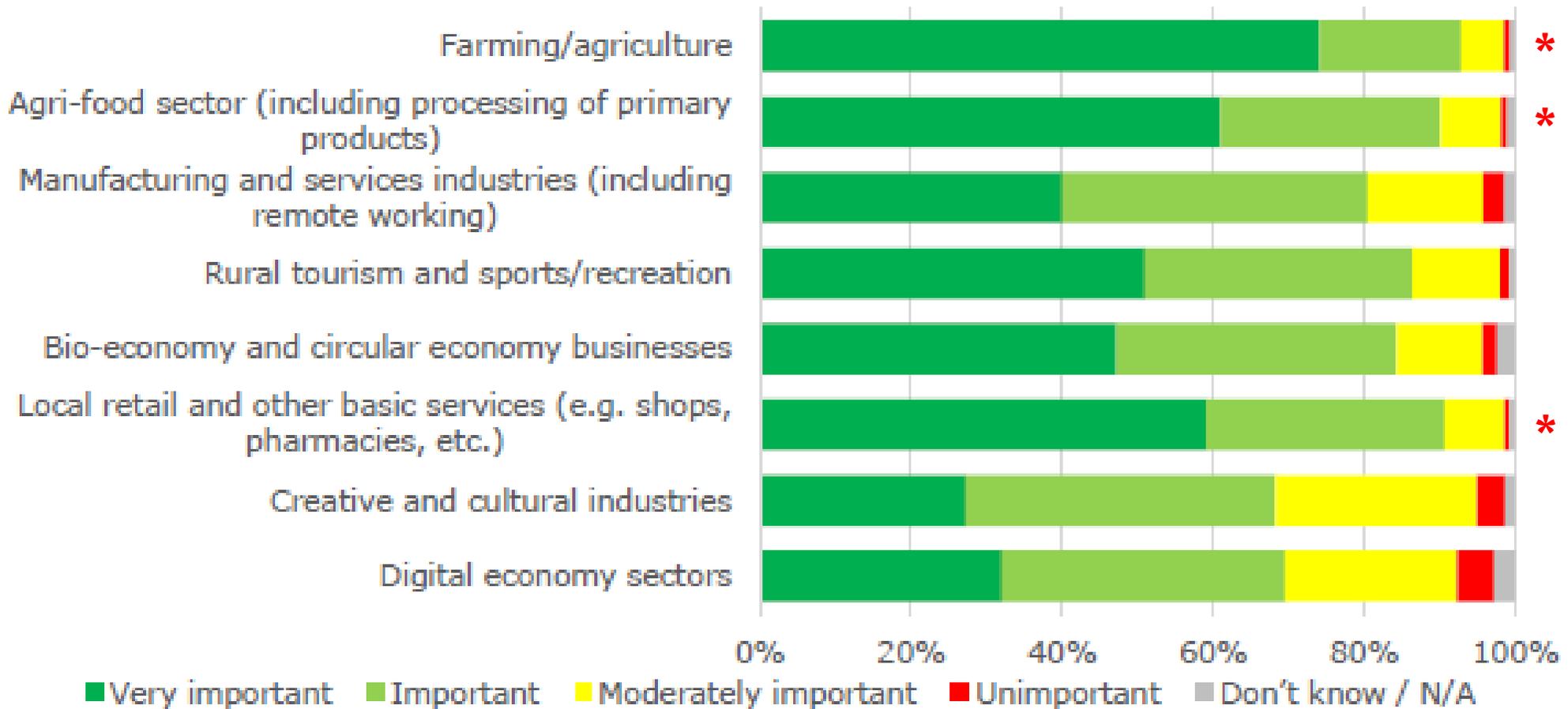
## How important are the following reasons in making you decide to stay or settle in a rural area?

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS**



## How important do you believe the following sectors are to ensure the economic sustainability of rural areas?

**PRELIMINARY RESULTS**



# Governance

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- ▶ 39% of respondents indicated that they feel left behind by society (56% in the case of respondents from remote rural areas).
- ▶ Main reasons:
  - deteriorated infrastructure and services
  - lack of economic opportunities
  - specific needs of rural people not sufficiently considered in political decisions
- ▶ Events and debates in rural areas, most efficient way to involve rural people in the public debate



PRELIMINARY

# Workshop package



# Workshop Package

PRELIMINARY

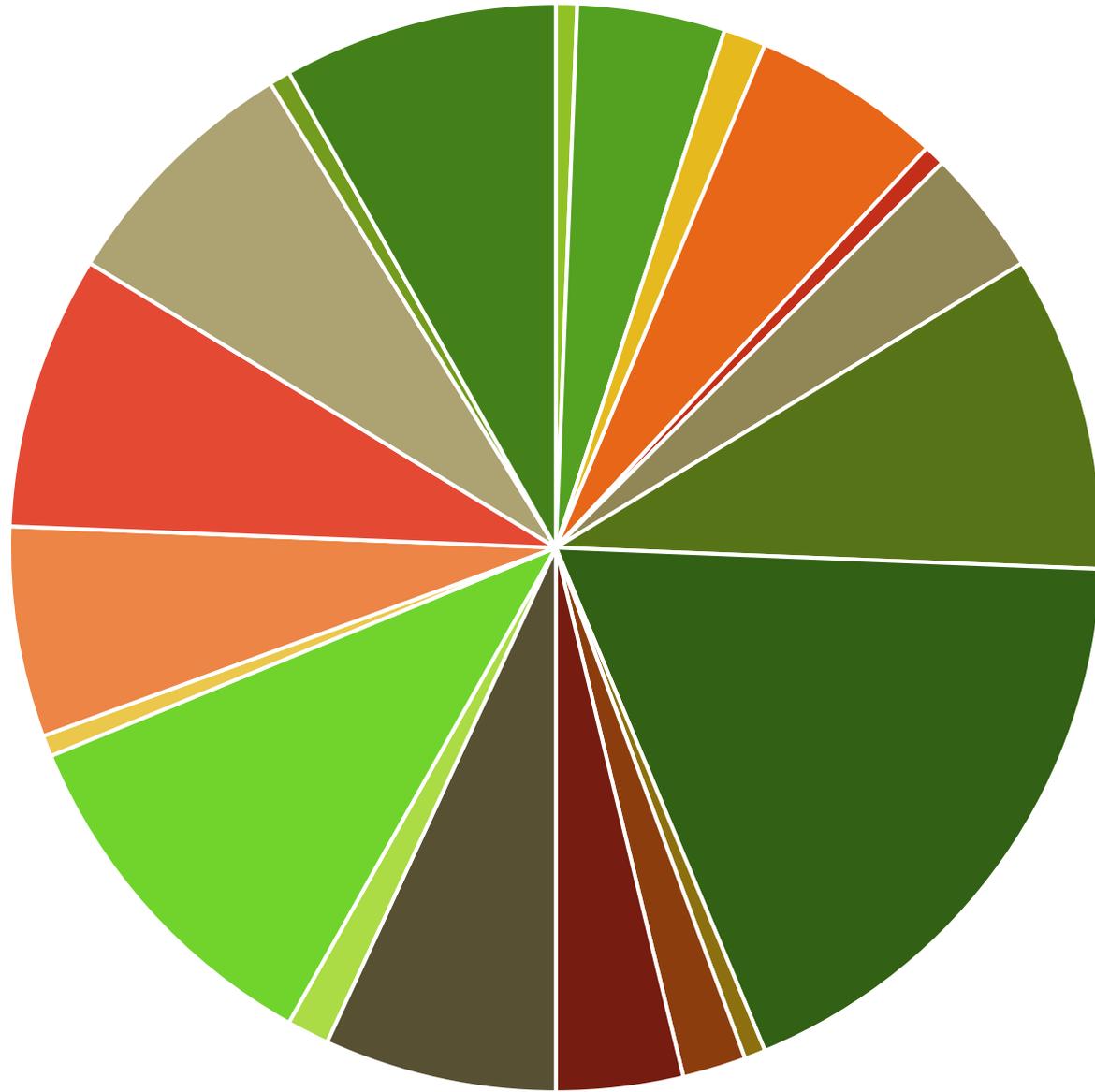
- ▶ To enable any rural group to
  - ▶ Assess their area
  - ▶ Contribute to RV
  - ▶ Highlight local examples/stories

- **166 contributions received from 20 MS!**
- **2778 total participants**
- **Great interest and great inputs**
- **Special thanks to local action groups and national rural networks for their engagement**

[https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/long-term-rural-vision/long-term-rural-vision-portal/resources/ltvra-workshop-aackage-for-nrns\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/long-term-rural-vision/long-term-rural-vision-portal/resources/ltvra-workshop-aackage-for-nrns_en)

# Contributions by MS

PRELIMINARY

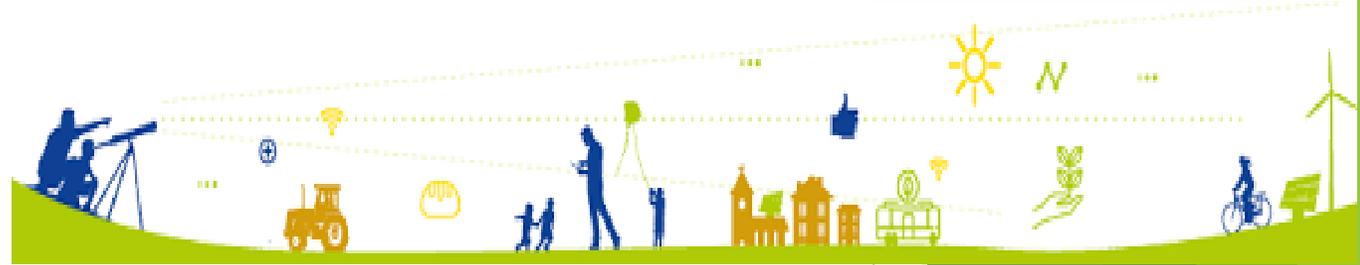


AT	1
BE	7
CZ	2
DE	9
DK	1
EE	6
EL	15
ES	29
EU	1
FI	3
FR	6
HU	11
IE	2
IT	17
LU	1
LV	10
PL	13
SE	12
SI	1
SK	13

■ AT ■ BE ■ CZ ■ DE ■ DK ■ EE ■ EL ■ ES ■ EU ■ FI ■ FR ■ HU ■ IE ■ IT ■ LU ■ LV ■ PL ■ SE ■ SI ■ SK

# Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

# Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

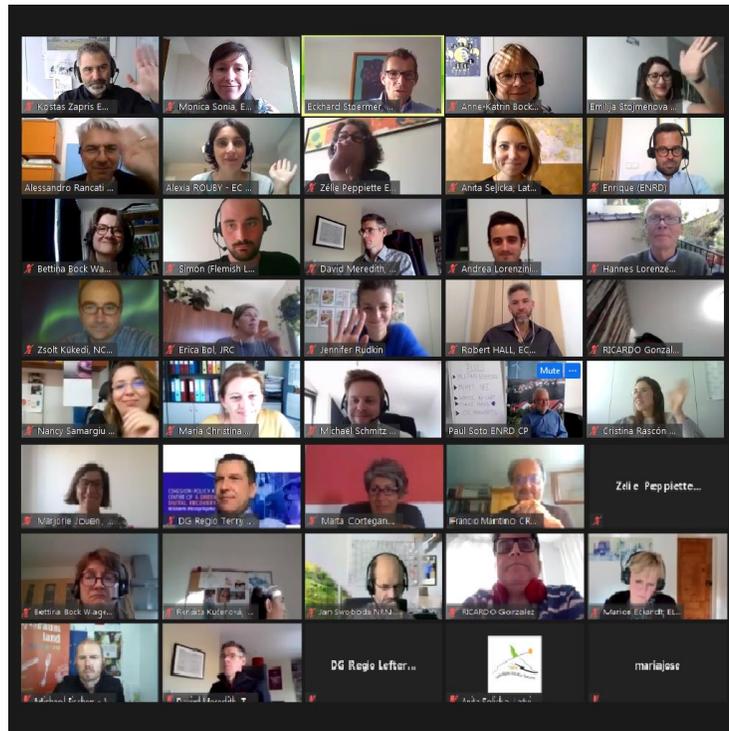


- ▶ Organised by the European Network for Rural Development, in close cooperation with the European Commission
- ▶ Dates: 22 and 26 March 2021.
- ▶ It will include:
  - ▶ high-level presentations and discussions
  - ▶ a marketplace
  - ▶ numerous workshops
  - ▶ ‘fringe’ activities.

More info at: [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/rural2040-vision-week\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/rural2040-vision-week_en)

# Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

If you are interested in hosting a 'fringe' workshop please contact ENRD at [rural-vision-week-fringe@enrd.eu](mailto:rural-vision-week-fringe@enrd.eu) by 18 February 2021



A long-exposure photograph of a city street at night. The street is filled with light trails from cars, creating vibrant streaks of red, blue, and white. The buildings on either side are illuminated, with many windows glowing. The sky is a deep blue. The overall scene is a dynamic and colorful urban landscape.

Let's "ruralise" Brussels together!

# Vision for rural areas



Thank you for your attention!



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