

RURACTIVE Forum

Concept note

T7.4



RURACTIVE

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1. Introduction

This concept note is produced as a background document for RURACTIVE project, **Task 7.4** focusing on the project's networking and upscaling and more specifically the **RURACTIVE Forum**. This introductory chapter provides an overview of the key sections that structure the report on the RURACTIVE Forum. Each chapter is designed to guide the reader through the context, objectives, and operational framework of the Forum, as well as the methodology and evaluation strategies employed.

The RURACTIVE Forum is in addition, utilised as a **platform for RURACTIVE policy recommendations** (under T7.5). Policy recommendations and guidance (D7.5) will be co-created and validated through a participatory approach, involving the RURACTIVE Forum members through multi-actor Forum editions. These workshops will be designed to support and guide policy-makers at various levels in implementing smart solutions for rural areas, with tailored resources provided throughout the policy cycle. The multi-actor workshops will be run within each Forum session, utilising participatory methods presented in the methodology chapter.

The first section, **Context of the Task** offers a detailed background on the broader initiatives and policies that the RURACTIVE Forum aligns with. It discusses the significance of rural innovation within the European Union's strategic objectives, highlighting the need for a platform like the RURACTIVE Forum to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among key stakeholders.

Following this, the **Purpose** chapter outlines the specific goals and intended outcomes of the Forum. It elaborates on the Forum's role in fostering a just and sustainable transition for rural areas across the EU, emphasising its contribution to science-policy discussions and the development of policy recommendations related to the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas (LTVRA) and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034.

The General RURACTIVE Forum plan section presents an overarching view of the Forum's structure, including the planned activities, and the frequency of meetings. This chapter outlines how the Forum will operate over the project's timeline, ensuring a systematic approach to achieving its objectives.

In the **First RURACTIVE Forum** chapter, we delve into the specifics of the inaugural session, covering the agenda, participant engagement, and key discussion points. This section provides insights into how the first meeting sets the stage for subsequent sessions and establishes the Forum's collaborative atmosphere.

The **Methodology** chapter explains the methods and tools employed to facilitate discussions, knowledge transfer, and decision-making within the Forum. It outlines the approach to stakeholder engagement, data collection, and analysis, ensuring that the Forum's activities are both inclusive and evidence based.

Finally, the **Evaluation** section describes the criteria and processes for assessing the Forum's effectiveness. This chapter discusses how the outcomes of the Forum will be measured, including the evaluation of participant feedback, the impact of policy recommendations, and the overall success in meeting the Forum's objectives.

Together, these chapters provide a comprehensive guide to the purpose, structure, and operational plan of the RURACTIVE Forum, setting the foundation for a meaningful contribution to rural development and policy innovation within the European Union.

As a living document, the concept note of RURACTIVE Forum will be revised annually to be reflected on previous year activities and to be made possible alignments for the upcoming year and its activities. Moreover, the concept note may be updated to reflect developments in the project, the policy context, previous Forum activities and any necessary alignment with upcoming activities

2. Context of the Task

RURACTIVE coincides with the post-2027 policy cycle. On March 27, the Commission presented its outline for the 2028-2034 EU Cohesion Policy and Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas. Following the June 2024 elections, the new Commission and Parliament will issue their priorities for the 2024-2029 term. Legislative proposals for the next EU funds (2028-2034) are expected around May 2024. This timing presents a significant opportunity for the RURACTIVE Forum to align its activities with and influence the EU legislative cycle. See table overview (Annex 1. Post 2027 Policy Cycle) for the ongoing review cycle, similar across all EU policies.

In addition to the activities set out in the Grant Agreement, AEIDL will proactively pursue **engagement possibilities, such as sessions, hearings, and EU conferences**, where RURACTIVE can present its policy findings. The necessity to develop a series of **interim policy recommendations** well before the formal deliverable D7.5 in 2027 is underscored by the fact that **many strategic decisions will occur in 2024 and 2025**. Therefore, the RURACTIVE Forum should produce relevant policy outputs that **can shape the EU policy formulation of the European Commission and the initial negotiating positions of the Council and European Parliament**. In 2026, these outputs will be refined as negotiations progress and RURACTIVE's smart solutions and evidence from the Dynamos become increasingly sophisticated.

This context places the first RURACTIVE Forum, planned for early 2025, in a prime position to contribute to consultations on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Cohesion Policy, as well as the FP10 research program (see Figure 1). This timing will also allow for engagement with new officials from the incoming EU term, who will be starting to take office by then.

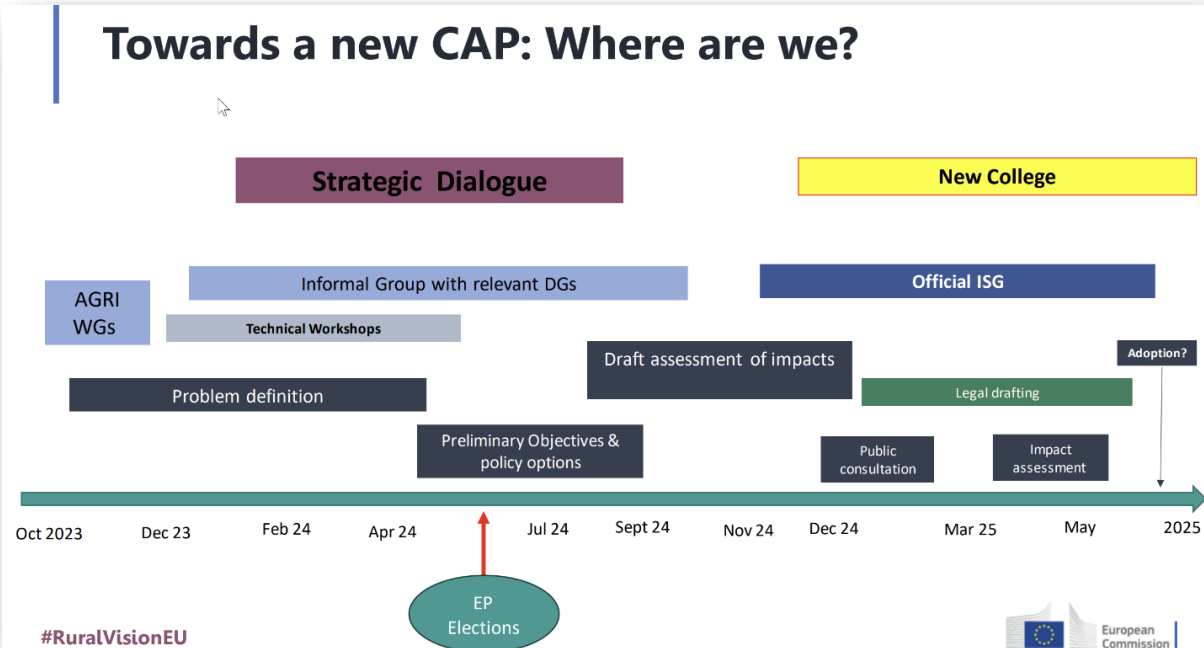


Figure 1. Towards a new CAP. Source: DG AGRI, European Commission for the MOVING Final Conference, June 2024.

3. Purpose

The RURACTIVE Forum, coordinated by AEIDL from month 6 (M6, February 2024) to the end of the project in month 48 (M48, August 2027), aims to create **a dynamic space for co-creation, knowledge transfer, and experience sharing with key external actors** across the European Union. This initiative will bolster cooperation to maximise the impact of project activities, fostering a just and sustainable transition for rural areas. Additionally, the Forum will amplify the voices of rural societal actors in ongoing science-policy discussions at both EU and local levels.

The Forum's primary purpose is to provide a **platform for interaction and collaboration among stakeholders**, facilitating the **sharing of knowledge and experiences to enhance** the effectiveness of rural development projects. By strengthening collaboration, the Forum aims to optimise the contributions of various projects towards sustainable rural transitions. Furthermore, the Forum seeks to integrate rural perspectives into EU and local policy dialogues, co-developing policy recommendations related to the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas (LTVRA) and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034. It also engages with initiatives and projects funded under Horizon Europe, Interreg, and ERDF programmes.

Key objectives include **translating and transferring knowledge generated from the RURACTIVE project to policymakers and decision-makers**, with policy recommendations linked to the LTVRA and the MFF 2028-34 being a crucial part of this. Another objective is to stimulate innovation beyond the project's rural territories by activating dynamos through the Forum, establishing it as a network with other EU-funded projects, institutions, and initiatives around smart villages.

Milestones for the Forum include the mapping and analysis of relevant EU policies by month 18 (February 2025), which is technically under the Work Package two, but intertwining heavily with the policy aspect of RURACTIVE Forum, sharing this information with the Forum, and the official establishment of the Forum by month 24 (August 2025), with participants included on the website where appropriate.

Activities planned for the forum involve conducting four standalone online sessions, organising sessions within two existing events and conferences, and hosting **a final conference in Brussels by month 47 (July 2027)** to consolidate and share project outcomes.

The Forum will link with other RURACTIVE tasks, including **Task 2.4 (AEIDL)**, which involves mapping and analysing EU policies (LTVRA, Green Deal, CAP) and synthesising results in an EU-level policy workshop. This will contribute to **Tasks 7.5, 3.3, and 3.6**. **Task 7.5 (AEIDL)** will use the Forum to discuss and validate policy recommendations for implementing smart solutions in rural areas, identifying key messages and tools for policy translation. **Task 7.1 (EURICE)** will disseminate project outcomes of the Forum, and Dynamos from **Tasks 2.5 (Policy Analysis, UNIBO)** and **5.5 (Additional Dynamos, AEIDL, M16, December 2024)** will engage in the RURACTIVE Forum.

The Forum will also link with the Rural Development Drivers (RDDs) and other relevant RURACTIVE activities and outputs, as appropriate.

External liaison and cooperation. The RURACTIVE Forum aims to engage, where possible, with the relevant DGs such as, but not limited to, AGRI, REGIO, RTD, ENV, and CLIMATE, as well as EU institutions like the EP, CoR, EESC, OECD, and JRC. Collaborations will extend to associations and networks such as ERCA, PREPARE, ELARD, CEMR, CPRM, AER, ECOLISE, IUFRD, ERDN, EFI, and the Carpathian S4C. The

Forum will also coordinate with the EU CAP Network and Rural Pact, and existing structures and initiatives like the Smart Villages Community and Rural Energy Communities. Additionally, it will collaborate with at least 20 other projects funded under various topics, including RURALITIES, GRASS CEILING, FUTURAL, GRANULAR, CODECS, SMART Rural 21/27.

The list of organisations, networks and projects is indicative and may be updated according to emerging opportunities and the relevance of specific stakeholders to the themes addressed by each Forum edition.

To maximise impact, the **Forum will engage in joint activities with other related projects**, share efforts, reduce logistical costs, and avoid project self-centeredness. It will organise a policy event to share and test policy recommendations and develop a common position paper on policy outputs. Priority engagement will be with cluster projects SMART ERA and FUTURAL, as previously discussed with these project leads, and closely related projects by topic such as RURBANIVE and as shown in Figure 2. Where appropriate, the Forum will seek opportunities for joint activities, exchanges and presentations with related projects and initiatives.

In addition to knowledge transfer, RURACTIVE Forum has a multipurpose output. RURACTIVE Forum will be a crucial platform for RURACTIVE **T7.5 Policy recommendations and guidance to support smart solutions and community-led innovations**, as the Forum will be optimal platform to co-create and validate the project's policy outcomes with external stakeholders. Four ***multi-actor workshops will be run within each RURACTIVE Forum session***, to co-create and validate the project policy outcomes in a timely and participatory manner.

In addition to knowledge transfer, the RURACTIVE Forum will be a crucial platform for RURACTIVE T7.5 Policy recommendations and guidance to support smart solutions and community-led innovations. The Forum will provide a platform to co-create and validate the project's policy outcomes with external stakeholders through a sequence of four multi-actor sessions.

The discussions will address the six RURACTIVE RDDs: Sustainable multimodal mobility; Energy transition and climate neutrality; Sustainable agrifood and ecosystem management; Culture and cultural innovation; Nature-based and cultural tourism; and Local services, health and wellbeing. Cross-cutting considerations will also be integrated where relevant.

In conclusion, the RURACTIVE Forum will serve as **a critical platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and policy influence**, driving the sustainable development of rural areas across the EU. Through strategic coordination and active engagement with various stakeholders, the Forum aims to create a significant impact on rural innovation and policy development.

Proposed policy interaction



Figure 2 Policy interaction between sibling projects

4. General RURACTIVE Forum plan

The RURACTIVE Forum will serve as a platform for co-creation, knowledge transfer, and experience sharing with key external actors across the EU. It aims to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders. The Forum will outline the nature, organization, and tentative timeline, focusing on key topics and identifying external actors who will both influence and be influenced by the discussions.

The initial RURACTIVE Forum is planned for the beginning of 2025, tentatively scheduled for February and will be held **online** (see Figure 3). This first meeting will feature presentations on interconnected project issues and provide an opportunity for initial engagement with EU decision-makers. A shared segment with RURACTIVE and SMARTERA will highlight common topics, knowledge gaps, and existing policy gaps.

Following this, the RURACTIVE Forum will reconvene online in late 2025, from October to December, with the exact date to be determined. The Forum will continue to meet online in 2026, between July and September, and again in 2027, between January and March. The culmination of these efforts will be the RURACTIVE Final Conference, scheduled for July 2027 in Brussels.

The four Forum editions will progressively contribute to the co-creation and validation of the project's policy recommendations. The first edition will focus on identifying challenges and priorities; the second on exploring possible alternatives and policy responses; the third on formulating and refining proposals; and the fourth on validating and consolidating the resulting policy recommendations.

RURACTIVE Forum steps and activities to co-create and validate the project's policy recommendations, to be submitted in August 2026 (D7.5).

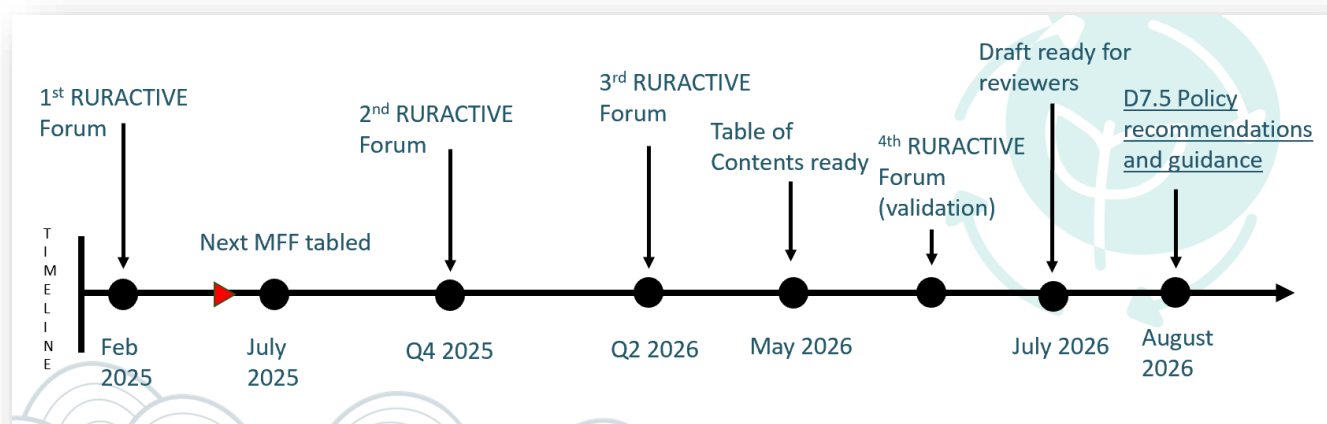


Figure 3 RURACTIVE Forum activities within the scope of T7.5

See the Forum planner 2025-2027 (Table 1).

Table 1 RURACTIVE Forum 2025 – 2027 Planner

2025	2026	2027
Feb: First RURACTIVE Forum <i>online meeting</i> - Presentations on cross- cutting issues - Opportunity to first engagement with EU decision makers Shared segment with SMARTERA and RURACTIVE to highlight the common topics and gaps in knowledge and existing policy gaps	Jan-Mar : Third RURACTIVE forum meeting Jun: <i>Possible joint presentation</i> with sibling project May-Jun: Fourth RURACTIVE Forum meeting (validation)	Jan-Mar: Fourth RURACTIVE Forum online meeting Jul: RURACTIVE Final Conference in Brussels

The Underlying narrative to organise the successive Forum editions, linking it to the new EU policy cycle is described in Table 2. This will also inform the choice of priority audience and methodology among those listed in the next methodology section.

Table 2 Link of the RURACTIVE Forum with the new EU policy cycle

1st RURACTIVE Forum	2nd RURACTIVE Forum	3rd RURACTIVE Forum	4th RURACTIVE Forum
<i>What is the issue at stake?</i>	<i>What are the possible alternatives?</i>	<i>Which are the best solution?</i>	<i>How they could be implemented?</i>
Presentation of the project and Identifying challenges	Identifying options	Formulating proposals	Agreeing solutions
Preparations of new EU Budget & Policies	Tabling of draft Policies and funds	Negotiating new EU policies and funds	Implementation of new EU plans
Bringing a community together	Target decision makers	Target decision makers	Consolidation & Dissemination

The four stages are intended to provide an overarching narrative rather than a rigid sequence, allowing the focus and methodology to adapt to developments in the policy context and the maturity of the RURACTIVE policy outputs.

5. First RURACTIVE Forum

What: First RURACTIVE Forum meeting
When: February 2025
Where: Microsoft Teams

Building upon the findings of the RURACTIVE Project, these insights will be presented to an external audience of experts and policymakers not directly involved in RURACTIVE.

Alongside various external organizations planned to be involved as part of the RURACTIVE Forum, task partners such as AEIDL, leveraged their extensive pan-European networks to attract pertinent external experts and policymakers. For instance, AEIDL can mobilise its European Local Innovation Forum (ELIF), which encompasses nearly 3,000 experts and practitioners in local development, particularly in rural areas across the EU.

AEIDL identified possible stakeholders to be invited to participate in RURACTIVE Forum. For example, Table 3 presents a rough division of possible stakeholders and their respective roles regarding the upcoming RURACTIVE Forum. AEIDL will utilise their vast network of stakeholders and especially the 3,000 members of ELIF to spread the word and to invite stakeholders to RURACTIVE Forum. It is noteworthy that these are *tentatively identified* stakeholders to be invited, as AEIDL cannot guarantee their participation in RURACTIVE Forum.

Table 3 Potential stakeholders to participate in RURACTIVE Forum

European institutions	Pan-European	Local/regional	Horizon projects
<i>Possible external key speakers</i>	<i>Participants for the Forum</i>	<i>Participants for the Forum</i>	<i>Participants for the Forum</i>
DGs (i.e. AGRI, ENV, CLIMA, TRANS, EAC.)	Regional offices based in Brussels	Local and regional authorities	Task leaders from SMART ERA
European Parliament AGRI, REGI, Political Groups, Intergroups	CPMR, AER, CEMR, ERDN, ELARD, ECOLISE, ARC2020,	LAGs, National Rural Networks	Task leaders from FUTURAL
JRC	ERCA, PREPARE (partners in FUTURAL and RURBANIVE)		Task leaders from RURBANIVE
OECD			Task leaders from RURALITIES
Committee of the Regions			CODECS, Smart Rural 21/27, GRANULAR, GRASS CEILING
EESC			Universities (partners from related projects such as Smart Rural 21, Smart Rural 27

Invitations to join the RURACTIVE Forum were circulated through various channels and networks between December 2024 and January 2025 to generate interest and encourage participation in

upcoming Forum activities (see Figure 4). Rather than inviting attendees to a one-time event, the invitation was framed more broadly—seeking expressions of interest in participating in the RURACTIVE Forum mailing list and attending in a series of recurring RURACTIVE Forum activities scheduled for 2025, 2026, and 2027.

First meeting of the RURACTIVE Forum for smart, community-led rural innovation in Europe (10 February 2025 | 10:00 - 12:30 (CET) | Online)

We are delighted to invite you to the first RURACTIVE Forum, an online space dedicated to fostering knowledge exchange, collaboration, and meaningful discussions on the future of rural development in Europe. The first meeting is taking place on 10/02/2025 at 10:00 – 12:30 CET online.

The Horizon Europe RURACTIVE project, launched in September 2023, aims to foster a just and sustainable transition of rural areas by developing smart, community-led, tailor-made, place based and inclusive solutions, to be implemented in 12 pilot areas (Dynamos) all over Europe. Its goal is to unlock the innovation potential of rural communities by addressing six integrated Rural Development Drivers: sustainable multimodal mobility; energy transition and climate neutrality; sustainable agri-food systems and ecosystem management; culture and cultural innovation; local services, health and wellbeing as well as nature-based and cultural tourism. These transversally integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation, social justice and inclusion, and biodiversity.

The Forum will build on RURACTIVE's insights, facilitating discussions among stakeholders, project partners, and policymakers. With the upcoming EU term and the preparation of the post-2027 EU Budget, this is a timely opportunity to assess and improve how EU policies can promote smart, inclusive, and sustainable rural development.

The main goal is to facilitate meaningful cross-sector and science-policy discussions while addressing some of the questions posed by the European Commission in its recent review of the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas - LTVRA (2024). The new EU term, with the new EC Political Guidelines and the forthcoming tabling of the post-2027 EU Budget in July 2027 provide an opportunity to reconsider how EU policies promote smart, sustainable and inclusive development in rural areas and how they can be improved.

We invite you to join us for this interactive discussion and be part of shaping innovative solutions for Europe's rural areas. Connect with experts, share your perspective, and contribute to building stronger networks across the EU.

Please be aware that by registering to this event you agree that this meeting will be recorded. By registering you will also join the RURACTIVE mailing list, however you can unsubscribe at any time.

Registration

* Contact email

* First Name

* Last Name

Figure 4 Registration form for RURACTIVE Forum.

This First RURACTIVE Forum will enable the project to engage with the emerging new EU priorities for the 2024-2029 mandate, which are currently taking shape. These priorities include the EU Strategic Agenda agreed upon in June 2024, the new EU Commission president's political priorities presented in July 2024, the Commissioner-designate mission letters from the Commission President and the and the Commission's work programme and legislative priorities. The Forum will particularly focus on influencing the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034, along with the specific EU funding programmes that will support the adoption and extension of smart solutions. These proposals will be tabled by July 2025 and negotiated over the following years, aligning closely with the timeline of RURACTIVE, as shown in **Figure 1**.

The following template agenda outlines the proposed structure of the first RURACTIVE Forum, combining project presentations, external contributions and interactive discussions around emerging project findings (Table 4).

Table 4 Template agenda for the first RURACTIVE Forum

Timing	Item	Lead
9.30	Briefing speakers (off camera)	AEIDL
10.00	Opening	Serafin Pazos-Vidal, AEIDL
10.05	Keynote contribution	Arianna Pasa, DG AGRI
10.15	Project Presentation	Claudia de Luca, RURACTIVE project coordinator, UNIBO
10.30	Keynote contributions	Simone Sasso, JRC
10.40	Lessons Learned	Janne Sinerma, AEIDL
10.50	Emerging project findings. Breakout rooms: • <i>Energy transition & local services, health and wellbeing</i> • <i>Nature based tourism & culture and cultural innovation</i> • <i>Multimodal mobility & agrifood and ecosystem management</i>	Dynamos/AEIDL • Northern Ostrobothnia • Zagori • Zakarpattya
11.50	Roundtable & Plenary discussion	Serafin Pazos-Vidal, AEIDL (incl. initial reactions SMARTERA, FUTURAL, other projects and organisations)
12.30	Conclusions and close	Claudia de Luca, UNIBO

6. Methodology

To ensure dynamic and engaging interactions at the RURACTIVE Forum sessions, task partners will tailor the organization of the workshops to match the type of policy outputs being discussed, the type and number of internal and external participants involved, and the time available within RURACTIVE Forum meetings for policy discussions (see RURACTIVE Forum Agenda Template).

The toolbox of methodologies presented below is designed to enrich the RURACTIVE Forum's activities by embedding a participatory approach that encourages active engagement, collaborative problem-solving, and mutual learning. By promoting structured dialogue, co-creation processes, and the exchange of practical experiences, these methodologies aim to foster a vibrant knowledge ecosystem among Forum members—supporting the development and implementation of smart, inclusive, and sustainable solutions for rural areas.

Furthermore, the methodologies below are geared towards RURACTIVE Forum activities and also serve as a methodological guideline for co-creative, multi-actor workshops for RURACTIVE policy recommendations under T7.5.

Depending on these factors, each RURACTIVE Forum workshop *could be organised* to ensure maximum efficiency and interaction by selecting one or several of the following methodologies:

- Presentation and Q&A: the facilitator (Task Leader or Partner) makes a standard presentation and organises a set of semi structured questions & answer section.

- Roundtable: the facilitator provides a set of preset semi-structured questions for each attendee to reply.
- Dynamic questions: the facilitator randomly asks individual attendees (previously identified) with a set of directly relevant questions that can exemplify the issues and dilemmas covered in the White Paper that is up for discussion.
- Facilitated subgroups: the facilitators organise breakout sessions where it will have to be addressed either:
 - the same preset questions (heterogenous subgroups)
 - tailored set of preset questions (homogenous subgroups)
- Hackathon: participants are organised in groups and asked to critically review the proposed policy output, with the facilitator encouraging them to play devil's advocate identifying the potentially weak points of the draft policy output and propose alternative solutions.

These methodologies are examples and are intended to serve as a toolbox for RURACTIVE Forum, utilising the most appropriate methodology for the occasion.

Given that some of the above methodologies require breakout spaces (smaller groups discussions), for example using Microsoft Teams platform, the online host (AEIDL) will be expected to provide at least 3 in-person or online breakout spaces to be facilitated, respectively.

The participants will **help peer-review** the RURACTIVE draft final policy outputs to ensure they are relevant, useful, and actionable, aiding AEIDL in refining them before formal submission.

Workshops will adhere to the principles of **EU Better Regulation** (European Commission, 2021; 2023) and Territorial Impact Assessment/Rural Proofing (Atterton et al., 2022). These principles will guide the workshops in providing preliminary answers to the following questions:

- What is the issue?
- Who is affected/causing it?
- Why is this important?
- Where does it happen?
- When does it happen? And
- How does it happen?

In order to assess the specific characteristics of the issue, the EU Territorial Impact Assessment Better Regulation Tool #34 (European Commission, 2023) will be followed:

1. *Does the issue being considered affect economic activity, environment, or people living in cities, rural, cross-border, insular, mountainous, or sparsely populated areas and in the EU outermost regions to a significantly different extent than elsewhere in the EU?*
2. *Is it concentrated in certain areas (e.g. rural), regions, or Member States?*
3. *Does it affect certain areas (e.g. rural, mountain, island, border, peripheral), specific regions or Member States in a disproportionate manner?*
4. *Does it address regions differently according to their own specific characteristics and thus lead to uneven territorial development?*
5. *Does it distort the principle of territorial cohesion (i.e. increase disparities in economic development, social well-being between different EU territories)?*

Lastly, in terms of identifying the solutions, the broad categories for policy options can be drawn from the EU Better Regulation Tool #34 on **Territorial Impact Assessment**, as previously cited. These categories are as follows:

1. *Adjust the policy for the entire Union (or country, or region) or some of its parts;*
2. *Grant more time to implement a policy in some territories or some sectors/actors;*
3. *Exempt from the policy those actors or territories that are unaffected by the problem the policy aims to address;*
4. *Use existing policies to address asymmetric territorial impacts (for example by using Cohesion Policy, etc.);*
5. *Create a new instrument to address asymmetric territorial impacts if/when they arise.*

Therefore, a policy option needs to result in one or several of these solutions. Given that the issue being analysed might often involve multiple policies and levels of governance, answering the set of questions can be further refined using the Subsidiary Assessment Grid (Committee of the Regions, 2018).

The draft outputs for each RURACTIVE Forum, such as the strategic policy findings to be validated at the first RURACTIVE Forum, are designed to inform the planned post-2027 European Commission consultations and the wider policy dialogue at the relevant stages of the policy cycle. These outputs will aim to address the policy questions mentioned earlier. To facilitate this, workshop participants will receive a tangible draft policy output document at least a week before each RURACTIVE Forum segment. This will allow participants to consider and evaluate the draft, determining whether they agree with the answers provided by task partners.

This preparation ensures that the policy workshops at each RURACTIVE Forum meeting can make efficient use of the limited time available for policy discussion, which is typically only a few hours per meeting. By arriving at the Forum with a preliminary understanding and assessment of the draft policy outputs, participants can engage in more focused and productive discussions.

7. Evaluation

Each of the RURACTIVE Forum meetings will be subject to the evaluation questionnaire, to be circulated right after the meeting to all attendees.

Other evaluation items will be the summary of the discussion and findings of these workshops included in the RURACTIVE Forum event reports, the agenda and attendance lists, as well as the RURACTIVE Forum policy output documents presented to and validated through each of these Forum meetings.

The evaluation approach will allow feedback from participants and evidence from the Forum activities to inform the development and refinement of the RURACTIVE policy outputs.

8. References

Committee of Regions (2018) *Subsidiarity assessment Grid*

European Commission (2021) *Better Regulation*

European Commission (2023) *Better Regulation*

9. Annex 1. Post 2027 Policy Cycle

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Existing policies	Jun: Mid Term MFF Review Dec: End 2014 – 2027 Programming Period	Feb: Mid Term Review EU Budget agreed & Review Next Generation EU		Dec: End NGEU	Dec: End MFF 2021-27	Jan: Start EU Budget 2028-2034	
Political Developments		Jun: EP elections July: New EU Priorities Nov: New Commission	Jan: new CoR Mandate		Jan: EP midterm switch		May/Jun: EP Elections
New Programmes/ EU policies		March-April post 2027 Commission ideas (9CR, LTVRA, Letta)	May: 2028-2034 MFF & Regulations tabled	EP-Council trilogues Dec: Regulations Agreed	Jun: Start Drafting CSP/OPs	Dec: End Drafting PA/CSP/OPs	Jan: new 2028-34 programmes start
<u>RURACTIVE</u>							