



RURACTIVE

Policy relevance in the current EU cycle

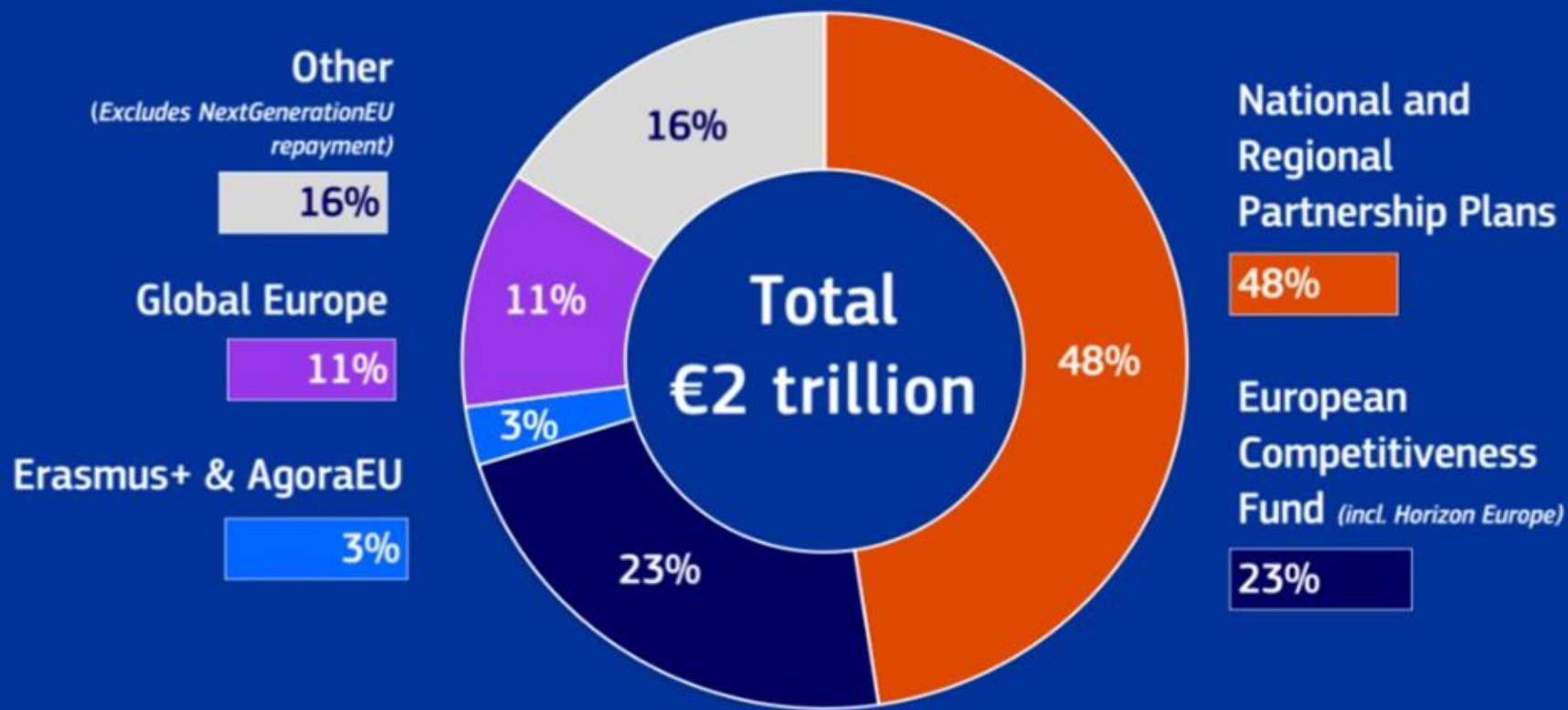
RURACTIVE Forum 3rd meeting

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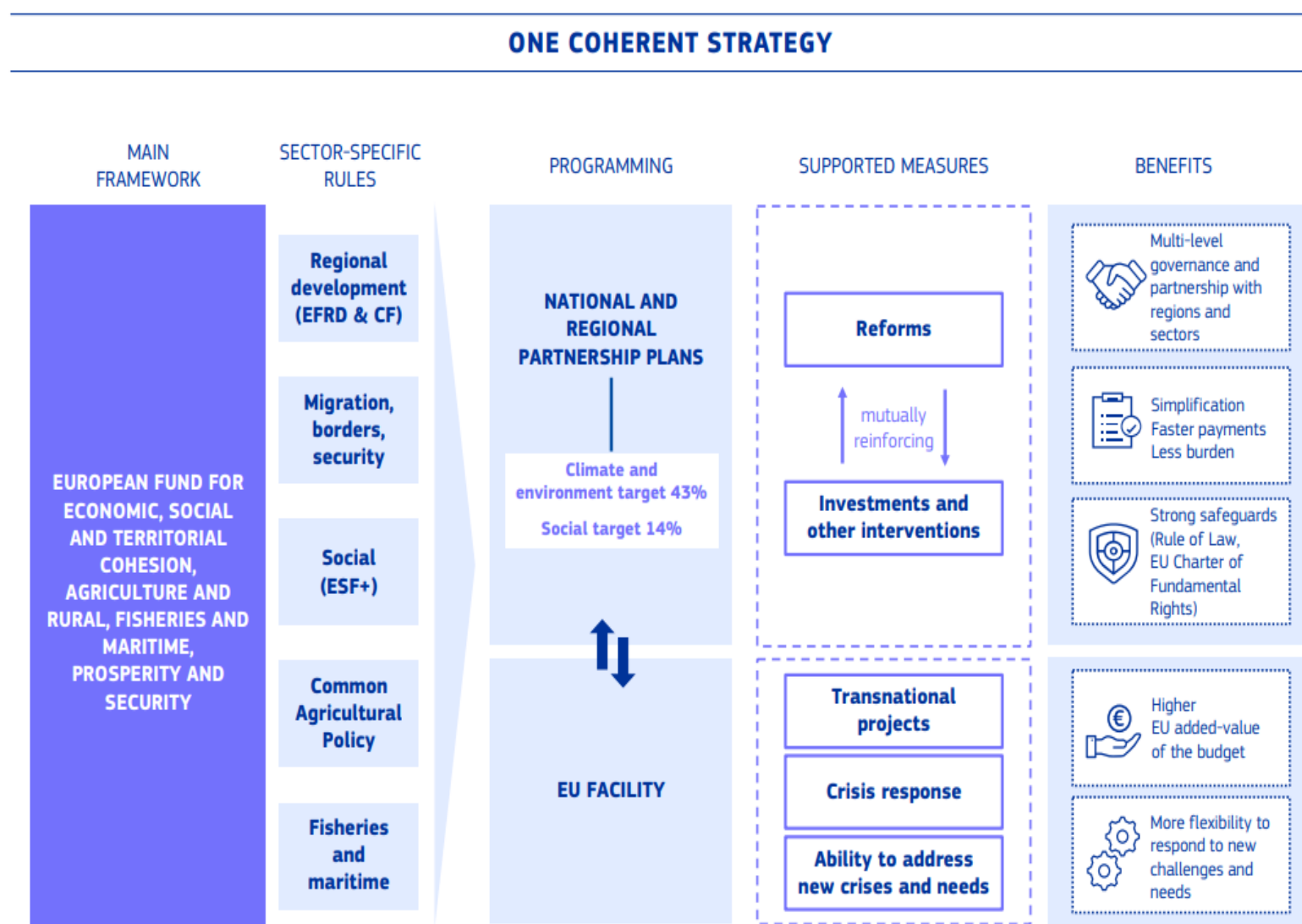
AN AMBITIOUS BUDGET FOR A STRONGER EUROPE 2028-2034




- ▶ From 52 to **16 programmes**
- ▶ **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- ▶ **Results** oriented
- ▶ More **agile**

National (and Regional) Partnership Plans

- PROVINCES (NUTS3) as basis for NRPP funding allocation!!!
- Follows template COVID Recovery and Resilience Facility
- “Performative” Partnership, Right to Stay
- Structural Reforms
- Centralised by default
- Avoid silos between funds supporting Local Dev.
- Same figures per MS as in 2027 (2018 costs)
- Rural Development, LEADER, Urban funds available but are optional by Member States



Latest Developments

- MEP, CoR, EESC, Stakeholder opposition ↔ Member States (Council) quite OK
 - Commission letter suggest changes in proposal:
 - 10% Rural earmark
 - Partnership principle Check
 - Regional Chapters safeguards
 - Direct dialogue with Regions
 - Council 1st Negotiating Box – Member States position
 - EP, CoR, EESC start formulating positions
 - Deal by Spring 2027 (at the earliest)
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LEADER, CLLD and Smart Villages

- **CLLD/LEADER** set in NRRP Regulation & New CAP Regulation
- **No earmarking** nor in LEADER nor in CLLD
- Presently Rural €70,2bn: **€45.6bn** Cohesion & €24.6 billion in CAP (vs. 8% ERDF Sustainable Urban Development **€18.08bn**)
- 10% Rural NRPP = EAFRD (€86bn)
- **Smart villages** marginally mentioned and left to the discretion of Member States; result indicator 40 removed.

LEADER	2028-34 (Proposal)
Budget	No min allocation but mandatory support <i>'at least in rural areas with disadvantages defined by the MS in the NRP Plans'</i> (Article 18, CAP Regulation COM(2025)560)
Beneficiaries	More focus on farmers and actors not managing/ participating to measures in the NRPPs under the CAP regulation (change in direct beneficiaries' definition)
Activities	Some LAGs fundamental tasks removed : ability to launch calls, select projects, and set support levels.
Simplification- Simplified Cost Options	SCOs Mandatory by default for a wide range of operations below specific thresholds (Article 35(1) interventions, unless state aid), e.g. mandatory use of SCOs for the costs of operation of LEADER LAGs (Article 77(a) of NRPP Reg COM(2025)565).
Simplification – Finance not Linked to Costs	Explicitly established as a primary option for public support not exceeding 400.000€ (Article 78 of COM(2025)565). Focus on results/outputs.

Source: Proposal for the future CAP and Proposal for the Fund. MFF 2028-2034. AEIDL.


Among the regions concerned, particular attention shall be paid to rural areas, areas affected by industrial transition, and regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps such as the northernmost regions with very low population density and island, cross-border and mountain regions.

01	Urban areas
02	Rural areas
03	Areas affected by industrial transition
04	Islands and coastal areas
05	Other types of territories targeted
06	Sparsely populated areas
07	No territorial targeting
01	Outermost regions
02	Small Aegean Islands
03	Eastern border region
04	Northern sparsely populated areas

g) The specific needs and challenges of **rural areas**, especially those suffering from **structural problems** such as a **lack of attractive employment opportunities, skill shortages, underinvestment in broadband and connectivity**, digital and other infrastructures and **essential services**, as well as **youth drain** by strengthening the socio-economic fabric in those areas, in particular through **job creation**, support for young people and generational renewal;

Multisector support	Integrated territorial tools	335	Community-led local development/LEADER and other integrated territorial tools	0%	40%	0%	0%	-Number of preparator projects; -Number of implement projects; -Number of implement strategies; -Number of funding agreements; -Number of cooperation projects; -Number of local action groups supported;
Social	Social inclusion	477	Social integration including access to quality services of third-country nationals	0%	0%	0%	100%	-Number of participant gender, by labour market status, by age, by education level and by type of support (language course, civic orientation course, personalised professional guidance, others); -Number of local and regional authorities supported to implement integration measures;

Making “Right to Stay” a reality

- Consultation to be launched 6 May
 - Not a right, but a goal: EU law and funds can only provide enabling conditions
 - New definition of demographically declining area in post 2027 Structural Funds
 - National Single Plans + Structural Reforms + Activist Internal Market & Competition
 - Blending of Single Plans (Nat & Regional) with re-population & shrinking strategies
 - Mandatory catalogue of essential services per MS (15' – 30' – 60')
 - Functional Area approaches mandatory in delivering NSP
 - Integration of existing datasets into single platform & drafting NSP and Rural Proofing
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Potential improvements to the MFF Regulations

- Integrate DEGURBA classification, define functional areas
- Specific provisions for Northern Sparsely Populated Areas, Demographically Declining areas (9th Cohesion Report Definition)
- Earmark 10% NRPP for Local Development (urban and rural)
- Competence-based regional check.
- New European Code of Conduct on Partnership
- NRPP programming at NUTS3 level.
- **Performance Framework** to move from output & quantity to outcome based & quality indicators: Move from supply to demand indicators, demand, affordability, satisfaction and accessibility, gender (e.g. essential services).