



Rural Pact – Relevance for community-led innovation

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RURACTIVE Forum

23 April 2026



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

**Vice-president of EC
Demography & Democracy
Dubravka Šuica**



**Commissioners (DG AGRI)
Janusz Wojciechowski**



**Commissioners (DG REGIO)
Elisa Ferreira**

How it started

Communication from the EC (June 2021)



**Executive Vice-President for
Cohesion and Reforms**

Raffaele Fitto



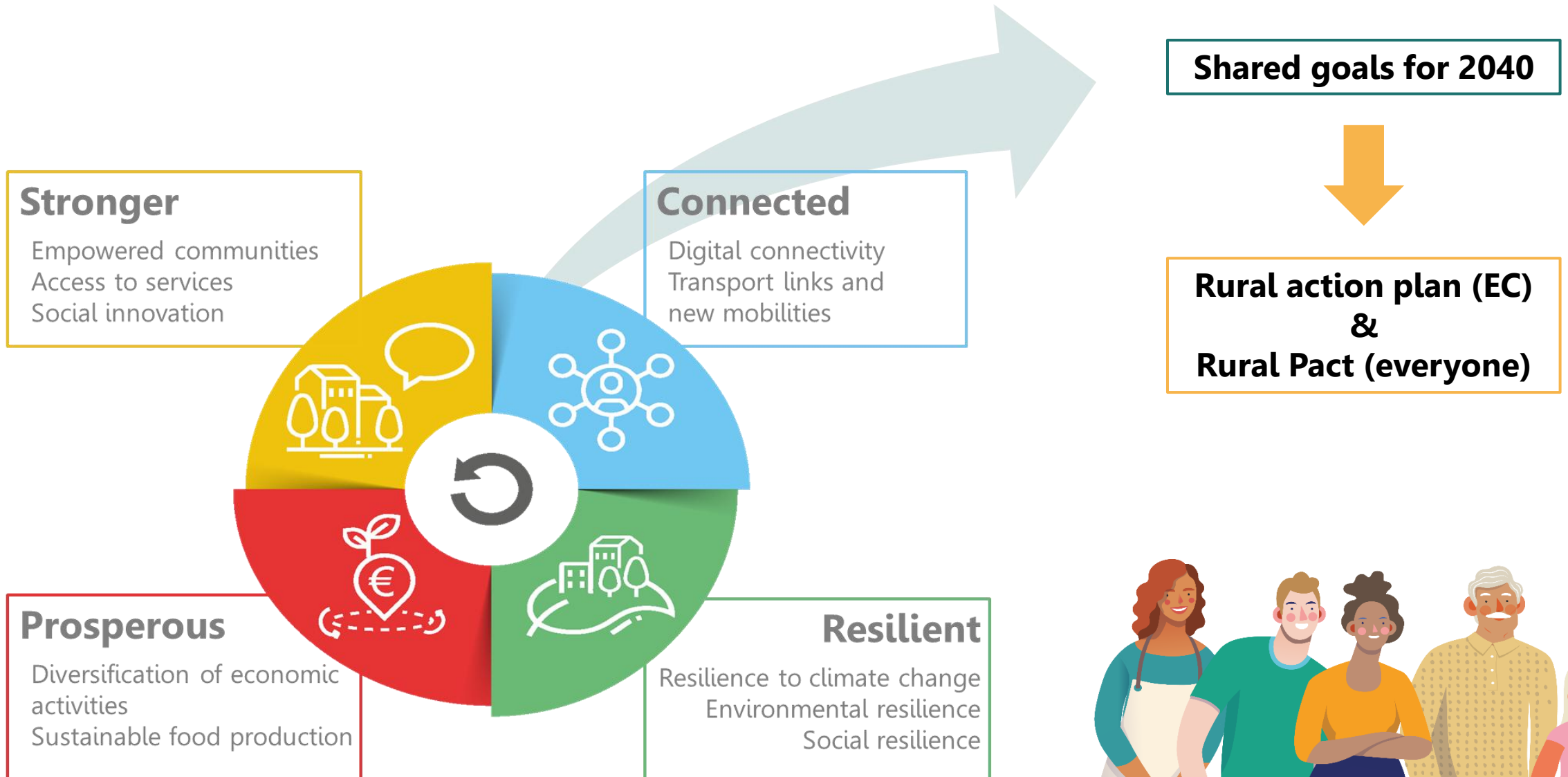
Commissioners (DG AGRI)

Christophe Hansen



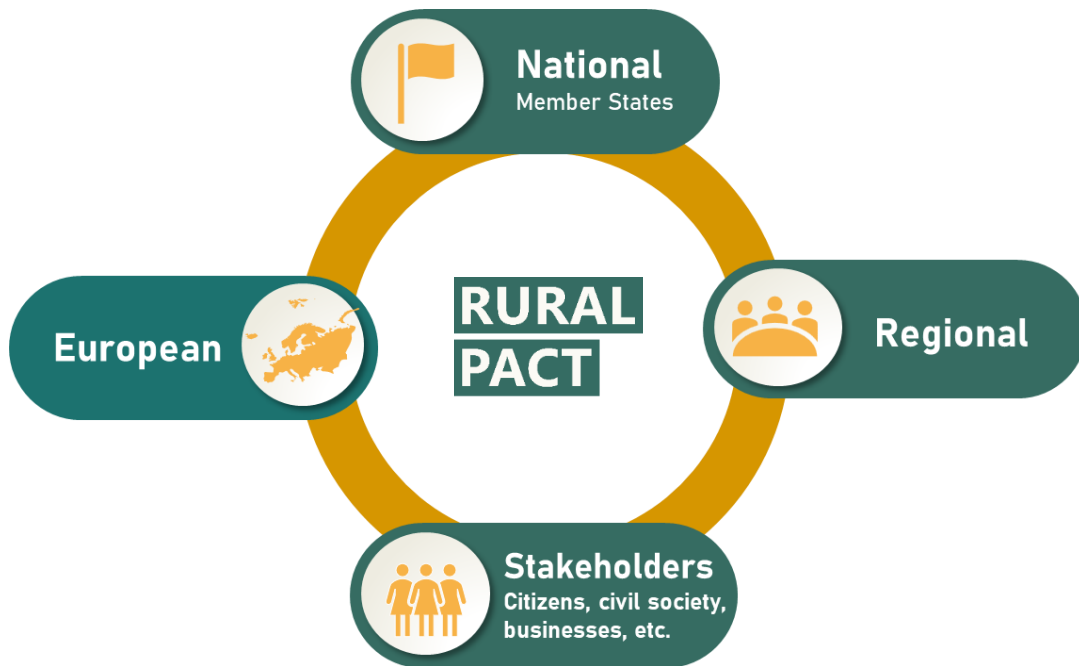
How it continues

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



The Rural Pact – a space to work together

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.



Objectives



Amplifying rural voices and bringing them higher on the political agenda

Policies



Structuring and enabling **networking, collaboration & mutual learning**

Capacities & Networking



Encouraging and monitoring voluntary **actions for the vision**

Action



The Rural Pact – a space to work together

RURAL PACT

More **4 000** members

27 EU Member States & other

7 Governments committed

11 Community Groups

Rural Pact

Rural Pact Coordination Group

Rural Pact Support Office

Community Groups

Youth

Energy

Tourism

Culture & creativity

Depopulation

Innovating rural policy

Mobility

Social Economy

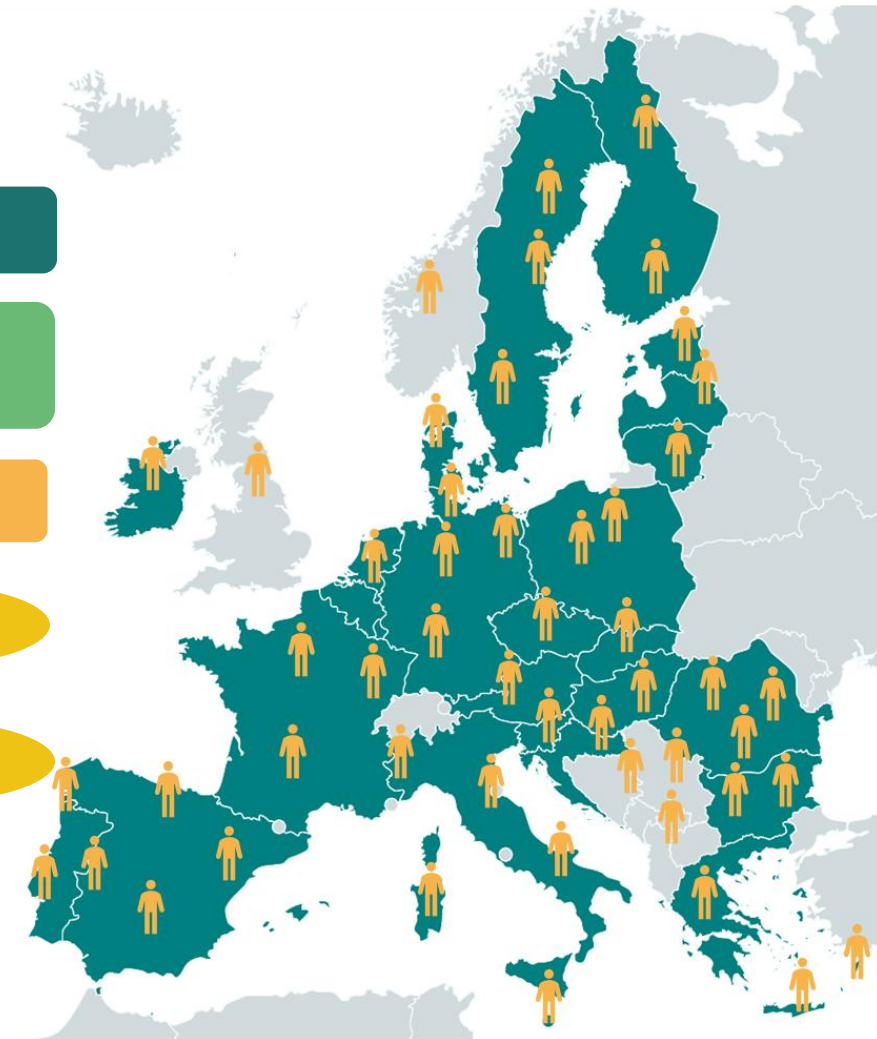
Migrants

Mountains

Women

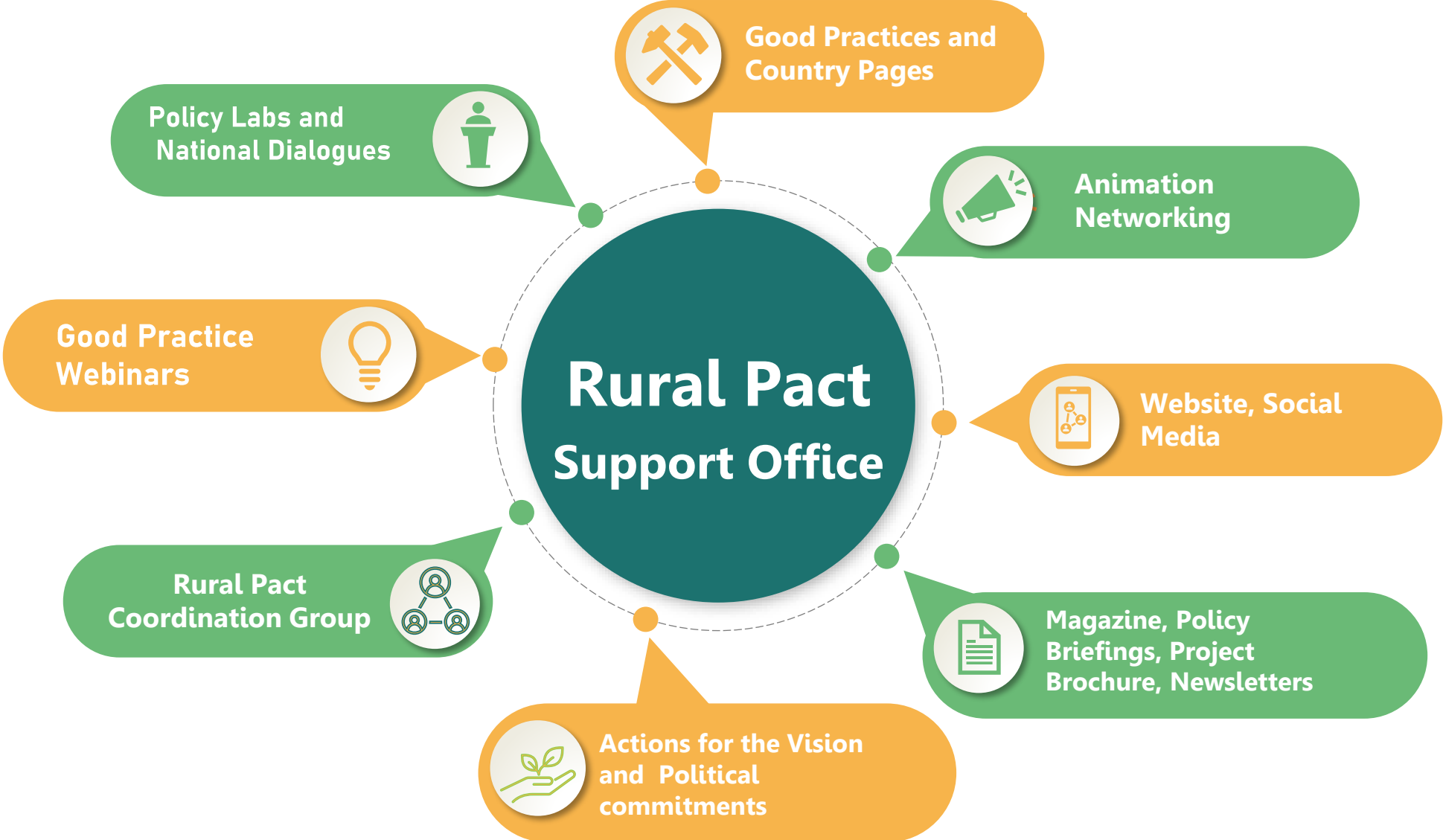
Smart Villages

RPCG



Rural Pact: https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/index_en

The Rural Pact Support Office



Activities in 2026 (Focus)



Providing a space to **exchange about how to respond comprehensively to rural needs**, promoting the development of integrated strategies for rural areas, and inspiring the **future NRPPs**, with good practices of innovative interventions in various domains;



Build capacities of Rural Pact community members to take a proactive role in the partnership to be created on the development of the NRPP in their countries, to favour a comprehensive response to rural community needs.

Networking & collaboration

Connect with peers

2 100+ members in Rural Pact Community Platform

Join / Create community groups

11 Community Groups

Energy, Culture, tourism, smart villages, depopulation, innovating rural policy, mobility, social economy, youth, migrants, mountain, women, smart villages



GROUP
Energy transition in rural areas

European Union
Stronger Rural Areas, Democracy and... (12)
English



GROUP
Rural tourism

European Union
Tourism and heritage, Prosperous rural areas
English



GROUP
Culture and creativity in rural areas

European Union
Democracy and participation, Governance (10)
English



GROUP
Rural depopulation and repopulation

European Union
Demography, Housing (2)
English



GROUP
Innovating rural public policy

European Union
Stronger Rural Areas, Connected rural areas (2)
English



GROUP
Rural mobility

European Union
Rural-urban linkages, Transport and mobility (7)
English



GROUP
Social economy

European Union
Access to services, Democracy and participation (25)
English



GROUP
Youth in rural areas - Empowering the next generation

European Union
Stronger Rural Areas, Access to services (26)
English



GROUP
Migrants and refugees' inclusion in rural areas

European Union
Demography, Education and training (16)
English



Rural Pact activities



Participation & exchange: policy and networking events

Web section of upcoming and past Rural Pact & stakeholder events

Rural Pact events in 2026

Good Practice Webinars

- > Territorial instruments - (LEADER/CLLD, Integrated Territorial Investments, and Smart Villages): lessons for the future: **22 Apr 2026**
- > Generational renewal beyond farming: Empowering youth, supporting elders: **10 Jun 2026**
- > Unlocking rural competitiveness: **24 Sep 2026**
- > Rural resilience in a changing world: responding to climate, conflict and disinformation: **date tbc**

Policy Lab

- > Anchoring rural areas in the National and Regional Partnership Plans (Brussels): **27 May 2026**

Past Rural Pact events

High-level Rural Policy Forum (Sep 2023)

Rural Pact Conference (Sep 2025)

Policy Labs

- > Rural depopulation (Jun 2023)
- > EU rural funding (Dec 2023)
- > Bringing the Rural Pact closer to citizens (May 2024)
- > Territorial development for the green transition (Sep 2024)
- > Policy coordination (Nov 2024)
- > Rural Proofing (Jun 2025)
- > Post-2027 EU budget and policies (Nov 2025)

Good Practice Webinars

- > Digital skills, social entrepreneurship, youth, climate, renewable energy, health, housing, tourism, innovation

Innovation



Activities in 2026 (National level work)

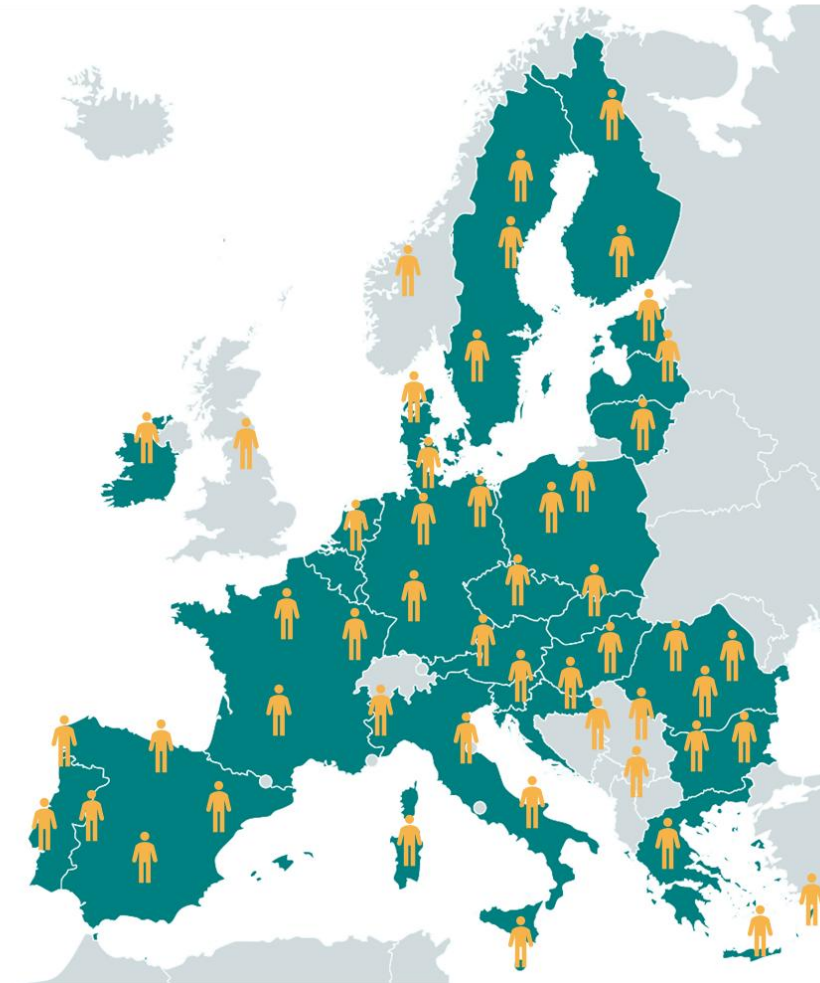
Advance with Rural Pact in Member States

A network of 28 RPSO national partners

- ▶ Raise awareness of the Rural Pact
- ▶ Help strengthen participation of rural actors in the Rural Pact

National Rural Pact events (France, Finland - tbc)

- ▶ Discuss elements related to integrated rural policies with national and regional authorities and relevant stakeholders,
- ▶ Improve the implementation of the seven ingredients of the rural pact



Rural Pact publications

Newsletter

- > 11 editions per year

Rural Vision Magazine

Available in EN, FR, DE

- > [Edition #1](#) (Dec 2023)
- > [Edition #2](#) (Dec 2024)
- > [Edition #3](#) (Nov 2025)
- > [Edition #4 \(in 2026\)](#)

Policy Briefings

Available in all official EU languages

- > [Making the Rural Pact happen in Member States](#)
- > [Empowering communities to take action for the rural vision](#)
- > [Integrated national/regional rural strategies](#)

NEW! Project Brochure (quarterly)

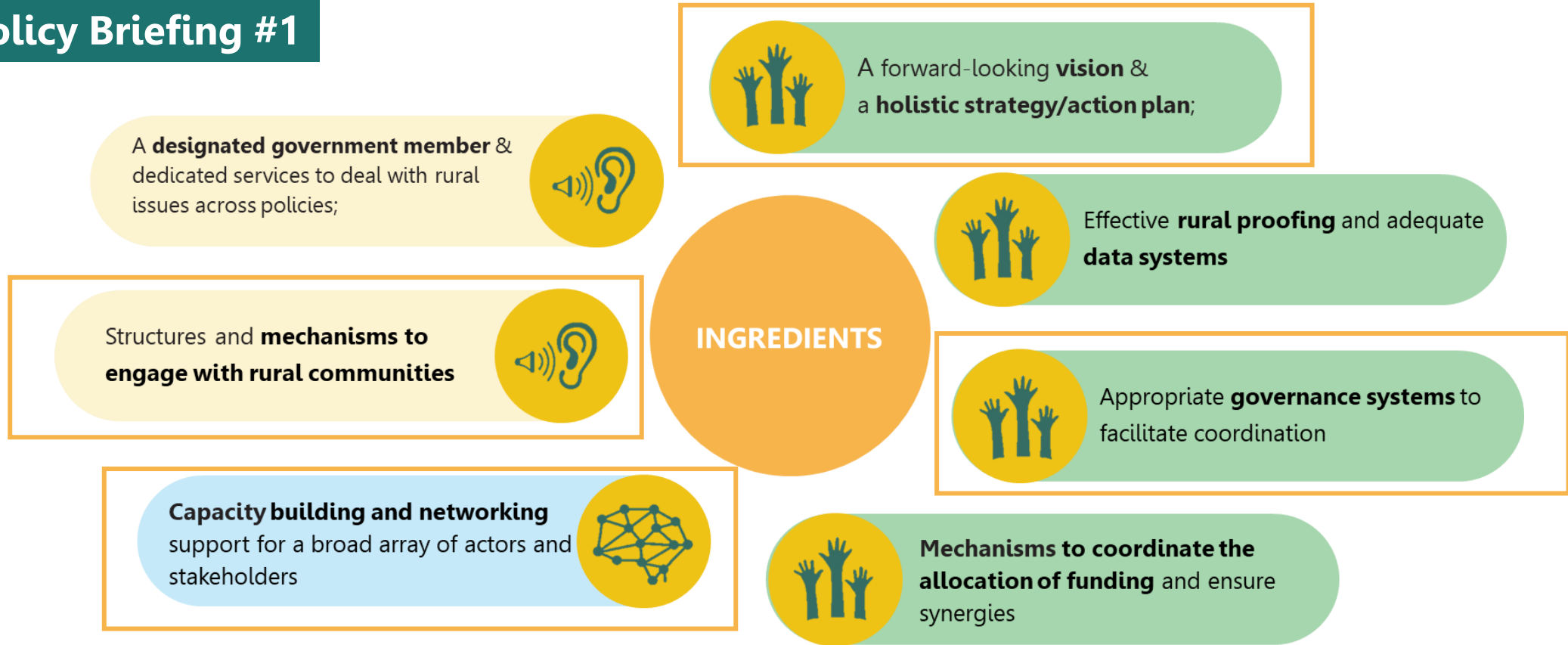
- > Place-based innovation in rural areas
- > Housing
- > Integrated rural development
- > Generational renewal beyond farming



Making the Rural Pact happen in Member States

National/regional

Policy Briefing #1



Policy Briefing

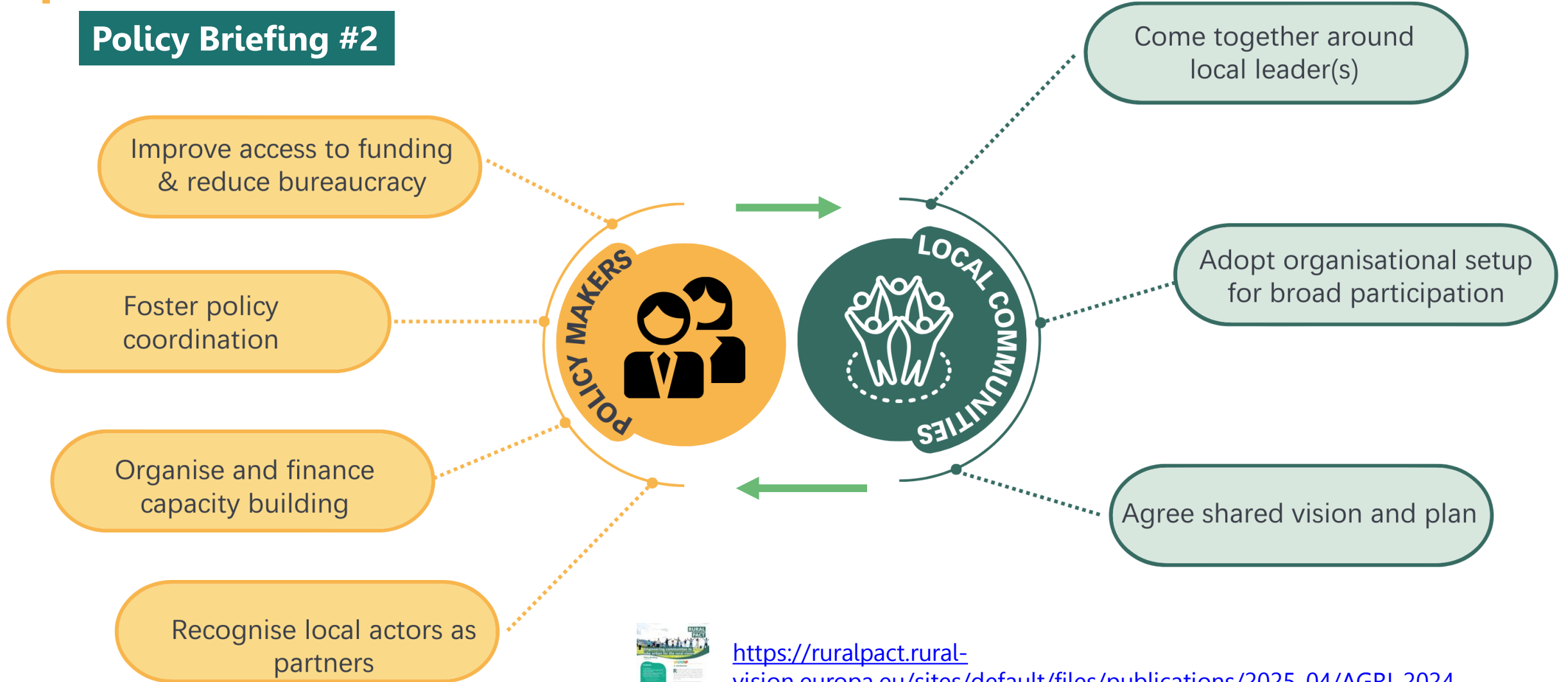


https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/publications/making-rural-pact-happen-member-states_en#section--resources

Available in 24 EU languages

Empowering rural communities to contribute to the Rural Vision 2040

Policy Briefing #2



<https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/AGRI-2024-RPSO-Policy-Briefing-02-ESn.pdf>

Actions for the vision

Stakeholder actions

Voluntary stakeholder actions towards the shared goals of the rural vision

Types: policies & advocacy; capacity building & knowledge; events & networking; local projects; other

Who can submit an action: everyone, either in individual or organisational capacity; need to be/become member of the platform

Why submit an action?

- > Gain pan-European visibility for your action
- > Inspire others to act
- > Bring up key rural needs, demonstrate power of rural action, and influence political agendas

The screenshot displays the 'Rural Pact Community Platform' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Union logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Actions for the rural vision > Commitments'. The main heading is 'Commitments'. On the left, there is a 'Filter results' section with a 'Free text search' box containing 'Enter keyword' and an 'Apply' button. Below the search box are several filter categories: 'Submitted by', 'Country', 'Rural Pact Objectives', 'Status', 'Stakeholder type', 'Type of activity', and 'Topics', each with a dropdown arrow. On the right, there are '93 results' displayed as cards. The first card is for 'Comunidade Intermunicipal do Alto Minho' with the title 'Collective Efficiency Strategy to Develop and Promote Rural Tourism'. It is marked as 'Ongoing' and 'Submitted by Jose Paulo Quatros', and is associated with 'Objective 2'. The second card is for 'ECOCLUB SA' with the title 'Eurocluster Rural Tourism Support Methodology'. It is marked as 'Completed' and 'Submitted by Frosso Dimitrakopoulou', and is associated with 'Objective 1', 'Objective 2', and 'Objective 3'.



Rural Pact Community Platform tools



Information & resources

Good Practices

- > **Types:** projects; methodologies; case studies; policy; tools

Home > Good practices > Good Practice database

Filter results

Free text search

Apply

Focus ▾

Topics ▾

Practice type ▾

Country ▾

Good Practice database

78 results


POLICY | 14 MAR 2025

Structured governance and information-sharing mechanisms improve Bratislava-Austria regional cooperation

A cross-border initiative – including a joint coordination office, regular mayors’ meetings and thematic working groups – strengthens urban-rural cooperation between Bratislava and Austrian rural regions.


Rural Pact Rural Revitalisation Platform

Connected rural areas, Stronger Rural Areas (+4) Austria, Slovakia



CASE STUDY | 14 MAR 2025

Volunteer-driven transport service enhances mobility options in rural Belgium





https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/good-practice/search_en

News

- > Web section of Rural Pact and stakeholder news
- > Past editions of the newsletter

Home > News > All news

Filter results

Free text search

Apply

Focus ▾

Topic ▾

Country ▾

Date ▾

All news

310 results


21 MAR 2025

Declaration on the future of EU rural areas now available in all EU languages

Find the Rural Pact Coordination Group Declaration (RPCG) in all official EU languages – read also a short, one-page version in English. The document sets out a strategic proposal for the post-2027 EU funds and policies to address the challenges faced by rural areas.


Rural Pact Rural Revitalisation Platform

Stronger Rural Areas, Connected rural areas (+2)



20 MAR 2025

New report sets out recommendations for improved Smart Villages programming and implementation support





News: https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/news/search_en



Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform

www.ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member_en



www.ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu

