



Vision for rural areas

Rural pact conference in Sweden – 4 May 2023
Hugo Almeida & Sofia Alves – European Commission





“Rural communities are a cornerstone of Europe’s resilience and independence. And when life in our countryside flourishes, so does our European way of life.”

President Von der Leyen – June 2022



Inter-institutional dialogue



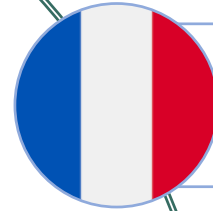
[Opinion](#) LTVRA (26 Jan 2022)
[Opinion](#) Smart Rural Europe (15 March 2023)



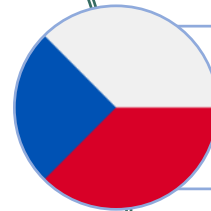
[Opinion](#) (23 Mar 2022)



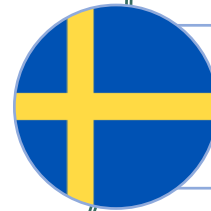
[Report](#) (13 December 2022)



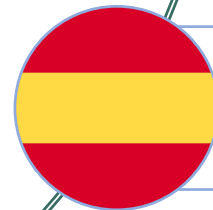
French Presidency – [GAC Cohesion conclusions on Cohesion report](#) (2 June 2022)



Czech Presidency – Lednice [declaration](#) + [launch of CZ Rural Pact](#) (28 October 2022)



Swedish Presidency – [Rural pact Conference in Sweden](#) (3-4 May 2023, Sweden)



Spanish Presidency – [High-level rural policy forum](#) (27-29 September 2023, Sigüenza)



The vision and its shared goals

Stronger

Empowered communities
Access to services
Social innovation

Connected

Digital connectivity
Transport links and
new mobilities

Prosperous

Diversification of
economic activities
Sustainable food production

Resilient

Resilience to climate change
Environmental resilience
Social resilience



Shared
goals for
2040

Rural action plan (EC)
+
Rural Pact (others)



The Rural Action Plan

24 thematic actions



9 flagships + 15 accompanying actions

- ✓ Rural revitalisation platform
- ✓ Research and innovation for rural communities
- ✓ Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas
- ✓ Rural digital futures
- ✓ Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change
- ✓ Climate action in peatland through carbon farming
- ✓ EU mission: A soil deal for Europe
- ✓ Social resilience and Women in rural areas
- ✓ Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas.



Cross-department coordination

The Rural Action Plan

24 thematic actions

✓ Rural revitalisation platform

- ✓ Enabling factors, self-assessment tool
- Launch 29 June 2023

✓ Research and innovation for rural communities

- ✓ Horizon 2021-2024 launched (120 M€)
- ✓ Startup village forum
- ✓ EIP-AGRI, RIS3
- Horizon 2025-2027

✓ Education and youth

- ✓ Study on rural young people access to ERASMUS and ESCP

✓ Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas

- ✓ **SMARTA NET** Networking for municipalities

✓ Urban mobility framework published

✓ Rural Digital Futures

- ✓ Horizon + DEP WP published
- ✓ EDIH
- ✓ Digital skills and jobs platform
- ✓ Pilots on digital education for children in remote areas
- ✓ 5G for smart com.
- ✓ **Rural digital index**

✓ Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change

- ✓ **Rural energy communities advisory hub**

✓ Climate action in peatland /carbon farming

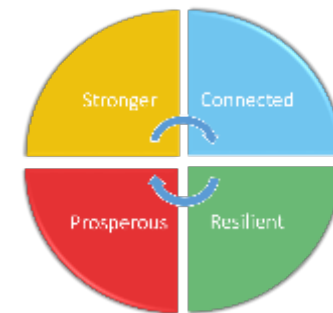
- ✓ Comm “Sustainable C cycles”
- ✓ 3 LIFE projects
- ✓ Just transition fund
- ✓ CAP assessments
- Certif. C removals

✓ EU mission: A soil deal for Europe

- ✓ Calls published

✓ Social resilience and Women in rural areas

- ✓ **European care strategy (2022)**



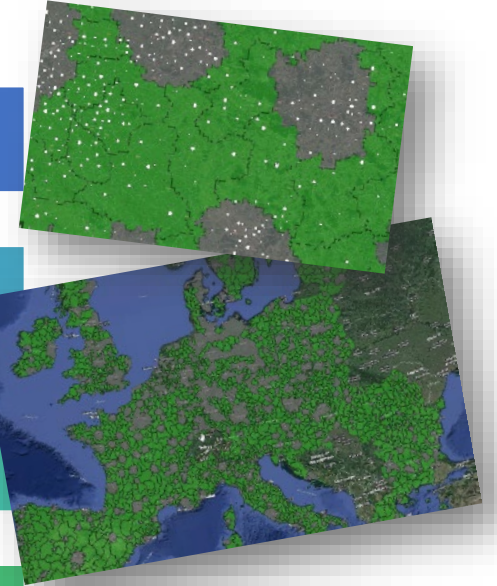
✓ Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas.

- ✓ Clusters of social and ecologic innovation (rural focus) report published – study by RTD
- Euroclusters call
- European cluster collaboration platform
- **Transition pathway for proximity and social economy**

The Rural Action Plan

6 Horizontal actions

Rural-vision.europa.eu



Rural Observatory

Improving statistics

Functional Rural Areas

Rural proofing

Toolkit on EU funding

Propose a Rural Pact



European
Commission

Next steps

Stock taking on programming of Common Agricultural Policy and Cohesion Policy for rural areas (mid-2023)

Stock taking on implementation of the Rural Action Plan (2023)

Listing indicators to track progress towards the shared goals

Public report on how to enhance support for rural areas (Early 2024)



European
Commission

Thank you

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Learn about the [EU rural vision](#)

Explore the [EU rural observatory](#)

Read the [Rural Pact](#)

Join the [Rural Pact community](#) &

Tell us how [you want to contribute!](#)

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