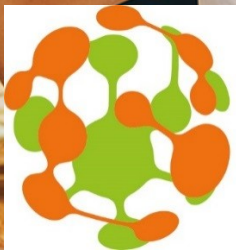




Vision for rural areas



SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy
Interfaces

María Gafo
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

30 November 2020



European
Commission

Background

Origin of the vision and overview



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 - EC Political Guidelines

EU RURAL AREAS

76% of EU territory

13% of the EU
**GROSS VALUE
ADDED**



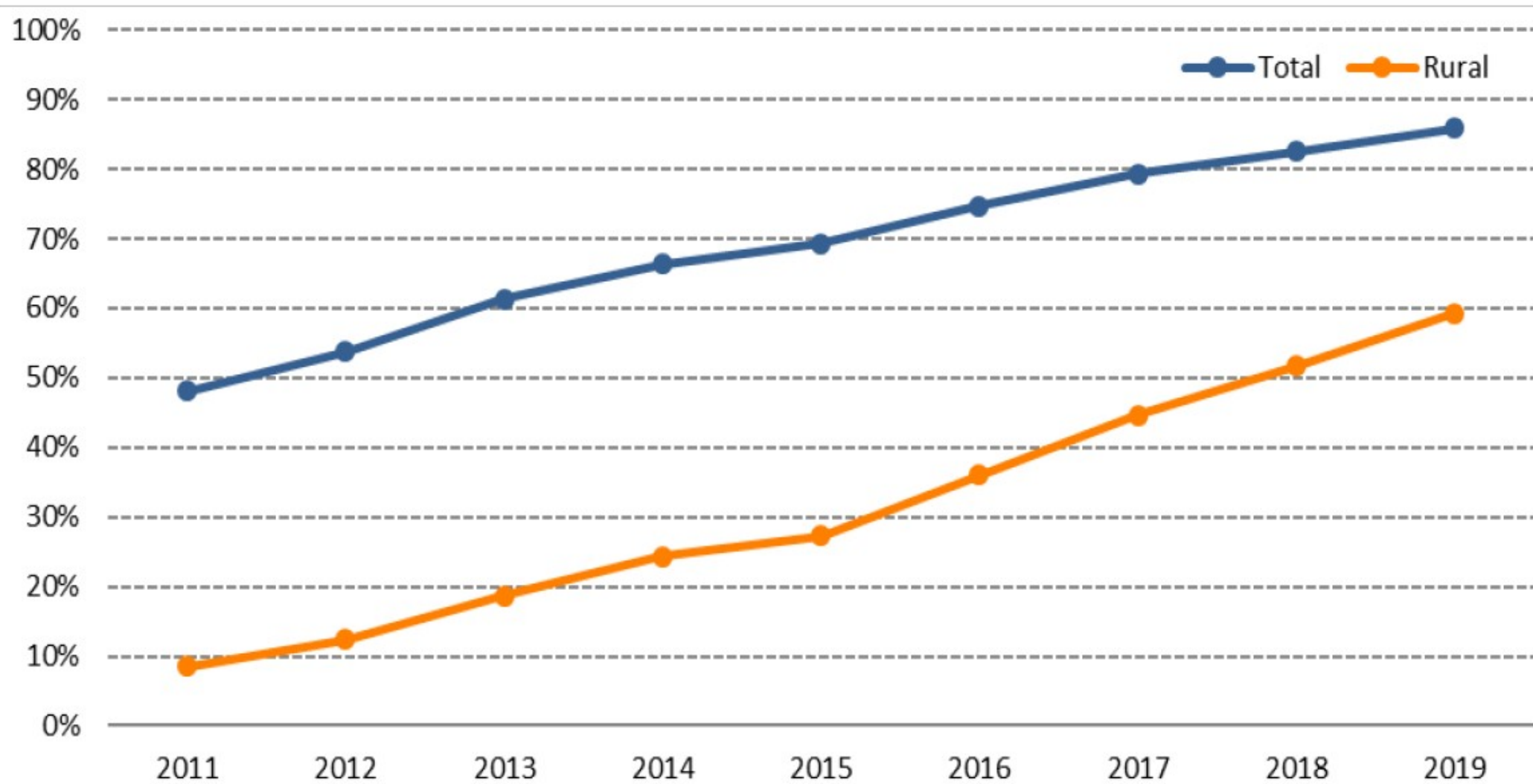
26% of EU population
(116 million people)

27% of EU jobs

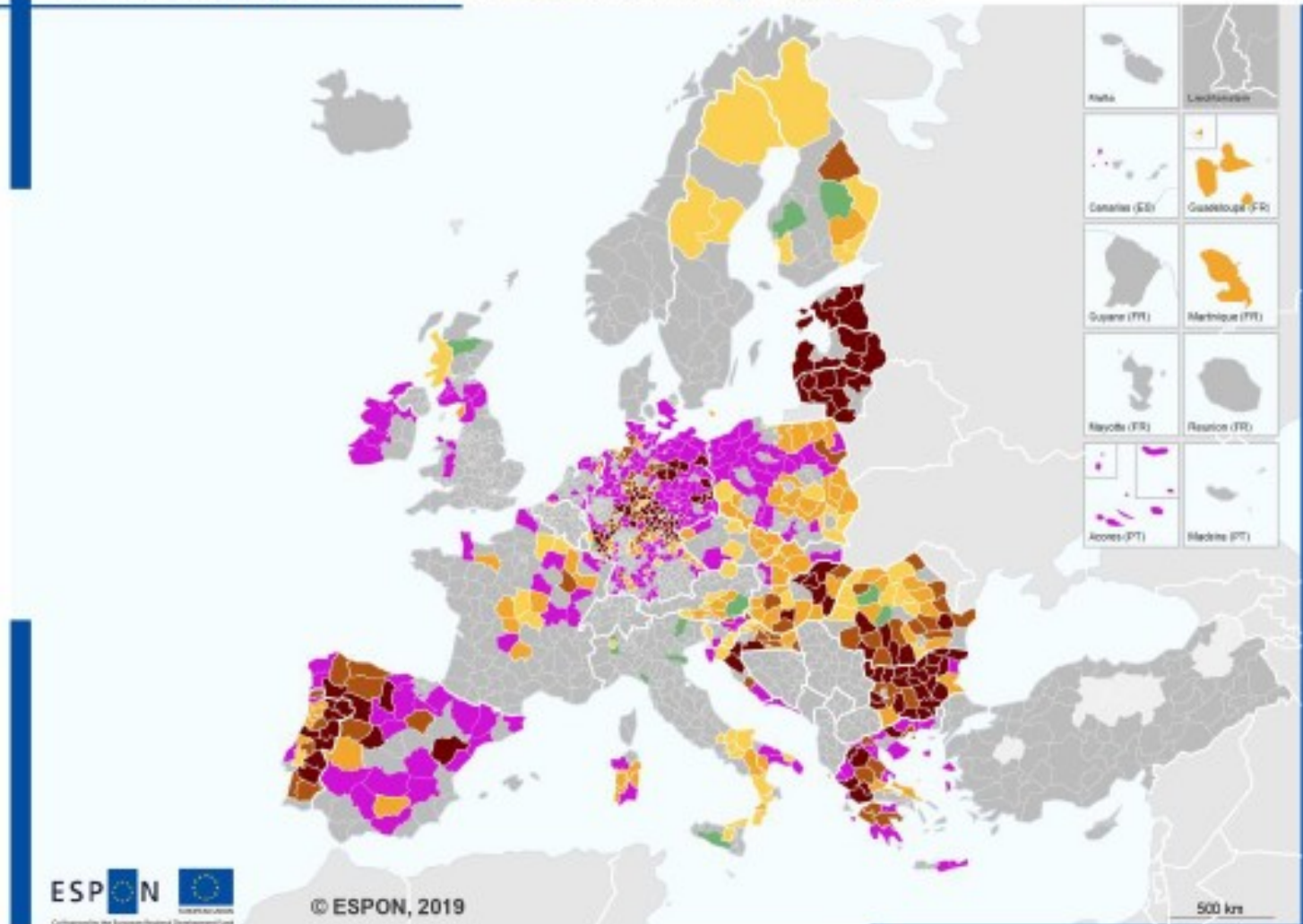
CHALLENGES OF OUR RURAL AREAS

- ▶ Access to public and private services - 40% lack access to high speed internet
- ▶ Generational renewal
- ▶ 59% of rural population in regions demographically shrinking
- ▶ A number of rural areas facing the twin-challenge of low income and rapidly declining population

Next Generation Access (NGA) broadband coverage in the EU (%households)



Future demographic trends 2017-2032 in shrinking rural regions



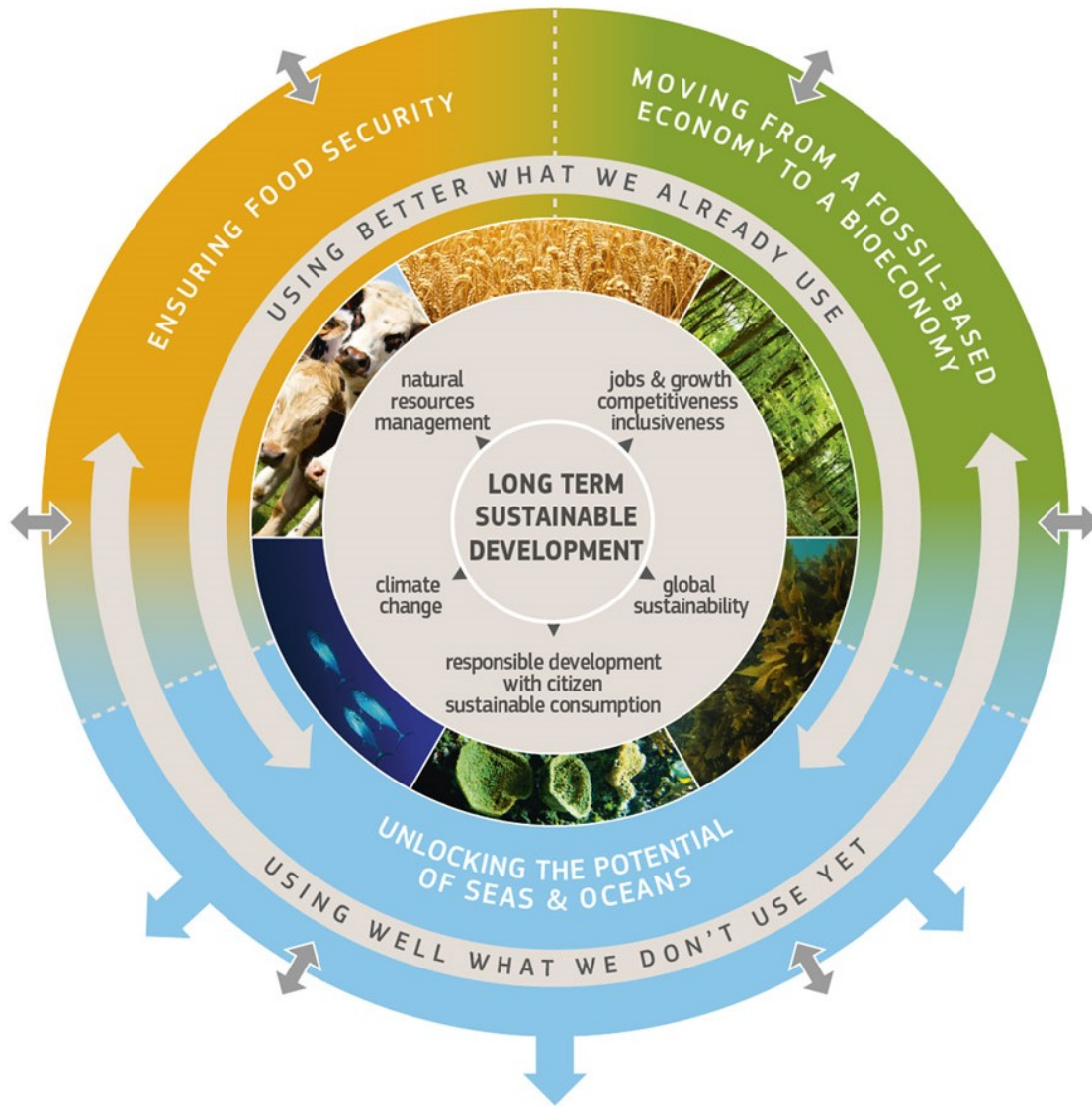
Future demographic trends in shrinking intermediate and rural regions (NUTS 3) in 2017-2032:



Regional level: NUTS 3 (2013)
 Source: ESPON ESCAPE, 2019
 Origin of data: Eurostat, 2019
 © UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

*Intermediate and rural regions (NUTS3) with population growth in 2001-2016 and expected population decrease in 2017-2032.

MANY OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD



- ▶ Circular and **bio-based economy**
- ▶ Ecological and digital **transition**
- ▶ **Recovery from COVID 19** crisis and changes to society which rural areas could benefit from (i.e. increased teleworking, appreciation for green spaces...)



#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**



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Vision for rural areas

Why now?

- ▶ Signaling that the Commission takes rural areas seriously
- ▶ Addressing pressing issues for rural areas from demographic change to connectivity, the risk of poverty and limited access to services.
- ▶ Highlighting new challenges and opportunities (including links to COVID 19 recovery)

How?



**Public
consultation**



Analysis



Foresight



**European
Commission**



How?

- ▶ AGRI and REGIO Commissioners work together under the coordination of VP Suica.
- ▶ Public Consultation with people living in rural areas, local and regional authorities.
- ▶ Ensuring specific needs of rural areas are duly taken into account both under the Cohesion policy programmes and under the CAP Strategic Plans for the period 2021-2027

State of play

Overview of the current situation and next steps

Public consultation

- ▶ Roadmap (feedback open from 22/7 to 9/9)
- ▶ Online questionnaire published on 07/09 til 30/11
- ▶ Eurobarometer (27,237 interviews in all Member States)
- ▶ Many events (including SHERPA conference)
- ▶ Foresight Thematic group ongoing
- ▶ Final conference organised by the ENRD (March 2021)
- ▶ Own initiative opinion prepared by **EESC** and ongoing by **CoR** on rural issues



Package to download

- ▶ Enables any rural group to:
 - ▶ Assess their area
 - ▶ Contribute to RV
- ▶ Complements on-line questionnaire and foresight
- ▶ Highlights local examples/stories

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/long-term-rural-vision/long-term-rural-vision-portal/resources/ltvra-workshop-aackage-for-nrns_en

Vision for rural areas



Thank you
for your
attention!

#RuralVisionEU