



LTVRA – Where are we now and how can SHERPA contribute

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SHERPA Annual Conference



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@ruralinterfaces



Vision for rural areas

SHERPA Conference 31 January 2022
Alexia Rouby – European Commission – DG AGRI



How?



Public consultation and engagement

Open public consultation (2300) + Eurobarometer (27 000) + Rural voices (stakeholder workshop package - 3000) + Rural vision Week (600)



Analysis

12 themes
All aspects of rural life



Foresight

Participatory scenario building + research projects (SHERPA!)



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Long Term Vision for EU's Rural Areas



- **Communication (30 June 2021)**
- **Staff Working Document with analysis, EU policies and foresight (3 parts)**
- **Synopsis Report of the public consultation**
- **Factsheet**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/long-term-vision-rural-areas_en

The vision and its shared goals

Stronger

Empowered communities
Access to services
Social innovation

Connected

Digital connectivity
Transport links and
new mobilities

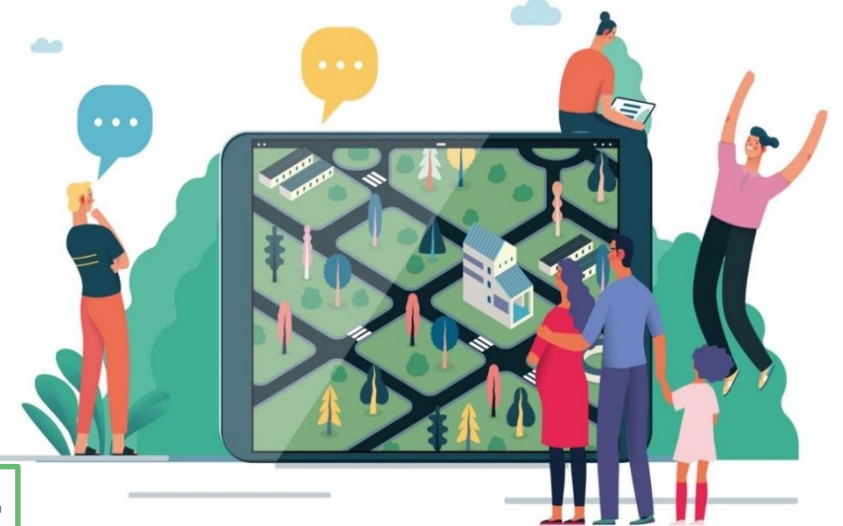
Prosperous

Diversification of
economic activities
Sustainable food production

Resilient

Resilience to climate change
Environmental resilience
Social resilience

Shared goals for 2040



The Rural action plan

RAP-EC



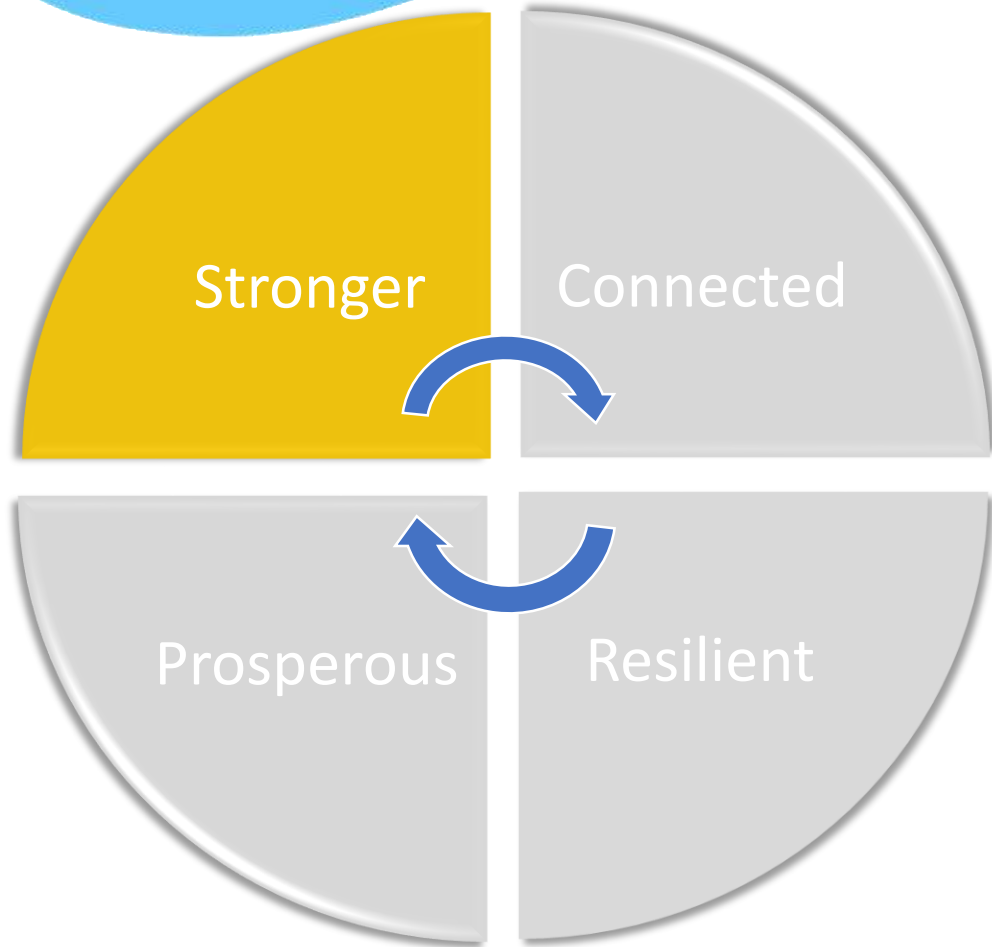
9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

- ✓ 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.

and
15 accompanying
actions

The Rural action plan

RAP-EC



9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

- ✓ Rural revitalisation platform

What is it?

- ✓ A new platform for stakeholders and authorities to **collaborate**
- ✓ Focus on areas **affected by population loss**
- ✓ One place to find **tools, good practices, inspirational examples, strategies** and **smart approaches**
- ✓ Will build on **smart villages, LEADER, Territorial agenda pilots, INTERREG** projects.



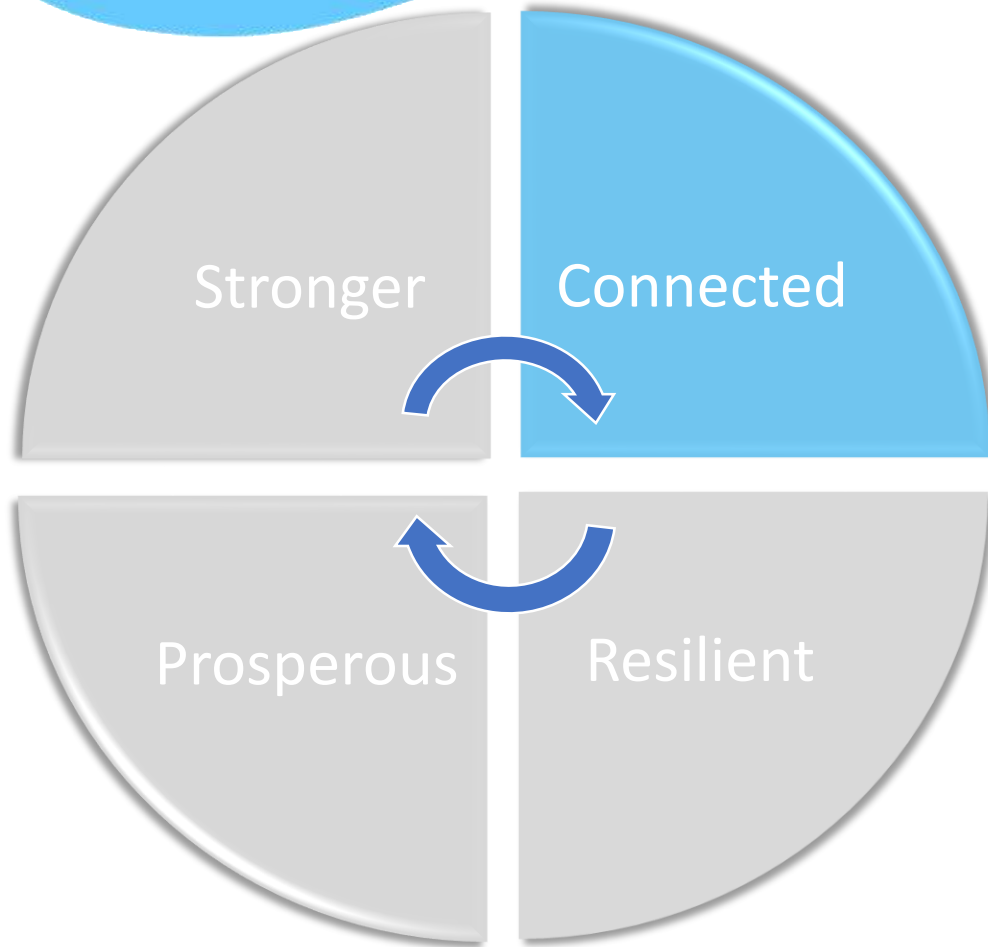
How is it prepared?

- ✓ New ENRD thematic group
- ✓ Understand the **key enabling conditions to drive rural revitalisation across Europe**
- ✓ explore the needs, and develop ideas and recommendations, to help **shape the future rural revitalisation platform**

Platform to come live in **2022/2023**.

The Rural action plan

RAP-EC



9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

✓ Rural Digital Futures

Connectivity

- Private-sector investments
- EU fund leverage (RRF, ESIF, CEF)

Technologies

- Horizon Europe
- Digital Europe programme

Skills

- ESF+
- EAFRD + others

Measuring

- Rural digital index



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The Rural action plan

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9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

- ✓ **Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change**

What is it?

- ✓ The Commission will work with the **Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy**. The CoM has over **10.000 signatories**, many of which are rural.
- ✓ Developing rural communities within this network will open **new opportunities for rural municipalities**.

When will this take place?

- ✓ The first action is technical assistance for setting-up **renewable energy communities**.
- ✓ First call published in **Q2/Q3 2022**.

What's in it for you?

- ✓ Networking opportunities
- ✓ Technical support
- ✓ Links with Local Action Groups



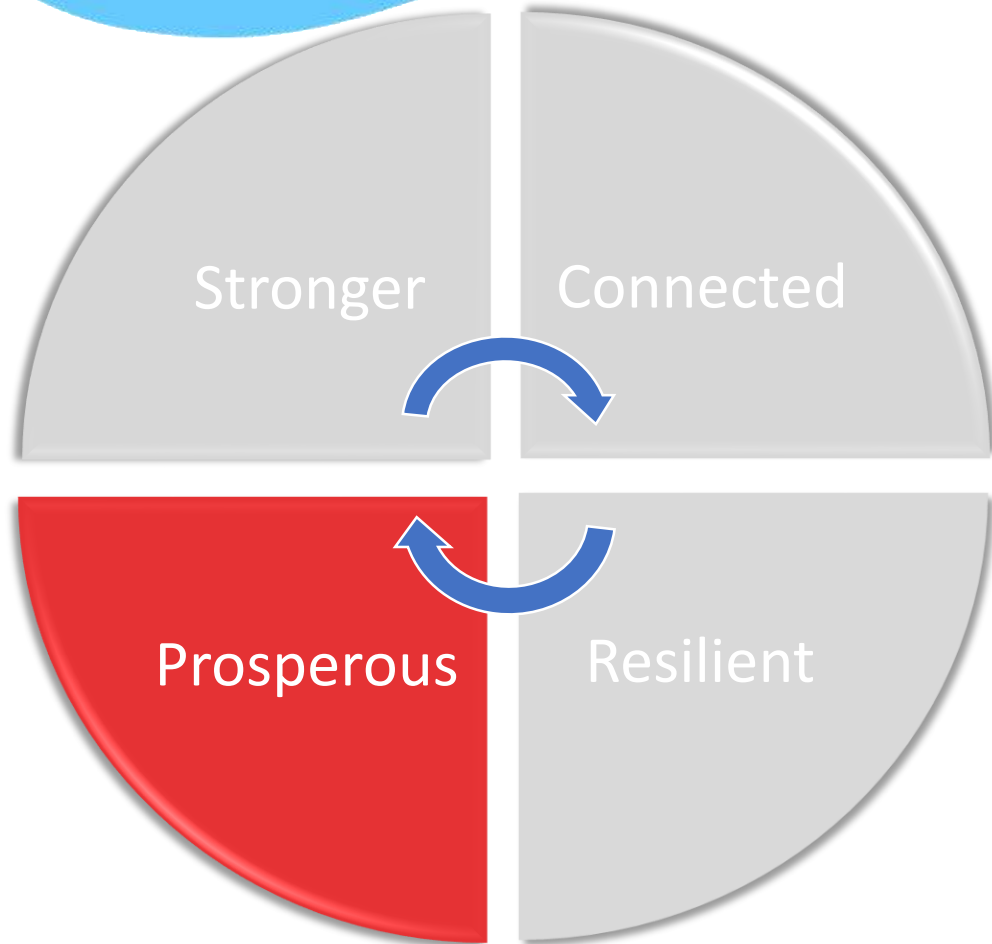
SHERPA
Can help



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The Rural action plan

RAP-EC



9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

- ✓ **Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas.**

What is it?

- ✓ **Clustering, networking and cooperation** through the single market programme, COSME and Enterprise Europe Network
- ✓ **European action plan for the social economy**
- ✓ **Improving interfaces between local food and retail (hubs)**
- ✓ **Improve innovative environments for entrepreneurs: EIT KICs**



The Rural action plan

Horizontal actions

Rural proofing

- Review of policies through rural lens
- EU: Updated “Better regulation guidelines” => Territorial impact assessment and rural proofing strengthened + softer mechanisms
- National/regional level: ENRD thematic group Rural proofing

EU Rural observatory

- Centralise data collection: **Rural data platform**
- Inform on the relevant initiatives
- Analyse the developments (**themes explored each year**)
- In practice: Administrative agreement with Joint research centre
- First “dashboards” end 2022



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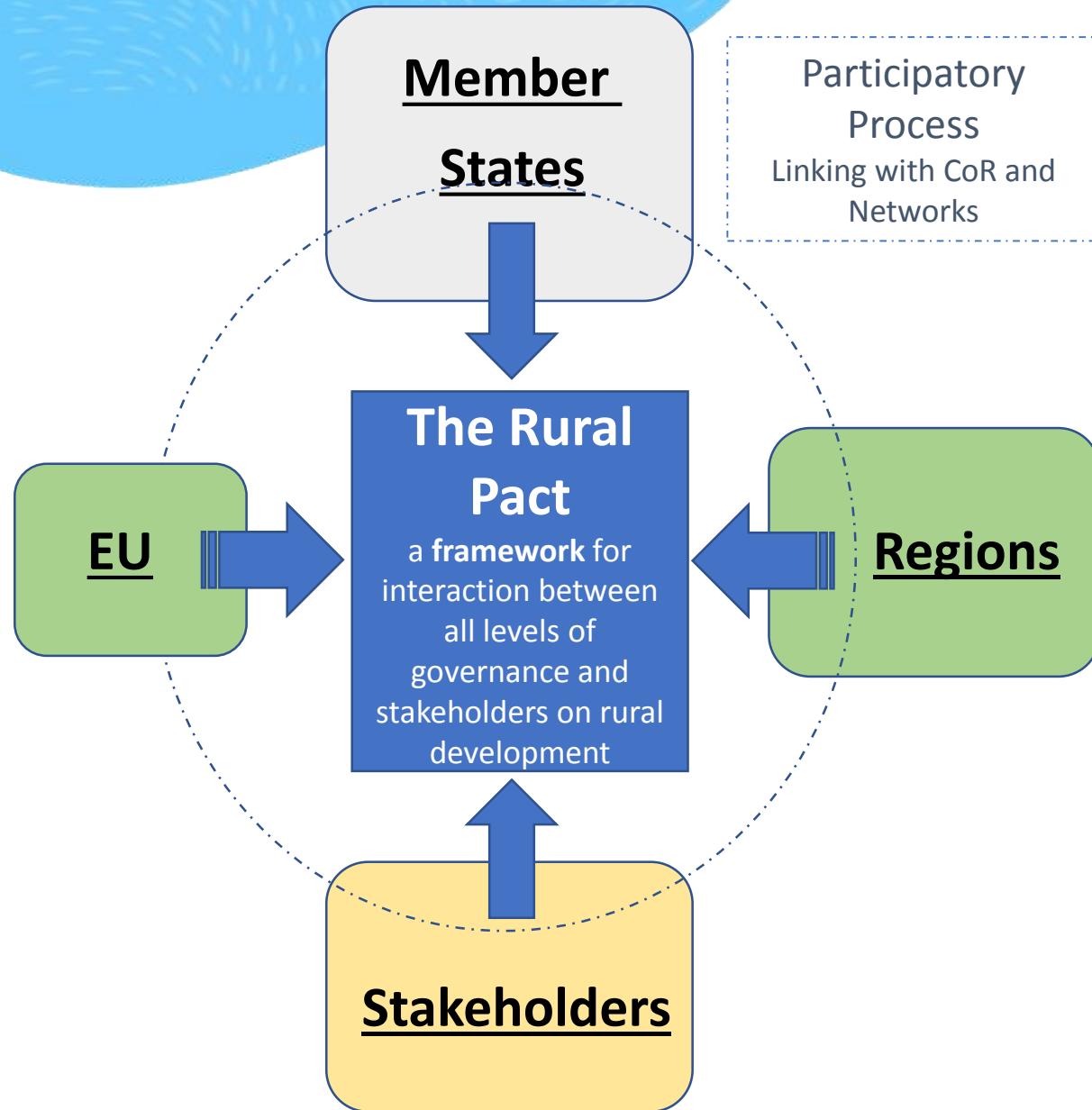
Combination of EU funds

- Toolkit to access to EU Funds for rural areas
- Linking with territorial handbook



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The Rural pact

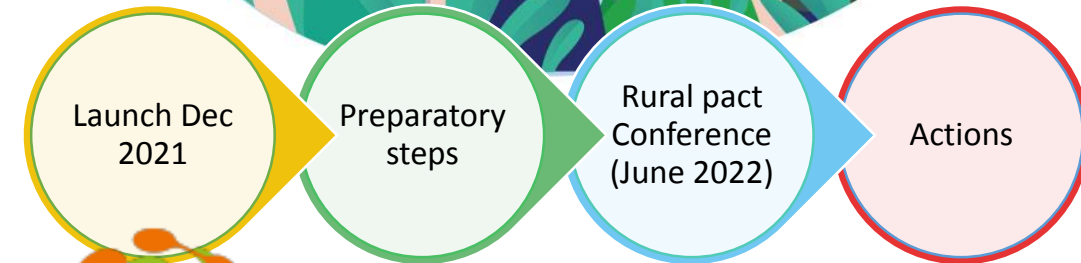


Join the Rural Pact community

Endorsing the shared goals

Shaping the pact

Acting together



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Join and help engage others!



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Next steps

Promotion
+ Interinstitutional process



Dec 2021: kick-off dialogue rural pact => Conference mid-2022

Mid-2023: Evaluation of actions and 2021-2027 programming period

2024: Reflections on 2028-2034



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The Rural vision and SHERPA



- ✓ The Rural vision is a **science-policy-society process**: SHERPA ideally placed to inform, pilot, feedback and take part!
- ✓ **Science & policy & society?: The rural observatory** – feed the intelligence collected
- ✓ **Society & policy: The rural pact** – How to bring everybody on board?
- ✓ **Society & policy & science?: The rural revitalisation platform** – which type of collaboration platform can be useful? Which strategies work or don't work? Which tools would you like to see? Which ones have you collected?
- ✓ => **Thematic actions (flagships)** to connect with your own themes (economy, climate, energy, etc.)

Vision for rural areas



**Thank you for
your attention!**