

# SHERPA

## Final Conference 2023



1-2 June 2023

Hosted by



**European Committee  
of the Regions**



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# SESSION 3:

## Science-Society-Policy interfaces



#SHERPAConference



# The EU Rural Pact

**Science-society-policy interfaces**



Pascale Van Doren

Rural Pact Support Office



# Rural Pact and SHERPA: towards synergies

Pascale VAN DOREN  
Rural Pact Support Office  
Sherpa Final Conference  
1 June - 2 June 2023



#RuralPact



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

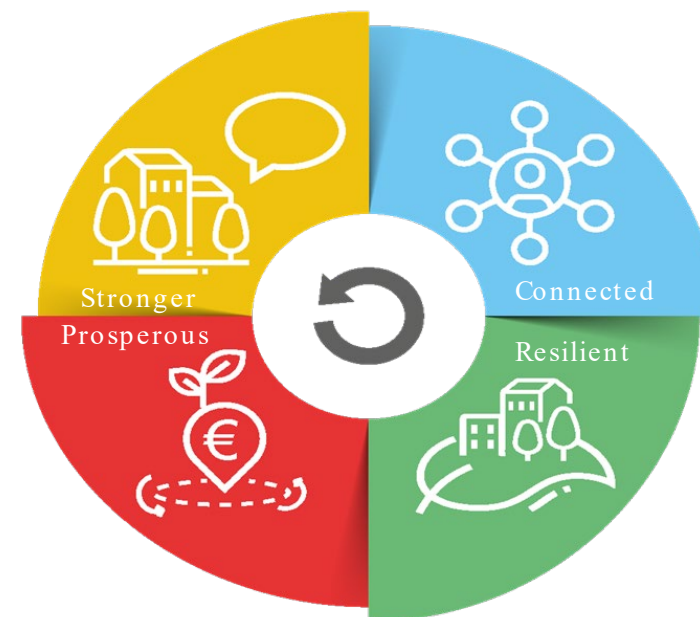
## LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

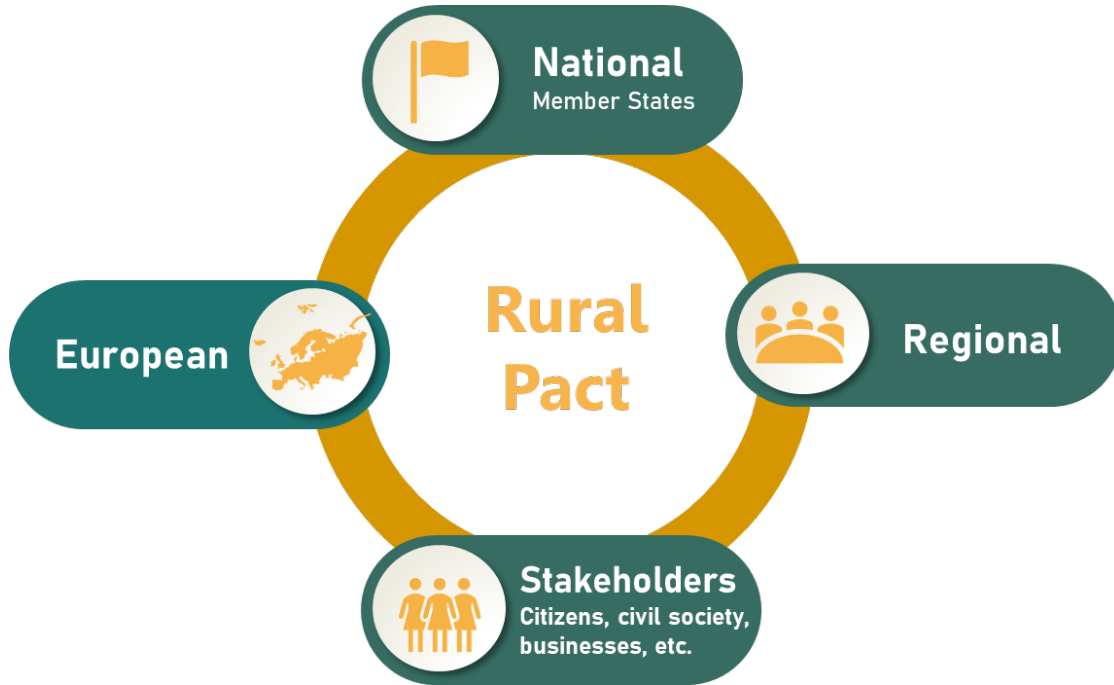
EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

6  
Horizontal  
actions

1. Rural Observatory
2. Functional Rural Areas
3. Improved Statistics
4. Rural Proofing
5. Toolkit on EU funding
6. Rural Pact



# The Rural Pact



## What is the Rural Pact ?

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.

#RuralPact



## Participatory process

**Proposals from the Rural Pact preparatory group for the Rural Pact conference on 15-16 June 2022**

**Introduction**

With the adoption of the Communication on a Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, the European Commission committed to setting-up a Rural Pact. This Pact will contribute to reaching the shared goals of the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas but also fits into the EU's broader commitment of implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring balanced territorial development.

Following the launch of the Rural Pact Community, in December 2021, over 1000 individuals and organisations have endorsed the shared goals of the rural vision and want to work towards their achievement. This draft is the next step in the Rural Pact process. Drafted by EU institutions and rural stakeholders<sup>1</sup>, it outlines the main features of the Rural Pact. Rural Pact Community members were invited to express their views on this proposal in May through a survey. Their feedback was taken on board for the final proposal which was presented at the Rural Pact conference on 15 and 16 June 2022.

**Objectives**

The Rural Action Plan, which was adopted with the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, represents the European Commission's commitment to acting for rural areas. One of its actions is to propose a Rural Pact, which aims to strengthen multi-level governance for the EU's rural areas. This means that the Pact will engage the European, national, regional and local level, all of which have a key role to play in the future of rural areas, to work together.

The activities of the Rural Pact could be classified as contributing to three broad objectives:

<sup>1</sup> Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, ELARD, PREPARE and ERCA from the European Rural Parliament, as well as the European Parliament and the European network for Rural Development as observers.

Proposal endorsed  
Rural Pact Conference (15-16 June 2022)

# The Rural Pact - Objectives



Amplify the voice of rural areas and bring them up in policy agendas



Networking, collaboration & mutual learning



Commitments to act



Join the Rural Pact Community! <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>



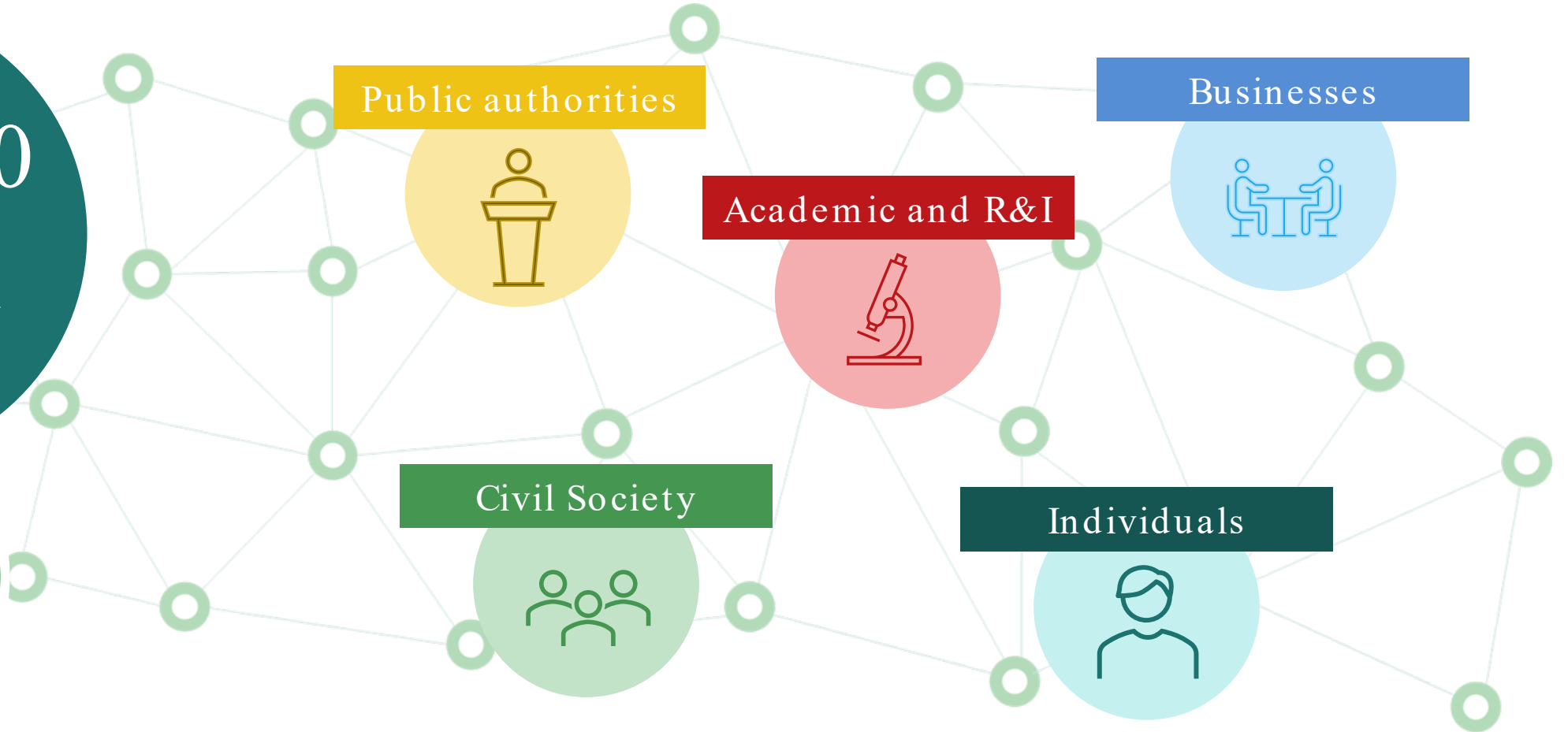
Rural Pact Proposal: [https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/rural-pact-proposal\\_en.pdf](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/rural-pact-proposal_en.pdf)

# The Rural Pact Community Members



**+1750**  
Rural Pact  
Community  
Members by  
May 2023

**+80**  
Commitments to  
act



Participating in the Pact = Committing to act for one or more of its objectives



Join the Rural Pact Community! <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>

#RuralPact



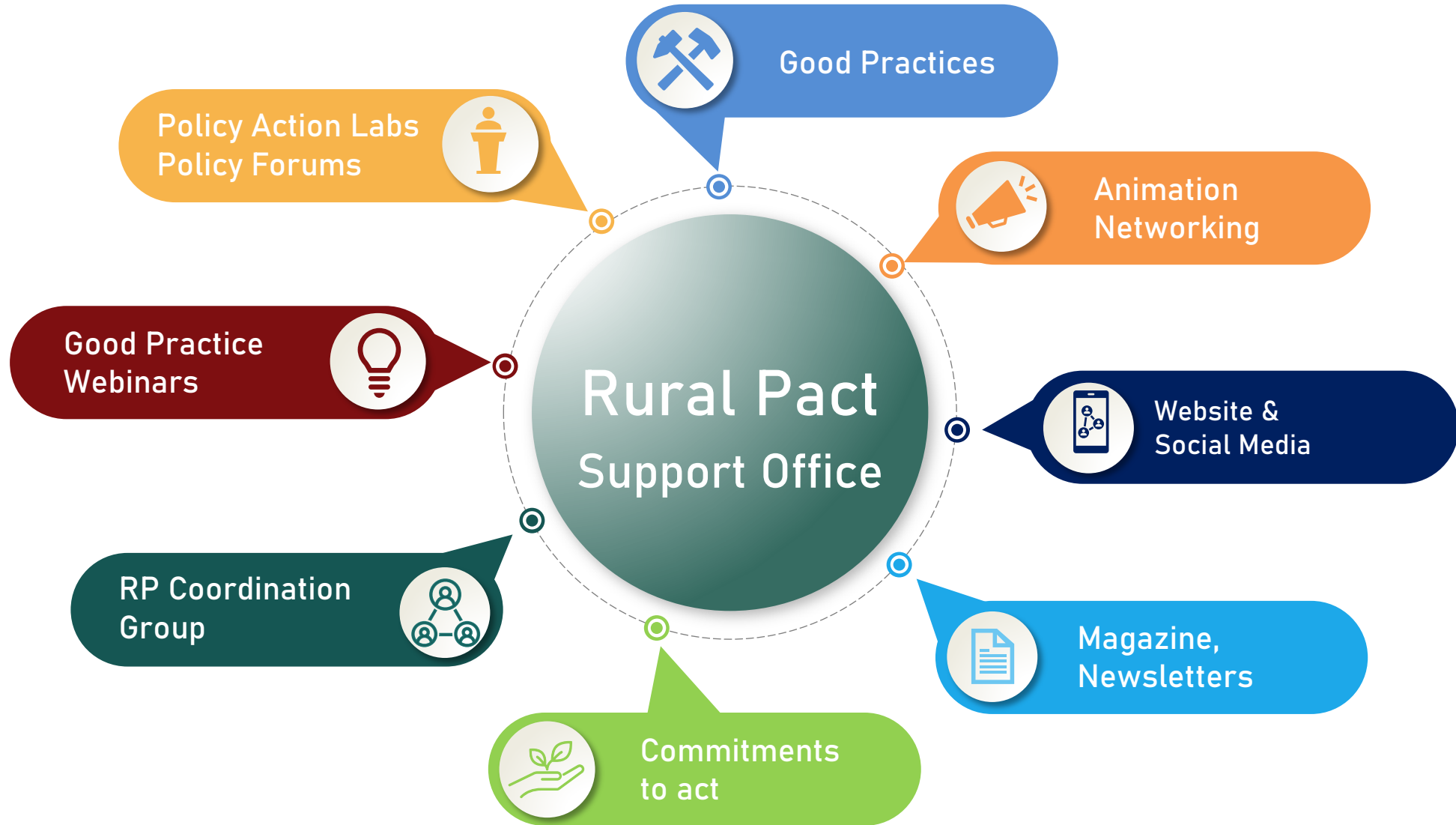
# Rural Pact Support Office



- Informal group steering the Rural Pact process
- Three-year mandate
- Learn more [here](#)

- Provide facilitation services to the Rural Pact community
- Networking and information
- Build synergies with networks and governing bodies
- Evaluate needs of the RP community and support its work

# The Rural Pact Support Office



# Main Events in 2023



## Policy Labs

- ▶ Taking action to tackle rural depopulation, Brussels, Belgium (29 June)
- ▶ Online - Designing future support for rural areas (December – tbc)



## Good Practice Webinars

- ▶ Fostering social entrepreneurship in rural areas through local action (11 May)
- ▶ Strengthening digital skills of rural people to benefit from the digital era (8 June)
- ▶ Energy transition (October – tbc)
- ▶ Webinar 4: topic to be defined (December – tbc)



[https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events\\_en](https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events_en)



# Main Events in 2023



Spanish Presidency  
of the Council of the EU



## High level Policy Forum

### Shaping the future of rural areas

(27-29 September), Sigüenza (Spain)

Organised by Spanish presidency & European Commission

[https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events/shaping-future-rural-areas-2023-09-27\\_en](https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events/shaping-future-rural-areas-2023-09-27_en)



# Be informed, participate and take action



## Steps

1

Join the Rural Pact Community

Form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>

2

Take action contributing to the vision & share it with us

Form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TheRuralPactCommitmentCanvas>





# Rural Revitalisation Platform

- Foreseen in the Communication, as an action under the “Stronger” pillar
- Collaborative tool for and by all revitalisation actors
- Features have been defined based on the needs expressed by the different types of stakeholders interviewed:
  - Finding information
  - Interacting with peers
  - Sharing & learning
  - Trustability, accuracy, transparency
- Official launch on 29 June 2023, at the Policy lab on rural revitalisation
- Want to be a forerunner? Contact us! [info@rural-pact.eu](mailto:info@rural-pact.eu)



# THANK YOU

Rural Pact Community – Join us  
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>



<https://rural-vision.europa.eu/>

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