

SHERPA

Final Conference



1-2 June 2023

Hosted by



**European Committee
of the Regions**



SHERPA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 862448. The content of the document does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s).

SESSION 1:

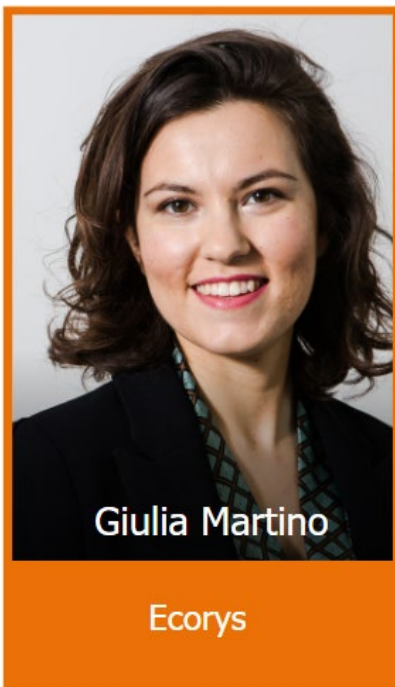
Contribution to the EU Long-Term Vision for
Rural Areas



#SHERPAConference



Welcome to our panel



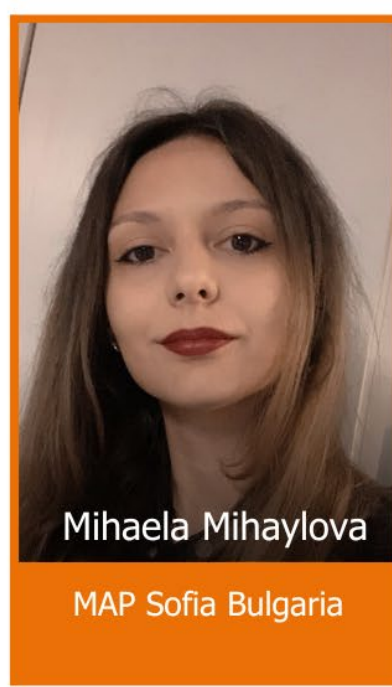
Giulia Martino

Ecorys



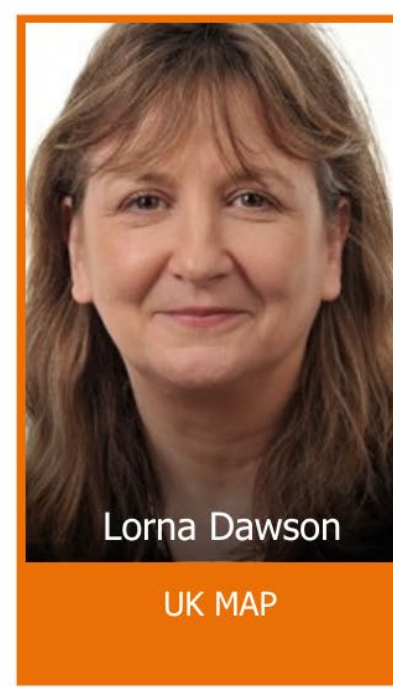
Tom Jones

EU MAP - European Rural
Community Alliance



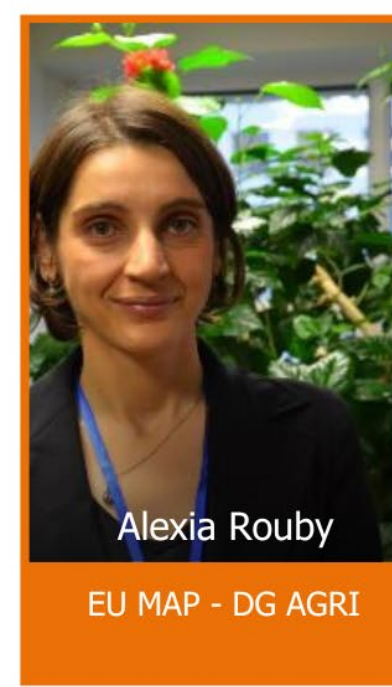
Mihaela Mihaylova

MAP Sofia Bulgaria



Lorna Dawson

UK MAP



Alexia Rouby

EU MAP - DG AGRI



SHERPA contribution to the EU LTVRA

- Actions from the LTVRA Rural Action Plan will be presented per LTVRA building block, along with the corresponding proposed SHERPA actions.
 - Stronger and Resilient rural areas
- Voting on proposed SHERPA actions for the Rural Action Plan using **menti.com**
 - Have your phone ready!
- The results will be used for the development of final SHERPA contributions:
 - Potential adjustments to the EU Rural Action Plan



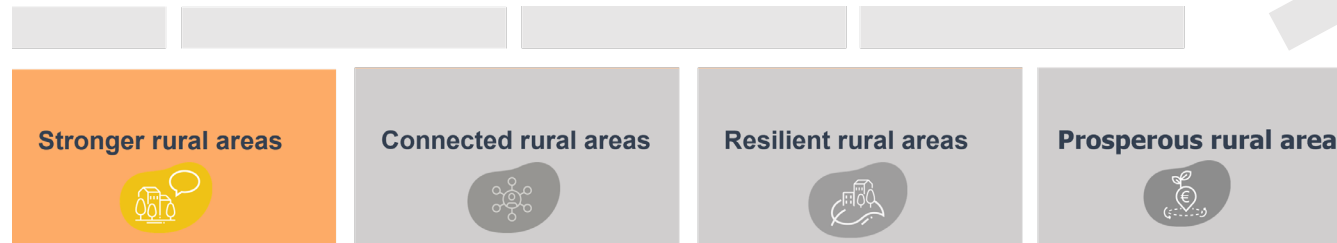
Contribution to the LTVRA Rural Action Plan

Stronger and Resilient Rural Areas





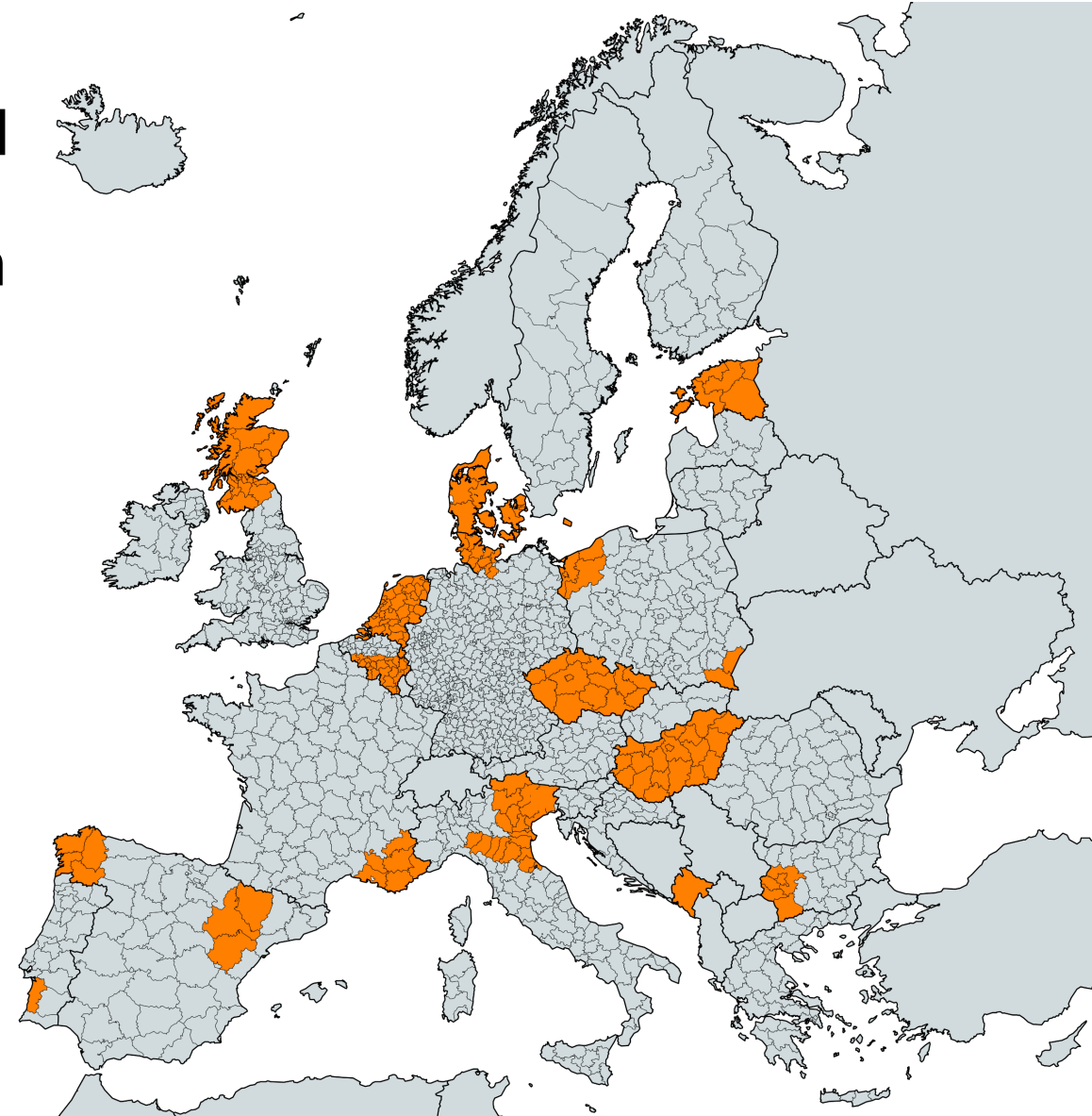
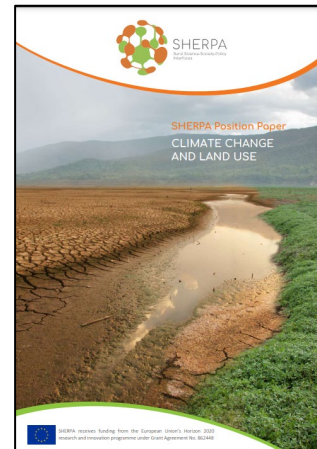
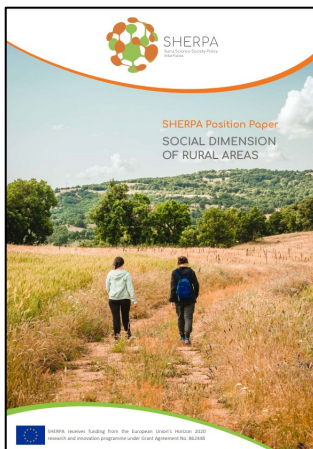
Stronger Rural Areas





Stronger rural areas

- Support to empower communities and access to services to facilitate social innovation, spatial planning and youth involvement
- Related SHERPA Position Paper:
 - Social dimension of rural areas
 - Climate change and land use





5 LTVRA Actions for Stronger Rural Areas

1. Flagship: Set-up a rural revitalisation platform
2. Flagship: Research and innovation for rural communities
3. Enhanced networking for LEADER/CLLD and Smart Villages
4. Support education, training, youth, sport and volunteering activities in rural areas
5. *Develop a study on land use linked to sustainable farming*





SHERPA views on Actions 1 and 2

Action 1. Flagship action: Set-up a rural revitalisation platform

- Create safe spaces for co-creating solutions by science, society and policy
- Lever characteristics of rural areas to make them attractive to young people and rebalance their demographic profile

Action 2. Flagship: Research and Innovation for rural communities

- Provide financial, technical and moral support for community led innovation and creation of green jobs
- Increase understanding and de-risk investment in natural capital with an aim of providing income streams for rural communities





SHERPA views on Action 3

Action 3. Enhance networking of LEADER/CLLD and Smart Villages

- Enable citizen-led allocation of funds (e.g. participatory budgeting) within existing, or new, governance structures tailored to local circumstances
- Better define social objectives for LEADER at EU level, with a simpler CLLD methodology and more flexibility for adapting to local circumstances
- Prioritise result-oriented programmes and projects on intangible assets
- Transfer results and good practices from successful projects
- Build citizen capacity to bid to EU Cohesion Fund, Horizon Europe and European Social Fund





SHERPA views on Action 4

Action 4. Support education, training, youth, sport and volunteering activities in rural areas

- Promote community-led provision of cultural and sports activities, and services (e.g. caregiver services, neighbourhood clubs), ensuring inclusion of the elderly, newcomers and migrants
- Provide a training and learning environment in which actors receive professional development credit (as trainers and trainees)
- Establish training and education channels that facilitate sharing and exchange good practices and lessons learnt
- Ensure that upskilling and reskilling are lifelong learning opportunities





Proposed SHERPA Actions for Rural Action Plan for Stronger rural areas

1. Science-Society-Policy interface

Action to foster interactions, deliberation and decision-making, bringing together science, society and policy

2. Empowered rural citizens

Action to enable more participation of citizens in existing, or new governance structures (e.g. citizen-led allocation of funds, stimulate participation of citizens in Horizon Europe rural projects)

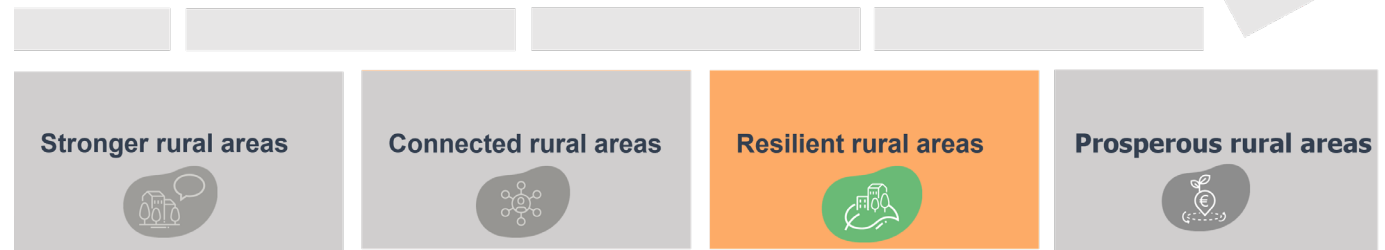
3. Rural Erasmus

Action to foster exchange of experiences between rural areas on Europe facing similar social problems (e.g. field trips, study tours)





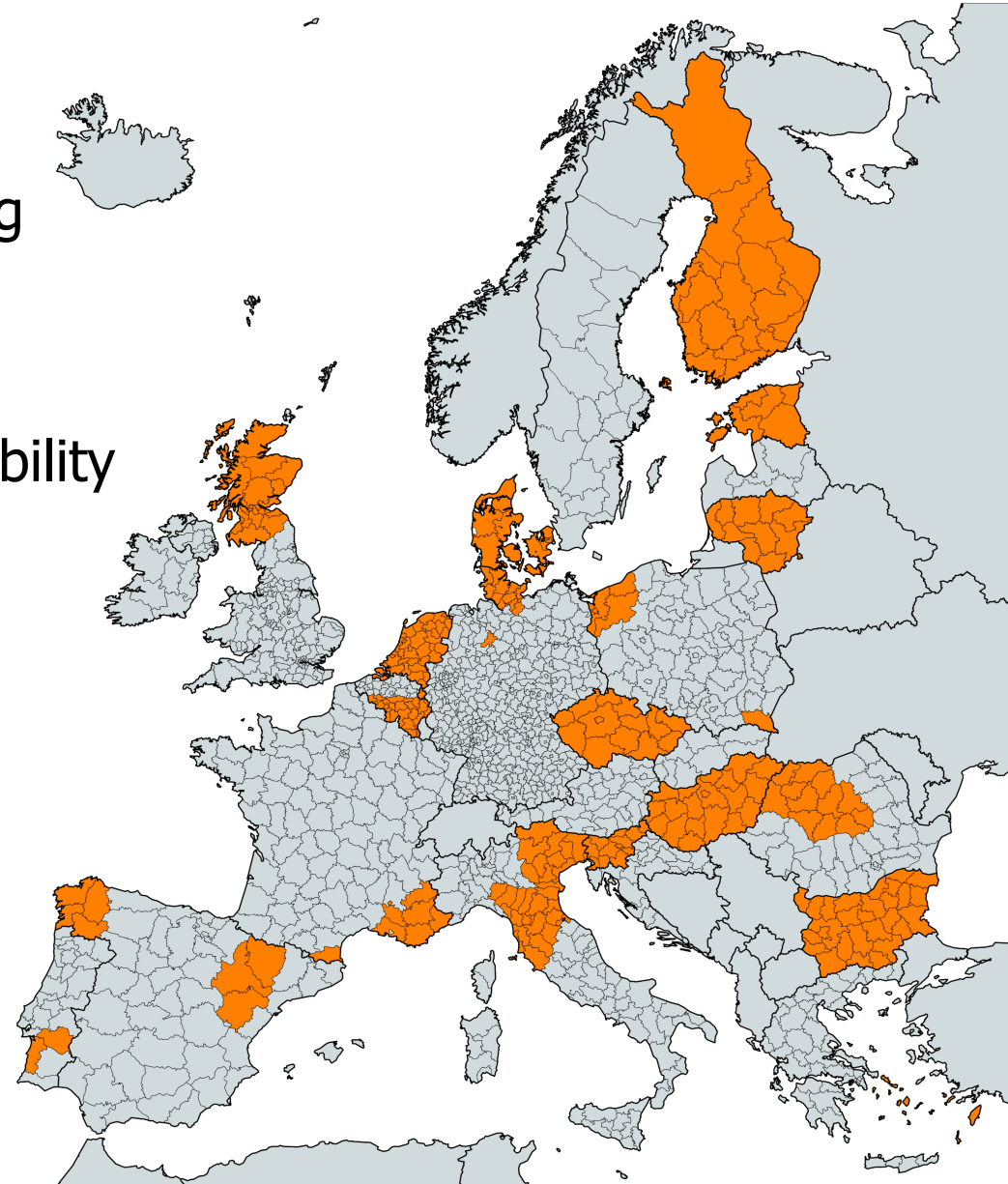
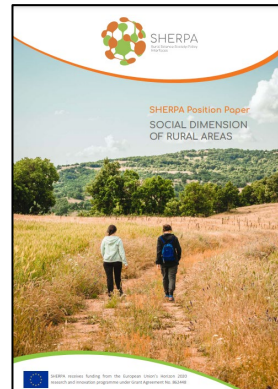
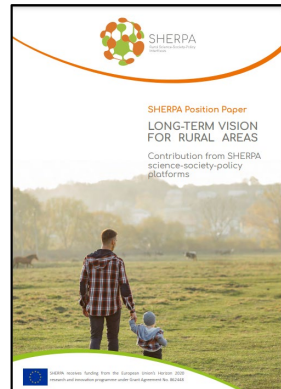
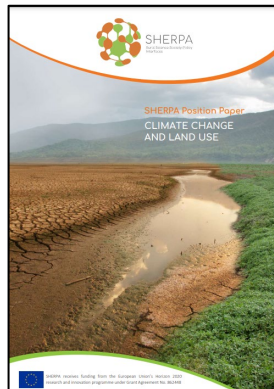
Resilient Rural Areas





Resilient Rural Areas

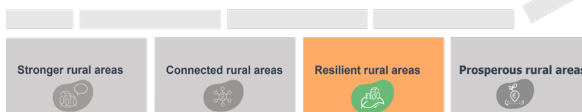
- Increase environmental, climatic and social resilience by storing carbon in peatland and wetlands, enhancing soil health and improving prospects for women and vulnerable groups
- Related SHERPA Position Papers:
 - Climate change and environmental sustainability
 - Climate change and land use
 - Long Term Vision for Rural Areas
 - Social dimension of rural areas





9 LTVRA Actions for Resilient Rural Areas

1. Flagship: Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change
2. Flagship: Climate action in peatland through carbon farming
3. Flagship: Proposed EU Mission on soil health and food
4. Flagship: Social resilience and Women in rural areas
5. *Analyse spatial mobility in demographically declining areas in Europe*
6. *Prepare study on working conditions of agricultural seasonal workers*
7. Address the inclusion and integration of people with a migrant background in rural areas
8. Ensure equal opportunities to children in rural areas
9. Address the needs of people with disabilities in rural areas

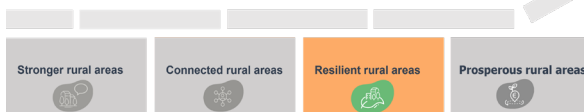




SHERPA views on Action 1

Action 1. Flagship action: Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change

- Create governance structures which focus on place-based, territorial and citizen-led approaches and priorities for tackling climate change
- Develop a community-oriented communications strategy, tailoring messages to explain impacts of climate change where people live / work
- Ensure clarity of governance of plans for net zero GHG emissions, and consistency between overlapping geographic areas, and across sectors
- Create favourable conditions for local cooperatives, social entrepreneurs, or NGOs to take responsibility for delivery of public goods

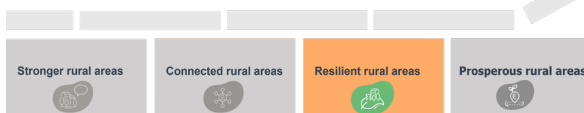




SHERPA views on Action 2

Action 2. Flagship: Climate action in peatland through carbon farming

- Promote peatland restoration actions as hubs for natural capital innovation, investment and economic activities
- Align strategies for education and training to increase capabilities at local levels, including SMEs and micro-businesses and community initiatives
- Support communities of practice of 'peat citizens'
- Develop coherent principles of spatial planning of peatland restoration and carbon rich soils to place degraded peatlands on pathways to recovery
- Examine the legal and regulatory issues associated with funding investment in natural capital (e.g. crowdfunding, social enterprises)

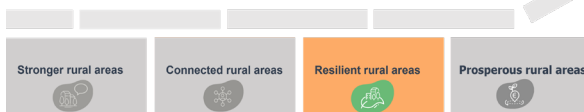




SHERPA views on Action 3

Action 3. Flagship: Proposed EU Mission on soil health and food

- Support mechanisms that explain and demonstrate the benefits of soil health to encourage uptake and implementation (e.g. in 100 living labs)
- Measures in National CAP Strategies should incentivize and reward practices that reduce GHG emissions and increase carbon sinks on farms
- Prepare soil monitoring framework for measurement (e.g. digital sensors), automated reporting and communications of environmental characteristics (e.g. soil temperature and moisture, GHG emissions)
- Natural capital (e.g. soil carbon) should be incorporated into payments under the CAP, providing resources for communities and businesses

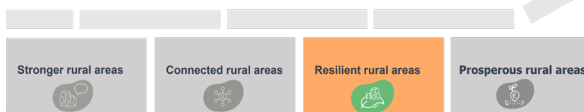




SHERPA views on Action 4

Action 4. Flagship: Social resilience and Women in rural areas

- Allocate rural development funds to infrastructure that supports diverse household circumstances, and demonstrates how working cultures can empower and stimulate women-led initiatives
- Reserve a line of funding for women-led or all-women social innovations, with access to dedicated support
- Design tailored means of personal development of women, promoting communities with intercultural values and integration of human diversity

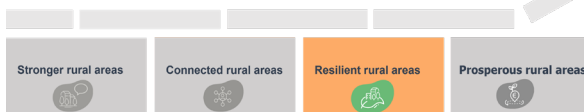




SHERPA views on Actions 5, 6 and 7

Actions 7, 8, 9. Inclusion – migrants, children, citizens with disabilities

- The vision for rural areas is of communities in which migrants are fully integrated into a society of everyone
- Means of education and learning should enable inputs by young people, reflecting their different cultural and geographic contexts
- Services should be tailored to the needs of all citizens, young, old, men and women, residents and newcomers/migrants





Proposed SHERPA Actions for the Rural Action Plan for Resilient rural areas

1. Citizen-led approach for climate action

Actions to stimulate place-based, territorial, citizen-led approaches to tackle climate change (e.g. participatory budgeting from levies on largescale renewable energy developments)

2. Virtuous climate actions

Actions to promote existing good practices and virtuous examples (e.g. multi-media demonstrations of best practices of just transition)

3. Climate communication

Action to develop a community-oriented communications strategy, tailored to local contexts of life, work and responsibilities

