



## ERP-Gathering Kielce

Number of the workshop: 3

Name of the workshop: **Rural Pact – Village pact**

### Our responses to challenges:

To the biggest challenges of rural areas expressed by participants, we discuss the importance of active citizenship, empowering villagers and rural citizens. How to connect Europe with the grassroots level through elevator organizations was our big response.

We focus on the importance of amplifying voices of rural areas, promoting mutual learning and encouraging and commitment. The lack of trust that rural citizens have shows us the necessary path of rebuilding community and to ensure that voices of local level are being heard.

Three responses where point out:

1. Empowered communities as a main driver of Long-Term Vision,
2. Mutual Learning Local communities
3. To promote Village Pacts.

### Our three proposals for governments & EU

1. Empowered communities are a main driver of the Long-Term Vision. Therefore, the voice of community-led initiatives should have a much stronger position in EU policy. Communities at the center.
2. The Rural Pact should support mutual learning of local communities in cooperation with Elevator organizations like ERCA.
3. Further development of Village Pact community planning should be one of the new initiatives in the Rural Pact.



### Good ideas, practices, processes

- As the territory of Member States are not the same, we should use the unique differences of our areas.
- To use smart villages as linked instruments.
- To promote and use the ancient way of democracy and direct participation that some rural areas still have like open councils at Spain.
- Village Pacts that ERCA already work on.