

The LTVRA in current EU policy discussions and the position of civil society

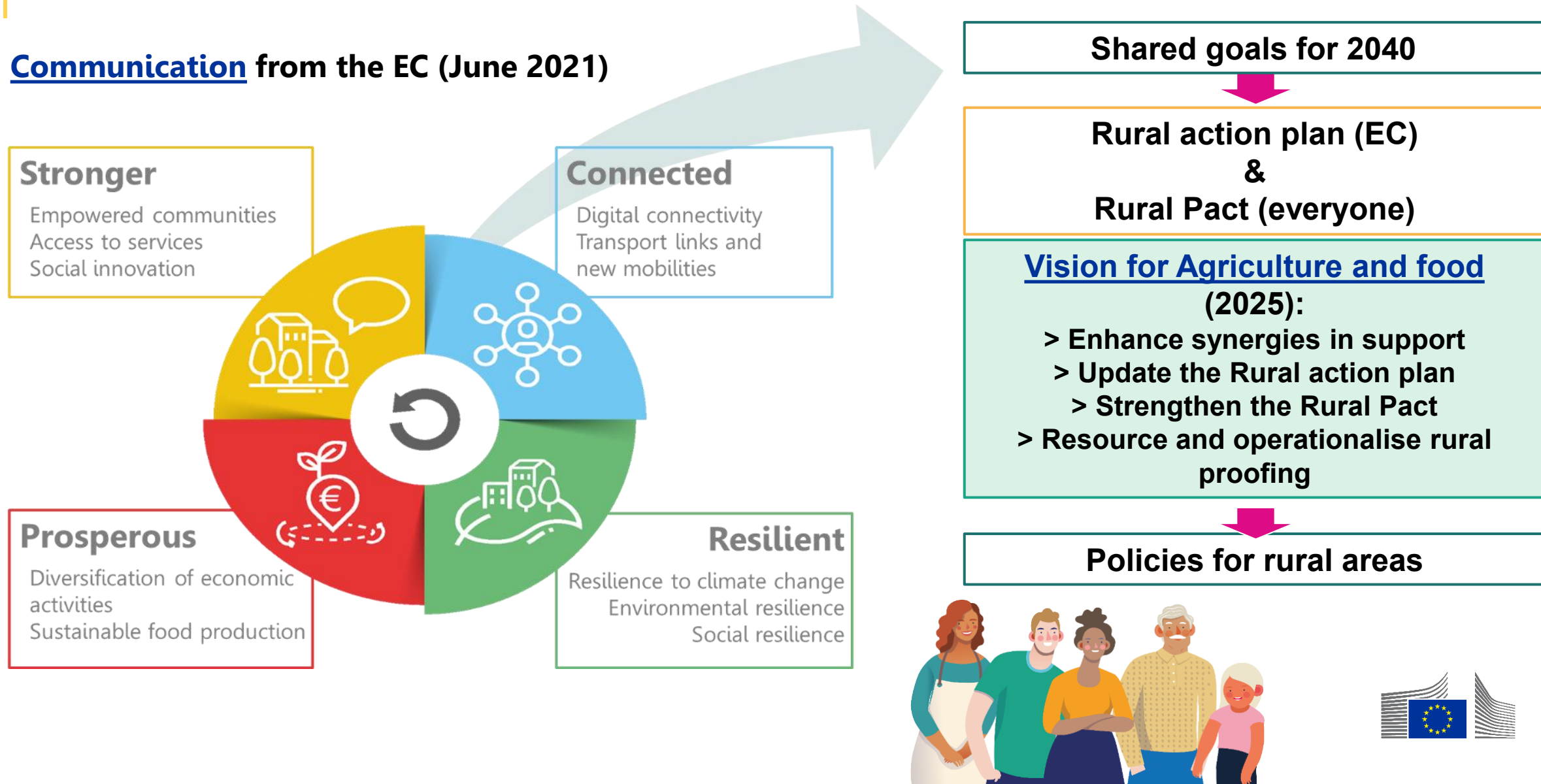
ERP-Follow-Up meeting: Putting rural civil society in position

23 June 2026 – Scotland House



The EU Rural vision: working together for rural areas

Communication from the EC (June 2021)



Civil society in the EU Rural vision process



Participatory development

- Online public consultation
 - Eurobarometer
- **ENRD TG Rural vision 2040 Participatory foresight**
- **“Rural voices” stakeholder workshop toolkit** (170 responses from 19 MS)
 - **Debates & events**
- **Rural vision week** in March 2021



Ten shared goals

- I. **Attractive spaces, developed in harmonious territorial development**, unlocking their specific potential, making them places of opportunity and providing local solutions to help tackle the local effects of global challenges.
- II. **Engaged in multi-level and place-based governance**, developing integrated strategies using collaborative and participatory approaches, benefitting from tailor-made policy mixes and interdependencies between urban and rural areas.
- III. **Providers of food security, economic opportunities, goods and services for wider society**, such as bio-based materials and energy but also local, community-based high-quality products, renewable energy, retaining a fair share of the value generated.
- IV. **Dynamic communities focusing on well-being**, including livelihoods, fairness, prosperity and quality of life, where all people live and work well together, with adequate capacity for mutual support.
- V. **Inclusive communities** of inter-generational solidarity fairness and renewal, open to newcomers and fostering equal opportunities for all.
- VI. **Flourishing sources of nature**, enhanced by and contributing to the objectives of the Green Deal, including climate neutrality, as well as sustainable management of natural resources.
- VII. **Fully benefiting from digital innovation** with equal access to emerging technologies, widespread digital literacy and opportunities to acquire more advanced skills.
- VIII. **Entrepreneurial, innovative and skilled people**, co-creating technological, ecological and social progress.
- IX. **Lively places equipped with efficient, accessible and affordable public and private services**, including cross border services, providing tailored solutions (such as transport, education, training, health and care, including long-term care, social life and retail business).
- X. **Places of diversity**, making the most out of their unique assets, talents and potential.



Cooperation framework to achieve the goals together



Amplifying rural voices and bringing them higher on the political agenda



Structuring and enabling **networking, collaboration & mutual learning**



Encouraging and monitoring voluntary **actions for the vision**

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Building stronger, connected, resilient
and prosperous rural communities

JUNE 2026

Rural areas cover three quarters of the European Union's territory and are home to one in four Europeans. They play an important role in Europe's economy, environment, and quality of life.

Under the proposed 2028–2034 budget, the European Commission is renewing its commitment to rural areas to help Europe respond to their economic, environmental, and social challenges while supporting communities across the Union.

The proposal would bring together different sources of EU funding, including support for farmers and rural areas currently provided through the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) under a single National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)** in each Member State. A dedicated spending target for rural areas has been proposed to ensure the future plans continue investing in rural territories.



Rural areas in EU's budget 2028-2034

- **A single fund for all policies under shared management**
- **A single partnership plan for each Member State**
- **The new framework offers new opportunities to support stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas with a more integrated approach.**

[Download](#)



NRPP specific objectives: rural areas

Art. 3 NRP Reg.

(a) To support the Union's **sustainable prosperity** across all regions

(b) To support the Union's defence capabilities and security across all regions

(c) To strengthen **social cohesion** by supporting people and strengthening the **Union's societies** and the Union's social model

(d) To sustain the **quality of life** in the Union

(e) To protect and strengthen fundamental rights, **democracy**, the rule of law and to uphold Union values by

(i) Fostering the attractiveness of territories to support the right to stay including by supporting **STRATEGIES FOR THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AND RURAL AREAS**, including support for territorial services and infrastructure.

(iii) Improving the **ATTRACTIVENESS AND LIVING STANDARDS**, including access to healthcare, in rural areas and fair work conditions and fostering generational renewal; improving farmers' preparedness and ability to cope with crisis and risks; enhancing the access to knowledge and innovation and accelerating the digital and green transition for a thriving agri-food sector.

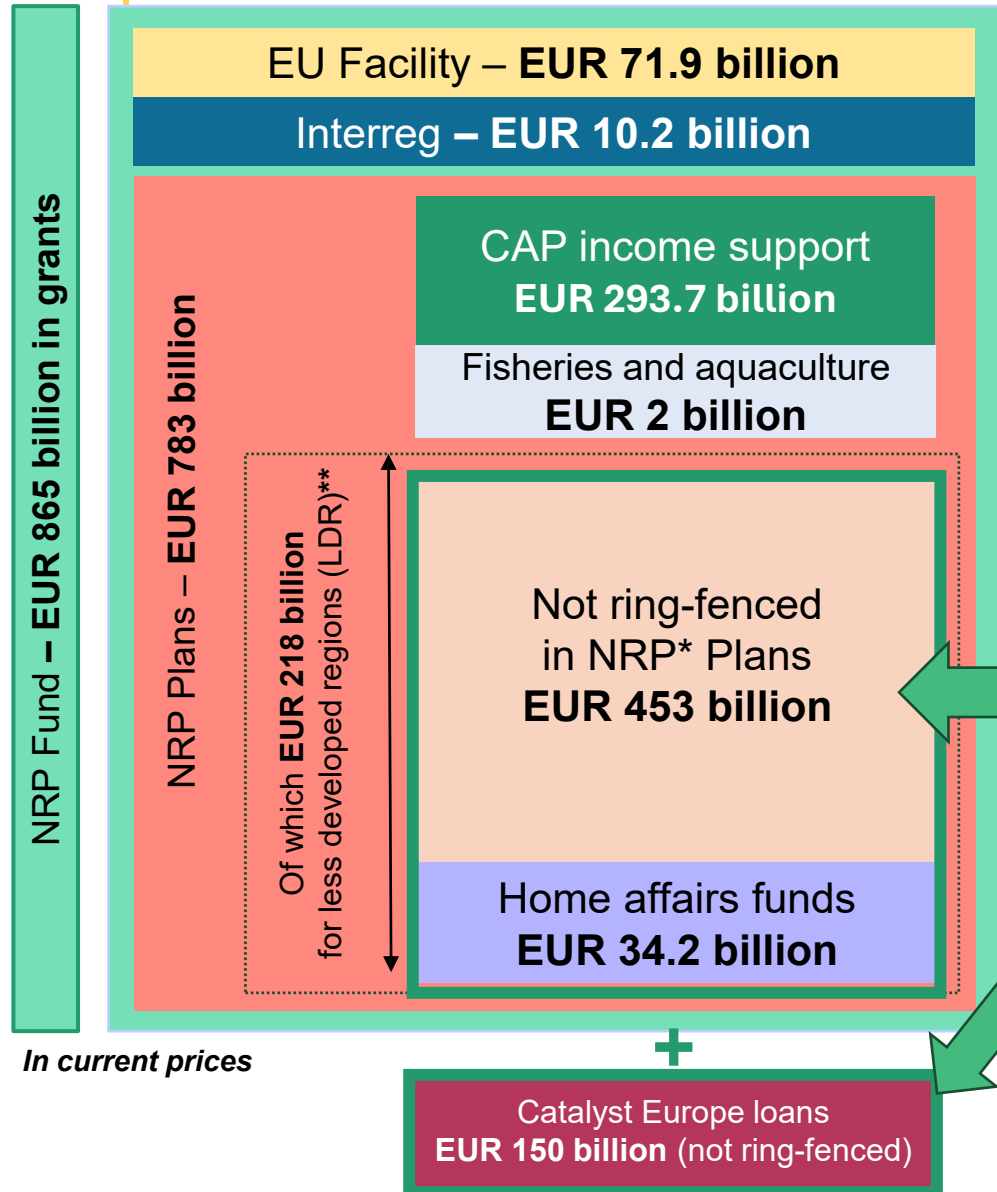
The rural target

Under discussion following proposal from the Commission to the co-legislators (Nov 2025).

Objective: Ensure that rural areas continue to benefit from targeted investments in their development. MS and regions are expected to build a **consistent agenda of measures addressing rural areas' specific needs and challenges**, building on **synergies across all policy areas**.

10% of each plan's NRP envelope (total Union allocation including Catalyst Europe loans, excluding the social climate fund, the EU facility and minimum amounts for CAP and CFP income support to agriculture and fisheries).

EUR 48,7 billion > EU 63,7 billion if loans are used



** CAP and CFP interventions above the ringfenced amounts may be counted towards the earmarking for less developed regions provided they are for the benefit of those regions



Which instruments to support rural areas?



A comprehensive toolbox of instruments...



...from the agriculture policy domain and other domains

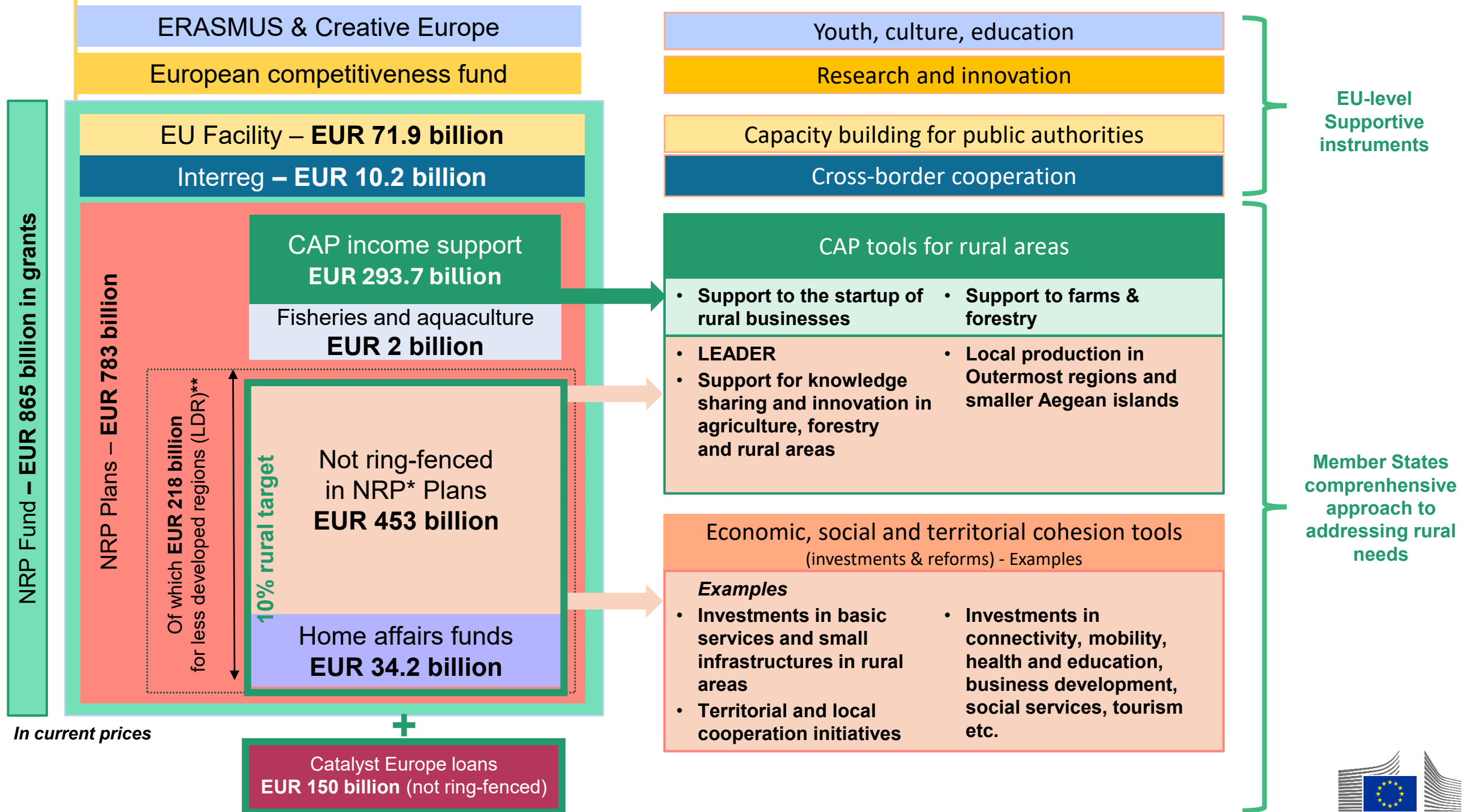


improving **coordination** and increasing **complementarities** and **synergies**



Integrated planning under the NRP plans will help look at challenges in **holistic** terms, bringing together **different policies** and **funding streams**.





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The rural target and territorial codes

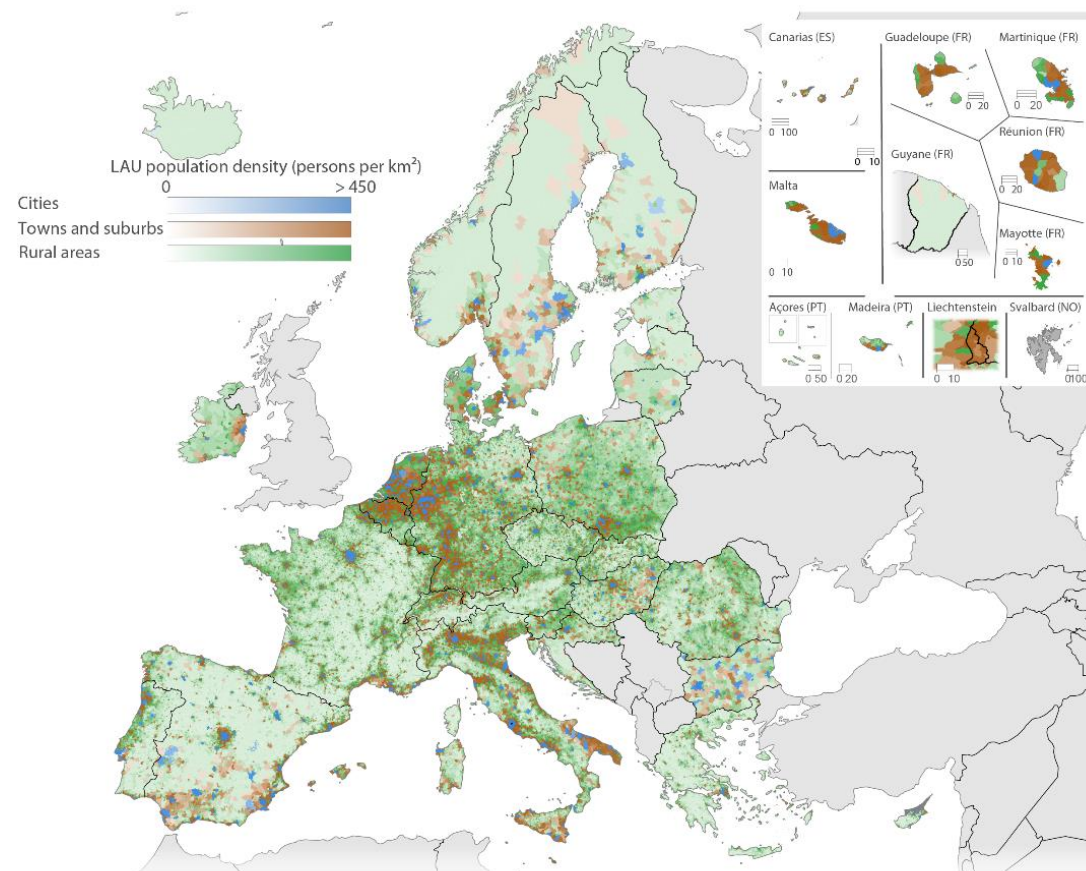
For rural areas

- **Proposed tracking methodology** based on **territorial codes** (Annex II of performance regulation), relevant measures will be tagged with territorial code “**02-Rural areas**”.

Defining rural areas

- To ensure a **level playing field** in this **new NRPP context** the Commission advises using a **common definition of rural areas**:
 - **Local administrative units (LAU)** classified as ‘**rural areas**’ under the European territorial typology ‘**degree of urbanisation**’.
 - **Flexibility**: to take into account national specificities, **Member States could consider as rural areas some of the local administrative units classified as “towns and suburbs”** where they have an **objective circumstance**, such as very high population density compared to the EU average, very large local administrative units in terms of surface, or an island or an outermost region, provided that those areas are the **least favoured compared to the rest of the Member State concerned**.

Degree of urbanisation, 2021



eurostat

Source: Eurostat (based on Census Population Grid 2021 and Local Administrative Units 2021)

Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO © Turkstat
Cartography: Eurostat – IMAGE, 07/2024

Rural areas: 25% of population – 75% of land

'Territorial' requirements for NRP Plans

- **Reduce economic, social and territorial disparities** in less developed, transition and more developed regions, including by focusing on specific needs of **border regions, northern sparsely populated regions, rural, island and outermost regions, urban areas, and areas affected by industrial transition**, based on methodology in **annex VII (article 22)**
- Effectively contribute to promoting the use of **territorial and local cooperation** interventions, including **integrated territorial investments** in ... **rural and coastal areas**, community-led local development or other territorial tools including just transition and smart specialisation strategies, **LEADER (article 22)**
- *Rationale **(recital 31)**: need to ensure **complementarity and synergies** between different measures supporting different policy areas and targeting different groups of beneficiaries, to offer a **comprehensive policy response to develop thriving rural areas**, develop **integrated planning** to ensure rural communities have **access to finance through appropriate mechanisms**, **governance structures to coordinate** programming and implementation, taking into account the **specific context of target beneficiaries**; need to provide **capacity building** for both administrations and beneficiaries*



Multi-sector support through community led local development (CLLD) including LEADER

- LEADER is **mandatory** at least in **rural areas facing specific disadvantages**.
- Implemented through **integrated territorial development strategies** > Efficient for social capital, community resilience, business development, social inclusion, services.
- Possibility to **extend to a broad set of policy sectors** > easier with the new framework

- ***Example Poland (Multi-fund CLLD)** – current programming period example*
- 190 multi-fund local development strategies
- A holistic set of priorities:
 - Economic diversification, local food systems, smart villages (CAP)
 - Infrastructure and village renewal, green transition (ERDF)
 - Employment and job, training, social inclusion and lifelong learning (ESF)



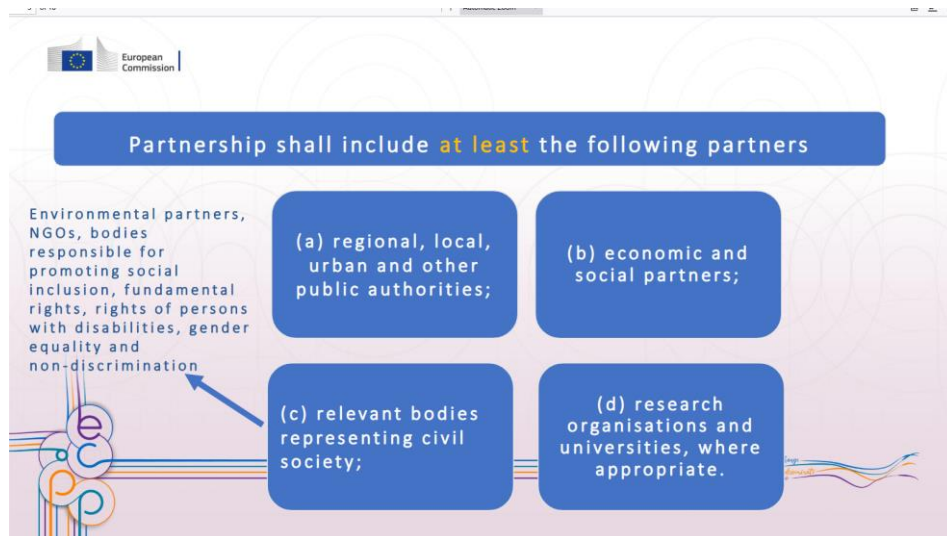
A comprehensive policy response through national and regional rural strategies

- Holistic strategies for the development of rural areas at **national and regional levels** can be useful to organise a more comprehensive policy response to rural needs under the NRPPs.
- The NRPP framework creates **ideal conditions to support such strategies** in coherence with national and regional instruments.
- Resources are available to help Member States who would wish to develop those:
 - [Making the Rural Pact happen in Member States | Rural Pact Community Platform](#)
 - [OECD Principles on Rural Policy | OECD](#)
 - Examples: [Advancing the Rural Pact: country-specific information | Rural Pact Community Platform](#)
- The next **High-level rural policy forum** on **3-4 November** in Naas, Ireland, will focus on this aspect.



Civil society & the future plans

The partnership principle



- Learn about the [partnership principle](#)
- [video](#) & [PPTs](#)
- Article 6 NRP regulation
- Design, implementation & monitoring
- In several countries things already started:

Capacity building under the Pact



- Policy labs
 - [Rural areas in the post-2027 MFF and policies](#)
 - [Anchoring rural areas in the NRPPs](#)
 - [Strengthening a diversified rural economy in the post-2027 period](#)
- Rural Pact in my country webinars (LV, BE-VL, PL, HU)
- National Rural Pact events (FR)
- [Community groups](#)
- [Good practices](#)



Thank you



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

