Rural digitalisation forum – 7 December 2021
Alexia Rouby – European Commission - DG AGRI

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

Shared goals for 2040

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

The Rural action plan
RAP-EC

Stronger · **Connected** · **Prosperous** · **Resilient**

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

✓ Support roll-out of **broadband**
✓ Promote **digitalisation of agriculture** (R&I)
✓ Improve accessibility through **Drone 2.0 strategy**

The Rural action plan
RAP-EC

Stronger

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Resilient

9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

✓ Rural revitalisation platform

New **ENRD Thematic group « Rural revitalisation »** under the European network for rural development

✓ identify and understand the **key enabling conditions to drive rural revitalisation across Europe &** share best practice (*the flagship will promote LEADER & Smart villages*)

✓ explore the needs, and develop ideas and recommendations, to help **shape the future rural revitalisation platform**

Platform to come live in 2022/2023.

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The Rural action plan
RAP-EC
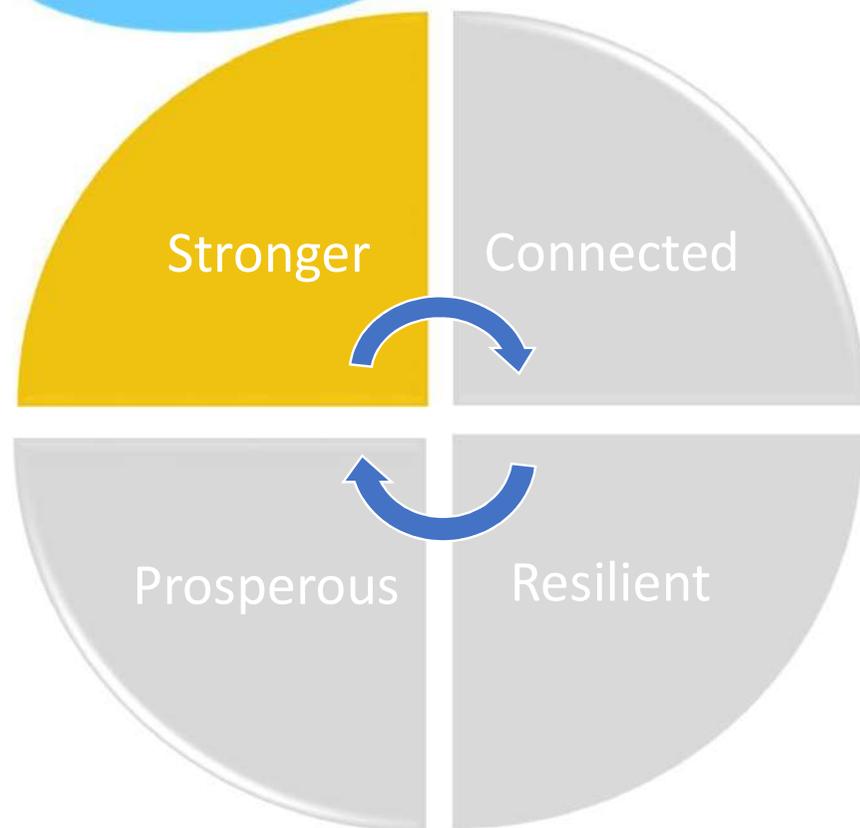
9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

- ✓ Research and innovation for rural communities

- ✓ Activities programmed under **Horizon Europe**
    - ✓ **Work programme 2021-2022 published**
        - ✓ *Grasping rural diversity – Strengthening evidence (15M€)*
        - ✓ *Expertise and training centre for rural innovation (5M€)*
        - ✓ ***Connectivity solutions for rural areas (10M€)***
        - ✓ Open until February 2022
            - ✓ **Smart solutions for smart rural communities (14M€)**
            - ✓ Boosting women-led innovation (6M€)
            - ✓ Improving health and safety at work in farming (5M€)
            - ✓ Spatial mobility
    - ✓ **Work programme 2023-2024 under preparation**

- ✓ **Networking and knowledge exchange activities:**
    - ✓ CAP networks (EIP-AGRI)
    - ✓ Smart specialisation platforms
    - ✓ Actions on smart villages
    - ✓ Forum of startup villages (launched 16 November 2021)

The Rural action plan
RAP-EC
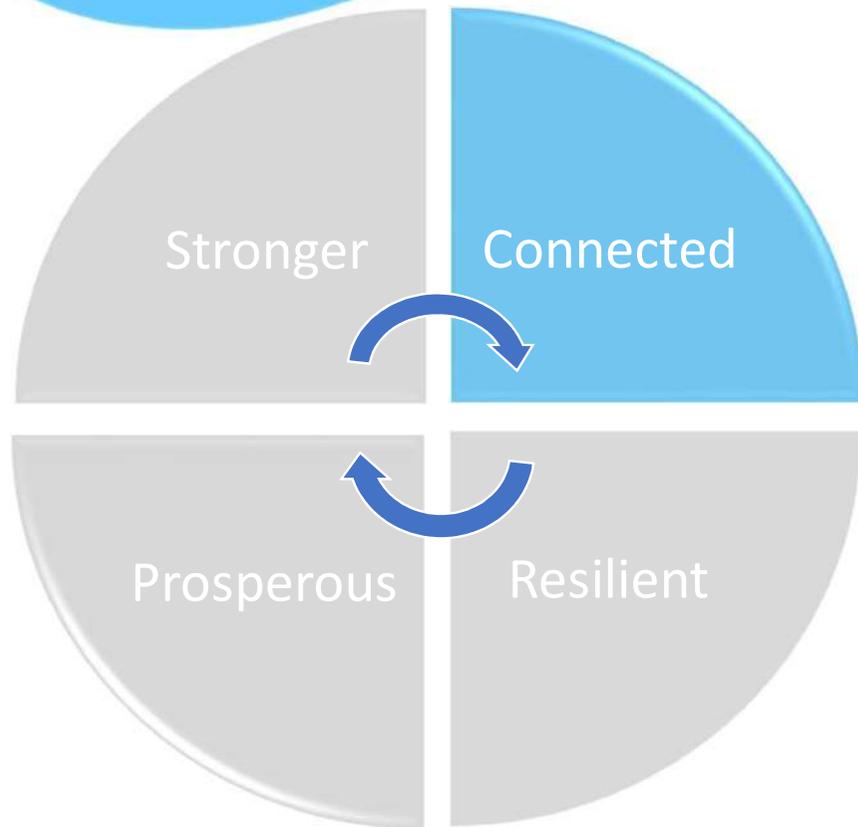
9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

✓ 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
RAP-EC

Stronger | Connected

Prosperous | Resilient
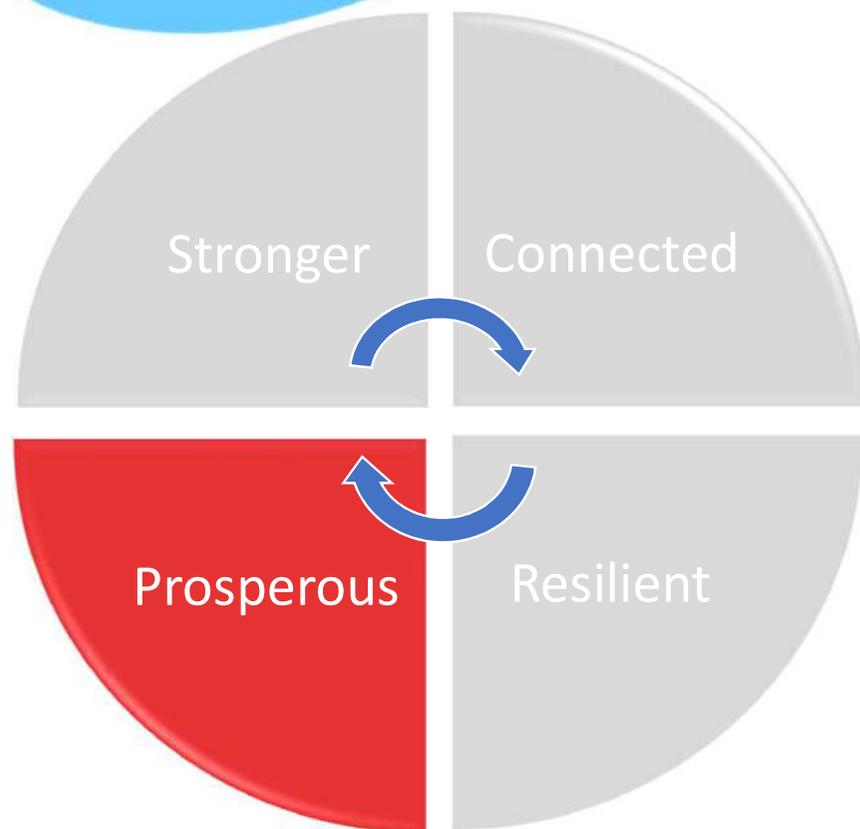
9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

✓ Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas.

✓ **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

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The Rural action plan
Horizontal actions

Rural proofing
- Review of policies through rural lens
- <u>EU</u>: Screening of European commission work programme => Territorial impact assessment or Rural proofing guidance
- <u>National/regional level</u>: ENRD thematic group Rural proofing

EU Rural observatory
- Centralise data collection on rural areas
- Inform on the relevant initiatives
- Analyse the developments (themes explored each year)
- In practice: Administrative agreement with Joint research centre
- First "dashboards" end 2022

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

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The Rural pact

Member States

Participatory Process
Linking with CoR and Networks

EU → **The Rural Pact** — a **framework** for interaction between all levels of governance and stakeholders on rural development ← **Regions**

Stakeholders
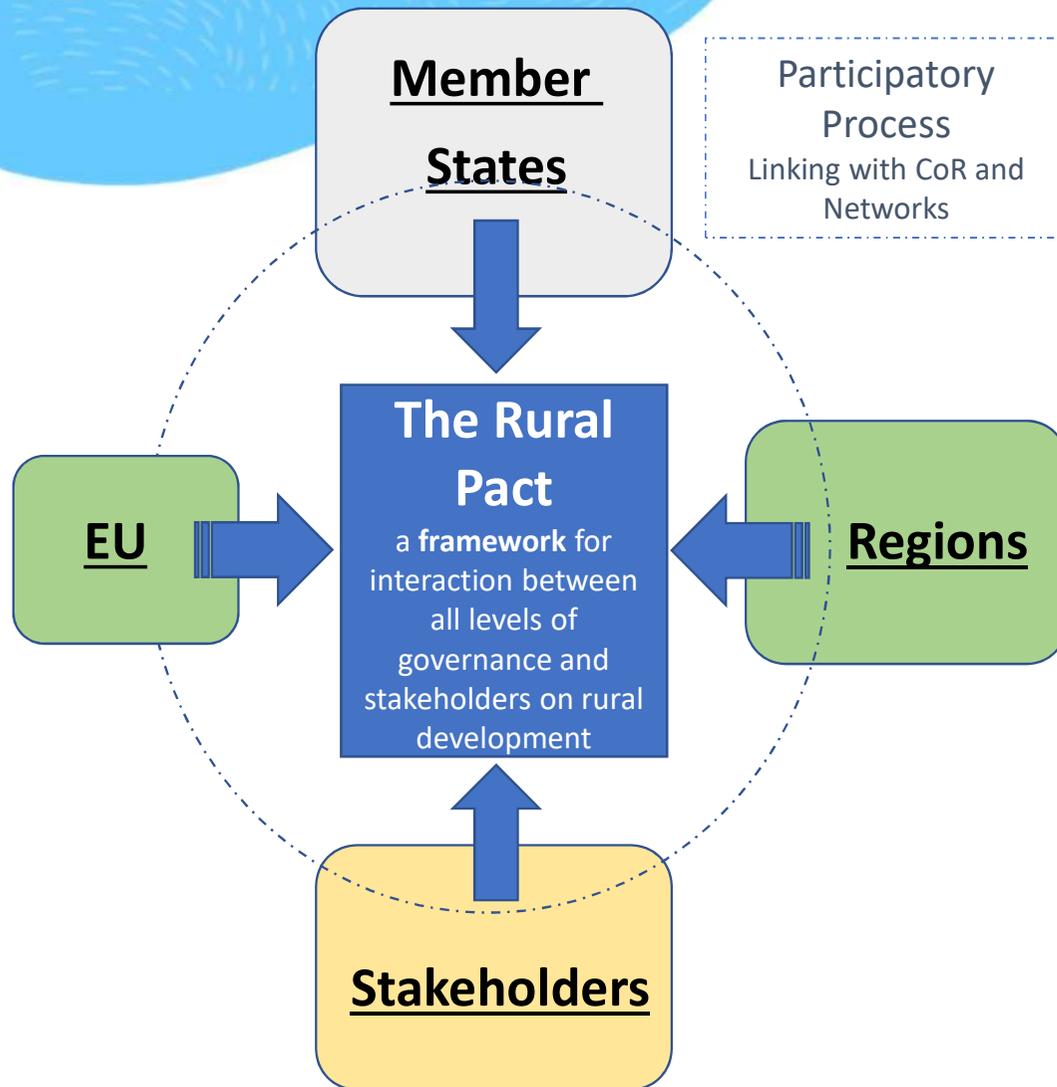
Endorsing the shared goals and **working together towards their achievement**

Launch Dec 2021 → Preparatory steps → Rural pact launch event (June 2022 tbc) → Actions
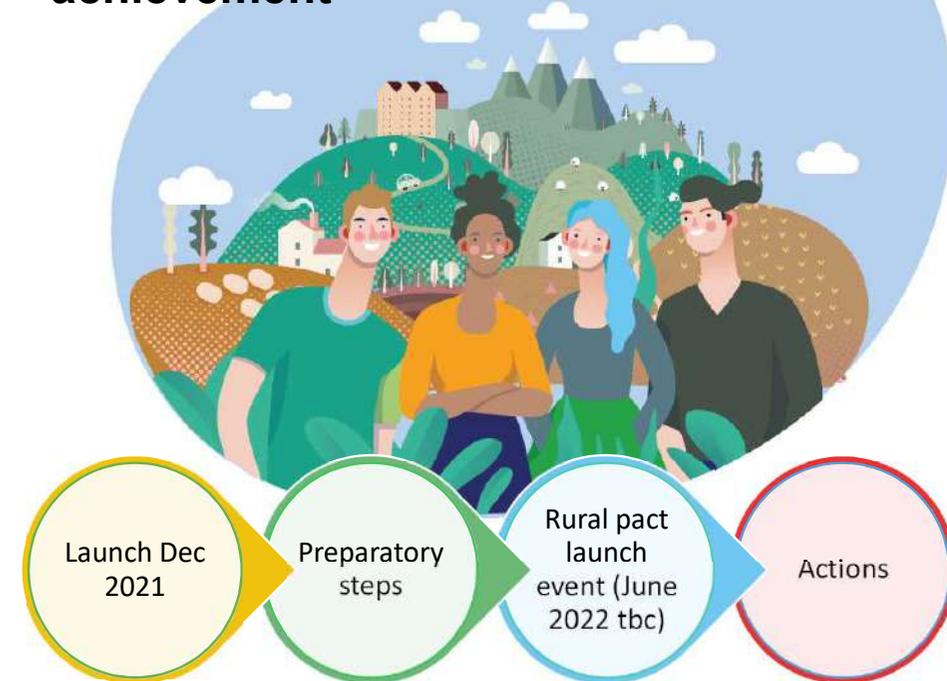
Let us know how you would like to see it done!

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Vision for
rural areas

#RuralVisionEU

Thank you for your attention!