# Rural areas 2040 –

## building future scenarios

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# ENRD Thematic group #rural2040


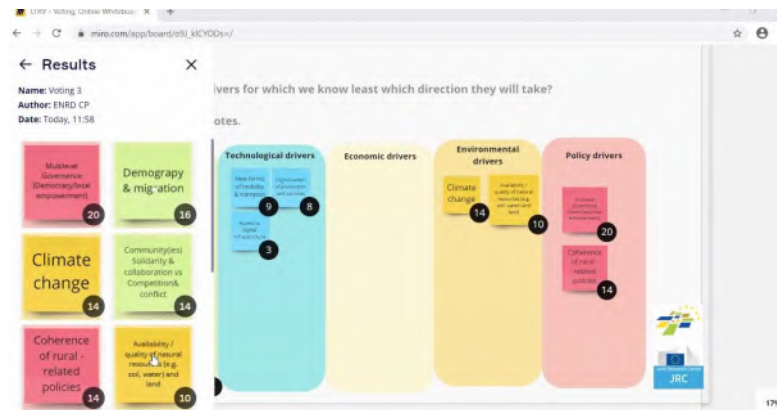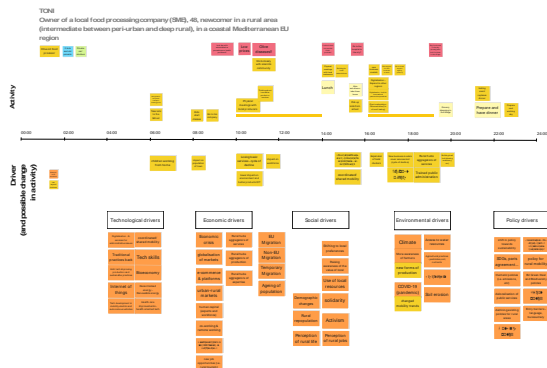
Identification of drivers & scenario logic



Development of scenario outlines



Enriching and exploring scenarios



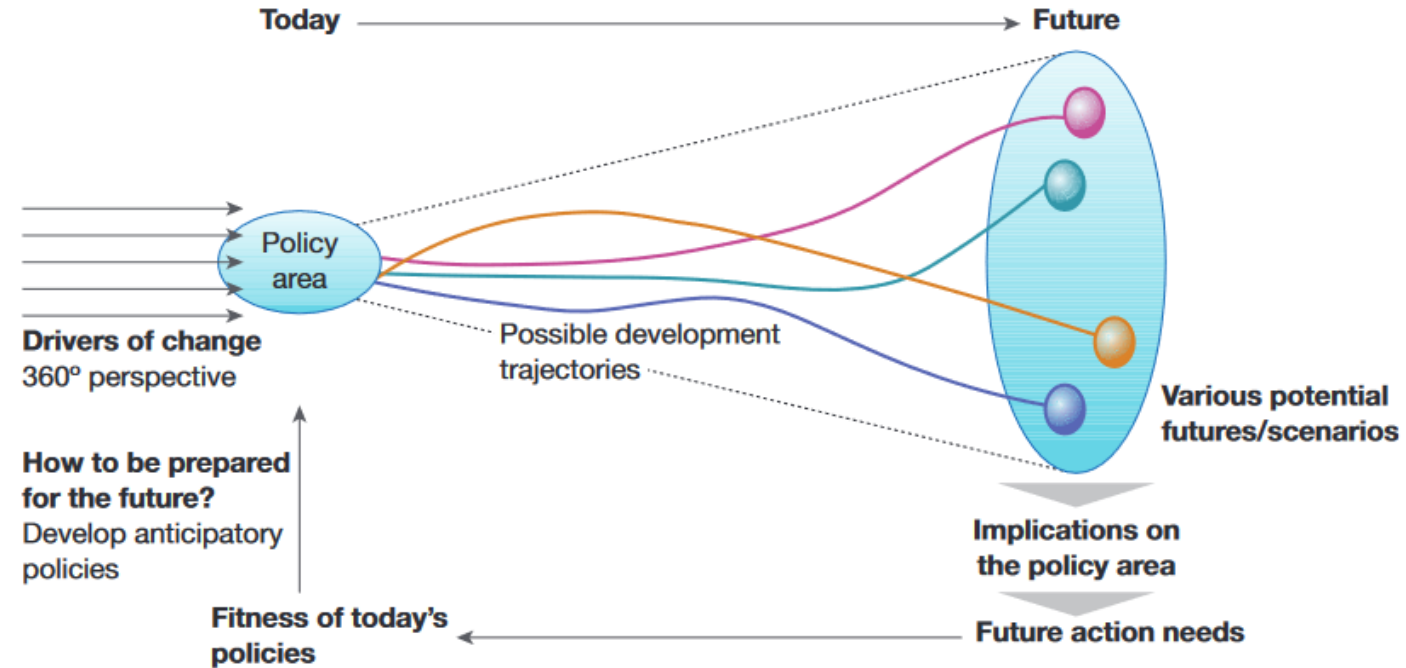Conference & final report

# Exploratory scenarios

**NOT A FORECAST! NOT A VISION!!**

**NOT A POLICY SCENARIO!!!**

Highlight possible futures and their opportunities and challenges

Explore the future through stories (creative combination of data, facts and hypotheses)

Think the un(or less)thinkable!



Source: E. Störmer, Foresight – Using Science and Evidence to Anticipate and Shape the Future

RURAL DEMOGRAPHY

EXPANDING RURAL AREAS

FRAGMENTED

NETWORKED

RURBANITIES

RURAL RENEWAL

RURAL SPECIALISATION

RURAL CONNECTIONS

SHRINKING RURAL AREAS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

# Scenario – Rurbanities
## Expanding rural areas/ Fragmented ML governance

- Competition & uncoordinated national/regional approaches

- Favourable conditions for living and working in rural areas

- Entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, bioeconomy

- Inequalities & individualised lifestyles limits community building, NIMBYs

- Rural sprawl, competition for land use

- Reactive climate change policies, comparatively slow sustainability transition, efficiency & technology focus



**RURBANITIES**



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# Scenario – Rural Renewal
## Expanding rural areas/ Networked ML governance

- Society-driven green transition, open government

- Active community building

- Profound lifestyle change & related experimentation

- Community infrastructure – transport, digital, commons

- Circular economy, trading services

- Small scale farming, multifunctional land use

- Climate policies around behaviour change and regulatory solutions



RURAL RENEWAL

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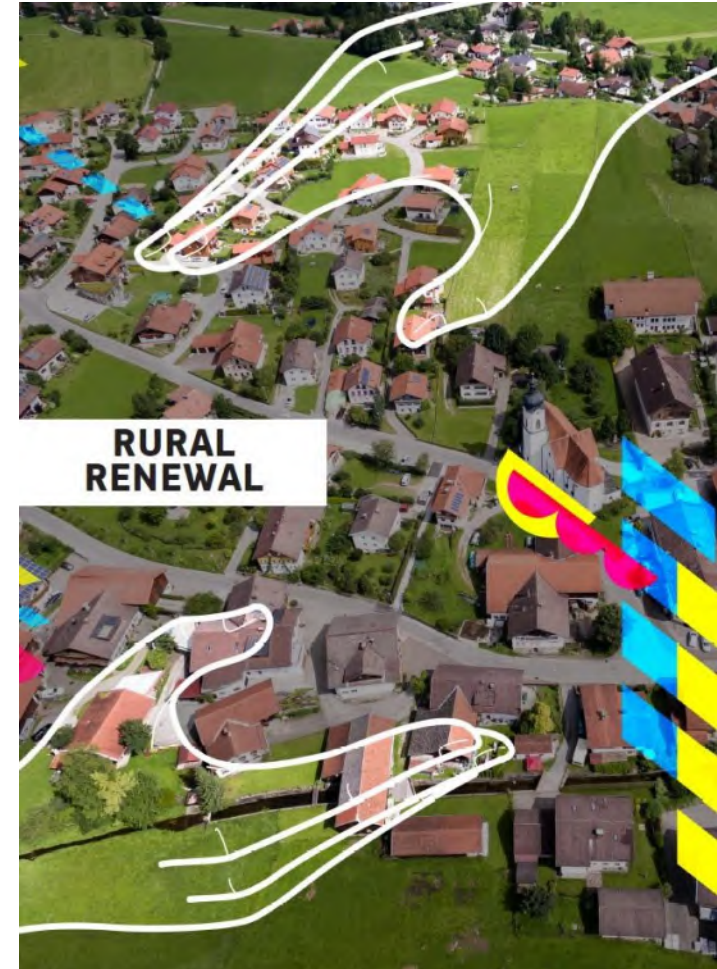
# Scenario– Rural Connections
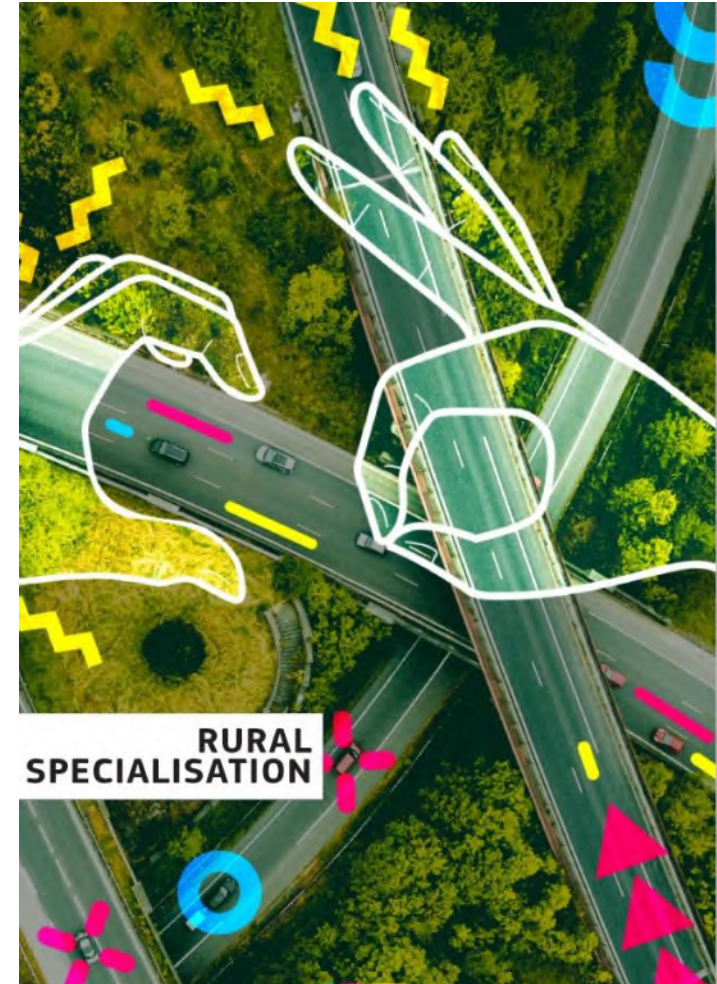## Shrinking rural areas/ Networked ML governance

- Resilience - managed rural transition

- Rural hubs are community and activity centres, synergies

- Digitalisation facilitates living and working in rural areas

- Decentralisation of infrastructure, Do-it-yourself attitude

- Bottom-up, self-organisation

- Recognition of rural areas for services

- Mixed agriculture, areas for ecosystem and carbon services



European Commission

# Scenario– Rural Specialisation
# Shrinking rural areas/ fragmented ML governance

- Steep population decline & resilient and recovering cities

- Rural areas = resources & recreation for urban population

- Large scale agriculture and other facilities

- Dedicated areas for rewilding and conservation

- Technology-driven climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches



RURAL SPECIALISATION

EU Rural Areas 2040

Report:

https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC125368

ENRD Thematic Group

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/long-term-rural-vision_en

# Thank you
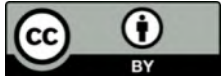
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# Keep in touch

EU Science Hub: ec.europa.eu/jrc

@EU_ScienceHub

EU Science Hub – Joint Research Centre

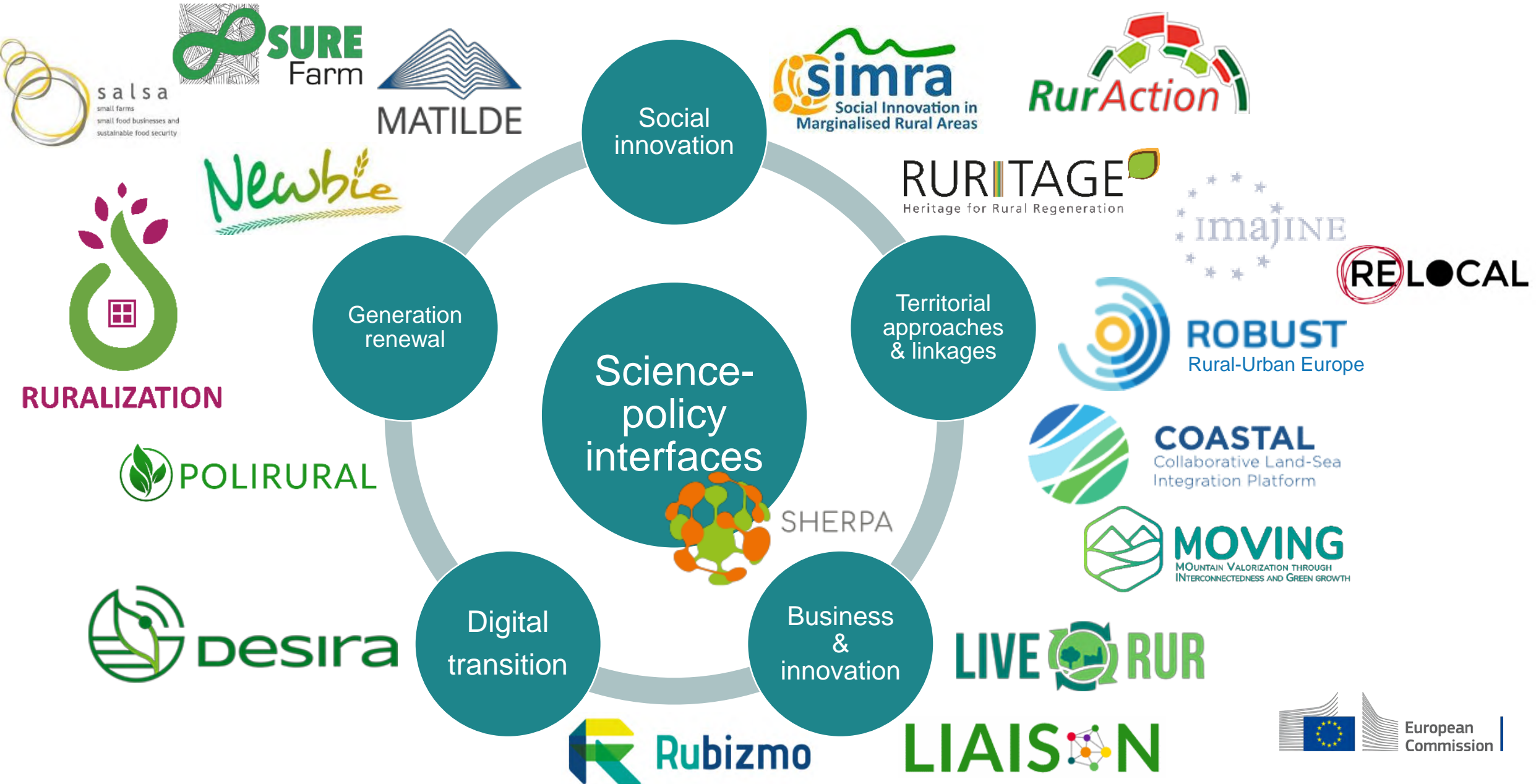EU Science, Research and Innovation

EU Science Hub

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# Competence Centre on Foresight

- Strategic and future-oriented input into EU policymaking

- Develop an anticipatory culture

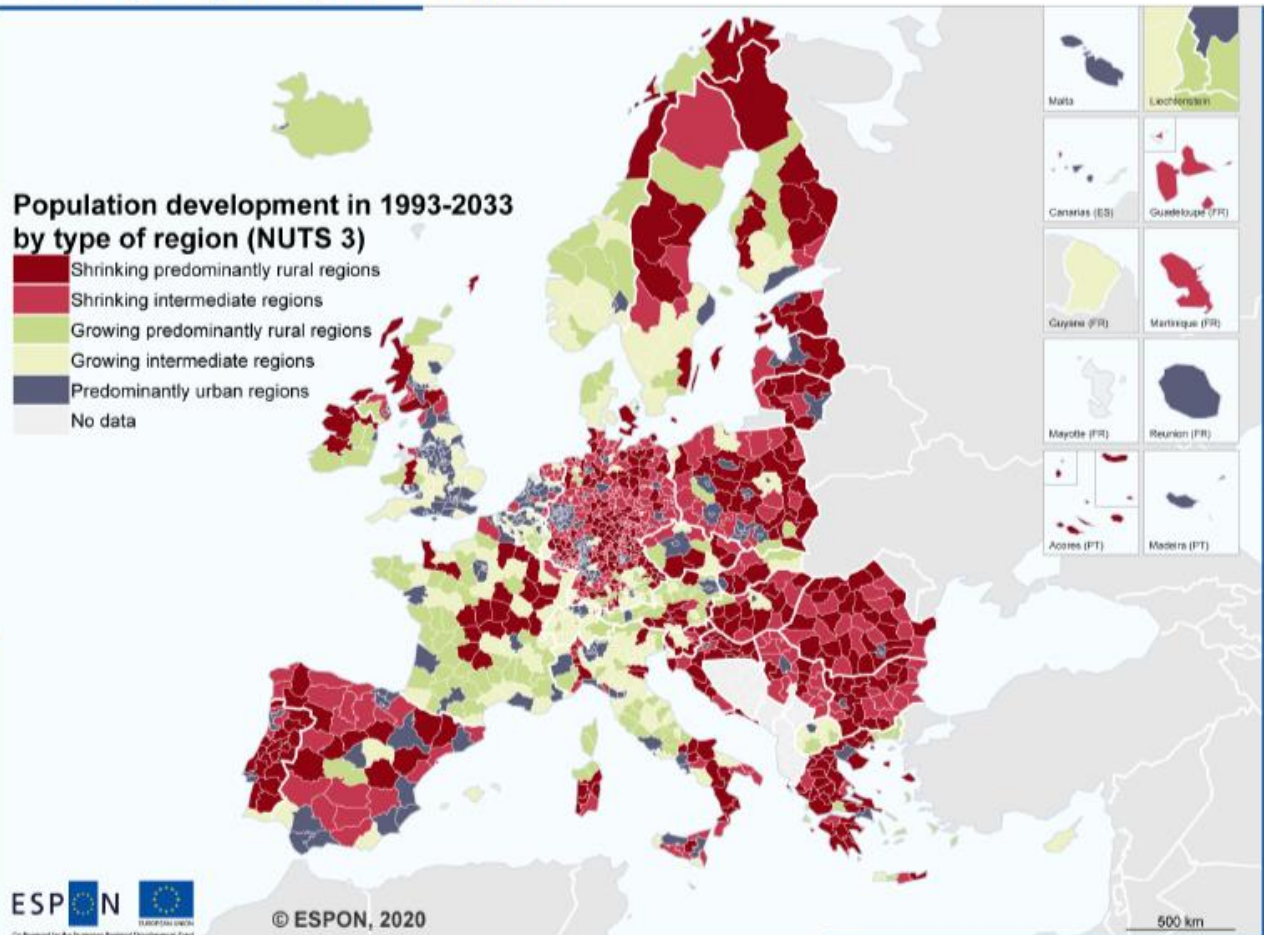- Experimentation on methods and tools



The European Commission's Competence Centre on Foresight

COMPETENCE CENTRE ON FORESIGHT

European Commission

# Horizon 2020 Rural research portfolio

# Scenario base - Rural demography



Shrinking and growing NUTS 3 Regions

Population development in 1993-2033 by type of region (NUTS 3)
- Shrinking predominantly rural regions
- Shrinking intermediate regions
- Growing predominantly rural regions
- Growing intermediate regions
- Predominantly urban regions
- No data

© ESPON, 2020

*Rural regions in the ESPON ESCAPE project correspond to predominantly rural regions and intermediate regions (NUTS 3).
Shrinking correspond to a population decrease and growing correspond to a population increase over a 20-year-period in the overal period 1993-2033.

Regional level: NUTS 3 (2010)
Source: ESPON ESCAPE, 2020
Origin of data: Eurostat, ESPON database, Nordregio 2020
UMS RIATE for administrative boundaries

22/09/2021

Expanding rural areas:
growing rural population

Shrinking rural areas:
decreasing rural population

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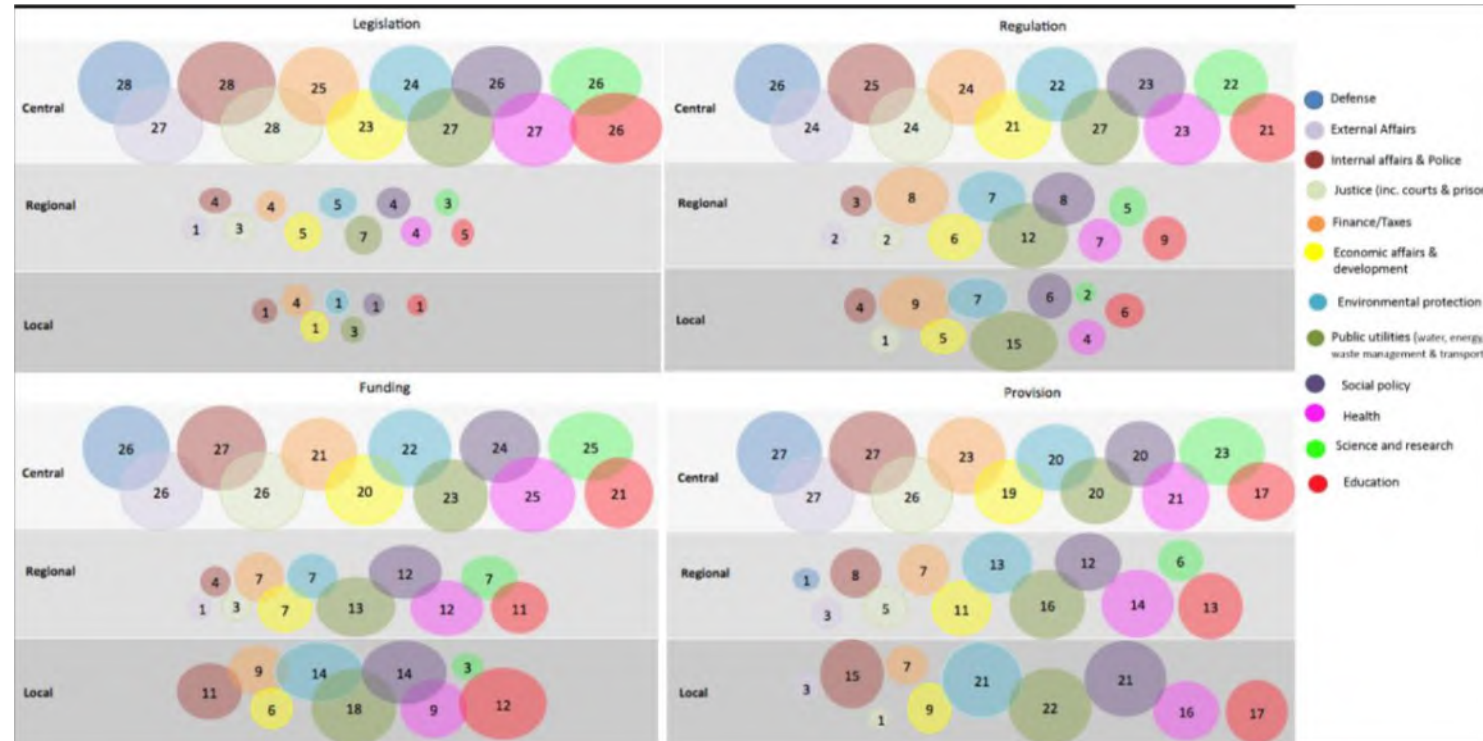
# Scenario base - Multilevel governance

**Networked:**

Well-coordinated, collaborative, strong citizen participation

**Fragmented:**

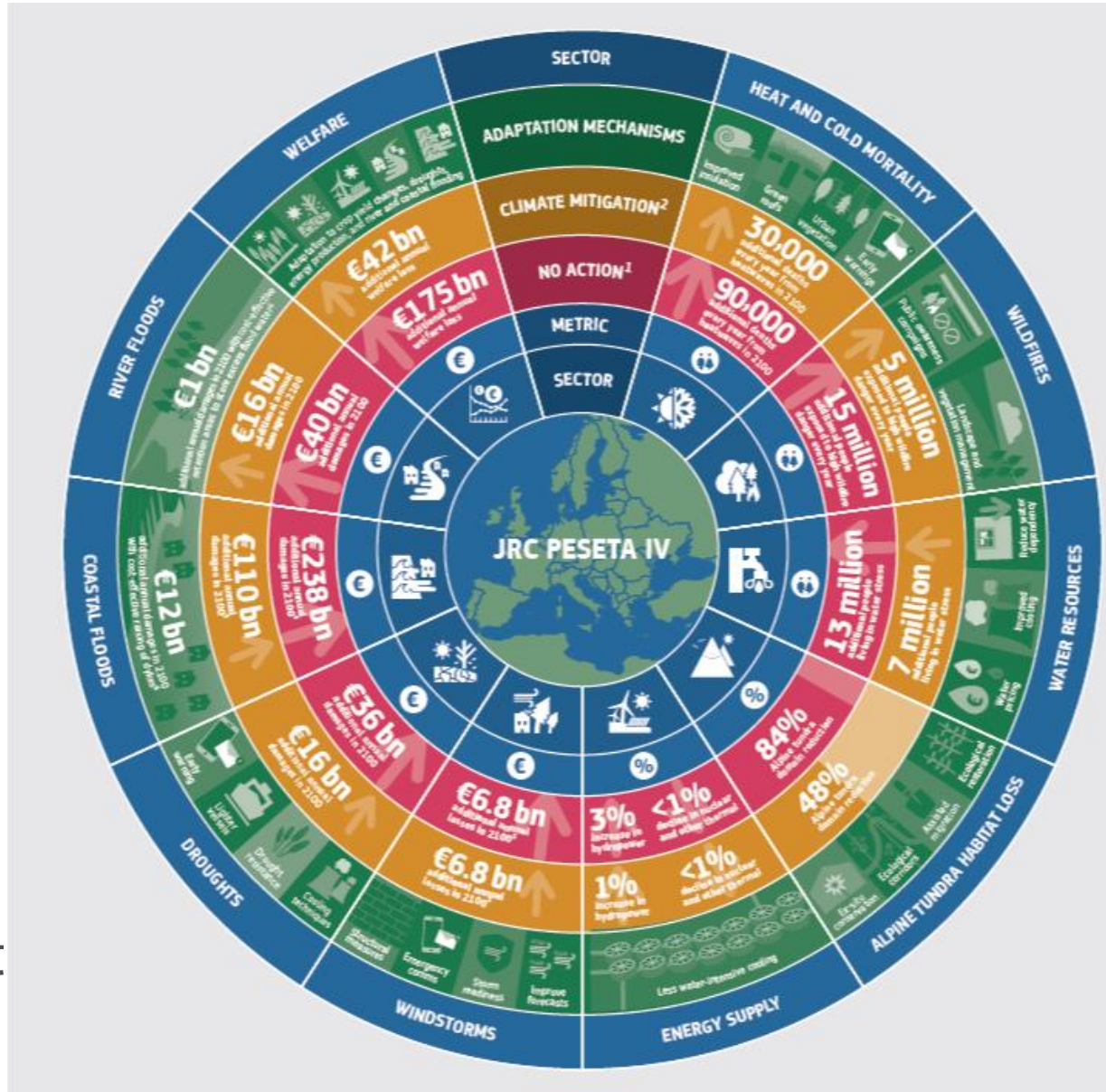Limited coordination, low policy coherence, weak citizen participation



Distribution of competences between government tiers

Source: EUPACK-Project

# Other driving factors

- Climate Change

- Biodiversity

- Globalisation

- Technology

- Sense of community

- Evolving services, mobility, transport

- Coherence of rural policies



Source: PESETA IV study

**Different kinds of digitalisation** – automation, smart, people-centred. Autonomy and interdependence. "Newcomers" and growing inequalities – tensions, resistance opposition. Rural – urban and rural - rural: competition, synergies, interplay. Localities and translocalities. Rural islands, nodes, hubs or archipelagos. **Measures of good life** – growth, happiness, sustainability. Different business opportunities – ecosystem services, circular economy, tourism, recreation, natural resources, social farming, new production and logistics. Exploitative vs cooperative approaches. **Resilience** – global and local capacities, resources and socio-economic.  Pride in responding to global challenges.