



Enabling factors for change to boost rural development

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Why a Rural Pact?



- ▶ Rural areas are **essential** for the European identity and well-being
- ▶ They play an important role in addressing major social and environmental **challenges** Europe is facing.



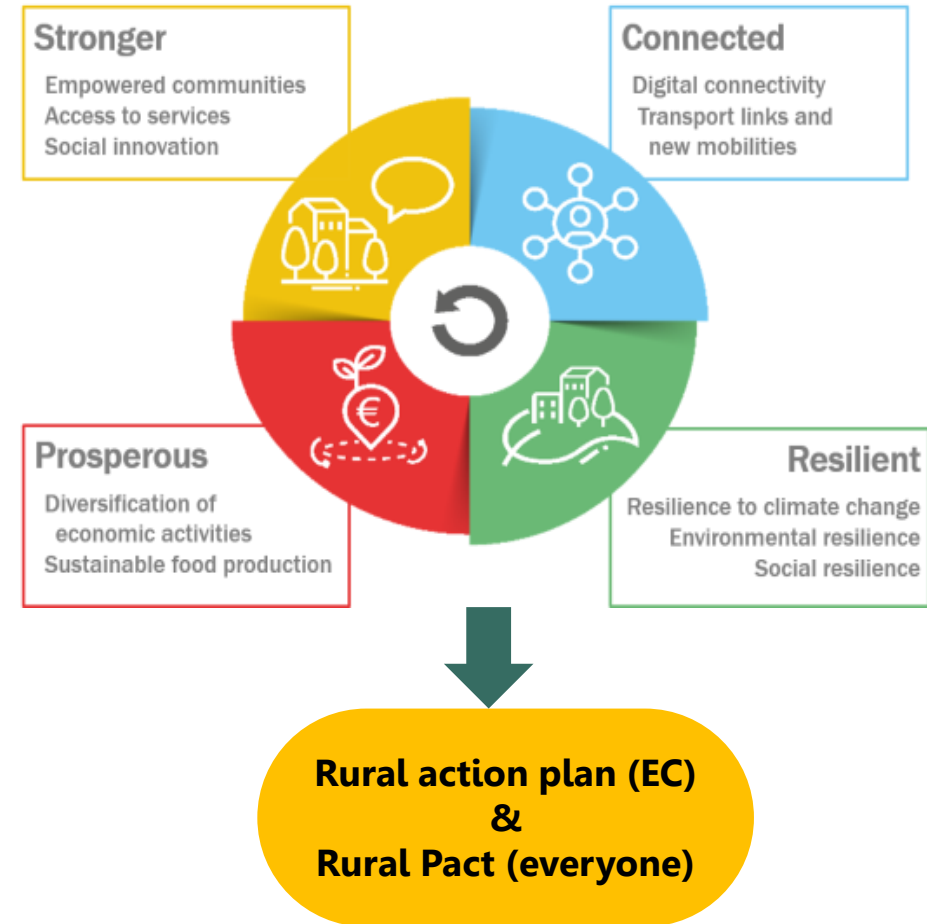
- ▶ For rural areas to thrive, a **coordinated effort** is needed by a wide range of stakeholders at different levels.

The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas



10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

1. **Attractive spaces**, developed in harmonious **territorial development**
2. Engaged in **multi-level** and **place-based governance**
3. Providers of **food security**, economic **opportunities**, goods and **services** for wider society
4. Dynamic communities focusing on **well-being**
5. **Inclusive communities**
6. Flourishing sources of **nature**
7. Fully benefiting from **digital innovation**
8. **Entrepreneurial, innovative** and **skilled** people
9. Lively places equipped with efficient, accessible and affordable **public and private services**
10. Places of **diversity**



The long-term vision for the EU's rural areas

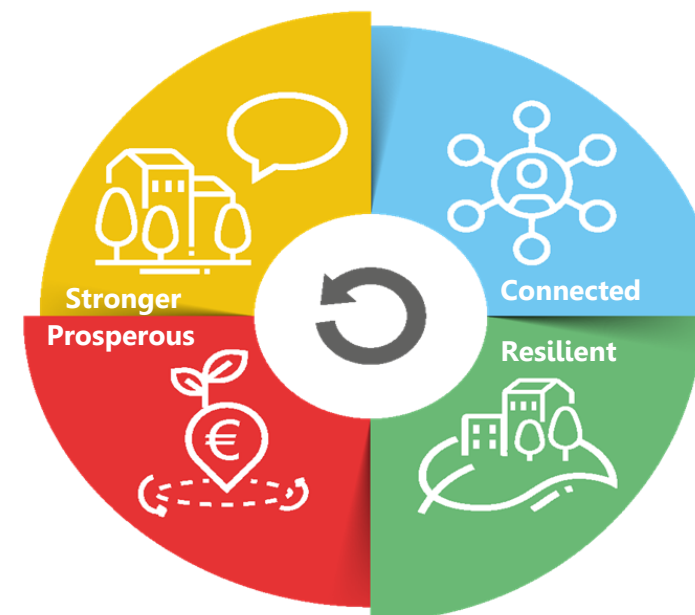
LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

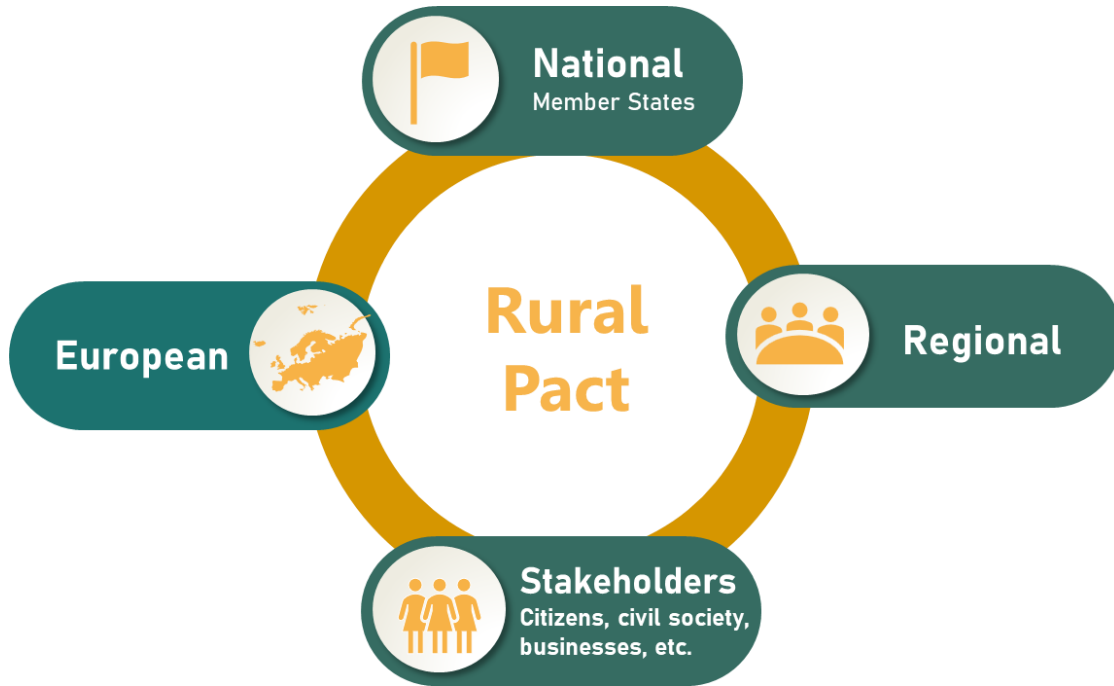
EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

6
Horizontal
actions

1. Rural Observatory
2. Functional Rural Areas
3. Improved Statistics
4. Rural Proofing
5. Toolkit on EU funding
6. **Rural Pact**



The Rural Pact



The Rural Pact is a formal space and framework to boost cooperation between national, regional and local governments, civil society organisations, businesses, academics and citizens to act towards the shared goals of the rural vision.

#RuralPact



Participatory process

Rural Pact

Proposals from the Rural Pact preparatory group for the Rural Pact conference on 15-16 June 2022

Introduction

With the adoption of the Communication on a Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, the European Commission committed to setting-up a Rural Pact. This Pact will contribute to reaching the shared goals of the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas but also fits into the EU's broader commitment of implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring balanced territorial development.

Following the launch of the Rural Pact Community, in December 2021, over 1000 individuals and organisations have endorsed the shared goals of the rural vision and want to work towards their achievement. This draft is the next step in the Rural Pact process. Drafted by EU institutions and rural stakeholders¹, it outlines the main features of the Rural Pact. Rural Pact Community members were invited to express their views on this proposal in May through a survey. Their feedback was taken on board for the final proposal which was presented at the Rural Pact conference on 15 and 16 June 2022.

Objectives

The Rural Action Plan, which was adopted with the Long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas, represents the European Commission's commitment to acting for rural areas. One of its actions is to propose a Rural Pact, which aims to strengthen multi-level governance for the EU's rural areas. This means that the Pact will engage the European, national, regional and local level, all of which have a key role to play in the future of rural areas, to work together.

The activities of the Rural Pact could be classified as contributing to three broad objectives:

¹ Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, ELARD, PREPARE and ERCA from the European Rural Parliament, as well as the European Parliament and the European network for Rural Development as observers.

Proposal endorsed
Rural Pact Conference (15-16 June 2022)



Funded by
the European Union

The Rural Pact - Objectives



Amplify the voice of rural areas and bring them up in policy agendas



Networking, collaboration & mutual learning



Commitments to act



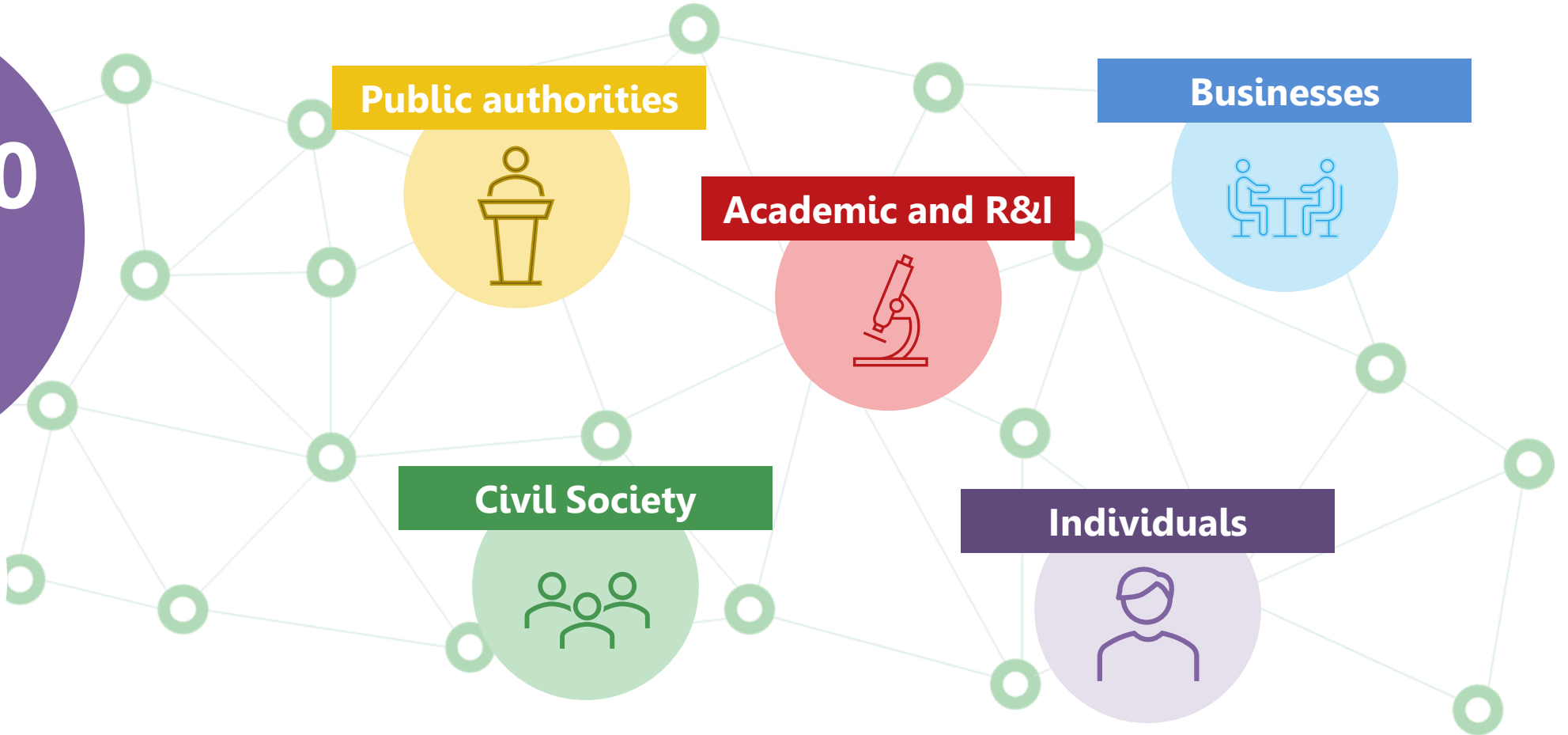
Rural Pact Proposal: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/rural-pact-proposal_en.pdf

The Rural Pact Community



+2100
Rural Pact
Community
Members

+115
Commitments to
act



Participating in the Pact = Committing to act for one or more of its objectives



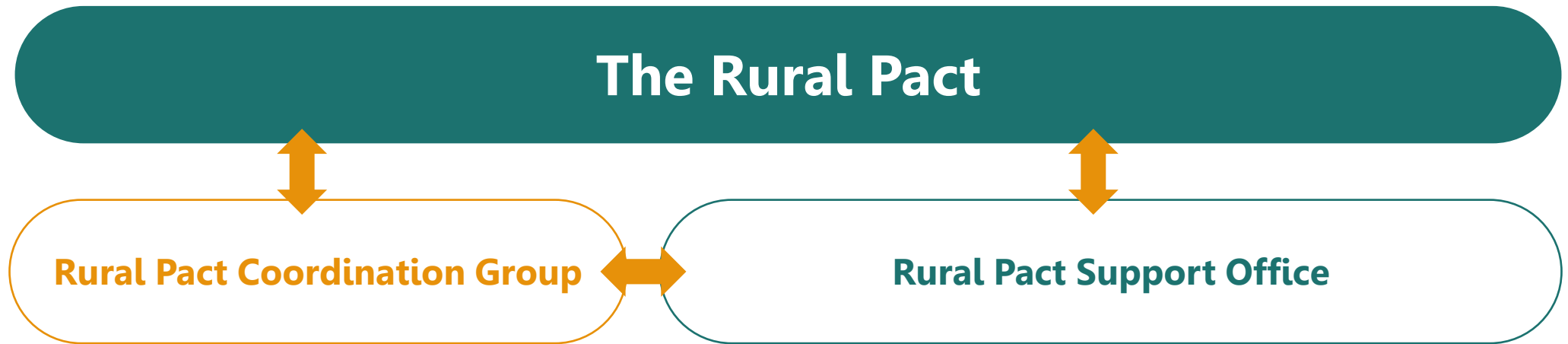
Join the Rural Pact Community! <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>

#RuralPact



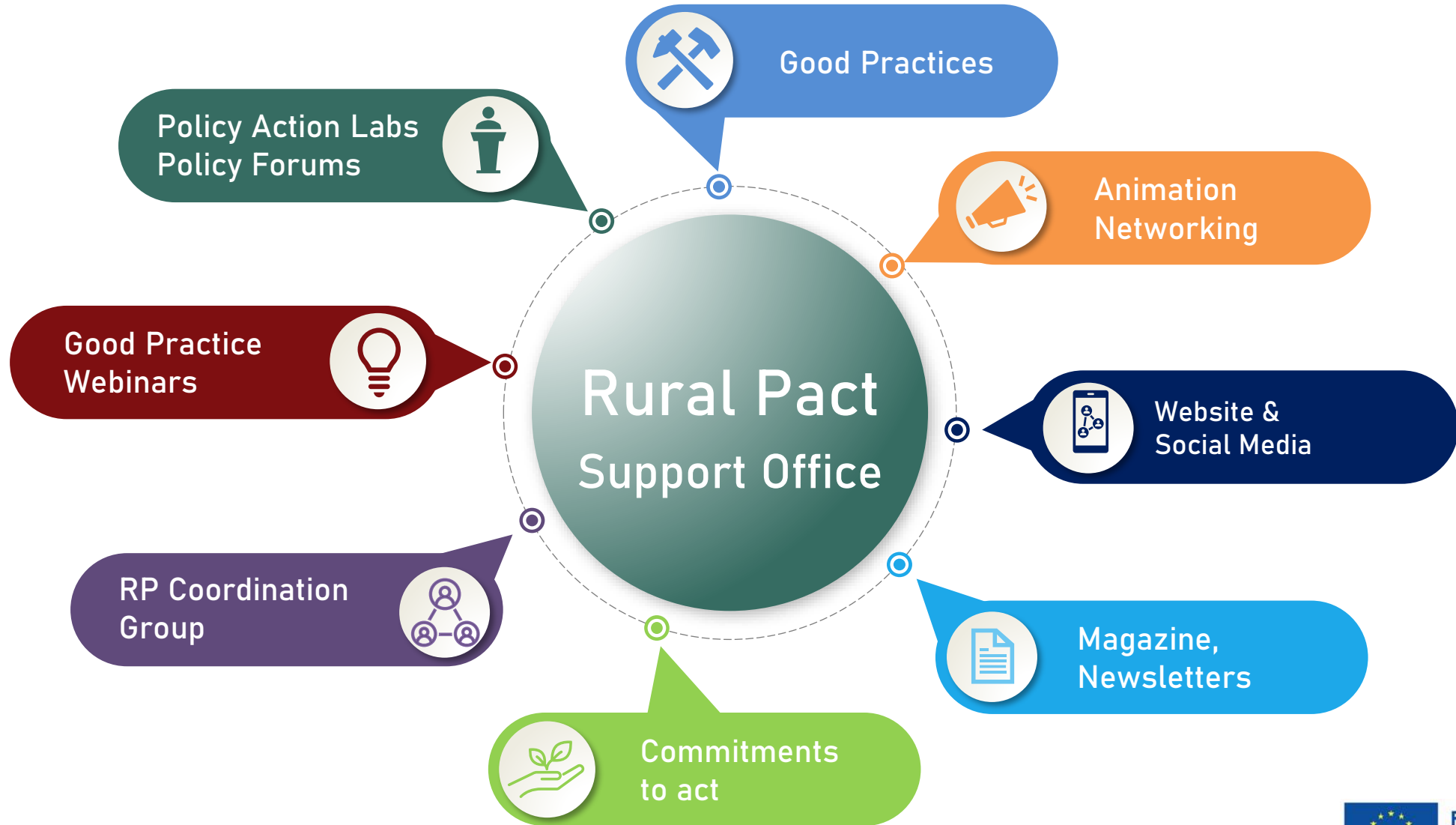
Funded by
the European Union

Rural Pact Support Office



- Informal group steering the Rural Pact process
- Three-year mandate
- Learn more: https://rural-vision.europa.eu/rural-pact/rural-pact-coordination-group_en
- Provide facilitation services to the Rural Pact community
- Networking and information
- Build synergies with networks and governing bodies
- Evaluate needs of the RP community and support its work

RPSO tasks



Main Events in 2023



Policy Labs

- ▶ Taking action to tackle **rural depopulation**, Brussels, Belgium **(29 June)**
- ▶ Online - **EU funds** paving the way to the Rural Vision **(14 December)**



Good Practice Webinars

- ▶ Fostering **social entrepreneurship** in rural areas through local action **(11 May)**
- ▶ Strengthening **digital skills of rural people to benefit** from the digital era **(8 June)**
- ▶ Rural areas in the **Energy transition** **(24 October)**
- ▶ Webinar 4: Enhancing access to **health services** in rural areas **(30 November)**



https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events_en



Main Events in 2023



Spanish Presidency
of the Council of the EU



High level Policy Forum

Shaping the future of rural areas

(27-29 September), Sigüenza (Spain)

Organised by Spanish presidency & European Commission

https://rural-vision.europa.eu/events/shaping-future-rural-areas-2023-09-27_en



The Rural Pact community platform



- ▶ Find the latest information about the Rural Pact and rural revitalisation, connect with your peers and get inspired
- ▶ Check the existing "Community Groups" to discuss topics of your interest – or create a new one!

This is your space!

https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member_en



Rural Pact community platform – Your space !



Julie de Galard

Search

Rural Pact ▾ Rural revitalisation ▾ The platform ▾ Resources ▾ News and events ▾

News



18 AUG 2023

SURVEY "Promoting cultural policies in rural areas within the framework of development and...

A survey has been launched to gather insights for the upcoming CoR (Committee of the Regions) initiative on "Promoting cultural policies in rural areas within the..."

Research and innovation, Resilient rural areas, ...



17 AUG 2023

Smart Rural 27 - 3rd session of the Renewable Energy Cluster

Register for the open Session of the Smart Rural 27 Renewable Energy Cluster with focus on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED)...

Smart and start-up villages, Energy, ...



10 AUG 2023

Join the Harnessing Talent Platform to retain talent in rural areas

The much-awaited Harnessing Talent Platform (HTP) was officially launched, heralding a new era of opportunities for rural areas. Via this platform, the European Commission...

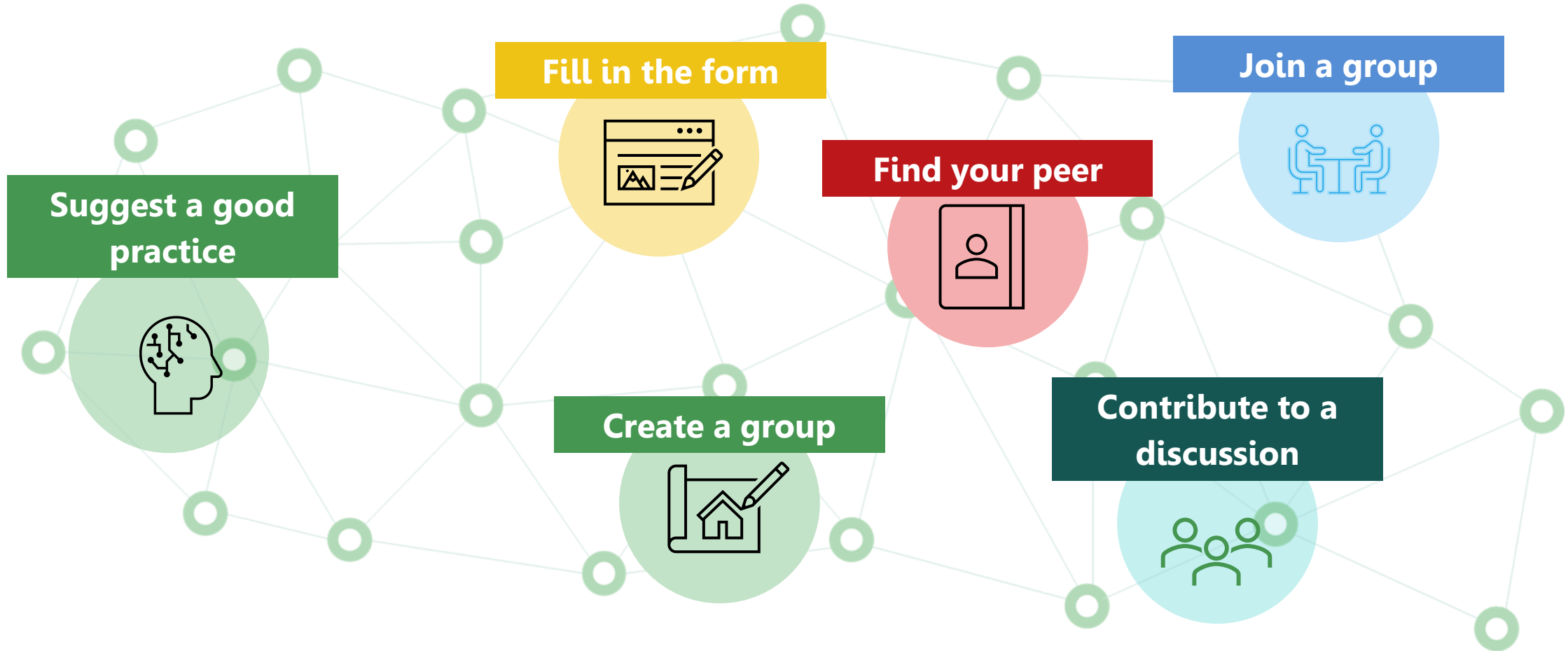
Youth

Objectives :

- Stay informed
- Connect with each other
- Exchange and interact

https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member_en

How can stakeholders contribute to the Platform?



This tool is designed for you = Make the best use out of it!



Join us! [Become a member of the Rural Pact | Rural Pact Platform \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/rural-pact)

The Rural Pact for national authorities



Amplify the voice of rural areas

- Having **structures** in place to **engage specifically with rural communities**
- Having a **member of government** and a **service responsible for rural areas across policies**



Commitments to act

- Having a **forward-looking vision** in place
- Having a holistic **strategy** and/or **action plan/programme/agenda**
- Having **mechanisms** in place to **coordinate** horizontally **across departments** and vertically across **governance levels**
- Coordinating **allocation of funding** for action and ensuring **synergies** between various funds
- Having a **rural proofing** mechanism in place
- Having **good rural data** for monitoring and evaluation



Networking, collaboration & mutual learning

- **Capacity building** and **support** mechanisms
- **Networking structures** engaging a broad array of stakeholders (rural but also thematic)

Be informed, participate and take action



Steps

1

Join the Rural Pact Community

Form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RuralPact>

2

Take action contributing to the vision & share it with us

Form:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/TheRuralPactCommitmentCanvas>





THANK YOU

Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform

https://ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member_en



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

