



Rural mobility in the context of the long-term vision for rural areas: key achievements & ways forward

[European Commission report on the long-term vision for rural areas](#)

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5th European Network for Rural Mobility - 15 May 2024



#RuralVisionEU

The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



Rural areas are a formative part of the European economy and cultural diversity.

They are home to hundreds of millions of Europeans who enjoy living and working there. We stand by their side and want Europe's rural areas to flourish.

Europe is investing in rural areas because their prospects are Europe's future.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen
27 March 2024



The role of sustainable mobility

LONG-TERM VISION FOR 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

« **Goal 9:** Lively places equipped with efficient, **accessible and affordable public and private services**, including cross border services, providing tailored solutions (such as **transport** [...]). »

The role of sustainable mobility

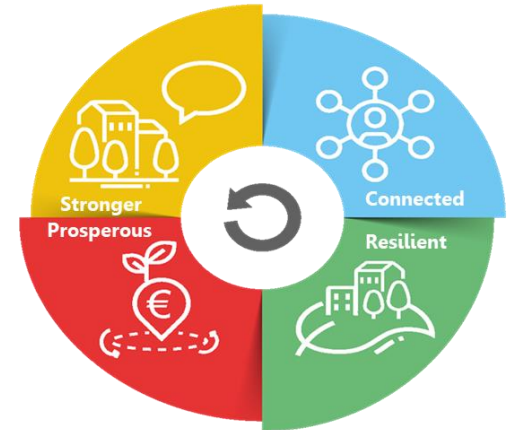
LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

10 SHARED GOALS FOR 2040

EU RURAL ACTION PLAN

9 Flagship initiatives

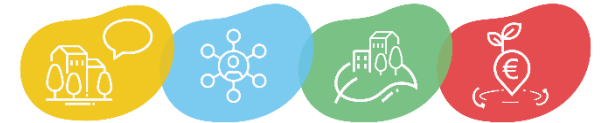
-  1. Rural revitalisation platform
-  2. Research and innovation for rural communities
-  **3. Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas**
-  4. Rural digital futures
-  5. Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change
-  6. Climate action in peatland through carbon farming
-  7. EU mission: a soil deal for Europe
-  8. Social resilience and women in rural areas
-  9. Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas



SMARTA NET

Flagship: Develop rural mobility through support to rural municipalities in identifying best practices for mobility solutions

The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



Communication from the EC (June 2021)

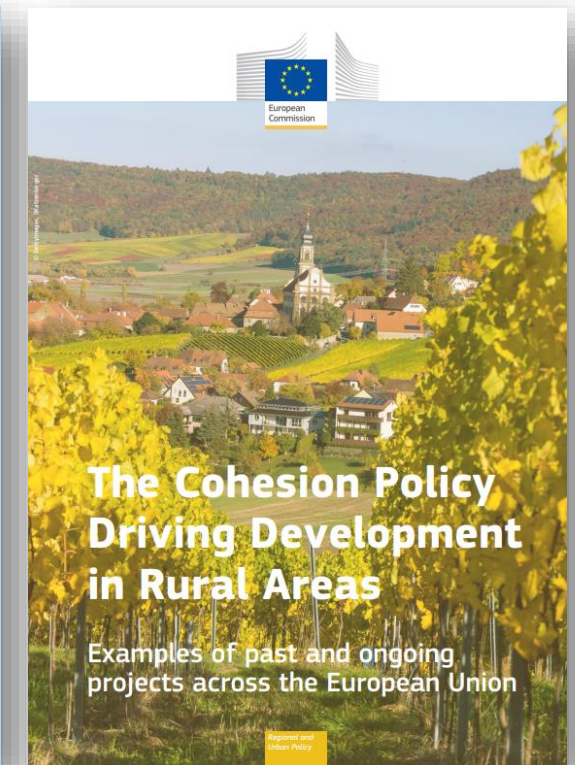
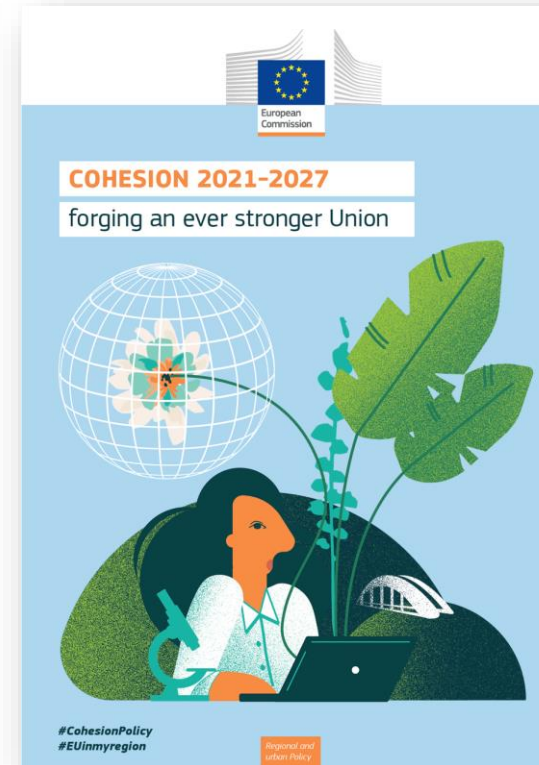
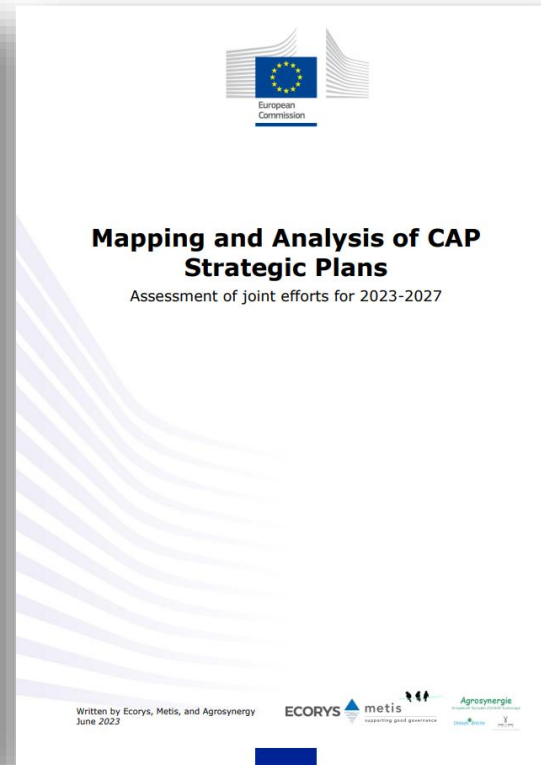
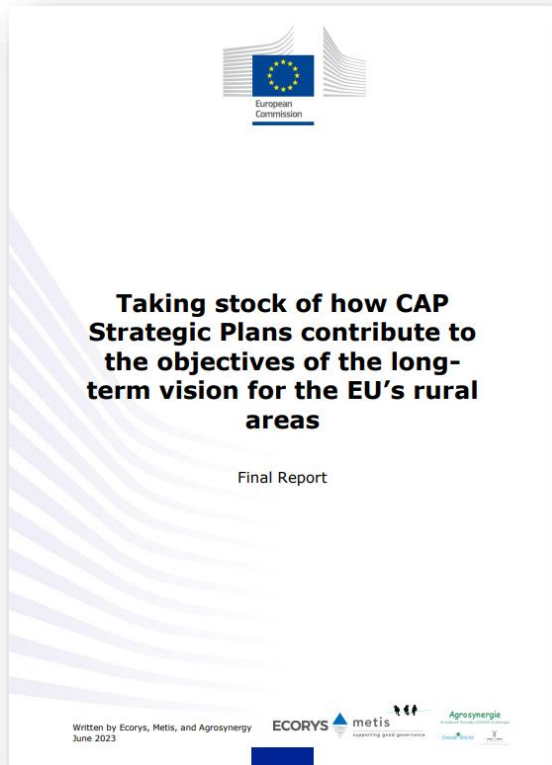
The Commission will **take stock of what actions have been carried out and programmed** under support schemes for rural areas in 2021-2027 for the CAP and Cohesion policy and highlight gaps where necessary.

A set of **reflections on possible orientations for enhanced support action and financing for rural areas**, as well as on the **ways forward**, will be included in **a public report by the first quarter of 2024**, based on the implementation of the EU rural action plan. The discussions around the report will feed the reflection on the preparation of the proposals for the 2028-2034 programming period.

Communication on the LTVRA, "Next steps".



EU policies contributions to rural areas



2023-2027 CAP
Study reports on [September](#) & [November](#) 2023
+ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council:
"[Summary of CAP Strategic Plans for 2023-27: joint effort and collective ambition](#)"

2021-2027 Cohesion policy
Report [May](#) 2023
+ Collection of examples [March](#) 2024

The rural action plan: 24 thematic actions



▶ **Rural revitalisation platform launched**

▶ **Research and innovation for rural communities**

- €253 million in **Horizon EU**
- European **Startup village forum** launched

▶ **Networking for LEADER** (EU CAP Network) **and Smart villages** (SmartRural 21 & 27)

▶ **Study on land-use for sustainable agriculture** launched

▶ **Youth:**

- Inclusion in **ERASMUS**
- EU youth Strategy **Goal 6**
- **Study** on rural youth opportunities for learning



▶ **Networking on mobility for rural communities under SMARTA-NET**

▶ **Urban mobility framework published** & urban mobility plans being updated

▶ **Rural Digital Futures**

- €23.5 billion invested in **connectivity**
- Pilot on digital education in remote areas "Learning from the extremes"
- **Rural digital indicators** in digital decade reports

▶ **Broadband competency office network renewed**

▶ **R&I projects for digitalisation of agriculture**



▶ **Rural energy communities advisory hub** (RECAH)

- **27 municipalities** received technical assistance
- **Guidance** for all

▶ **Certification of Carbon removals**

▶ **EU mission: A soil deal for Europe** (R&I calls)

▶ **Social resilience and Women in rural areas**

- European **care strategy** (2022) highlighting rural
- Study on **working conditions** of farm employees



▶ **Entrepreneurship and social economy (SE)**

- European social economy **action plan**
- **Good practices for rural** under "Transition pathway for proximity and social economy"
- Funding for **consortia in SE in rural areas**

▶ **Education for youth**

- WG education & values
- Rural under school education platform & online teacher community

▶ **Toolkit for producer groups in GIs**

▶ **Thematic group for forest-dominant municipalities**

The rural action plan: 6 cross-cutting actions

More and easier
to access rural
data

▶ Better statistics: twice more indicators, geospatial datasets, new legislation on population statistics

▶ Proposed method to define functional rural areas

▶ Rural observatory on-line

Easier access to info on
funds

▶ Toolkit on EU rural funds

Mechanism in place to
rural-proof policies

▶ Rural proofing included in 'Better regulation guidelines', toolbox, methodologies

Improving governance

▶ Rural Pact operational at EU level, pacts being adopted at national and regional levels

Looking forward – EU policies



**Contributions from
EU institutions &
stakeholders**

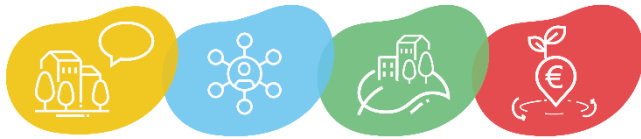
Ways forward – Questions for reflection

- ▶ What are the **key challenges** arising from depopulation, ongoing transitions and structural changes?
- ▶ What are the best ways to **address them** in a targeted way?
- ▶ How to **enhance financial support** for rural areas and communities through EU, national and regional funds, including improving synergies and complementarities?
- ▶ What is needed to **improve financing, quality of delivery and effectiveness** via e.g. CLLD/LEADER?
- ▶ How to improve the **monitoring and assessment of the resources** from the different EU funds and programmes?
- ▶ What is needed to **improve access to support** for the final beneficiary?
- ▶ What can be done for wider implementation of the **rural proofing mechanism** at all levels?
- ▶ What are the best policy tools to ensure **institutional, governance and integrated support** for rural areas?
- ▶ How to improve the **availability of policy-relevant rural statistics and data**, without increasing the administrative burden?

Ways forward - Opportunities for debate

- 9th Cohesion forum (11-12 April 2024)
- 5th European Network on Rural Mobility (14-16 May 2024)
- Technical workshop on Solidarity and rural communities (16-17 May 2024)
- Rural Pact coordination group (16 April and November 2024)
- Rural Pact policy labs (May, September and November/December 2024)
- Rural Pact Community Platform and good practices
- Rural Pact Conference

The ongoing **strategic dialogue on the future of EU agriculture** also reflects on the future of rural areas.



Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform

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



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



Be informed, participate and take action

Steps

1

Join the Rural Pact Community

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

2

Take action contributing to the vision & share it with us

Form:

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

