

What is the Rural Pact and where does the health fit in the rural vision?

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Resilient healthcare provision in rural areas

Interreg Europe

05/06/2024



#RuralPact



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The long-term vision for EU's rural areas



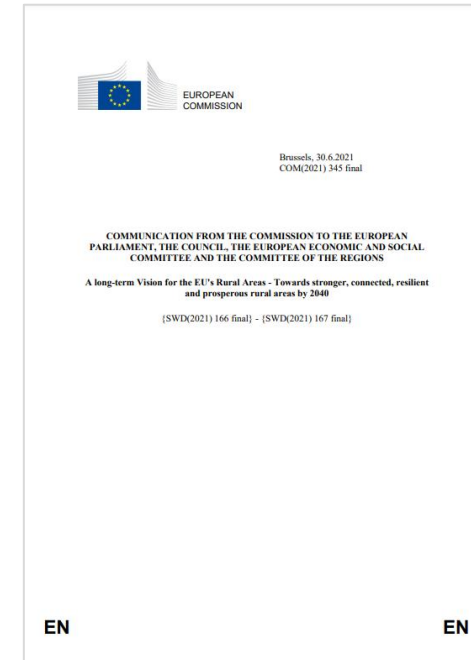
Vice-president of EC
Demography & Democracy
Dubravka Šuica



Commissioner (Agriculture)
Janusz Wojciechowski

Commissioner (Cohesion and reforms)
Elisa Ferreira

Communication from the EC
(June 2021)



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



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 of **intergenerational solidarity**, fairness and renewal
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, education, training, **health and care**, including long-term care, social life and retail business). »

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



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

- **Social resilience and Women in rural areas**
 - European care strategy (2022)

The rural action plan: 24 thematic actions



▶ Rural revitalisation platform

- Enabling factors, self-assessment tool
- Launch 29 June 2023



▶ Research and innovation for rural communities

- Horizon 2021-2024 launched (120 M€)
- Startup village forum
- EIP-AGRI, RIS3
- Horizon 2025-2027



▶ Education and youth

- Study on rural young people access to ERASMUS and ESCP



▶ Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas

- SMARTA NET Networking for municipalities



▶ Urban mobility framework published

▶ Rural Digital Futures

- Horizon + DEP WP published
- EDIH
- Digital skills and jobs platform
- Pilots on digital education for children in remote areas
- 5G for smart com.
- Rural digital index



▶ Rural municipalities in energy transition & Climate change

- Rural energy communities advisory hub



▶ Climate action in peatland /carbon farming

- Comm "Sustainable C cycles"
- 3 LIFE projects
- Just transition fund
- CAP assessments
- Certif. C removals



▶ EU mission: A soil deal for Europe

- Calls published



▶ Entrepreneurship and social economy

- Clusters of social and ecologic innovation (rural focus) report published – study by RTD
- Euroclusters call
- European cluster collaboration platform
- Transition pathway for proximity and social economy



▶ Social resilience and Women in rural areas

- European care strategy (2022)

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



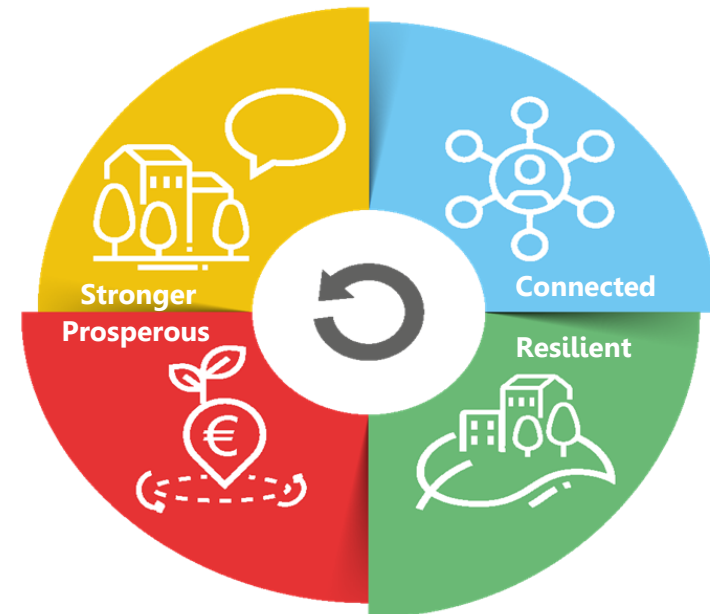
LONG-TERM VISION FOR RURAL AREAS

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



What is 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)

The Rural Pact Community Members

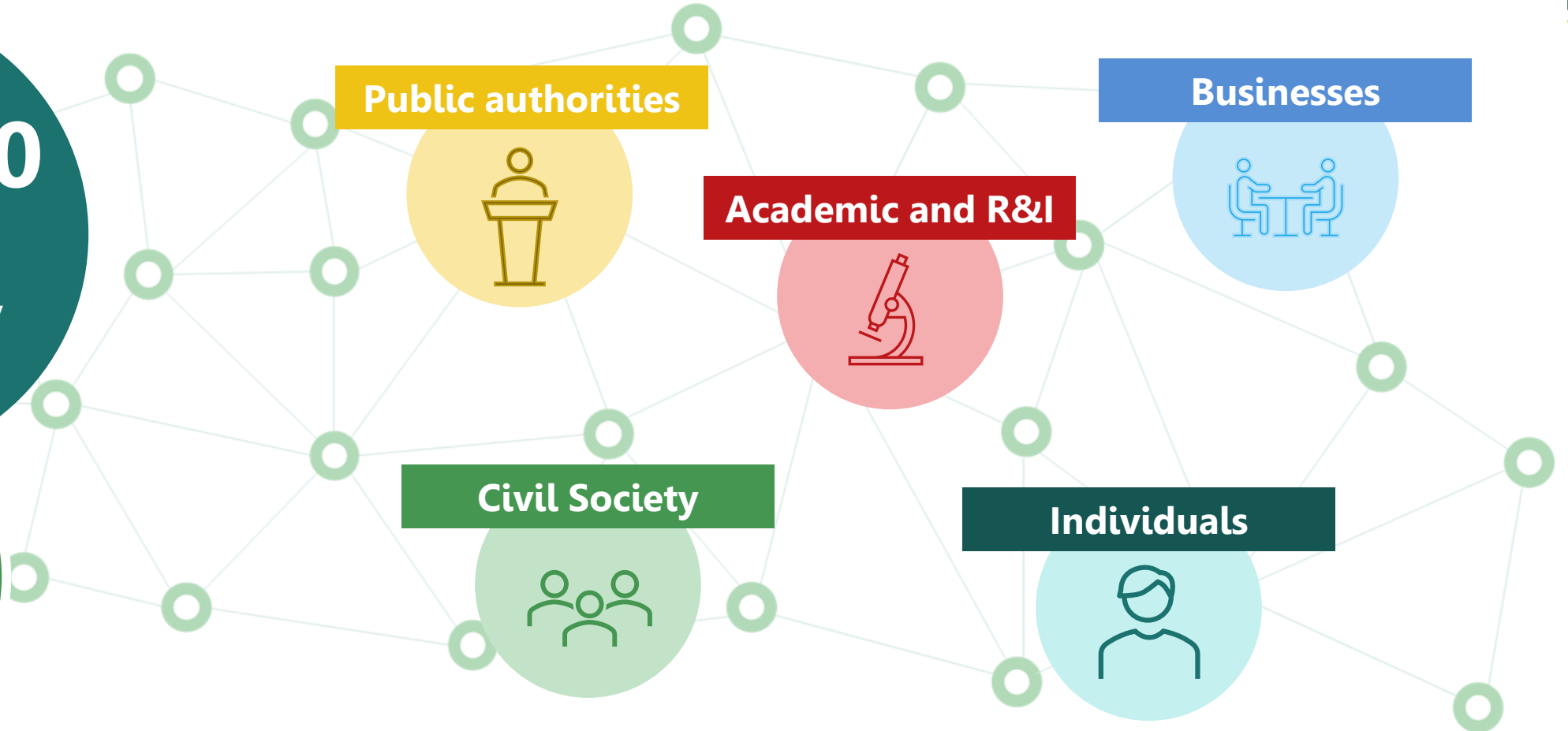


+2400

Rural Pact
Community
Members by
April 2024

+120

Commitments to
act



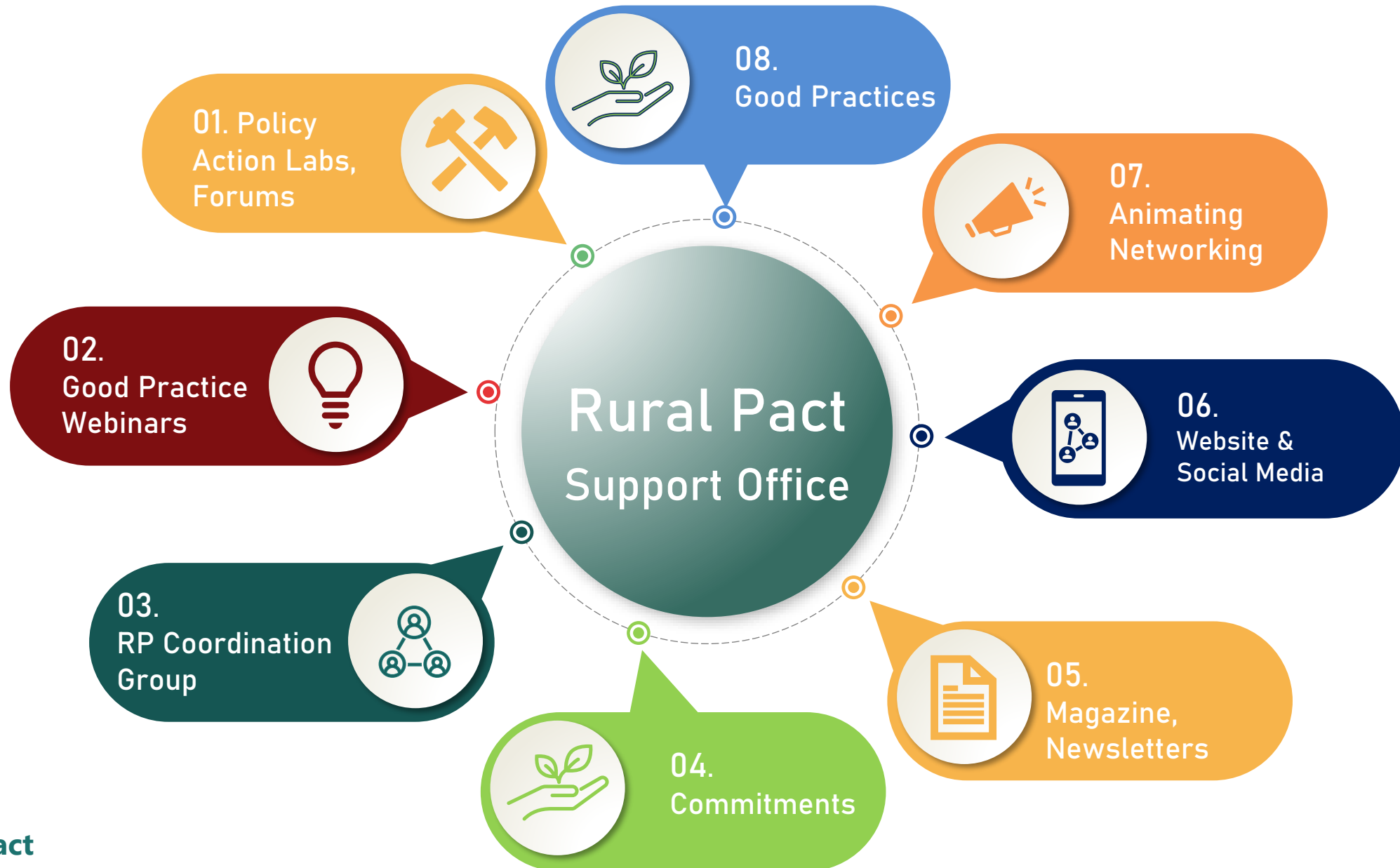
Participating in the Pact = Committing to act for one or more of its objectives



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

#RuralPact

The Rural Pact Support Office





**RURAL
PACT**



Good Practice Webinar

Enhancing access to health services in rural areas

All presentations, recordings and report available at the

[Good Practice Webinar: Enhancing access to health services in rural areas | Rural Pact Community Platform \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/rural-pact-community-platform)





Enhancing access to health services in rural areas – main conclusions



- The **curriculum** for healthcare studies should better consider the **context of rural areas**.
- **Training options in rural settings** have demonstrated positive outcomes and should be replicated.
- Efforts are required to enable ongoing training and skill development for healthcare professionals in rural areas. These should focus not only on clinical skills but also on **alternative learning methods** and including **decentralised models of education** and **technological proficiency (digital divide)**



- Innovative solutions in healthcare need to be integrated, aligning with professionals' workload, skills, and long-term viability.



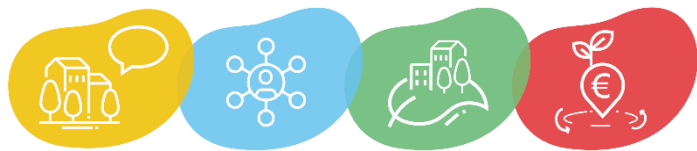
- **Telemedicine** solutions should be **collaboratively designed**, involving healthcare practitioners, patients, and IT developers.



- **Specific regulations** and supportive conditions are necessary to facilitate telemedicine, mobile health units and community-based practices. These regulations should address legal barriers, privacy concerns, and healthcare standards compliance to ensure patient trust and effective implementation (**policy gaps**)



- There is a need for **rural proofing** specific regulations and **unified political support and cooperation** across various public administration departments, including education, health, agriculture and rural development.



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>

