



The long-term vision for EU's rural areas

9 July 2026

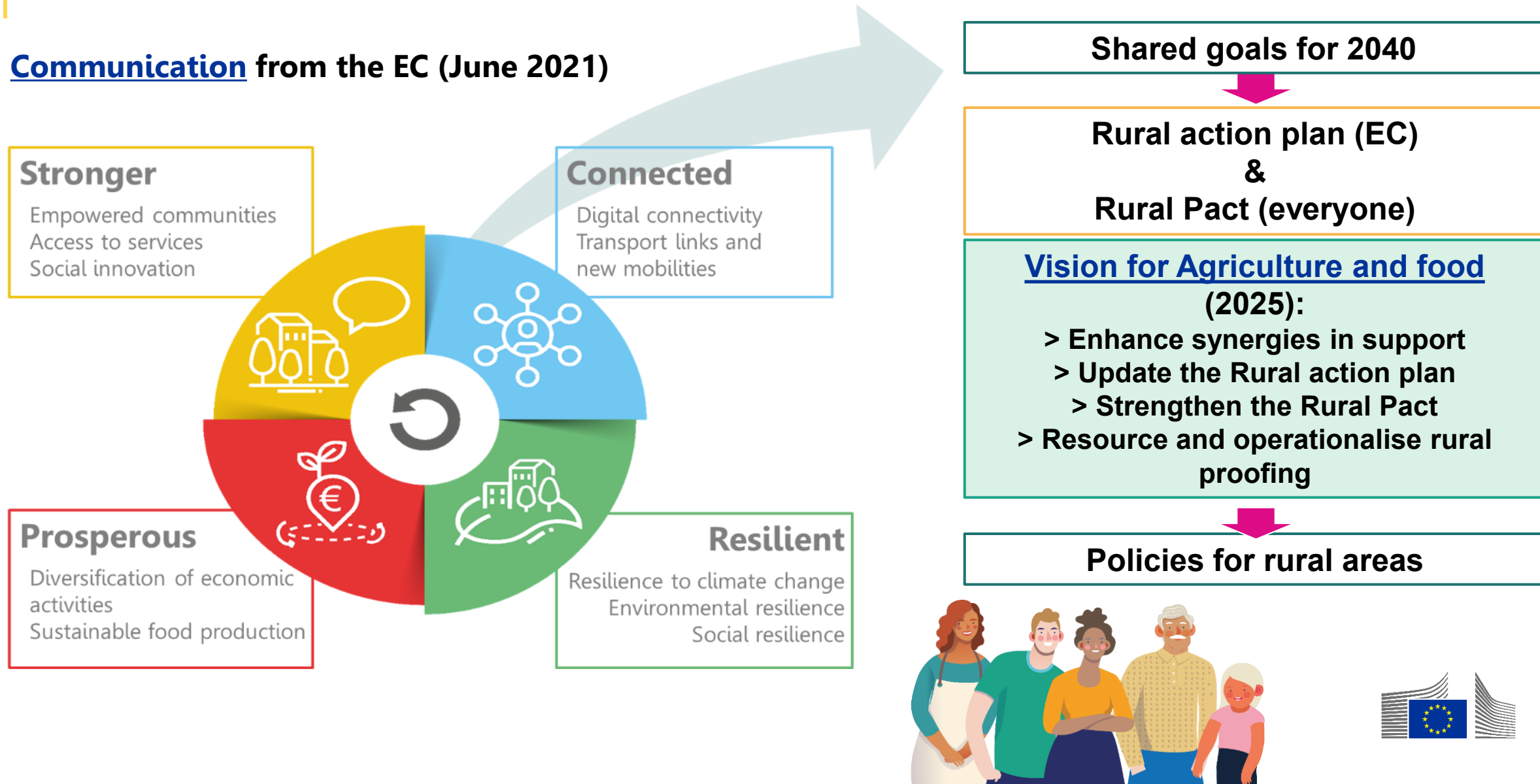
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Digital Alps conference



The EU Rural vision: working together for rural areas

Communication from the EC (June 2021)



The rural action plan: 24 thematic actions



- **Rural revitalisation platform launched**

- **Research and innovation for rural communities**

- **70 multi-actor** research projects under Horizon EU
- European **Start-up village forum** launched

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

- **Study on land-use** for **sustainable agriculture** working on recommendations for local planning and zoning

- **Youth:**
 - Getting more rural young people in **ERASMUS**



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

- Urban mobility plans being updated with **more focus on rural-urban linkages**

- **Rural Digital Futures**
 - **€23 billion** invested in **connectivity** in market failure areas
 - Pilot on digital education in remote areas "Learning from the extremes"

- **Broadband competency office network** acting for improved connectivity in market failure areas
 - Capacity building/+advice



- **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)
 - Funding for local/regional **living labs** and **lighthouses**

- **Social resilience and Women in rural areas**
 - Raising awareness on the importance of care in rural areas (**European care strategy 2022**)



- **Entrepreneurship and social economy (SE)**
 - Providing **good practices for social economy in rural areas** under "Transition pathway for proximity and social economy"
 - Funding for **consortia in SE in rural areas**

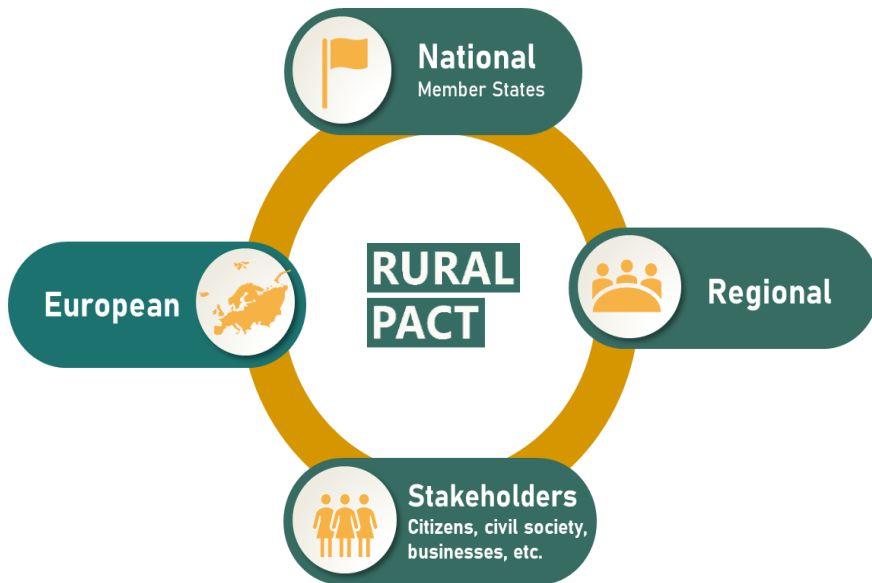
- **Education for youth**
 - Dedicated **content for rural schools** under school education platform & online teacher community

- **Toolkit for producer groups in Geographical Indications**

- **Networking for forest-dominant municipalities**

The Rural Pact – a space to work together

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.



Objectives



Amplifying rural voices and bringing them higher on the political agenda



Structuring and enabling **networking, collaboration & mutual learning**



Encouraging and monitoring voluntary **actions for the vision**

Digital & mountains

Stressing needs

Good practice webinars on digital skills, innovation
Community group on Mountains



GROUP

Mountain areas



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

Rural areas in EU's budget 2028-2034

EUROPE'S BUDGET

Building stronger, connected, resilient
and prosperous rural communities

JUNE 2026

Rural areas cover three quarters of the European Union's territory and are home to one in four Europeans. They play an important role in Europe's economy, environment, and quality of life.

Under the proposed 2028–2034 budget, the European Commission is renewing its commitment to rural areas to help Europe respond to their economic, environmental, and social challenges while supporting communities across the Union.

The proposal would bring together different sources of EU funding, including support for farmers and rural areas currently provided through the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** under a **single National and Regional Partnership Plan (NRPP)** in each Member State. A dedicated spending target for rural areas has been proposed to ensure the future plans continue investing in rural territories.



- A **single fund** for all policies under shared management
- A **single partnership plan** for each Member State
- The new framework offers **new opportunities** to support stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas with a **more integrated approach**.
- A proposed **rural target of 10% of each NRPP envelope** (excluding amounts ring-fenced for CAP and CFP income support to farmers, foresters and fishers)

[Download](#)



Thank you!

Join the Rural Pact Community and online platform

www.ruralpact.rural-vision.europa.eu/become-member_en



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