

Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

22-26 MARCH 2021

Rural Vision Week



#Rural2040 #RuralVisionEU

Rural Voices

Paul Soto

ENRD Contact Point

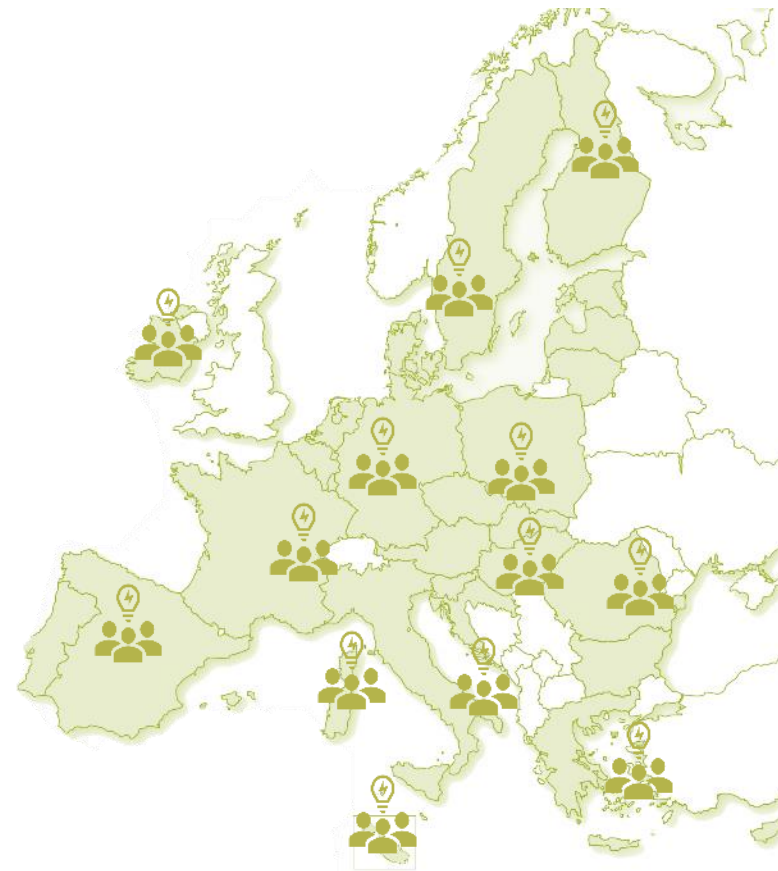
22 March 2021

Rural Voices – from the local to the EU

Concerns and actions are **short/medium term. Action is called upon now.**

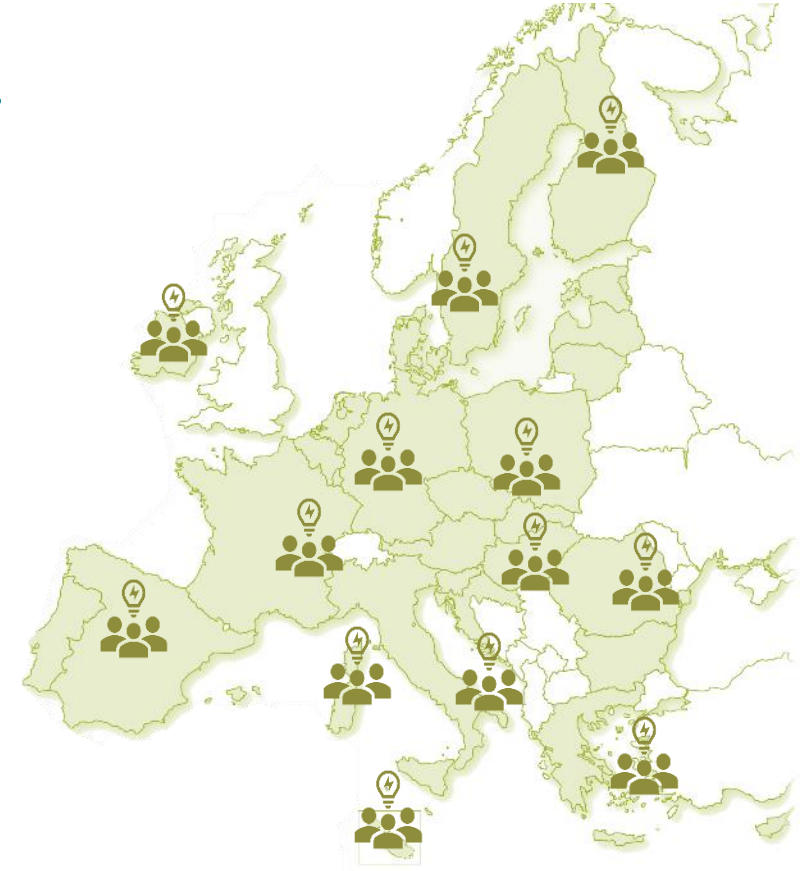
Major **differences between rural areas shape stakeholder views.** Shrinking area also have opportunities and growing areas face challenges.

Demography provides a barometer of opportunities.
Capture the diversity in the vision.

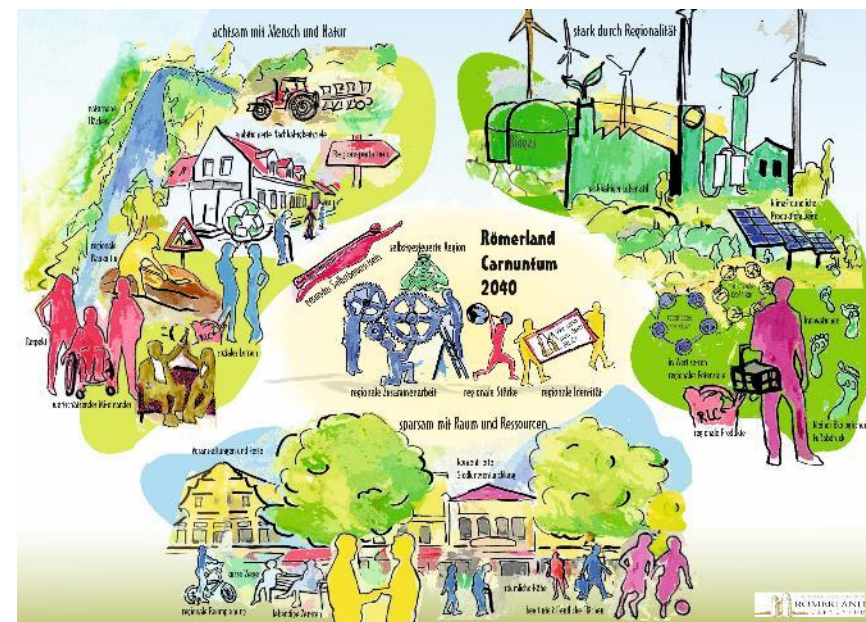


Rural Voices – some common strands

1. **Appropriate infrastructure & basic services** (“equal playing field”).
2. Unlock potential of **social and technological innovation** – hubs, collaborative spaces, brokers...
3. New **regional and local territorial models** (food, bioeconomy, energy, new forms of work).
4. **The Green Deal as an imperative**. Requires environmental awareness and finding ways of valuing ecosystem services.
5. New **participatory models of governance** and of **multi-actor partnerships, rural planning** as a desirable structure to frame interventions.



“ We wish to continue the discussions about our future and be informed on a permanent basis ”
Greek NRN Workshop



ENRD Thematic Group – from the EU to the local



Overarching goals and ambitions (targets)

Inspiration; Change narrative; Think big; Digital; Green; Rural well-being.



Strategies, plans and programmes

Start with current policy architecture; Rural Agenda; local action.



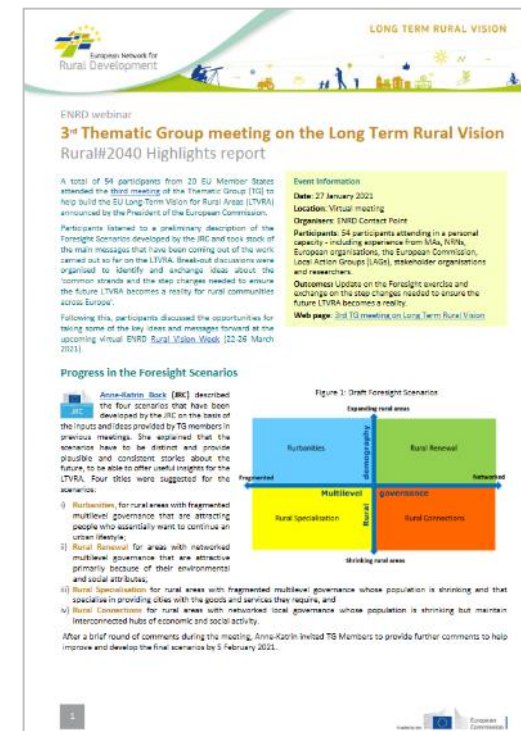
SMART objectives, targets, and milestones

Human-focused; Measurable; Operational; Decentralised.



Stocktaking, proofing, and tracking results

Rural proofing; Territorial impact assessments; monitoring, tracking.



ENRD webinar
3rd Thematic Group meeting on the Long Term Rural Vision Rural#2040 Highlights report

A total of 54 participants from 20 EU Member States attended the third meeting of the Thematic Group (TG) to help build the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas (LTVRA) announced by the President of the European Commission.

Participants listened to a preliminary description of the Foresight Scenarios developed by the JRC and took stock of the main messages that have been coming out of the work carried out so far on the LTVRA. Break-out discussions were organised to identify and exchange ideas about the common strands and the step changes needed to ensure the future LTVRA becomes a reality for rural communities across Europe.

Following this, participants discussed the opportunities for taking some of the key ideas and messages forward at the upcoming virtual ENRD Rural Vision Week (12-26 March 2021).

Event Information
Date: 27 January 2021
Location: Virtual meeting
Organiser: ENRD Contact Point
Participants: 54 participants attending in a personal capacity - including experience from MA, ANRs, European organizations, the European Commission, Local Action Groups (LAGs), stakeholder organisations and researchers.
Outcomes: Update on the Foresight scenarios and insights on the step changes needed to ensure the future LTVRA becomes a reality.
Web page: 3rd TG meeting on Long Term Rural Vision

Progress in the Foresight Scenarios

Anna-Dorothea Böck (JRC) described the four scenarios that have been developed by the JRC on the basis of the inputs and ideas provided by TG members in previous meetings. She explained that the scenarios have to be distinct and provide plausible and consistent stories about the future, to be able to offer useful insights for the LTVRA. Four ideas were suggested for the scenarios:

- 1) **Ruralisation** for rural areas with fragmented multilevel governance that are attracting people who essentially want to continue an urban lifestyle.
- 2) **Rural Renewal** for areas with networked multilevel governance that are attractive primarily because of their environment and social attributes.
- 3) **Rural Specialisation** for rural areas with fragmented multilevel governance whose population is shrinking and that specialise in providing others with the goods and services they require, and
- 4) **Rural Connections** for rural areas with networked local governance whose population is shrinking but maintain interconnected hubs of economic and social activity.

After a brief round of comments during the meeting, Anna-Karin invited TG Members to provide further comments to help improve and develop the final scenarios by 5 February 2021.

Figure 1: Draft Foresight Scenarios

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | | Expanding rural areas | |
| Fragmented | Ruralisation | Multilevel | Rural Renewal |
| | Rural Specialisation | Rural | Rural Connections |
| | | Shrinking rural areas | |

ENRD Thematic Group – from the EU to the local



Governance, leadership and who does what

Political leadership; Beyond CAP and Cohesion; Higher level coordination.



Rural intelligence, data and capturing the differences

EU Rural Think Tank / Observatory; Science-Society-Policy platforms; knowledge hub.



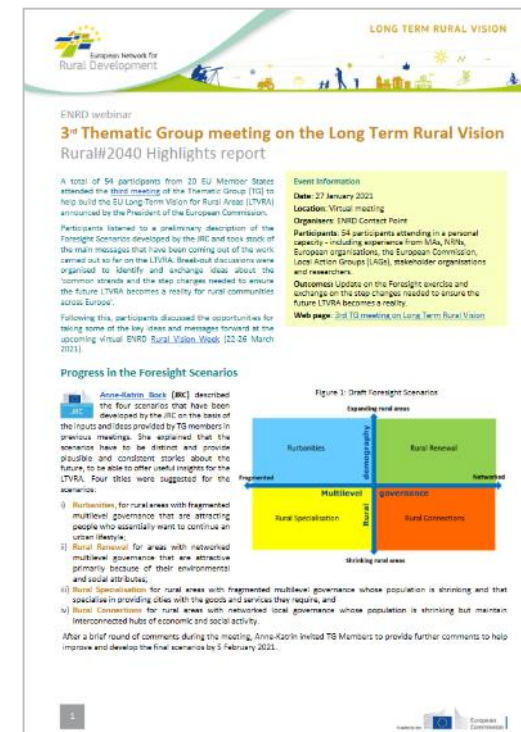
Policy alignment and coordination

Coordination mechanisms; Rural Semester.



Enabling and empowering local action

Tools for local response; Budgets; Animation; Hubs; Municipalities and partnerships; Young people.



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| Fragmented | Rural Renewal | Rural Renewal | Networked |
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| | | Shrinking rural areas | |

Thank you

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ENRD Contact Point

<https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>

ENRD [Portal](#) on the Long Term Rural Vision



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