

SIDEA Gruppo di lavoro “Sviluppo rurale”

*Long Term Vision
for EU's
Rural Areas*



Vision for rural areas

What is the Vision?

- A comprehensive view on rural areas
- Bottom-up preparation
- Analysis,
- Green Deal and COVID 19 recovery context
- Vision 2040,
- **All EU policies – not only the CAP**
- **Action Plan**
- All governance levels + **stakeholders** in implementation





Vision for
rural areas

Vision built on public engagement

A vision built on the views of rural citizens:

- Online public consultation
- Eurobarometer
- Stakeholders engagement workshop toolkit
- A number of events, e.g. Rural Vision week

Vision for rural areas

Challenges in rural areas

- Demographic change
- Low income levels
- Limited access to services
- Low connectivity
- Feeling of being overlooked
- Limited resilience

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Key findings from the SWD on rural areas

- Economic under-performance at 75% of urban areas
- Youth unemployment and employment gap for women over urban levels
- Loss of agricultural employment
- **basic digital skills** the gap rural vs. cities 14 % points
- Ca 45% of respondents in public consultation find **economy and lack of services** a problem
- 92% of respondents found **social innovation** important for rural attractiveness

Vision for rural areas

Opportunities in rural areas

- Key for ecosystem services
- Bio- and circular economy
- Ecological and digital transitions
- Increasing demands from society
- Recovery from COVID 19 crisis

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The vision and its shared goals

Stronger

Empowered communities
Access to services
Social innovation

Connected

Digital connectivity
Transport links and
new mobilities

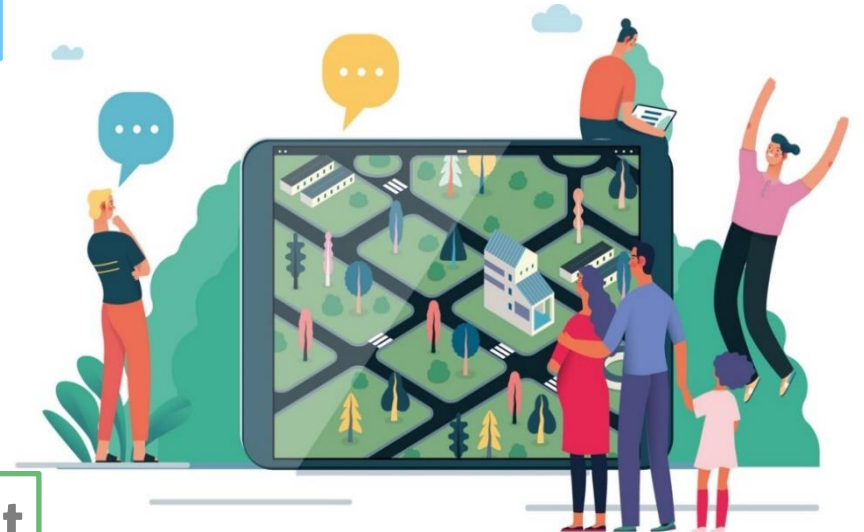
Prosperous

Diversification of
economic activities
Sustainable food production

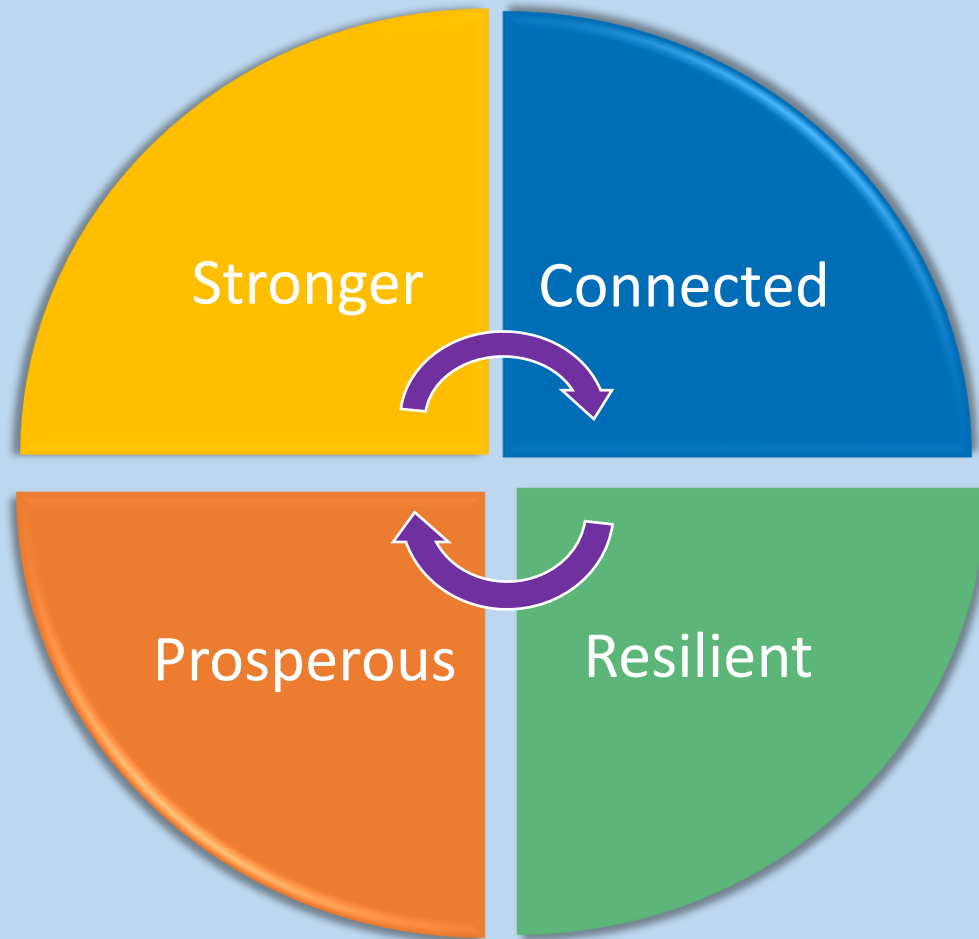
Resilient

Resilience to climate change
Environmental resilience
Social resilience

Shared
goals for
2040



The Rural Action Plan (RAP) - EC



9 flagships : (short titles from the Communication)

- ✓ Rural revitalisation platform
- ✓ Research and innovation for rural communities
- ✓ Sustainable multimodal mobility best practices for rural areas
- ✓ Rural Digital Futures
- ✓ Support rural municipalities in energy transition and fighting climate change
- ✓ Climate action in peatland through carbon farming
- ✓ EU mission on soil health and food
- ✓ Social resilience and Women in rural areas
- ✓ Entrepreneurship and social economy in rural areas.

and
15 accompanying
actions

Implementation of the Action Plan and Rural Pact

Rural proofing

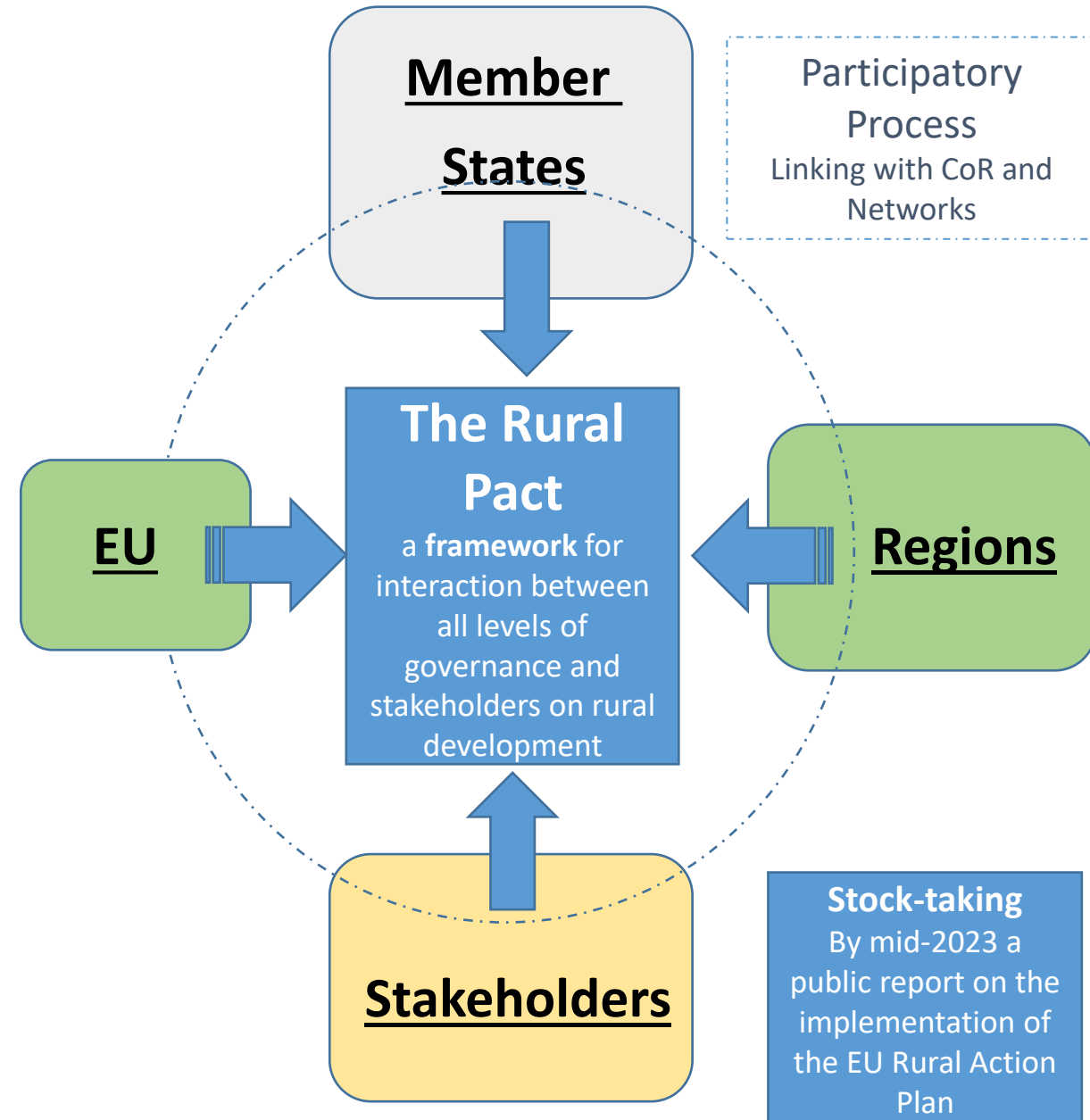
- Review of policies through rural lens
- Cork 2.0 declaration
- Commission Communication 2017

EU Rural observatory

- Centralise data collection on rural areas
- Inform on the relevant initiatives
- Analyse the developments

Combination of EU funds

- Toolkit to access to EU Funds for rural areas
- Linking with territorial handbook



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Entrepreneurship in rural areas

- Develop SMEs in rural areas through the Single Market Programme, COSME and European Enterprise Network
- Promote social economy business models in rural areas
- Boost retail and local supply chains in rural areas
- Educate and empower future entrepreneurs
- Synergy LEADER, CAP (PO8) + Cohesion policy (PO5) funding



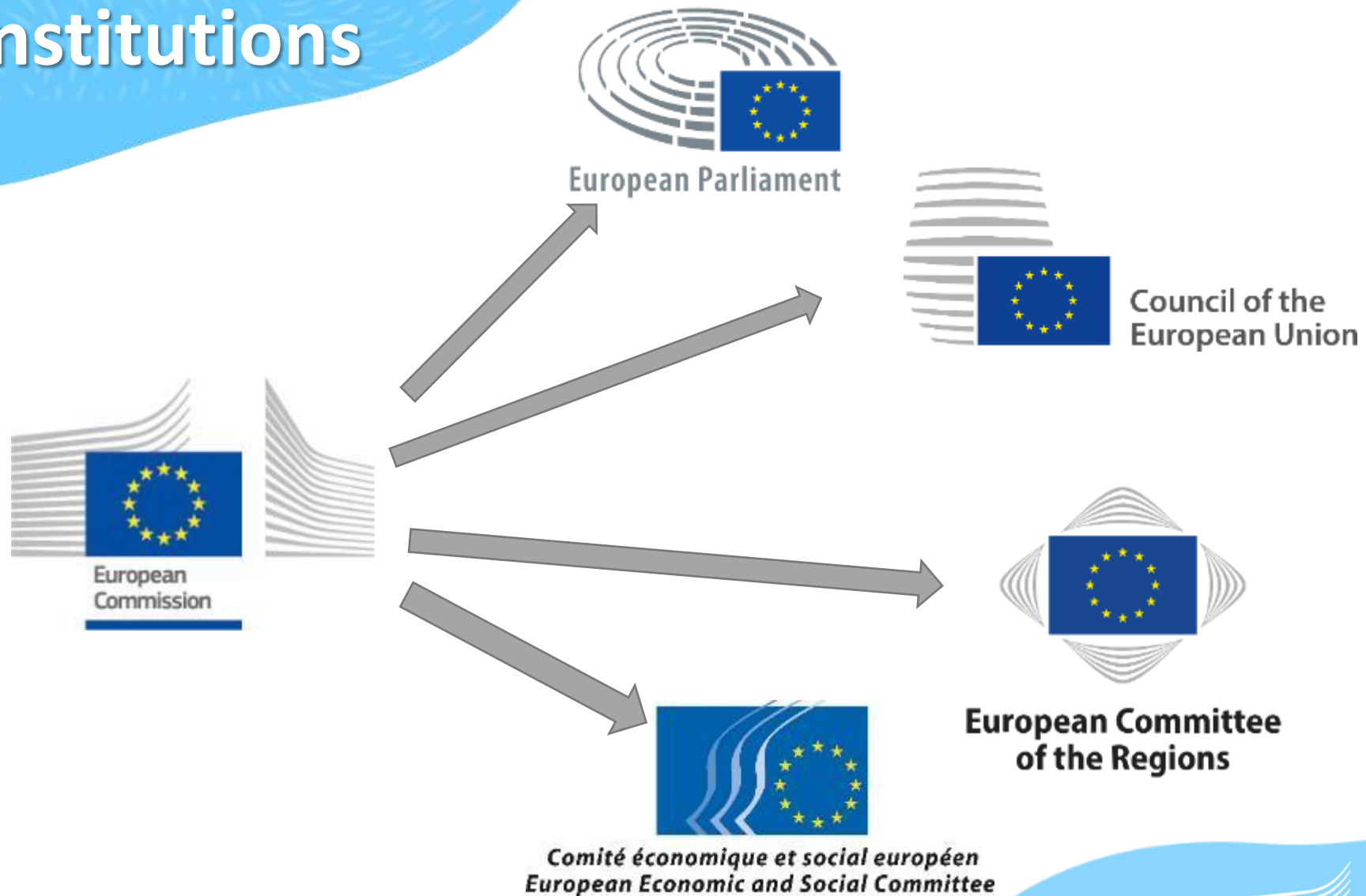
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Vision for rural areas

- Coordinated EU funding
 - CAP contribution
- Cohesion policy –territorial dimension
 - Other EU funding (social, health, mobility etc.)
 - Key role of agriculture and the primary sector
 - Focussed, territorial approach with integrated CAP Strategic Plans
 - Strong focus on green, (European Green Deal), social aspects and digitalization
 - Toolkit for EU funding 2022 (TBC)



Working with the EU institutions



Action plan in action



2022:

Rural pact – action with governance and stakeholders

Handbook on EU funding prepared

CAP Plans negotiated and approved – synergies Vision

Flagships and actions started

2023:

Looking at 2021-2027 programming period

Rural Observatory planned to start

2024: Reflections on 2028-2034



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**Thank you for
your attention!**