



Vision for rural areas

Rural Networks Assembly – 4 December 2020
María Gafo – Deputy Head of Unit E4
DG Agriculture and Rural Development





“Our rural areas are the fabric of our society and the heartbeat of our economy. The diversity of landscape, culture and heritage is one of Europe’s most defining and remarkable features. They are a core part of our identity and our economic potential.

We will cherish and preserve our rural areas and invest in their future.”

President Von der Leyen – July 2019

Policy guidelines for 2019-2024

EU RURAL AREAS

76% of EU
territory

13% of the EU
**GROSS VALUE
ADDED**



26% of EU
population
**(116 million
people)**

27% of EU
jobs

Why?

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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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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

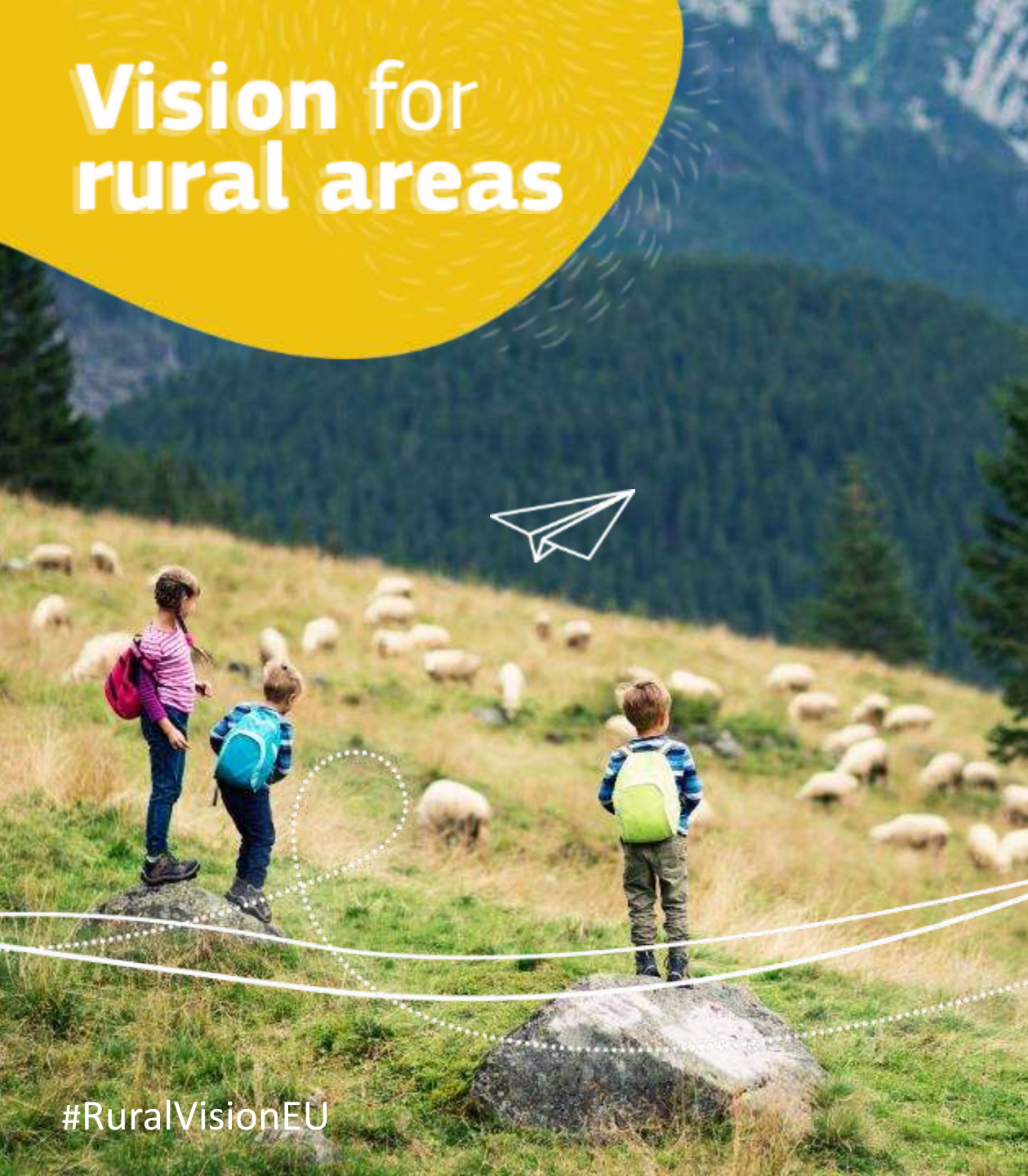


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What?

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Communication from the Commission

- Set out a vision and steps for the future of rural areas by 2040
- Create a debate on the role of rural areas in society

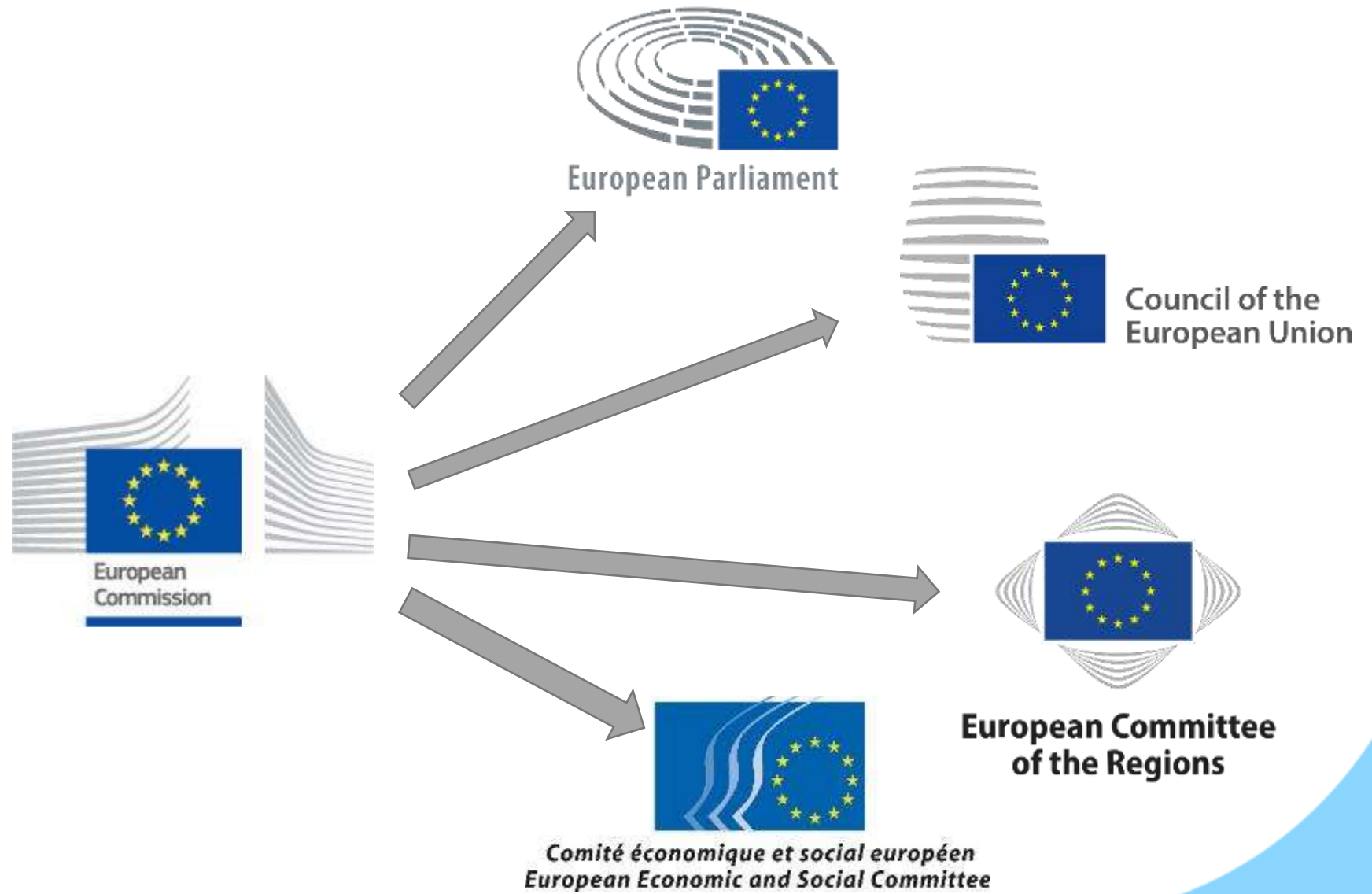
*“It will also explore innovative, inclusive and sustainable solutions in the light of climate and digital transformation and the COVID-19 crisis.”
Roadmap, July 2020*

- Q2 2021



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What?



How?

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How?



**Public
consultation
& engagement**

[All about the process](#)



Analysis



Foresight



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Public consultation & engagement

- Public consultation [online](#) until 30/11
- Eurobarometer results
- A number of events
- Stakeholders engagement workshop toolkit
- Final conference in March 2021

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Public consultation figures

- 2181 replies
- 61% citizens
- 9% public authorities
- 9% NGOs/stakeholders
- Distribution (some indications per MS):
 - ES 16%, AT 13% , DE 11%,
 - FR 8%, BE 7%, IT 6%,
 - EL, PT, 4%,
 - LV, RO 3%

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**Vision for
rural areas**



Package to download

- Enables any rural group to:
 - Assess their area
 - Contribute to RV
 - Complements on-line questionnaire and foresight
 - Highlights local examples/stories

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/long-term-rural-vision/long-term-rural-vision-portal/resources/ltvra-workshop-aackage-for-nrns_en



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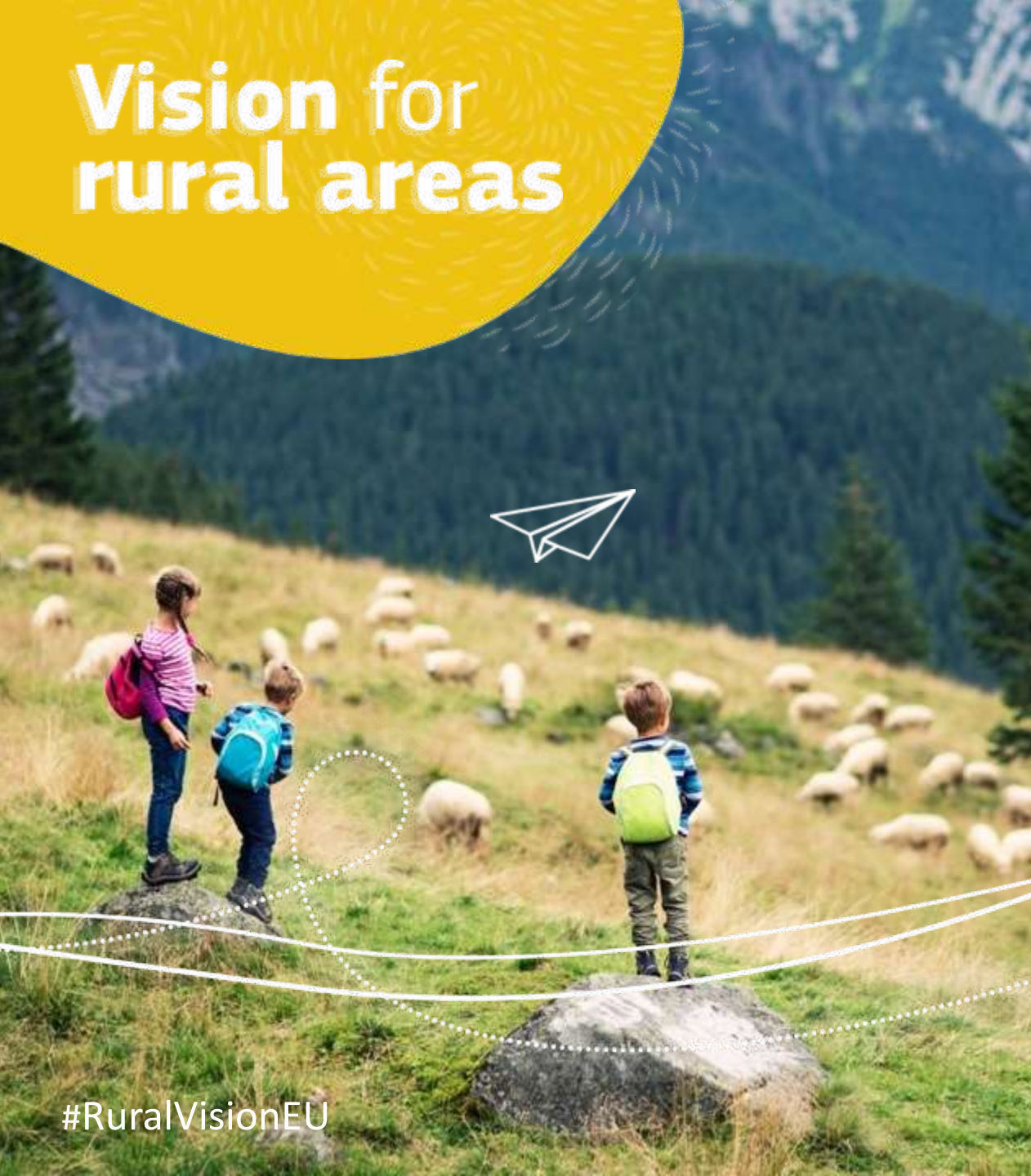
Analysis

- Facts & figures (stats)
- Reports
- Various policies and targets
- Horizon 2020 projects
- Literature



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Foresight

- Provide elements for a vision
- JRC-led work with ENRD TG #Rural2040
- Horizon 2020 projects



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Roadmap takeaways

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Roadmap takeaways

- 22 July – 9 September 2020
- 198 contributions
- 68 position papers

Highlighted issues

- Demographic challenge
- Economic lag
- Lack of infrastructure & services
- Negative perception of rural areas

Roadmap takeaways

- Opportunities** - Green transition
- Rural culture
 - Multi-level governance
 - Integration of migrants

Possible Actions

- Campaign to showcase rural areas
- Role of rural women
- Coordination of funding sources
- Promote rural culture
- Multi-level governance
- Rural proofing



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**Thank you for
your attention!**

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