

# Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

22-26 MARCH 2021

# Rural Vision Week



# Transition of rural communities to a green and climate neutral future

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**Workshop 1: Green Futures**

## #Rural2040 Vision

- Maintain diversity
- Focus on sustainability
- Broaden participation
- Encourage creativity & experimentation
- Encourage learning & networks



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# Vidzeme Region in Latvia



- 23,6% of the national territory
- 12,07 people per 1km<sup>2</sup>
- 51,7% forest land
- 34% agricultural land
- 16 towns, 950 parishes, 80'000 homesteads
- clean and low polluted environment

# Current challenges of environmental and energy transitions in rural areas

- Lack of capacity (human capital, financial means and infrastructure), knowledge and skills
- Lack of ambitious and long-term economic development strategies targeted towards *circularity and bioeconomy, sustainable forestry and agriculture and green energy transition*

# What is needed to get to the desirable future in a just way?

- Policies respecting local environmental and socio-economic conditions developed as a result of local communities' and stakeholders' engagement
- Institutional capacity building
  - A dedicated team / entity at a local municipality
  - Innovation and entrepreneurial spirit and infrastructure
- Networking at different levels – local, regional, national and international
- Support for research and innovation in smart specialization areas
- Knowledge and skills development
- Infrastructure (e.g., broadband internet, mobility)

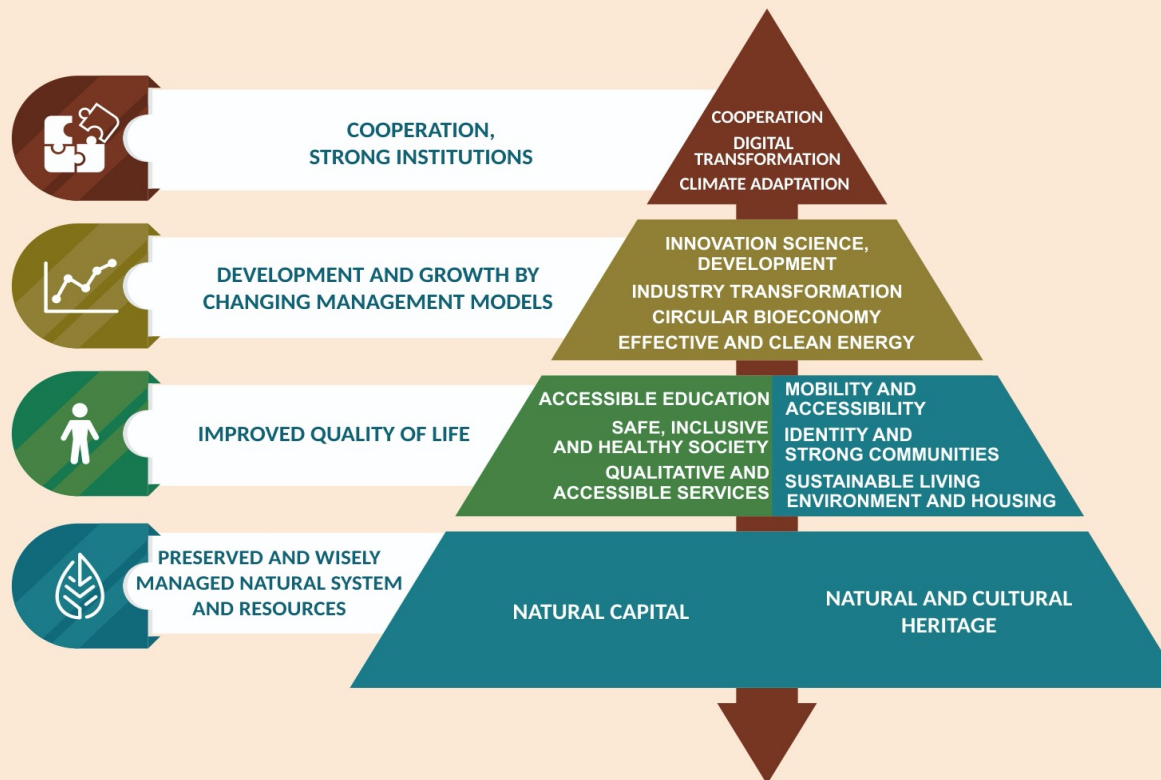
# Vidzeme Region Towards Green and Climate Neutral Future

## VIDZEME PLANNING REGION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2021-2027

### Mid-term goals:

- 1** Preserve and wisely-manage natural systems and resources
- 2** Improve human quality of life
- 3** Foster development and growth by changing management models
- 4** Facilitate cooperation and strong institutions

### Mid-term thematic priorities:



# Thank you

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