



#rural2040

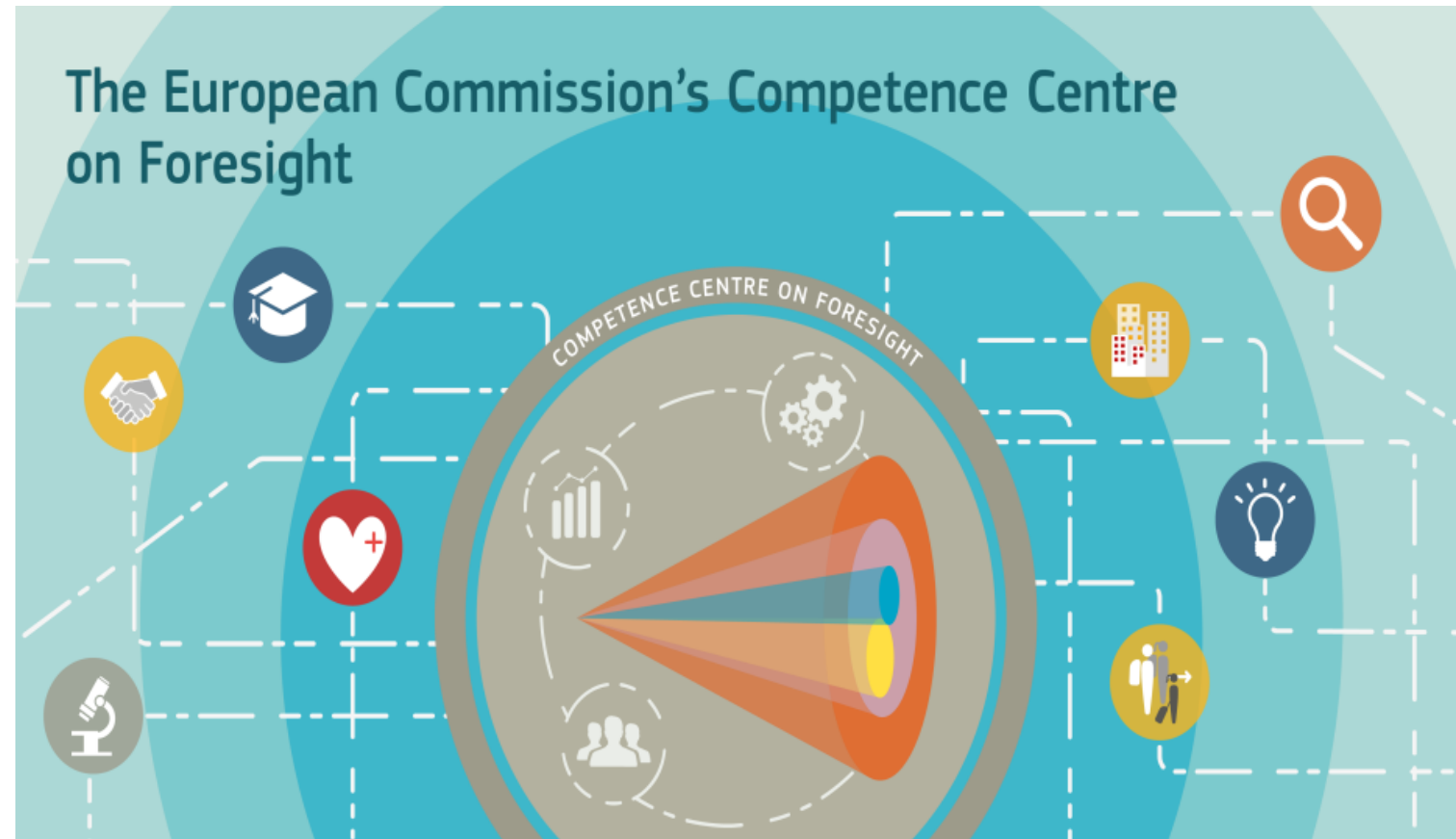
Rural areas 2040 – building future scenarios

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Competence Centre on Foresight

- Strategic and future-oriented input into EU policymaking
- Develop an anticipatory culture
- Experimentation on methods and tools



ENRD Thematic group #rural2040



Identification of drivers & scenario logic



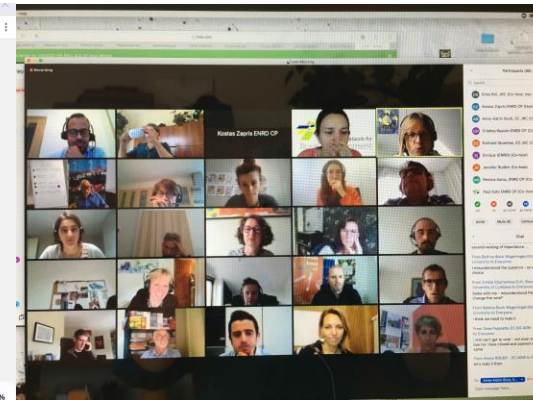
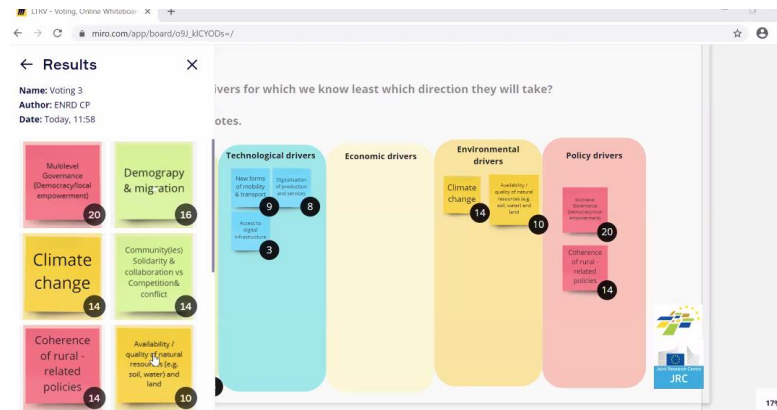
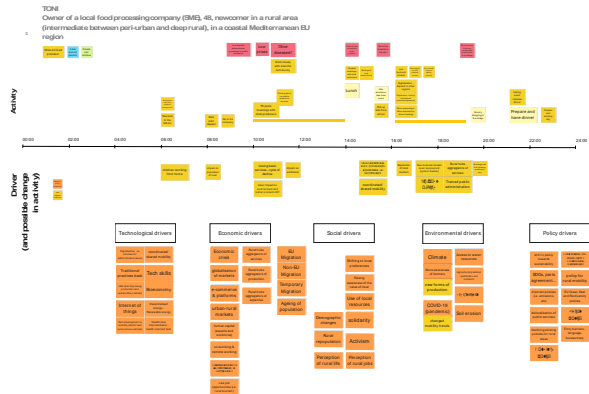
Development of scenario outlines



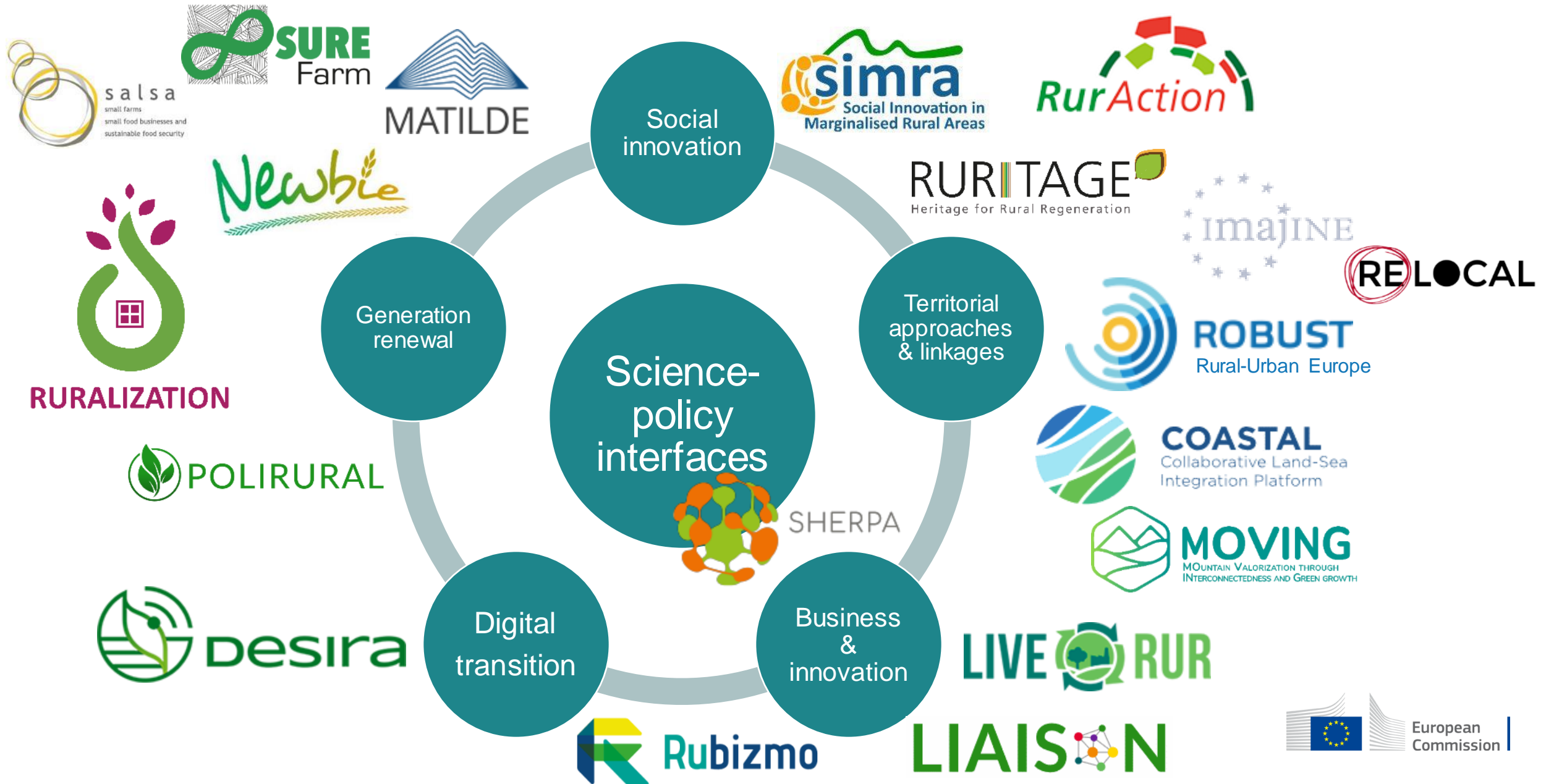
Enriching and exploring scenarios



Conference & final report

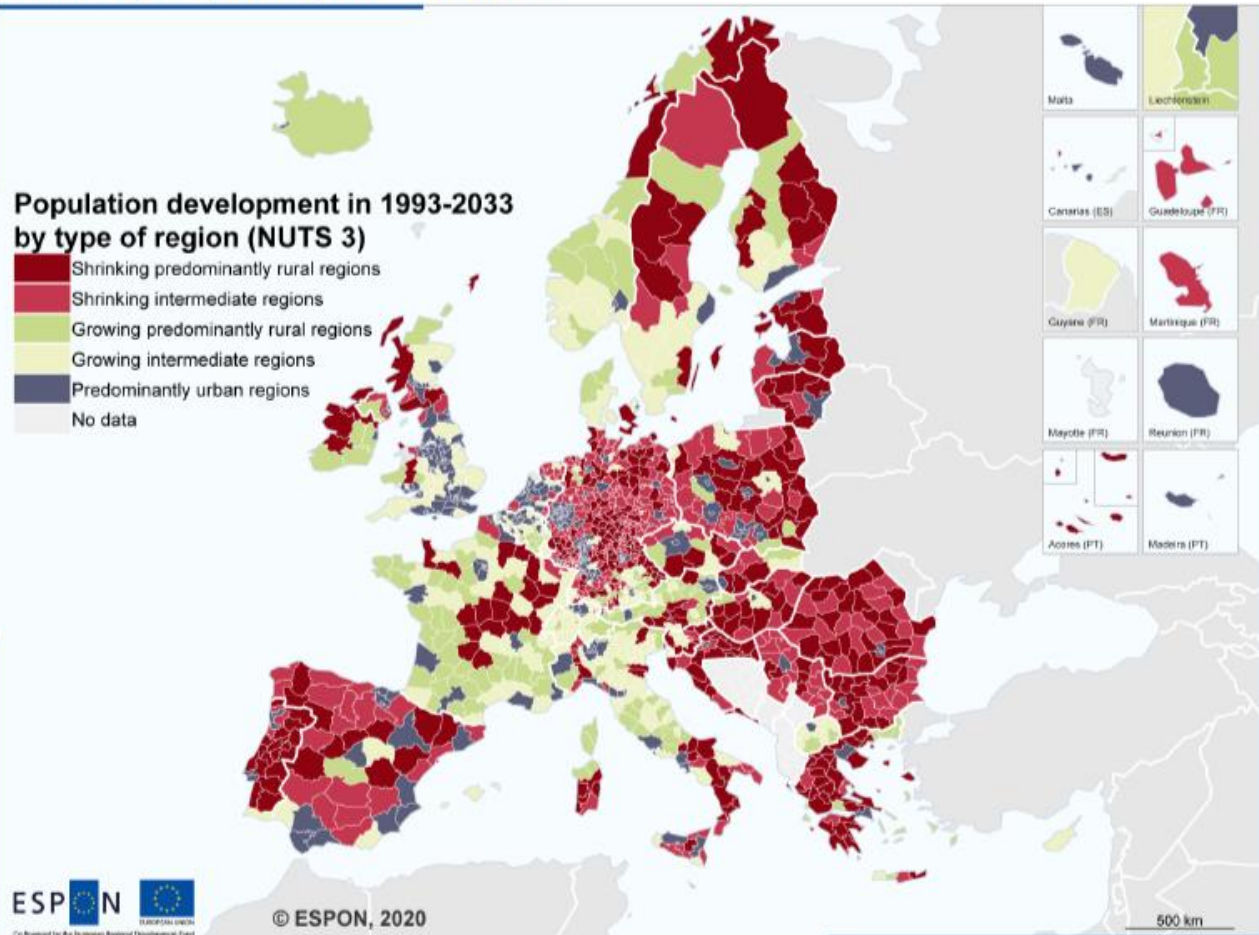


Horizon 2020 Rural research portfolio



Scenario base - Rural demography

Shrinking and growing NUTS 3 Regions



Expanding rural areas:
growing rural population

Shrinking rural areas:
decreasing rural population

*Rural regions in the ESPON ESCAPE project correspond to predominantly rural regions and intermediate regions (NUTS 3). Shrinking correspond to a population decrease and growing correspond to a population increase over a 20-year period in the overall period 1993-2033.

Regional level: NUTS 3 (2010)
Source: ESPON ESCAPE, 2020
Origin of data: Eurostat, ESPON database, Nordregio 2020
© ESPON ESCAPE for administrative boundaries

Scenario base - Multilevel governance

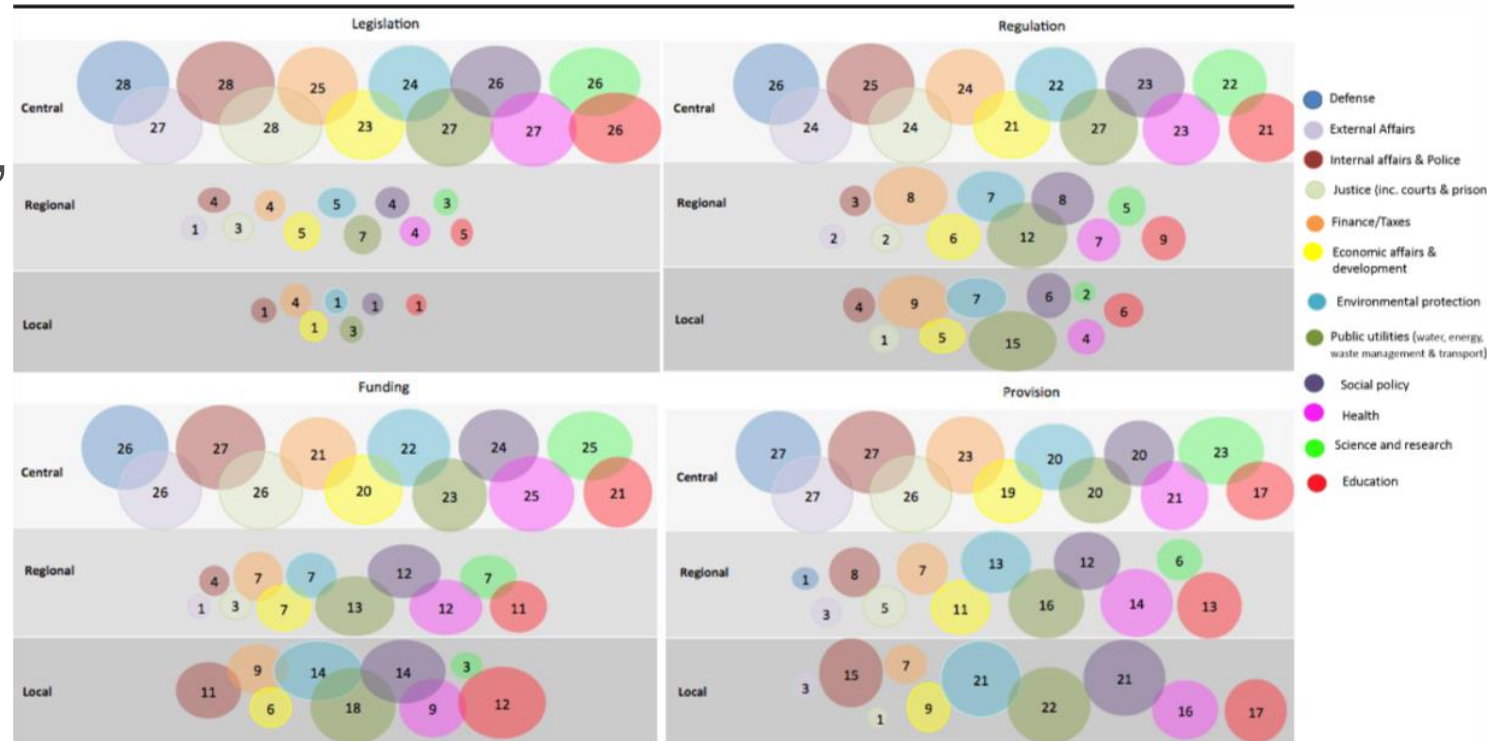
Networked:

Well-coordinated, collaborative,
strong citizen participation

Fragmented:

Limited coordination,
low policy coherence, weak
citizen participation

Distribution of competences between government tiers



Source: EUPACK-Project

Exploratory scenarios

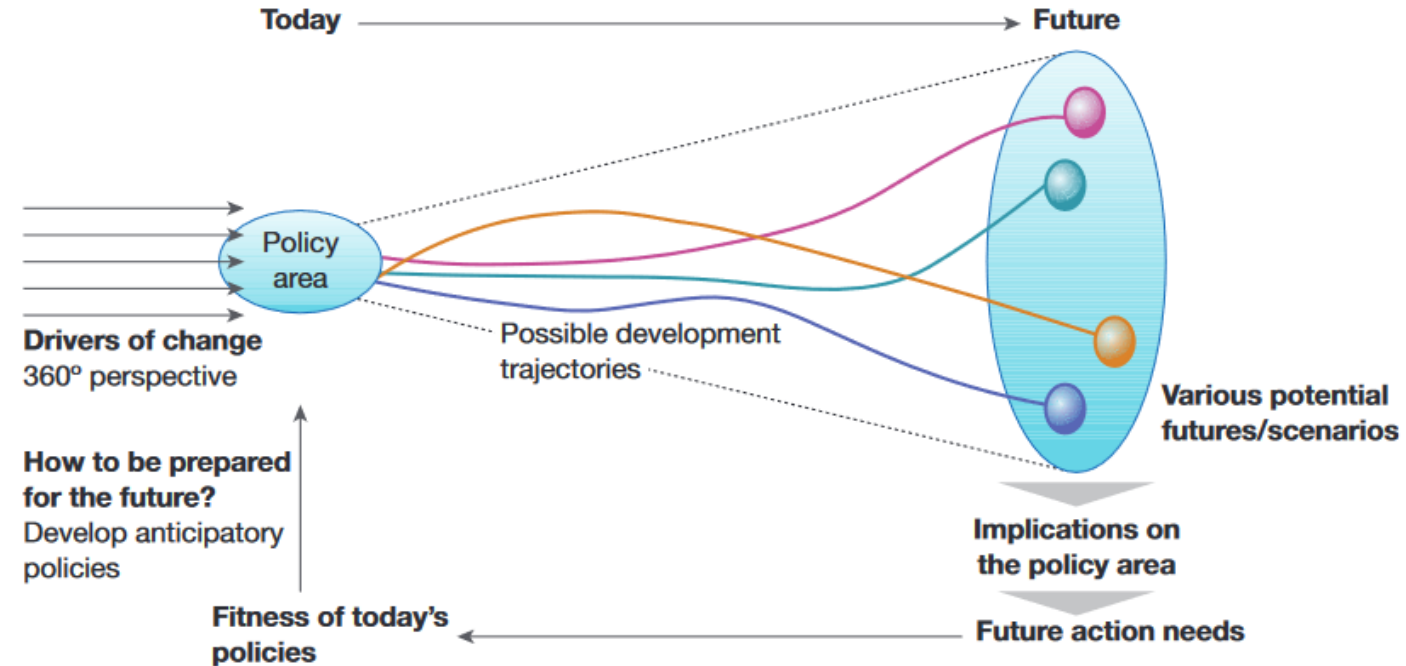
NOT A FORECAST! NOT A VISION!!

NOT A POLICY SCENARIO!!!

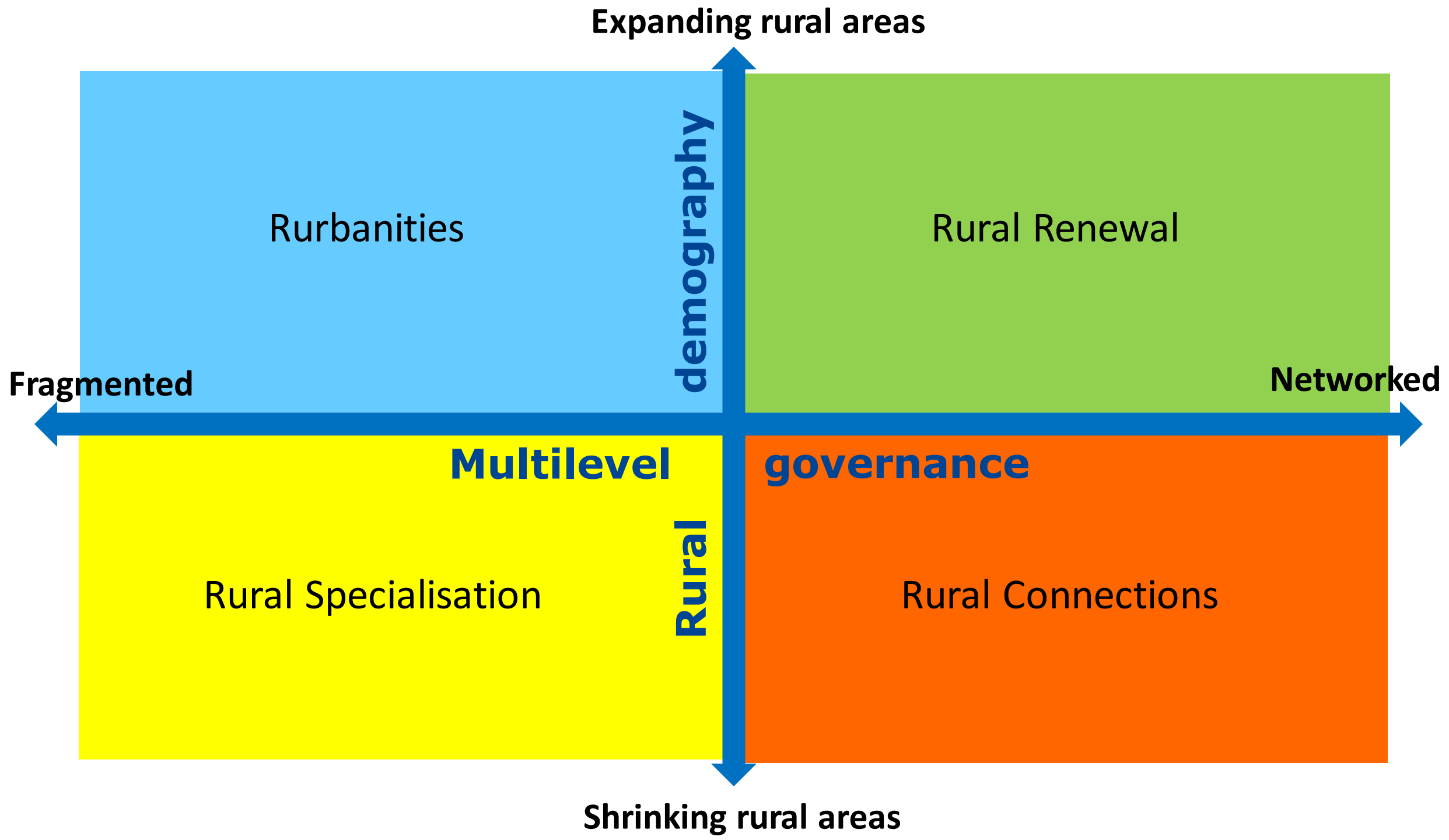
Highlight possible futures and their opportunities and challenges

Explore the future through stories
(creative combination of data, facts
and hypotheses)

Think the un(or less)thinkable!



Source: E. Störmer, Foresight – Using Science and Evidence to Anticipate and Shape the Future

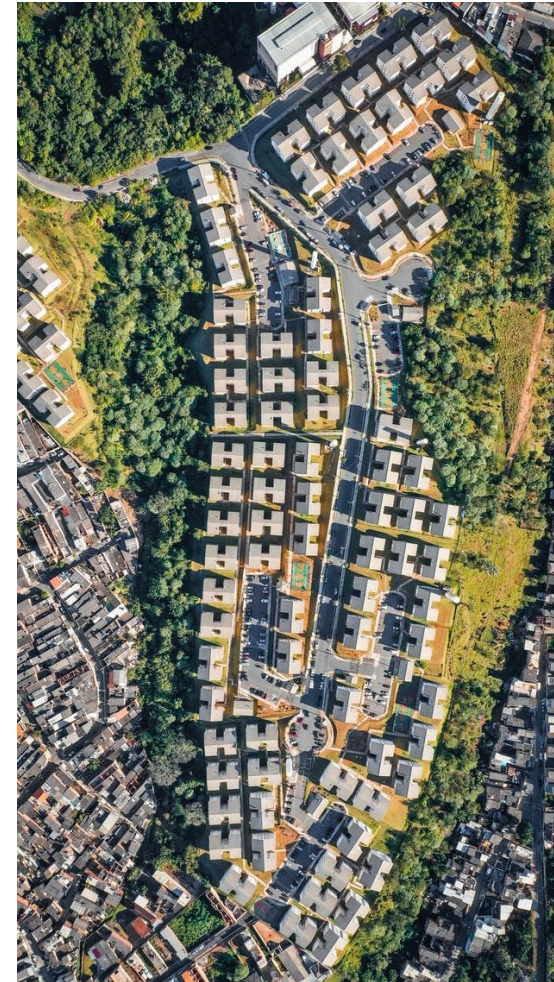


Scenario – Rurbanities

Expanding rural areas/ Fragmented ML governance



- Competition & uncoordinated national/regional approaches
- Favourable conditions for living and working in rural areas
- Entrepreneurial spirit, innovation, bioeconomy
- Inequalities & individualised lifestyles limits community building, NIMBYs
- Rural sprawl, competition for land use
- Reactive climate change policies, comparatively slow sustainability transition, efficiency & technology focus

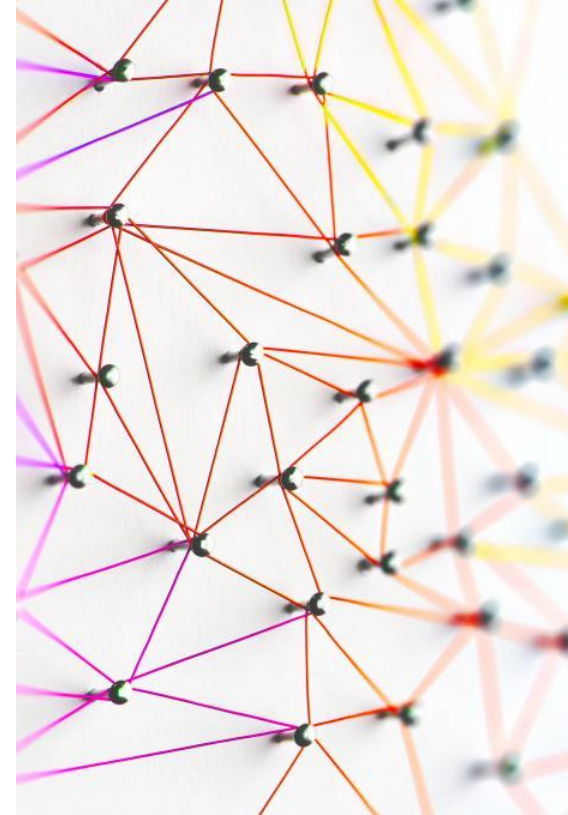


Scenario – Rural Renewal

Expanding rural areas/ Networked ML governance



- Society-driven green transition, open government
- Active community building
- Profound lifestyle change & related experimentation
- Community infrastructure – transport, digital, commons
- Circular economy, trading services
- Small scale farming, multifunctional land use
- Climate policies around behaviour change and regulatory solutions



Scenario– Rural Connections

Shrinking rural areas/ Networked ML governance

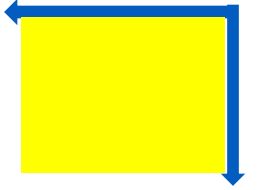


- Resilience - managed rural transition
- Rural hubs are community and activity centres, synergies
- Digitalisation facilitates living and working in rural areas
- Decentralisation of infrastructure, Do-it-yourself attitude
- Bottom-up, self-organisation
- Recognition of rural areas for services
- Mixed agriculture, areas for ecosystem and carbon services



Scenario– Rural Specialisation

Shrinking rural areas/ fragmented ML governance



- Steep population decline & resilient and recovering cities
- Rural areas = resources & recreation for urban population
- Large scale agriculture and other facilities
- Dedicated areas for rewilding and conservation
- Technology-driven climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches



Different kinds of digitalisation – automation, smart, people-centred. Autonomy and interdependence. “Newcomers” and growing inequalities – tensions, resistance opposition. Rural – urban and rural - rural: competition, synergies, interplay. Localities and translocalities. Rural islands, nodes, hubs or archipelagos. **Measures of good life** – growth, happiness, sustainability. Different business opportunities – ecosystem services, circular economy, tourism, recreation, natural resources, social farming, new production and logistics. Exploitative vs cooperative approaches. **Resilience** – global and local capacities, resources and socio-economic. Pride in responding to global challenges.

Thank you



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