

Vision for  
rural areas



#RuralVisionEU

# ENRD Thematic Group #Rural2040

22 - 23 September 2020

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on

# Background

Origin of the vision and overview



*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 - EC Political Guidelines



# EU RURAL AREAS

- ▶ 96 million people
- ▶ 45% of the EU's territory is predominantly rural
- ▶ 17% of EU Jobs
- ▶ 13% of EU value added

With a number of challenges...

- ▶ 40% lack access to high speed internet
- ▶ 59% of rural population in regions demographically shrinking
- ▶ ...

And many opportunities ahead...

- ▶ Circular and bio-based economy
- ▶ Ecological and digital transition
- ▶ ...



## Vision for rural areas

# Why now?

- ▶ Signaling that the Commission takes rural areas seriously
- ▶ Addressing pressing issues for rural areas from demographic change to connectivity, the risk of poverty and limited access to services.
- ▶ Highlighting new challenges and opportunities (including links to COVID 19 recovery)

# Vision for rural areas



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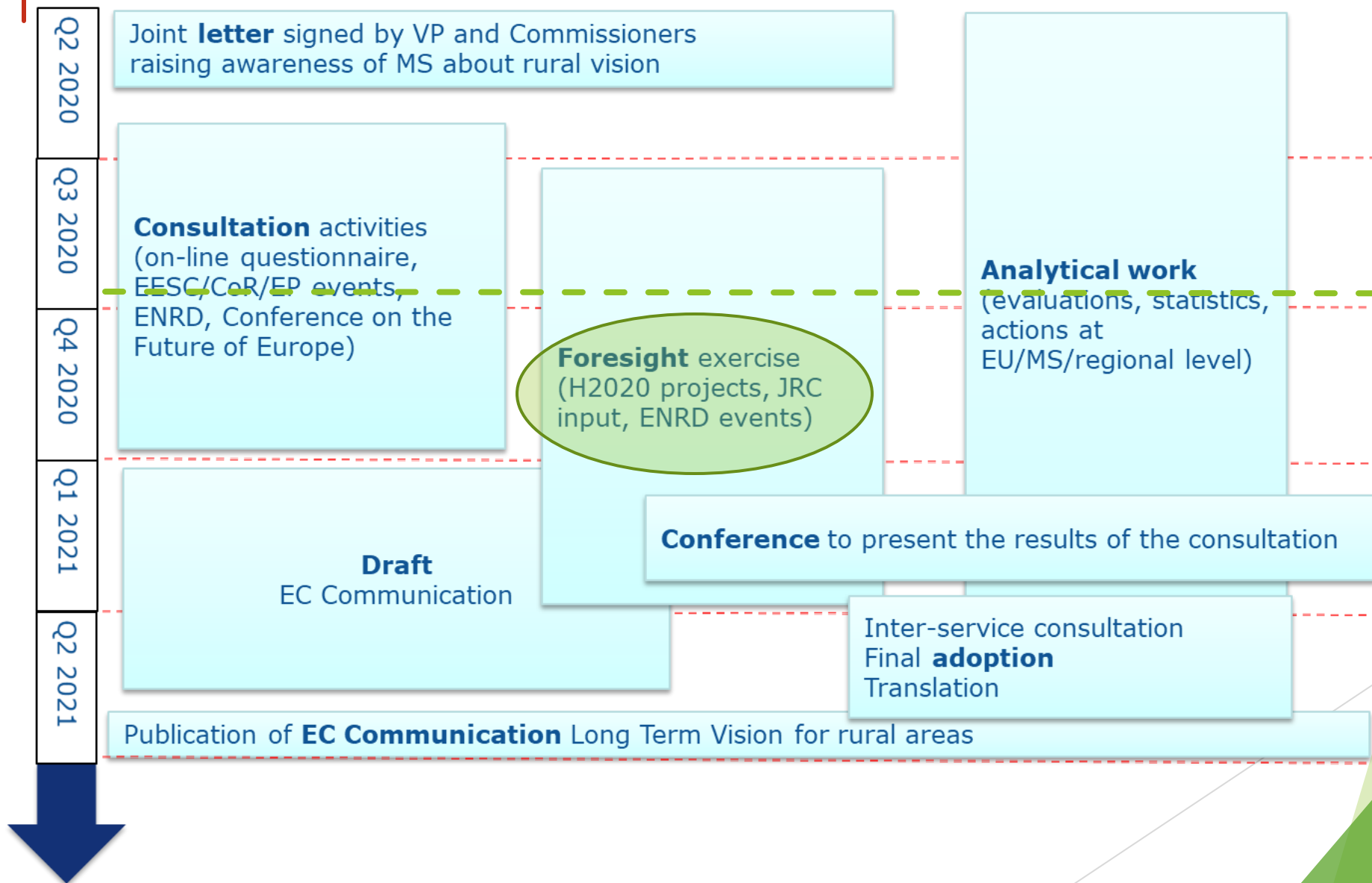
## How?

- ▶ AGRI and REGIO Commissioners work together under the coordination of VP Suica.
- ▶ Public Consultation with people living in rural areas, local and regional authorities.
- ▶ Ensuring specific needs of rural areas are duly taken into account both under the Cohesion policy programmes and under the CAP Strategic Plans for the period 2021-2027

# State of play

Overview of the current situation and next steps

# Overview of the process





# Public consultation

- ▶ Roadmap (feedback open from 22/7 to 9/9)
- ▶ Online questionnaire published on 07/09 til 30/11
- ▶ 3 events at European Week of Regions and Cities, one with the Commissioners (13/10/2020)
- ▶ Thematic groups organised by ENRD (first on 22-23 September 2020)
- ▶ Final conference organised by the ENRD (March 2021)
- ▶ Own initiative opinions being prepared by EESC and CoR on rural issues

# Vision for rural areas



**Thank you for your attention!**

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