

# Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

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# Rural Vision Week



# Are the EU territories designing their resilience capacity to forward-looking challenges from a holistic perspective?

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Workshop 7: Diverse and Resilient Rural Areas

To adopt a common definition of rural areas at different geographical level and a definition of resilience with focus on rural areas.

*“Resilience is the capacity that a territory has to response to challenges without jeopardizing current and future wellbeing” (Manca et al., 2017)*

## Resilience to:

- economic and financial crisis, climate-change, natural disasters, demographic, political conflicts, supply or industrial shocks, etc.

## Key messages

### Diversity of the EU rural areas

Rural and remote areas face an **ageing population**, along with a decline of the **labour force** and **youth**

Rural and remote regions face a strong and long-lasting **depopulation** trend

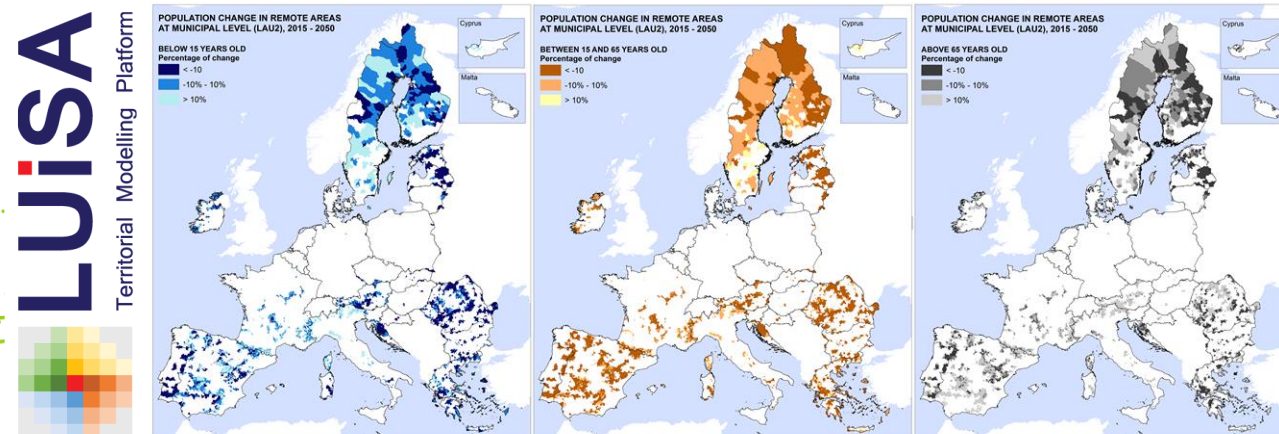
**Economic development and performance** is generally lower in rural and, especially in remote areas

Rural residents face greater difficulties in **accessing basic services** and **internet connection**

Rural land, especially forest and natural areas, play an important **environmental role**

Measuring resilience is essential for **effective policies** (data, tools, methods, scenarios, observatories, etc.)

### Population change in remote areas by age groups, 2015-2050 local level



... a vision for the EU's rural areas is to promote a sustainable, resilient and inclusive development and enhance the well-being of their inhabitants

The main aspects shaping that **FUTURE** to be a more resilient rural area:

... more innovative,  
technological and  
productive

... more connected  
(physically, digitally  
and socially)

... more  
economically  
diversified

... more  
demographically  
balanced, educated  
and skilled

... more fair,  
inclusive  
and equality

... more efficient and  
accountable  
institutions

... more  
respectful to the  
environment

... actions to increase resilience in rural areas to get this vision of the future are:

Active **“conversation”** among rural communities, governments and stakeholders

Effective rural **networks and clusters** (“rural hubs”)

**Agglomeration economy** among rural areas and efficient interlinkages with cities

Increase the range of **economic activities/** specialization in **value-added services**

Efficient provision of **basic services, digitalisation** and **technological innovations**

Protection of **nature** along with a sustainable and viable **agriculture** and **forest**

Efficient **fiscal** policies, sustainable and competitive

Targeted local **strategies and financial instruments** to make rural more attractive, inclusive and green to keep people living there.

# Thank you

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