

# Rural proofing – reflection points and suggested actions

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# Key observations points

- **Long-term rural vision** (which came at right time), and its action action plan provides the basis and framework to rural proofing
- There are **experiences with rural proofing**, worldwide and in the EU countries, some of them were lacking consistency and have not been always applied thoroughly
- **Meanwhile the lost of rural population continues** – time to act and look at policies what they are doing to rural areas = introduce consistently the rural proofing
- **EU level** prepares several instruments to facilitate this process, such as policy and legislative support, communication tool, data availability for territorial assessment (EU observatory), combined funds
- However there is **a lot to be done at national, regional and local level** to introduce roof proofing into the policy design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- **Useful examples** from policy, legislation, institutional background, policy impact assessment tool of legal and financial framework and practical implementation of rural proofing have been provide to inspire participants:

# Key points for actions – national&regional

What is goal? **KEEP PEOPLE AND THEIR HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE IN RA?** (Rural vision and Pact)

- a. **Think rural POSITIVE!** Highlighting what rural areas bring, give, offer ...
  - a. Communication/information
  - b. Sensitisation
  - c. Media involvement
  - d. Developing confidence in rural areas and people
  - e. Enhancement of „political will“ for rural proofing
- b. **Establish LEGISLATION for rural proofing, but - NOT FORMAL!** If we do rules, there should be mechanism to follow them, monitor, report and **EVALUATE!**
- c. For this **M&E INDICATORS ARE NEEDED!** (can be used in **check-lists** and help to **define the needs!**)

# Key points for actions – national&regional

- a. **Ensure INSTITUTIONALISATION**
  - a. Involvement of **ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING CIVIL SOCIETY** - creating the **MANDATE!**
  - b. Adapting the pattern of working **WITH** stakeholders **NOT FOR** stakeholders = **PARTICIPATION** and **INTERGARTION!!!**
  - c. Ensuring & facilitating **THE MEETING BOTTOM UP AND TOP DOWN APPROACHES THROUGH MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE**
  - d. Developing **STRATEGIES, PRIORITISATION** **DEFINING THE TASKS,**
  - e. Defining **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VARIOUS ACTORS** FOR VARIOUS TASKS
  - f. Early involvement **OF RURAL PROOFING IN POLICY DESIGN!**
- b. **Develop KNOWLEDGE and BUILDING CAPACITIES** of all stakeholders! – guidance, training, check lists
- c. **Introduce TERRITORIAL POLICY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOLS** – data for indicators shall be in place, used, analysed, interpreted with high degree of **TRANSPARENCY AND AVAILABILITY** for stakeholders (not only politicians)