

## Rural Inspiration Awards (RIA) 2021: Our Rural Future



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Successful stories can inspire more people to replicate similar initiatives elsewhere and unlock the potential of the EAFRD to help rural areas meet the wide range of economic, environmental and social challenges of the 21st century. For this to happen, though, key information about the projects has to be collected and effectively shared.

The theme of this year's Rural Inspiration Awards (RIA) 2021 is '**Our Rural Future**' in line with the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas developed by the European Commission. In this edition, we received **125 entries from 22 Member States** for the four thematic categories: Green Futures, Digital Futures, Resilient Futures and Socially Inclusive Futures.

The jury nominated a winner per thematic category and around 10 200 people from all around Europe decided the winner of the Popular Vote category through online voting. **European Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski announced during the virtual Award Ceremony the five winners for the Rural Inspiration Awards 2021.**

## Meet the winners

### Green futures winner



[6]  
[ReWI Visions \(Resource Wise Visions\)](#)  
(FI) [7]

### Digital futures winner



[8]  
[The HofladenBOX \(DE\)](#) [9]

### Socially inclusive futures winner



[10]  
[Green Care - Where People Flourish \(AT\)](#)  
[11]

### Resilient futures winner



[12]  
[Pilot Project on Circular Bioeconomy](#)  
(ES) [13]

### Popular Vote winner



[14]  
[Angelic Gardens / Anielskie Ogrody \(PL\)](#)  
[15]

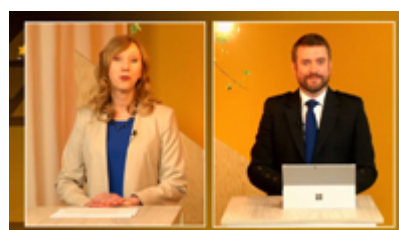
### Virtual Award Ceremony Photos



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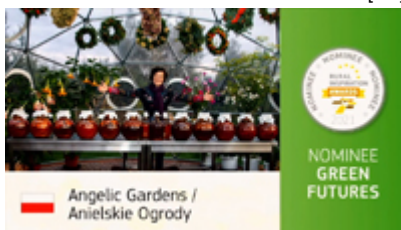
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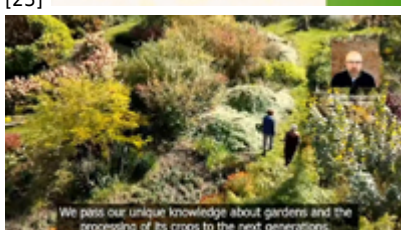


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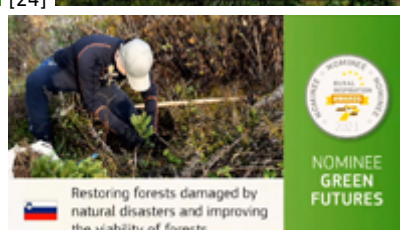


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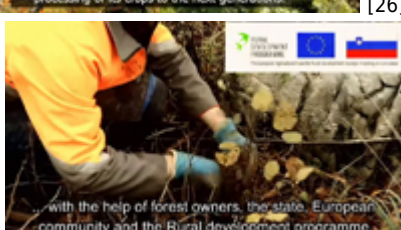
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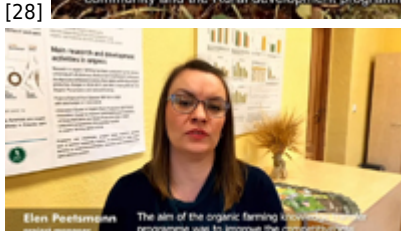


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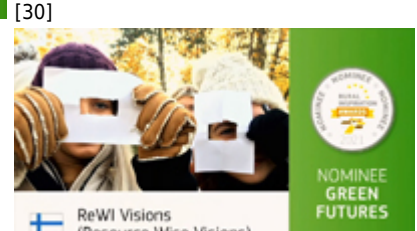
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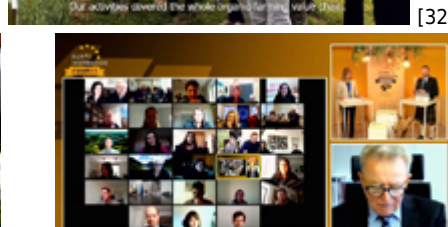
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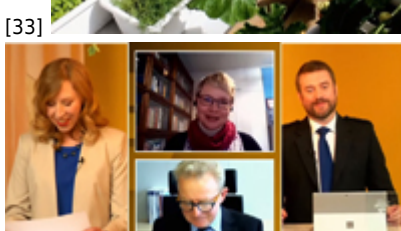


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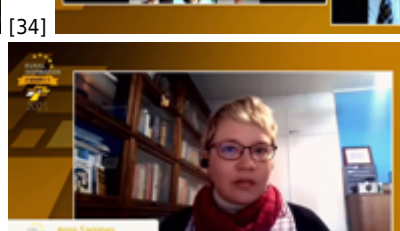


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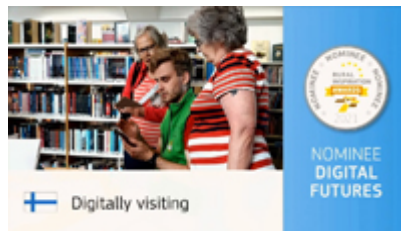
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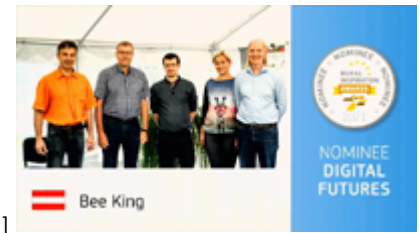
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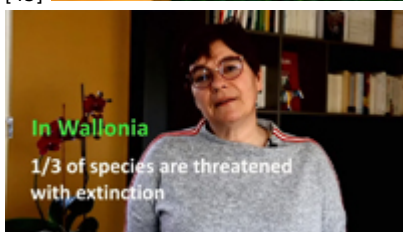


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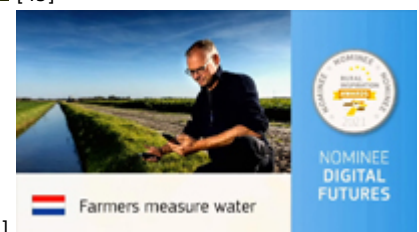
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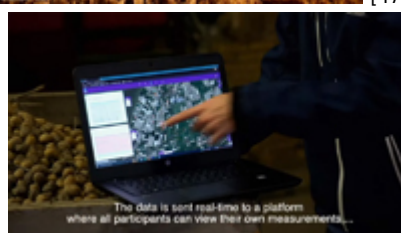
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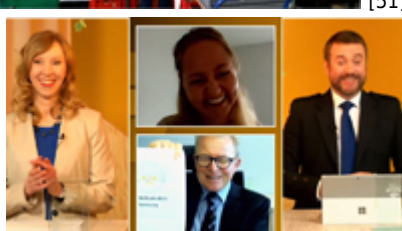
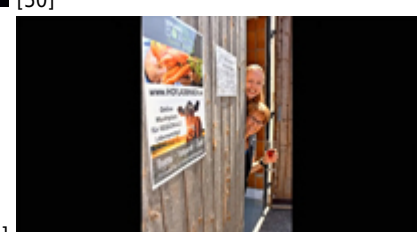
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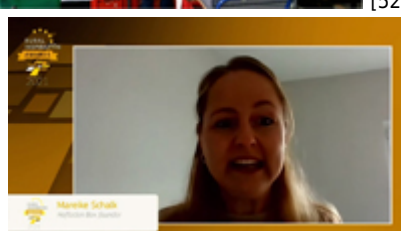
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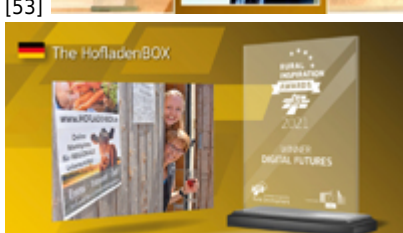


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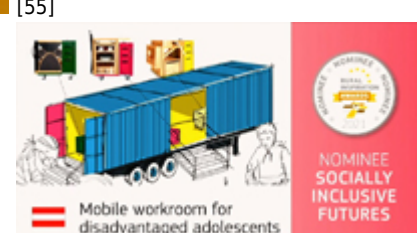
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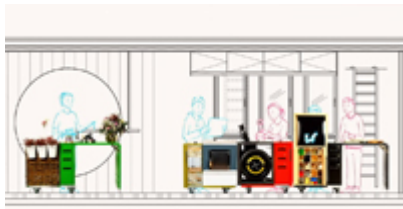
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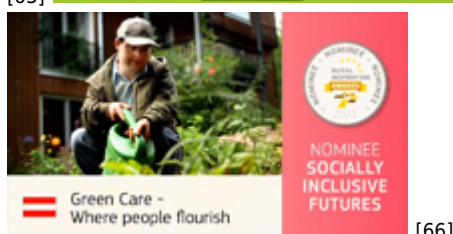


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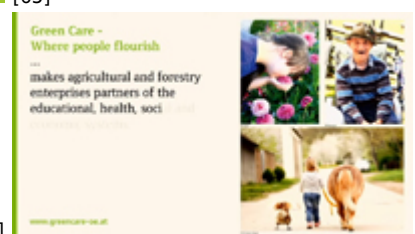
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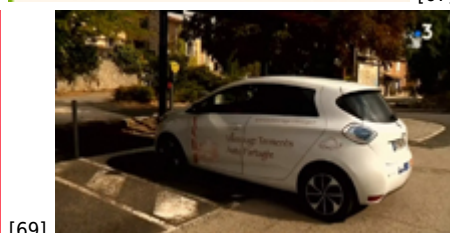
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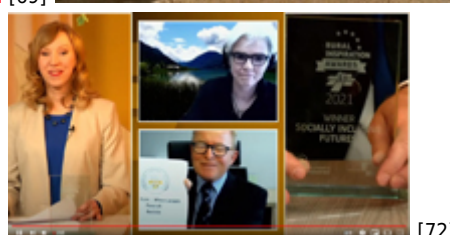
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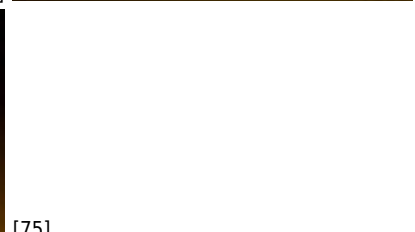
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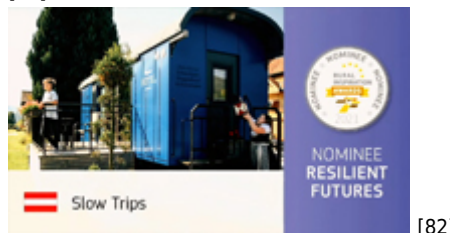


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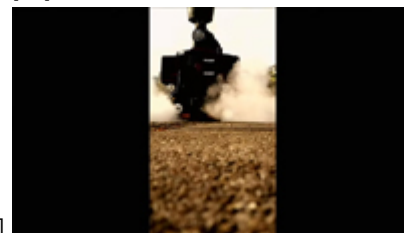
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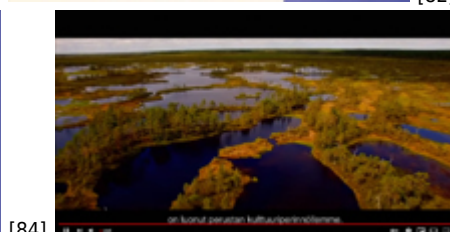
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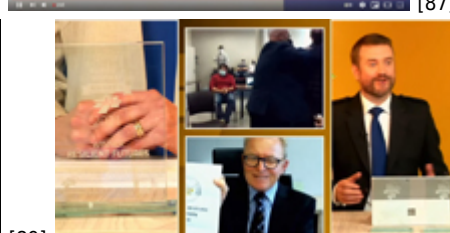
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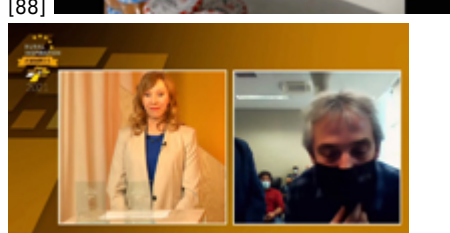


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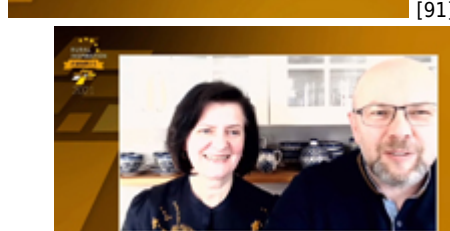
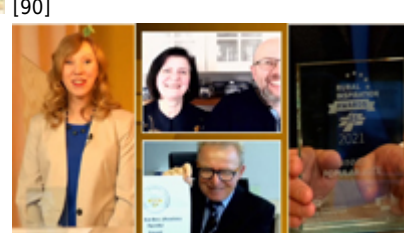
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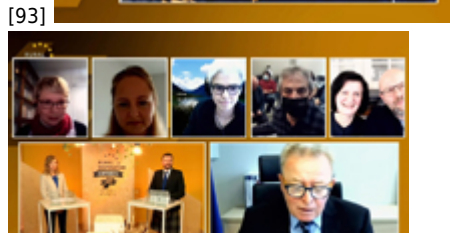


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[Rural Inspiration Awards Ceremony 2021](#) [98]

## Purpose of the competition

1. To increase the visibility of rural development policy and the EAFRD's contribution to the Long Term Vision for Rural Areas.
2. To promote knowledge exchange and networking among rural development stakeholders.
3. To contribute to the work of ENRD's Thematic Group on the Long Term Vision for Rural Areas, organised by the ENRD CP for 2020-2021.
4. To assist the common work of NRNs and the ENRD, in particular in the following tasks:
  - the collection of examples of projects at national level;
  - promoting their sharing at European level via the ENRD;
  - facilitating thematic and analytical exchanges.

20 Shortlisted projects per thematic category



**Green Futures:** Projects or initiatives addressing or mitigating climate change, demonstrating sustainability and contributing to the green recovery which signal or demonstrate a step change or a more widely transferrable approach.



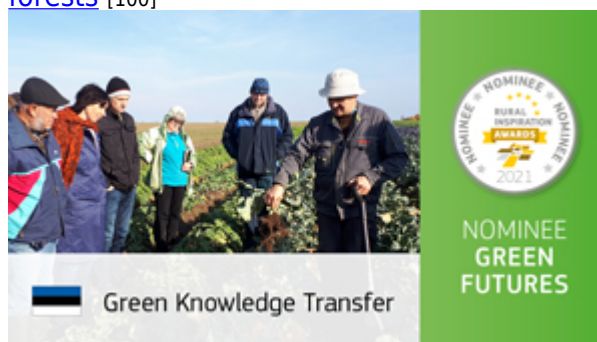
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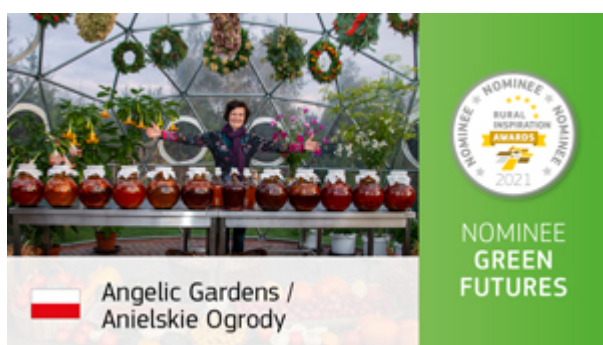
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[Restoring forests damaged by natural disasters and improving the viability of forests](#) [100]



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[Green Future Munter](#) [101]



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[Green Knowledge Transfer](#) [102]



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[Angelic Gardens / Anielskie Ogrody](#) [103]



**Digital Futures:** Projects which show a sustainable approach which advances the benefits of digitalisation in farming and rural communities, whether about improving digital and broadband infrastructure, provision of digital services, uptake of new technology or in improving digital skills or knowledge.





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[BiomMap](#) [104]



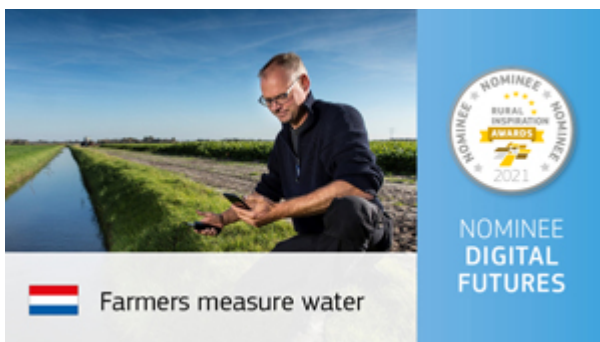
[105]  
[Bee King](#) [105]



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[Digitally visiting](#) [106]



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[The HofladenBOX](#) [107]



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[Farmers measure water](#) [108]



**Resilient Futures:** Projects which demonstrate their contribution to strengthening the resilience of Rural Europe. This category can cover a wide range of community, value chain and business initiatives including the broader definition of sustainable and future-proof projects.



[109]  
[Slow Trips](#) [109]



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[Pilot Project on Circular Bioeconomy](#) [13]



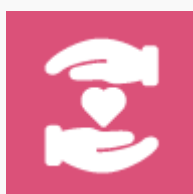
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[Sustainable development in Geopark](#) [110]



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[Local Village Shop](#) [111]



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[Delivery service by cargo bike in Burgsteinfurt](#) [112]



**Socially Inclusive Futures:** Projects which demonstrate the ability to address diverse aspects which contribute to the inclusiveness of rural society. While this can apply to wide range of marginalised groups, this would include gender, generational renewal, disability and seniors. This could also include social economy initiatives.





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[Super Senior](#) [113]



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[Municipal electric cars-sharing service](#) [114]



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[Green Care - Where people flourish](#) [115]



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[Mobile workshop for disadvantaged adolescents](#) [116]



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[Andalusian Shepherds School](#) [117]



**Popular Vote:** In addition to the thematic categories, a **Popular Vote Award** will be awarded and decided via an **online voting system**.

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- [112] [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/delivery-service-cargo-bike-burgsteinfurt\\_en](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/delivery-service-cargo-bike-burgsteinfurt_en)
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