

# Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

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# Rural Vision Week



# Community-led initiatives as catalyzers of diversity and resilience in rural areas

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Workshop 7: Diverse and resilient rural areas



ECOLISE

EUROPEAN NETWORK  
FOR COMMUNITY-LED  
INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

# Challenges and threats to rural diversity and resilience

## Current Challenges

- Diverse planetary health crises
- Growth-based, profit-oriented, complex and globalized economy
- Hegemonic cultural paradigms
- EU and national policies

## Present and future shocks

- Natural disasters
- Economic crises
- Social conflicts

# Bouncing forward instead of bouncing back

## Transformative Capacity

- Capacity of understanding the situation and anticipating the future

## Collaboration across scales:

- Adaptive cycle of socio-ecological systems
  - Local innovations affecting change at higher levels
    - Community-led initiatives as local innovators
    - European networks and policy frameworks as innovation spreaders

Rural areas able to meet the basic needs of human survival and flourishing through...

- Diverse and inclusive rural communities
  - Holistic conceptions of sustainability
- Localization and appropriate scale
  - Localized, social-solidarity economy
  - Cooperation & backup-systems at different scales
- Re-designing human impact on earth
  - Systemic, bio-inspired design



# What is needed to get to the desirable future?

## Addressing barriers for community-led initiatives (CLIs)

- Acting upon scientific evidence
- Ensuring support of CLIs through policies and funds
- Funding more research

## Territorial / Bioregional Partnerships

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships working towards agreed broad goals
- Analysis, visioning and planning processes at the local and regional level

## Supporting meta-networks as interface between the EU and local level

- ENRD
- ECOLISE & Communities for Future
- Other networks involved in local development and sustainability

# Thank you

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