

# Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

22-26 MARCH 2021

# Rural Vision Week



#Rural2040 #RuralVisionEU

# Workshop 6: Vibrant Rural Areas

Draft first reflections from the workshop

ENRD Contact Point

# What are the key ideas/strands that should go into the vision. Where do we want to go?

- **Investing in and empowering local human capital** (e.g. inclusion in decision-making, supporting young local leaders, minimising rural-urban gap in digital skills and provision of digital infrastructure)
- **Forward looking solutions for the provision of rural services** (e.g. mobile clinics, eHealth, partnering schools, multi-age classrooms, eEducation, shared transport options, flexible hybrid places for cultural life)
- Improved **awareness of mobility issues** and not being dependent on cars
- Changing the **employment dynamic** (professional incentives, opportunities for specific groups e.g. youth)
- **Inclusive society** reflected through governance **and equal access to the services/transport/employment for all**

# What are the step changes/conditions needed to get to the vision from where we are now?

## How do we get there?

- **Provision of support and assistance** (e.g. advisory services, funding options), facilitating knowledge exchange
- **Reducing administrative burden** and simplifying procedures (pre-financing, ability to take risk)
- Boosting **self-confidence of rural actors** and improving the **image of rural areas**
- Benchmarking essential services for rural areas (e.g. **Rural Public Service Portfolio**)
- **Comprehensive mobility planning** for rural areas at national & regional level, but input from and implemented at local level

