

# Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

22-26 MARCH 2021

# Rural Vision Week



#Rural2040 #RuralVisionEU

# Workshop 5: Strong and dynamic rural-urban partnerships

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?

- **A rethinking of the rural-urban divide** in policies, culture, perceptions, investments, bargaining power
- **A recognition of the core functions of rural areas and their economic and social value.** Valuing the visible and invisible services provided by rural areas and small and medium municipalities through investments and new business models— e.g. food, water, energy, ecosystem services and green infrastructure, soft cultural services etc.
- **A fresh approach to the evolving trends/issues shaping urban-rural relations** – e.g. COVID, land consumption and grab, multilocal living, house availability and prices, sustainable energy, mobility, digital infrastructure, taxation, water protection, circular value chains, sustainable tourism...
- **Flexible and more balanced forms of governance** which enable inter-municipal and other territorial collaborations, encourage the definition of functional spaces and themes for cooperation - from a rural perspective, rural urban PPPs, city-region food strategies, private and civil society partnerships (e.g. youth) etc.

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

- **Rural proofing urban policy and urban-proofing rural policy.** Reviewing and revising regulatory frameworks to ensure they enable rather than restrict rural urban cooperation. Data and analysis to capture the trends and flows between rural and urban areas
- **The application of new economic models** (and models of service and business development) to rural development strategies and partnerships (e.g. for rewarding local and collective providers of ecological and environmental services, recognising, valuing and investing in “soft services”, community supported agriculture, forging links between rural producers and urban consumers, “crowd farming”, food, health, youth, housing, making full use of CLLD, Smart Villages etc.)
- **Support for the animation, capacity building & technical assistance, skills, enabling institutions** required for rural-urban cooperation and building sustainable partnerships
- **Recognition and support for more equal, flexible governance mechanisms, platforms and frameworks for cooperation.** Flexibility for designing inter-municipal partnerships, and mixed partnerships of public, private and civil society which respond to local conditions (e.g. partnerships and councils around food, etc.)

