

## Rural Vision Week: Imagining the future of Europe's rural areas

### Participative workshops

**23-24 March 2021**

#### Workshop 1: Green rural Futures

- *Promoting the transition to a fair, green and climate neutral future*

*This workshop will explore how rural communities can make the transition to a green and climate neutral future that both delivers on high level policy objectives, and is fair - both to different stakeholders and to different types of rural areas. It will consider the kinds of improvements that can be made in fields such as farming and land use and energy production - to ensure benefits really accrue to rural communities. It would also address how to ensure the costs of the transition are fairly shared and take account of rural needs (e.g. rural mobility).*

#### Workshop 2: Digitally-led innovative rural futures

- *Harnessing digital opportunities and creating innovative solutions for the future.*

*This workshop will consider the steps that need to be taken to ensure that rural areas have the infrastructure, skills and services that allow them to fulfil their potential to apply and develop innovative solutions that benefit rural and urban communities alike. It will cover both the conditions for a genuine digital transformation and for becoming a player in wider innovation processes.*

#### Workshop 3: Fair and inclusive rural futures

- *Building open, vibrant and welcoming future rural communities*

*This workshop will consider how to reinforce the advantages that rural areas are seen to have in terms of "well-being", community spirit and social cohesion. How to ensure fair access to services? How to deal with poverty and provide dignified conditions for migrant and temporary workers? In short, how to build more open, vibrant, and welcoming communities for all?*

## Workshop 4: Farming and food productions' role in building resilient rural futures

- *Developing successful future farming, food and land-based value chains*

*This workshop will discuss the kind of transformation that farming, food and land-based value chains need to make to be successful in 2040. It could cover both the opportunities and the bottlenecks to change within these sectors (e.g. the transition to more organic farming, developing short supply chains, generational renewal) as well as the potential multipliers and linkages with other economic activities (energy, tourism, culture).*

## Workshop 5: Strong and dynamic rural-urban partnerships

- *Forging mutually beneficial relationships and interdependencies between rural and urban areas*

*This workshop will consider how to build on the increasingly interwoven relationships and interdependencies between rural and urban areas – from a “functional rural” perspective. It will discuss the practical steps and governance mechanisms that can promote “win-win” arrangements between rural areas and cities in fields such as services, transport, work and leisure.*

## Workshop 6: Vibrant rural areas

- *Finding smart solutions to demographic changes*

*This workshop will deal with strategies for both mitigating and adapting to shrinking and expanding populations in rural areas and assuring well-being. It will provide an opportunity for discussing the changes required for improving connectivity, mobility, housing, access to basic services and jobs taking into account the life cycle and the needs of different age groups (in particular young people) and types of population.*

## Workshop 7: Resilient rural areas

- *Building back better for a sustainable rural future*

*This workshop will look at the lessons learned from the COVID crisis and the strengths and weaknesses it has exposed in rural communities. It will discuss the kinds of investments and changes needed to strengthen the sustainability of rural areas, their renewal and their resilience to future shocks – including jobs, growth and diversification of activities.*

## Workshop 8: People, policy, practice – proofing and implementing a new rural reality

- *Fostering inclusive governance mechanisms which will provide rural communities with the resources and tools for realising their full potential*

*This workshop will consider the steps that should be taken at EU and other levels to design and implement more holistic rural policy that contributes to improved governance and provides rural communities with the resources and tools for realising their full potential in 2040. It will also consider the role of cooperation and networking in supporting the achievement of the new rural reality.*