



**European Committee
of the Regions**

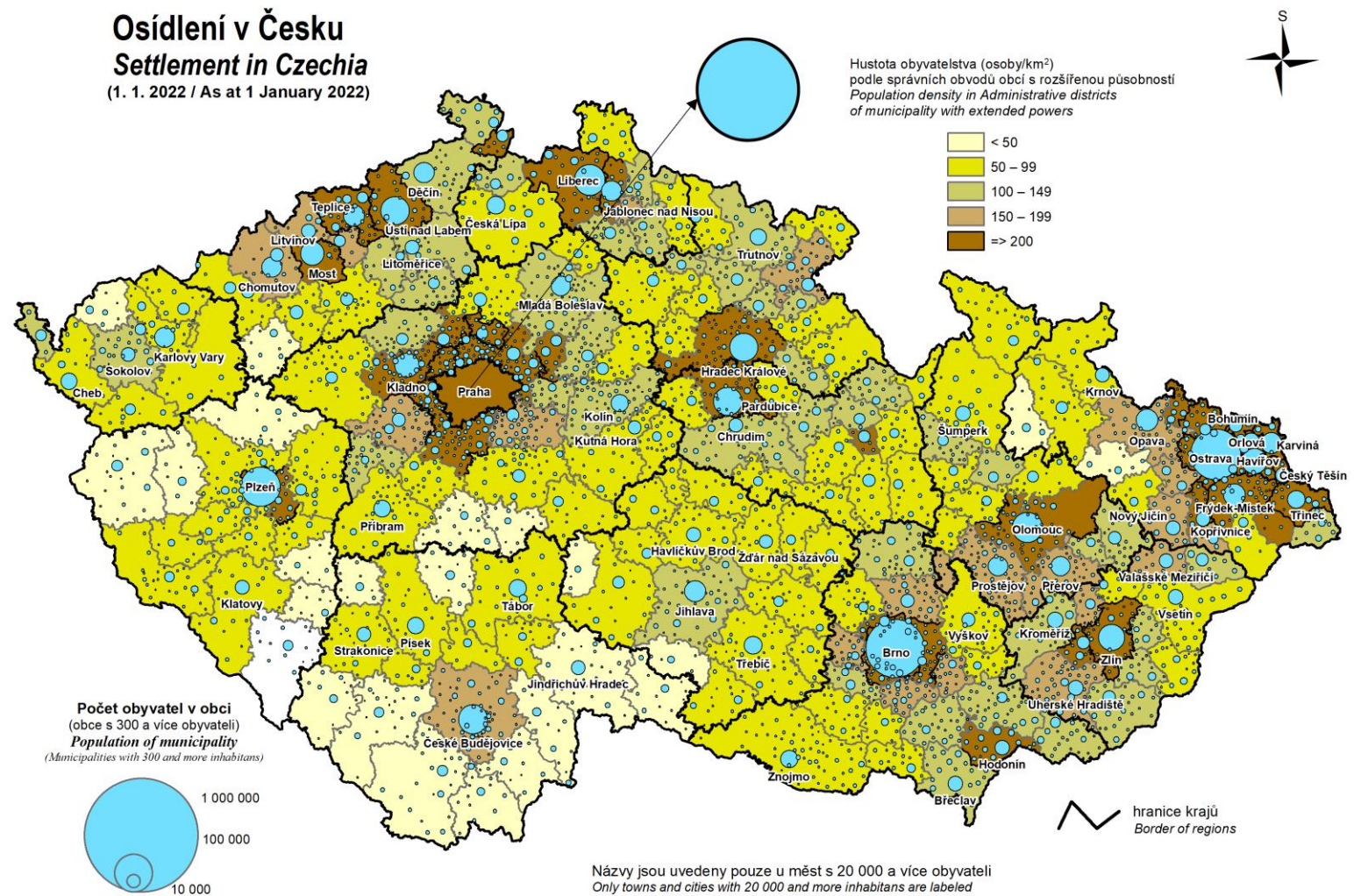
Future of Rural Development 2028+

Radim SRŠEŇ

Terme Tuhelj, 24th March 2026

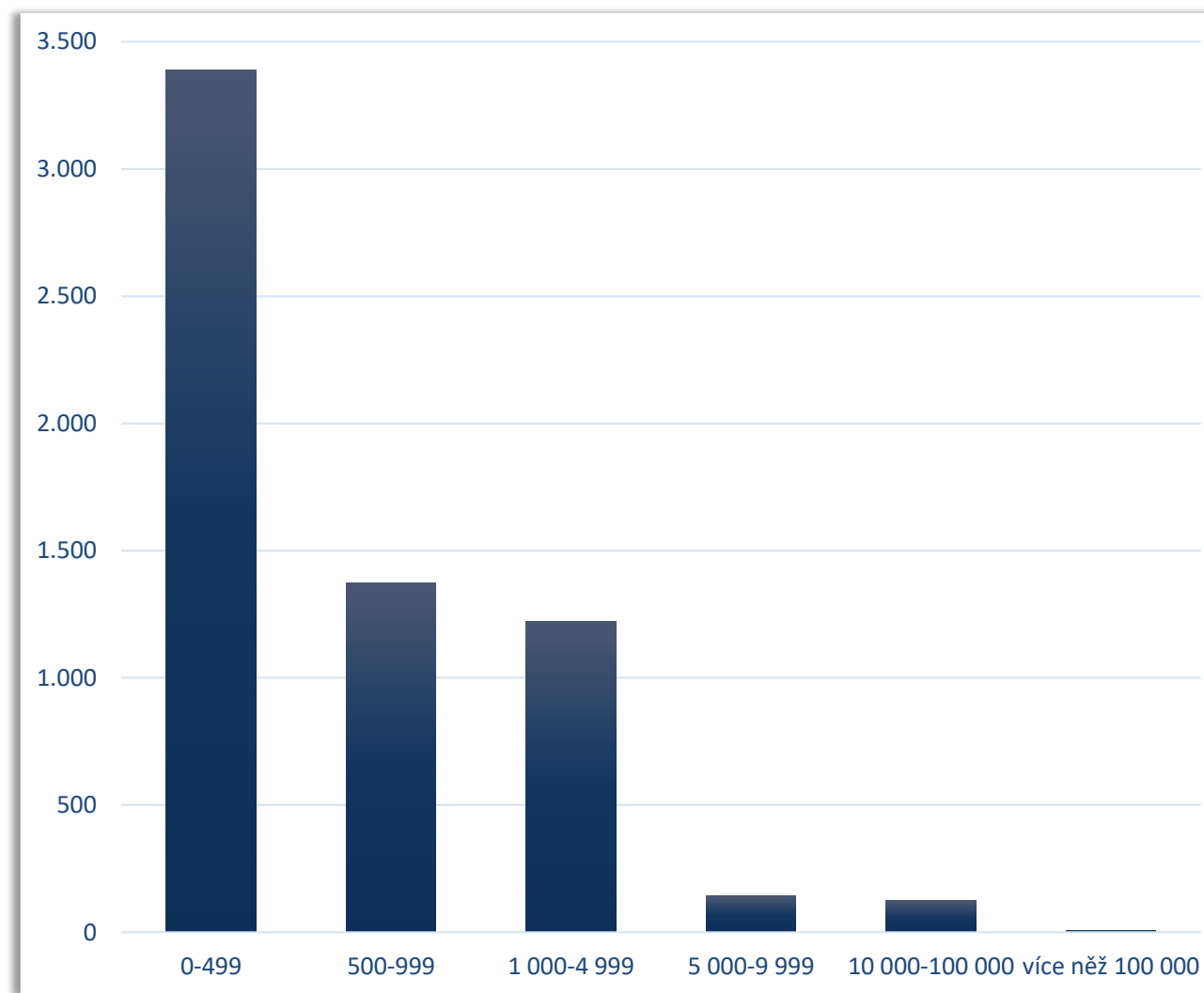
Regional structure of the Czech Republic

- 8 cohesion regions (NUTS 2)
- 14 self-governing regions (NUTS 3)
- 77 districts (LAU 1)
- **6 254** municipalities + 4 military retreats



Number of municipalities and population by size category

Size category of municipalities	Number of municipalities	%	Population	%
less than 200 inhab.	1 399	22,4	174 840	1,6
200–499 inhab.	1 991	31,8	654 815	6,1
500–999 inhab.	1 373	21,9	971 419	9,1
1 000–1 999 inhab.	782	12,5	1 089 990	10,2
2 000–4 999 inhab.	441	7,0	1 334 056	12,5
5 000–9 999 inhab.	143	2,3	985 982	9,2
10 000–19 999 inhab.	68	1,1	963 747	9,0
20 000 – 49 000 inhab.	43	0,7	1 282 905	12,0
50 000–99 999 inhab.	12	0,2	862 558	8,1
100 000 inhab. and more	6	0,1	2 382 465	22,3
TOTAL	6 258	100	10 701 776	100



The Czech approach to territorial development

Regional Development Strategy 2021+ structure



Metropolises

Prague, Brno, Ostrava and their hinterlands

Globally competitive and attractive
With good transport connections to European metropolises and Czech regions
Efficiently using their space for development and housing



Agglomerations

Ten regional capitals and their hinterlands

Thriving regional centres
With good transport connections
Adapted to climate change



Regional centres

Municipalities over 15 thousand inhabitants and catchment areas

Suitable conditions for economic development
With good transport accessibility and quality amenities
Caring for sustainable landscape development



Structurally affected Regions

The Ústí nad Labem, Moravian-Silesian and Karlovy Vary Regions

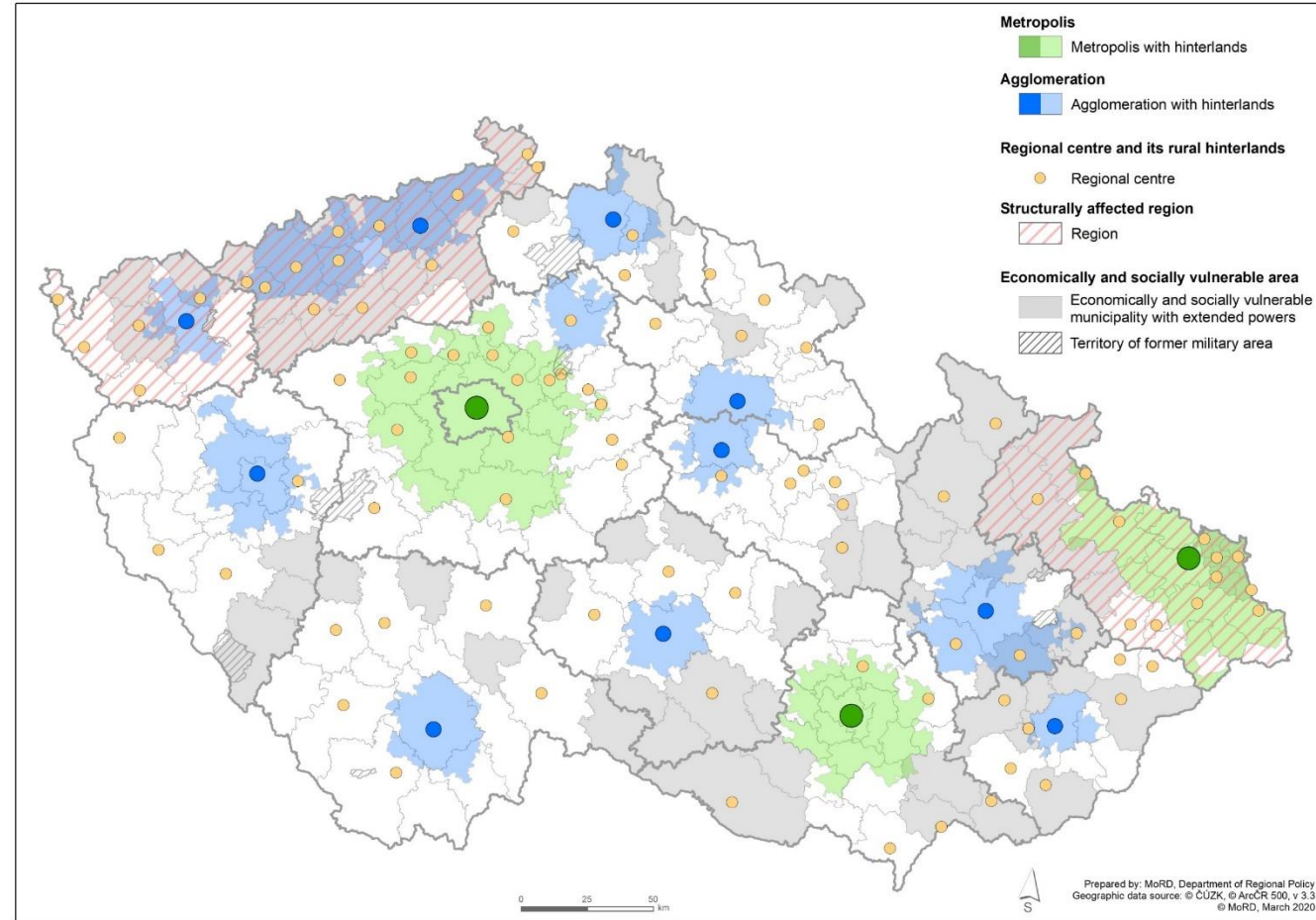
Good standard of life with a healthy environment
Economic recovery with plenty of quality jobs
Without unused industrial sites and areas after mining



Economically and socially vulnerable areas

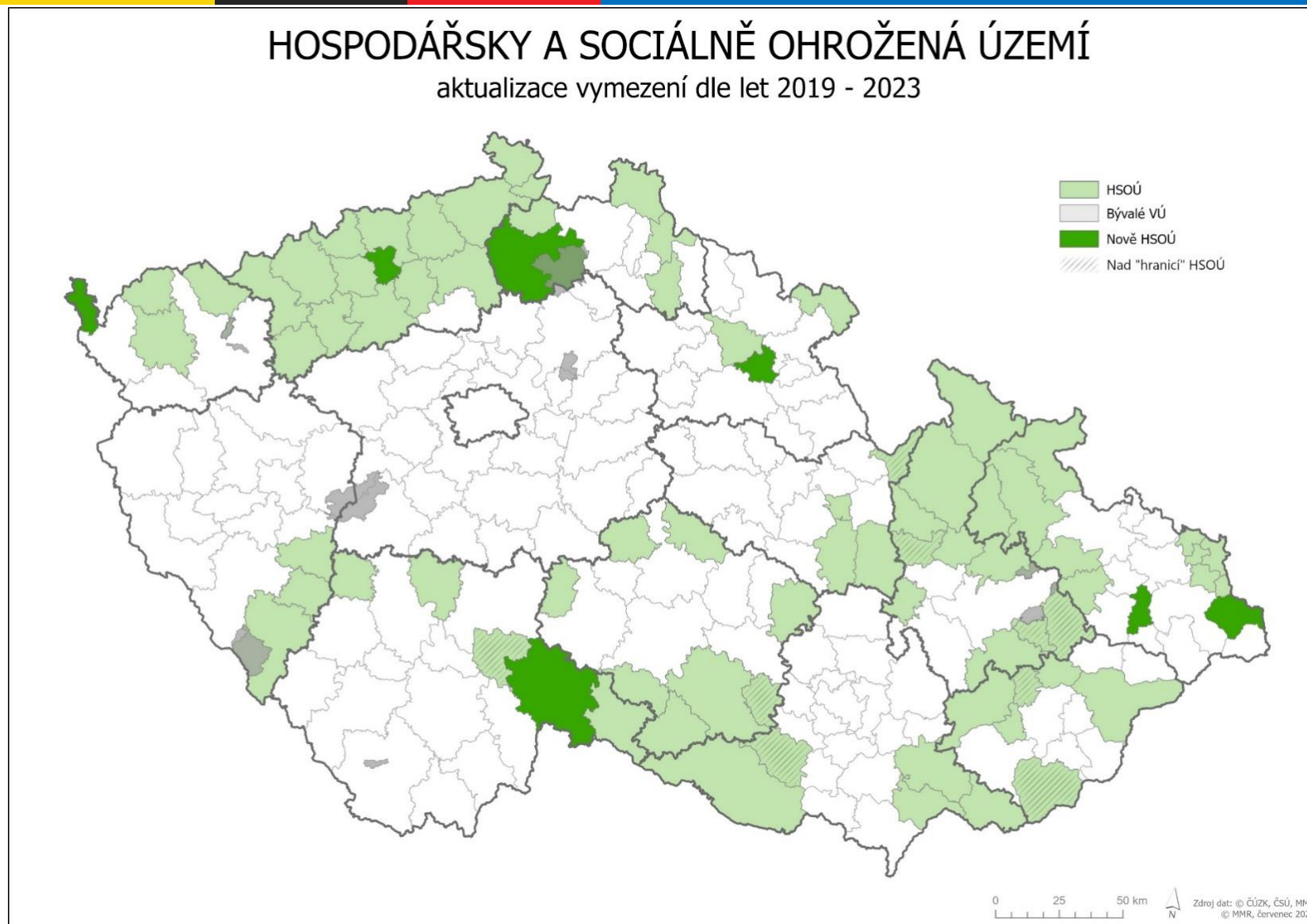
Territories with poor results in housing construction, age index, population growth, unemployment rate and intensity of business activity

Creating conditions for the development of innovative businesses
Accessible for transport and equipped with basic services
With strong communities and deep roots



5 territorial and 1 cross-sectional goal

Economically and socially vulnerable areas



National permanent conference (NSK)



- National permanent conference (NPC) contributes to arrangement of mutual interconnectedness and coordination between the state and regions (territorial partners) in territorial dimension implementation
- Importance of NPC
 - Connects territorial partners and improves cooperation between regions
 - Contributes to coordination of state and regional policy
 - Helps effective implementation of territorial dimension
 - Helps effective spending of EU funds and Partnership Agreement fulfilment
 - Puts questions of an effective regional policy set-up
- NPC consists of three chambers:
 - Regional
 - ITI
 - CLLD

National permanent conference (NSK)

1st day

Regional chamber

Urban Chamber

CLLD Chamber

2nd day

Plenary

Regional permanent conferences



- Regional permanent conferences (RPC) are founded on principles of partnership with territorial authority in all Czech regions.
- In relation with territorial dimension participates among other things in its implementation through Regional action plans
- Initiates, monitors and supports absorption capacity in respective region
- RPC establishes working groups for principal thematic areas of respective region
 - Members of working groups are important actors from self-governing regional authorities, entrepreneurs, regional or NGOs focused on activities in given thematic area

NEW! The Government Committee for Regional Policy



A new tool for more effective implementation of regional policy and for achieving regional development targets

2 main roles of the Committee:

- Enforcing the approved regional policy of the state (e.g. Fulfillment of the Strategy of Regional Development)
- assessing the impact of government materials on the development of individual types of regions.

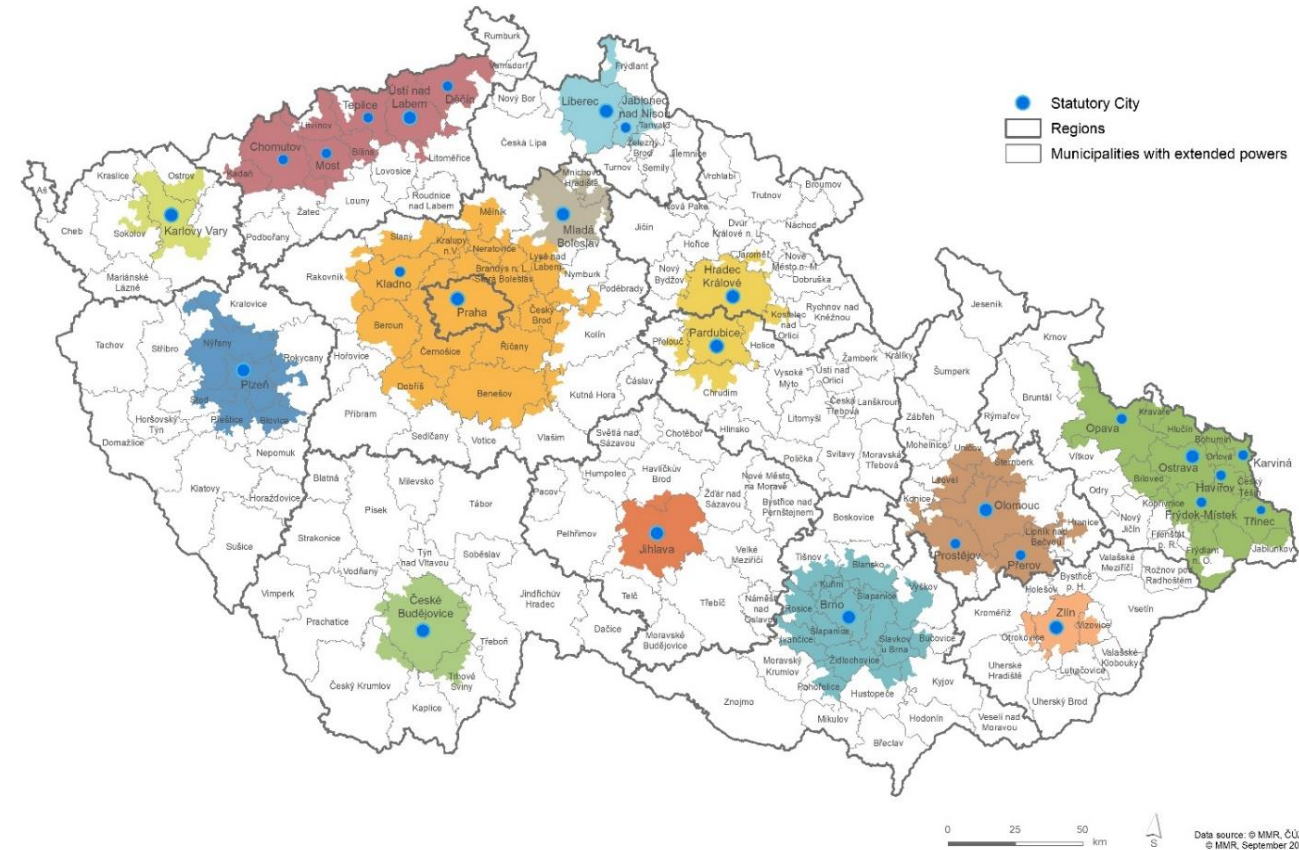
Structure:

- Committee at a Governmental level (level of ministers)
- Committee on a working level (level of deputy ministers)
- Working groups (consisting of experts: two permanent commissions, one ad hoc commission)

Integrated Territorial Investment 2021–2027 (ITI Instrument)

- Instrument for the development of **metropolitan areas and agglomerations** → central city and hinterland municipalities
- **Delimitation based on functional linkages** → overcoming administrative division and fragmented settlement structure
- Sustainable urban development

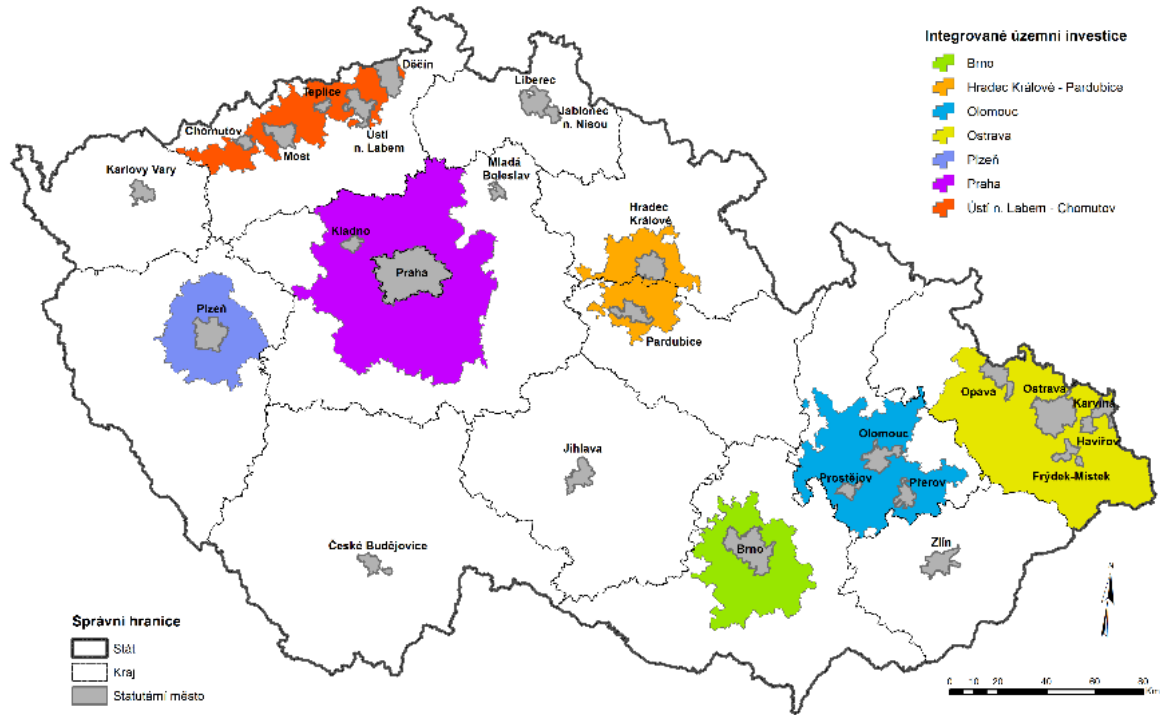
INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENT IN PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2021-2027



Strengthening support for urban areas

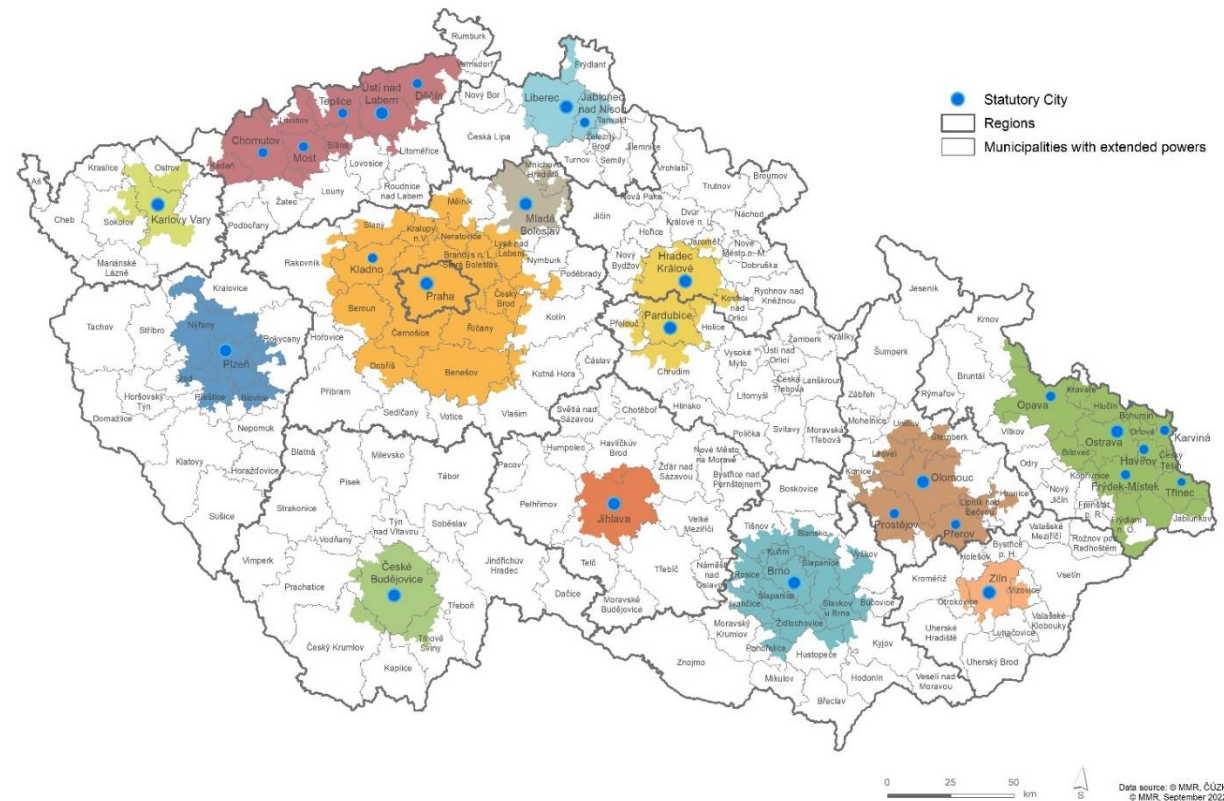
ITI 2014–2020

Integrované nástroje ITI v programovém období 2014-2020
- vymezení funkčního území integrované strategie



ITI 2021–2027

INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENT IN PROGRAMMING PERIOD 2021-2027



Financial Allocation on ITI tool in EU Programmes 2021+

Programme	Specific Objective	Specific Objective	Allocation in EUR
			TOTAL
IRP	SC 1.1	Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities	4 744 264
	SC 2.2	Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution	185 374 677
	SC 4.1	Improving equal access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing accessible infrastructure, including by fostering resilience for distance and on-line education and training	193 668 191
	SC 4.2	Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services	79 322 281
	SC 4.4	Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	177 775 650
	SC 6.1	Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy	358 705 929
PT	SC 1.2	Developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to TEN-T and cross-border mobility	80 000 000
	SC 3.1	Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, as part of transition to a net zero carbon economy	851 816 869
TAC	SC 1.1	Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	61 005 800
JAC	SC 1.1	Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	65 697 962
OP Env.	SC 1.1	Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	20 363 039
	SC 1.2	Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein	2 867 893
	SC 1.3	Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, and resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	51 390 501
	SC 1.5	Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy	13 569 019

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

Development of rural areas
in the Czech Republic



Czechia as a showcase of Community-Led Local Development implementation



- Extraordinary interest of the state and local stakeholders in CLLD implementation: in 21–27 period **180 LAGs covering more than 6000 municipalities and almost 93 % of the territory**
- **Elaborated coordination system** of implementation (National/Regional Permanent Conference, CLLD Platform, LAGs standardisation, unified methodological environment etc.)
- Advanced preparation of 21–27 period – LAGs standardisation finished, conceptual parts of strategies selected, first programme frameworks in OP E+ and IROP being approved (**in December 2022, the implementation of the first strategies will probably start**)

COMMUNITY-LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Local Action Groups in programming period 2021–2027



Data source: © MMR, ČÚZK © MMR, september 2022

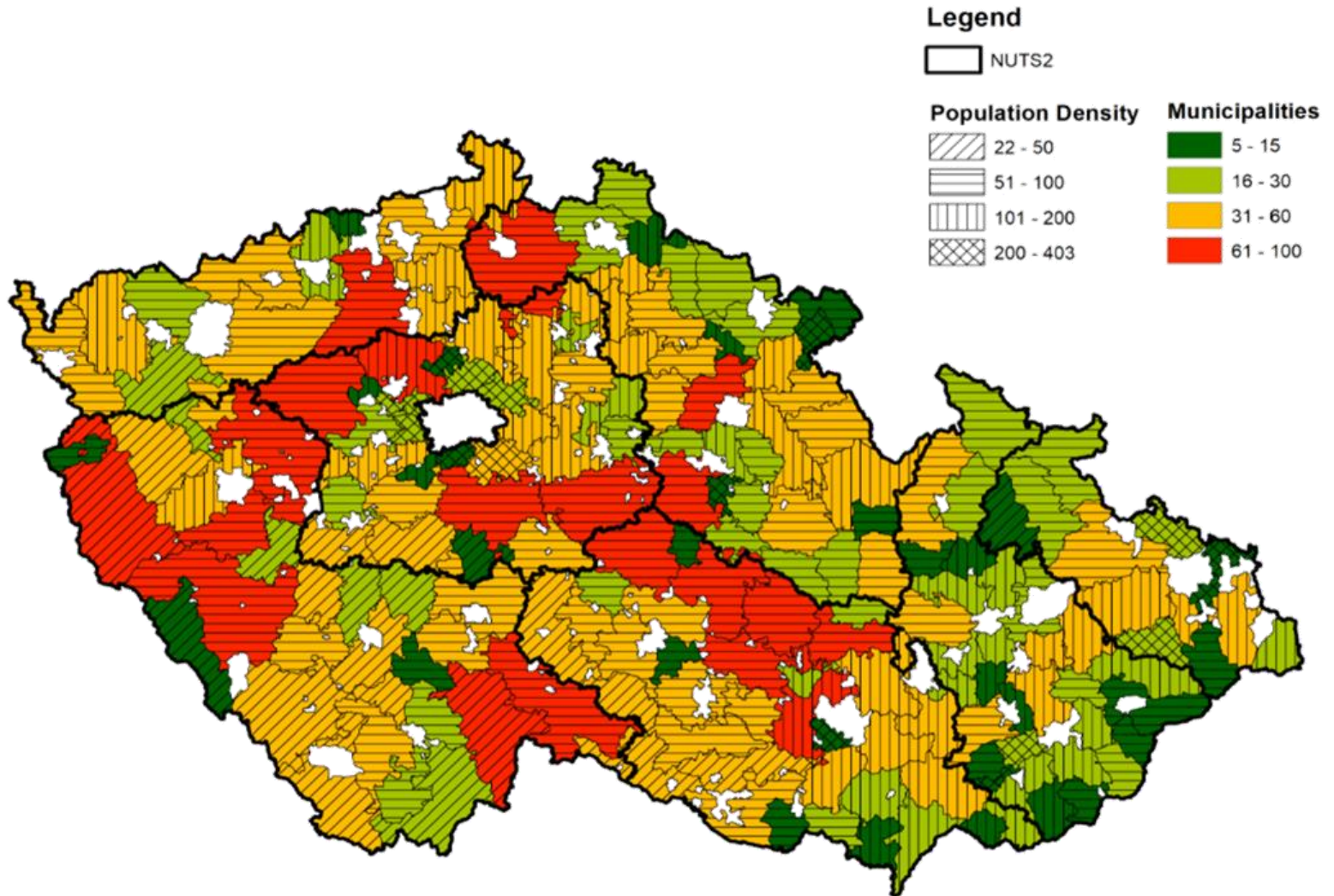
Diversity of CZ LAGs: Regions & Population

LAGs cover 6.004 municipalities and 93 % CZ territory

High stability of LAGs

» 2014–2020: 178 LAGs

» 2021–2027: 180 LAGs



LAGs as Innovation Environment

Resilience – Regional cohesion – Networking – Funding

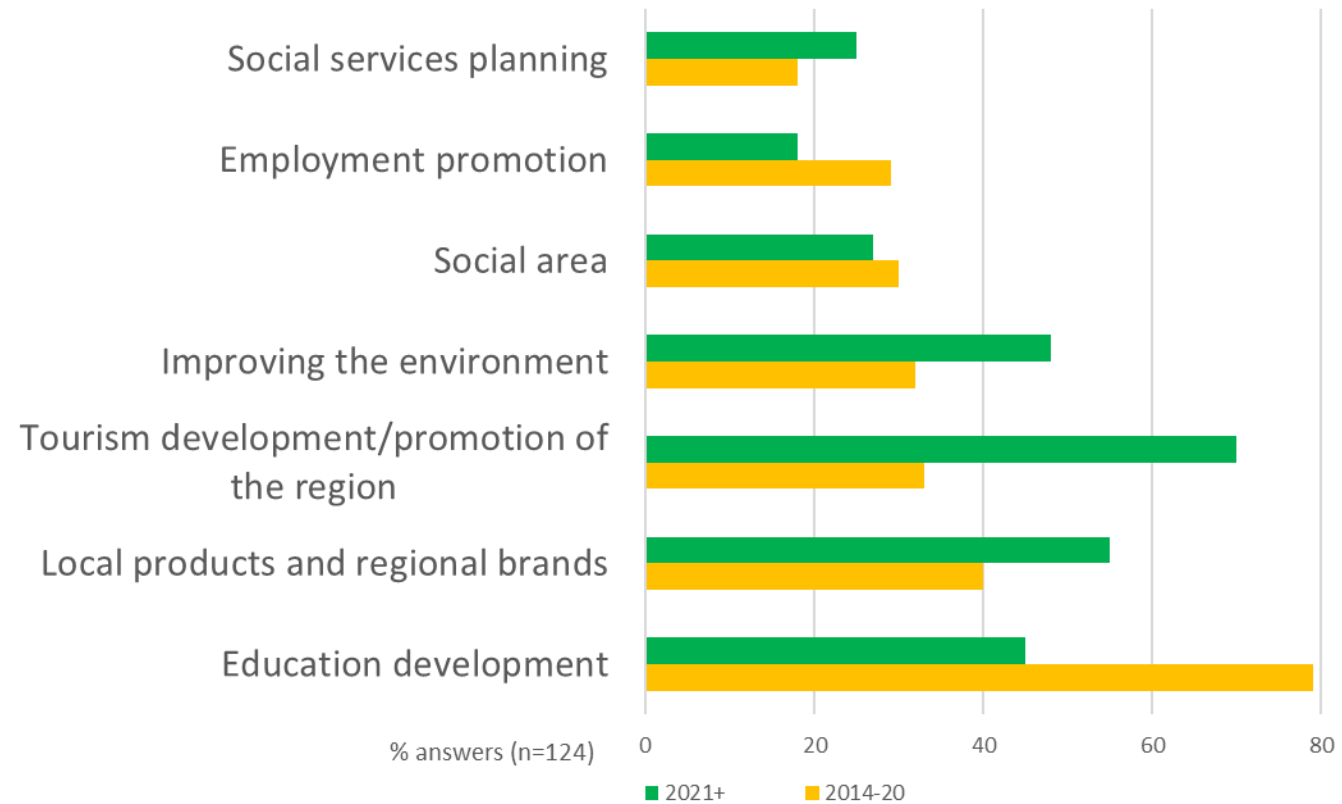
LEADER Principles:

- Subsidiarity, cooperation
- integrated solutions
- local knowledge, local stakeholders

Recognized roles of LAGs in CR

- Grant agency
- Mediation role
- Innovation role (Innovation broker)
- Animation role for public administration
- Local (regional) cohesion: better resilience in crises (COVID, tornado, immigration)

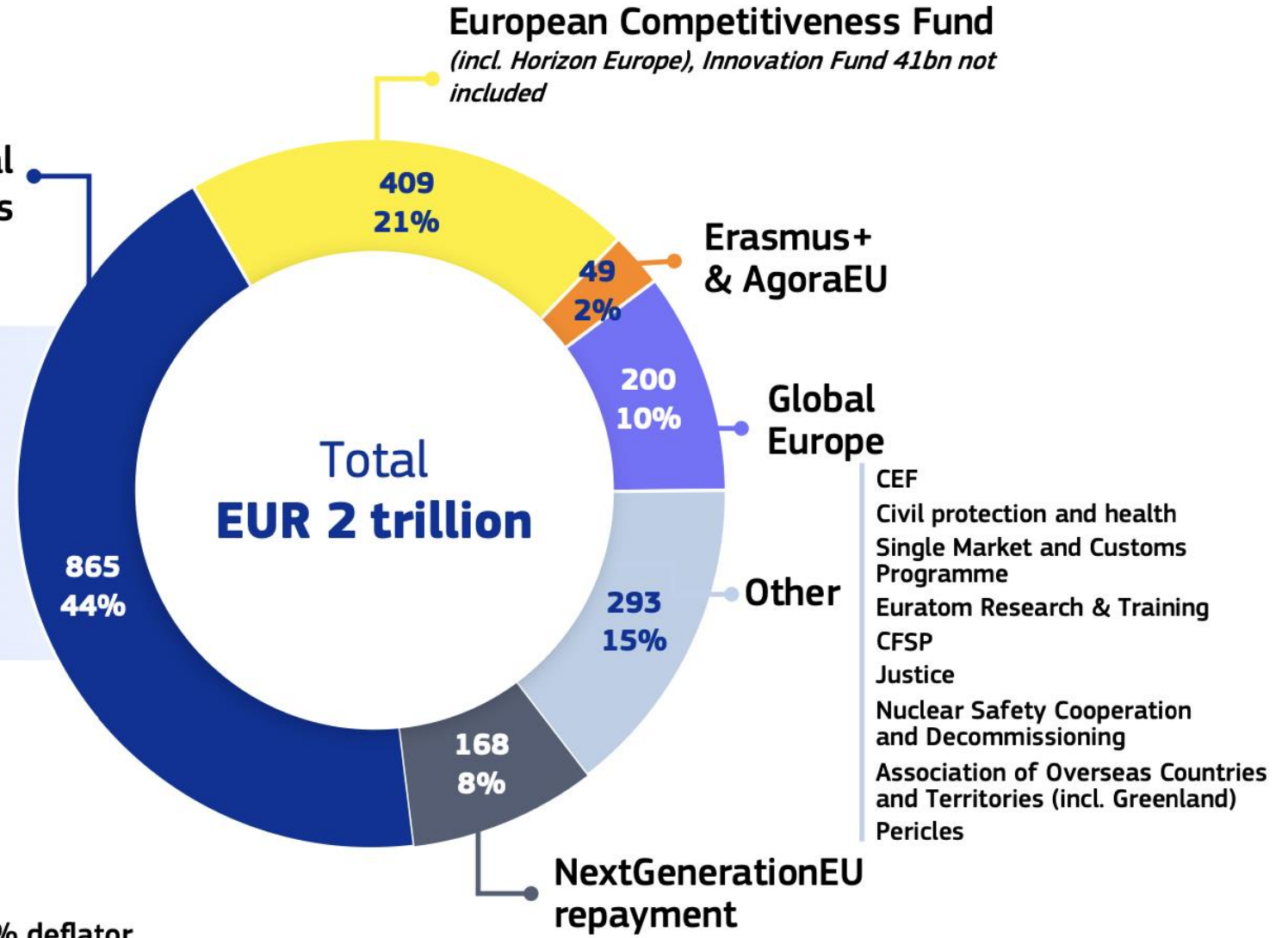
Present and Forecasted Issues LAGs Deal with (y2019)



What about Future of the Rural Development 2028+?

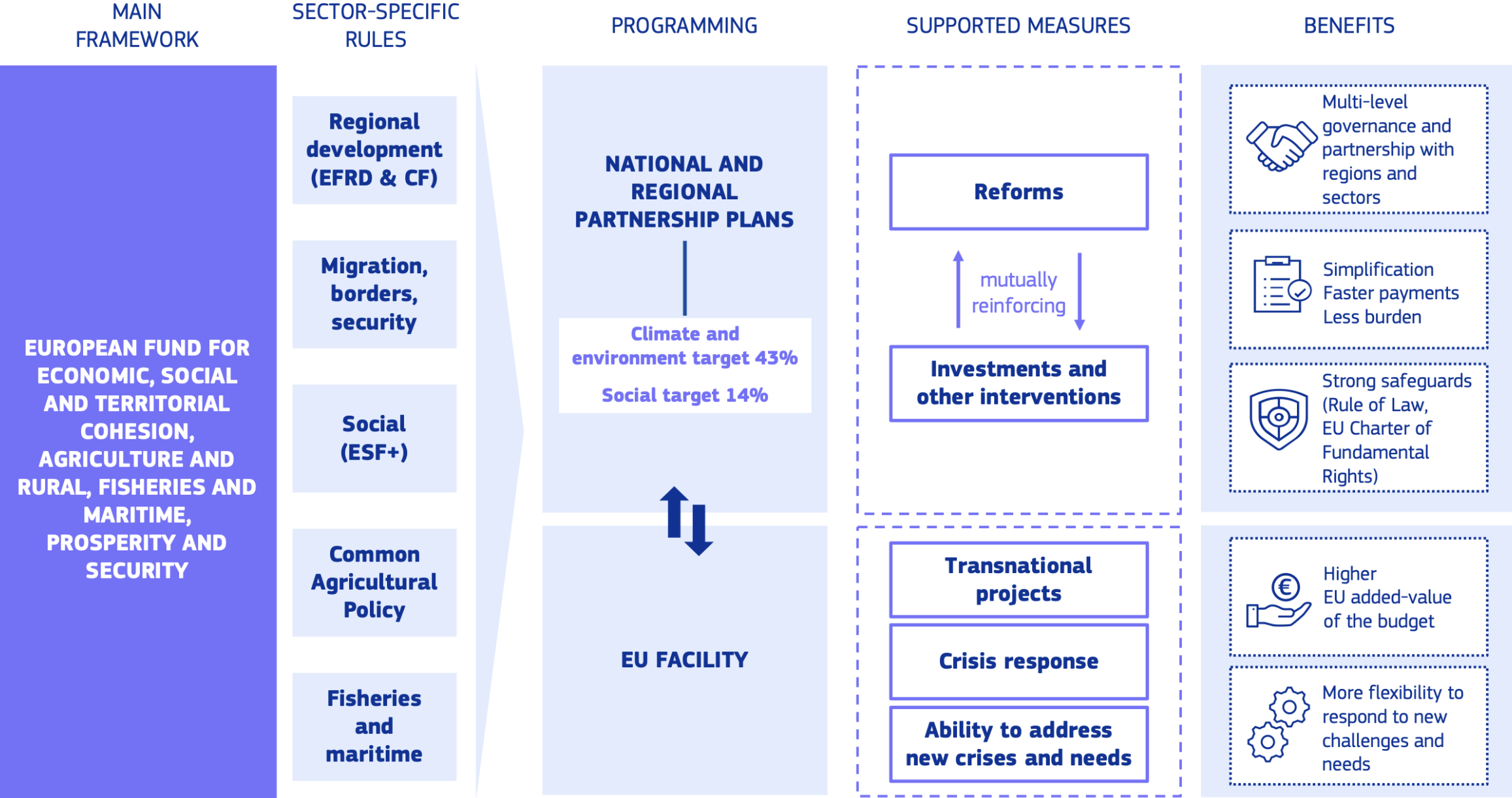
Ambitious EU Budget 2028+

- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results** oriented
- More **agile**

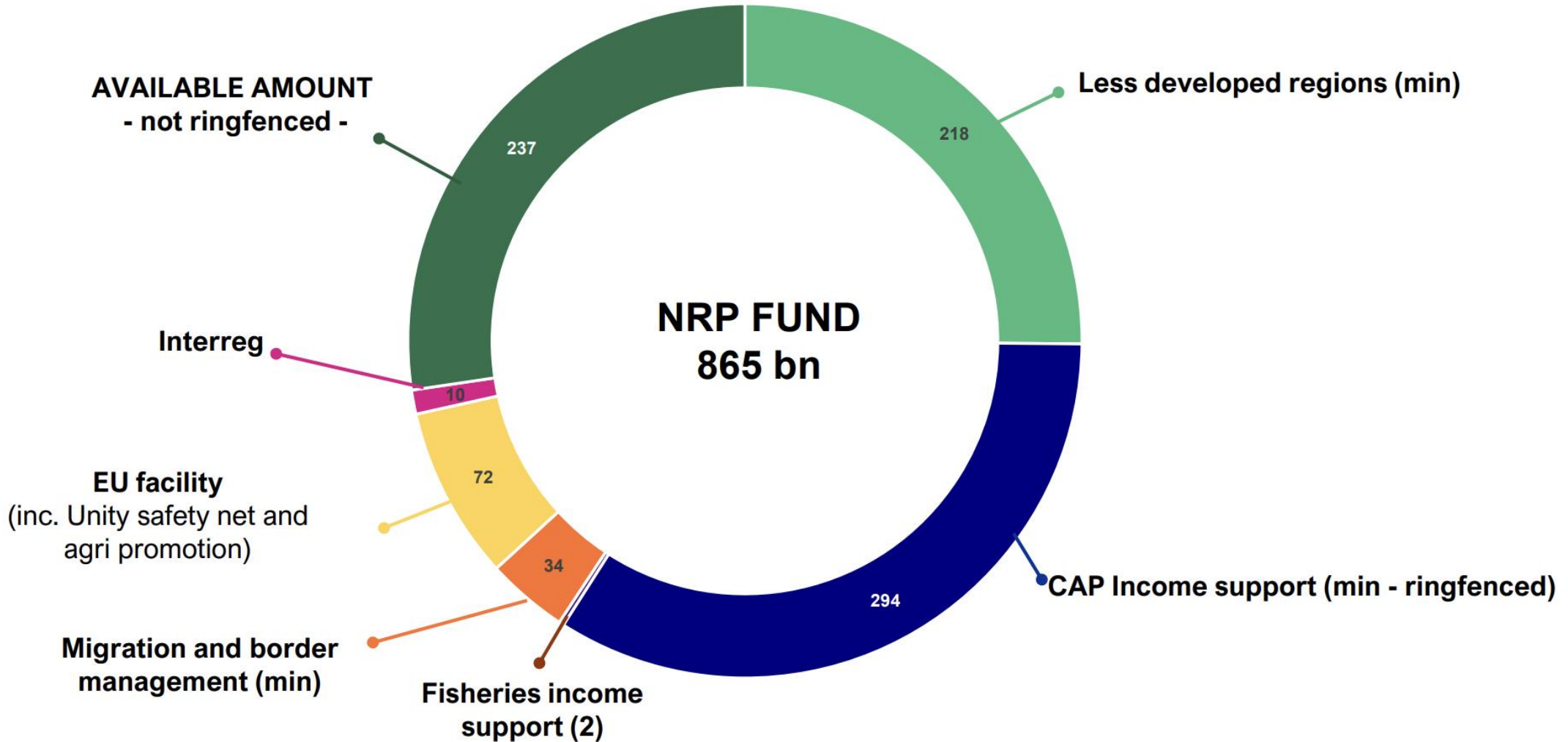


All amounts in EUR billion, current prices, adjusted with 2% deflator

ONE COHERENT STRATEGY



What is the rest for MS to decide?



Adequate resources to rural areas through rural-proofing

- Horizontal approach whereby rural areas are systematically considered across all relevant EU policies ≠ ringfencing or earmarking of funds
- Making cohesion policy rural-proofed requires a mandatory rural dimension
- 10% rural target should go for integrated place-based territorial approaches like LEADER/CLLD, Smart Villages etc.
- No less than 30% of EU funding, beyond agricultural income support, should go to rural areas



Vstupní úvaha o možné podobě NRPP ČR (draft k dopracování)

Národní a regionální plán partnerství - Česká republika		
Národní kapitola NRPP	Regionální (územní) kapitola(y) NRPP	Odvětвовá (sektorová) kapitola NRPP
Projekty mající celonárodní (makro) dopad a projekty excellence	Projekty mající regionální (územní) dopad, projekty inteligentní specializace a specifické projekty s potřebami pro konkrétní územní jednotku (kraj, město, obec)	Projekty mající zásadní dopad pro rozvoj příslušného odvětví (potřeba sladění a eliminace překryvů s národní a regionální kapitolou)

Základní kritérium pro rozdělení tematických oblastí a finanční alokace: **subsidiarita** (optimální úroveň pro řešení daného tématu)

Specifický cíl návrhu nařízení k Fondu národních a regionálních partnerství

Příklad dělení:

1. Udržitelná prosperita

Národní kapitola NRPP	Regionální (územní) kapitola(y) NRPP	Odvětвовá (sektorová) kapitola NRPP
Posilování odolných hodnotových řetězců a průmyslové základny; posílení oborů a technologií využívajících kritické suroviny	Naplňování strategií integrovaného rozvoje krajů a městských a venkovských oblastí; inteligentní specializace; RIS3	Čistá průmyslová transformace
Čistá energetika a infrastruktura pro čistou; inteligentní energetické systémy	Konkurenceschopnost malých a středních podniků	Podpora cirkulární ekonomiky
Digitální transformace a AI (infrastruktura); digitální veřejné služby; propojenost ICT	Spravedlivá transformace (kontinuita dosavadního procesu)	Digitální služby
Výzkum, vývoj, inovace – excelence	Decentralizovaná energetická přenosová a distribuční síť	Výzkum, vývoj, inovace – aplikace, komercializace, kapitalizace
Dopravní infrastruktura (TEN-T); zelená a digitální transformace dopravy	Rozvoj digitálních znalostí a kompetencí	Finanční zprostředkování – banky, finanční instituce
Turismus – promotion CZ	Výzkum, vývoj, inovace – smart specialisation	
Vodní hospodářství - reformy	Sociální a dostupné bydlení	
	Dopravní infrastruktura (dostupnost pro méně propojené oblasti; obchvaty měst)	
	Turismus – udržitelnost, územně přizpůsobený	
	Vodní hospodářství – územní dimenze	
	Nový evropský Bauhaus	





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If you want to go fast, go alone,

If you want to go far, go together...

(African proverb.)



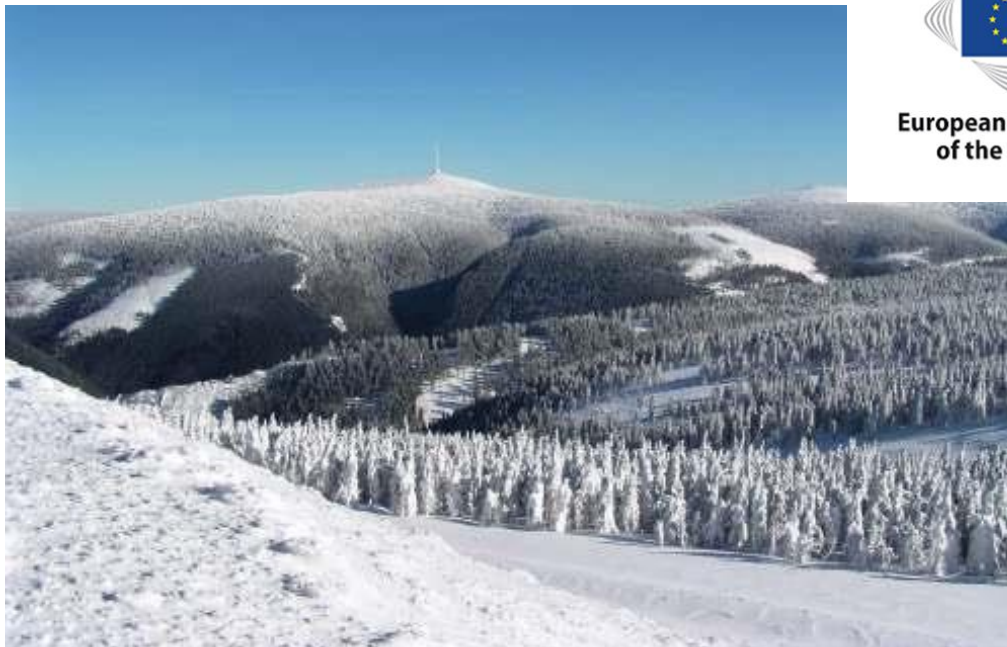
IF YOU AREN'T AT THE TABLE

you are probably on the menu.



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Chair of the EU Rural Pact Coordination Group



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