

Key messages from the Rural Pact Coordination Group on the Future of Rural Development Policy

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The Rural Pact Coordination Group (RPCG)



What is the Rural Pact Coordination Group

- > Set up June 2023 – it's **mandate expires in May 2026**.
- > **Membership**: Unique structure of **30 organisations** – both EU institutions (EP, CoR, EESC, etc.), EU presidencies, networks and civil society organisations (including ERP members), research, business
- > **Mission**: Commission special group to steer the process of the RP, amplify rural voices...
- > *"Be regularly informed and consulted about policy developments regarding rural areas..."* -> **Declaration, Position Paper on the Future of Rural Development policy**



Key messages from the Declaration on The Future of Rural Development Policy

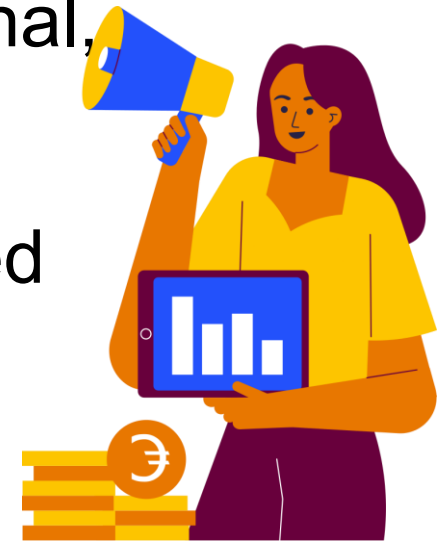
Key messages - Situation

- ▶ Rural areas are not just places of challenges but also places of **opportunities**.
- ▶ The future of rural areas is not just the **concern of** rural people but our **whole society**.
- ▶ Rural areas and communities face **capacity constraints** and lack of access to funds.
- ▶ **Community-led approaches are underfunded** and not used to their full potential.
- ▶ **Future rural development policy** must take the needs of rural areas **seriously**.



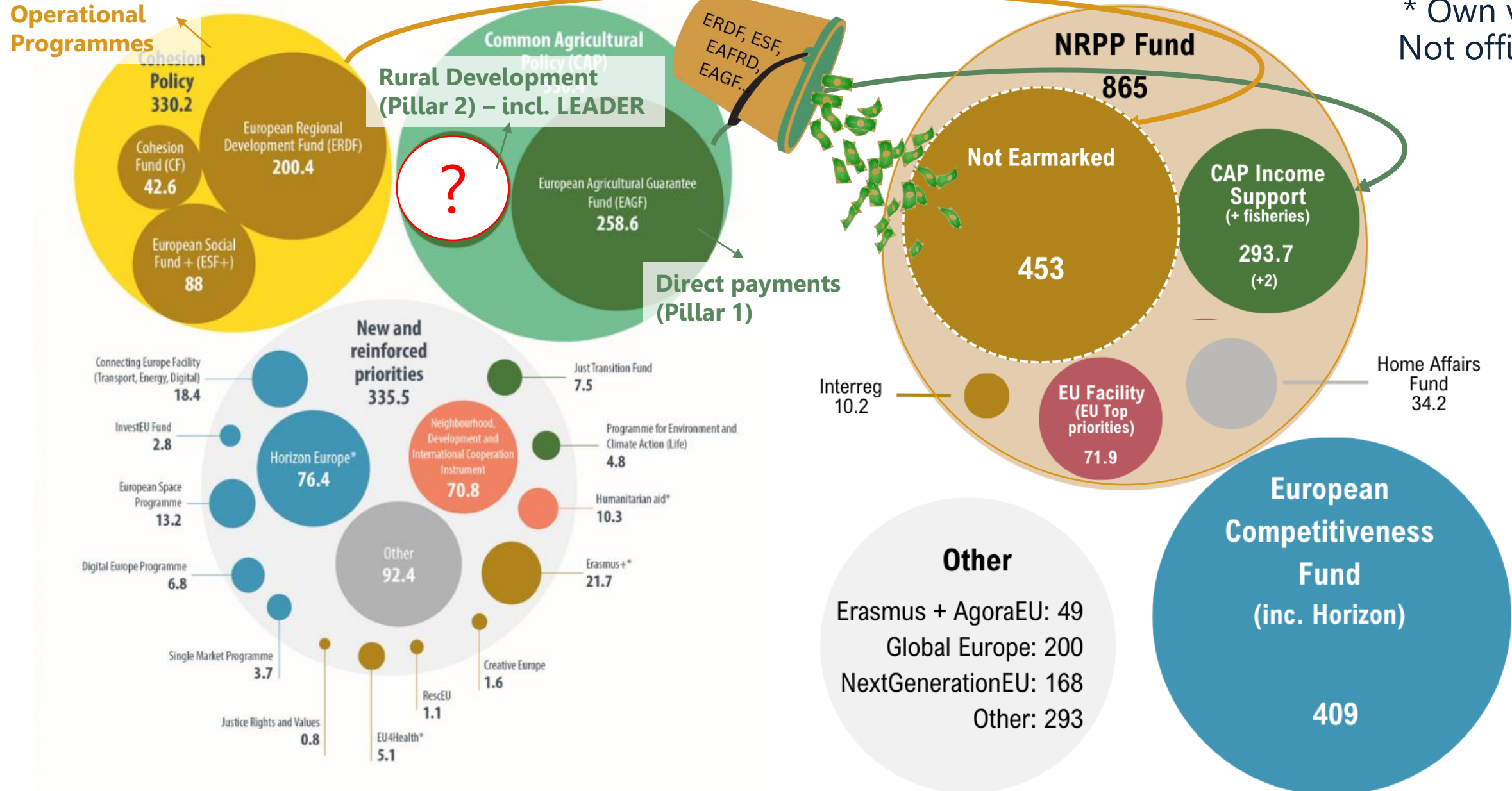
Key messages - **Solution**

- ▶ Make use of the multi-funded / **integrated approach**.
- ▶ Compulsory **min. allocation (30%) of funds** to rural development beyond agriculture.
- ▶ Compulsory **min. application to place-based community-led approaches** (LEADER and SV - min. 10% of RD funds).
- ▶ **Rural Development Strategies** at all (EU, national, regional, ... levels)
- ▶ Compulsory **Rural Pact implementation model**: dedicated government member, inter-ministerial committee ...



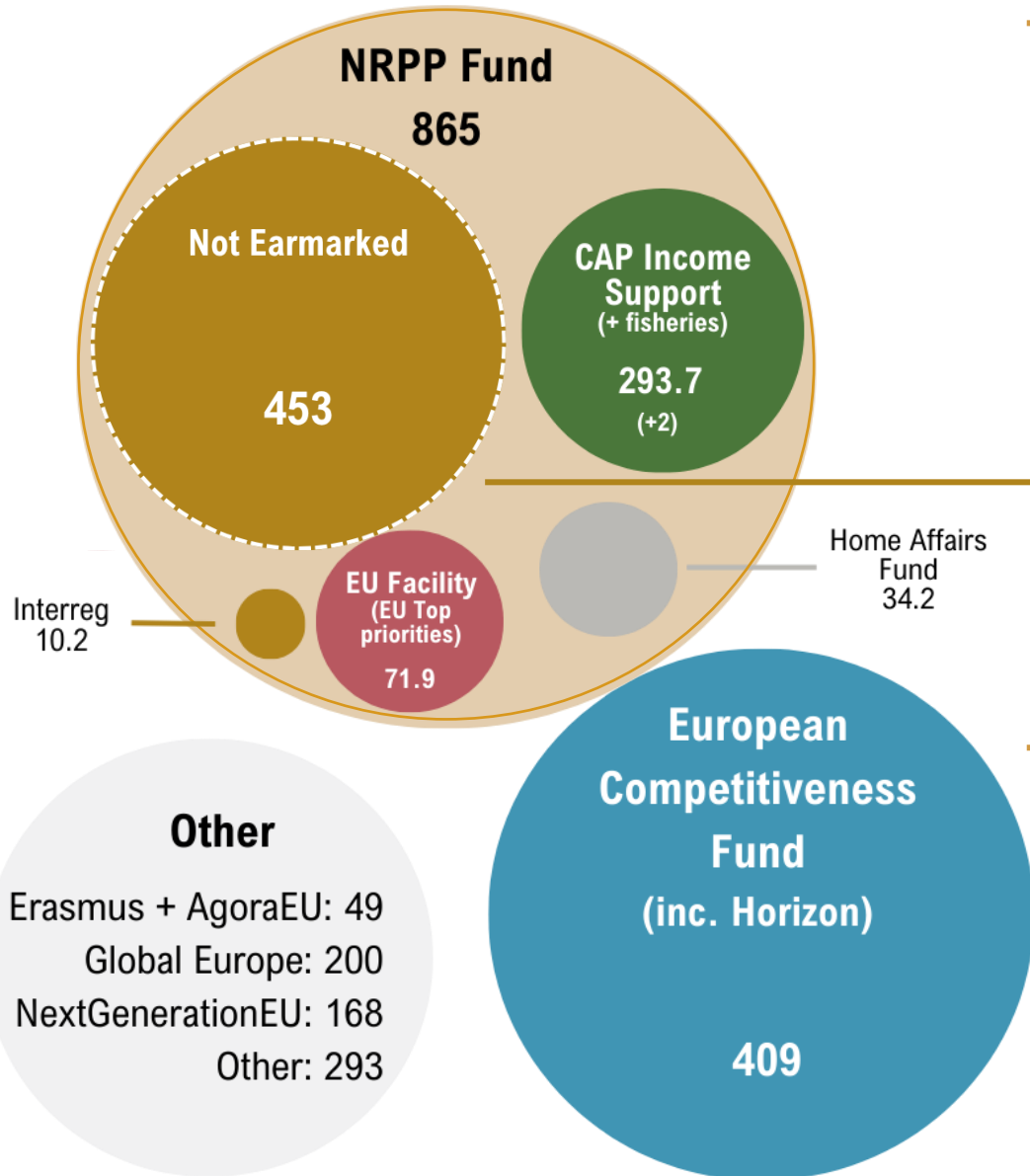
Future EU funding framework*

* Own visual - Not official EU visual



Key messages – Monitor rural spending*

* Own visual -
Not official EU
visual



Rural development

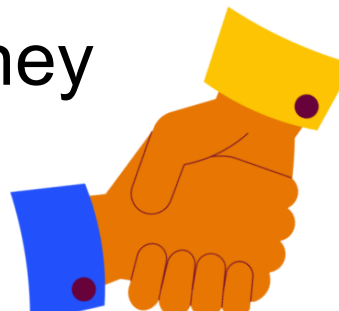
Key messages – Capacity building & monitoring

Capacity-building:

- ▶ Capacity-building at the local level: LAGs, local communities, networks, preparatory actions, etc.
- ▶ Flexibility in the application, simplified options...

Improved monitoring and assessment

- ▶ Better use of data
- ▶ Sectoral and **territorial tagging** (nuanced according to type of rural area at the local level) – to be able to monitor that money really goes to rural areas and communities



Position Paper, the Future of the RPCG & Next Steps

Reinforcing messages: RPCG Position Paper

- ▶ End of 2025. **Work in progress** (not yet approved by the RPCG). Following the proposed regulation (not available at the time of Declaration)
- ▶ Reinforces the need for dedicated funding for rural development (beyond agriculture) & **Mandatory allocation to community-led placed-based approaches: LEADER & Smart Villages.**
- ▶ Requirement for **defining rural areas at the local level** (DEGURBA – LAU) + **tagging**

Thank you!

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The screenshot displays the Rural Pact Community Platform interface. At the top left is the European Union logo with the text "European Union". To the right is a "Log in" button and a search bar with a "Search" button. Below this is the main title "Rural Pact Community Platform". A navigation menu includes "Rural Pact", "Rural revitalisation", "The platform", "Act for the rural vision", "Resources", and "News and events". The breadcrumb trail shows "Home > Groups > Smart Villages". The main content area features a 3D rendering of a village with solar panels on the roofs. A yellow button says "Login or Register to Join this Group". On the right, there are filters for "Rural Pact" and "Rural Revitalisation Platform", a location list including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden, a creation date of "06/23/2023 - 16:35", and a language selector set to "English". The word "Overview" is visible at the bottom left of the 3D scene.