

Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



VISION - A viable Europe through participatory democracy in all rural areas and beyond!

29

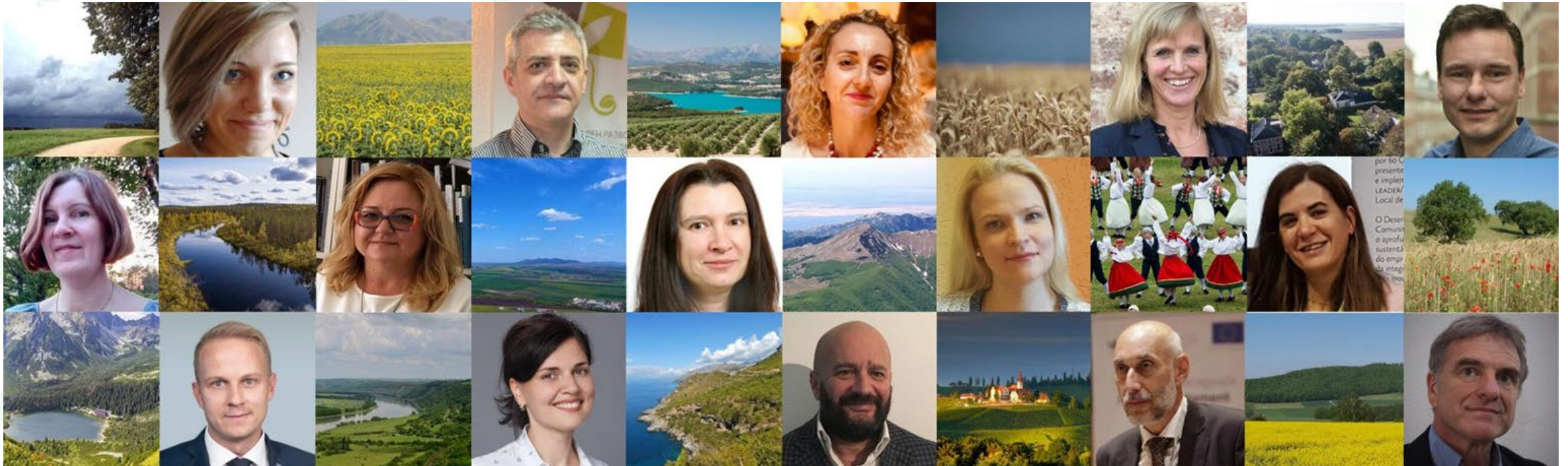
countries

2500

Local Action Groups

local stakeholders ↔ LAG ↔ region ↔ national ↔ European

Anita Seļicka,
Council member of ELARD
Director of Latvian Rural Forum



Voices to be heard and empowered action

Just rights is not enough

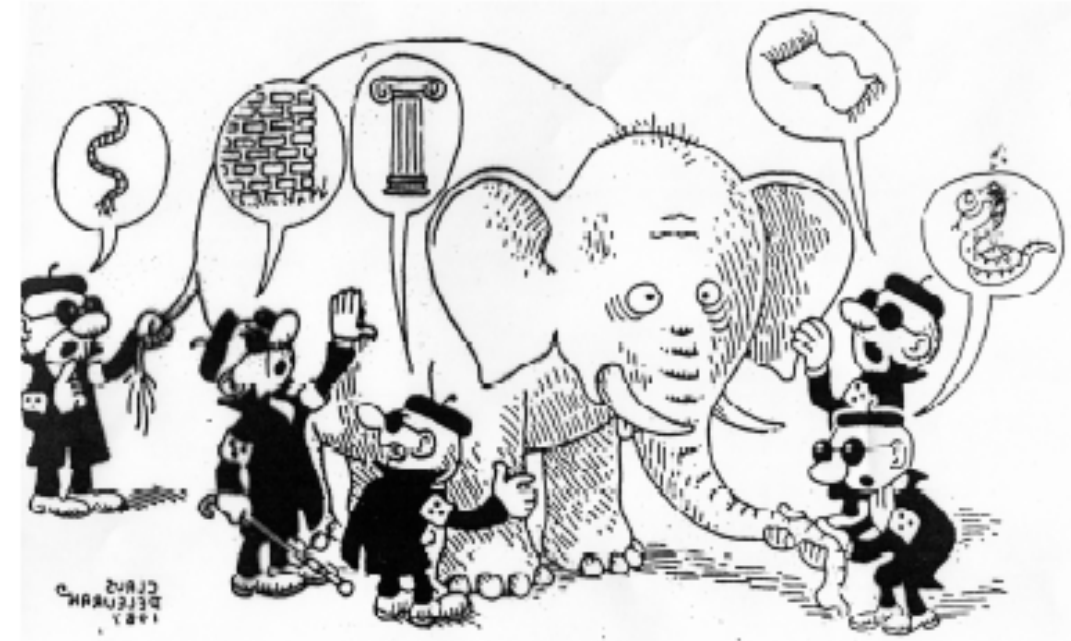


! **Community (leader) empowerment** and **ensuring participation** is as important as finances. Effective methods.

! Notice already existing **transformative actions**. Studies and experiments. **Stimulating innovation**.

! **Participatory approach** on the design of public services

! Volunteer working hours are counting.
Recognition of **volunteer work**



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at least 8% for CLLD from
EARDF, ERDF, ESF and EMFF

top down

LOCAL STRATEGY

local communities take
on the responsibility own living
and working environment

local needs and
possibilities



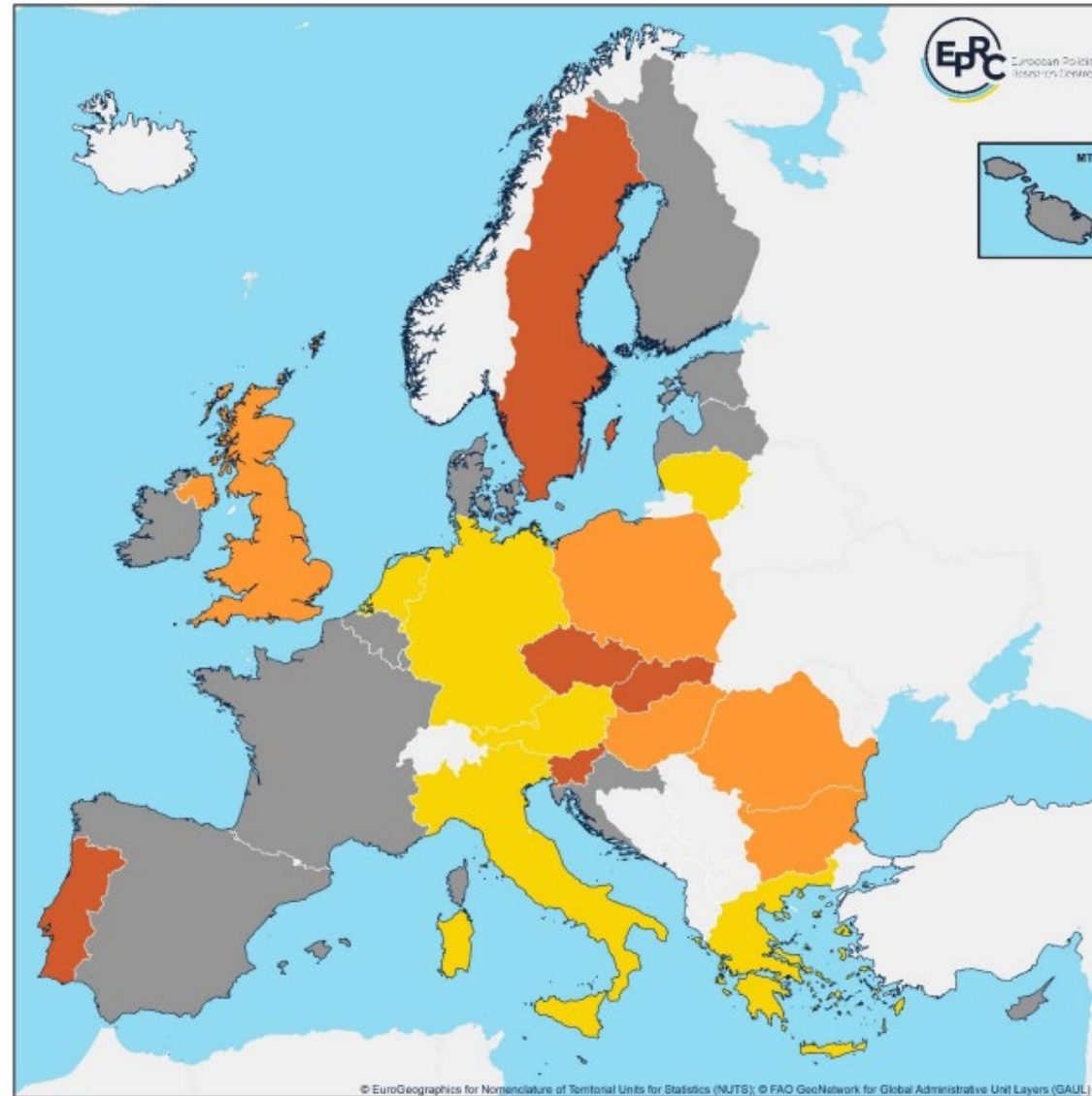
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Out of 3318 LAGs:

- 2201 (66%) are traditional LEADER LAGs (EAFRD only)
- 2530 only use rural and/or fisheries funding (EAFRD and/or EMFF)
- 788 (24%) use Cohesion Policy funding (ERDF and/or ESF)

Why not to?



Local actions. International now-how

Rural is OK



- ! Combining **long-term strategies with local actions**. Support to **existing networks and processes**
- ! **Systematic and regular work with rural stakeholders and those effect rural areas** (incl. yearly conference, digital platform for sharing the knowledge, rural innovation hub)
- ! **ELARDUS** – ERASMUS-like program engaging rural stakeholders, incl. MA
- ! Diversity of different national approaches and diversity of different ruralities should be a great value!



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Village talks with Europe...

- ! Supported by **political leaders** in all levels.
National Rural Agenda
- ! **Rural lenses on!** Strong rural proofing co-designed with civic society
- ! Study to analyze methods of **representation** of areas with low population density
- ! Learning to **do democracy**



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A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills, a small village, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground is dominated by a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, a small village with several buildings is visible, nestled among green fields. The background shows a range of mountains, with a prominent, jagged peak in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

Thank you