

Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



What knowledge base for rural proofing?

What kind of information enables a better understanding of ruralities – and policies that also take them into account?

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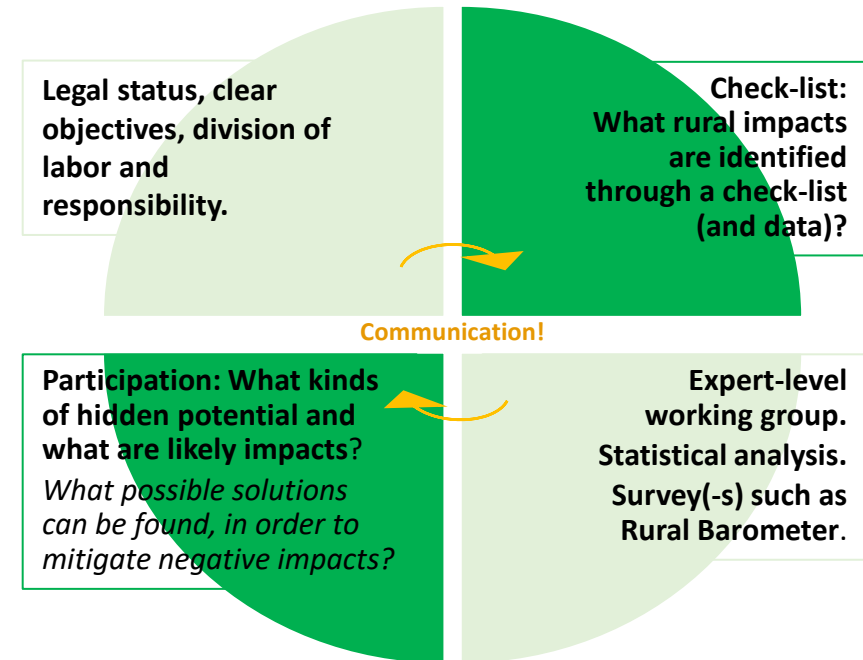
What about all that lies beyond statistics?



Rural Proofing as a participative model

In order to implement/use rural proofing (as a policy formation tool), we need:

- relevant [geospatial] data,
- up-to-date surveys,
- a check-list (“does the proposal have impacts on...?”),
- participation (workshops, panels...), and
- institutionalised structures.



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Urban-rural typology

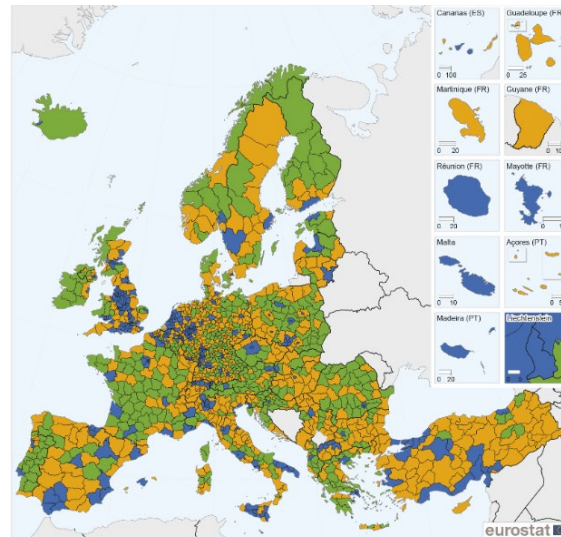
EU vs. national (FIN), regional and local perspective.

Finnish typology is

- based on more detailed statistical squares.
- independent of municipal and regional boundaries.

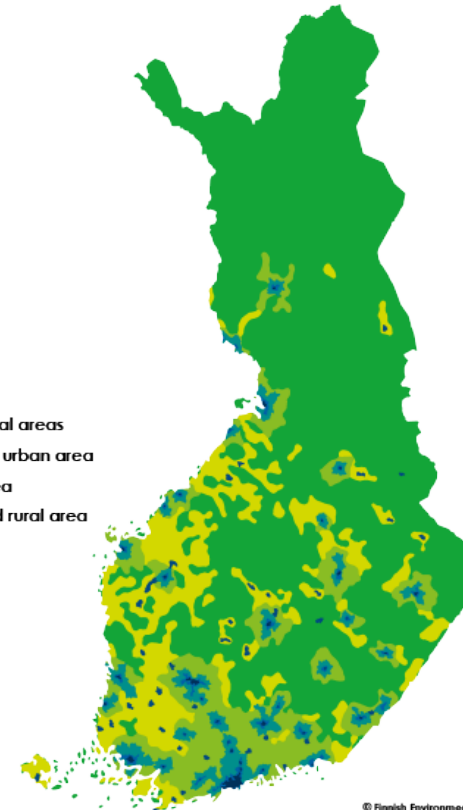
Variables describing among others population amount and density, accessibility, intensity, versatility on data on

- population,
- labour,
- commuting and buildings,
- DIGIROAD network,
- Corine Land Cover data.

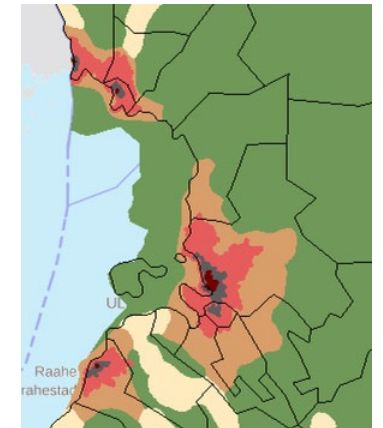
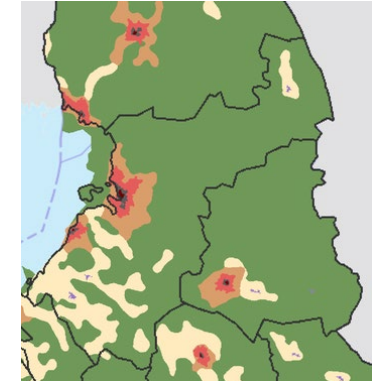


Note: based on GEOSTAT population grid from 2011, additional data from Columbia University, Center for International Earth Science Information Network - CIESIN (2015): GHS population grid, and NUTS 2016.
Source: Eurostat, JRC and European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy and Directorate-General Agriculture and Regional Development

- Inner urban area
- Outer urban area
- Peri-urban area
- Local centres in rural areas
- Rural area close to urban area
- Rural heartland area
- Sparsely populated rural area



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(For more info see [SYKE.fi](https://syke.fi))

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Functional Areas



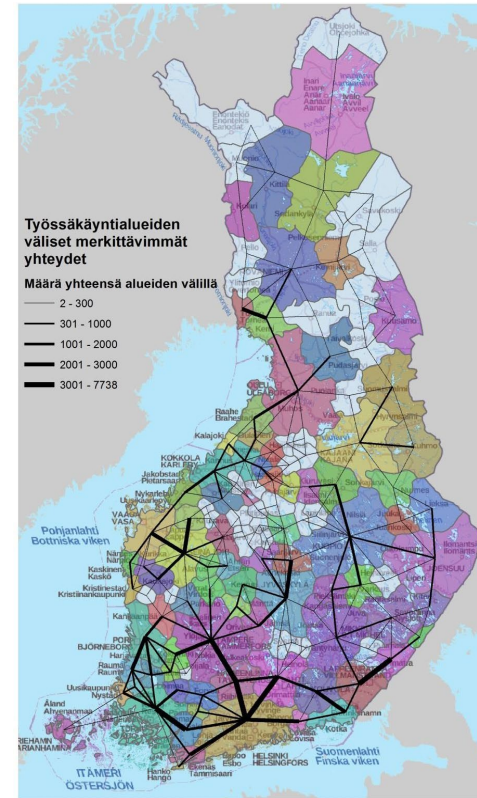
Urban-rural-continuum that doesn't cover the entire territory

Functional areas (to the left):

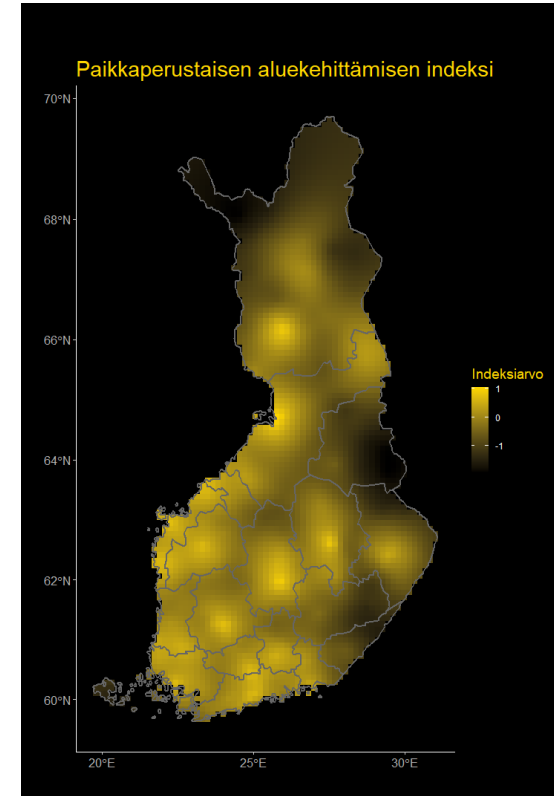
- describe the urban-rural continuum.
- include several different calculation algorithms.
- are based on commuting (orientation of), workplace self-sufficiency, the use of services (public, private). Also accessibility and concatenation of the orientation.
- Don't cover the entire land area.

Place-based index (to the right):

- Lower index values identifies areas that stand on their own, are not connected to, for example commuting areas, and thus do not benefit from the development of nearby areas.
- In an ideal world this would be the indicator for all policies.



Commuting areas with highest frequency (For more info see: [SYKE.fi](https://www.syke.fi)) Historic data before Covid-19 and the impact of remote work.



Place-based index: The small index values refer to areas where the need for development is the greatest if the aim is to develop areas and regions in a balanced manner.

- For more information contact Associate Professor Olli.Lehtonen@uef.fi.

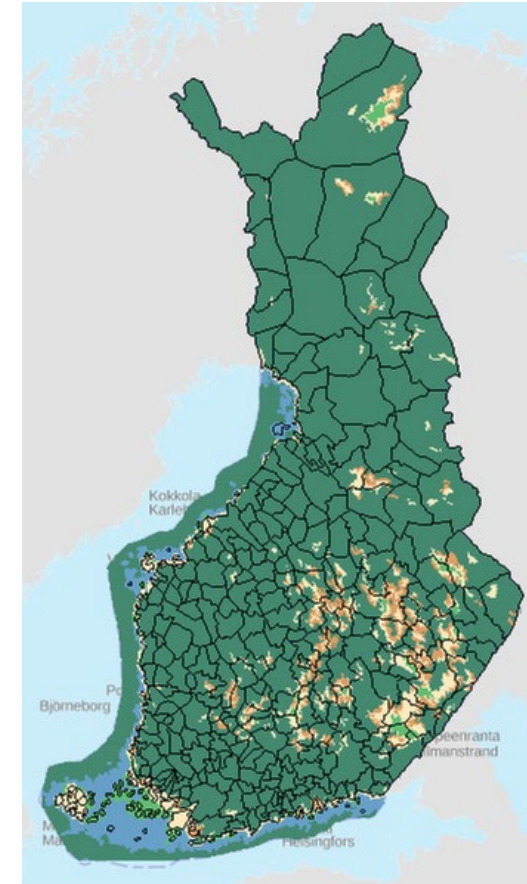
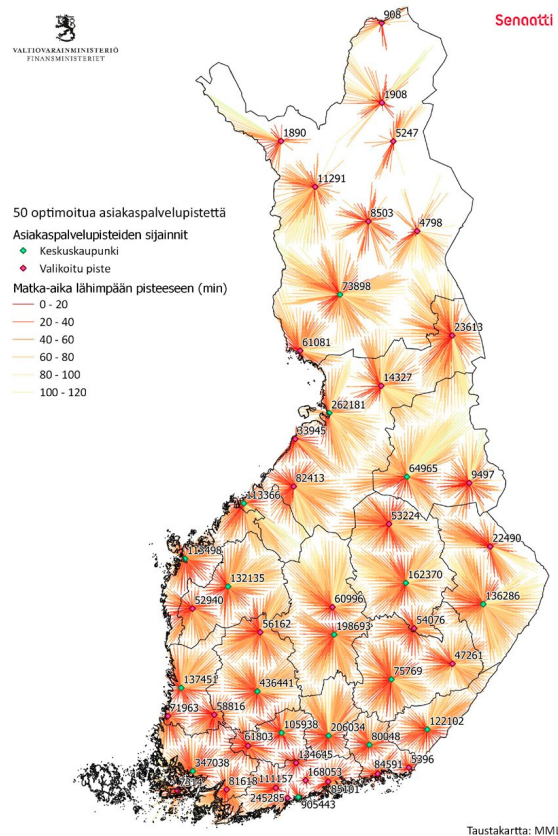
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To note...

In order to assess impacts on and in rural areas we also need...

- Information about experienced wellbeing and quality of life (time-series data).
- Cross-border data (the lack of can lead to false impressions /conclusions regarding some border-areas).
- Data on multilocality (still requires resources and measures).
- Data from the perspective of time (in the archipelago and inland water areas distance in time is central in addition to distance in kilometres).



Sources L to R:

[Ministry of Finance](#)

[Living environment
information service Liiteri](#)



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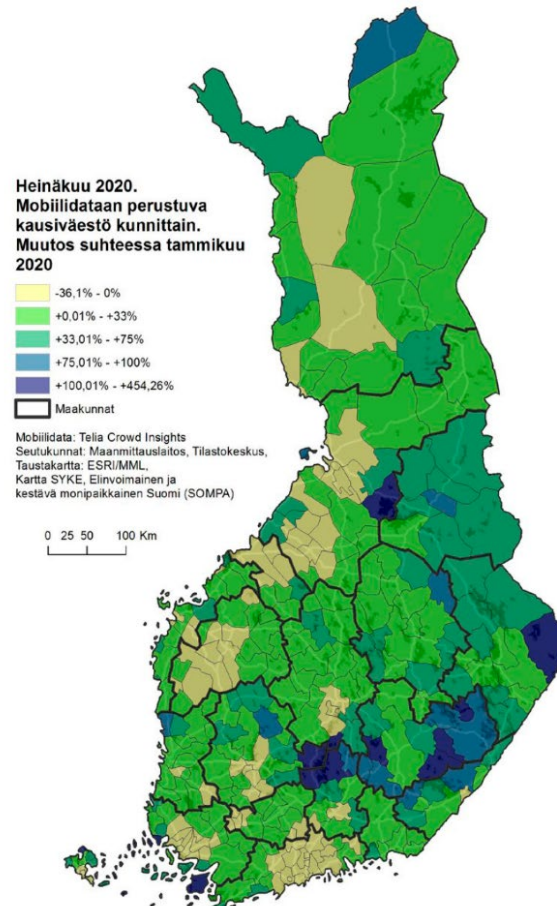
About multilocality

The “invisible” population and demography of rural areas - municipalities and regions

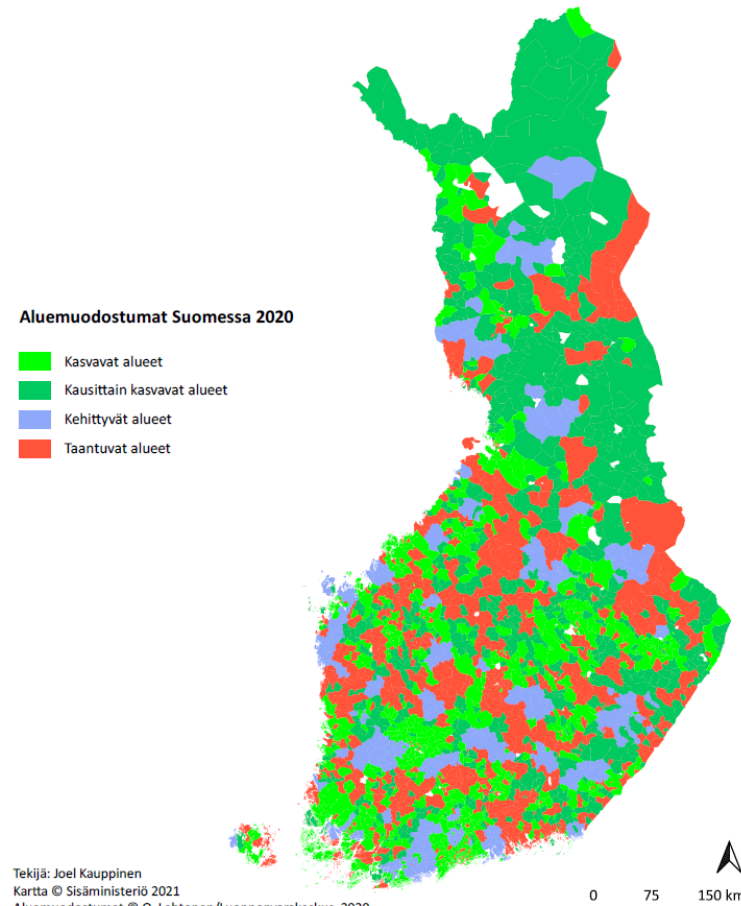
Needs to be identified in order to implement rural proofing.

Impacts on rural communities, municipalities and wellbeing counties in all parts of the country.

- Need for and provision of services (public and private).
- Impact on infrastructure (for example mobile networks) and traffic.
- Seasonal work etc. etc.
- Municipal and regional economy.



Part-time residents (mobiledata).
Dark blue areas +100,01 - +454,26 % (change between January and July)



Seasonally growing areas in green

Sources:

[Rannanpää et. al.](#)

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How can we use the data?



The case of “adapting and innovative rural areas”

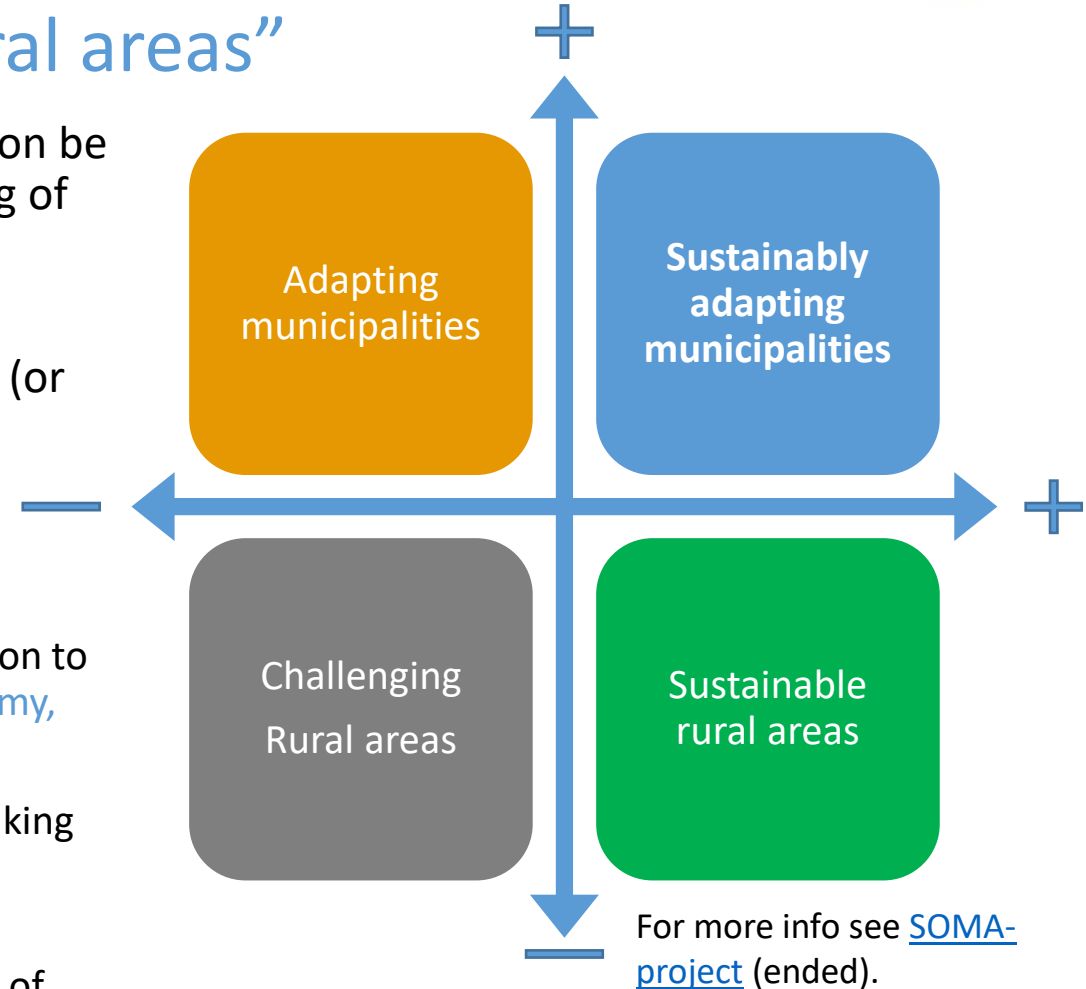
We asked: “Transition to a sustainable society: how can the transition be implemented in such a way as to ensure and promote the wellbeing of rural people and the prerequisites for rural communities and businesses?”.

The question relates to demographic change and *smart adaptation* (or “smart shrinking”).

Indicator of sustainable rural vitality:

- Created with 47 variables, municipal data (lack of geospatial data).
- Main component analysis enables municipalities with shrinking population to be examined from the perspective of [demographic development](#), [economy](#), [wellbeing](#), [inclusion](#) and [sustainable development](#).
- Provides a more complex overall picture than simple sum variables by taking into account the weight of different variables from the perspective of sustainable viability.

➤ Case studies on the municipalities that are sustainably adapting, despite of the demographic challenge.



What information is needed?

More precise, customized and even unusual perspectives on/of data

- The Rural Observatory can be valuable in producing and bringing forth information needed to realize better rural policies (overall in the different policy sectors) at the EU-level
 - information on the state and development of **different rural areas** within the EU.
 - a clear and up-to-date overall picture of rural areas within the EU.
- What is the task and mandate of the Rural Observatory?
 - Is the role to collect and analyze information?
 - Will it produce recommendations?
 - How does it correspond to existing mechanisms and structures (for example ENRD and JRC)?
 - What is the relation to the rural pact coordination group?
 - What is its role considering the policy area setting process?
- Cooperation with the OECD is desirable (OECD principles on rural policy, rural proofing etc.).



Thank you

