

# High-level Rural Policy Forum

## *Shaping the future of rural areas*

Agenda  
Rural de  
Catalunya



**Session 6: Harnessing rural talent through entrepreneurship and the social economy**

**Odisseu: Bringing back the youth to rural areas in Spain**

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**Sigüenza, Spain. September 28<sup>th</sup>**

# Catalan Rural Pact

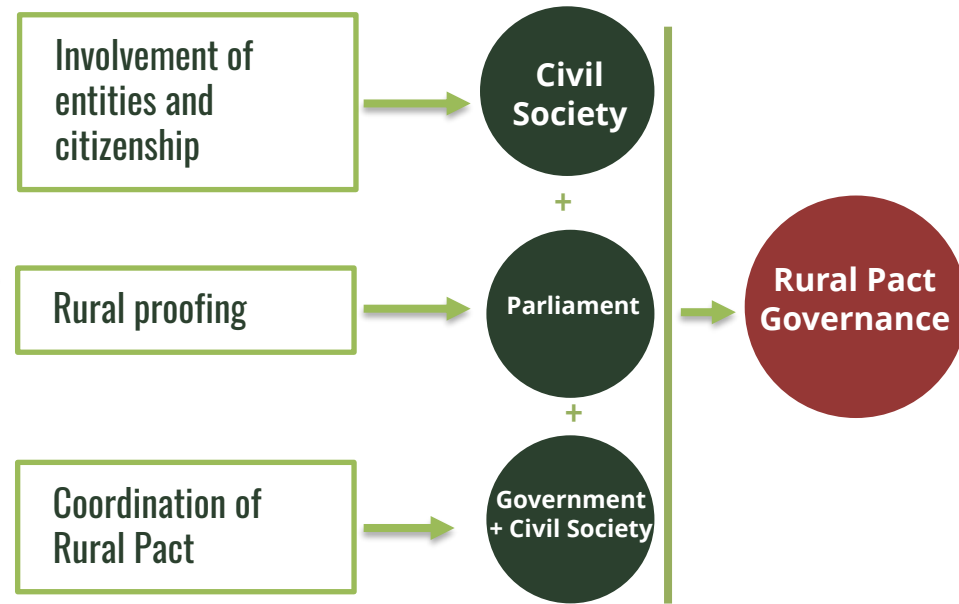
Result of a Participatory process carried out in 2021 and recognised by Catalan government in May 2022

Facing those challenges implies to develop transversal policies and involve all the government

	<b>1 PEOPLE, WELL-BEING AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE</b> Guaranteeing social rights, decent services and ensuring a living rural world	208 ACTION
	<b>2 ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION</b> For a circular economy that tackles climate change and facilitates biodiversity	138 ACTION
	<b>3 CONNECTED TERRITORY</b> A balanced Catalonia in the field of communications	58 ACTION
	<b>4 AGRI-FOOD SYSTEM</b> Moving towards food	189 ACTION
	<b>5 FORESTRY SYSTEM</b> Promoting sustainable forest management and harvesting	91 ACTION
	<b>6 INNOVATION, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DYNAMISATION</b> Ensuring essential economic services, generating jobs, opportunities and innovation in the rural economy	144 ACTION
	<b>7 GOVERNANCE</b> Decentralising and democratising participation and decision making	56 ACTION

7 Challenges and 892 actions in total

HOW ARE WE DOING IT?



**Civil Society** = Rural Pact Steering Committee (35 entities) + Leader  
**Government** = Interdepartmental Committee of Rural Governance  
**Parliament** = *working in a Committee of Deputies*

# Facing challenge 1 = Bringing back the youth to rural areas in Catalonia



**Leader cooperation project** that aims to encourage and facilitate the return and settlement of young people in rural areas promoting youth employment

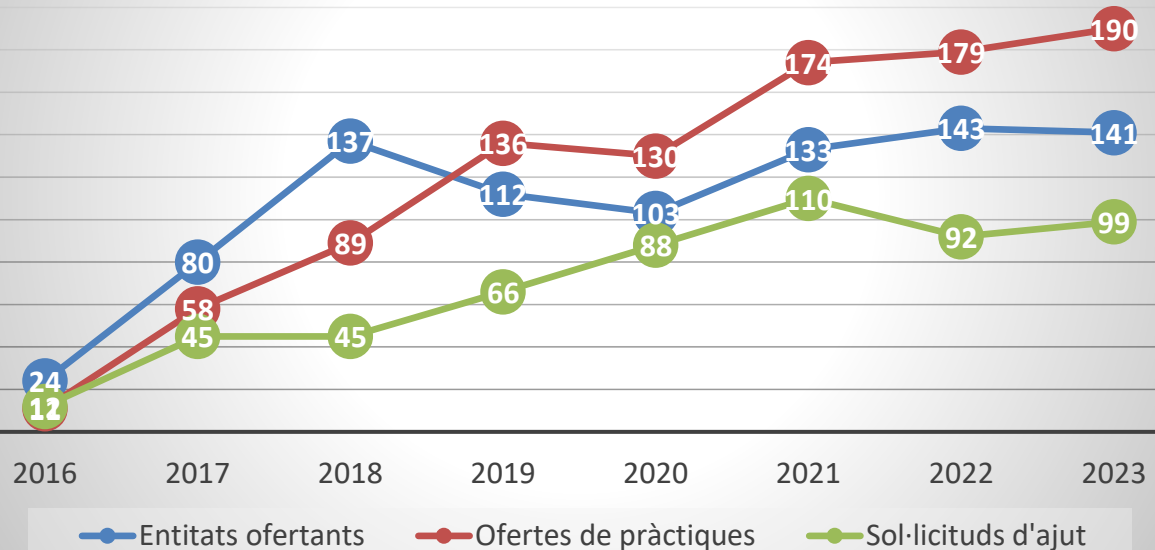
## Different actions and tools:

- 'RETORNA' LinkedIn Database of young professionals
- **Practicum Odisseu grants**
- 'Viure a Rural': welcoming new inhabitants ([www.viurearural.cat](http://www.viurearural.cat))

**What:** The student receives a grant (50% from the project and 50% from the company). **The result is a paid Scholarship with high probability of being hired by the company**

**Duration:** minimum 300 hours.  
**When:** specially on summer (end of the academic year).  
**Target:** university students (degree/master) (more than 50% of the credits finished).

## Company offers, Scholarship offers and Youngs granted



**388 scholarships in total = 51 job created, 12%**

**Governance of the project: Leader + Youth Department + Rural Agenda Department + Universities**

# Policy recommendations

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- ✓ Facing /solving rural challenges needs a **global political approach** and making up **transversal policies**:
  - Real **dialogue** between different Departments of Governments. (Political and technical dialogue)
  - Real dialogue between **national and regional** Governments. (Political and technical dialogue)
  - Developing **Rural Pacts at a regional level** (Civil Society + Parliaments + Governments).
- ✓ Considering the **Leader methodology** is a very good way of assuring the participation of **local governments and a bottom up approach** developing rural policies.
- ✓ Rural Policies and Rural Pacts need **technical and political support** at all levels (European, Nacional and Regional level).
- ✓ Face the **rural proofing** is a Key factor.