



#rural2040

Long-term vision for rural areas – draft 2040 scenarios

*TG LTRV workshop
27 January 2021*

Main steps of foresight process



Identification of
drivers &
scenario logic

22 & 23
September 2020
& 20 October
2020



Development of
scenario
outlines

November 2020



Enriching and
exploring
scenarios

2 & 3 December
2020



Final report &
conference

March 2021

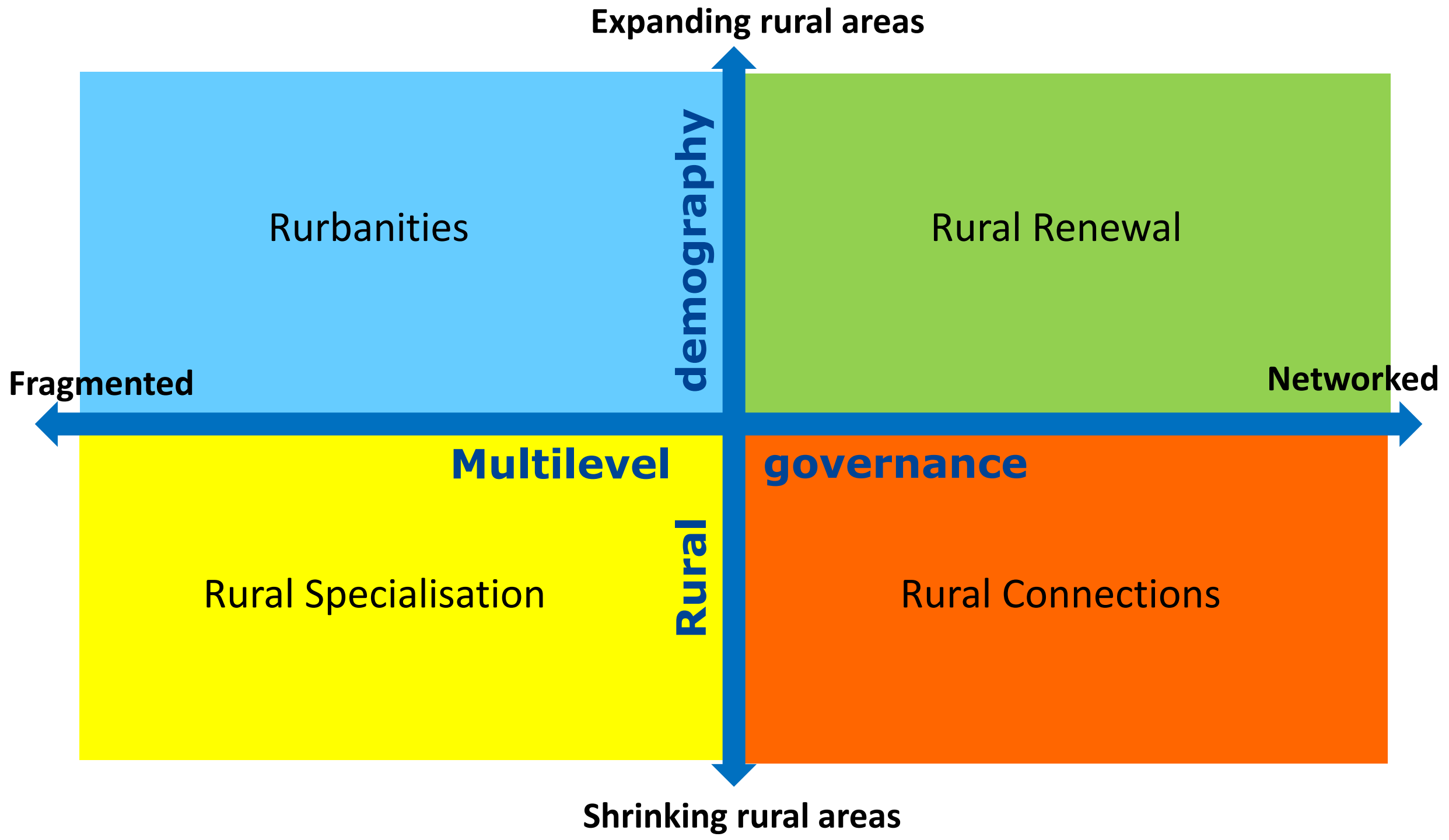
Scenarios

- NOT A FORECAST!
- Scenarios are used
 - to highlight possible futures and their opportunities and challenges
 - to explore the future through stories (creative combination of data, facts and hypotheses)
- Think the unthinkable!



Scenario characteristics

- **Plausibility:**
The scenario narrative must fall within the limits of what might conceivably happen
- **Internal consistency:**
The combination of logics within a scenario must not have any built-in inconsistency that could undermine the credibility of the scenario
- **Differentiation:**
The scenarios should be structurally different, not too close to each other (i.e. simply variations of a base case)
- **Decision-making utility:**
They should provide specific insights into the future that will support decision-making



Scenario 1 – Rurbanities

Expanding rural areas/ Fragmented ML governance



- Economic opportunities & competition & isolated national/regional approaches
- Favourable conditions for living and working in rural areas
- Entrepreneurial spirit, important role of private sector to drive environmental sustainability, bioeconomy
- Post-COVID rise in inequalities & individualised urban lifestyles limits community building, NIMBYs
- Rural sprawl, competition for land use, mixed farming structure
- Reactive climate change policies, comparatively slow sustainability transition, efficiency & technology focus

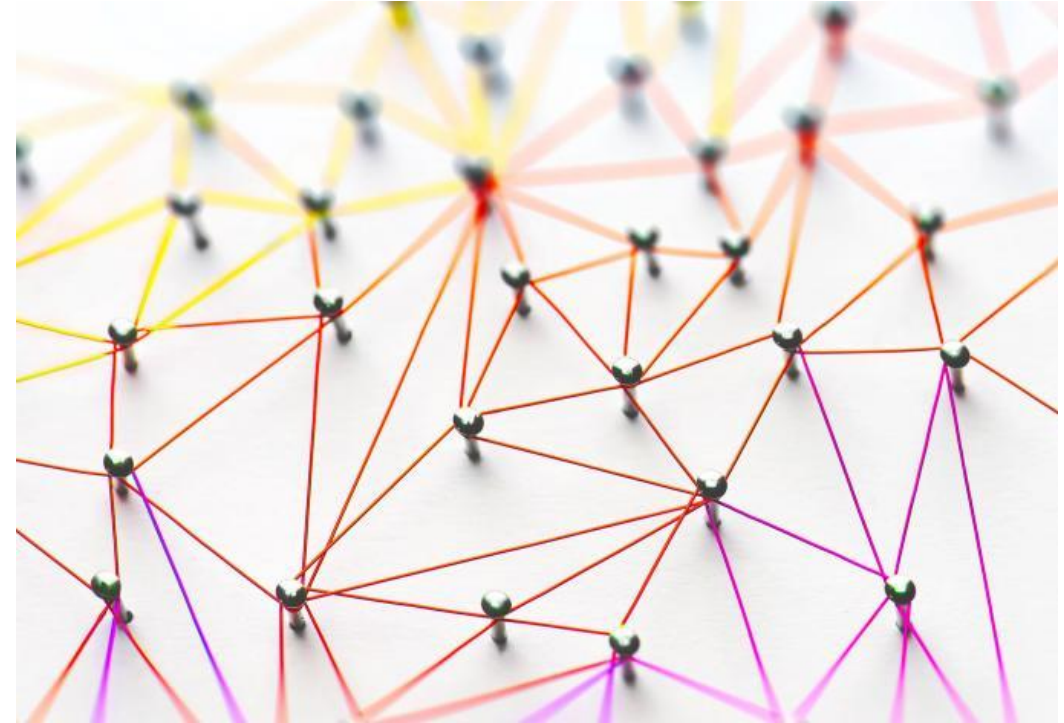


Scenario 2 – Rural Renewal

Expanding rural areas/ Networked ML governance



- Society-driven green transition, open government, liquid democracy
- Active community building
- Profound lifestyle change & related experimentation
- Community infrastructure – transport, digital, commons
- Circular economy, less trade in goods
- Small scale farming, multifunctional land use



Scenario 3 – Rural Connections

Shrinking rural areas/ Networked ML governance



- Managed rural transition & Integrated EU of Regions
- Rural hubs are community and activity centres, synergies
- Digitalisation enables living and working in rural areas
- Decentralisation of infrastructure, Do-it-yourself attitude
- Bottom-up, self-organisation
- Recognition of rural areas for services
- Large scale agriculture, areas for ecosystem and carbon services



Scenario 4 – Rural Specialisation

Shrinking rural areas/ fragmented ML governance



- Steep population decline & long-term economic stagnation
- Rural areas = resources & recreation for urban population
- Large scale agriculture and other facilities
- Dedicated areas for rewilding and conservation
- Technology-driven climate change mitigation and adaptation approaches

