

# Rural Future Scenarios

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- 2030 will be soon
- Nordic-Baltic & rural development policy frame
- Which **drivers** are we dealing with?
- What do people do and where to they live in **alternative futures**?
- What implications for RDP?

## Rural

- Matter of **space** as an asset
- Labelled mainly by **decentralised solutions**
- **Place-based**: territorial, not sectorial; based on the resources and will of those living and acting in the place

## Future

- Path-dependent
- Scenarios try to capture some aspects of alternative trajectories

## Development states

- Relevant socio-economic dimensions for rural futures

# Futures table for rural economy

(Applied based on Kuhmonen & Kuhmonen 2014,33)

Environment	Local.....Global
Settlement	Decentralised.....Centralised
Regions and people	Equality.....Inequality
Structuring	Homogenous.....Heterogenous
Welfare	Material.....Immaterial
Security of supply	Dependence.....Independence
Renewal	Stability.....Change
Sustainability	Responsible.....Selfish
Agency	Private.....Public
Base of transactions	Trust.....Distrust
Decision making	Authoritarian.....Democratic

# Drivers 1

- Globalisation
- Climate change → migration
- Digitisation & robotization
- Ageing population
- Fossil → bio-fuels and renewable raw materials
- Change in agriculture and food
- Insecurity
- Changing economic, political and military position of the Arctic region

# Drivers 2

- Urbanisation or rather multiple residences?
- Functions of urban and rural areas as sites affected by
  1. production-related changes (e.g. 3D printing)
  2. trade-related changes (e.g. future role of shops and malls)
  3. work-related changes

## Scenario 1: rural areas as colonies

- Instrumental approach
- Source of raw materials (minerals, bioeconomy)
- Utilized by international business organisations, local subcontractors
- Some rural jobs, fragile
- Less attention to environmental norms
- Neglect of rural population
- Neglect of infrastructure (just for extraction sites which may move)
- Diminishing accessibility
- Weakening local communities and civic action
- Distrust and overrun democratic institutions

## Scenario 2: business as usual

- Centralizing services and structures, deteriorating infrastructure
- Project-based development activities, weak regional policy
- Motivated but ageing local actors
- Declining population
- Local breakthroughs as to business and service innovations
- Multiple residences, but only one official address
- Diversifying economy, but growing regional disparities also inside the rural areas
- Schizophrenic relationship to the environment: source of bioeconomy, green care, experiences and ecosystem services
- Land use conflicts because of competing needs
- Dependence on public regulations, decisions and subsidies



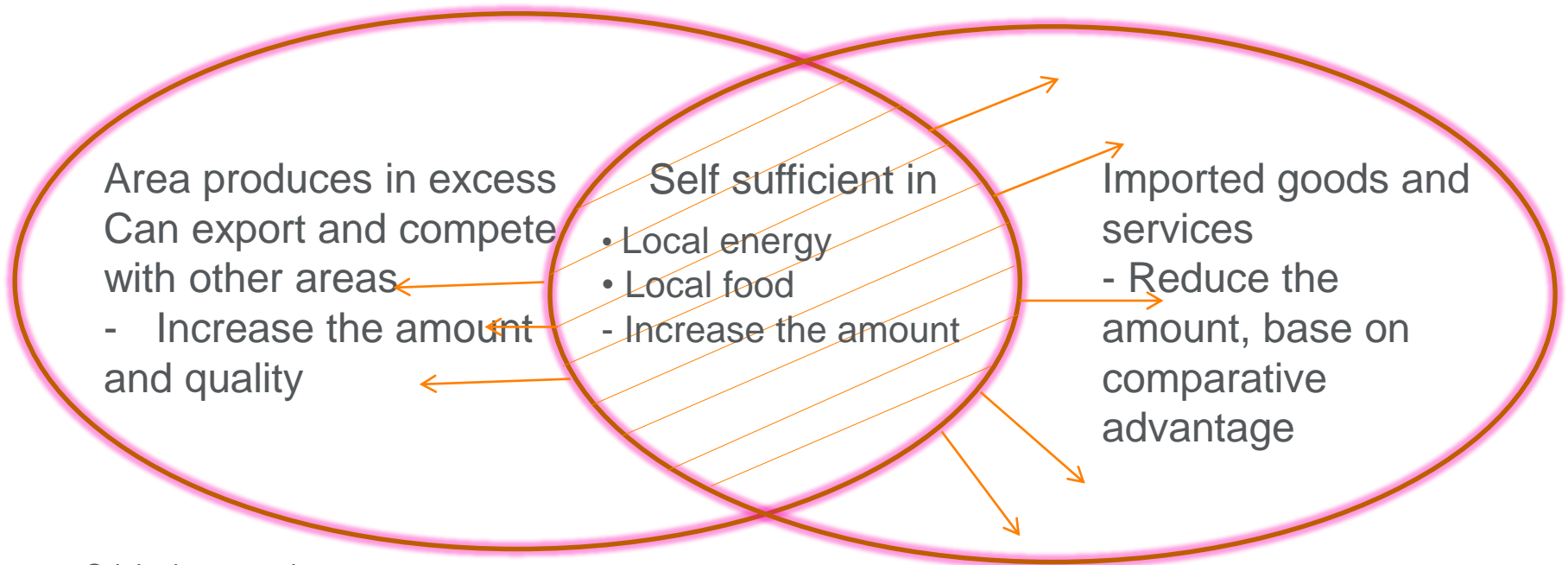
## Scenario 3: Vibrant Rural Future

- Space an asset and source of wellbeing for the whole nation
- Diversified economy: sophisticated use of natural resources e.g. bioeconomy combined with digitisation
- Environmental resilience hand in hand with the resilience of rural communities
- Varying combinations of centralised and decentralised solutions
- Location-independent work
- Strengthened self-efficacy of rural actors
- Transparent policy and efficient administration
- Networking, co-operation and mutual trust
- Readiness to receive (climate change) migrants
- Increased self-sufficiency as a result of place-based, tailored innovations

# Sustainable rural bioeconomy

Production in the area

Consumption in the area



Original concept by  
Jukka Lokka, 2014

# Policy implications

- Need of rural growth policy, attitudinal change, also as to agriculture and bioeconomy
- Division of labour: RDP a complement to permanent regional and rural policy
- Holistic planning of programmes: the whole action chain in mind, also impact evaluation
- Simplified administration, harmonised programme rules
- However, flexibility of measures nationally, regionally and in time
- innovation development co-created, and facilitated professionally
- Digital infrastructure that works
- Resilience (energy, food, communities)
- Regulations that encourage local, flexible, low hierarchy ownership of action and assets
- Continue strengthening rural actors (whoever they may be)
- Proactivity as to global changes: climate change refugees, changing behaviour because of increasing insecurity
- Strengthening the structures of democracy

Thank you!

