

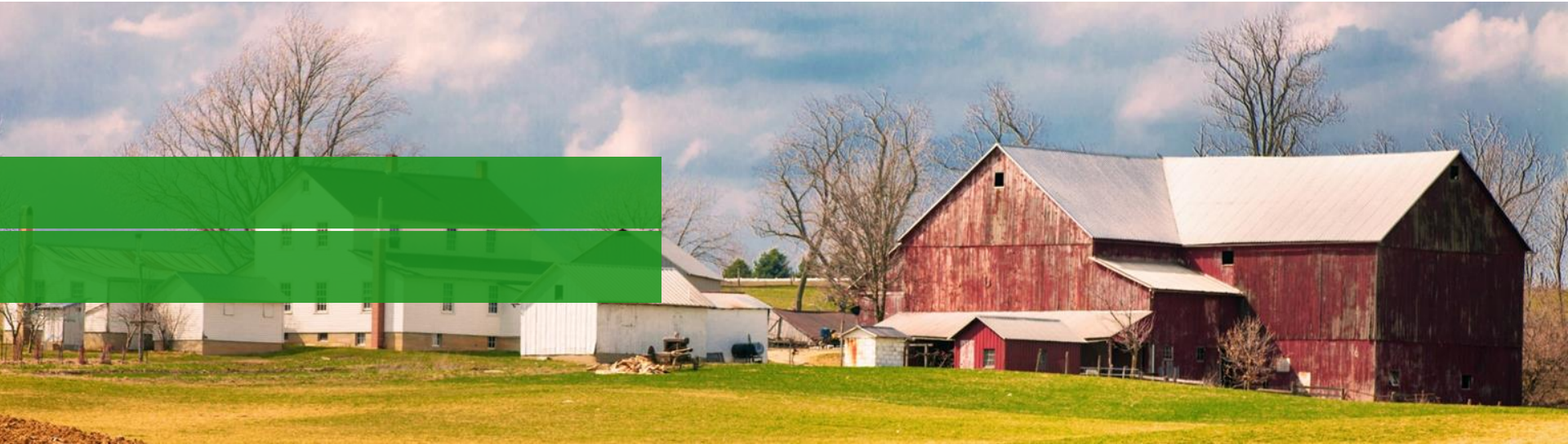
Digital Tools for Rural Development Planning. Results of the POLIRURAL Project “Foresight for the Mission-Oriented Development of Rural Regions”

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The Mission Oriented Approach



We live in a time of unprecedented change. Dealing with disruption is no longer the exception. It is the new normal. Dealing with the climate crisis alone requires the decarbonization of all industry sectors, including farming, along with radical life-style changes as illustrated by the havoc created by recent cost of energy increases...

To create an attractive prosperous future we need to do things differently. This is why the EU has emphasized a Mission Oriented Approach. This is exemplified by long-term high-level goals such as...

- NET ZERO by **2050** (what is your target... sector by sector?)
- LTVRA by **2040** (what does that look like for you?)
- FIT for 55 by **2030** (what is your target... Sector by sector?)

These are implemented by changes to EU Programs which focus on **IMPACT** and **INTERVENTION LOGIC** of **ALIGNMENT** with long-term and intermediate targets

The 5 missions of HE (addressing common challenges up to 2027)

- **Climate Change** (150 resilient regions...)
- Cancer (3 million peoples lives improved...)
- **Oceans and Waters** (restored coasts, wetlands, rivers...)
- Climate neutral cities (100 cities and communities...)
- **The Soil Deal** (100 Living Labs and Lighthouses...)

The Link with Regional Foresight

The MOA is not a new idea. What is new is the emphasis on the MOA. It is not just for the EU. It is increasingly an internationally adopted practice. As illustrated by the recent launch of a series of international Innovation Missions involving international partners in areas such as maritime transport and advanced biofuels.

National, regional and local planning authorities need to adopt it as well. They need to do so across all policy areas and across all scales rural, urban, village... and at all levels of governance.

The EU has called for such changes in its approach to recent **CAP REFORM** and with regard to the GREEN DEAL and its associated **RECOVERY** and **RESILIENCE FUND**. In these cases regions...

- Have not been adequately **CONSULTED** by central government
- Their **NEEDS** are not adequately reflected in national plans
- They have not been granted adequate **AGENCY** or **AUTONOMY**
- Their role in **MEASURING** and **MONITORING** progress is not addressed
- The issue of **FINANCING** is an open question

The MOA is not just about goals and targets. It is also about methods and means. The adoption of the MOA at local level requires

- **LOCAL MISSIONS** (the EU has called for local green deals etc.)
- **ALIGNMENT** with international, EU and national missions
- **COMPLETE POLICY SOLUTIONS** that include **STUDIES, PILOTS, SCALE-UPS, LEGISLATION, FINANCE, MEASUREMENT** and **MONITORING**.

This is where **REGIONAL FORESIGHT** has a role to play. The POLIRURAL project has provided a framework for conducting Foresight for rural regions, in line with the MOA.

This approach emphasizes that **SUCCESS MEANS IMPLEMENTATION** not reports.

The approach has been aligned with the Long Term Vision for Rural areas (**LTVRA, 2040**)

- **STRONG** (**GOVERNANCE, PILOT, SCALE-UP, FINANCE...**)
- **CONNECTED** (physically and digitally)
- **RESILIENT** (pandemics, extreme weather, economic crisis...)
- **PROSPEROUS** (Farmers, new entrants, entrepreneurs...)

The Need for Tools to Support Regional Foresight

FORESIGHT has along history, stretching back more than 50 years.

It is primarily a **CHANGE MANGEMENT TOOL** based on

- **BOTTOM-UP** processes of engagement with **BENEFICIARIES** to capture **SOME** challenges and needs
- **TOP-DOWN** processes of engagement with **ACTORS** who will make sure that the plans really do happen

A successful Foresight initiative is one which ends up with

- A complete set of new **PROGRAMS** designed and launched
- The **FINANCE** to make them happen found
- All needed new **LEGISLATION** adopted.

Getting to that point typically requires the creation of

- A **VISION** that is endorsed by the beneficiaries
- An **ACTION PLAN** agreed by both the beneficiaries and the actors
- A **ROADMAP** to clarify timing of delivery and assign responsibility
- A process for **MONITORING** implementation.



Ultimately Foresight is a **COLLECTIVE LEARNING PROCESS**. It requires lots of reading, thinking writing and deciding. On topics that are often technical, new to most of those involved, and hard to understand in terms of how they **INTERACT** with each other and the economy **OVER TIME...**

The POLIRURAL project has therefore provided a range of tools to support regional Foresight processes. These include a range of **iNVENTORIES** of drivers of change and **POLICY FINANCE OPTIONS**, **METHODOLOGY GUIDES** and other resources including guides to deep dives on **COVID and RESILIENCE**, **CAP REFORM**, and **THE GREEN DEAL**.

To help people understand the interactions between different measures an issues, the dynamics of policy mixes and how policy measures play out over time to impact the region, the project also developed some interactive online tools based on the **SYSTEM DYNAMICS** modelling paradigm. They include

- **A POLICY OPTIONS EXPLORER**
- **A RURAL ATTRACTIVENESS EXPLORER**

But you will hear more about those from other speakers later on.