GRANULAR

Better knowledge for better rural policies

Living-Labs in rural areas: How to?

27th November 2023

Online meeting

**Co-funded by
the European Union**

WHY GRANULAR?

Highlights from the High Level Rural Policy Forum

- Implement an effective and **transparent rural proofing** at European and national levels

- Enhance the **granularity of data** (going to local levels) for better information by urging EU support for more **indicators at municipal levels**

- **Improve data collection**, including municipal level data, making the difference between rural areas close to a city and remote rural areas by further **supporting local capacity to collect data and involving local actors in the design of indicators that account for local level reality**

Tailored approaches to governance structures

Long-term planning and **anticipating the future**

Balancing different objectives of various administrations requires a **non-partisan, long-term policy for rural areas**

WHAT IS GRANULAR?

Project information

GRANULAR

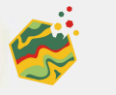**GIVING RURAL ACTORS**   **NOVEL DATA AND RE-USEABLE TOOLS**

TO LEAD PUBLIC ACTION IN RURAL AREAS

Support just digital, economic and ecological transitions in rural areas through integrated place-based evidence and multi-actor processes
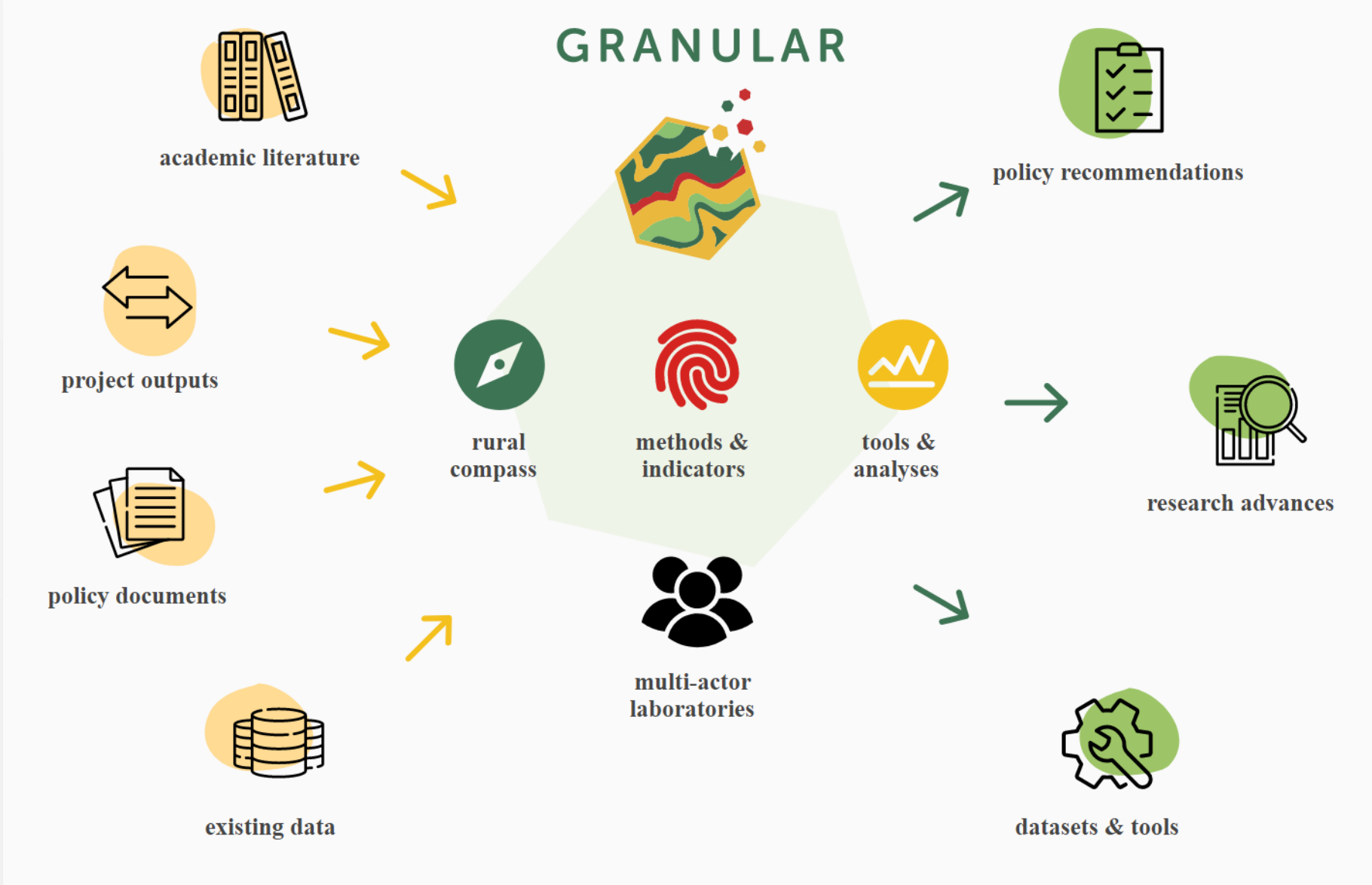
- Conceptualise the diversity of features and functionalities of rural areas

- Enrich knowledge for rural actors on the diversity of rural areas, their functional characteristics, challenges and opportunities

- Empower rural actors to engage into just, carbon-neutral, inclusive transitions

Our approach

Our consortium
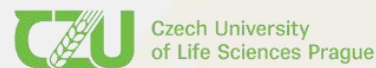
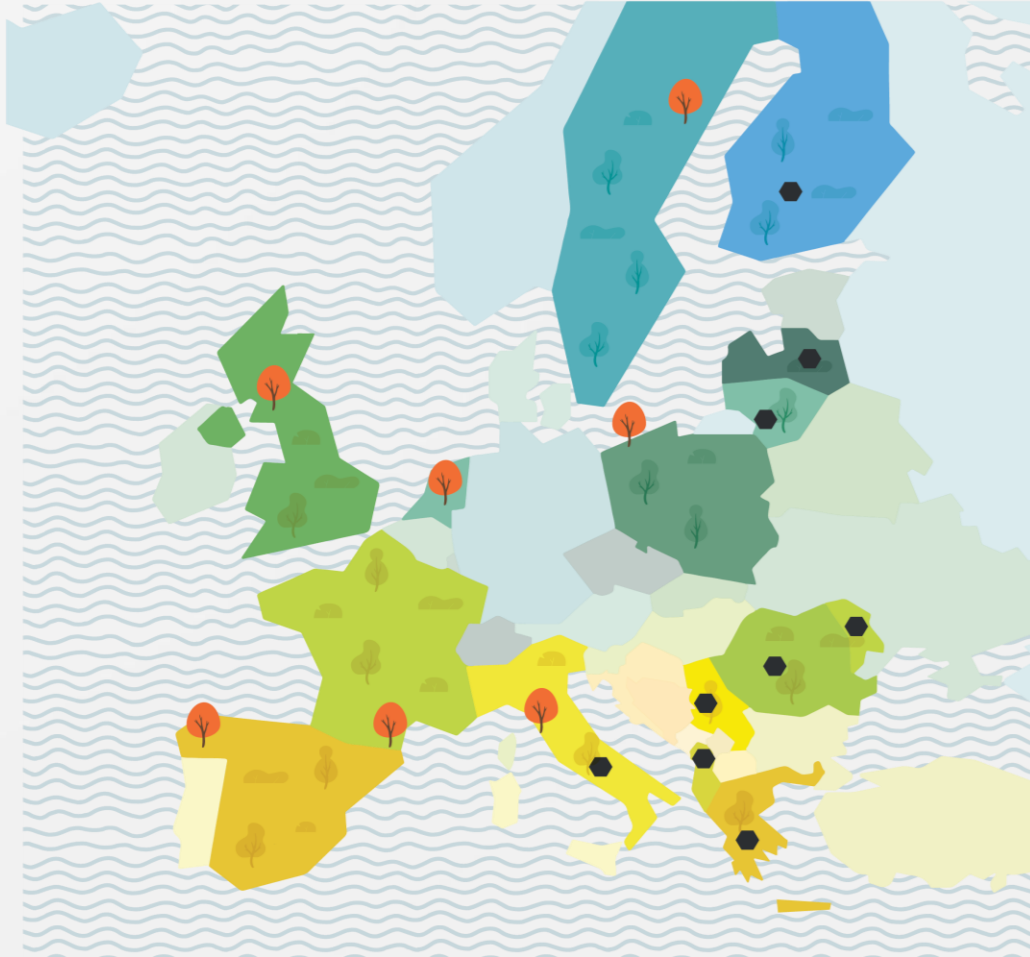# HOW?

Multi-Actor Labs

GRANULAR uses **co-creation** and **participatory methods** in 16 pilot territories across Europe to capture the diversity of rural situations from a local perspective
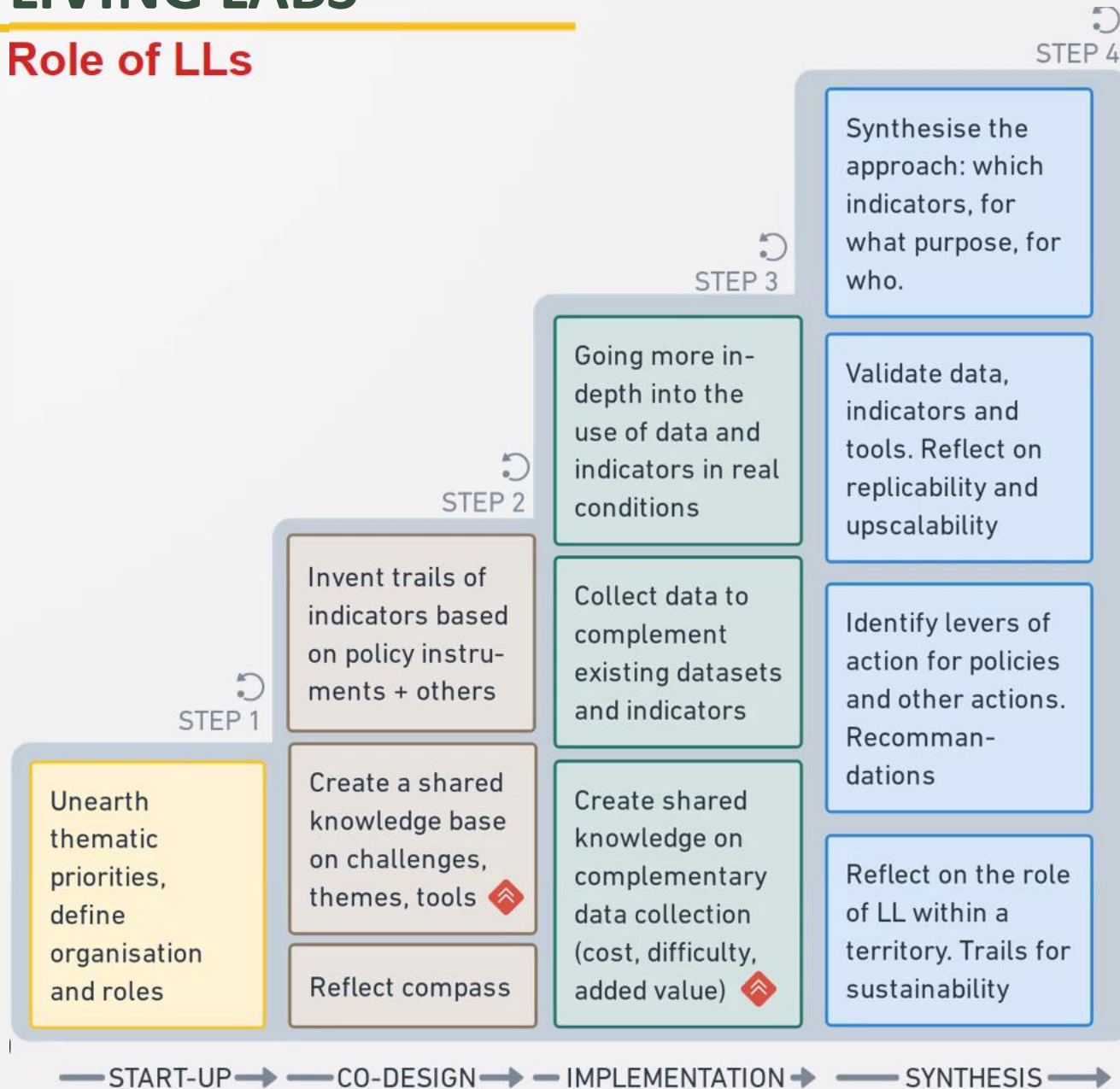
7 LIVING LABS

to co-design, test and validate concepts, data, indicators, methods and tools
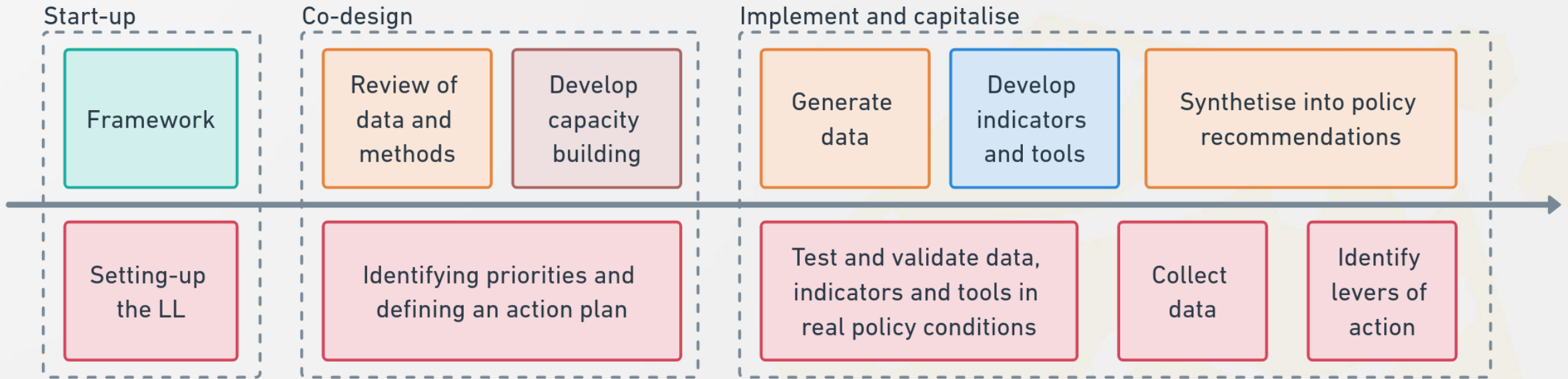
9 REPLICATION LABS

to assess how to replicate the tools and methods in other rural contexts

Role of LLs

An arena to discuss rural diversity, territorial challenges and to propose indicators and recommandations to guide public action

- **Multi-actor:** to reflect a wide range of needs and levers of action to guide transitions under global change
- **Outcomes:** co-designing tools and indicators and testing them, discussion on process of rural development
- **How?** Participatory workshops, group exercices, interviews, questionnaires

STEP 4

Synthesise the approach: which indicators, for what purpose, for who.

STEP 3

Validate data, indicators and tools. Reflect on replicability and upscalability

Going more in-depth into the use of data and indicators in real conditions

STEP 2

Invent trails of indicators based on policy instruments + others

Collect data to complement existing datasets and indicators

Identify levers of action for policies and other actions. Recommandations

STEP 1

Unearth thematic priorities, define organisation and roles

Create a shared knowledge base on challenges, themes, tools

Reflect compass

Create shared knowledge on complementary data collection (cost, difficulty, added value)

Reflect on the role of LL within a territory. Trails for sustainability

START-UP → CO-DESIGN → IMPLEMENTATION → SYNTHESIS →

LIVING LABS

Links with other part of the project and contributions

Start-up

Co-design

Implement and capitalise

| Framework | Review of data and methods | Develop capacity building | Generate data | Develop indicators and tools | Synthetise into policy recommendations |

| Setting-up the LL | Identifying priorities and defining an action plan | Test and validate data, indicators and tools in real policy conditions | Collect data | Identify levers of action |

DATA, INDICATORS AND TOOLS

- Support local needs
- Generate new data
- Identify trends, provide analyses on specific issues

POLICY SUPPORT

- Potential contribution to datasets
- Tools for elaboration/ proofing /monitoring/evaluation

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

- Share common issues and solutions between labs
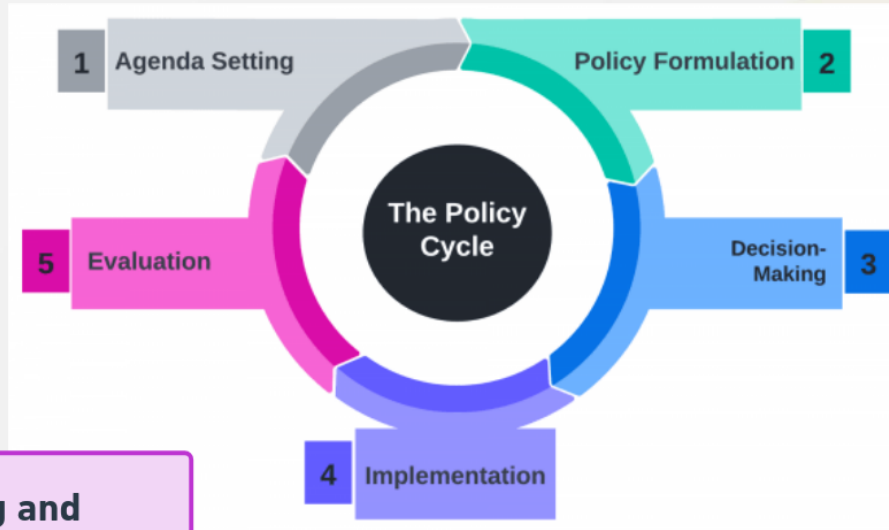- Exchange on issues with Regional/EU

Co-define policy agenda and synchronise with research agenda
based on objective evidence, with support from researchers

Channel evidence (quant/qual) into a transparent decision-making process

Co-design monitoring and evaluation indicators that are results-based with researchers and stakeholders

Key enablers: sustainable science policy society interfaces, internal capacity building, process transparency, partnerships with local universities

DISCUSSION

Recommendations

Better evidence to move away from simplistic narratives
Many rural services are not captured. Official statistical processes should be more sensitive to rural diversity and specificities.

Objective evidence as a basis for fruitful interfaces
Importance of having a nuanced and non-subjective picture, informed by evidence, to enable productive workshops.

Aligning and managing expectations
Research and practice can have different timing and priorities. Communication is key to avoid frustration.

Generalise to fail or fail to generalise
Scale of analysis is critical for generating relevant evidence. Mixed methods are essential (qualitative/quantitative).

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