

# One, None or Thousands Ruralities: A New Vision Based on Functionalities

**Knowledge Transfer | 2<sup>nd</sup> activity**  
23/02/2024 (11:00- 12:30 CET time), online

Historically, rural areas have been characterised primarily by population density and proximity to urban centres. However, **this approach oversimplifies reality and neglects the wide variety of rural areas**, encompassing various functionalities and rural-urban interactions. A call to deepen our understanding of **rural diversity** was also emphasized in latest [EU Council conclusions on the EU's Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas \(LTVRA\)](#) as a milestone to foster place-based rural development and the delivery of EU's policies and strategies (e.g., Cohesion Policy, Common Agricultural Policy, LTVRA).

In this webinar, we aim to introduce an **innovative perspective on understanding rural diversity through the lens of rural (multi)functionalities**. A '[Scoping report on rural typologies across Europe](#)' will furnish an analysis of the current state-of-the-art **rural typologies**. Thus, we will delve into a **new conceptual framework** to understand rural areas building on their functionalities and synergies with urban territories.

Leveraging the latest findings from the Horizon Europe [RUSTIK](#) and [GRANULAR](#) projects, we will kickstart a discussion on the imperative for more comprehensive rural typologies for assessment and statistical purposes at both EU and national levels.

## PROGRAMME

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|---------------|--|
| 11:00 – 11:05 | Welcome & Introduction, <i>Serafin Pazos Vidal, EU Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL)</i>   |
| 11:05 – 11:20 | Overview of Rural Typologies in Europe, <i>Mats Stjernber, NordRegio, GRANULAR project</i>   |
| 11:20 – 11:35 | Rural Multi-Functionalities, <i>Henk Oostindie, Wageningen University, GRANULAR project</i>  |
| 11:35 – 11:50 | Developing a Definition for Functional Rural Areas, <i>Lewis Dijkstra (Joint Research Centre)</i>  |
| 11:50 – 12:05 | Functional Rural Areas and Beyond: Other Definitions, <i>Francesco Mantino, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA), RUSTIK project</i>   |
| 12:05 – 12:25 | Discussion with <i>Lewis Dijkstra (Joint Research Centre), Mats Stjernber (NordRegio), Henk Oostindie (Wageningen University), Francesco Mantino (CREA)</i> . Moderated by <i>Serafin Pazos Vidal (AEIDL)</i> .<br><i>Interaction with the public.</i> |
| 12:25 – 12:30 | Conclusions, <i>Carla Lostrangio, European Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL)</i>   |

For more information, please contact [aeidl@ruralgranular.eu](mailto:aeidl@ruralgranular.eu)

## Background resources

[Synthesis report on the multi-spatial understandings of rural diversity and rural policy notions \(September 2023\)](#) [GRANULAR]

[Prototype Rural Diversity Compass](#) [GRANULAR]

[Scoping of rural typologies for the EU](#) [GRANULAR]

[Report on the methodological framework to define Functional Rural Areas and rural transitions](#) [RUSTIK]

Dijkstra, L. and Jacobs-Crisioni, C., [Developing a definition of Functional Rural Areas in the EU, European Commission, 2023, JRC135599.](#)

