



GRANULAR

Newsletter 4 - April 2024

GRANULAR General Assembly: progress over the last 18 months and the way forward

On March 28th GRANULAR's General Assembly took place and retraced the progress and **successes of the last 18 months** and explored the way forward. Upcoming activities and results are topical in the framework of the current post-2027 EU Policy development as acknowledged by the EU Commission's stocktaking report on the Long-Term Vision of Rural Areas.

[FIND OUT MORE!](#)

GRANULAR NEWS



Prototype Rural Diversity Compass

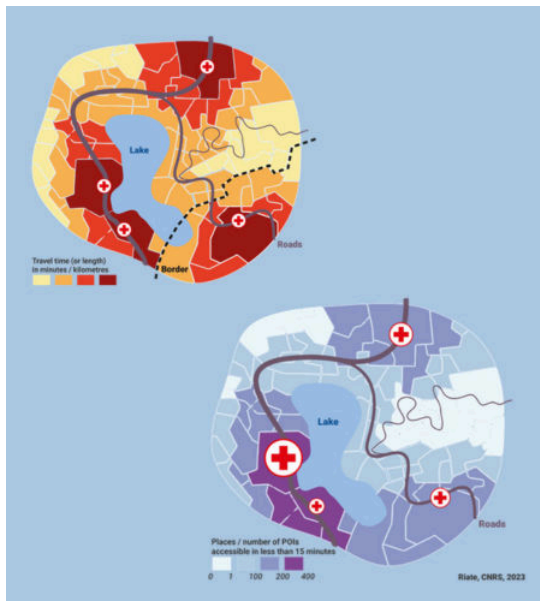
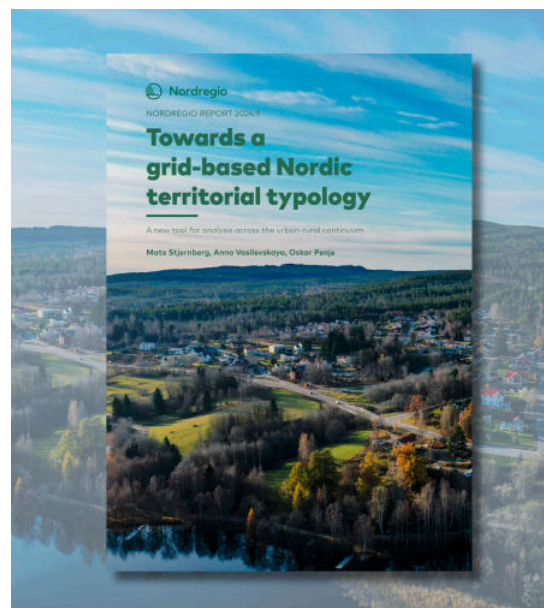
Building on the concepts of multi-spatiality and multifunctionality, GRANULAR has elaborated a prototype known as the Rural Diversity Compass. This framework aims to distinguish between various functionalities within rural areas, highlighting the key aspect of residential, productive, environmental and recreational functionalities in defining contemporary rurality. The prototype Rural Diversity Compass serves as an analytical tool to gain deeper insights into contemporary rural differentiation tendencies, drivers and outcomes.

[Read more!](#)

A new Nordic urban-rural typology tool paves the way for GRANULAR's European typology

Nordregio launches report and typology tool – to move beyond the traditional municipal-level analysis. Using a 1x1 km grid allows for an unprecedented level of detail in territorial studies. The Nordic urban-rural typology illustrates the complexity and diversity within the regions and captures nuances that have previously been missed.

[Check it out!](#)



Rural accessibility indicators with open source routing engines

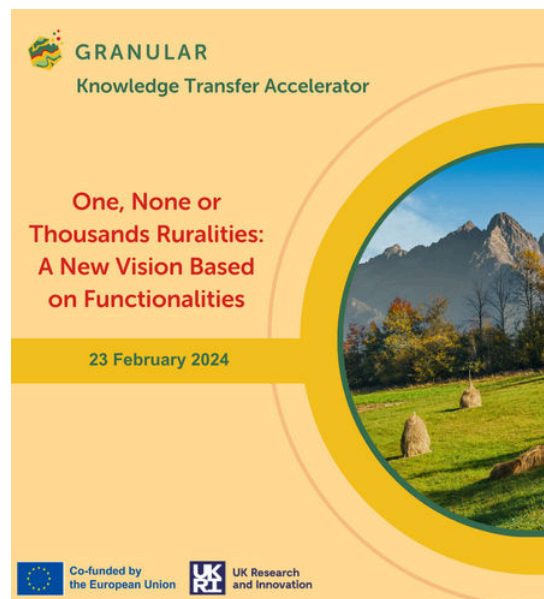
Accessibility is a crucial element of our everyday's life and a backstone for economic development and service provision. Yet, accessibility is still a major concern for rural and remote areas. This blog post provides a brief summary on the EU policy attention to enable accessibility for rural areas, existing initiatives and ongoing challenges. Hence, it discusses the authors' work to obtain more granular data on rural accessibility and mobility data.

[Read more!](#)

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

On 23rd February the European Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL) organised the 2nd GRANULAR Knowledge Transfer webinar. This meeting brought together leading academic researchers, public servants and practitioners on this field from over 22 EU Member States, UK, Switzerland, Turkey and several African countries is also testament of the growing partnership with our sister project RUSTIK and indeed with the leading work carried out by the EU Joint Research Centre.

[Check it out!](#)



LIVING LABS IN FOCUS

Data Collection in the Italian Living Lab of Val di Cecina

The GRANULAR Living Lab of Val di Cecina, based in Italy, recently completed the refinement phase of its questionnaires aimed at agricultural companies within the District. The next step, set to begin soon, involves the actual administration phase of these questionnaires, which entails distributing them to the agricultural enterprises in the District. The three fundamental priorities of the Italian Living Lab were initially identified as: enhancing agri-food supply chains, managing ecosystem services (water resource management), and understanding the dynamics of tourist flows and their impacts on rural areas.

[Check it out!](#)



Targets and tools for a Smarter Rural Europe

On 15th March, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) voted the Opinion on “Targets and Tools for a Smart Rural Europe”. This Opinion was presented by CoR’s rapporteur on the EU Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas, Radim Srsen, who is also Mayor of the Municipality of Dolní Studénky in Czech Republic, Deputy Minister of regional development of Czechia and Member of the European Committee of the Regions. The Opinion emphasizes the need to better use the smart village concept and partnership tools such as activities for the development of rural economy supported through the LEADER programme and Community-Led Local Development.

[Read more!](#)

EUROPEAN NEWS

The long-term vision for the EU’s rural areas: key achievements and ways forward

On March 27, 2024, the European Commission unveiled its report stocktaking on the EU’s Long-term Vision for Rural Areas. This report marks a significant milestone and serves as a compass for the Commission, and in particular DG AGRI, guiding discussions toward shaping policies for the post-2027 programming period. Divided into three pivotal chapters, the report unfolds with a detailed overview of new indicators and the latest data pertaining to rural areas.

[Check it out!](#)





The Joint Research Centre has launched the ACTIONbook on place-based innovation!

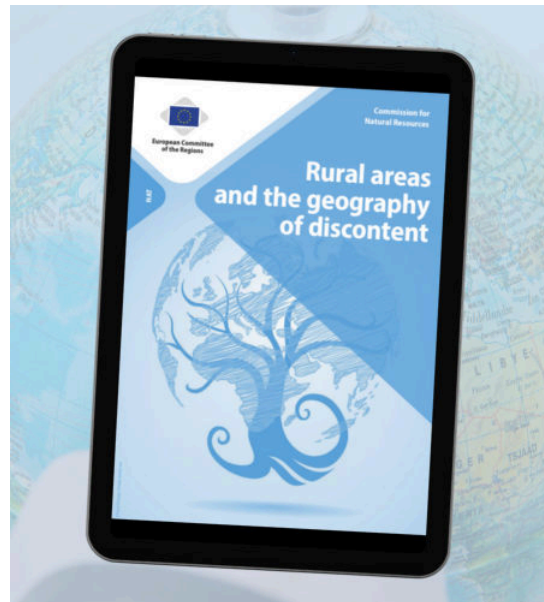
On 24 January, the Joint Research Centre and the European Committee of the Regions published an ACTIONbook on innovation for place-based transformation. This handbook is the result of a co-creation effort with the Partnerships for Regional Innovation (PRI) pilot, the PRI Scientific Committee, experts and policy makers. This comprehensive publication entitled as "Innovation for Place-based Transformations", underlines the imperative of a paradigm shift in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing Europe and the world at large.

[Read more!](#)

Rural Voting Dynamics and the Geography of Discontent: A New Study

Recently published, the study "Rural areas and the geography of discontent" (2024) was commissioned by the Committee of the Regions to shed the light on voters' choices in rural areas and the possibility of different voting patterns in rural and urban territories, drawing upon recent research by DG REGIO and analysing data from various subnational elections. The study seeks to discern potential differences in voting patterns between rural and urban typologies, offering insights crucial for shaping strategies leading up to the 2024 European Parliament elections.

[Check it out!](#)



European Statistics: New Political Agreement Amending Current Rules

On 1st February, The Council and the European Parliament reached a new political agreement for amending the current regulation (Regulation 223/2009) on European statistics. This accord is designed to overhaul the existing legal framework governing the development, production, and dissemination of European statistics (Eurostat). A revision of the current regulation would contribute to making the European Statistical System fit for the future and more responsive to data needs.

[Read more!](#)

OTHER PROJECTS



Sustainable digitalisation in rural areas and agriculture – Insights from CODECS Science-Policy meeting

The European Association for Innovation in Local Development (AEIDL) hosted the first CODECS science-policy interface meeting, in the framework of CODECS Knowledge Accelerator. Attended by 85 actors from EU institutions, research communities, policymakers, and civil society organisations from across Europe and from several non-EU countries, the meeting served as a platform for discussions and knowledge exchange.

[Read more](#)



BEATLES takes part in the Smart Agri-food Summit in Seville

The SmartAgrifood Summit '24, held in Seville (Spain) from 13-15 March, comprised a comprehensive programme of discussions, interactive workshops, and informative presentations, serving as a focal point for industry stakeholders. The event attracted a diverse array of participants, including esteemed experts, influential leaders, pioneering innovators, and delegates from startups across Europe, fostering invaluable exchanges and collaborations within the sector.

[Read more](#)



RURBANIVE project bridges rural-urban social and technological divides

Embarking on a transformative journey, the Horizon EU project “RURBANIVE” has been officially launched, led by a consortium of experts,



MOVING Final Conference

MOVING is organising its Final Conference, an event that marks the culmination of the 4-year project journey! The grand-finale will take place on the 13th (afternoon) and 14th (morning) of June 2024 in Brussels, Belgium. The MOVING Final Conference aims to bring together policy-makers, research institutions, mountain organisations, and

this ground-breaking initiative seeks to revolutionise the dynamics between urban and rural areas through the power of immersive technologies and innovative strategies.

other relevant stakeholders. Together, we will underscore the key role of mountain value chains in achieving Europe's political objectives and targets for 2030.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

EVENTS

[MOVING EU MAP webinar | Towards a Policy Roadmap for vibrant mountain economies](#)

8 May 2024

Brussels

[Bringing the Rural Pact closer to citizens](#)

22 May 2024

Brussels

[Entrepreneurship in declining rural areas](#)

29 May 2024

Burgos, Spain

[EU Green Week 2024: Towards a water resilient Europe](#)

29-30 May 2024

Brussels, Belgium

[Second Forum of the Mission adaptation to climate change](#)

13 June 2024

Blekinge, Sweden

[European Week of Regions and Cities 2024](#)

7-10 October 2024

Brussels, Belgium



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