

# Thematic Group on Rural Youth Employment

*the Voice of Rural Youth*

1<sup>st</sup> TG meeting – 9 March 2023

## Rural youth employment – setting the scene

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# About this presentation

- ✓ Basic considerations
- ✓ Statistics and context
- ✓ Real life examples
- ✓ Policy tools & support
- ✓ Information sources



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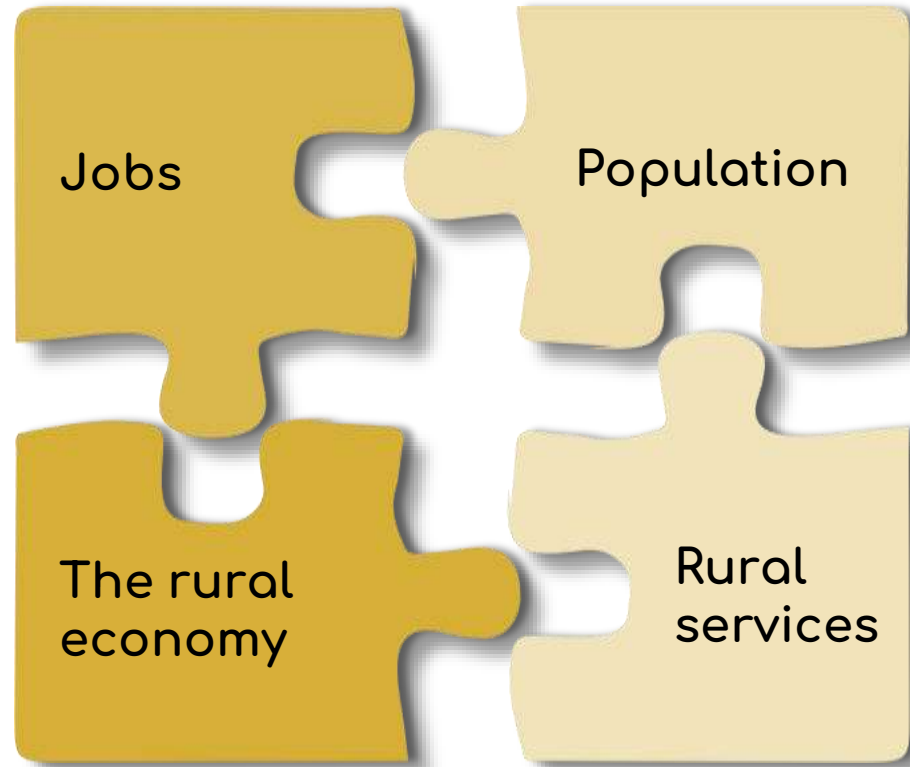


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# Rural youth and jobs – some considerations

Age structure, gender gap, education, skills, access to other types of employment

Agriculture and food, non-agri businesses, third sector, public sector, digitalisation



Depopulation, gender selective migration, migration, ageing

Funding, regulations, training, advice, office and workshop premises, land, broadband and other infrastructure, culture and attitudes

Diversity of rural contexts in different Member States

# Rural youth and jobs – who is young?

United Nations

- Defines youth as age group 15-24

EU

- Definition adapted for the Year of Youth refers to age group 15-29, and for the reinforced Youth Guarantee

Some EU  
statistical reports

- Definition of youth as age group 15-34

EU / Young farmer

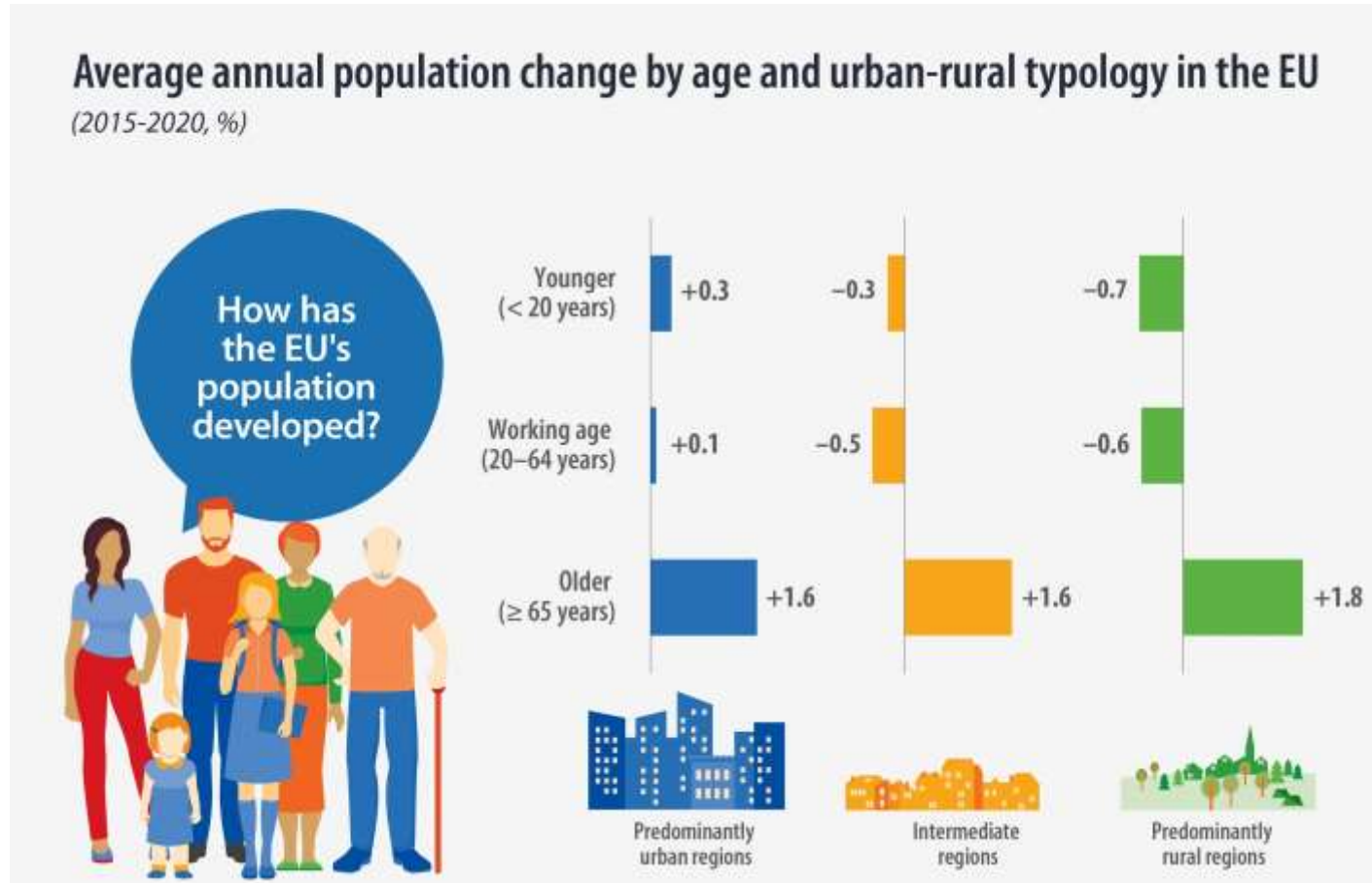
- Defined as age group  $\leq 40$

This Thematic  
Group

- People aged  $< 30$

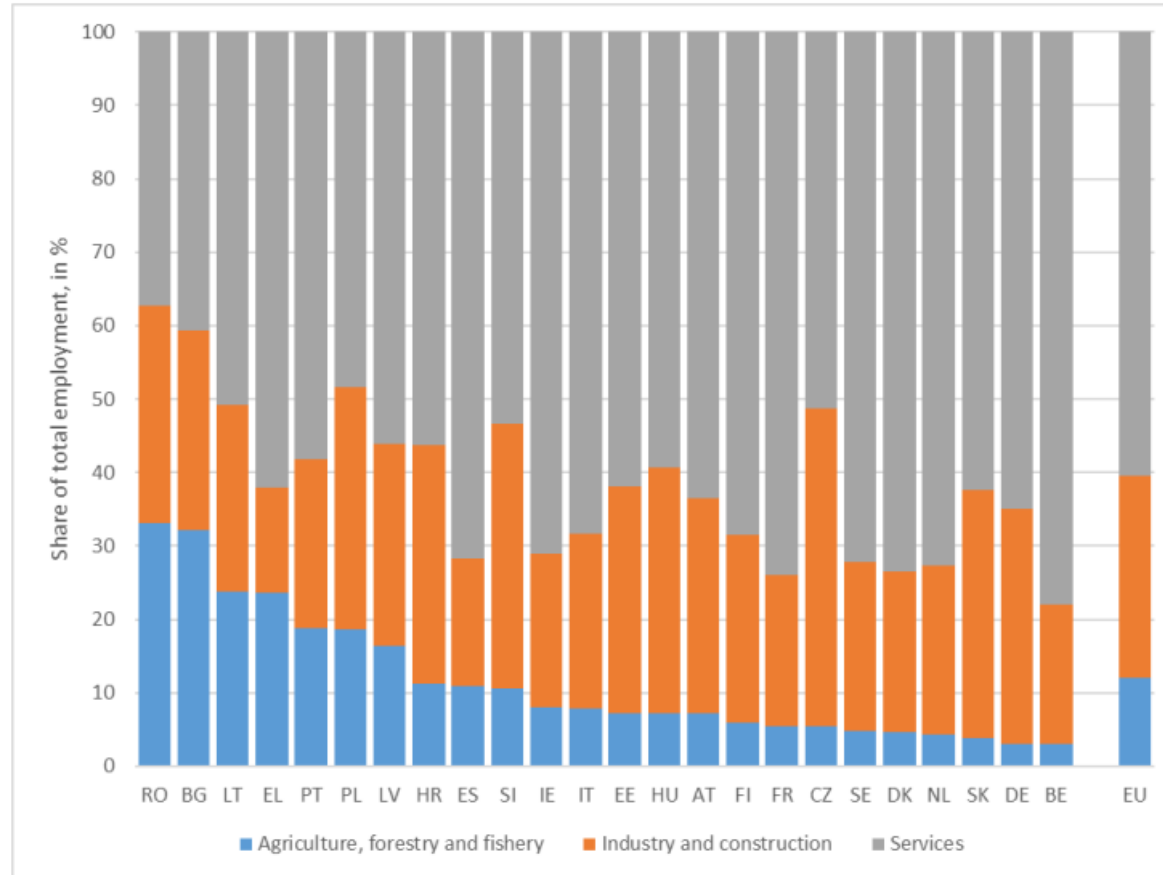
# An ageing rural population

Source: [Eurostat](#)

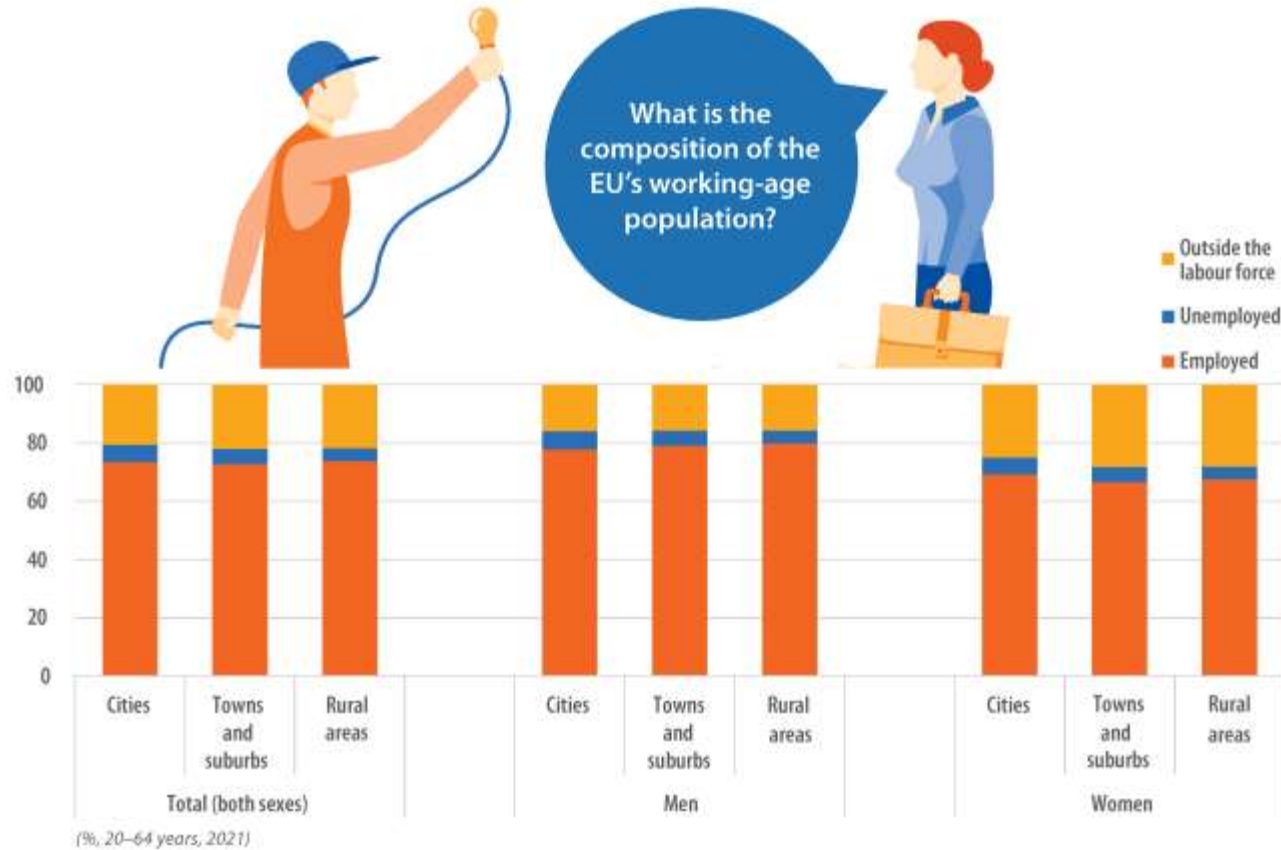


# Employment by economic activity (EU)

Source: Eurostat and ARDECO database. 2018.



# Employment – an overview



- Employment rate (EU, age 20-64) 73.1%, - the rural employment rate is slightly higher (73.6%)
- Lowest employment rates for people aged 15-24 (32.7% EU, 34.9% - rural)
  - men in rural areas (39.7% - higher than rural average)
  - women in rural areas (29.5% - lower than rural average)

Source: [Eurostat](#)

# Numbers - context

Source: [Rural Observatory / Thematic Analyses](#). Eurostat. „Rural Europe” - online publication

Note: data relate to 2021 unless indicated otherwise.

EU

EU population increased by almost 5 million (an increase of 1.12% between 2013-2021)

Unemployment rate 7% (age group 15-74) vs

Youth unemployment rate 16.6% (age group 15-24)

Ratio of people with tertiary education is 46.8% (women) and 35.7% (men)

Rural

Rural population decreased to 110.9m from 117.6 m (2012-2021)

Unemployment rate 5.9% (age group 15-74) vs

Youth unemployment rate (age group 15-24) was 14.6% in rural areas, but higher than average for women in most MSs (gender gap)

Ratio of people with tertiary education is 36.3% (women) and 23.3% (men) – the gender gap is between 1.3 and 33% points (depending on Member State)



# Numbers - context

Source: [Rural Observatory / Thematic Analyses](#)). Eurostat „Rural Europe“ - online publication. **Note:** data relate to 2021 unless indicated otherwise.

**EU**

NEET (not in education, employment or training in age group 15-29) ratio is 13.1%, higher for women

Share of part-time employment (age group 20-64) is 28.3% (women) and 7.6% (men)

% of self-employment within total employment = 13.2%

**Rural**

NEET (not in education, employment or training in age group 15-29) ratio is 13.7% – improvement since 2012, but still higher for women

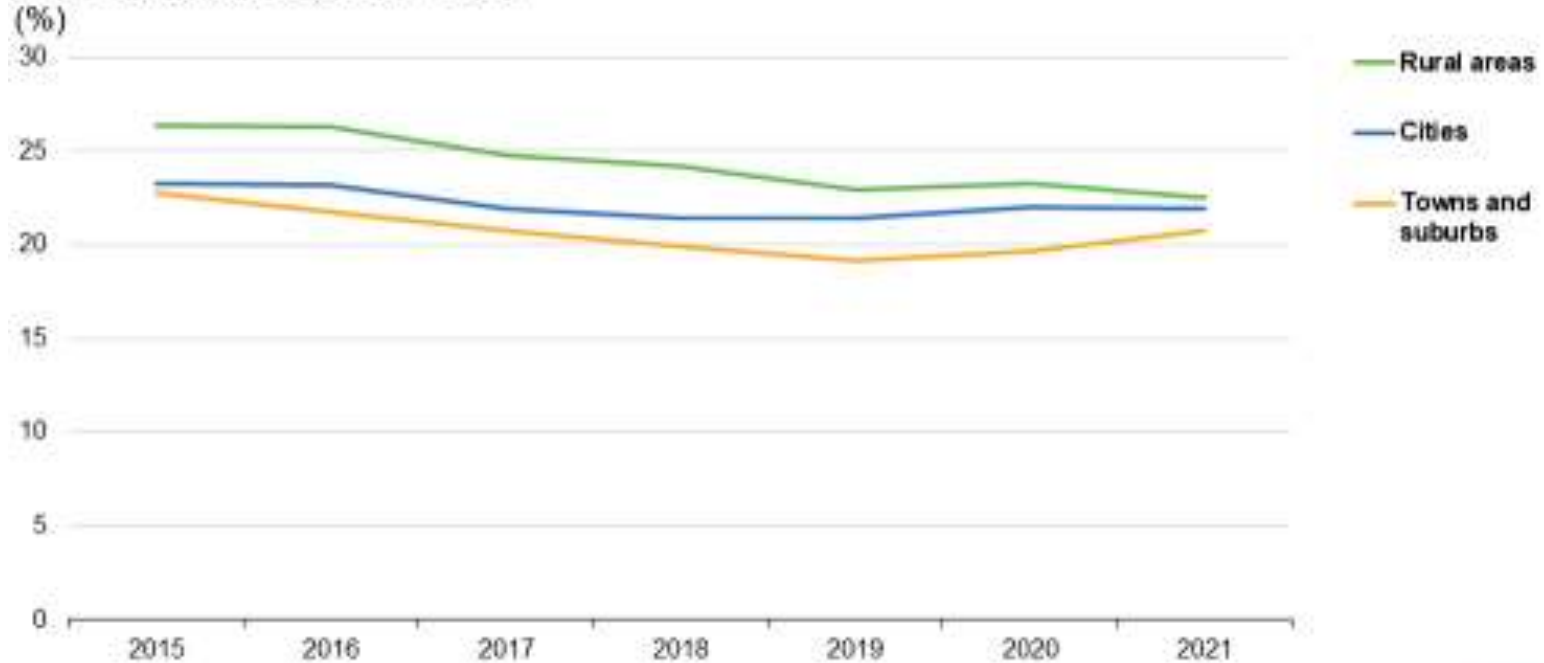
Share of part-time employment (age group 20-64) is 27.3% (women) and 6% (men) – considerable differences among Member States

% of self-employment within total employment = 16.3%

# Risk of poverty or social exclusion

Source: [Eurostat](#)

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion by degree of urbanisation, EU, 2015–2021



Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc\_peps13n)

eurostat

- highest for people living in rural areas (22.5 %)
- for rural women the share is higher (23.6%) than for rural men (21.3%) – the only exceptions to this are BE, NL, MT
- some of the highest shares in rural areas of eastern and southern EU Member States
- EU (2021) average for the age group 15-29 was 25.3% (less than in 2015)

# Farming

Source: [Eurostat](#) (farms and farmland) ; [Eurostat](#) (farmers and the agricultural labour force)



0.3 % increase in amount of land used for farming (2005-2020) and increase in number of large farms (>100 ha)

37% drop in number of farms since 2005 (greatest losses in RO, PL, IT, HU, BG, GR, mostly small farms < 5 ha)

8.7 million persons employed in agriculture (4.2% of total employment in EU in 2020)



Share of farm managers aged <35 dropped from 7.3% to 6.5% between 2005 and 2020, while share of farm managers who are women increased

Regular agricultural labour force is 17 million (people working on farms without being employed by them, includes also unpaid help from family, seasonal work, etc.); only 18.7% worked full-time

# A summary ...

- Decreasing trend in rural population
- Gender selective migration (more young women leaving rural areas than young men)
- Improvements in rural employment, but youth unemployment is higher than overall rural unemployment and higher for women
- Improvements in education (lower ratio of early leavers from education, higher ratio in tertiary education) for both men and women, but gender gap remains (more women with tertiary education)
- Women in rural areas have more difficulty to find work, move into or re-enter the workforce (youth unemployment and NEET higher for women)
- Self-employment higher in rural areas than in cities
- Part-time employment considerably higher for women than men in rural areas
- Overall negative trends in employment in agriculture and young farmer numbers
- Considerable gender gaps and differences between EU Member States

# Real life examples



## On-farm (MAJNIKA herb garden, Slovenia)

Female young farmer investing in biodynamic production on abandoned farmland

2 full-time jobs created, multiple part-time opportunities, business expansion



## Entrepreneurship skills training (BIZNET, Poland)

Economic games / digital business simulation tool developed

15 schools involved, 300 pupils in workshops and virtual company competitions

# Real life examples



## AXIZO (Greece)

Charitable association created 5 jobs for young adults with disabilities

Jam-making workshop using material from local producers



## New ways of working (COWOCAT, Spain)

Network of co-working places in rural Catalonia

18 spaces and >130 professionals in the network



## Skills (SILTA, Finland)

Education-cooperative entrepreneurship

Cooperative with 60 young members

Several businesses created

# Policy tools and support – EU level

Support under the CAP (non-agricultural investments, start-up of rural businesses linked to agriculture or forestry, LEADER, Smart Village Strategies, knowledge exchange and dissemination)

The reinforced Youth Guarantee

European Social Fund+

Recovery and Resilience Fund (RRF)

ERASMUS+, European Solidarity Corps, INTERREG

The Talent Booster Mechanism and other new EU initiatives



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# Policy tools and support – other levels

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Active national labour-market policies against youth unemployment

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Supporting business start-ups

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Education (formal & non-formal) and training initiatives

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Traineeships and other work-based learning opportunities (incl. volunteering)

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Targeted supplementary services, facilities, regulatory provisions (e.g., childcare facilities, tax breaks, etc.)



# More information...

## [YouthWiki](#)

- Online encyclopedia and comprehensive database of youth policies – with section on employment and entrepreneurship

## [Young Europeans](#)

- An interactive Eurostat infographic

## [European Youth Portal](#)

- 'One-stop shop' for getting involved, going abroad, finding out about EU support for youth

## [Rural Observatory](#)

- Rural Focus / My place / Trends / Analysis

# Your opinion?

- What are your reflections on what you have heard in the presentation?
- What do you think is most important to get and maintain a good rural job?
- What future opportunities do you see for rural youth employment?

Thank you for your attention!



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