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Rural COOP

**Rural COOP** fosters innovative and green participatory approaches to improve integrated territorial development policy instruments of rural areas.

**Newsletter #2**

## In this newsletter:

- Progress in Semester 2;
- Foresight and Anticipation Methodology - Guide and Workshops;
- Good practices;
- Stakeholder engagement.



[www.interregeurope.eu/rural-coop](http://www.interregeurope.eu/rural-coop)

#RuralCOOP

#Newsletter

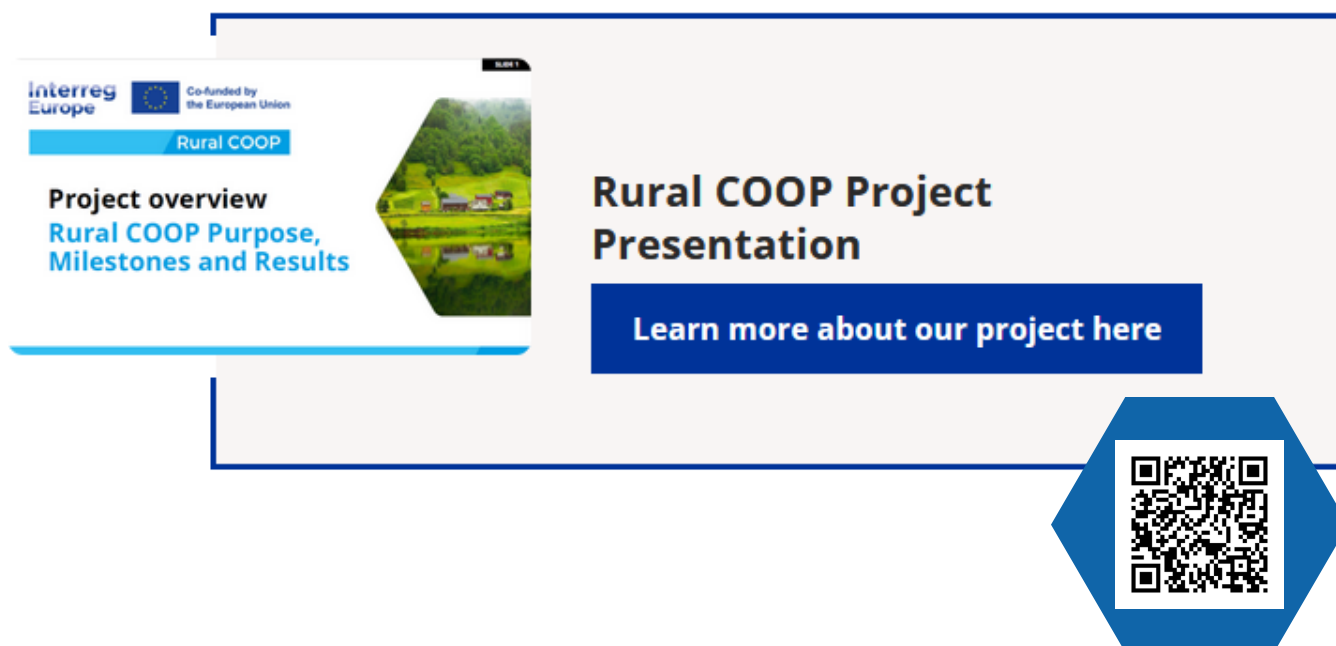
## From Foundations to Practice

Semester 2 marked a key transition for the Rural COOP project—**from building a shared understanding of foresight methodologies to actively applying them in real territorial contexts**. During this period, partners focused on advancing the Foresight and Anticipation Methodology (FAM) through the development of the FAM Guide and the delivery of the first two workshops.

Key activities included strengthening partners' capacities to apply foresight tools, exploring emerging trends and territorial dynamics, and engaging regional stakeholder groups to ensure a participatory and place-based approach. The **exchange of good practices** further supported learning across regions, providing concrete examples of sustainable and collaborative rural development.

Overall, **Semester 2 reflects a shift from theory to practice**, where foresight becomes not only a conceptual framework, but a practical tool for supporting more informed, future-oriented policy-making in rural areas.

## Learn more about the project activities here:



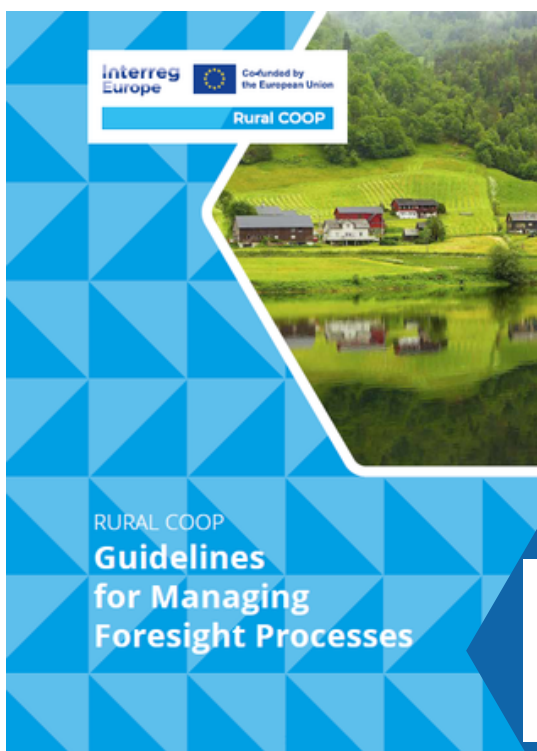
The image shows a promotional graphic for the Rural COOP project. On the left is a slide titled "Project overview" with the subtitle "Rural COOP Purpose, Milestones and Results". It features the Interreg Europe logo and a photo of a rural landscape. To the right is a slide titled "Rural COOP Project Presentation" with a blue button that says "Learn more about our project here". Below the presentation slide is a QR code in a blue hexagonal frame.

## Foresight and Anticipation Methodology Guide: A Practical Framework for Territorial Foresight

A major milestone in Semester 2 is the development of the **Foresight and Anticipation Methodology (FAM) Guidelines for Managing Foresight Processes**, designed to support facilitators, policymakers, and regional stakeholders in applying foresight in a structured and practical way.

The guide is built on a **participatory and iterative learning approach**, combining theoretical foundations with real-life application. It outlines the full foresight cycle—from framing challenges and mapping stakeholders, to scanning trends, building scenarios, and embedding strategic actions.

At its core, the FAM Guide promotes an understanding of foresight not as prediction, but as a process of **structured exploration and collective intelligence**, enabling territories to anticipate change, explore alternatives, and co-create more resilient futures.



We invite you to explore the guide and start using it in your own context to **support more informed and collaborative decision-making**.

## FAM Workshops: From Framing to Scanning

In Semester 2, two FAM workshops guided participants from understanding the foundations of foresight to actively exploring future trends and dynamics.

### Workshop 1 – Foresight Foundations

22 January 2026, Online

The first session introduced the core principles of foresight, focusing on the role of facilitators in designing participatory processes. Participants explored how to define challenges, set objectives, and tailor foresight approaches to their territorial context.

A key tool presented was the Scoping Circle, used to clarify the focal question, define context, and map stakeholders—ensuring alignment with real needs and local priorities. The session emphasised that facilitation is about **guiding collective discovery**, not providing ready-made answers.

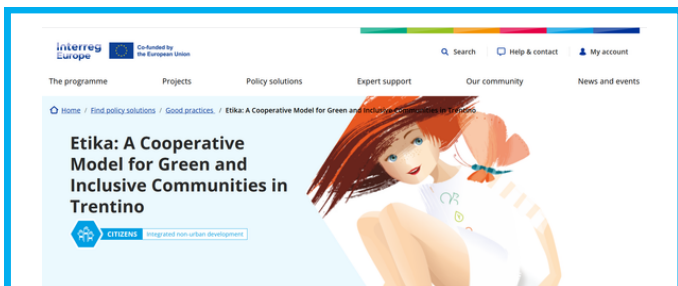
### Workshop 2 – Exploring & Planning

04 March 2026, Online

The second session focused on the **Scanning and Sense-Making phase**, exploring how to identify and analyse forces shaping rural futures. Participants worked with concepts such as signals, trends, drivers, and uncertainties, using tools like Horizon Scanning and the STEEP framework.

A key takeaway was that scanning is not forecasting, but a **structured exploration of change**, supported by diverse sources—from data and expert input to community perspectives.

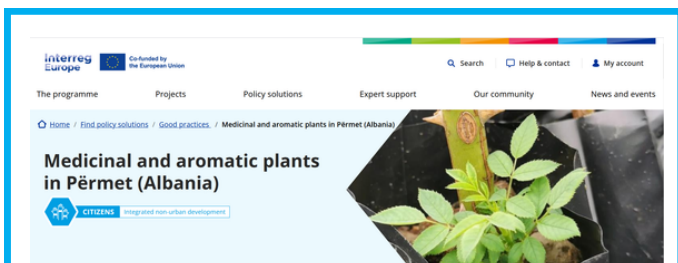




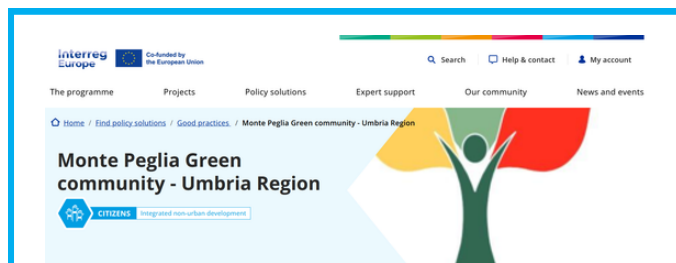
**ETIKA** promotes a community-based model of ethical consumption, connecting local producers, retailers, and consumers through shared values. The initiative supports short supply chains and responsible purchasing, while building trust and long-term collaboration within the local economic ecosystem.



**BIOTUTO** focuses on sustainable agriculture and knowledge transfer, offering practical training and advisory services for farmers and rural entrepreneurs. It encourages the adoption of innovative and environmentally friendly practices, contributing to increased resilience, productivity, and competitiveness in rural areas.



**MAPCULT** demonstrates how cultural mapping can be used as a strategic planning tool, identifying local assets, traditions, and creative industries. By actively involving local stakeholders in mapping exercises, it supports the development of place-based cultural routes and tourism products that strengthen territorial identity and diversify local economies.



**Monte Peglia Green Community** showcases an integrated approach to environmental protection and territorial governance, combining biodiversity conservation with sustainable tourism development. It demonstrates how coordinated stakeholder action can create balanced solutions between economic development and environmental preservation.

## Stakeholder Engagement

During Semester 2, stakeholders were actively involved through a series of online and in-person regional stakeholder group meetings. These exchanges supported the foresight process by incorporating diverse perspectives, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring that emerging ideas and future-oriented strategies are grounded in the realities and priorities of each region. Learn more about our stakeholder engagement activities [here](#).

### Stakeholder Spotlight: Raul Daoli (ETIKA)

Each semester, we organise interviews with key stakeholders to collect their perspectives on territorial challenges and to further explore the practices identified within the project. We start this series with Raul Daoli, who shares insights on the ETIKA model, a good practice already presented to project partners during a project meeting and published on the project website.



Raul's insights reinforce the project's focus on **co-creation and collective forward intelligence**, where diverse stakeholders actively contribute to shaping future territorial strategies.

## Looking Ahead

The next phase of the FAM learning pathway will focus on:

- ◆ developing alternative future scenarios;
- ◆ shaping shared visions for rural territories;
- ◆ translating insights into strategic roadmaps and action plans.

As the project progresses, the emphasis will be on embedding foresight into everyday governance practices, transforming it from a one-time exercise into a continuous and strategic capability.

## Conclusion

Semester 2 has laid a strong foundation for applying foresight in rural policy-making. By combining structured methodologies, practical tools, and stakeholder-driven insights, Rural COOP is strengthening the capacity of regions to **anticipate change, foster collaboration, and co-create resilient and sustainable futures.**

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[Watch  
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**Disclaimer:** This newsletter was supported as part of the Rural COOP project, an Interreg Europe Programme project, co-funded by the European Union. This document reflects only the author's view. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.