



PoliRural: D4.2 Slovak pilot

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Revision History

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1	March 20, 2020	Marieta Okenkova Zuzana Palkova	SUA	Results of Questionnaire
2	April 4, 2020	Marieta Okenkova Zuzana Palkova	SUA	SWOT analysis and comments
3	April 6, 2020	Marieta Okenkova Zuzana Palkova	SUA	Needs definition
4	April 14, 2020	Marieta Okenkova Zuzana Palkova	SUA	Panel comments

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1 Needs gathering and analysis (T4.3)

1.1 Online questionnaire

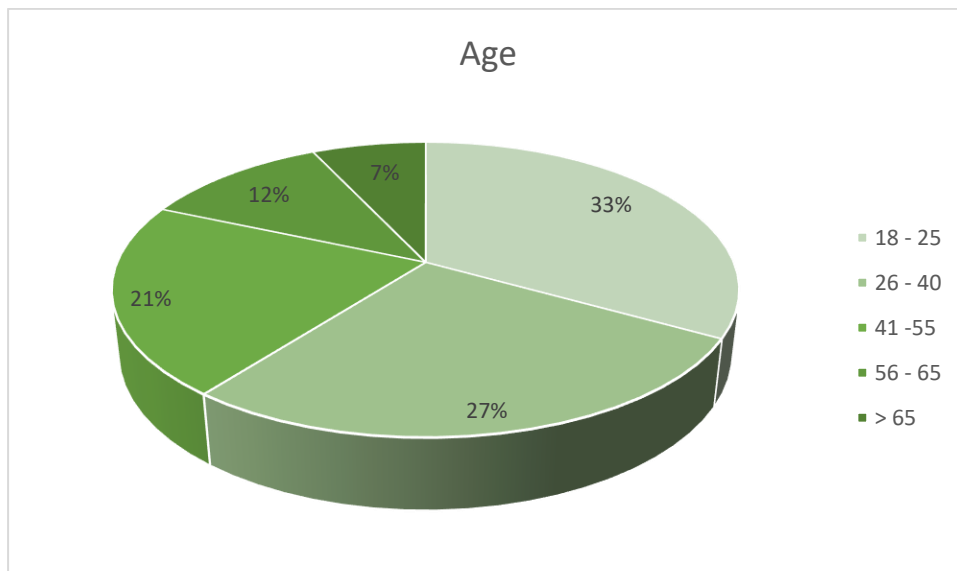
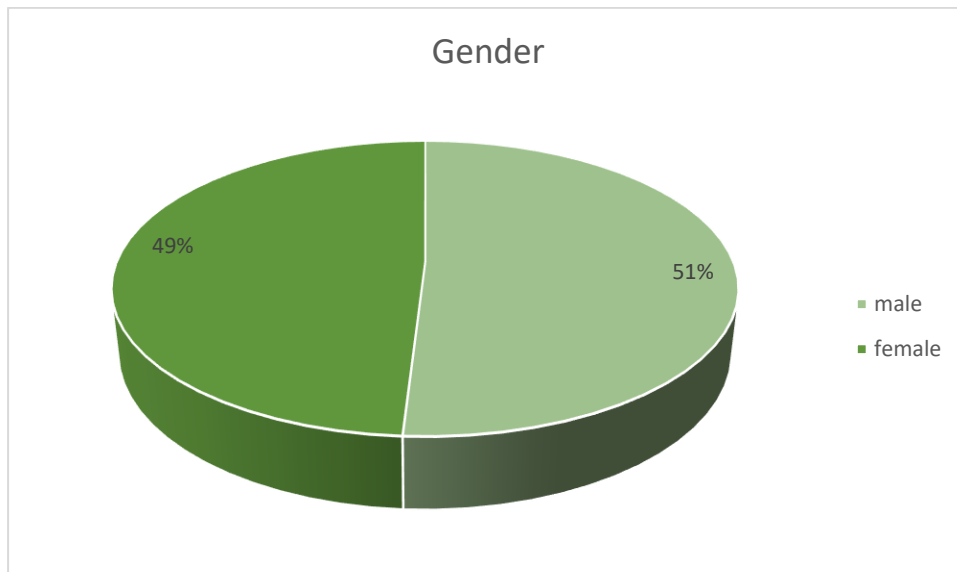
The Slovak survey was conducted online on the territory of Slovakia with the aim to explore how the needs of target groups, specified below, are currently met. The survey period was running from 01/02/2020 till 01/03/2020. At the end of the survey period the number of respondents was 157, which can be considered as quite a success. There was also a very good representation of all categories of targeted population: 5 Policy maker, 58 Rural populations, 14 Recent entrants to rural areas, 17 Potential entrants to rural areas, 13 Experts, 6 Innovators and 44 Others. The target groups, whose needs pilot aims to research in the needs gathering exercise are established rural populations and recent or potential newcomers. Both categories were very well represented in the survey.

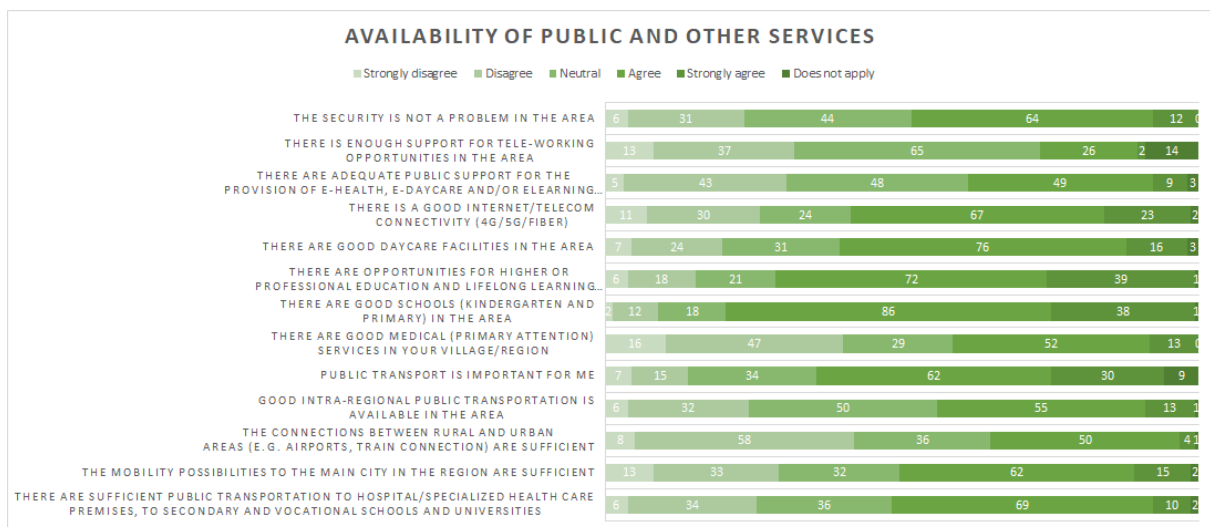
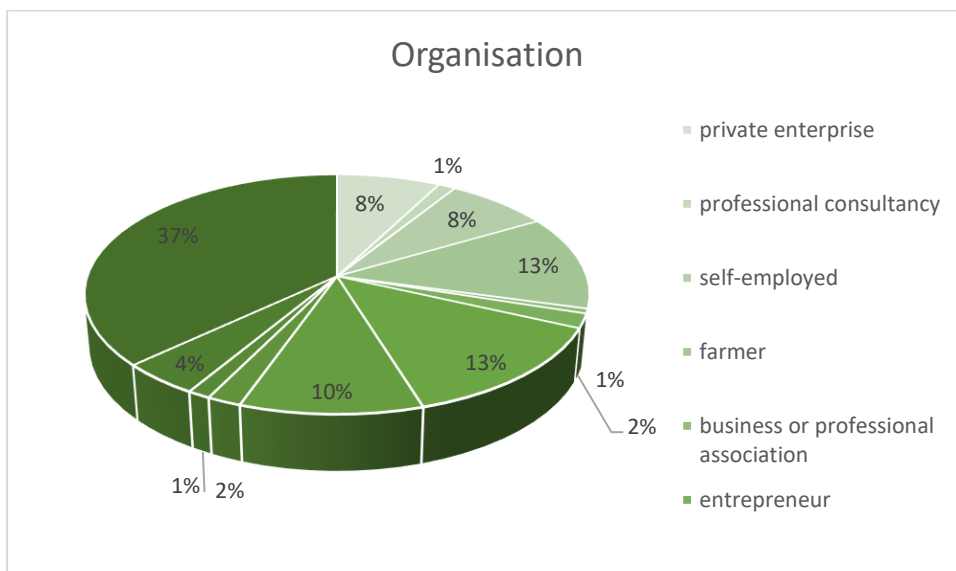
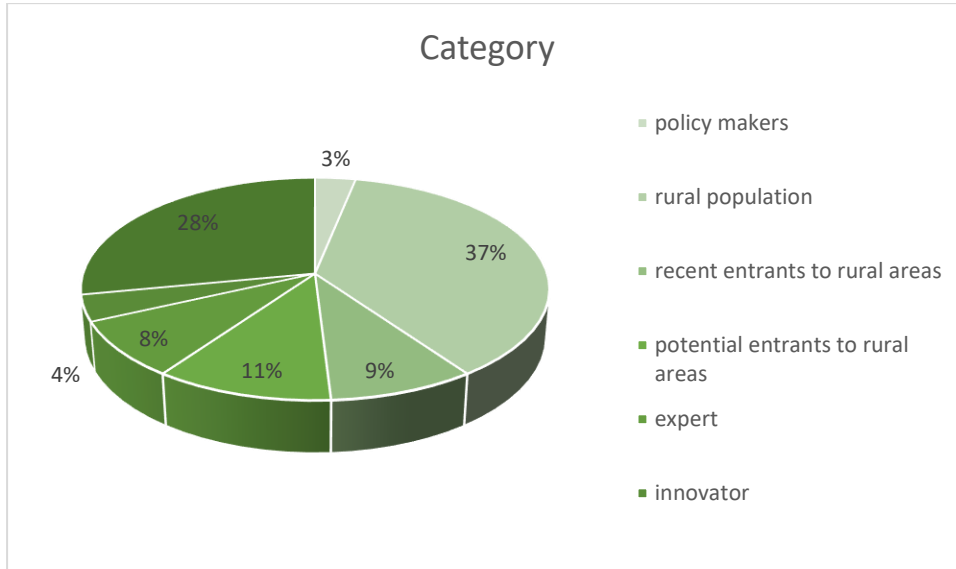
As always trying to achieve the gender equality in maximum level possible the positive outcome is that respondents were very well gender balanced, with 49% of women and 51% of men.

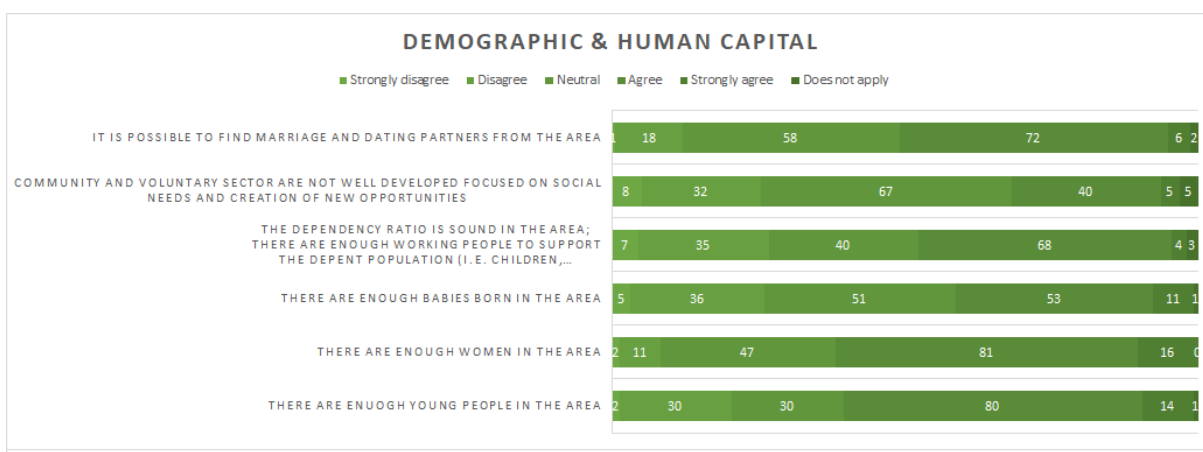
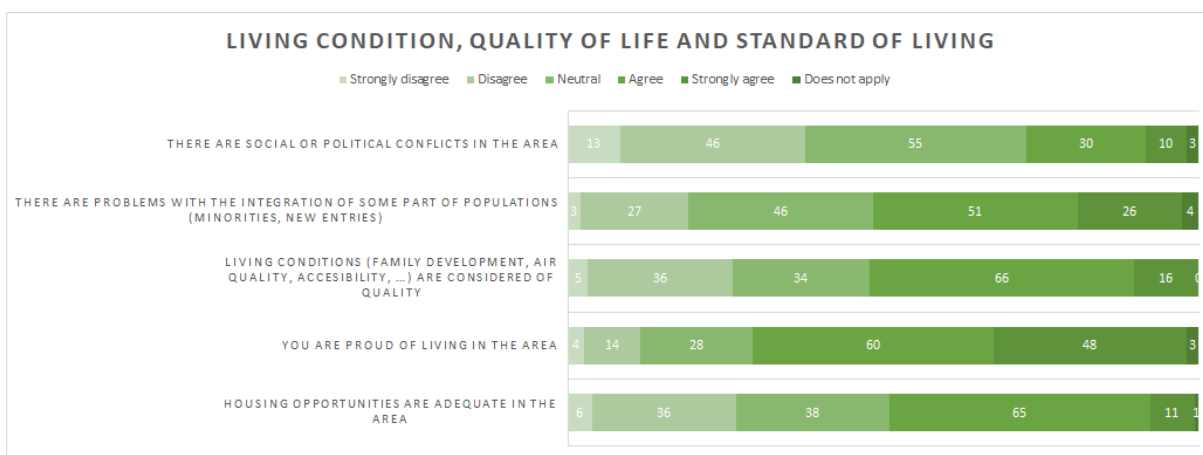
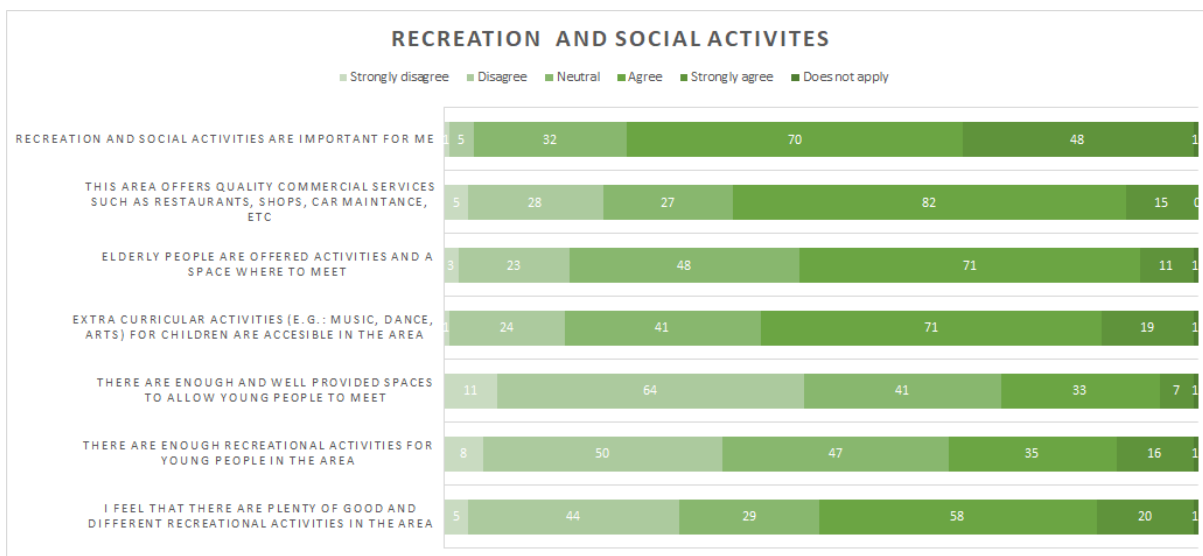
In terms of the age of stakeholders the majority of respondents (33%) were in the category of 18 – 25, which is a good signal in terms of rural areas being attractive or interesting for the young generation. The second largest category was 26 - 40 years with 27% of respondents. This is also significant since these are the most productive people. The age category of 41 – 55 years old was also well represented by 21%. Lower interest was from the age category of 56 – 65 only 12% and the lowest was in the oldest category of above 65, represented by only 7%.

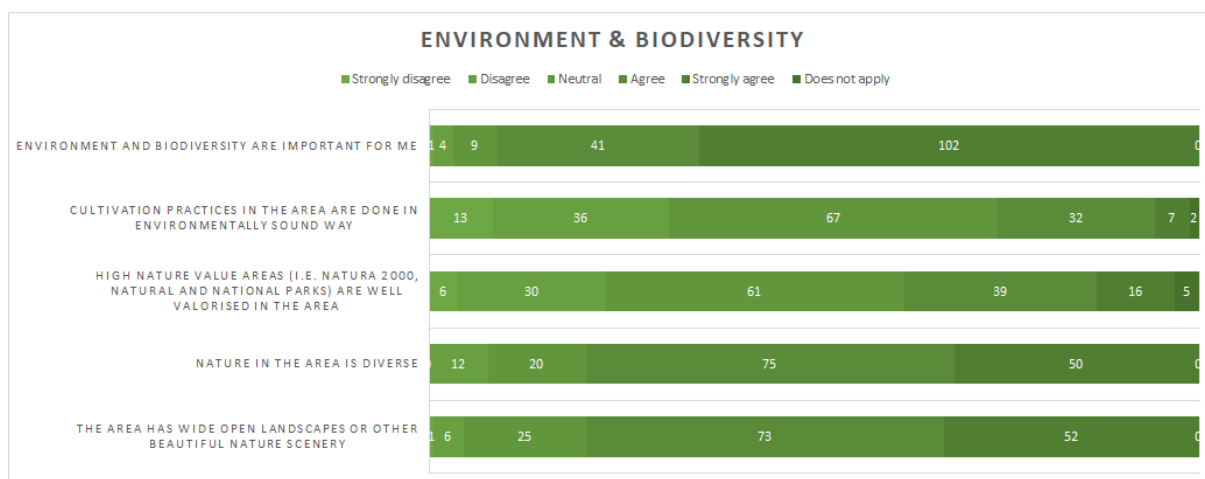
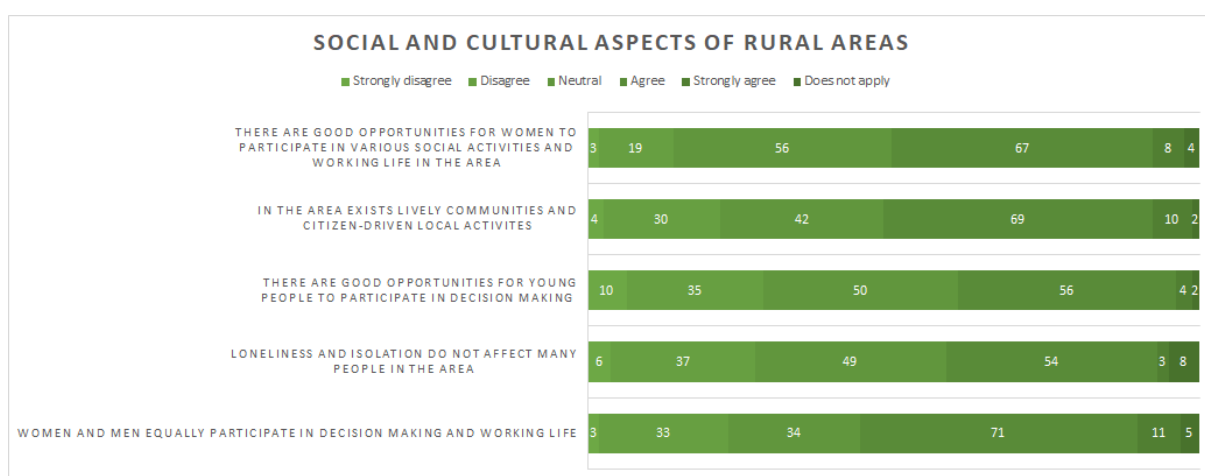
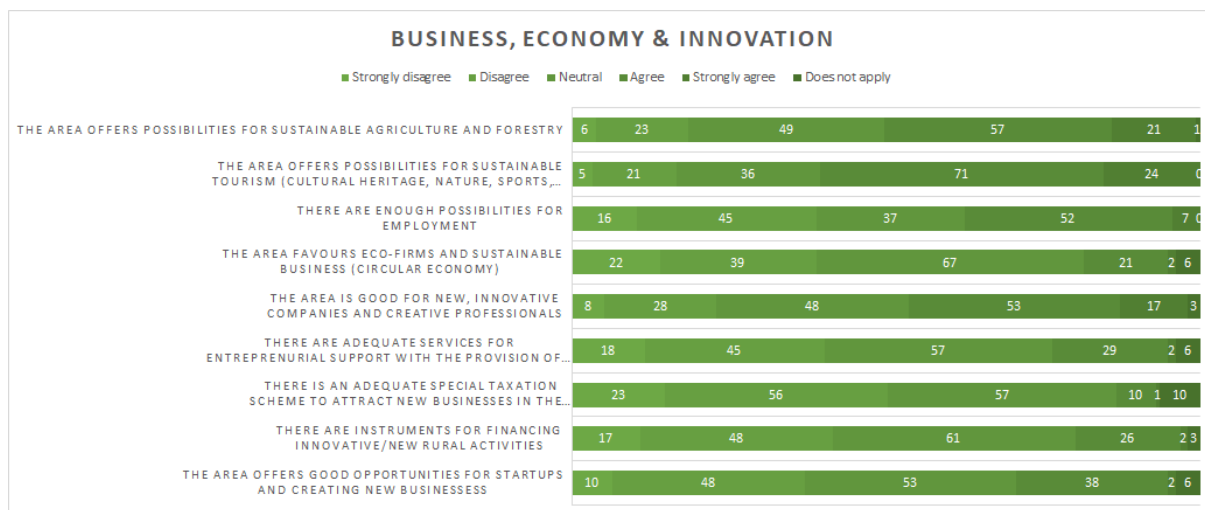
For reaching the stakeholder following measures were taken publicity on social media, direct contact with stakeholders, agricultural high school, network of agricultural advisors addressed through a newsletter sent by email and events organized by all Slovak partners during the survey period.

1.2 Online questionnaire findings









1.3 Desk research

Desk research included available documents related to rural development, which is generally the term used to refer to activities and initiatives aimed at raising the standard of living in extra-urban areas, in the countryside and in rural settlements.

Rural development activities are mainly aimed at the social and economic development of the areas. The main instrument of support is the Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic for the period of 2014-2020 which focuses on six main areas: support for knowledge and innovation transfer, increase of viability and competitiveness, innovative technologies and sustainable management, support for organization, processing, animal welfare and management risks, restoring, preserving and strengthening ecosystems, promoting resource and climate efficiency and promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development.

Regional development was also researched through the operational programs in the field of regional development, aid management for the Bratislava region and cross-border cooperation. The main objective of the Regional Operational Program is to increase the availability and quality of civic infrastructure and facilities in the Convergence regions.

1.4 SWOT analysis

This SWOT analysis helps us to understand what makes rural areas and professions in Slovakia attractive or unattractive for established populations and recent or potential newcomers. It provides valuable information and insights regarding which aspects of rural attractiveness need to be improved in the pilot area and which are already on strong level.

The survey was composed of following 7 pillars:

1. Availability of public and other services
2. Recreation / social activities
3. Living condition, quality of life and standard of living
4. Demographic & human capital
5. Business, economy & innovation
6. Social and cultural aspects of rural areas
7. Environment & biodiversity

The key research question is formulated as what factors would make one want to stay, leave or migrate to a rural area, to take up rural employment, or become an urban farmer in a rural area?

Table 1. SWOT: based on the results from rural attractiveness questionnaire, desk research and discussions with stakeholders

	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
1. Availability of public and other services	S1.01 There are good schools (kindergarten and primary) in the area.	W1.01 The connections between rural and urban areas (e.g. airports, train connection) are not sufficient.	O1.01 The mobility possibilities to the main city in the region are not sufficient.	T1.01 There is not enough support for tele-working opportunities in the area.
	S1.02 There are opportunities for higher or professional education and lifelong learning in the area.	W1.02 There are no sufficient good medical (primary attention) services in your village/region.	O1.012 There is no adequate public support for the provision of e-health, e-daycare and/or e-learning services.	
	S1.03 There is sufficient public transportation to secondary and vocational schools and universities.			
	S1.04 There is sufficient public transportation to hospital of			

	reference/Specialized health care premises.			
	S1.05 There are good daycare facilities in the area.	W1.03 The mobility possibilities to the main city in the region are not sufficient.		
	S1.06 There is a good internet/telecom connectivity (4G/5G/fiber).			
	S1.07 The security is not a problem in the area.			
2. Recreation / social activities	S2.01 This area offers quality commercial services such as restaurants, shops, car maintenance, etc.	W2.01 There is not plenty of good and different recreational activities in the area.		
	S2.02 Elderly people are offered activities and a space where to meet.			O2.02 There are not enough recreational activities for young people in the area.

	S2.03 Extracurricular activities (e.g.: music, dance, arts) for children are accessible in the area.			
3. Living condition, quality of life and standard of living	S3.01 People are proud of living in the area.	W3.01 There are problems with the integration of some part of populations (minorities, new entries)	T3.01 Housing opportunities are not yet sufficiently adequate in the area.	
	S3.02 There are no social or political conflicts in the area.		T3.02 Living conditions (family development, air quality, accessibility, ...) are not yet sufficiently considered of quality.	
4. Demographic & human capital	S4.01 There are enough women in the area	W4.01 The dependency ratio is not sound in the area; there are not enough working people to support the depend population (i.e. children, elderly).		

	<p>S4.02 There are enough young people in the area.</p>	<p>W4.02 There are not enough babies born in the area.</p>	<p>T4.01 It is possible to find marriage and dating partners from the area.</p>	
		<p>W4.03 Community and voluntary sector are not well developed focused on social needs and creation of new opportunities.</p>		
<p>5. Business, economy & innovation</p>		<p>W5.01 The area does not favor eco-firms and sustainable business (circular economy).</p>	<p>T5.01 The area is good for new, innovative companies and creative professionals.</p>	<p>O5.01 The area does not offer good opportunities for startups and creating new businesses.</p>
		<p>W5.02 There are not enough possibilities for employment.</p>	<p>T5.02 The area offers possibilities for sustainable agriculture and forestry.</p>	<p>O5.02 There is not an adequate special taxation scheme to attract new businesses in the area.</p>

				<p>O5.03 There are not many instruments for financing innovative/new rural activities.</p>
				<p>O5.04 There are no adequate services for entrepreneurial support with the provision of experienced services.</p>
<p>6. Social and cultural aspects of rural areas</p>	<p>S6.01 There are good opportunities for women to participate in various social activities and working life in the area.</p>	<p>W6.01 In the area do not exist sufficiently lively communities and citizen-driven local activities.</p>	<p>T6.01 Loneliness and isolation affect quite a few people in the area.</p>	<p>O6.01 There are no good opportunities for young people to participate in decision making.</p>
	<p>S6.02 Women and men equally participate in decision making and working life</p>			

7. Environment & Biodiversity	S7.01 Nature in the area is diverse.		T6.01 High Nature Value Areas are not yet well valorized in the area.	O7.01 Cultivation practices in the area are not done in environmentally sound way.
	S7.02 The area has wide open landscapes or other beautiful nature scenery.		T6.02 Environment and nature play an important role.	

Comments provided to the SWOT are based on the Slovak pilot fiche and are in line with expected outputs and impact of the pilot.

Table 2. Comments to the SWOT:

	Comments	RELATED INDICATORS			
		Definition	Value and units	year	source)
1. Availability of public and other services	Access to land is the main obstacle hindering the rural development in the country, especially in relation to young, small and family farmers, as well as potential new entrants.				

2. Recreation / social activities	Support of creative tourism and agrotourism				
3. Living condition, quality of life and standard of living					
4. Demographic & human capital	Map or web application of producers.				
5. Business, economy & innovation	<p>Establishment of start-up Food Incubators.</p> <p>Informal virtual platform comprising a database of local producers, manuals of support, manuals of standard, manuals for school and producers and catalogue of producers and seasonal and traditional products.</p> <p>Need to gather sufficient, categorized and sex-disaggregated data on local production for objective and evidence based decision making.</p>				
6. Social and cultural aspects of rural areas	<p>Establishment of cooperation among relevant stakeholders in the region with a special focus on women, youth and potential/or newcomers.</p> <p>Empowerment of the stakeholders in the region on rural attractiveness issues.</p>				

	Strengthen the importance and contribution of agriculture to the local, regional and national economy. Increase attractiveness of rural areas and rural professions.				
7. Environment & Biodiversity	Sustainable agriculture and rural development are the key for the sustainable future of communities and countries.				

Table 3. List of Needs: (don't forget to rank them according to the selected priorities of your territory. Also connect them with the SWOT elements).

	NEEDS	TARGET GROUP	RANKING	CONNECTION WITH SWOT ELEMENTS (Code)
1. Availability of public and other services	N01 Need to create and support tele-working opportunities.	established populations, new entrants, young people, women	5	e.g.: W1.01, T3.01
	N02 Need to improve the mobility possibilities to the main city.	established populations, young people, new entrants		

	N03 Need to improve the connections between rural and urban areas.	established populations, young people, new entrants		
	N04 Need to increase good medical (primary attention) services.	established populations, young people, new entrants		
	N05 Need to increase adequate public support for the provision of e-health, e-daycare and/or e-learning services.			
2. Recreation / social activities	N06 Need to improve availability and diversity of recreational and social activities.	young people, new entrants	4	e.g.: W1.01 ,O1.02, W5.01
	N07 Need to create enough and well equipped spaces to allow young people to meet.	young people, new entrants		
3. Living condition, quality of life and standard of living	N08 Need to find solutions for problems with the integration of some part of populations.	minorities, new entrants	3	
	N09 Need to improve the adequacy of housing opportunities in rural areas.	new entrants, young people		

	N10 Need to improve the quality of living conditions.	established population, new entrants, young people		
4. Demographic & human capital	N11 Need to improve the dependency ratio by increasing the number of working people to support the depend population (i.e. children, elderly).	young people, new entrants	6	
	N12 Need to better develop community and voluntary sector focused on social needs and creation of new opportunities.	established population, new entrants, young people		
5. Business, economy & innovation	N13 Need to increase decent employment possibilities.	established population, new entrants, young people	1	e.g. : W7.01, T5.02.....
	N14 Need to favor eco-firms and sustainable business (circular economy).	established population, new entrants, young people		
	N15 Need to offer good opportunities for startups and creating new businesses.	established population, new entrants, young people		
	N16 Need to increase availability of instruments for financing innovative/new rural activities.	established population, new entrants, young people		

	N17 Need to consider an adequate special taxation scheme to attract new businesses.	established population, new entrants, young people		
	N18 Need to develop adequate services for entrepreneurial support with the provision of experienced services.	established population, new entrants, young people		
	N19 Need to use the potential of the area for new, innovative companies and creative professionals.	established population, new entrants, young people		
	N20 Need to dwell suitable conditions for development of sustainable agriculture and forestry.	established population, new entrants, young people		
6. Social and cultural aspects of rural areas	N21 Need to create opportunities for young people to participate in decision making.	young people, new entrants	7	
	N22 Need to increase the sufficiency of lively communities and citizen-driven local activities.	established population, new entrants, young people		
	N23 Need to improve the cultivation practices to be done in an environmentally sound way.	established population, new entrants, young people	2	

7. Environment & Biodiversity	N24 Need to valorize more High Nature Value Areas as environment and nature play an important role.	established population, new entrants, young people		Imp
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1.5 Discussion with stakeholder panel

The members of the Slovak panel were involved through individual direct on-line or phone contacts to discuss the results of the questionnaire and the SWOT analysis. Out of the current stakeholders more than half was available to contribute with their comments. Other relevant actors, experts and organizations were contacted, too. Based on these discussions many additional needs were identified which are included in the table 4. Compilation of all needs creates a very good starting point for any discussion on regional and rural policies for all relevant policy makers and should be brought to their attention.

Table 4. Results of the Discussions with Panel: (Mainly ideas)

	Comments
1. Availability of public and other services	<p>Need to simplify the rules for direct sales of products from farms.</p> <p>Need to restore local market places.</p> <p>Need to encourage cooperation of different public sectors, such as agriculture, education, health, environment, regional development, transport etc.</p> <p>Need to promote healthy nutrition with special attention to schools, hospitals, social establishment that could procure directly from local farmers.</p>

	<p>Need to have a state run promotion of establishments for tourism based on making Slovakia attractive as tourist destination unknown to many.</p> <p>Need to improve quality of public services.</p>
<p>2. Recreation / social activities</p>	<p>Need to make rural areas more attractive for young people by providing them a space where they can meet each other and socialize.</p> <p>Need to have recreational space for families with children.</p> <p>Need to establish local supporting communities.</p> <p>Need to organize local projects driven and owned by local people.</p> <p>Need to organize excursions and trips for schools at local farms.</p> <p>Need to promote school gardens run by students and school community.</p> <p>Need to promote community gardens.</p>
<p>3. Living condition, quality of life and standard of living</p>	<p>Need for activities for poverty reduction and social inclusion.</p> <p>Need to improve the access to land for young, small and new farmers.</p> <p>Need to finalize long lasting land consolidation schemes.</p> <p>Need to provide basic services, such as repairer, electrician, woodwork, leatherwork, hairdresser, babysitter etc.</p> <p>Need to improve access to accommodation for people at risk of poverty.</p> <p>Need for quality education for dignified life, work and economic growth and the balancing of social inequalities that aim to improve the quality of education and strengthen the social status of educators, strengthen inclusion and ensure equal opportunities, improve access to work, current and future needs, raising the level of lifelong learning, stabilizing talents and a skilled workforce.</p>

	<p>Need to take into account the challenges and trends in the vocational education system at secondary, tertiary and lifelong levels and improving the skills of graduates in the tourism sector, the availability of employment opportunities for all population groups will increase.</p>
<p>4. Demographic & human capital</p>	<p>Need to support generation exchange in agriculture.</p> <p>Need to provide incentives for young people to come to live and work in rural areas through scholarships, providing accommodation in vocational schools etc.</p>
<p>5. Business, economy & innovation</p>	<p>Need to regain self-sufficiency of agricultural and food production of a country once self-sufficient at over 90% that has become in recent three decades a country dependent on imports of food.</p> <p>Need to significantly increase the level of state aid for the agricultural sector as it is the lowest within the EU.</p> <p>Need to develop a long term vision for the development and stability of rural areas and agriculture with the aim to restore the self-sufficiency.</p> <p>Need to pay special attention and give special support to young, family and small farmers.</p> <p>Need to improve transparency of direct payments for farmers and rural development program projects.</p> <p>Need to promote job creation with adequate pay and with a view to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>
<p>6. Social and cultural aspects of rural areas</p>	<p>Need to change social thinking about employment in agriculture through targeted promotion.</p> <p>Need to promote local organizations promoting regional specialties, crafts, traditions.</p> <p>Need to organize local social and cultural and artistic events and fairs, events for students, children, families and young generation.</p> <p>Need to promote access to the digitized heritage to the general public and business entities, taking into account the needs of disabled people.</p>

	<p>Need to motivate to use modern ways of presenting cultural heritage with the use of new technologies and progressive marketing methods.</p> <p>Need to involve local actors in commercial exploitation of cultural heritage.</p> <p>Need to support for cultural activities and creative industries with a view to strengthening the creation and distribution of cultural goods.</p> <p>Need to support the building of cultural infrastructure for the economic exploitation of creative activities linked to the tourism sector.</p>
<p>7. Environment & Biodiversity</p>	<p>Need to change the support in the agricultural area from per hectare basis on added value and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Need to give more emphasis on domestic local production which is more sustainable and healthy respecting the local food traditions.</p> <p>Need to promote better waste management and using waste as a resource.</p> <p>Need to prevent devastation of forest and logging especially in national parks.</p> <p>Need to improve the management of water resources by promoting and creating conditions for capture and use of rainwater, supporting establishment of ponds etc.</p> <p>Need to have sustainable settlements, regions and landscape in the context of climate change, specifically improving access to drinking water, sewerage and clean resources available, sustainable urban development, preventing climate change and, last but not least, protecting terrestrial life.</p> <p>Need for sustainable and planned urban and regional development, ensuring access to accessible mobility, energy, drinking water for environmental sustainability, adaptation to climate change, reducing pollution, protecting nature and biodiversity.</p>

