

# The challenge of funds: the Just Transition and EU Policy. Implications of the Green Deal for Rural Regions

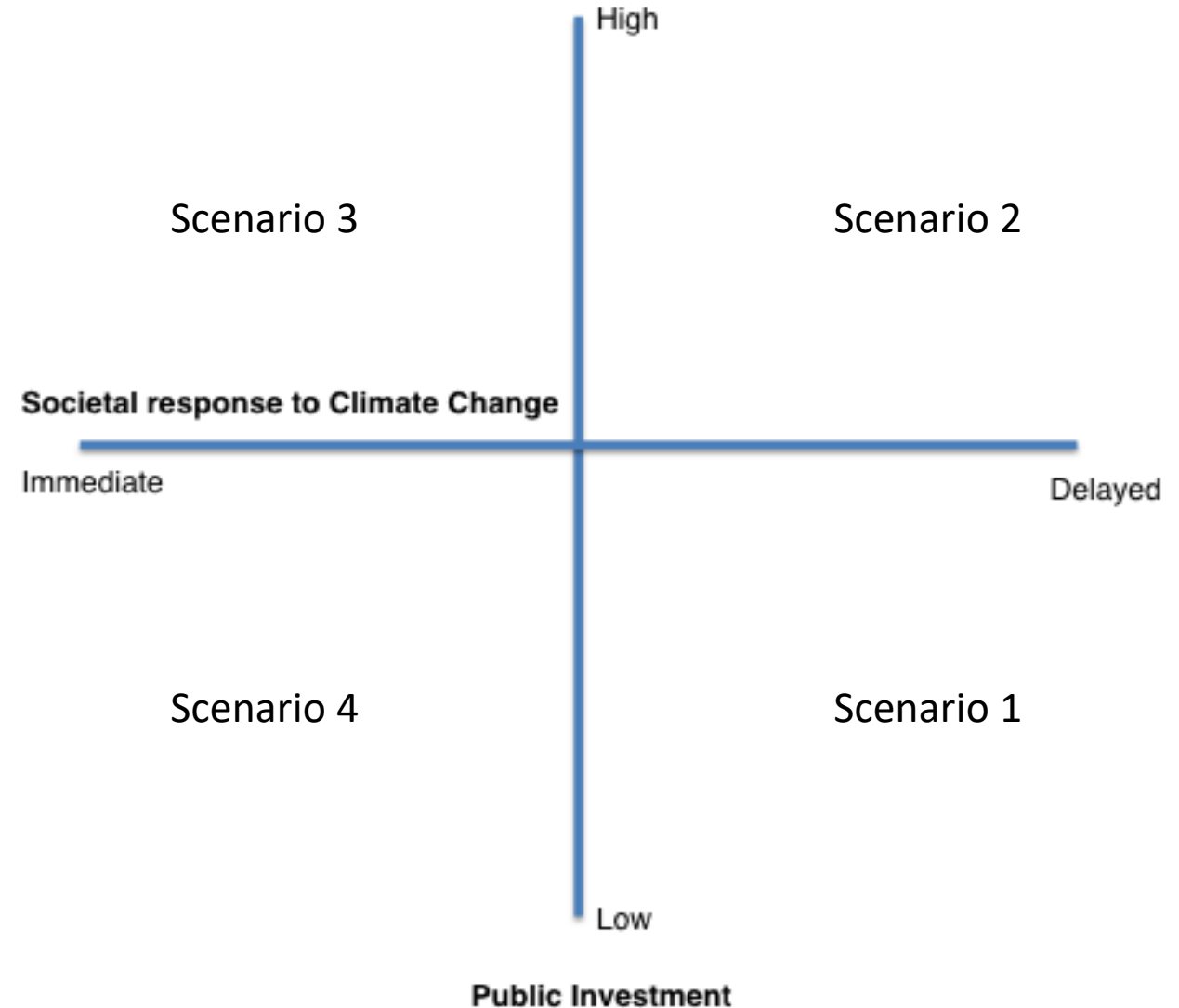
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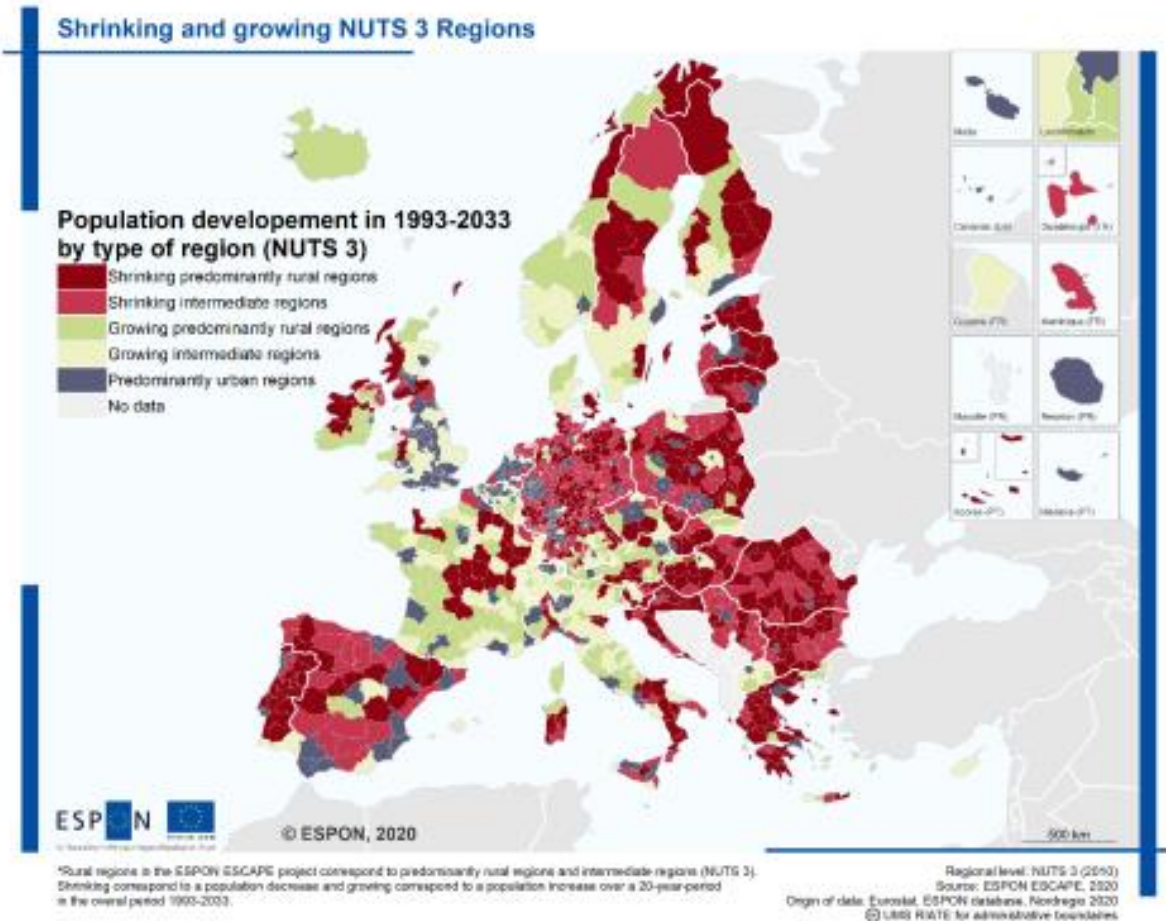
# European Development Options for Rural Areas

- **Scenario 1:** gradual response to climate change combined with low levels of State – EU supports.
- **Scenario 2:** gradual response to climate change combined with high levels of State – EU supports.
- **Scenario 3:** rapid response to climate change combined with low levels of State – EU supports.
- **Scenario 4:** rapid response to climate change combined with high levels of State – EU supports.



# European Shrinking Rural Areas

Map 1: Shrinking Rural NUTS 3 Regions



Research with High Level policy stakeholders exploring policy options and responses to demographic changes and challenges



Significant emphasis on the social process of the climate transition

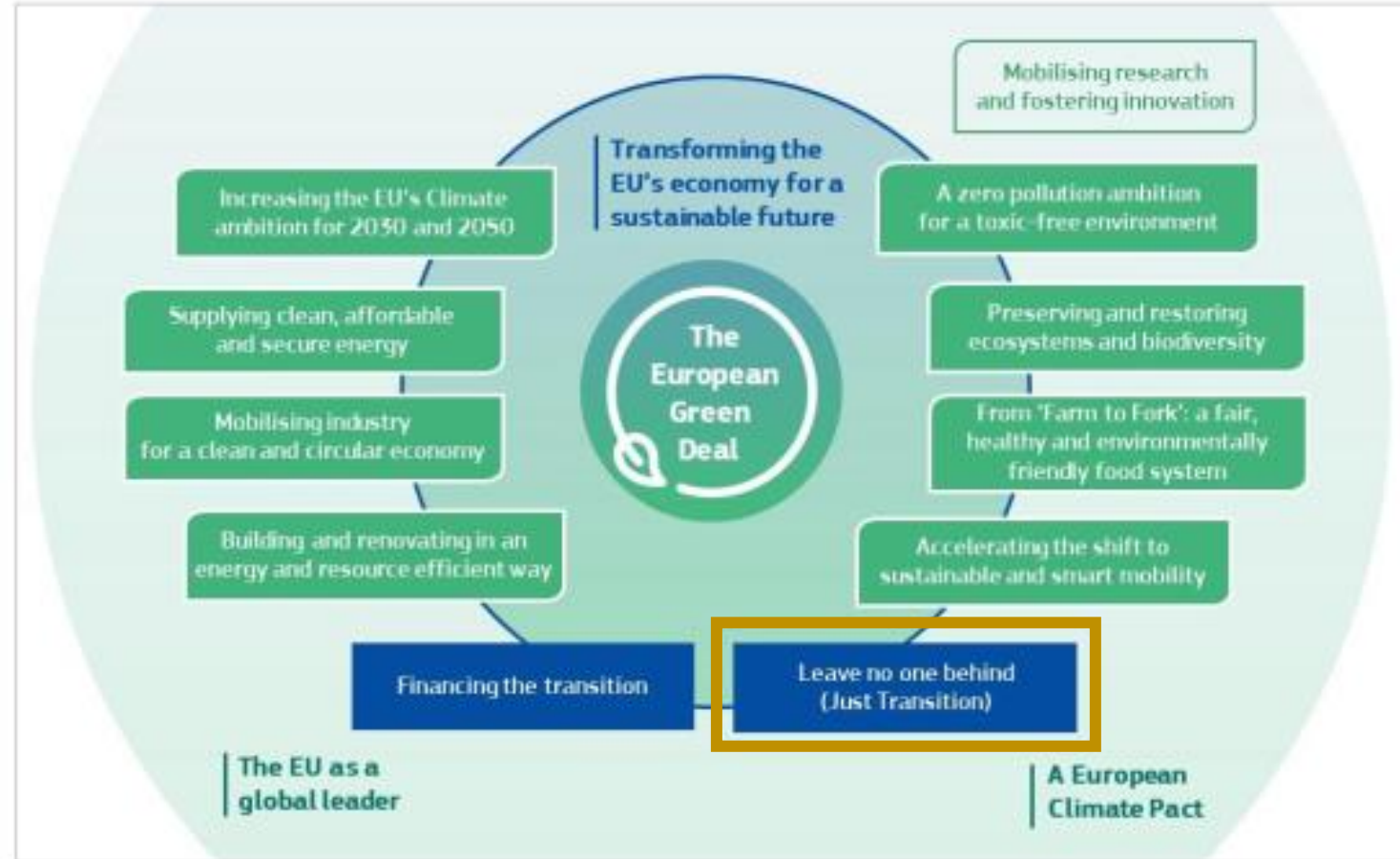


Ensuring that that no one is left behind in the green transition (Just / Fair Transitions)

# The European Green Deal

*“a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts.” (European Commission, 2019, p.2).*

*“At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive. It must put people first, and pay attention to the regions, industries and workers who will face the greatest challenges.” (European Commission, 2019, p.2).*



# Delivering Just Transitions

Multiple elements built on the pre-existing regulatory and budgetary framework of the EU and responsibility for the different aspects rests with the competent Directorates-General

- Green Deal Investment Plan
- Just Transition Mechanism
- Industrial Strategy
- Circular Economy Action Plan
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Biodiversity Strategy

## Timeline

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- **11 December 2019**  
Presentation of the [European Green Deal](#)
- **14 January 2020**  
Presentation of the [European Green Deal Investment Plan and the Just Transition Mechanism](#)
- **4 March 2020**  
Proposal for a [European climate law](#) to ensure a climate neutral European Union by 2050  
Public consultation (open until 27 May 2020) on the [European Climate Pact](#) bringing together regions, local communities, civil society, businesses and schools
- **10 March 2020**  
Adoption of the [European Industrial Strategy](#), a plan for a future-ready economy
- **11 March 2020**  
Proposal of a [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) focusing on sustainable resource use
- **20 May 2020**  
Presentation of the '[Farm to fork strategy](#)' to make food systems more sustainable
- **20 May 2020**  
Presentation of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#) to protect the fragile natural resources on our planet

# Agricultural and Rural Policy

## Farm to Fork Strategy

- *“take into account different starting points and differences in improvement potential in the Member States.”*
- *“...a transition to sustainability of the food system will change the economic fabric of many EU regions and their patterns of interactions.”* (European Commission, 2020b, p.7).
- *New policy initiatives... [are] essential to ensure a fair transition*



# Conclusions

- Much that is worthy in the concept of just transitions
- The challenge is one of adapting existing policy frameworks and associated governance structures to support transitions that are not only environmentally, economically and socially just but also spatially just.
- Design and governance of market based systems needs careful consideration to ensure that communities in these places gain from the development of this service
- There are resource and capacity issues that may prevent the benefits being realised in rural regions
- Member States need to develop measures that can be implemented by rural communities that generate community wealth.
- Apply multi-actor, participatory approaches (not just consultation) in developing these measures to ensure that they are appropriate to rural areas and that rural communities have the capacity to implement them