

10

# URRUC – Urban-rural connections in non-metropolitan regions



# URRUC

1. Rural and non-metropolitan areas cannot provide the same level of accessibility to usual public and private transports for economic reasons
2. Negotiating and economic capacities altogether with institutional frameworks can hamper the implementation of innovative and place-based solutions.a



# URRUC – reflection on challenge 1

- Proximity to larger conurbations
  - > Funding is frequently directed to large urban territories
- Rural-rural/urban connections strengthens territorial cohesion
  - >market-led solutions only part of picture
- Cohesion Policy could guarantee additional funding to NMRs
- Tourist regions impacted by seasonal fluctuations (Infrastructure challenge)
- Interconnectivity inside functional regions Nb.
  - > Mobility patterns help explain what constitutes a functional region
- Pressing need to curb economic and demographic drain
  - > Single economic leaders need support

# URRUC – reflection on challenge 2

- Multi-level governance integration in policy planning
  - >NMRs often not included in regional planning or governance cooperation
- Requires governance (horizontal and vertical); permanent working groups?
- Access to EU funding is limited by capacity issues
  - > Have skills, not resources to reply
- Simplify bureaucratic burden in EU funded projects
- National and regional institutions need binding mechanisms
  - > support funding of rural connectivity projects
- Specific programmes and projects for NMRs
  - > Involve directly local stakeholders (top down, bottom up)