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# European research on rural development – Gaps and needs for the future

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# Introduction

Vision

Drivers Challenges

European activities

Key areas / themes

Priorities

- European „vision“ for rural areas and rural research
- Understanding complexity of drivers and challenges
- Achieving an overview of relevant European research activities
- Structuring research activities along key areas and cross-cutting themes
- Conclusions: priorities for rural research

>>> no „complete“ picture, but an introduction to main features of EU research activities (Background ERA-Net RURAGRI) <<<

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# A complex pattern of "drivers"

## Thematic view of rural change

- Economic processes
- Social processes
- Environmental processes
- Policy / governance / institutions
- Rural-Urban relationships

## Overarching themes

- ❖ Endogenous development vs. exogenous influence
- ❖ "Relational space" vs. proximity

Policy context – Europe 2020

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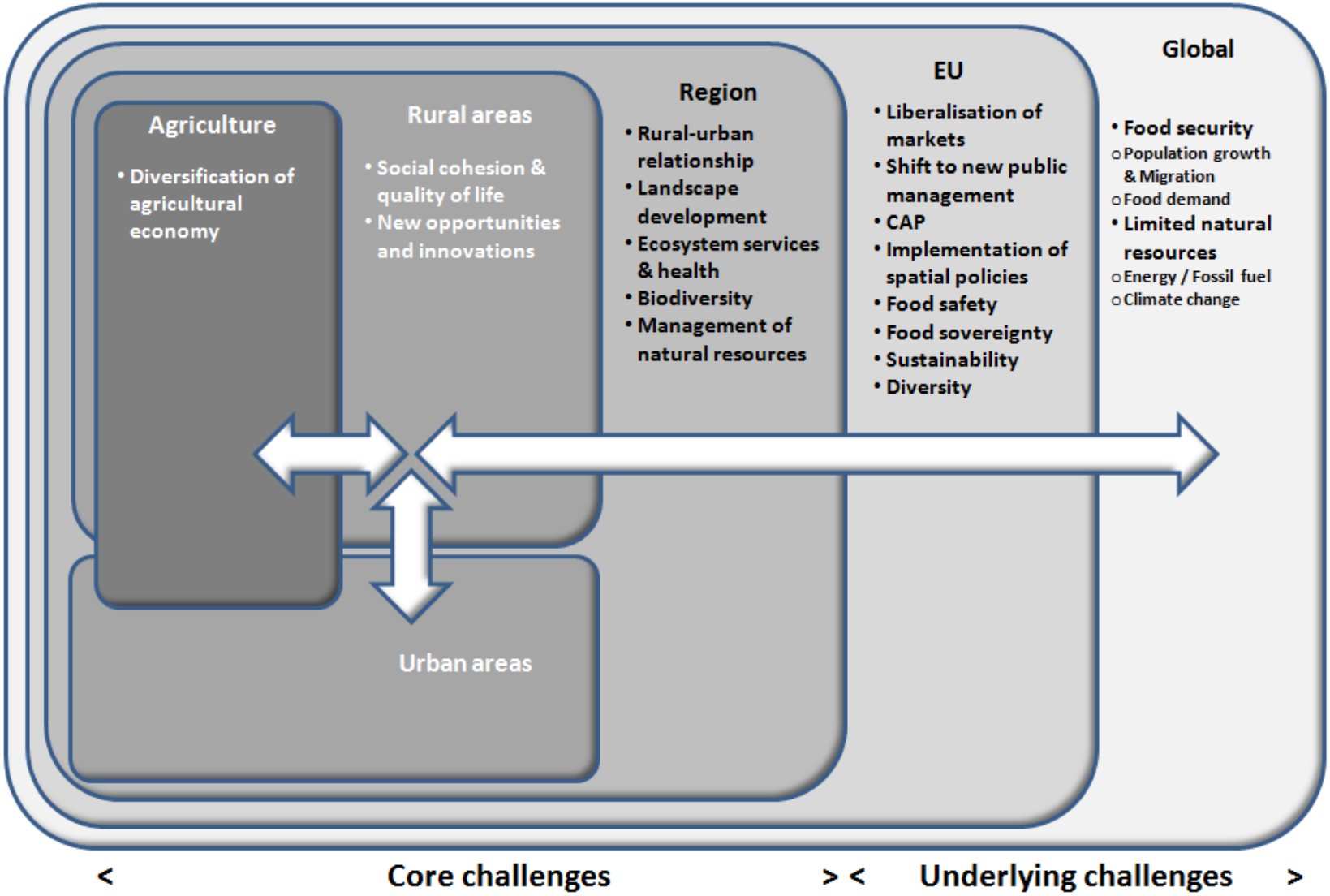
# Challenges associated with a balanced regional development



# Urban-rural typology

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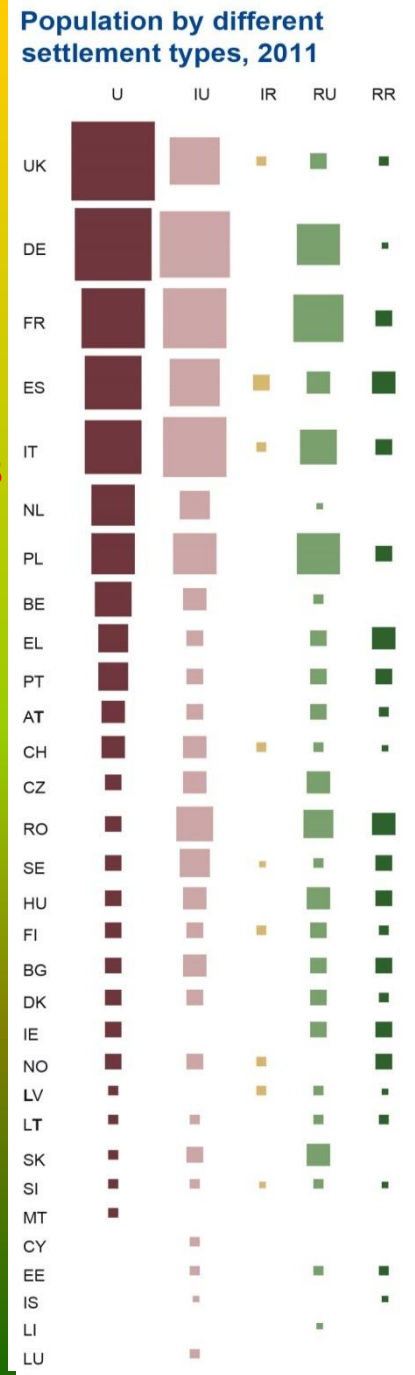


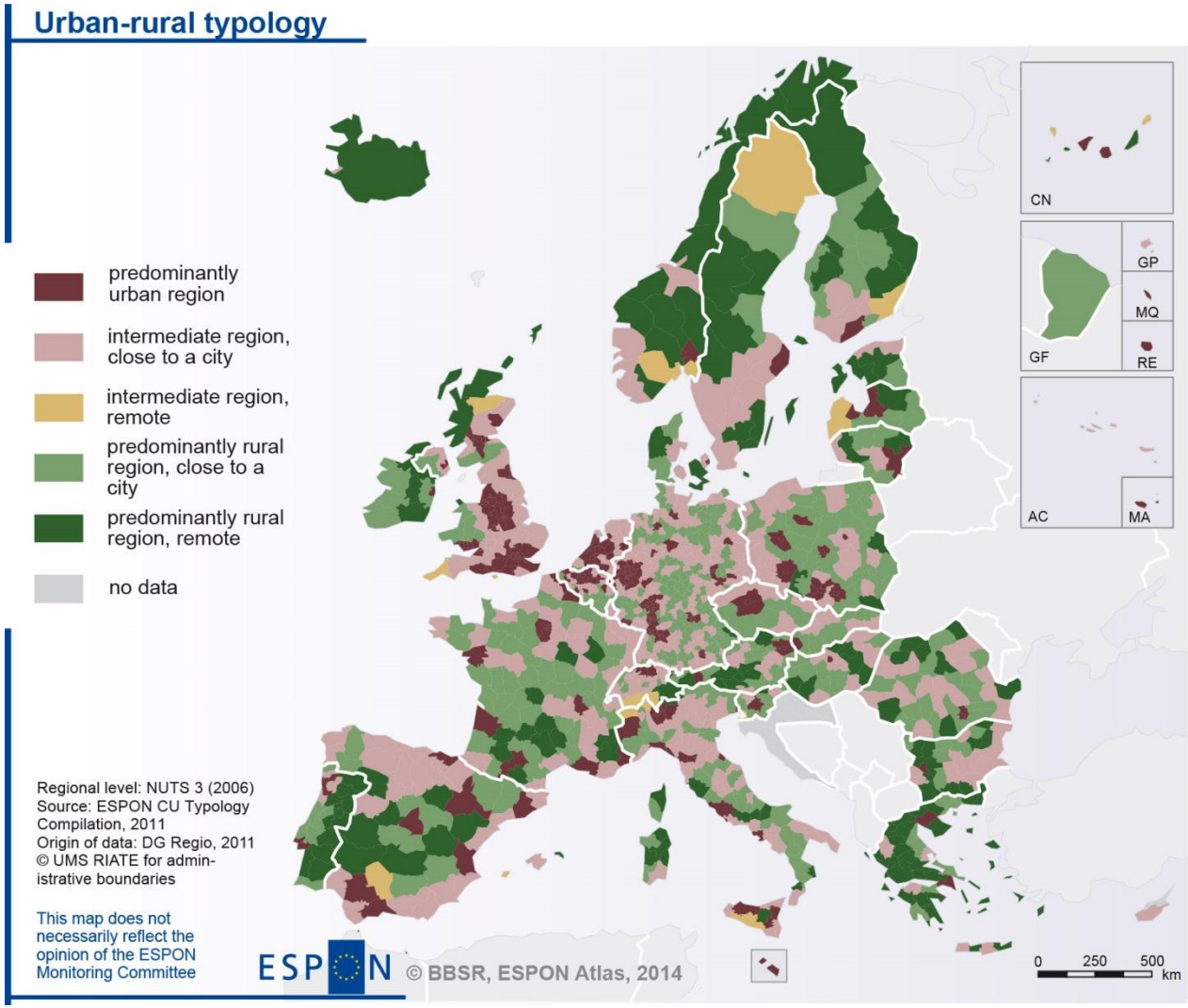

# Structural typology of rural regions

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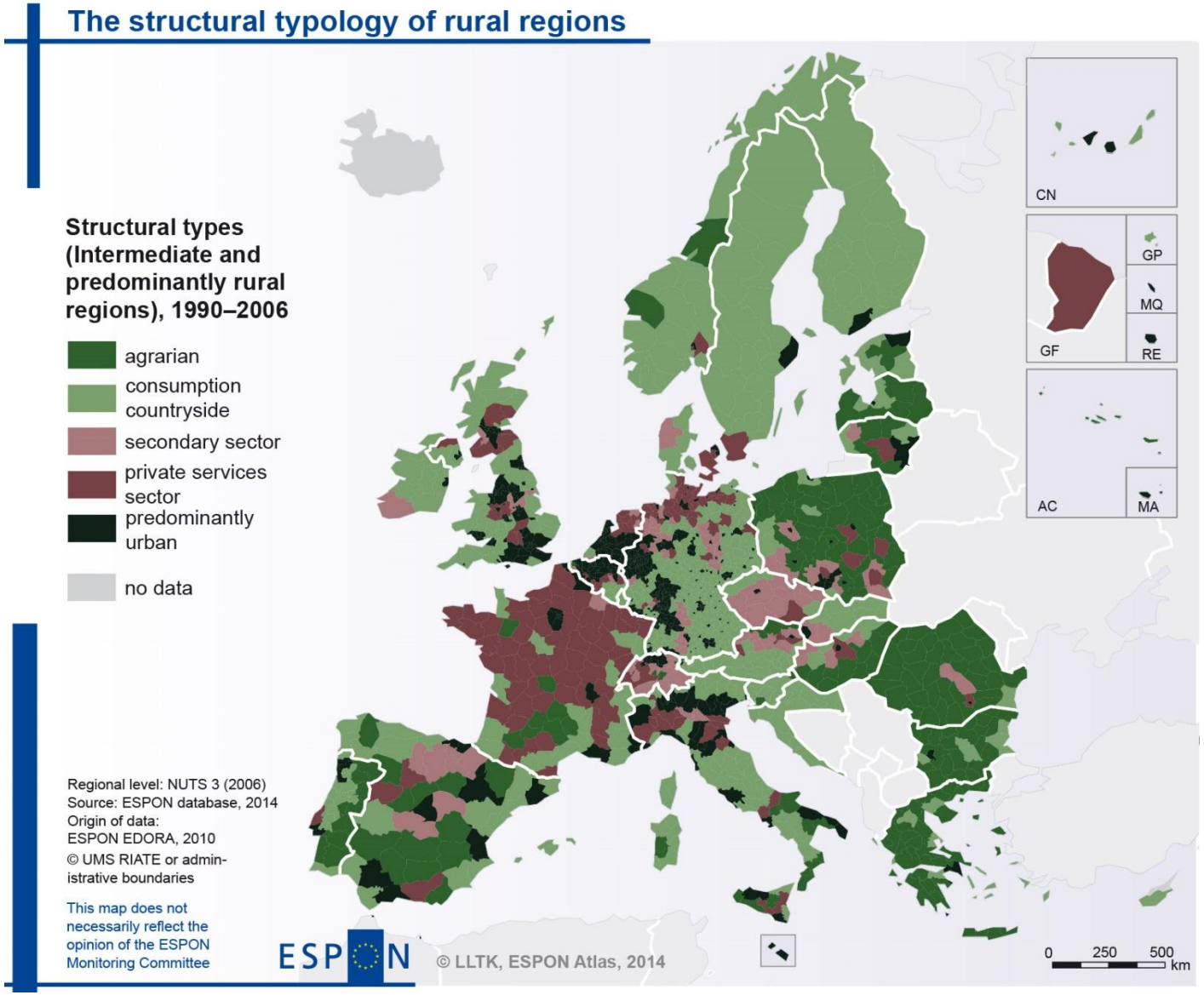

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# European research activities

- ***Framework Programmes*** (FP1 – **FP6/FP7; Horizon2020**)
- ***European Research Area*** – ERA:
  more than 100 ERA-Nets (since 2002),
  focus on inter-disciplinary view of
  agriculture, sustainablity and rural areas:
  **ERA-Net RURAGRI** (2009-2014)

RURAGRI
ERA-NET

- ***Trans-national*** EC-programmes (Interreg, **ESPON**, Interreg IVC etc.); ENRD network
- European Science Foundation (ESF) and professional associations
- ***International*** institutions (OECD; UN, e.g. FAO, UNDP, UNEP, ILO etc.)
- ***National*** research (programmes): ADD and CAS-DAR (FR), REFINA (D), GUDP (DK), PFEIL15 (A); RELU (UK), NFP (CH) etc.

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# Overview on European rural development research

- Network activities
  (EC document 1988; REAPER-network 1995-97; SCAR committee survey 1996; COST A12 Rural Innovation 2002; SCAR – 4 Foresight studies since 2006)
- ERA-Net RURAGRI (24 partners in 20 countries)
  - mapping of relevant research (national and EU-level)
  - elaborate a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)
  - trans-national research activities: Call 2012/13 (5 projects selected)

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# Scope of relevant research

- 90 – 100 relevant FP projects listed;
  rising focus on rural development aspects
- 110 other European projects and studies
  (commisioned through EC tenders, thematic programmes and trans-national activities)
- at least 18 relevant ERA-Nets; and ETPs, JPIs
  (e.g. Biodiversa, CORE organic, ERA-ARD; FACCE), and EIP

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- Studies by international organisations:
  OECD (typology, amenities, rural policy reviews, renewable energy, RURBAN); ILO (empowerment); FAO/UN (M-SARD, development studies, participation), IFAD (rural poverty) …

# List of FP-projects and other studies

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| Research programme | Trans-national project examples | description |
|---|---|---|
| pre FP6 | FP4: DORA, IMPACT, PRIDE, RUREMPLO | driving forces, participation, partnership and challenges of marginal areas |
| | FP5: ASPIRE, EUROLAN, RESTRIM | |
| FP6 | ETUDE, FARO, MULTAGRI, PLUREL, TERESA, TOP-MARD, MEA-SCOPE, TERA, SCARLED | rural innovation and new concepts, understanding/ measurement of complexity (e.g. multifunctionality) |
| FP7 | PRIMA, RUFUS, RuralJobs, SOILSERVICE, RuDI, DERREG, VOLANTE | support for rural policies; input to CAP reform considerations (“new challenges in RD”) |
| | CLAIM, AnaEE, FARMPATH, QuESSA | |
| H2020 | AgriSPIN | increased focus on stakeholder integration (transfer knowledge); linkages beyond EU (global relevance); towards Rural renaissance |
| other studies | e.g. trans-national EC programmes, and ENRD (Interreg, ESPON, URBACT, LIFE; Alpine Space, Baltic Sea, Central, South East, North West, MED, etc.) | spatially and thematically targeted research |
| | EDORA, EU-LUPA, GEOSPECS, GREECO, ET2050; | |
| | Green Mountain, DEMOCHANGE, ECONNECT, IRENE, PADIMA | |
| | EC tenders | |
| | SERA, SCENAR 2020, PUBLIC GOODS, SEGIRA | |
| | ERA-Nets / JPI etc. | |
| | CORE ORGANIC, BIODIVERSA, ARIMNET, ERA-ARD, CIRCLE, WoodWisdom, URBAN-NET, Heritage; FACCE | |
| | COST actions | |
| | A12 Rural innovation | |
| | SCAR Foresight activities | future research perspectives |
| | Foresight studies 1 - 4 | |

| EU Rural research themes | FP7 | FP6 | pre FP6 | other studies |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| drivers and trends | FARMPATH DERREG TRANSMANGO | FARO, AG2020 | DORA | SCENAR2020II, SCAR Foresight |
| rural differentiation/typologies | PASHMINA, RUFUS | SCARLED | | OECD typology, Territorial Indicators |
| rural theory | | ETUDE RAPIDO | ASPIRE | EDORA (ESPON) |
| sustainable development/ecosystems | SOILSERVICE CLAIM AnaEEE ENVIEVAL QuESSA | COCONUT MEACAP SEAMLESS SENSOR | | renewable energy (OECD) |
| new land management | VOLANTE | | | EU-LUPA (ESPON) |
| rural employment/enterprise | RURALJOBS | CARERA TERA | RUREMPLO | SERA SEGIRA |
| value chains | GLAMUR | | | |
| social dimension | | SOFAR | RESTRIM | DEMIFER(ESPON) |
| multifunctionality/public goods | PRIMA ARANGE | MULTAGRI TOP-MARD MEA-SCOPE | EUROLAN | PUBLIC GOODS |
| knowledge systems/innovation | SOLINSA VALERIE AgriSPIN(H2020) | | | |
| urban-rural interaction | PUREFOOD SUPURBFOOD | PLUREL | | RURBAN (OECD) |
| governance | | CORASON | PRIDE | Rural Policy Reviews (OECD) |
| policy impact | RuDI SPARD CAP-IRE | TERESA CEEC-AGRI POLICY | IMPACT | TIPTAP (ESPON) |

# SRA research needs – European research

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Sources: Cordis , project websites; own illustration 2011 and 2015

# Strategic Concept

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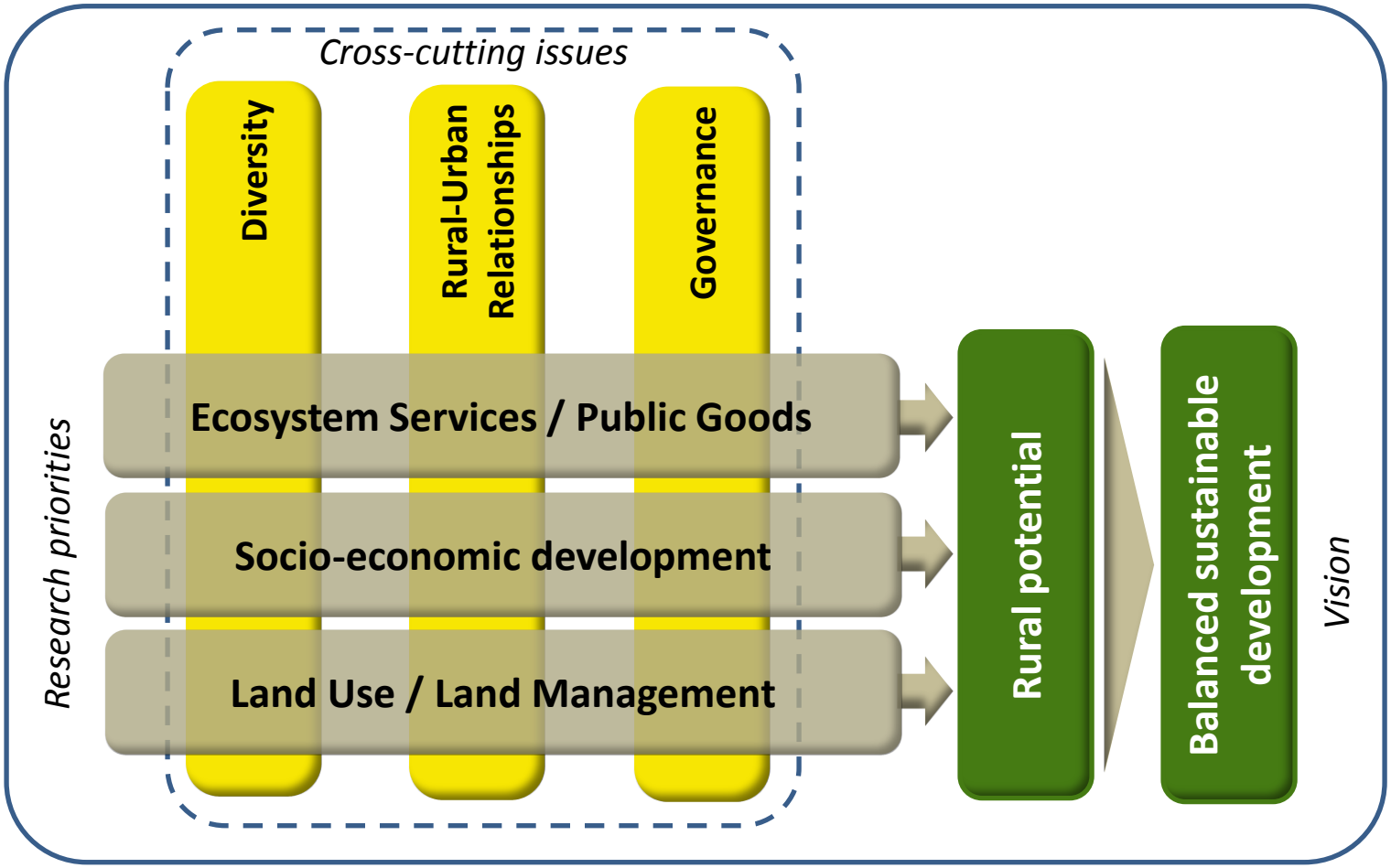

# Research focus of RURAGRI projects

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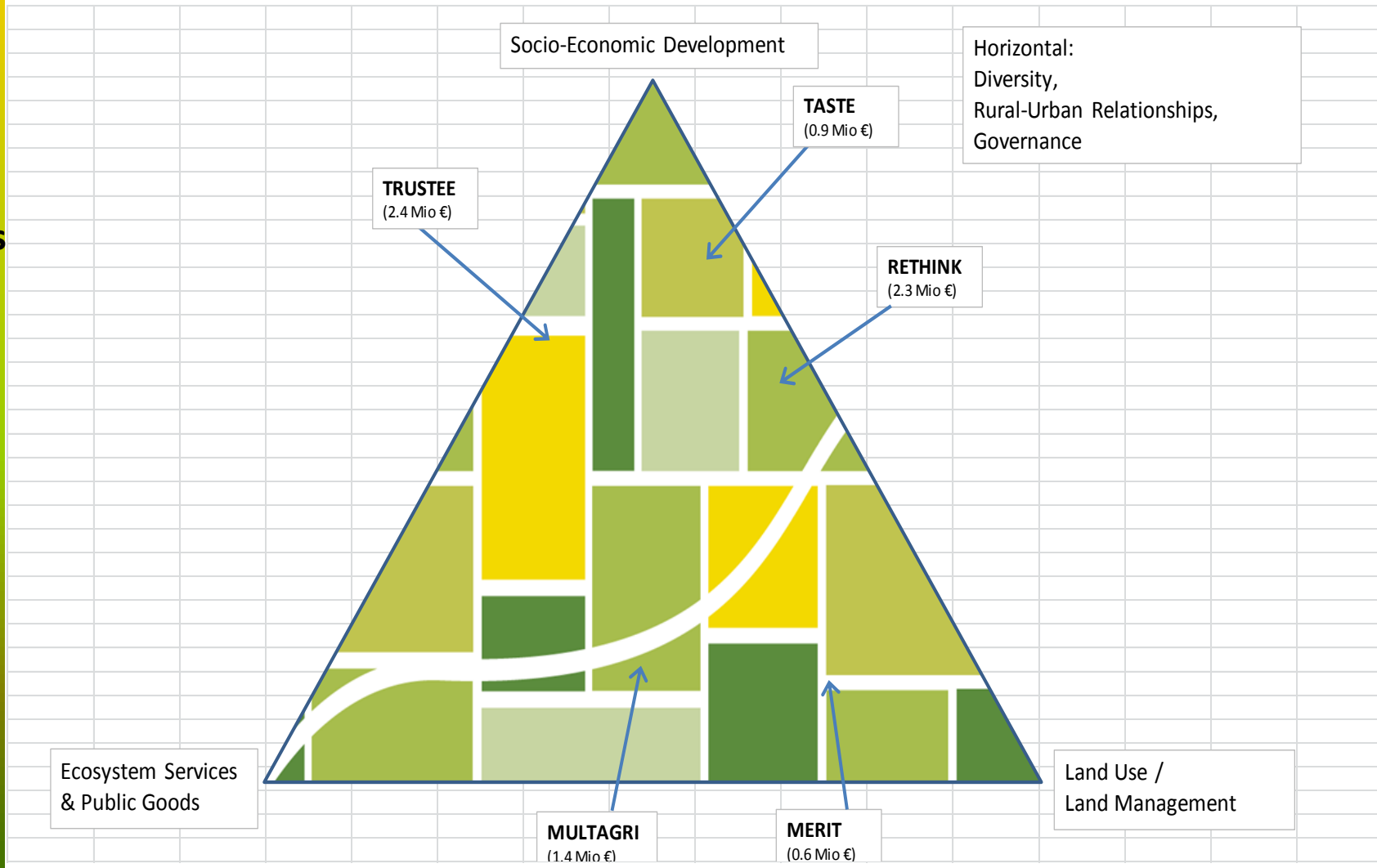

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# Key elements of recent rural research

- Inter-disciplinary (and **trans-disciplinary**) methods
- From linear causalities to cyclical processes / systemic views
- Resource efficiency: towards more resilient systems
- Overcoming defensive positions, applying **asset-based** approaches
- Reflect (general) **spatial dynamics** (local/regional variation, diversity, urban-rural relationships, structural and socio-cultural changes)
- Large-scale generalisations (regional types) and European views (and beyond)
- European **policy agenda** (strategic vision)
- Capacity building and participation
- **Social innovation**, including poverty reduction and development access
- **Transfer knowledge**

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# trends in rural development perspectives

- Perspectives on rural areas challenges and opportunities changed (substantially)
- Close interrelation with other areas
- Increased relevance of mix of policies, enhancing multi-level governance
- Orientation towards sustainable development / „green economy“
- Need of pro-active, strategic approaches (unlocking potential, „rural renaissance“)

# Cross-cutting issues

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# Thank you for your attention

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