Results of WS 4: The diversity of rural areas, harnessing the development potential

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Europe’s rural areas in action - Facing the challenges of tomorrow
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The diversity of rural areas, harnessing the development potential

4 key words
Rural Areas
Diversity
Development Potential
Harnessing

3 presentations
Alan Matthews
Francesco Mantino
Moritz Lennert

Rural Areas
Changing Rurality,

Diversity
Typology of Rural Areas (in Italy)

Development
Exploring Rural Futures

Potential
The ESPON Scenarios

Harnessing what new policy requirements and its role in strategic programming
Main issues discussed

- Conceptualising the changing “rurality”
- Coping with rural diversity (typologies);
- Understanding (new) drivers of change
- Exploring spatial development scenarios
- Agreeing on sustainable rural development aims / outcomes
- Ensuring coherent / coordinated implementation of rural policies

- Are we fit for post-2013 rural policies?
Changing Rurality

Is “rural” still a meaningful / useful category – despite the diversity?

Rural areas have some **basic characteristics** in common, such as low density, lack of access natural assets, land cover and land use

**OECD** definition: not “either/or”: rural-urban dichotomy but rather “more or less” rural (urban) territories (continuum)

What counts is the interaction within types of region

Scale and size of territorial units matters (NUTS II, NUTS III, smaller units, GIS)

*Rural focus is still justified -- but …*
Coping with Diversity

... *better territorial and thematic targeting is required*

**Typologies** according to purpose

- *analytical understanding* or
- *policy orientation*

  e.g.
  
  **Performance:** rich/ poor; dynamic/lagging
  
  **Economic base:** farming, tourism, manufacturing
  
  **Natural endowment:** LFA, HNV, FFH, NVA designations
  
  **Other concerns**
Coping with Diversity

The Italian NSP provides an interesting example (OECD - plus)

Strategic programming (in the Italian NSP and its regional implementation)
- adds topography (mountains, hills, plains)
- distinguishes types of rural areas (peri-urban, intensive agriculture, intermediate, economically weak)
- facilitates concertation between national and regional level
- enables coherent aggregation and comparison at European level
- facilitates targeting and differentiation of thematic policy measures (Axis 1; Axis 2; Axis 3+4)

A policy innovation
- Not just a statistical, methodological exercise but a national – regional – governance process

Policy targeting
- needs based or opportunity based

Numbers are political!
Coping with Diversity

Rural proofing /lens

Most macro and sectoral policies have significant territorial/rural impacts (health, transport, IT, environment, taxes, …)

Ignoring territorial differences

disparities and diversity (problems) (potentials)

is

Anti-Lisbon

causes inefficiencies and;
slow growth

Anti-Göteborg

undermines environmental integrity and sustainability
# New Drivers of Change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Globalisation</strong></td>
<td>liberalisation (WTO), metropolitanisation, global networks and value chains</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Demography</strong></td>
<td>density, decline, ageing, mobility: migration and commuting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Technology</strong></td>
<td>transport, energy, communication</td>
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<td><strong>access</strong>: physically, virtually (digital divide)</td>
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<td><strong>Economy</strong></td>
<td>structural changes (AGR, IND, SERV)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Society</strong></td>
<td>consumer preferences (labels: DOC), gender, family, community, education, entertainment, leisure</td>
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<td><strong>Environment &amp; Nature</strong></td>
<td>availability and quality (Land, Soil, Water, Air, )</td>
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<td>biodiversity (genetic, species, eco-systems)</td>
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<td>landscapes: natural &amp; cultural heritage</td>
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<td><strong>Climate Change</strong></td>
<td>mitigation (transport cost, fuel types, sinks)</td>
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<td>adaptation (coasts, mountains, floods, droughts)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Political Economy</strong></td>
<td>voters and lobbies, visions and positions actors</td>
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Spatial Development Scenarios

5 ESPON Scenarios

1. trend business as usual
2. policy competitiveness vs cohesion
2. rural open market vs sustainable rurality

Open Market
- competition (economic growth/efficiency)
- growing, widening
- (global) nodes/networks

Sustainable Rurality
- cohesion (social equity/re-distribution)
- developing, deepening
- (European) fortress

Policy support for
- strong potentials only
- weak rural regions only
Spatial Development Scenarios

Extreme / controversial scenarios

trigger **debate** (pedagogical function); make (actual or potential) **trade-offs** explicit; help formulating territorial development **orientations** and focus on **desired outcomes**.

**raise questions** such as:

*Should we accept desertification, depopulation and land abandonment?*

*Do we care about people or places?*

*Does policy matter?*

Yet, **may not answer them** in a satisfactory manner.
Rural Development Aims / Strategies

Sustainable rural development requires

- Economic Efficiency (Competitiveness)
- Social Equity (Cohesion)
Rural Development Aims / Strategies

Sustainable rural development requires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic</th>
<th>Efficiency (Competitiveness)</th>
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<td>Social</td>
<td>Equity (Cohesion)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ecological</th>
<th>Integrity (Environmental Quality)</th>
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<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Identity (Rural Amenity)</td>
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A proper balance / an integrated approach asks for

- territorial differentiation (in SWOT analysis and policy design)
- strategic planning / programming (relying on regional / local actors)
- specific policy packages / mixes (no one size fits all)
Coordinated Implementation

Traditional Agendas & Policies
- Overcome AGR bias
- Overcome Urban bias
- Competition & Protection

Modern Agendas & Policies
- Sustainable Development Promotion
- Activation & Networking
- (Fair) Competition and Cohesion

Sectoral Policies
- Territorial Policy
- Regional Policy

Territorial Rural Policy
- Cohesion & Re-distribution

Old Rural Policies
- Agricultural Policy

New Rural Policies
Coordinated Implementation

2 Pillars
Pillar 1  CAP
Pillar 2  RDP

4 Axes
Axis 1  AGR  modernisation
Axis 2  ENV  management
Axis 3  RUR  diversification
Axis 4  GOV

Italian NSP example:

Thematic Differentiation and Territorial Targeting
Are we fit for post-2013?

What is the (rural) policy ambition?
- strengthening Pillar 2? (Modulation)
- maintaining its share? (of a shrinking cake)

What are the weights of and the relations between
- Axes 1 to 4?
- Axes 3 & 4 and SF Cohesion Policy?

- One (Regional) Plan -- Multiple Measures and Funds?
- Coherence - Simplification - One stop shop?
Are we fit for post-2013?

The Conference Theme:

Europe’s rural areas in action

Facing the challenges of tomorrow

We need more political mobilisation for sustainable rural development!
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