



Thematic Working Group 1
Targeting territorial specificities and needs in Rural
Development Programmes
Final Report - Annex 4

EN RD Contact Point
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Connecting Rural Europe

The Thematic Working Group 1

The EN RD has established Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) which carry out specific analysis on the basis of the current rural development programmes focusing on specific thematic priorities. Working on the basis of a specific mandate they provide in-depth analysis of the EU Rural Development policy implementation and contribute to the understanding and diffusion of 'know-how' and experiences and improvement of its effectiveness. As of October 2010, TWGs have been established on the following topics:

- TWG1: Targeting territorial specificities and needs in Rural Development Programmes
- TWG2: Agriculture and the wider rural economy
- TWG3: Public goods and public intervention
- TWG4: Delivery mechanisms of EU Rural Development Policy

The overall objective of **TWG1** is to contribute, through relevant analysis and the diffusion of results, to an efficient targeting of territorial specificities and needs in Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) and to a more balanced development of rural areas across Europe.

Based on a predefined workplan the Group conducted its analytical work in 3 steps:

Step 1 analysed how EU Member States have defined or targeted rural areas in their RDPs for the 2007-2013 programming period, and what kind of indicators and definitions they have used for this purpose.

Step 2 addressed the issue of demarcation and complementarity between the different European Union and national funds in terms of meeting the development needs of rural areas and the targeting of specific territories for the application of measures and resources to meet identified areas.

Step 3 which is the final output of the analytical work, involves the production of an overall report bringing together the various elements (including significant commonalities and variations) with respect to:

- national approaches to the definition of rural areas;
- the analysis of territorial specificities and needs;
- the targeting of measures in relation to these specificities and needs;
- strategies for demarcation and complementarity between RDPs and other Community and national instruments.

Informed by the above, the Step 3 Report concludes by providing draft building blocks for a revised typology of rural areas, and a revised set of baseline indicators.

From autumn 2010 onwards a number of "products" based on the analysis and outcomes of the analytical work are being developed for widespread dissemination and discussion among EN RD stakeholders.

Annex 4 Summary of context-related baseline indicators and full text of horizontal indicators 1 and 2

b. Context related baseline indicators

AXIS		Indicator	Measurement
Horizontal	1	Designation of rural areas	Designation of rural areas with OECD methodology
	2	Importance of rural areas	% territory in rural areas % population in rural areas % Gross Value Added in rural areas % employment in rural areas
AXIS 1, Competitiveness	3	Agricultural land use	% arable area / permanent grass / permanent crops
	4	Farm structure	Number of farms Utilized Agricultural Area Average area farm size and distribution Average economic farm size and distribution Labour Force
	5	Forestry structure	Area of forest available for wood supply (FAWS) Ownership (% area of FAWS under "eligible" ownership) Average size of private holding (FOWL)
	6	Forest productivity	Average net annual volume increment (FAWS)
AXIS 2, Environment	7	Land cover	% area in agricultural / forest / natural / artificial classes
	8	Less Favoured Areas	% UAA in non LFA / LFA mountain / other LFA / LFA with specific handicaps
	9	Areas of extensive agriculture	% UAA for extensive arable crops % UAA for extensive grazing
	10	Natura 2000 area	% territory under Natura 2000 % UAA under Natura 2000 % forest area under Natura 2000
	11	Biodiversity: Protected forest	% FOWL protected to conserve biodiversity, landscapes and specific natural elements (MCPFE 4.9, classes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 & 2)
	12	Development of forest area	Average annual increase of forest and other wooded land areas
	13	Forest ecosystem health	% trees / conifers / broadleaved in defoliation classes 2-4
	14	Water quality	% territory designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zone
	15	Water use	% irrigated UAA
	16	Protective forests concerning primarily soil and water	FOWL area managed primarily for soil & water protection (MCPFE 5.1 class 3.1)
AXIS 3, Wider rural development	17	Population density	Population density
	18	Age structure	% people aged (0-14) y.o. / (15-64) y.o. / >=85 y.o. in total population
	19	Structure of the Economy	% GVA by branch (Primary / Secondary / Tertiary sector)
	20	Structure of Employment	% employment by branch (Primary / Secondary / Tertiary sector)
	21	Long-term unemployment	% long-term unemployment (as a share of active population)
	22	Educational attainment	% adults (25_64) with Medium & High educational attainment
	23	Internet infrastructure	DSL coverage

HORIZONTAL	
Baseline indicator for context	1 - Designation of rural areas
Measurement of the indicator	Designation of rural areas according to the OECD methodology.
Definition of the indicator	<p>The OECD methodology is based on population density (OECD, Creating rural indicators for shaping territorial policy, Paris, 1994). It is based on a two-step approach :</p> <p>First, the OECD identifies local areas (municipalities) as rural if the population density is below 150 inhabitants per square kilometre.</p> <p>Then, at regional level (NUTS 3 or NUTS 2), the OECD distinguishes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Predominantly Rural regions (PR)</u>: more than 50% of the population is living in rural communes (with less than 150 inhabitants / km²) • <u>Intermediate Regions (IR)</u>: 15% to 50% of the population of the region is living in rural local units • <u>Predominantly Urban regions (PU)</u>: less than 15% of the population of the region is living in rural local units. <p>As a result, the regions (NUTS 3 or NUTS 2) can be 'flagged' with their category: Predominantly Rural, Intermediate, Predominantly Urban. Characterisation of the rural character at regional level, where most of the statistics are available, allows drawing easily a picture of the different types of areas at national level.</p> <p>As for the first step, the method requires information on population and areas at local level, the characterisation can only made with a long periodicity (in general every 10 years when a population census is made).</p> <p>The OECD methodology is the only definition of rural areas internationally recognised. However, the results of this methodology are sometimes considered as imperfectly reflecting the rural character of areas, particularly in densely populated regions. The methodology is therefore sometimes adapted or replaced by another approach.</p> <p>When MS consider that the OECD methodology is not appropriate to delimitate rural areas, they must propose and use an alternative delimitation. This definition should be used consistently for all related indicators.</p>
Sub-indicators	-
Unit of measurement	-
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method / good practice	Calculation based on statistical data
Source	<p>Source 1: Eurostat GISCO - SIRE DATABASE SABE database for the administrative boundaries (Copyright EuroGeographics) Calculation : AGRI-G2</p> <p>Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State</p>
Availability	<p><u>Eurostat</u>:</p> <p>According to definition : yes Most recent year: 2000 (2001 for UK) Provisional data for all MS except: BE, DK, ES, FR metropolitan, AT, PT, FI, SE. Nuts level: 3 (local level is LAU 2 except LAU1 for BG) Completeness: EU-27</p>
	Collection frequency: every 10 years
Registration frequency	On the basis of availability

HORIZONTAL	
Baseline indicator for context	2 - Importance of rural areas
Measurement of the indicator	<p>This indicator consists in 4 sub-indicators :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % territory in rural areas • % population in rural areas • % Gross Value Added in rural areas • % employment in rural areas
Definition of the indicator	<p>This context indicator consists in several sub-indicators giving the relative importance of rural areas. The following aspects are taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural area as a percentage of the total area • People living in rural areas as a percentage of the total population • GVA in rural areas as a percentage of the total GVA in a region/country • Employment in rural areas as a percentage of the total employment in a region/country <p>MS should provide the data in relation to the delimitation of rural areas used for context related baseline indicator n°1 "Designation of rural areas". Where this is not possible, a qualitative estimate should be provided.</p>
Sub-indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Territory in rural areas % Population in rural areas % GVA in rural areas % Employment in rural areas
Subdivision	<p>For each sub-indicator the breakdown according to the rural/urban character used for context related baseline indicator n°1 "Designation of rural areas" should be provided.</p> <p>With OECD methodology, the breakdown is :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % in the 'predominantly rural' areas • % in the 'intermediate region' areas • % in the 'predominantly urban' areas <p>Sub-indicators on population and on employment can be further broken down according to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender • Age: (0-14) y.o. / (15-64) y.o. / >=65 y.o.
Unit of measurement	%
Level of collection	National priority level / national programme level
Responsible actor for collection	Each member state should also indicate for each indicator the responsible person within the programme management body. He or she needs to ensure the collection of his or her indicator (Member State will complete).
Collection method / good practice	Calculation based on statistical data
Source	<p><u>Rurality according to the OECD definition</u> :</p> <p>Source 1: DG AGRI</p> <p><u>Other variables:</u></p> <p>Source 1: Eurostat</p> <p>Area General and regional statistics - Regions – Demographic Statistics - Population and area – Area of the regions</p> <p>Population: General and regional statistics - Regions - Population and area - Annual average population by sex</p> <p>GVA: General and regional statistics – Regions - Economic accounts-ESA95 – Branch accounts-ESA95 – Gross value added at basic prices at NUTS level 3</p>

	<p>Employment: Eurostat - General and regional statistics – Regions – Economic accounts-ESA95 – Branch accounts-ESA95 – Employment at NUTS level 3 & Eurostat - General and regional statistics – Regions – Regional labour market-Employment by economic activity at NUTS level 1 and 2</p> <p>Source 2: National source: Consult the Member State</p>
Availability	<p><u>Eurostat</u>: According to definition: to be calculated (see definitions and subdivision) Most recent year: 2003 for Population & Area 2002 for GVA & Employment (2001 for HU, UK) Nuts level: aggregates at NUTS 2 level (summaries of NUTS 3) Completeness: EU-27 (except for employment in NL and RO, not available at NUTS 3 level). Collection frequency: yearly</p>
Registration frequency	<p>On the basis of availability</p>