

Thematic Working Group 1

Targeting territorial specificities and needs in Rural Development Programmes

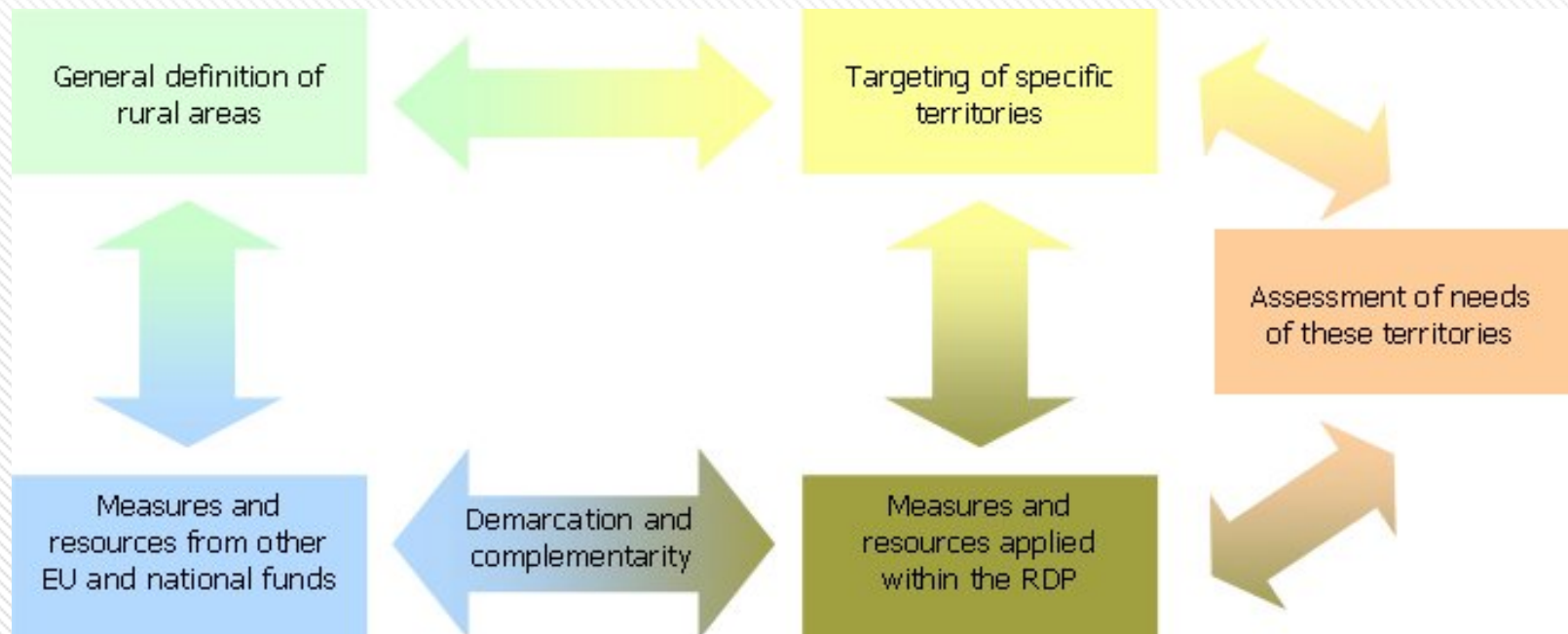


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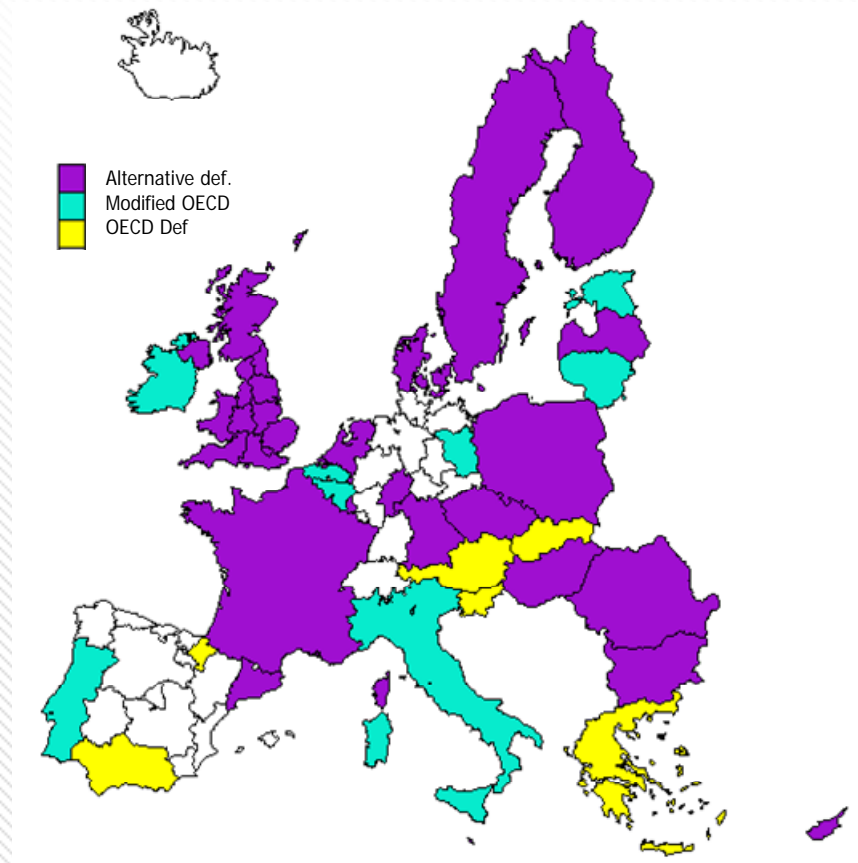
1. Analyse how Member States, in RDPs, have:
 - defined rural areas, generally
 - addressed demarcation and complementarity between the different EU and national funds
 - targeted specific territories for attention, assessed the needs of these territories, and applied measures to meet those needs.
2. Draw conclusions, including offer of building-blocks for revised typology of rural areas.

Relationship between elements within each Rural Development Programme



- Significant variation between countries in their approaches to definition of rural areas, and in their concepts of rurality.
- This variation reflects differences in topography, population density, administrative traditions and other factors.
- It appears to be affected by:
 - desire to relate Axes 1 and 2 to all farmers or foresters, wherever they are
 - conceptual view of urban-rural relations
 - focus on areas of greatest need.

- OECD definition used in 6 RDPs
 - In addition CZ, England, FR and Wales used it for analytical and comparative purposes
- Modified OECD in 7 RDPs
- Alternative defn in 22 RDPs
- Dissatisfaction with OECD approach
 - Geographical
 - Political



Definitions

- **Demarcation:** clear lines of separation between the EAFRD and other Funds, as they apply to territories, types of project supported, or types of beneficiary
- **Overlap:** the potential for two or more funds to be applied to the same area, the same type of project or the same type of beneficiary
- **Complementarity:** a deliberate counterpoint or synergy between two or more funds, as applied to a particular territory or field of action, so that needs are more fully met than if only one fund is applied.

'Other funds' = ERDF, CF, ESF, EFF, LIFE+, national funds

Findings

Member states +regions (in the sample of 35 RDPs) expect the following funds to support activity in their rural areas:

- **European Regional Development Fund 34 RDPs**
- **Cohesion Fund 11 RDPs**
- **European Social Fund 31 RDPs**
- **European Fisheries Fund 32 RDPs**
- **LIFE+ programme 7 RDPs**
- **Other national and regional programmes 9 RDPs**

The widest range of programmes from which support is expected (5 or 6 of the above) is found in the RDPs for the Czech Republic, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden and Scotland.

Complementarity between major funds can strengthen the response to local needs, given national coordination and local integration.

Case studies – Territories, needs and measures

Aim – to analyse how MS and/or regions:

- targeted specific territories for attention within the RDPs
- assessed the relevant needs of these territories
- applied measures and resources within and outside the RDPs to meet those needs.

Based only on the RDPs as approved 2007/8

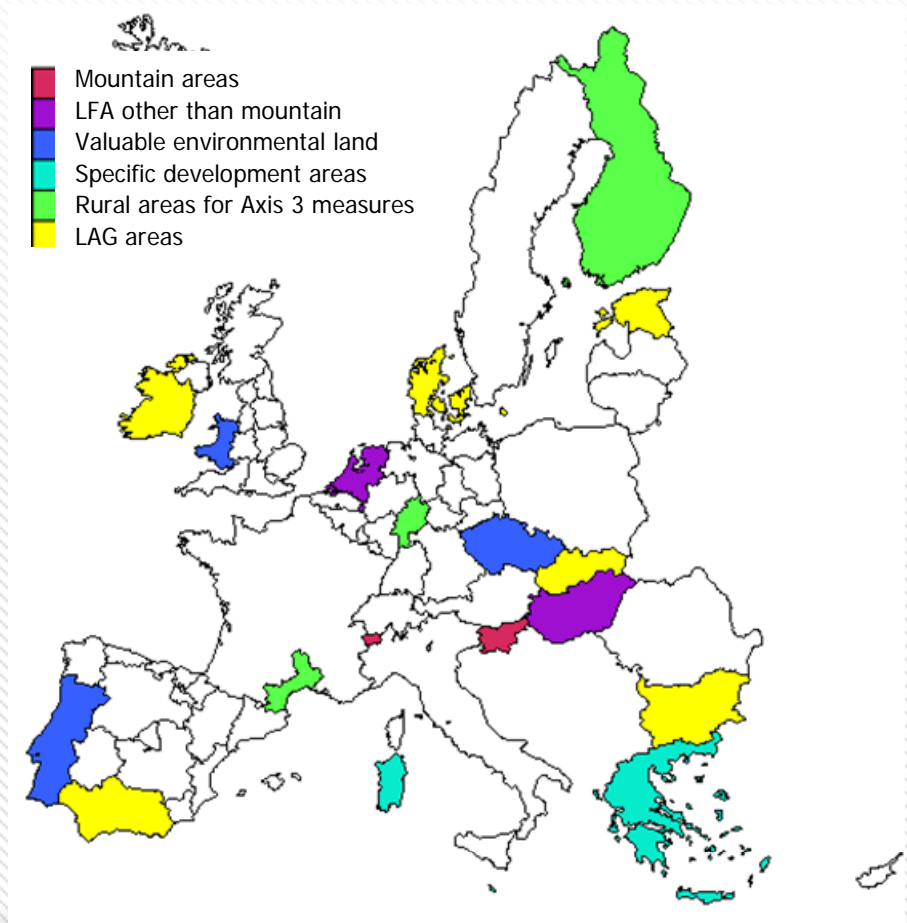
Case studies – Types of territory

Sectoral starting-point

- Mountain LFAs
- Other LFAs
- Natura 2000
+ environmentally
valuable farmland

Territorial starting-point

- Specific development areas
- Rural areas targeted for Axis 3
- LAG areas



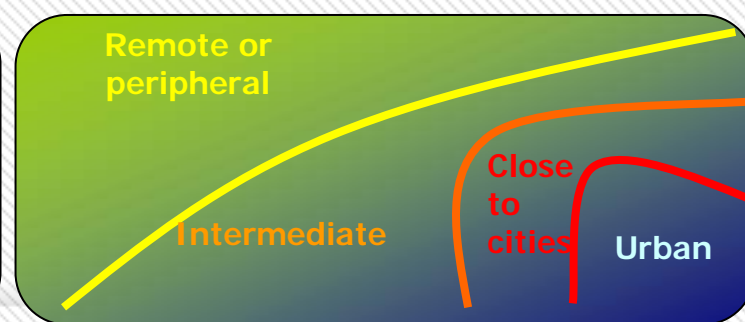
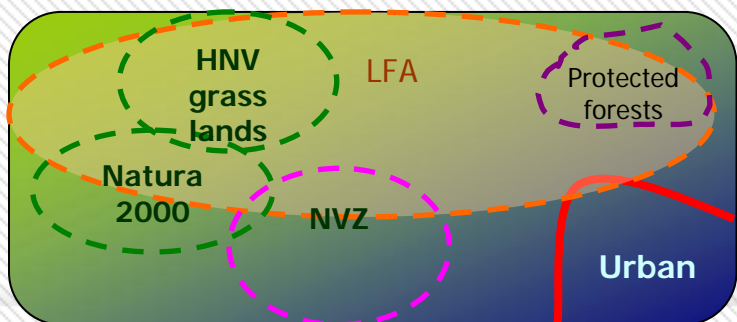
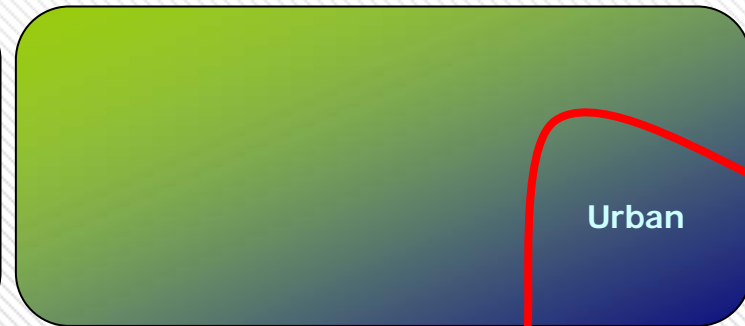
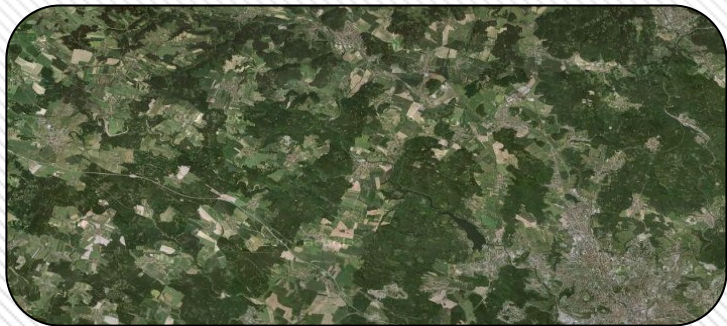
Building blocks for a revised typology of rural areas

Assumptions

- Comes in to play 2014
- A distinct Fund for rural development, including 'new challenges'
- Need to define territories to which Fund applies
- Definition forms basis for division of labour between RD Fund and other EU Funds
- A broad EU-level definition of rural areas, based on clear criteria, but not binding MS to use of a uniform definition
- Typology to relate to application of policies and measures (not purely descriptive)

Three issues, linked but separate.

- A. **Definition**, at EU level or in each member state or region, of the boundary between 'rural' and 'urban' areas
- B. **Targeting** of particular territories for the application of specific measures
- C. Creation of a **typology** of rural areas.



Definition of rural areas

A revised basis for defining rural areas, for use in the new programming period, could use as building blocks the most significant among the factors used by states or regions in defining rural areas for the general purpose of the present RDPs.

These factors fall into 4 groups:

- Population density
- Land use
- Urban areas
- Benefit from urban services or economies.

- Less Favoured Areas
- Natura 2000 areas
- Protected Forests
- Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
- Protective Forests (concerning primarily preservation of soil, water and other ecosystems)

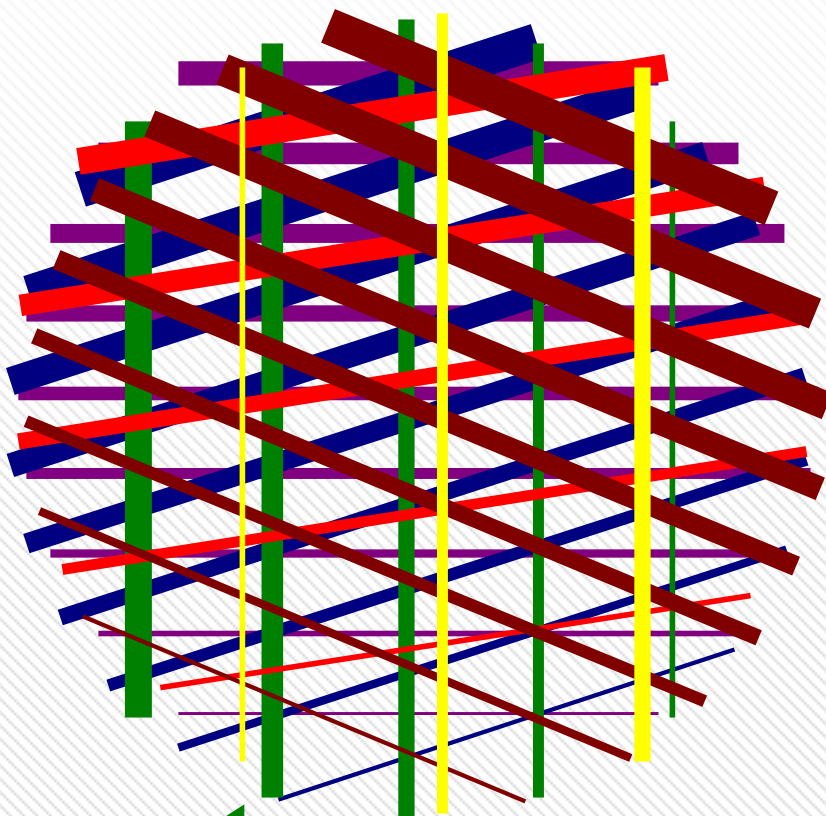
Such targeting, with a mainly environmental emphasis, may offer sectoral building blocks for a typology of rural areas: but they do not form a complete basis for a territorial typology.

Many states and regions, in their RDPs, develop the idea of a gradation of areas, roughly from central to peripheral.

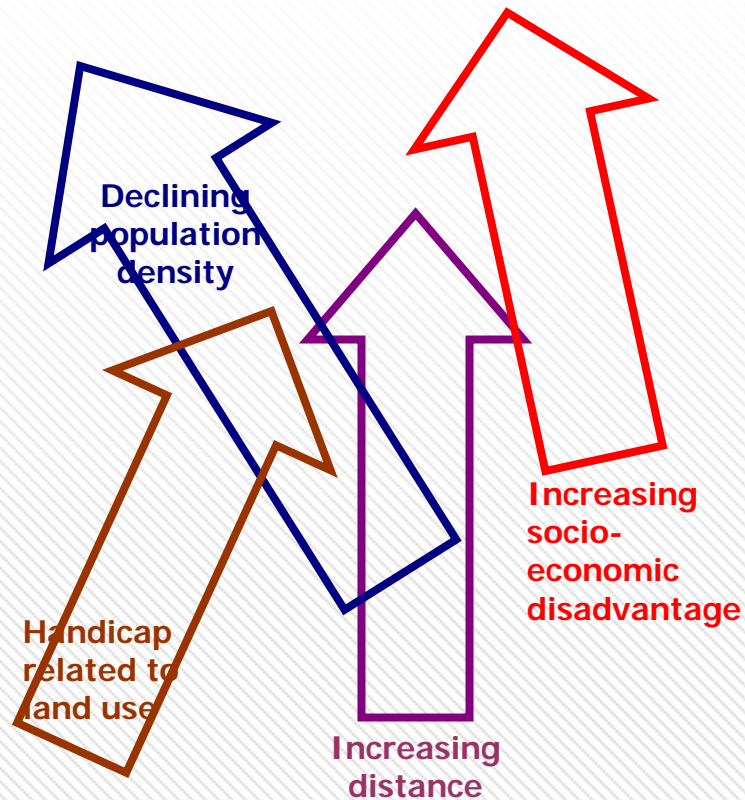
This process is driven by the desire to identify areas which have distinct needs or relative priority in terms of policy and the application of measures.

Examples : Denmark, Finland, Sardegna; each showing the link to policy

Country	Methodology	Indicators	Unit	Classes	Policy application
Denmark	MA, deductive	14 (demographic, socio-economic, accessibility)	LAU2	1.Urban (35 municip.), 2. Intermediate (17), 3. Rural (30), 4.Peripheral (16)	Intermediate RA less support
Finland	3 stage construction, MA, deductive	population density, commuting, distance, demographic, employment, income	LAU2	1. Urban (58), 2. Urban adjacent (89), 3. Rural heartland (142), 4. Sparsely populated (143)	Rural heartland and Sparsely populated rural areas preferred
Italy - (Sardegna)	3 stage construction, deductive	population density, altitude, agricultural production	LAU2	A. Urban Poles, B. RA with Specialised Intensive Agriculture, C. Intermediate RA D. RA with Complex Problems of Development Splitting C and D by considering demographic problems.	Concentration on areas with demographic problems



Increasing environmental sensitivity



Increasing potential of meeting new challenges



European Commission
DG Regional and Rural Development

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

European Network for
Rural Development

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