Smart Villages Webinar: Poland

How to design the future support framework in the CAP Strategic Plans and Operational Programmes

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➢ Rural areas are *spatially diverse*.

➢ Their development is the result of *historical factors*, natural resources, infrastructure, human and social capital, and access to markets.

➢ The level of socio-economic development of rural areas *largely improved* in recent years.

➢ There is still a *persistent imbalance* in the level of development of rural communes *relative to urban* and *within rural* communes.
Demography and labour market in rural areas

Demographic burden by municipalities in 2015.

- **Polish rural areas** have one of the **most favourable** age structures in the EU. Median age of inhabitants - 39 years.
- **Relatively large** share of young farmers - over 12%.
- **Positive migration trend** to rural areas until 2030 (around large agglomerations), and
- **Depopulation in peripheral** areas and Eastern Poland (mostly young, educated and females).
- **Labour market** - spatially diverse (workers are in other areas than jobs). Low population mobility.
- **Aging society** – particularly in areas with high depopulation.
80% of rural families aspire for children to have a university degree. Currently, approximately 10% of the rural population has higher education. It is necessary to ensure equal opportunities in education.

- The rural areas have worse access to education. Mainly in peripheral areas.
- The larger the place, the better the exam results.
- Despite 3.5 fold increase in the number of kindergartens and nurseries (since 1990) the number is still too low.
- Demographic change results in closing of small schools.
- 54 agricultural schools, agricultural advisory system.
- The poverty level is falling in rural areas, but still high – ca. 20%.
- „Family 500+” payment caused a drop in poverty by 5% in 2016.
An important factor differentiating rural areas from cities is a **limited use of high-speed Internet** (30 up to 100 Mb/s) in rural areas located away from urban centers.
Poland is a country of small water resources.

Freshwater resources:
- PL – 1.5 thousand m$^3$/ per capita
- Most of the EU MS: more than 5 thousand m$^3$/per capita

Drought is becoming more common in Poland.

Big losses for the economy.

Uneven rainfall distribution during the growing season.

Need to improve water management in rural areas – for both households and farms.
New sectors of the economy in rural areas

Circular economy, Social economy (eg Green Care Farms)

Free time economy

Sectors using new technologies, products, consumption patterns, changes in social preferences.

Their development = diversification of the rural economy and new jobs.
Social involvement in programming rural development 2017-2019

➢ 16 REGIONAL TEAMS Among participants: NGOs, entrepreneurs, farmers, scientists, residents, farm advisors, ..... 

➢ The objective of the work was to determine the core potentials and identify the development needs of rural areas and the agri-food sectors in individual voivodships. Detailed diagnoses were prepared.

➢ The documents were used for defining the territorial dimension in the Strategy for sustainable development of rural areas, agriculture and fisheries for 2012-2030 and in programmes co-financed from EU funds for the next programming period (2021-2027).
Directions of development for the rural areas and agriculture of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship until 2030

**Agriculture**

- **Preventing water shortages**
  - In agriculture of the region. Coordination of work of various institutions

- **Development of Agriculture 4.0**
  - Automation, artificial intelligence, precision agriculture, decision support systems DSS, new generations of fertilizers and pesticides, dissemination of digital systems of soil and plants diagnosis, weather stations.
  - (Production and marketing chains, business cooperation of farmers, dusters, co-ops, modern marketing and producers groups, market stabilization through co-operation with the Natl Food Holding.

- **Involving farmers in market chains**
  - Organic, BIO, Traditional breeds, non GMO and other quality labels required by consumers

- **High quality food production**
  - Through a chain: farmers-science-business-advisory, wider dissemination of operational groups (OG).

- **Dissemination of knowledge transfer and innovation**
  - Vertical integration in Farm to Fork
  - Short food delivery chains
  - Building consumer attitudes
  - Horizontal actions:
    - **Bioeconomy development** – food security with sustainable exploitation of natural resources, biodiversity, circular economy, renewable energy, adaptation to climate change, reduction of its causes and effects.
    - **Smart Village in Kujawsko-Pomorskie** (e-work, e-medicine, e-services, innovative use of local resources, precision farming, 5G technologies).

**Processing**

- **Vertical integration in Farm to Fork**
  - Farmers-processors-HORECA (hotels, restaurants, catering),
  - Example: co-operation of local farmers, meat processors and restaurants in initiatives: Kujawsko-Pomorska Pork.

- **Development of local processing**
  - Farmers Retail (RHD) and Marginal Local and Limited Activity (MLD) - the answer to growing quality market.

- **Short food delivery chains**
  - Example: Operational Group Rural e-mailbox and food co-operators.

- **Building consumer attitudes**
  - Conscious regional consumer
  - Building of local and regional brands, consumer patriotism, High quality food promotion from the region.

**Rural Areas**

- **Road and public transport infrastructure development**
- **Development of initiatives and social services**
  - Prevention of conflicts in the implementation of investments in the countryside
  - Support for local governments in organizing the investment location plan, including socialisation and ensuring the interests of residents, farmers and entrepreneurs

- **Non-institutional forms of providing social services**
  - Public and private sectors, social economy entities, social innovations eg. “care homes on farms”
  - Development of services for seniors and dependent (eg. day care homes), activities of local social and cultural institutions.
  - Improving access to medical care and e-services.
  - Local Action Groups traditional (Voluntary fire brigades, The farmer’s wives’ associations) and new rural social organisations.

- **Promotion and support of development in non-agricultural enterprises**
  - Example: Operational Group Rural e-mailbox and food co-operators.
Thank you!