



THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE IN FINANCING RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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Outline of the presentation

- The orientation of Rural development policy in Europe (territorial versus agricultural)
- The importance of governance for rural development
- The challenges ahead (the role of Leader approach; the need for a stronger coordination)

Rural development policy 2007-2013

New regulation

- Strategic approach for Rural development focusing on EU priorities (Community Strategic Guidelines)
- New European agriculture fund for rural development (EAFRD)
- Strengthened “bottom-up” approach (mainstreaming Leader)

Rural development policy 2007-2013

Core objectives, 3 thematic axes, 1 methodological axis

- improving competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector (axis 1 - thematic);
 - improving the environment and the countryside (axis 2 - thematic);
 - improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of the rural economy (axis 3 – thematic);
 - improving local governance and developing endogenous potentials through Leader approach (axis 4 -methodological).
- *to ensure a balanced approach a minimum funding for each axis is required (10% axis 1 and axis 3; 25% axis 3; 5% axis 4)*
- *a set of 42 measures as building blocks for thematic axis*

The practice of rural policies

rural development measures in the EU

Programming period	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axes 3 & 4	Other measures
2000-2006	37,2	50,3	11,6	0,9
2007-2013	33,5	45,8	18,3	2,5

Source: 2000-2006: RUDI (2009); 2007-2013: EU Commission

The practice of rural policies

rural development measures in the EU

- **Relevance of sector based and agri-environmental measures**
- **Weak territorial orientation**
- **Significant changes in the strategic focus (the third group of priorities sharply increased % share)**
- **Important role played by the RD regulation (setting of a minimum funding for each axis)**

Territorial versus agricultural : the need for a place based policy

- **Is a sectoral policy still needed?**

To given conditions:

- **If well targeted on specific objectives (environmental concerns, public goods, specific territorial needs)**
- **If integrated with the wider set of policies impacting on the territory (place based)**

The importance of governance for rural development policies

- 3 dimensions (vertical, horizontal, local cooperation)
- 5 levels (EU, national, regional, intermediate, local)
- New approaches based on local cooperation (new forms of governance)
increased decentralised forms of governance and greater role of a super-national authority
different degree of decentralization across countries

The impact of Community policy on governance

- **Rules governing the integration of different Funds (Horizontal coordination)**
- **Programming and managing rules - penalties mechanism linked to spending objectives, strategic approach – (Vertical coordination)**
- **Introduction of participative approaches (LEADER) (Local cooperation)**

Innovative experiences in RDP in EU- 15

Integration of different measures	Specific territorial target	Integration of different funds	Definition of projects by Local partnership	Management devolution to local partnership
RSE; England, RDP				
CTE, France , RDP				
Programme LOKALE (Germany, Obj. 1)				
Integrated territorial projects (Italy, Objective 1 programmes)				
Proder (Spain, Objective 1 and 2 programmes) Region Aktive (National programme, Germany)				
Sources : European Commission, DG-Agri, Rural development in European Union, Report 2006.				

Member states and governance

- National policies strongly oriented by the community contents
- Few exception in Northern Europe (UK, Netherlands)
 - Moving towards the definition of a comprehensive national rural policy
- problems of coordination in decentralized countries
(lack of strategic programming)
- Positive effect of EU policies

The challenges ahead

- a greater role for local cooperation (Leader approach) **in order to improve integration at territorial level of different measures and policies**
- need for a stronger horizontal coordination : it is important to improve the coordination of the full set of policies impacting on rural areas, through institutional collaboration across different government bodies (at national, regional, sub regional and local level)
- **Quality of accompanying measures and technical assistance at local level it is crucial**

Thank you for your attention!

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