

Conference "Food and Work in Mediterranean Regions" Rome, Italy, 22-23 March 2011





DEVELOPING A VISION ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EU

Antonis Constantinou

Director, Rural Development Programmes II

DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

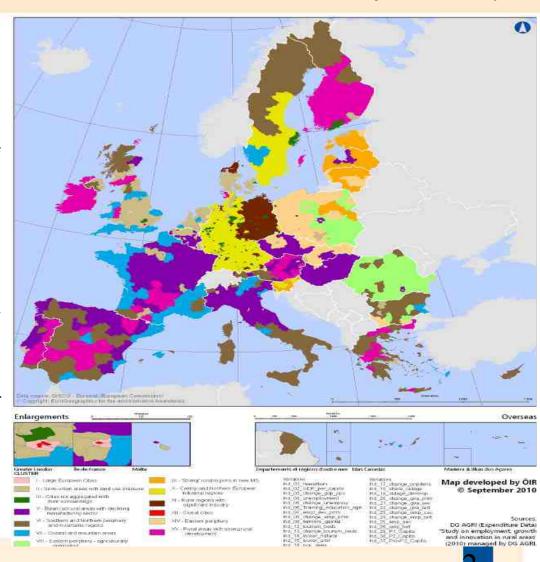


I. RURAL AREAS AND THE RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE: What is the situation today? A LOOK FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE



RESULTS OF CLUSTERING AND CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

- Most rural areas are multi-functional with the mix of economic activities mostly determined by the regional context → territorial regional finger print
- Economic activities are spatially more and more equally distributed → higher diversity of rural areas
- In terms of growth and employment, there is no "typical rural region" but different types of "rurality" determined by the regional "mix of functions" rather than a single economic activity
- Since 2001 higher growth rate of GDP/capita in rural than in urban areas
- Many "accessible" rural regions experience counter urbanization
- Structurally, many rural regions perform better than urban ones (e.g. for change in economically active population, %♀ in workforce; share of commuters etc.)





2. RURAL AREAS AND THE RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE: What is the situation today?



DRIVERS OF GROWTH

- Natural resources and environmental quality
- Infrastructure and accessibility
- Quality of life and cultural capital
- "Wide" sectoral structure

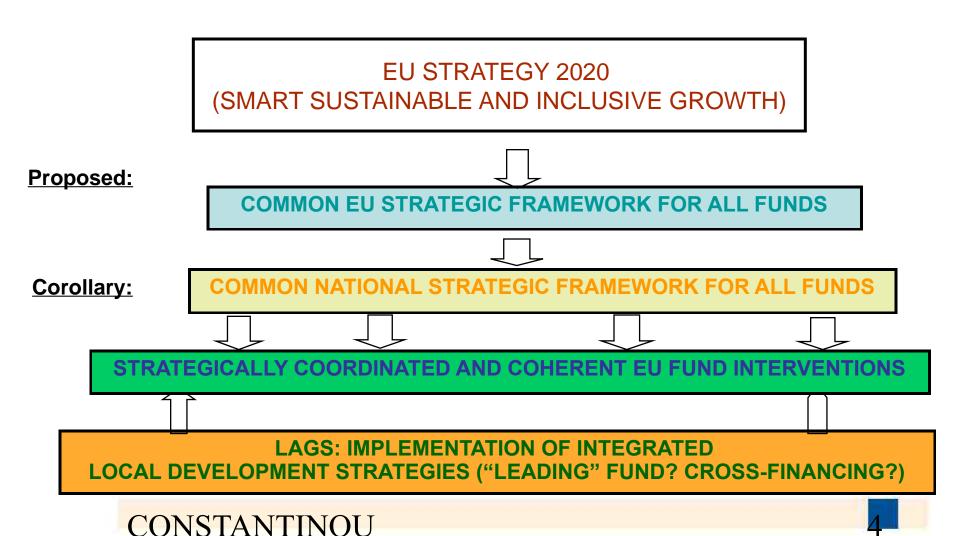
BARRIERS TO GROWTH

- Negative demography (loss of young people and ageing)
- Remoteness: Poor accessibility, infrastructure and communications
- Narrow sectoral structure



3. FUND COORDINATION UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE EU2020 STRATEGY





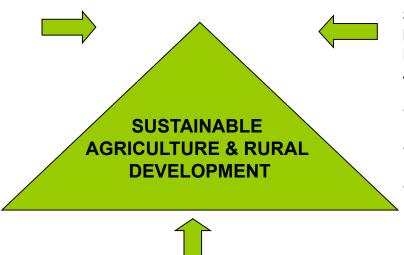


4. OBJECTIVES OF THE CAP REFORM



VIABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

- Contribute to farm income and limit its variability
- Improve competitiveness and share in food-chain value-added
- Compensate areas with natural contraints



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE ACTION

- Guarantee the provision of public goods
- Foster green growth through innovation
 - Pursue climate change mitigation and adaptation

BALANCED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Support rural vitality and employment
- Promote diversification
- Allow social and structural diversity in rural areas



5. RURAL DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES: OLD AND NEW



COMPETITIVE AGRICULTURE

- promote innovation and restructuring
- · do more with less
- play to the strengths of the diversity of EU agriculture



SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- take care of the environment and countryside
- maintain the production capacity of the land

BALANCED TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT
OF RURAL AREAS
THROUGHOUT THE EU





6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES FOR THE PERIOD AFTER 2013



EU STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

EU PRIORITIES

Foster competitive Preserve natural **Develop rural areas** resources, countryside agricultural sector INTEGRATED GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS: INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT promoting farm viability and protecting and enhancing competitiveness in agriculture ecosystems dependent on (restructuring; food chain agriculture and forestry integration; generational (biodiversity & landscapes; water renewal; farm risk management) & soil; carbon storage; resource efficiency in the agriadaptation and resilience to food sector climate change) (water & energy; farm-level realizing the growth potential of adaptation to climate change) rural areas Promoting the transition to a low (diversification & job creation; carbon economy social inclusion & poverty reduction) (feedstocks for renewable energy in agriculture and forestry; reducing N2O and CH4 emissions from agriculture)





Thank you for your attention!