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

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1. 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

EU STRATEGY 2020
(SMART SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH)

Proposed:
COMMON EU STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ALL FUNDS

Corollary:
COMMON NATIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ALL FUNDS

STRATEGICALLY COORDINATED AND COHERENT EU FUND INTERVENTIONS

LAGS: IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ("LEADING" FUND? CROSS-FINANCING?)
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 constraints

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

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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 RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**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

- Foster competitive agricultural sector
- Preserve natural resources, countryside
- Develop rural areas

INTEGRATED GUIDING CONSIDERATIONS: INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

- Promoting farm viability and competitiveness in agriculture (restructuring; food chain integration; generational renewal; farm risk management)
- Resource efficiency in the agri-food sector (water & energy; farm-level adaptation to climate change)
- Promoting the transition to a low carbon economy (feedstocks for renewable energy in agriculture and forestry; reducing N2O and CH4 emissions from agriculture)
- Protecting and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry (biodiversity & landscapes; water & soil; carbon storage; adaptation and resilience to climate change)
- Realizing the growth potential of rural areas (diversification & job creation; social inclusion & poverty reduction)
Thank you for your attention!