

## **EDORA:** European Development Opportunities for Rural Areas



**Andrew Copus**  
*Centre for Remote  
and Rural Studies*



## The Overall Objectives (Specification)

...to describe the main processes of change which are resulting in the increasing differentiation of rural areas.

...to identify development opportunities and constraints for different kinds of rural areas...

...to consider how such knowledge can be translated into guiding principles to support the development of appropriate cohesion policy.

## The EDORA Approach

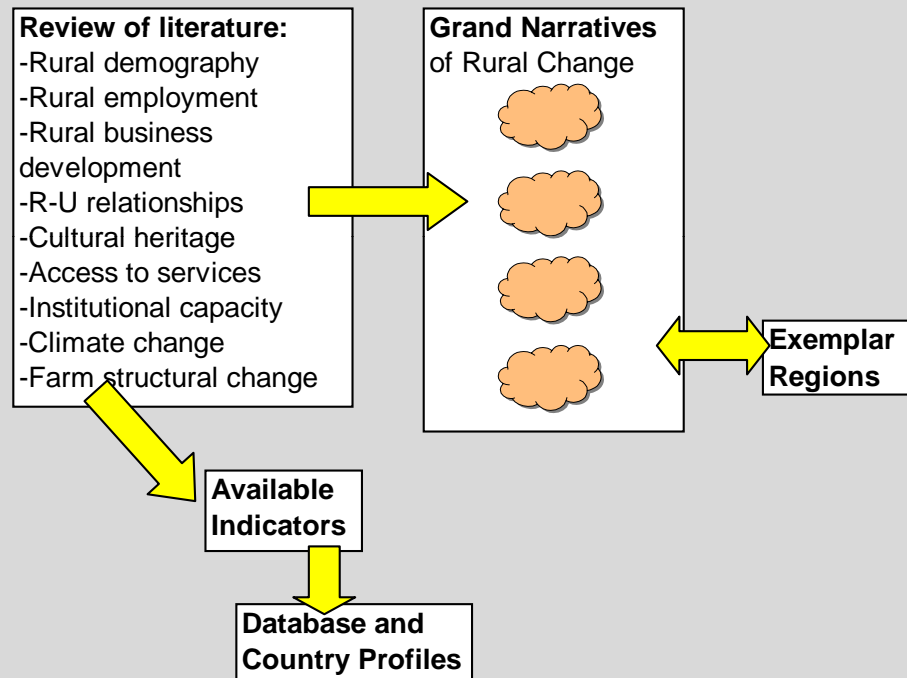
- A very wide-ranging task...
- Rural data availability is strongly influenced by the agrarian rural development tradition.
- Being driven by the data availability risks “slipping into well-trodden paths...”
- A hybrid “deductive/inductive” approach – first establish territorial concepts and theory, then empirical analysis and assessing policy implications.
- Work so far has been mainly conceptual, rather than empirical...

# EDORA Project Structure

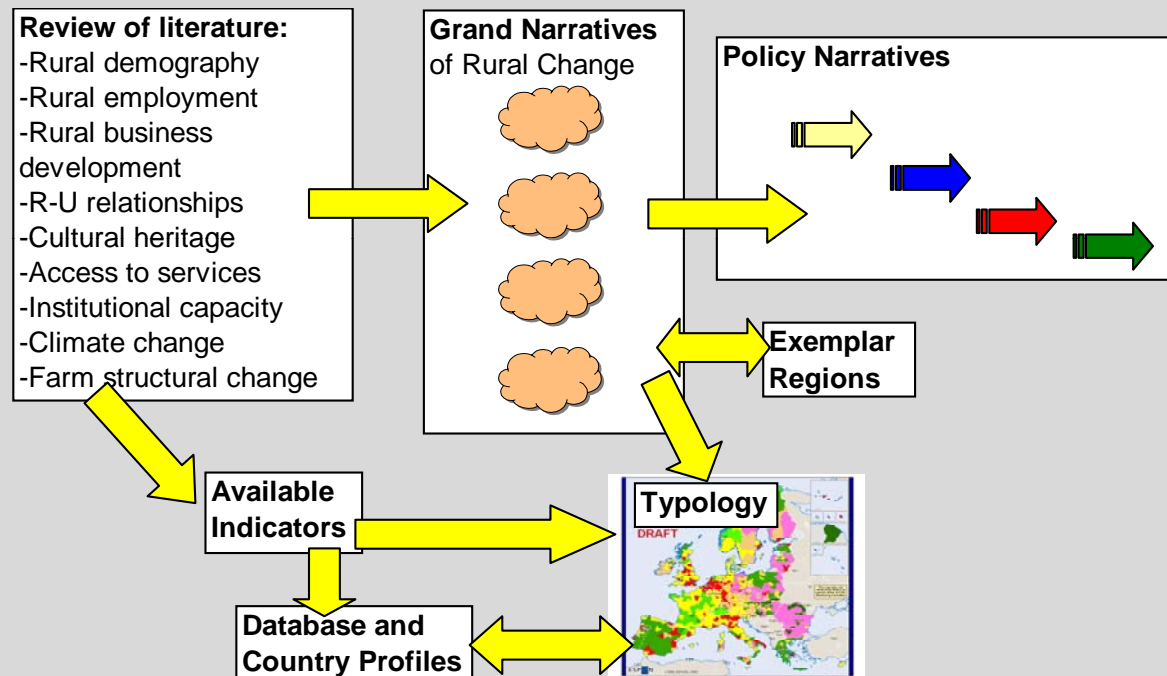
**Review of literature:**

- Rural demography
- Rural employment
- Rural business development
- R-U relationships
- Cultural heritage
- Access to services
- Institutional capacity
- Climate change
- Farm structural change

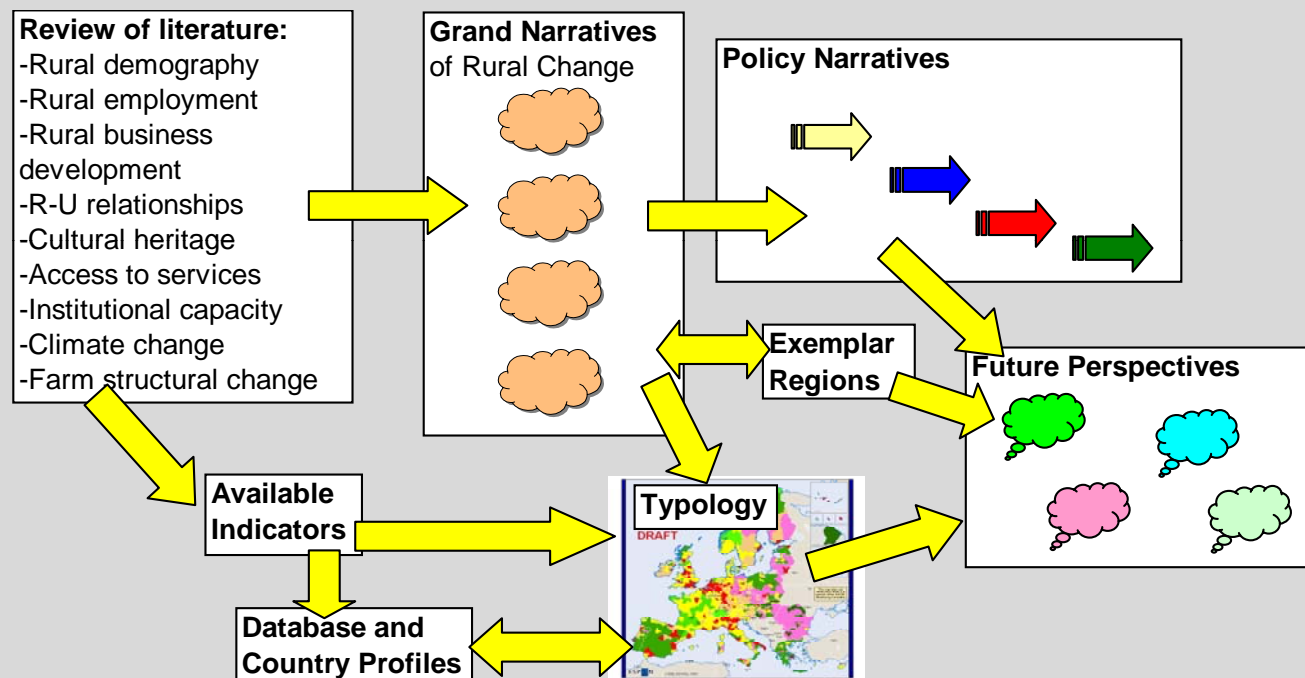
# EDORA Project Structure



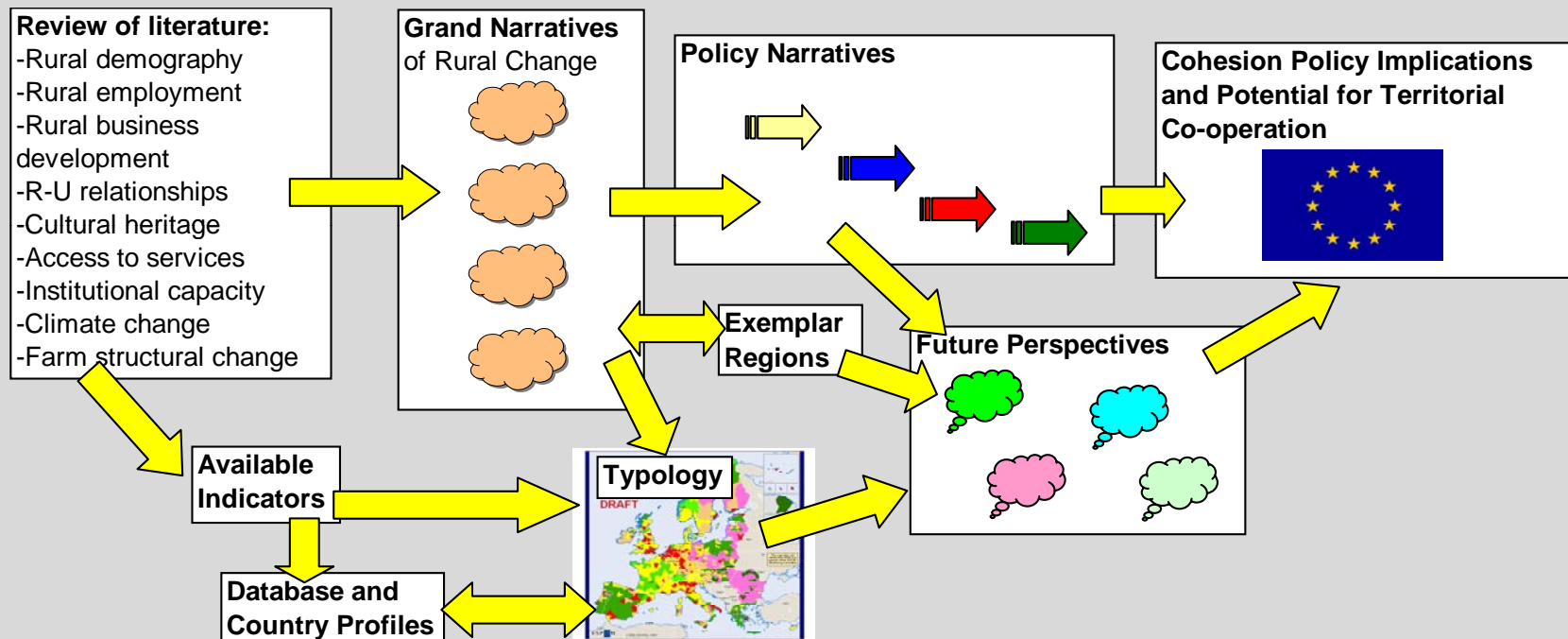
# EDORA Project Structure



# EDORA Project Structure



# EDORA Project Structure



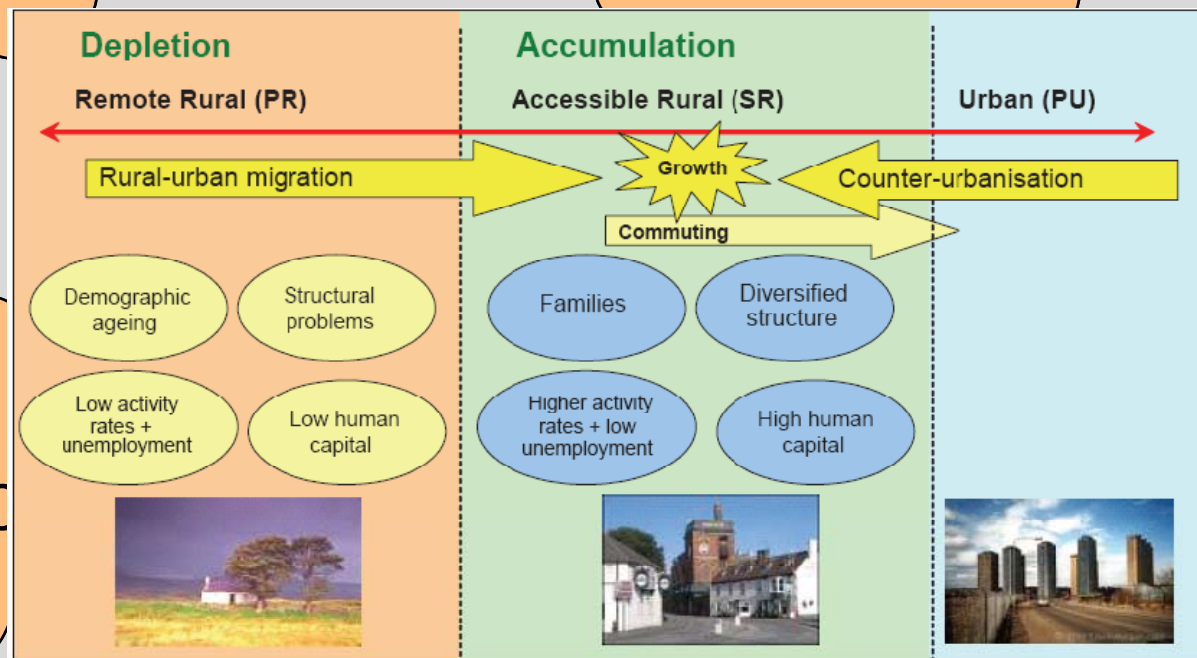


# The Grand Narratives

Urban-  
Rural

Global-  
isation

Agri-  
centric



## Grand Narratives and the EDORA Typology

- G.N. describe common processes of rural change.
- Most regions show evidence of several G.N.s
- A range of local characteristics and resources determine the manner in which G.N. combine to form the “pathway of change” of individual regions...
- Typology portrays a simplified “snap-shot” of the range of R.D. environments, within which the G.N. “play out”.

# Development Opportunities

- **Counter-urbanisation** – both residential and business/entrepreneurial.
- **“Connexity”** (Mulgan) - IT, logistics, footloose information-based activities, new (distributed) styles of working...etc etc.
- **Stewardship** activities (environment/landscape, culture and heritage).
- **Commodification** – leisure, tourism activities etc.
- **Green technology** – “Green New Deal”.
- **Para-productivism** (agriculture).

## Rural Policy and Differentiation of Rural Areas

**Rural policies play an important part in creating and mitigating rural differentiation processes, and associated opportunities for development:**

**Two broad rural policy dimensions have a direct role:**

- Core “rural” policies; including CAP (esp. Pillar II) and Cohesion Policy. (Also M.S. rural development measures.)
- Other policies not specific to rural areas... e.g. Transport, Environment, Biodiversity, Water Framework Directive....

**Interpretation and implementation of these policies is influenced by:**

- Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas, Territorial Cohesion debate (green paper etc).
- The M.S. policy milieu (health, employment, social welfare... etc)
- The (national and regional) governance framework (centralisation - devolution etc)
- The (changing?) ideological framework (Neo-Liberal or Keynesian?).

ESP  N

Thank you  
for your attention...



EUROPEAN UNION  
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE