



The ESPON 2013 Programme

EDORA

(**E**uropean **D**evelopment **O**pportunities
for **R**ural **A**reas)

Applied Research Project 2013/1/2

Inception report



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CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	1
2	The Empirical Context	1
3	Research/Conceptual Context	2
3.1	Big ideas, Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints (D.O.C)	2
3.2	Conspicuous drivers of rural change	3
3.3	Endogenous processes or structures which transform drivers into opportunities, or constrain the response.....	5
3.4	Combining Themes, Spatial Analysis and an Emphasis on Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints (D.O.C)	8
4	Policy Context	9
5	Work Package Descriptions.....	11
5.1	WP1: Research Planning and Coordination	11
5.2	WP2: Research Activities	11
5.3	WP3: Dissemination.....	16
6	Consortium Structure	17
7	Allocation of Work.....	18
8	Timetable	19
9	Budget Breakdown.....	20
	References	21
	Appendix 1: Thematic Analysis	24
	Guidelines for writing Thematic Working Papers (Activity 2.11)	25
	Appendix 2: Detailed Relationship between Activities	28

Inception Report Annex

Please also consult this Annex which contains further information, clarifying and complementing the information given in the Inception Report

1 Introduction

The EDORA project belongs to the first strand of the ESPON 2013 programme: “Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts”. As such it is intended to “create information and evidence on territorial challenges and opportunities for success for the development of regions.” It requires a cross-thematic and applied approach.

The over-arching aim of the project is to develop a better understanding of the development opportunities and challenges facing diverse types of rural areas in Europe. The underlying demand for such knowledge is to support targeted policy development, relating (*inter alia*) to job creation and social change. In particular, insights should support the practical implementation - across a range of policy fields – of spatial development principles which have evolved out of perspectives presented in the Fifth Cohesion Report, and elaborated in the recent Territorial Cohesion Green Paper. In particular the project should support the further integration of the Lisbon and Gothenberg agendas into the post-2013 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Three key issues are fundamental to the project specification;

- the need to better understand patterns of differentiation, between different kinds of rural area,
- the nature of the different opportunities for development which each of them faces, and,
- the way in which such opportunities depend upon, and may be strengthened by, interaction between rural and urban areas.

Addressing these issues requires a research approach which fully reflects recent conceptual advances, and constructs hypotheses derived from contemporary interpretations of the process of rural change in the full range of European rural environments. At the same time it requires a comprehensive utilisation of available data sources, so that robust and empirically valid findings can form a firm foundation for policy recommendations.

This Inception Report begins with a brief presentation of the research context, through a review of recent developments in the understanding of rural change. This is followed by a discussion of the policy context, considering the range of Community policies which impact upon territorial cohesion in rural Europe, and highlighting the key policy debates which are likely to impinge upon the design of Rural Development Policy for the programming period which begins in 2014. This will be followed by an account of the methodology to be followed, the structure and organisation of the consortium, reporting procedures, timetable, and budget.

2 The Empirical Context

Regional Differentiation

The specification of this project was influenced, (among other things) by contrasting views of rural areas in two recent European analyses. The Fourth Report on Social and Economic Cohesion (EC 2007) pointed to the negative spiral associated with rural-urban migration (depopulation, decline in service provision, employment, leading to further out-migration, and so on). However the ESPON 2006 programme found a more varied picture: Many accessible rural regions benefit from “counter-urbanisation”, or “accumulation” (both in demographic terms, and in terms of economic activity) whilst more remote regions tend to face more serious challenges, and in many instances may be described as suffering “depletion” (Copus *et al* 2007). These two different views are not contradictory. Both are true to some extent and in different parts of the EU.

Structural Change in the Economy

Agriculture and forestry remain important rural activities, in terms of their management of natural resources, and as a platform for economic diversification in rural communities, especially in the southern Member States (MS) and the New Member States (NMS). They also still account for a large component of EU policy addressing rural areas. There have recently been subtle changes in the focus of these policies. Thus Agenda 2000 and the MTR reforms have to some extent sought to re-orientate rural development policy towards the Lisbon/Gothenburg Strategy - supporting job creation and economic growth in rural areas in a sustainable way.

However in some parts of the EU traditional farming and forestry activities can no longer realistically be viewed as the “drivers” of the rural economy or rural employment trends. Future potential for many regions is linked to a range of new development opportunities, especially those in the secondary or tertiary sectors. Lowe et al (2006, 42) argued that “if the goal is to widen the base and vitality of the economies of rural areas, it is surely important that the crucial, consistent and largely non-agricultural drivers that are revitalising rural economies are supported.”

Rural-urban Interaction

Many of these new activities are a response to demands from urban consumers, either in local towns or within a global market context. There is nothing new in this, of course, the same could have been said in the past of farming and forestry. However the commodities and public goods provided by many of the more innovative rural activities, have very different characteristics compared with “food and fibre”, and this implies a requirement for new forms of rural-urban linkages.

Implied Questions for Policy and Research

Two key research questions (with very clear policy implications) which arise from the foregoing observations are articulated by the project specification (p5):

- What are the development opportunities of diverse types of European rural areas and how can these resources contribute to improved competitiveness, both within the respective countries and on a European scale?
- What are the opportunities for increasing regional strengths through territorial cooperation, establishing both urban-rural and/or rural-rural partnerships, supporting a better territorial balance and cohesion?

3 Research/Conceptual Context

3.1 Big ideas, Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints (D.O.C)

A number of “big ideas” have emerged in recent years to offer a kind of holistic, wide-ranging explanatory context for change in the countryside. These include, for example, rural restructuring, ecological modernisation, the consumption countryside, multifunctionality, post-productivism, endogenous development, the network paradigm, and globalisation. Space will not allow a more detailed account of these here¹. However, it is important to note that several of these holistic views of rural change emphasise the increasing diversity of the European countryside. Contrary, perhaps to common preconceptions, rural Europe is not viewed as increasingly standardised and uniform, but as exhibiting increasing variety and disparities. The following two quotations, relating to the “consumption countryside” and “rural globalisation” perspectives, illustrate this:

¹ For a review of these approaches see Copus et al 2008 (forthcoming).

“...Apparently similar areas demonstrate quite different characteristics in terms of key indicators, like net migration, commuting, deprivation, new enterprise formation, the degree of social cohesion or fragmentation, and so on... the character and complexity of rural uneven development has shifted profoundly.” Marsden 1999

“...while all rural localities are touched by global networks and global flows in some way, the intensity of the connections forged, the extent of change effected to the locality, and the degree of manifestation of characteristics of the global countryside, all vary considerably. Globalization, it appears, is more significant in remaking some rural places than others. This differential geography in part reflects structural factors that moderate the exposure of rural communities to global networks and processes...” Woods 2007

Whilst the above “big ideas” are valuable in drawing attention to relationships between different kinds of rural change, it would seem appropriate for the conceptual framework of this project to be based upon a more disaggregate thematic approach, which allow us to distinguish “drivers” of change, from regional or local structures and characteristics which either allow development “opportunities” to be exploited, or act as “constraints” which hinder such exploitation.

This section therefore presents a brief review of a selection of themes and issues which have occupied rural development researchers and policy makers in recent years, and which are particularly relevant to the project specification. It is helpful to distinguish:

- Themes which primarily highlight **drivers** of rural change, which may either be endogenous to the rural regions themselves, or exogenous, (continental or global) trends.
- Themes which focus upon more upon endogenous processes and structures which may either facilitate adaptation to the drivers of change, transforming them into development **opportunities**, or alternatively, hinder such adaptation, and therefore act as development **constraints**.

3.2 Conspicuous drivers of rural change

Here we briefly introduce several important dimensions of rural differentiation and change which are clearly observable, or which have become high profile issues in recent years.

Patterns and trends of Rural Demography

Demographic ageing is of course a big issue for rural Europe, especially in the Southern Member States. In combination with complex patterns of migration (urbanisation, counter-urbanisation, NMS-EU15) it has often been described as a “timebomb”. A recent European Parliament project described the worst affected areas as “shrinking regions”. The rural demographic situation is however, far from universally negative.

According to the OECD-definition more than half of the EU27 population lives in rural regions. Although the overall rural share of the EU population has remained fairly constant in recent decades, this relative stability at an aggregate level masks significant variation between and within individual member states and between different kinds of rural areas. Generally speaking the population of the more accessible ‘intermediate’ regions has grown slightly, at the expense of that of ‘deep rural’ and generally more peripheral regions. The most negative rural population trends have been in the new member states as a consequence of the sharp drops in the fertility rates and substantial out-migration.

Patterns and trends in Rural Employment and Human Capital – the Rural Jobs Gap

The European Commission (EC 2006) has coined the term “Rural Jobs Gap” to describe the lower rates of employment and economic activity, higher rates of unemployment, and lower levels of qualitative human capital (training and skills) characterising some rural areas of Europe.

“many of Europe’s rural areas face a common challenge – their capacity to create high quality, sustainable jobs is falling behind urban areas.” (Ibid p1)

In the EU-27 the income per capita of predominantly urban areas is almost double that of predominantly rural areas, though a recent study of the European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) shows this gap is systematically wider in poorer EU-27 countries and less in richer member states (Shucksmith *et. al.* 2007).. Low levels of income make it harder to retain and attract skilled individuals. (EC 2006 p3)

The Commission links the rural jobs gap to demographic trends (ageing, selective migration and gender issues), and structural differences (slower development of tertiary activities in rural areas). They also note the heterogeneity of rural areas: Rural Europe exhibits both extremes of labour market performance;

“Europe’s rural areas are diverse and include many leading regions. However, some rural areas, and in particular those which are most remote, depopulated or dependent on agriculture face particular challenges as regards growth, jobs and sustainability in the coming years... In short, Europe’s rural areas must exploit their potential or risk falling further behind urban areas in meeting the Lisbon targets, particularly in the remotest and most agricultural areas.” Ibid p7

The principal Lisbon employment target is for a 70% employment rate, by 2010. The SERA report (Copus *et. al.*, 2006) showed that many urban and Significantly Rural regions have already exceeded this target, and that further progress (without increasing disparities) is contingent upon addressing the low rates in the Predominantly Rural regions.

Structural Change in Agriculture

Although as we have already noted, farming can no longer be considered the main driver of rural economies in most regions in the north and west of Europe, even here technological change continues to result in a steady loss of farm jobs, and economies of scale motivate a continuing process of holding amalgamation. At the other end of the size structure many new “micro” holdings have emerged close to major cities and towns, to satisfy the lifestyle aspirations of affluent commuters. However, analysis of these farm structural changes in the northern and western MS has become largely subsumed in a broader “rural restructuring” discourse, stressing the changing relationships between farm businesses and downstream industries, the increasing importance of service industries, and associated social change. The impression this creates perhaps belies the continuing importance of agricultural and related activities in the economies of some rural Mediterranean regions. Furthermore, insofar as the agricultural economics literature continues to deal with farm “modernisation” specifically, it has, for at least a decade, focused largely on the problems facing the former communist NMS. Here the issues are more complex than those of old Europe in the mid-twentieth century, and include land restitution, the commercialisation of collective farms (Lerman, Csaki and Feder 2002, Burger 2001), the increasing incidence of subsistence activity (Kostov and Lingard 2002), and so on.

Accessibility to Services in Rural Areas

Changing patterns of access to services are driven both by technological change in travel and transport, and by retrenchment in the public sector, often as a consequence of changing political attitudes to the “welfare state”. They may even be the unintended consequence of improvements to infrastructure, through the so-called ‘pump effect’. Access to services is a key issue in relation to the policy debate regarding “Territorial Equivalence”. It also has important links to migration and quality of life issues.

Employment and population may drain out of rural areas following a loss of services, to close a vicious circle early described by Glg, as long ago as 1983, and more recently reiterated by the European Commission, (2007, p. 52). Therefore, the state and availability of services is critical to sustainable development in rural areas. This is acknowledged by a number of EU policy documents (e.g. European Commission, 1994, 2004 and 2007):

“... problems of accessibility and of remoteness from major markets (which) tend to add to both travel and transportation costs and constrain their economic development. At the same time, the construction of infrastructure of all kinds and the provision of health care, education and other basic services is usually also more costly, because of the nature of the terrain and

the remoteness of the location, and more difficult to justify because of the small numbers of people being served ...Despite the difficulties of some regions, equality of access to basic facilities, essential services and knowledge — to what are termed ‘Services of General Economic Interest’—for everyone, wherever they happen to live, is a key condition for territorial cohesion” (European Commission, 2004, p. 33).

On the other hand, rural areas that are closer to urban agglomerations suffer from other types of change processes in relation to their increased accessibility. Delocalisation of economic activity and residence to these “peri-metropolitan” areas substantially modifies their territorial organisation, the profile of service demand, and the orientation of the labour market. Moreover, the rapidity with which these processes occur increases the risk of transforming the territories into less efficient areas in terms of accessibility that could lead, as Zelinsky (1971) pointed out, to a social limitation of spatial mobility in order to increase rationalism in advanced societies (Camarero, 1993).

Climate Change and Energy Issues

The consideration of climate change issues is necessarily future-oriented. There is of course an extensive and ever-more sophisticated body of scientific work on the natural dimensions of climate change. This demonstrates increasing precision at the global to continental and macro-regional scales, but has little resolution at micro-regional to local scales. Furthermore most climate change scenarios work with timeframes that are beyond the 10-15 year period specified for this study. Thus there is widespread awareness that climate change is imminent, knowledge of how this will affect the activities, economies and livelihoods of specific rural areas is sparse and imprecise.

It seems obvious that impacts and responses will vary greatly from region to region. Even when regions experience the same phenomenon, their responses may differ dramatically, both in scale and kind. Responses can be distinguished according to whether they aim at mitigation, or adaptation, or a combination of both. Measures to achieve mitigation and adaptation often generate innovation, whether in technology, techniques, or organizational and institutional enhancements.

There is thus an urgent need to investigate the likely differential regional effects of climate change, and to explore the potential pattern of societal responses. It will be important to take account of linkages to contingent areas of concern, such as energy, planning, governance, civil preparedness and changes in economic activity in, and between, rural and urban areas. Both the recent IPCC (2007) report, and Stern (2007) emphasize that the next generation of climate change research must focus on the study of social dimensions of climate change, at ever more detailed levels of resolution.

3.3 Endogenous processes or structures which transform drivers into opportunities, or constrain the response

Urban-Rural Linkages

As the importance of secondary and tertiary sectors and wider global influences have increased in rural economies, the nature and strength of Urban-Rural (U-R) linkages have also become increasingly important to their well being. This is exemplified by the changing role of small and medium-sized towns (SMTs) in the rural economy. While SMTs have evolved from their original *raison d'être* of serving primarily agricultural communities, they continue to play an important role in maintaining wealth and employment in rural areas (beyond the role they play in service provision and sustainable planning and transport systems); albeit to varying degrees. Recent research using a combination of Social Accounting Models and econometric techniques (Mitchell *et al* 2005; Mayfield *et al*, 2005; Courtney *et al*, 2007) has shown that while SMTs continue to provide an important employment function to rural residents there are some sectors that exhibit particularly strong levels of local economic integration in and around such towns.

These observations support notions of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), which sees a shift towards a polycentric system as being central to achieving balanced competitiveness and the creation of several dynamic zones of global economic integration. The Polycentric concept, which challenges the core-periphery model, is based on the principle of functional economic and political relations and networks between urban and rural areas at different scales. Two main forms of U-R interaction are crucial in this respect: those between rural (both peripheral and peri-urban) areas and wider regional and metropolitan centres; and those between towns and between town and countryside in different types of rural area. In both cases the theoretical paradigms of growth pole (See Parr 1999) and export base and net income theories (See Williams 1997) are vehicles to understanding the nature of these linkages, and their potential for shaping economic development in rural areas. Central to these paradigms is the notion that the spatial distribution and strength of Leontief multipliers resulting from upstream and downstream linkages, and the variations in both between sectors and territories, are likely to prove crucial in shaping development opportunities.

Rural Business Clusters and Business Networks in rural and remote areas.

A business cluster is a geographically proximate group of interconnected companies and associated institutions in a particular field, including producers, service providers, suppliers, universities, and associated institutions, all linked by commonalities and complementarities. Clusters reflect the fundamental influences of agglomeration economies; spill-overs and linkages among and across firms and associated institutions. Spillover effects result either from the concentration of establishments in the same area of economic activity (the so-called Marshall-Arrow-Romer economies) or from the diversification of economic activities (the so-called Jacobs economies).

Business clustering as a development strategy was popularised by Michael Porter (1990) and has since become a focus for many governments and the EU (see for example the European Business Observatory: <http://www.clusterobservatory.eu/>). Business clusters increase competitiveness because they affect the productivity and efficiency of individual businesses, stimulate innovations and support entrepreneurship. Business productivity and efficiency is enhanced by efficient access to specialised inputs, services, employees, information, institutions, training programmes and other public goods. Clusters stimulate and enable innovations because they increase the likelihood of perceiving innovation opportunities, assist knowledge creation, facilitate experimentation and provide a strong incentive to strategic differentiation that is often the result of incremental innovations. Finally, clusters support entrepreneurship because they provide opportunities for new companies, encourage spinoffs and start-ups and the commercialization of new products from new companies.

According to Porter (2004) what makes rural regions different from metropolitan areas, in terms of business clusters, is the low population densities prevailing in rural areas and the level of growth of their urban neighbours. Thus, a study of rural business clusters is closely related to the study of rural demography and rural human capital as well as rural-urban linkages. Information on rural business clusters is limited and fragmented not only at EU level, but worldwide (Porter, 2004). A recent review on rural business clusters in countries of the EU reveals the significance of cluster operation for rural development Skuras *et. al.* (2005).

Rural business clusters may provide a new model of economic development for rural areas in which development is a collaborative process involving government at multiple levels, companies, teaching and research institutions and institutions for collaboration. As such, competitiveness is a bottom-up process in which individuals, firms, and institutions take and share responsibility to address the specific barriers (not just general challenges) faced by their region and companies in a given market,.

Development Opportunities relating to Cultural Heritage

Recent research has argued that rural areas in Europe are increasingly responding to processes of globalization through pursuing development strategies based explicitly on locally embedded resources, including cultural heritage (Kneafsey *et. al.*, 2001). European Rural Development policy, especially the 2007-13 LEADER programmes, identify cultural heritage as a potential 'resource' for rural development.

On the one hand expressions of cultural heritage are viewed as a means of strengthening social cohesion, identity and belonging, and on the other, components of cultural heritage are viewed as resources which can be transformed into the commodity market through place-based promotion, and more broadly, mobilised in the creative and cultural industries.

There is as yet however, little hard evidence of the extent to which these processes occur in practice in European rural areas, or to what degree valorisation of elements of cultural heritage can increase regional competitiveness. The cultural economics/geography literature has tended to focus on cities as sites of cultural heritage due to their high endowments of material culture, exemplified by, for example, monuments, museums, galleries, theatres and cultural parades (Moore and Whelan, 2007). However, urban cultural heritage models are not necessarily relevant or transferable to rural areas where cultural resources are represented as much in the natural landscape as in the built environment, and where inaccessibility continues to act as a barrier to economic competitiveness, and social sustainability.

Moreover, the components of cultural heritage which might support territorial development are likely to vary between remote rural, intermediate rural, and 'urban' areas. Whereas remote rural areas were found in the ESPON 2006 programme to have a weaker 'cultural infrastructure' relative to urban areas and lower participation in the cultural industries, low population density was positively correlated with higher levels of 'traditional' heritage at the NUTS II level (Dynamo, 2006). It can be hypothesised, therefore, that not all elements of cultural heritage will proffer development opportunities for rural regions. According to Kneafsey et. al. (2001) a study in rural Wales suggested that cultural resources such as crafts, folklore, regional and minority languages, local foods and landscape systems can be commodified to revalorize rural economies based on strengthened territorial identity. Alternative conceptualisations, including research in ESPON 2006 (ibid.), stress that immobile resources, such as historic attractions, are important inputs into the rural tourism and recreation industry, whilst other elements of cultural heritage production and reproduction contribute to the vitality of region and its ability to retain population, and attract new residents. Any assessment of cultural heritage opportunities in rural areas requires, therefore, a nuanced understanding of cultural heritage as both a material product, and an intangible resource.

Governance and Neo-Endogenous Development

European regions and localities have conventionally relied in their development on central government interventions and subsidises. These preferences have during the last 20 years changed and currently embrace more local development actions. Now, procedures and theories of local development stress the potentiality to recognize and attach a wide mixture of resources that in many cases are more effective and influential than separate top-down initiatives. Thus, this approach necessitates politically proper and supportive governance arrangements of local activities. Goodwin (1998 p. 9) argues that 'governance as an interactive process between a range of organisations draws attention to the difficulties of negotiating shared goals and agendas, and to the acceptance that many intended actions will not match eventual outcomes'. This requires creation and operation of local level partnerships by stakeholders and authorities who are able to think and act strategically.

Partnerships can be seen as an implication of the continuing changes in the governance of rural areas. The increasing complexity requires collaboration between wide range of actors; along with the new modes of policy the boundaries between public and private become blurred and dissolved. Governance can be regarded as a manifold phenomenon, which comprises a complex set of power relations and differing aims from the promotion of the regional competitiveness to the improvement of democracy. Governance does not solely form a territorial alternative to sector based policies, but it also advances endogenous development by building local capacity of people to pursue their adaptability to external changes.

Within the EU, rural development is generally performed as a multilevel process between various actors in all regional and administrative levels. Depending on circumstances in different environments, the endogenous processes are on the one hand attached to localities, and on the other hand steered from higher administration levels. This recognition that development is rarely truly 'bottom-up' has led many to suggest a focus on "neo-endogenous rural development", emphasising not only horizontal relations

between the local actors but also vertical relations through which the 'top-down' meets the 'bottom-up' – ie. how multi-level governance might support and empower local mobilisation of rural communities.

A crucial question in rural development is thus how its implementation may foster and maintain diversified interrelations. Healey (2004) points out that spatial planning seeks both to promote collaborative action and mobilisation of local actors and also to articulate this with legitimate external influences. This presents challenges of multilevel governance and of building institutional capacity.

There are two dimensions to multilevel governance. First, vertical governance deals with the collaboration, coordination and decision-making processes between local, subregional, regional and national actors. This requires a mixture of top-down and bottom-up approaches in order to attain local level needs and demands. Second, horizontal governance deals with intersecting different sector approaches and also intersecting different types of actors. Horizontal governance is linked to the openness and the direction of the dialogue among institutions, administrative cultures and routines and different actors.

3.4 Combining Themes, Spatial Analysis and an Emphasis on Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints (D.O.C)

The EDORA conceptual framework combines the following elements: **thematic analysis** of rural differentiation and change, emphasising *drivers* of change, development *opportunities*, and *constraints* (D.O.C.), a **spatial** (regional) **analytical context**, and a medium term (15 year) **future perspective**.

Thematic Analysis

The thematic structure of the methodology is designed to ensure that all the most important aspects of rural differentiation and change are addressed. Nine themes have been selected:

- (a) Demography
- (b) Employment
- (c) Rural business development
- (d) Rural-urban relationships
- (e) Cultural heritage
- (f) Access to services of general interest
- (g) Institutional capacity
- (h) Climate change
- (i) Farm Structural Change

Each of these themes will be explored in terms of the relevant scientific literature, patterns and processes of change, the development of appropriate and operational regional indicators, future perspectives, and policy implications. Although (as implied by the structure of Section 3.3) some of these themes can be seen as predominantly focused upon exogenous drivers of change, whilst others are more concerned with local opportunities and constraints, the D. O. C. framework will be applied across all themes.

Spatial Context

Although it is of course far from exhaustive in coverage, the above review of rural development research indicates that the regional/spatial dimension of rural change is addressed in a rather patchy way, sometimes explicitly (as in rural-urban linkages) and sometimes more implicitly (as in governance) and sometimes hardly at all (as in climate change). Taken alongside the predominantly urban focus of much regional development research and spatial planning literature, - which sometimes views rural areas as an empty space between city regions - the main drivers of growth (Bryden 2007, Kunzmann 2008) - this represents a substantial research "gap". This gap will be addressed by the EDORA project.

The mosaic of socio-economic differentiation within Europe's rural areas manifests processes operating at the full range of spatial scales. Some seem to have a *macro-scale* (e.g. globalisation, core-periphery) component to them, others are much more *localised*, relating, perhaps to rural-urban flows between towns and their rural hinterlands, or to regional, resource-based patterns of development. Others still seem to be random or "*aspatial*", in line with current writing about the "space of networks and flows".

It is commonly assumed that increasing personal mobility, reduced transport costs and an increasing reliance upon information technology have all conspired to weaken macro-scale patterns of differentiation so that more localised or aspatial patterns have assumed greater importance. However the evidence for this is rather mixed, and, especially in the light of concerns regarding energy costs and carbon footprints, it may be that the announcement of "the death of distance" was premature (Rietveld and Vickermann, 2004, Mcann and Shefer 2004).

A recent review of regional socio-economic patterns of differentiation across Europe (Copus *et. al.* 2006) has led to the suggestion that macro-scale patterns of differentiation which may be described in terms of zones of "accumulation" and "depletion" are still in evidence. Furthermore, it has been argued (Copus *et al* 2007) that since much of the rural research effort of the past decade has been focused upon understanding "micro-geographic" and "aspatial" patterns of differentiation, and the "soft" (difficult to quantify) factors which seem to account for them, a renewed interest in understanding and modelling the macro-scale patterns will be appropriate and helpful.

Clearly the spatial scale at which particular processes of differentiation operate has very important consequences in terms of appropriate policy interventions to promote cohesion. For this reason the thematic analysis carried out in this project will aim to describe socio-economic patterns and change with reference to the above three-fold spatial framework.

The conceptual framework which underlies the work-package structure of this project proposal is thus designed to strengthen the spatial/regional component of European rural development research, by combining a multidisciplinary compilation of existing knowledge with the development of appropriate operational (D.O.C) indicators based upon available regional data resources, supplemented by in-depth sub-regional analyses in "exemplar regions". The need to derive practical policy implications will serve to ground this work firmly in empirical realities.

The Temporal Perspective

The above questions cannot be addressed simply in terms of recent trends, or current patterns. It is very important to assess the evidence for future developments, such as the developing knowledge economy, climate change, migration flows, food security, etc. Future perspectives, covering the medium-term (10-15 years) will form an important component of this consortium's approach.

The future of rural areas will be influenced considerably by a range of macroeconomic forces that transcend both the farm and non-farm economy, the location trends and travel to work patterns in enterprise and service employment, and new directions in agricultural and rural development policies (Commins, 2001). These developments will increasingly take place within the context of global climate change and the restructuring of Europe's population.

The perspectives will be based on assessing the potential impact of contemporary social, economic, environmental and policy trends on rural areas. To do so it will be necessary to place expected changes in European rural areas in the context of the main forces which drive the market economy and the influences which moderate market forces.

4 Policy Context

There is also a very clear policy rationale for the EDORA project's focus upon rural differentiation, drivers of change, opportunities and constraints. A range of policy processes are highlighting the need for a better empirical knowledge-base of the contemporary rural economy and society, together with clear

interpretation and updated paradigms for policy intervention to enhance territorial cohesion. At a more general, underpinning level these include, for example:

- The 2000 Lisbon agenda, re-launched in 2005, which sets overarching objectives for growth by building a competitive knowledge economy, increasing employment, through innovation and entrepreneurship, whilst respecting and enhancing social cohesion.
- The Gothenburg Agenda, agreed by the European Council in 2001, and subsequently reformulated as the European Sustainable Development Strategy 2005-2010, which seeks to ensure that growth is compatible with environmental objectives.
- The Lisbon treaty, which for the first time incorporates territorial cohesion, alongside social and economic cohesion.

More specific policy documents, issues and debates, which highlight the importance of the increasing differentiation of rural Europe, include:

- The Fourth Cohesion Report, (EC 2007) which, for example noted the increasing “suburbanisation” of accessible rural areas, and the continuing drain of human capital from less accessible rural areas. This echoed one of the key messages of DG Agriculture’s 2006 document “Employment in Rural Areas, Closing the Jobs Gap” (EC 2006).
- The Territorial Agenda, agreed at the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion in Leipzig in May 2007, which re-stated EU objectives in terms of territorial cohesion, and in particular emphasised the need for rural-urban cooperation. This was followed up in December 2007 by the European Parliament, who published a detailed review of the issues (European Parliament 2007). An Action Programme has subsequently been developed and implemented under the Portuguese, Slovenian and French presidencies. This again emphasises the importance of urban-rural partnership.
- The consultation on territorial cohesion, carried out by DG Regio in 2007, and reported in the 5th Progress Report on Economic and Social Cohesion (EC 2008a) confirmed the continued concern at all levels of governance for the development of non-metropolitan regions of the EU. It also revealed a widespread shift away from a compensatory or equalisation policy principle towards a focus upon developing regional potential to enhance competitiveness.
- More recently the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion (EC 2008b) has pointed to regional specificities as a potential resource, which may provide an alternative to agglomeration, as a foundation for economic development. The Green Paper has also stressed the fact that territorial development/cohesion is affected by a range of policies outside the Cohesion and Structural Fund arenas. These include transport, energy, information technology, the CAP, the Employment Strategy, the Community Biodiversity action plan, the European Research Area, and Competition Policy.
- At the recent Cyprus conference on Rural Development (EC 2008c) the diversity of rural regions as a potential development resource was a key theme. Indeed one of the workshops was entitled “The diversity of rural areas: harnessing the development potential”. In the context of financial resources which are unlikely to increase after 2013, Commissioner Fischer Boel raised the question of further targeting of rural development expenditure. Deputy Director Dormal Merino was more explicit:

“Of course, this makes it all the more essential to target support, to look into measures critically, to develop indicators, to ask again and again the question: how can we get the most value for money? How can we improve targeting? How can we ensure that the needs we have identified are addressed,....” (EC 2008c)

The foregoing is a rather brief and partial overview of recent policy statements, but it is hoped that it is enough to demonstrate that the issue addressed by EDORA is an extremely topical one, very much on the agenda of a wide range of actors at various levels of EU governance. As such the policy perspective will not be a “serial activity”², but will of necessity interact in parallel with the conceptual and empirical tasks from the beginning of the project. For example the synthesis of D.O.C. (2.12) will be carried out in the context of an awareness of the current policy debates.

² Such as the conventional drawing out of policy implications *after* conceptual and empirical analyses.

Furthermore in carrying out activity 2.32 (Implications for orientation of Cohesion and other EU policies) the project team will consider both Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives, together with the continuing discourse on territorial cohesion, and will be orientated first towards EU policies explicitly directed towards enhancing territorial cohesion (i.e. Structural Fund and Cohesion policy) but will also seek to assess the *territorial cohesion impacts* of other Community policies, such as transport, energy, information technology, the CAP, the Employment Strategy, the Community Biodiversity action plan, the European Research Area, and Competition Policy.

The foundation for policy recommendations will be constructed by bringing together a review of existing policies with cohesion impacts, as they affect the different types of rural areas defined in the typology and elaborated in the exemplar regions, and relating these to the future opportunities and challenges foreseen. Attention will be paid to the various processes (drivers) operating across the rural and urban areas of Europe - macro, micro and aspatial - underlying these opportunities and constraints, and the scope which might exist for modifying or working with these processes of change for the benefit of each type of rural region.

5 Work Package Descriptions

The project has three work packages (WP); 1. Coordination, 2. Research Activity, and 3. Dissemination. The work packages are sub-divided into numbered "activities".

5.1 WP1: Research Planning and Coordination

WP 1 incorporates all coordination tasks. It comprises three distinct activities:

Activity 1.01 Research Coordination – This covers all "scientific" coordination tasks, together with non-financial administration (organising meetings etc.) This will be the responsibility of the Project Coordinator, assisted by the Project Manager, and the Research Management Committee.

Activity 1.02 Reporting – This task relates to the preparation and editing of Progress, Interim and Final Reports. It is the responsibility of the Project Coordinator, supported by all partners, but especially Partner 2.

Activity 1.03 Financial Management – This includes all financial reporting, activities, distribution of payments to partners, and all other activities relating to the financing of the project. It is the responsibility of the Financial Manager.

5.2 WP2: Research Activities

5.2.1 Overview of Methodology

The second WP has 11 activities, and for convenience these are presented in four groups:

- 2.1 Thematic and conceptual tasks.
- 2.2 Empirical and presentational tasks.
- 2.3 Policy related tasks.
- 2.4 Horizontal supporting tasks

The activity descriptions below are ordered according to these four groups, and therefore not always chronological. It is therefore helpful to provide a chronological flow chart (Figure 1) at this point.

5.2.2 The "Red Line" D.O.C. Concept

Before describing individual tasks it will be helpful to explain the "red line" which runs through all project activities, links them, provides a clear focus, and, it is hoped, will ensure a cumulative progress towards the required research outcomes.

Three “core concepts” will run through all EDORA project activities. These are:

- (i) **D**rivers of rural change.
- (ii) **O**pportunities for rural development.
- (iii) **C**onstraints, or barriers, which prevent or delay the exploitation of the opportunities.

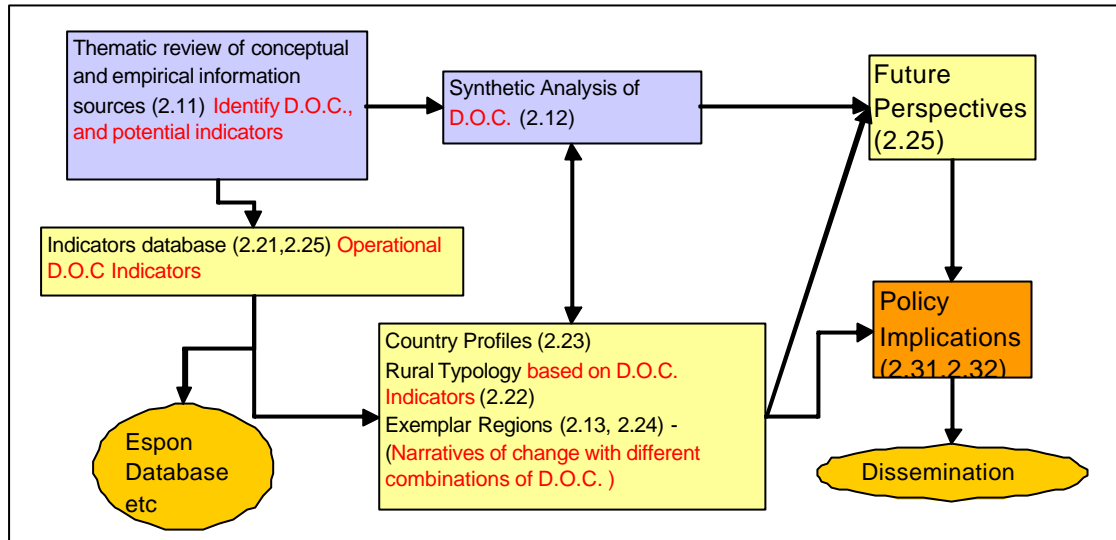


Figure 1: Simplified Outline of Work Programme, highlighting the role of Red Line Concepts

Thus, as Figure 1 illustrates, the initial task (2.11) will review the “state of the art” and existing empirical analysis, according to nine themes, with a clear focus upon the “D.O.C.”; (**d**rivers of change, **d**evelopment **o**pportunities, and “**c**onstraints” which prevent or delay exploitation of opportunities). The working papers produced by this task will also identify potential and operational D.O.C indicators. The findings of the thematic analysis will be reviewed and synthesised, in Activity 2.12, stressing the way in which D.O.C. combine and interact within different kinds of rural areas.

The potential D.O.C. indicators identified by activity 2.11 will be picked up in activities 2.21 and 2.25, which will “filter out” those indicators which are currently not implementable across the EU, and create a regional database of *operational* D.O.C. indicators. These indicators will form the building blocks for empirical activities 2.13, 2.23, 2.24 and 2.25, which will provide profiles of rural areas within each of the 31 countries in the EDORA database (see below), a typology of rural regions, and narratives of the process of change in a selection of “exemplar regions”. In all of these activities the D.O.C. concepts will play a central role. For example, the typology will aim to identify different “recurrent combinations” of D.O.C. in each of the rural categories in DG Regio’s modified OECD classification of NUTS 3 regions.

In the later stages of the project the formulation of Future Perspectives (2.25) and Policy Implications (2.31 and 2.32) will incorporate the D.O.C. typology as an organising principle.

5.2.3 Review of Current Situation and Recent Trends (Activity 2.11)

The aims of this activity will be: (i) To review the “*state of the art*” in relation to rural differentiation and trends, both in terms of theoretical literature, and in terms of descriptive empirical material. (ii) To describe the key *drivers* of change, the *barriers* which hinder it, and the nature of the *opportunities* which present themselves to different kinds of rural area in Europe. (iii) To identify a set of *potential D.O.C. indicators* which will form the basis of the empirical analysis later in the project. (iv) To derive initial observations on *policy implications*, which will be further developed in subsequent tasks.

The review of the current situation and recent trends in rural Europe will be structured according to nine themes:

- (a) Demography
- (b) Employment
- (c) Rural-urban relationships
- (d) Rural Business Development
- (e) Culture and Heritage
- (f) Access to Services of General Interest
- (g) Institutional Capacity/evolution of Governance
- (h) Climate change
- (i) Farm Structural Change

For each of the above themes a working paper will be produced. These working papers will be concise, but clearly structured according to guidelines provided by Nordregio (see Appendix 1). These working papers will form the basis upon which synthetic overview of drivers of change, development opportunities and constraints (Activity 2.12) will be developed.

For each theme a lead partner and a supporting partner has been identified. The theme lead partner will be responsible for planning and directing the activity, and will be the lead author of the working paper. The supporting partner will share responsibility for fulfilling the four objectives described above, and will be the second author of the working paper, sharing in responsibility for writing, commenting and so on. Overall responsibility for Activity 2.11 and the thematic working papers will rest with Petri Kahila (NORD).

5.2.4 Synthesis of Drivers of Change, Development Opportunities, and Constraints

This task is essentially one of synthesis, providing an overview of the processes of change which help to explain current patterns of differentiation across rural Europe, and likely future trends. The aim will be to identify an integrating conceptual framework/narrative which encompasses the D.O.C. across the individual themes (described in 2.11), and which manifests itself in a variety of ways in different kinds of rural areas. This will inform the development of the typology (Activity 2.22), and will help to construct the rationale for future perspectives analysis (2.25), urban-rural cooperation (2.31), and cohesion policy recommendations (2.32). This conceptual framework will be further explored and refined through the analysis of Exemplar Regions (2.13).

The output from this task will take the form of a working paper which will later form a major component of the Interim, Draft Final, and Final Reports.

The Expert Group will meet for the first time, in a carefully structured workshop, to review and discuss a draft of the working paper for this task.

This activity is the responsibility of Mark Shucksmith (NEWCL), supported by Joan Noguera (UVAL), Jerzy Banski (PAS), and David Meredith (TEAGASC). This arrangement of shared responsibility is intended to ensure strong links to other activities, and a range of expertise in terms of geographical coverage.

5.2.5 Empirical Tasks, Database, Mapping etc (Activities 2.21, 2.26)

The EDORA database is intended as a compilation of available regional indicators on drivers, opportunities and constraints (D.O.C.), which have been identified through activities 2.11 and 2.12. As such it will incorporate what is useful from the previous ESPON projects, extracts from the REGIO database, plus suggestions/contributions from other sources by the thematic experts. It will be structured

according to the themes featured in 2.11, and broad in scope (with an appropriate balance between indicators relating to primary industries, and other sectors/themes). It will be implemented primarily at the NUTS 3 level, although some indicators will only be available at NUTS 2 or higher. All regions will be included, though urban regions (according to the DG Regio version of the OECD typology) will be clearly “flagged”. The database will cover the 27 EU member states, plus Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Switzerland. Since data on the Western Balkans and Turkey is too poor on a regionalised level, these countries will not be included.

This is a pivotal task – feeding into all the other tasks in the empirical part of the project (2.22 Typology, 2.23 Country Profiles, 2.24 Selection of Exemplar regions, 2.25 Future Perspectives, and 2.26 Mapping, contributions to the ESPON database).

The database (Activity 2.21) is the responsibility of Peter Weingarten (vTI), supported by Joan Noguera (UVAL) and Petri Kahila (Nordregio). Activity 2.26 comprises all other data management and mapping tasks, and is the responsibility of Peter Weingarten, and the vTI team.

5.2.6 Typology Elaboration (Activity 2.22)

This will start from the DG Regio (modified OECD) typology – but additional dimensions, based upon the D.O.C indicators identified in Task 2.11 will be explored. These additional dimensions may be represented by “complex indicators”, perhaps combinations of the D.O.C. indicators suggested by the thematic analyses in activity 2.11. It is important that the elaboration of the typology reflects both available data and the perceptions/local knowledge of the experts in the consortium. It will thus combine both inductive and deductive approaches. In terms of the latter the selection of the exemplar regions (2.13) and their analysis (2.24) will play a crucial role.

The elaboration of the typology will thus be an iterative process, interacting with the selection and analysis of exemplar regions in 2.24 and 2.13. The typology will later structure the country profiles (2.23). This task will be reported in a working paper which will form the basis of a section of the Interim, Draft Final and Final Reports.

This activity is the responsibility of Andrew Copus (UHI), supported by Joan Noguera (UVAL).

5.2.7 Country Profiles (Activity 2.23)

These will take the form of tabular summaries of average indicator values for each type of rural area (as defined by 2.22) within each member state, accompanied by a brief explanatory text. The standard tables will be prepared by the lead partner, using data from the project database (2.21). Responsibility for the commentaries for the 31 countries will be shared between the partners as shown in Table 1. The lead partner will integrate the individual profiles into a chapter of the Interim, Draft Final, and Final Reports.

Table 1 : Partner Responsibilities for Country Profiles (2.23) and Member State Data Collection (2.41)

Partner	Countries
UHI	UK MT
Nord	SE FI DK NO EE LV LT IC FR
NEWCL	RO BG
UVAL	ES
PATRAS	GR CY
TEAGASC	IE
LJUB	SL
vTI	DE NL LU BE
BABF	AT LS CH IT
PAS	PL CZ SK
HAS	HU
HIA	PT

Overall responsibility for this activity will lie with Joan Noguera (UVAL), supported by other partners as indicated in Table 1.

5.2.8 Holistic Narratives of Exemplar Regions (Activities 2.24 and 2.13)

These are typical regions representing both the range of degrees of rurality and key aspects of the D.O.C. concept. They will be selected (2.24) partly on the basis of the DG Regio version of the OECD typology. However consultation with the partners with “local” knowledge regarding other dimensions relating to D.O.C. will further refine the choice, and will simultaneously feed into the elaboration of the typology (2.22). It is anticipated that each of the partners involved will work on two exemplar regions – giving a total of twelve.

The aim of activity 2.13 will be to build a clearer, more detailed picture or “narrative” to illustrate typical socio-economic change and the main opportunities/constraints in each type of rural area. Details of processes of differentiation and inter-relationships between the different themes will be explored. This analysis will be based on a wider range of more detailed socio-economic indicators (including some not available for all EU) for the rural part of the regions. Holistic/systematic commentary/interpretation of recent trends and ongoing processes of change, will be developed on the basis of the indicators and the conceptual material presented by 2.11 and 2.12. The output will be a series of concise papers which will be integrated into a single working paper, with discussion and conclusions, by the lead/secondary partners.

The lead partner and the secondary partners will develop a clear set of guidelines, and some standard tables. All partners will then work on at least one exemplar region paper. The lead/secondary partners will then produce a comparative working paper, which will form part of the Interim, Draft Final, and Final Reports.

Mark Shucksmith (NEWCL) will take the overall lead in this task, supported by Petri Kahila (NORD), Joan Noguera (UVAL), Majda Cernic Istenic (LJUB), Johannes Lueckenkoetter (DORT) and Jerzy Bansky (PAS).

5.2.9 Future Perspectives (Activity 2.25)

This begins at a thematic level (on the basis 2.11-2.12), but will be integrated where possible, taking account of the findings in the Exemplar Regions.(2.13). The time horizon is relatively short (10-15 years), and the next EU Structural Fund programming period is the context. Climate change will play an explicit role in this task. This is a key input for Policy related Tasks 2.31 and 2.32. This task will produce a working paper which will form the basis of a section of the Draft Final and Final Reports.

Due to time, resource and data limitations it will not be feasible to develop complex econometric forecasting models of rural areas; instead an assessment of both quantitative data and qualitative information (Country profiles, policy assessments etc.) will be adopted. The typology developed in Activity 2.22, will form the starting point to inform the development of future perspectives. Initially, an evaluation of existing EU rural and regional policy documents will be undertaken to establish the desired vision for rural areas in the future. An assessment of contemporary opportunities, drivers and barriers to change in the different types of rural area, as identified in 2.12, will be considered with regard to their likely impact if they continue unchanged over the next 10 – 15 years. The potential outcomes of these development trajectories will be considered with reference to stated EU rural and regional policy goals. The results of this assessment will be presented to the expert group with a view to eliciting their opinions of the perspectives developed for the different types of rural areas. Based on this feedback preferred perspectives will be developed and considered with respect to current policy frameworks, particularly

those pertaining to territorial cohesion. Where necessary, new or amended policy measures will be considered, particularly those focused on harnessing development potential and opportunities for territorial cooperation and ameliorating the implications of climate change for different types of areas. The Expert Group will be asked to comment on the future perspectives and their feedback will form an important part of the finalisation of this analysis.

The Expert Group will review the draft output from this activity (at a meeting which will also consider the output from 2.32).

David Meredith (TEAGASC) will lead this activity, supported by Petri Kahila (NORD) and Jerzy Banski (PAS).

5.2.10 Establishing potential for Urban-Rural Collaboration (Activity 2.31)

This relates to the concept of enhancing regional cohesion and competitiveness by strengthening the links between urban and rural regions and between rural regions. The output from this task will be a working paper which forms part of the Draft Final and Final Report.

This activity will be led by Paul Courtney (GLOUCS), supported by Demetrios Psaltopoulos (PATRAS).

5.2.11 Implications for Orientation of Cohesion and other EU Policies (Activity 2.32)

In a sense this is the ultimate objective of the project, and the output will form a key element of the Final Report. It will draw on most, if not all, of the previous tasks, and the Expert Group will play an important role through a workshop focusing on the outputs of 2.25 and 2.32).

This Activity will be led by Thomas Dax (BABF), supported by Andrew Copus (UHI), Petri Kahila (Nordregio) and Mark Shucksmith (NEWCL).

5.3 WP3: Dissemination

This project has been visualized and constructed with its communication and dissemination strategy as one of its fundamental underpinnings. It is important that the project reflects an awareness of this from its inception. This implies that communication and dissemination are not merely superficial functions that are “attached” to the end of the project, and considered as being useful only as a means of publicizing the “results,” but that they are inherent components of the project’s every phase. From the first actions of the project, there are communication and dissemination aspects that can enhance the potential of the project’s success. Their purpose is to project the significance of the project and to represent its actions and aims for a variety of audiences, users and stakeholders.

However, the ESPON 2013 Operational Programme foresees (in Priority 4) capitalisation of the results of project activities including events, printed reports, website facility, etc. The Programme includes, in other words, substantial dissemination activities at Programme level which EDORA will make use of and support. The EDORA project’s dissemination activities will ensure consistency and avoid overlaps with and repetition of respective activities organised at Programme level. The project team will refer to the objectives of Priority 4 of the ESPON 2013 Programme when considering dissemination activities and closely coordinate these with the ESPON CU.

This activity will be led by Richard Langlais (NORD).

6 Consortium Structure

Table 2 shows the full list of consortium members, their member state location, and the short name used in this report.

Table 2: The EDORA Consortium

No.	Partner	Short Name	MS
1	UHI Millennium Institute	UHI	UK
2	Nordregio - Nordic Centre for Spatial Development	NORD	SE
3	Newcastle University	NEWCL	UK
4	University of Valencia	UVAL	ES
5	Research Committee - University of Patras	PATRAS	GR
6	The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority	TEAGASC	IE
7	University of Gloucestershire	GLOUCS	UK
8	University of Ljubljana	LJUB	SI
9	Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Institute of Rural Studies	vTI	DE
10	Federal Institute for Less-Favoured and Mountainous Areas	BABF	AT
11	Dortmund University of Technology	DORT	DE
12	Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences	PAS	PL
13	Institute of Economics Hungarian Academy of Sciences	HAS	HU
14	Higher Institut of Agronomy	HIA	PT
15	Scottish Agricultural College	SAC	UK
16	IOM International Organization for Migration/Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research	IOM	PL

Note: Members of the Research Management Committee shown in pale yellow.

Figure 2 shows the consortium management structure. The following points should be noted regarding the responsibilities and meeting arrangements of the various committees:

1. The **Project Management Board** will oversee administrative, financial and research issues. They will meet three times during the lifetime of the project.
2. The **Research Management Committee** will coordinate research activity, they will meet 6 times during the course of the project.
3. The three **research coordinators** will assist the Project Coordinator by carrying out detailed planning, setting schedules and monitoring progress in their respective areas of research activity.
4. Professor Mark Shucksmith will act as the main contact with the **Expert Group**
5. **The Expert Group Comprises** Prof. Klaus Kunzmann (Berlin), Elena Saraceno (Brussels), Patrick Salez (Brussels, Prof John Bryden (Inverness) and Michal Lostak (Prague).

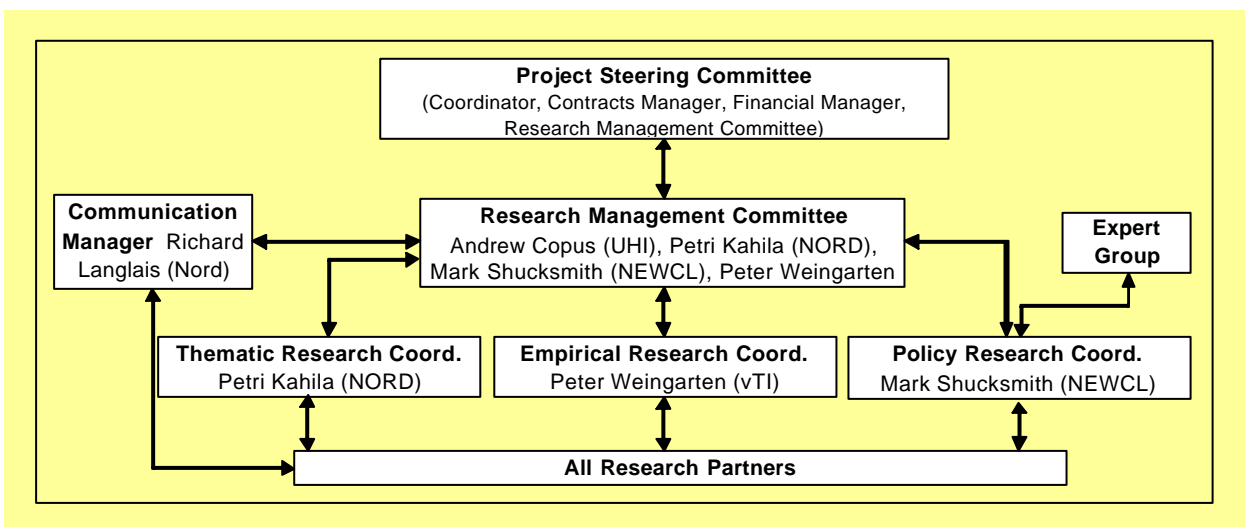


Figure 2: Consortium Management Structure

7 Allocation of Work

Table 3: Allocation of Person Months per Activity and per Partner

	Research Planning and Coordination	Reporting	Financial Management	Review of Current Situation and Recent Trends	Demography	Employment	Rural Business Development	Rural-Urban Relationships	Culture and heritage	Access to services of general interest	Institutional capacity	Climate Change	Farm Structural Change	Development Opportunities, Drivers, Holistic narrative of exemplar regions	Development of Indicators Database	Typology Elaboration	Country Profiles	Selection of Exemplar Regions	Future perspectives	Mapping, contributions to ESPON database etc	Establishing Potential for U-R Cooperation	Implications for Orientation of Cohesion Policy	Member State Data Collection	Expert Group	
	1.01	1.02	1.03	2.11	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	2.12	2.13	2.21	2.22	2.23	2.24	2.25	2.26	2.31	2.32	2.41	2.42
UHI	4.50	4.00	4.39			1.00							*			2.50	0.25						1.00		
NORD	0.25				2.00				1.00		2.00	2.00			1.00	1.00		0.70		1.00			1.00		
NEWCL	2.00	1.00												2.50	1.50		0.25						0.50		
UVAL										2.00			*	1.00	1.00	0.25	2.20	1.00							
PATRAS							2.00	1.00									0.25					1.00			
TEAGASC														0.75			0.20		1.80						
GLOUCS								2.00														1.50			
LJUB						2.00									1.00		0.20								
vTI	0.25												*			4.00					3.00				
BABF																	0.45						2.00		
IRPUD										1.00					1.00										
PAS												1.00		1.00	1.00	1.00		0.35		1.00	1.00				
HAS											1.00						0.20								
HIA							1.00										0.20								
SAC									2.00																
IOM					1.00																				
Man-months	7	5	4.39		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		5.25	6.5	6	2.75	5.85	1	3.8	4	2.5	4.5	0	0

Notes: Activity lead partners shown in yellow .

Activity 2.11 (i) was added after the budget was finalised, and therefore has no specific person month allocation. The partners market with a "*" have volunteered to cover this theme from within existing resources.

8 Timetable

Project Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	
REPORTS			Inception					Interim													Draft Final					Final Final	
TASKS																											
Research Planning and Coordination	1.01																										
Reporting	1.02																										
Financial Management	1.03																										
Review of Current Situation and Recent Trends	2.11																										
Demography	(a)																										
Employment	(b)																										
Rural Business Development	(c)																										
Rural-Urban Relationships	(d)																										
Culture and heritage	(e)																										
Access to services of general interest	(f)																										
Institutional capacity	(g)																										
Climate Change	(h)																										
Farm Structural Change	(i)																										
Development Opportunities, Drivers, Barriers etc	2.12																										
Holistic narrative of exemplar regions	2.13																										
Development of Indicators Database	2.21																										
Typology Elaboration	2.22																										
Country Profiles	2.23																										
Selection of Exemplar Regions	2.24																										
Future perspectives	2.25																										
Mapping, contributions to ESPON database etc	2.26																										
Establishing Potential for U-R Cooperation	2.31																										
Implications for Orientation of Cohesion Policy	2.32																										
Member State Data Collection	2.41																										
Expert Group	2.42																										
Dissemination	3.01																										

Key to colours

	Coordination and Report Writing
	Research (preparation and "winding up")
	Research (implementation)
	Dissemination (preparation and "winding up")

Figure 3: Project Timetable

(Note: Financial management and Dissemination Activity Continues until Month 35, (June 2011))

Table 4: Indicative Calendar of Meetings

	Kick Off Sept 08	RMC Sept 08	Dec 08	June 09	Dec 09	June 10	Other	Total
UHI	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
NORD	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	10
NEWCL	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	9
UVAL		1	1	1		1		4
PATRAS			1			1	1	3
TEAGASC		1	1	1	1	1	1	6
GLOUCS			1		1	1	1	4
LJUB			1			1	1	3
vTI		1	2	1	1	1	1	7
BABF		1	1			1		3
DORT			1			1	1	3
PAS			1	1	2	1	1	6
HAS			1				1	2
HIA			1				1	2
SAC			1				1	2
IOM			1				1	2
Total	5	7	19	7	9	14	14	75

Notes:

Numbers refer to persons attending. The above should be considered as a minimum – partners are encouraged to attend additional meetings if their budget allows.

The budget assumes an average cost per person per meeting of €800.

The “other” column allows flexibility for additional meetings as required.

9 Budget Breakdown

Table 5: Budget Breakdown

	Person Months	Staff Costs	Admin	Travel	Other	Total
1 UHI	18.64	105,739	5,000	7,990	9,750	128,479
2 NORD	13.95	90,675	22,669	8,000	0	121,344
3 NEWCL	7.75	72,725	18,181	7,200	26,000	124,106
4 UVAL	7.45	29,800	7,450	3,200	1,000	41,450
5 PATRAS	4.25	17,000	4,250	2,400	1,000	24,650
6 TEAGASC	2.75	24,805	6,201	4,800	3,875	39,681
7 GLOUCS	3.50	27,293	6,823	3,200	1,000	38,316
8 LJUB	3.20	10,534	2,634	2,400	0	15,568
9 vTI	7.85	40,742	10,185	5,600	1,000	57,527
10 BABF	2.45	17,150	4,288	2,400	1,000	24,838
11 DORT	2.00	9,800	2,450	2,400	1,000	15,650
12 PAS	6.35	19,050	4,763	4,800	0	28,613
13 HAS	1.20	5,544	1,386	1,600	0	8,530
14 HIA	1.20	4,800	1,200	1,600	1,000	8,600
15 SAC	2.00	7,958	1,990	1,600	1,000	12,548
16 IOM	1.00	6,653	1,663	1,600	0	9,916

Note: "Other" includes audit costs, meeting room hire, and Expert Group fees.

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Appendix 1: Thematic Analysis

The following 9 themes will be addressed by Activity 2.11:

(a) Demography

Scope: patterns and components of natural population change, age structures, ageing and dependency ratios, migration patterns.

Partners responsible: NORD, IOM

(b) Employment

Scope: Labour market patterns and trends (economic activity, employment and unemployment rates, sectoral restructuring, sectors of growth and decline, commuting patterns, job search patterns etc.)

Partners responsible: LJUB, UHI.

(c) Rural-urban relationships

Scope: Types of interaction, (transactions, travel-to-work, access to services etc) rural-urban economic networks, "consumption" of countryside for leisure and recreation, etc.

Partners responsible: GLOUCS, PATRAS

(d) Rural Business Development

Scope: business clusters, innovation, rural entrepreneurship

Partners responsible: PATRAS, HIA

(e) Culture and Heritage

Scope: socio-economic assets of cultural heritage, consumption and production of culture, tourism (linked to heritage and environment).

Partners responsible: SAC.

(f) Access to Services of General Interest

Scope: public and private services, accessibility, transport, ICT availability and use, new modes of service provision

Partners responsible: UVAL, DORT

(g) Institutional Capacity/evolution of Governance

Scope: rural governance, multi-level governance, rationalities of territorial approaches

Partners responsible: NORD, HAS

(h) Climate change

Scope: biodiversity, mitigation of climate change, sustainable development

Partners responsible: NORD, PAS

(i) Farm Structural Change

Scope: Farm structural change, regional specialisation, regional agro-industrial linkages

Partners responsible: UHI, vTI, UVAL.

*Note: The evaluation of our proposal highlighted the need for explicit reference to the role of accessibility in terms of both **transport networks** and **information technology**. These will, of course feature particularly in theme (f), but where appropriate it should also be referred to elsewhere. Similarly the evaluators considered that opportunities for **rural tourism** (based on environmental assets) received insufficient emphasis in our proposal. This aspect will particularly feature in theme (e), but again, please refer to it elsewhere, as appropriate.*

Guidelines for writing Thematic Working Papers (Activity 2.11)

Each of the themes is the shared responsibility of two partners³. Please make early contact and plan the work between you. The first of the partners is identified in the list above should take responsibility for delivering the working papers to Petri Kahila (Nordregio), who coordinates this activity.

Queries about activity 2.11 should be directed to Petri Kahila (Nordregio).

The deadline for the delivery of the complete (draft) Working Papers is **January 5th 2009**, though the lead partner for each theme will be expected to present the main findings at the project meeting on **December 12th 2008**. The period from January through to the end of July 2009 is available for further clarification, elaboration, and “polishing” of the working papers, as requested by Petri Kahila (who coordinates Activity 2.11), by Mark Shucksmith (to enable him to develop the synthesis - Activity 2.12) or by the coordinator. Once finalised it is anticipated that the working papers will be posted on the project web page.

In order to allow work on the database and typology to progress you will be asked to send a draft proposal for thematic indicators (see section 4 of the working paper structure) by **November 28th 2008**.

The structure to be used in writing the working papers is reproduced below, a template document (using the ESPON styles etc.) will be provided separately.

General Instructions:

- The language of the working papers will be English.
- Please use the structure below for each of the thematic working papers.
- The explanations (in italics) below each of the headings are intended as guidance to ensure that the contents of each working paper provide the necessary input to the Synthesis (Activity 2.12). Please try to focus your efforts accordingly.
- The headings should not be changed, though you are of course free to use sub-headings where it is helpful.
- Please try to avoid exceeding the number of words suggested below for each section. The working paper should not exceed 30 pages in length.
- Please retain the font, heading styles etc. in the template provided.

³ There are two exceptions to this; (e) and (i).

Outline/Structure for Thematic Working Papers

Title Page, contents, lists of figures, tables etc.

List of Abbreviations, Glossary etc

1 Introduction

1.1 Aim and objectives of EDORA

This section includes a brief description of the context of the EDORA-project, together with an explanation of how the Thematic Working Papers relate to the overall project structure. Nordregio will provide this section for you.

1.2 The D.O.C. Approach and the Selected Themes

This section puts introduces the 9 themes and explains how they fit into the overall methodological framework for the project. Nordregio will provide this section for you.

1.3 Introduction to the theme

In this section, you should explain the “scope” of theme you are writing (what issues/subjects are included etc). State any definitions which require clarification before proceeding. You should also present the aim of the working paper and summarise the main findings and key arguments in relation to drivers of change, opportunities for rural areas, and constraints which may delay or prevent these opportunities being taken up (D.O.C).

1.4 Methodology and data sources

In this section, you should briefly indicate the methodology applied and data sources used in writing the Thematic Working Paper. Describe also key issues and considerations which had influence on your choice of literature and data sources, (including difficulties which have limited/constrained the analysis).

2 The state-of-the-art

2.1 Conceptual and Theoretical Approaches

In this section, you should introduce the conceptual and theoretical debates related to your theme. The aim is to give reader an overview of the context within which thematic discussion and debate have taken place. Take care to include any theories/approaches which seek to explain drivers of change, emerging opportunities for rural areas, and the constraints which may delay or prevent their exploitation (D.O.C). (These will be drawn together and explained in more detail in section 5.) Also highlight those concepts and approaches which have played an important role in influencing the evolution of policy which impacts upon rural areas and territorial cohesion.

2.2 Review of the empirical evidence/analyses relating to the theme

This section should present a compilation of analytical work carried out on your theme in rural areas. This may include analysis at a variety of scales, from regional case studies, to broad international comparative analysis. Try to present an overview on analytical and thematic findings relating to both the EU15 and NMS.

3 Implications for the EDORA Conceptual Framework (D.O.C.)

Discuss/explore, in relation to your theme, the concepts of drivers of change, opportunities, and constraints (D.O.C.) in greater detail. Try to avoid a mere descriptive approach but rather identify specific

drivers of change, development potentials, and constraints, which can form the basis subsequent empirical analysis and suggested policy approaches.

4 Proposal for theme related indicators

First draw up an annotated list of potential (regional) indicators relating to your theme, structured according to the D.O.C. approach (i.e. a “wish list” of things which should be measured). Secondly, identify and discuss available data sources which could form the basis of an operational regional database, and be used for mapping issues. You should (as far as is practicable) explore the availability across the MS, comparability (harmonisation) and quality of statistical data in your theme. Particular consideration should be given to operational indicators which could form elements of the typology (Task 2.22). Thirdly, it will be helpful to provide comments and suggestions relating to the possibilities for, and limitations to, regional analysis, and recommendations on how such analysis could be carried out and improved.

Clearly the extent to which the second element can be developed will vary considerably between themes. In the case of those where there is scant availability of harmonised datasets, greater emphasis should be placed upon the first and third elements, since these will help the consortium to make best use of what data is available, and where this is limited, to make specific recommendations for future data collection.

5 The dynamics of rural diversity – future perspectives– formulation of hypotheses.

In this section, you should first provide an overview how the development potentials recognised in section 3 have evolved in recent years and how they are predicted to change in the future. Naturally some of the development potentials have not been operationalised but in this case discuss reasons behind this phenomenon.

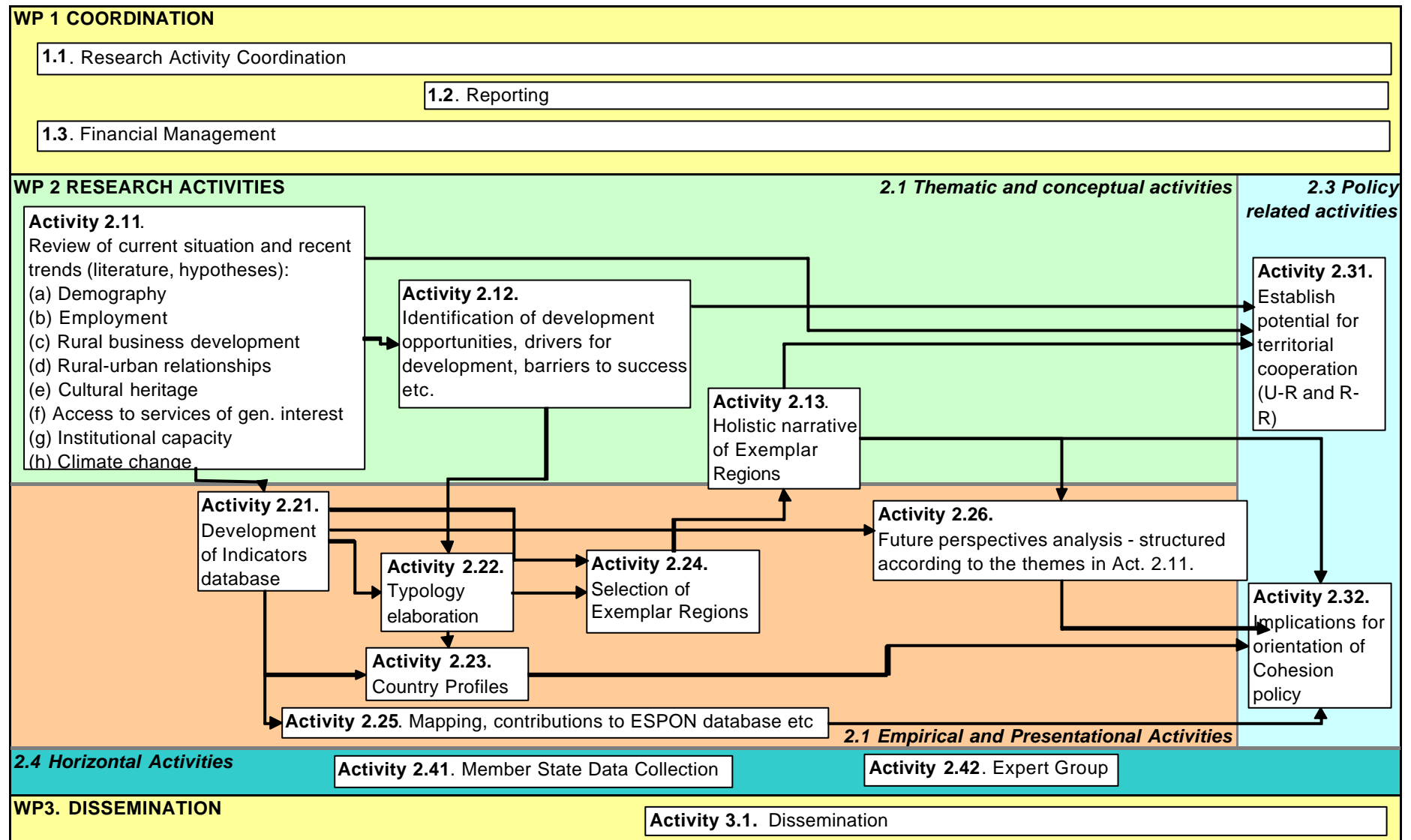
This section should be concluded by presenting a set of specific theme-related hypotheses relating to future perspectives, which can later be taken up in Activity 2.25. These should be clearly based upon the empirical analysis and conceptual/theoretical considerations described in previous sections.

8 Discussion of Policy Implications

This section will build on the discussion undertaken throughout the previous sections. Do current policies have an impact upon drivers of rural change, the existence of opportunities for rural areas, or the strength of constraints which delay or prevent exploitation? Are there thematic D.O.C issues which are not at present sufficiently recognised in the policy design and delivery at EU and MS level? What are the lessons for choice of instruments, implementation, targeting, and so on?

List of References

Appendix 2: Detailed Relationship between Activities





The ESPON 2013 Programme

EDORA

(**E**uropean **D**evelopment **O**pportunities
for **R**ural **A**reas)

Applied Research Project 2013/1/2

Inception Report Annex



EUROPEAN UNION
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INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

CONTENTS

10	Introduction.....	1
11	General Constraints – Research Traditions and Conceptual Foundations	2
12	Elaboration of the EDORA Methodology.....	2
12.1	The “golden thread”	2
12.2	Specification of Individual Research Activities	3
13	Data constraints.....	9
13.1	Agrarian Bias	9
13.2	Paucity of NUTS 3 data, and implications for Rural Analysis.....	9
13.3	Changes in the NUTS Classification.....	10
13.4	Turkey and the Western Balkans	10
14	Integration of ESPON 2006 results and links to other ESPON 2013 projects.....	10
15	Overview of detailed deliverables and outputs.....	13
16	Orientation of Research to be carried out before the Interim Report.....	14
16.1	Thematic and Conceptual Activities.....	14
16.2	Empirical and Presentational Activities.	15
16.3	Policy Related Activities	15
17	More detailed proposals on EDORA-led dissemination programme	16
	References	17
	Appendix A Approaches used to elaborate the themes of Activity 2.11 (text from EDORA proposal)	18

10 Introduction

This is an annex to the Inception Report of the EDORA project (version 3 10th November) produced in response to comments (dated 3rd December) provided by the ESPON Coordination Unit (CU). The following specific points, highlighted in the CU comments will be addressed by this Annex:

- *“The methodology to be applied should be described clearer and in greater detail. In this respect, hypotheses for further investigations should be considered and potential research constraints that might limit the implementation of the project shall be reflected upon. Furthermore, there should be a critical discussion on the data that is envisaged for the implementation of this project and the methods to retrieve that data.*
- *There needs to be a clearer presentation of the findings regarding the availability of data for EU Candidate Countries and other countries of the Western Balkans in order to justify the decision that these countries should not be included in the research.*
- *The application of relevant existing ESPON results should be discussed and explained. Previous ESPON projects mentioned in the project specification for this project, i.e. 1.1.2 Urban-rural relations, 2.1.3 Territorial impact of CAP and 3.2 Spatial scenarios are among those that should be reflected in the research.*
- *An overview of more detailed deliveries and outputs should be provided.*
- *An orientation of research towards the Interim Report needs to be presented.*
- *An overview of future dissemination activities related to the activities by the ESPON Programme (as stipulated in Annex III to the Subsidy Contract) should be provided.*

These points form the basis for the structure of the Annex:

1. The text begins with a summary review of the constraints facing this research project, in terms of the existing body of research as a foundation to build from, and the reasons why (in the light of the policy related objectives of the specification) a rather novel approach has been chosen.
2. The second section contains a further elaboration of the “golden thread” which links the proposed research activities, and the implied hypotheses. This reflects discussions at the first meeting of the full research consortium, in Haarlem, on 12/12/2008. This is followed by a detailed list of project outputs and deliverables.
3. The third section deals with more specific practical constraints relating to the definition of rural areas and data (including that relating to the Western Balkans.)
4. The fourth section briefly explains the relationship between EDORA and previous ESPON projects which have focused upon aspects of rural Europe.
5. The fifth section presents a detailed overview of planned EDORA outputs and deliverables.
6. The penultimate section elaborates the research activities which are planned to be completed in time to be included in the Interim Report.
7. Finally, specific plans for dissemination activities led by the EDORA consortium are provided.

It should be emphasised that the full set of comments provided by the CU have been circulated to the full consortium, and that a range of other issues, (such as the importance of tourism, and urban-rural co-operation) which are not specifically mentioned in the above bullet points, have been drawn to the attention of partners, for their consideration as they carry out their research tasks. The coordinator and the Research Management Committee will also keep these in mind as they prepare the various reports to be submitted to the ESPON CU.

11 General Constraints – Research Traditions and Conceptual Foundations

Probably the single most important constraint to implementing the EDORA project is the combined effect of the agrarian bias of the European rural development research tradition, and the urban focus of the greater proportion of regional development research literature.

Territorial rural development (which considers the broader rural economy, and the specific opportunities and constraints facing rural residents and entrepreneurs) is still a young “discipline”, and accounts for a relatively small proportion of the academic literature. The dominance of Agricultural Economics as the training and background of rural development researchers seems to play a role in the rate of change. The policy community, perhaps especially at the national and regional level, is also slow to change. Names of ministries and other delivery agencies tend to be updated more rapidly than the thinking of staff. More fundamental reprioritisation may turn out to be a function of “generational change”.

The need to improve our understanding of the opportunities and constraints experienced by rural areas has also tended to be disadvantaged by trends in regional development research and policy, which, all too often has, though by default rather than intention, viewed the countryside either as the “blank” areas between cities as the seed-beds of dynamism, innovation and growth, or as “dependant” hinterlands, urban fields or functional regions.

The consequence for EDORA may be articulated negatively, as a constraint – i.e. the project cannot draw upon an established research tradition, but must be selective and careful in the way it builds upon previous research results, including those of previous ESPON projects (see section 5) – or positively, in that it is an opportunity for a fresh approach, putting together existing information and ideas in an innovative way.

This general constraint (or opportunity) in terms of the conceptual and policy tradition has more specific consequences in terms of data availability. These will be discussed in Section 4

12 Elaboration of the EDORA Methodology.

In this section the detailed research methodology of EDORA will be elaborated, activity by activity. This material should be read in conjunction with the diagram presented in Appendix 2 of the main text of the Inception Report. However, before focusing upon the methodology at this detailed level it may be helpful to reiterate the conceptual framework which ties the components together, in a way which is intended to build up a clear picture of the future of rural Europe, and the policy challenges associated with this perspective.

12.1 The “golden thread”

One of the key consequences of the agrarian tradition of European rural development research is the relative abundance of data relating to farm structures, productivity and employment, contrasting with the relative scarcity of harmonised regional indicators measuring aspects of the rest of the rural economy and society, including the key issues of quality of life and access to services, which are the focus of Axis 3 of the Rural Development Regulation. A simple inductive approach, starting from a review of the available data, would therefore be particularly risky for EDORA, since the balance of the available empirical information could cause the analysis, like many before it, to gravitate towards farming and related issues. Whilst it is recognised that primary industries still dominate rural Europe in land-use terms, it was a specific requirement of the terms of reference for EDORA (p6) that: “Particular attention shall be paid to

development opportunities outside the agriculture and forestry sectors.” This explains the EDORA consortium’s preference for a more “deductive” approach, in which the emphasis upon empirical evidence remains very strong (in the ESPON tradition), but in which a preliminary conceptual stage has the vital role of establishing the direction and balance of data collection and analysis.

The conceptual element of the EDORA research methodology is represented by activities numbered from 2.11 to 2.13. In activity 2.11 the aim will be to identify the key drivers of change, opportunities, and constraints (D.O.C.) in the context of 9 themes (see below). Activity 2.12 will seek to synthesise these in terms of a limited number of “Grand Narratives”, which describe typical development paths for different kinds of rural regions. Activity 2.13 will deepen the understanding of these “Grand Narratives”, by exploring the processes of change within a set of “exemplar regions”. In a very real sense the “Grand Narratives” will thus represent the EDORA hypotheses, the validity of which will be tested in the subsequent empirical activities (numbered from 2.21 to 2.26).

The “Grand Narratives” will also structure the empirical element of the EDORA research programme. For example the choice of the Exemplar Regions will be designed to capture, as far as possible, the full range of these different kinds of change, whilst the typology (Activity 2.22) will essentially be an attempt to map the geography of the different development paths. It follows that the core EDORA indicators (comprising the database (2.11), from which the typology will be constructed) will be selected on the basis that they capture different aspects of the processes of change which drive the Grand Narratives. The Future Perspectives analysis (Activity 2.25) will also adopt the Grand Narratives as a basic structural element.

In the final phase of the project the set of Grand Narratives will also structure the policy recommendations (Activities 2.31 and 2.32).

The D.O.C. and Grand Narratives of rural change are thus crucial structural elements of the EDORA research strategy. They represent the equivalent of a set of hypotheses. However, since they are an outcome of activities 2.12, (drawing on the findings of 2.11), it is not possible to provide a definitive list at this stage. The following is an incomplete draft list, for illustrative purposes only:

- **Agro-industrialisation** – large scale commercialised agriculture, linked to upstream and downstream industries.
- **Post-productivist resource-based rural economies** – (the OECD New Rural Paradigm?).
- **Specialised rural tourism** – a special case of the Post Productivist group?
- **Globalised and diversified rural economy** – with strong tertiary (and perhaps secondary) sector, based on closely networked/clustered SMEs.
- **Depleting economies** – experiencing out-migration and aging, loss of secondary and tertiary economic activities, etc (to some extent this is the obverse of the globalised/diversified type). This differs from the first four in that it is negative – associated with decline rather than development.

12.2 Specification of Individual Research Activities

The following description of individual research activities is presented in four sections, conceptual, empirical, policy related, and “horizontal”.

12.2.1 Conceptual Activities

Activity 2.11: Review of current situation and recent trends – This activity is organised in nine themes (full list provided in Appendix 1 of the Inception Report). It will comprise a review of literature, the formulation of hypotheses about inter-relationships between themes, driving forces of change, and opportunities and constraints for the development of rural regions (D.O.C.) It will also involve the identification of appropriate operational indicators to be included in the database (Activity 2.21).

Each of these will have a lead partner and a secondary partner, usually one from an EU15 country and one from a NMS. They will share responsibility for the following specific tasks:

- (a) Reviewing the literature and academic “state of the art” relating to their theme – covering, as far as possible both EU15 and NMS research.
- (b) Reviewing available empirical analyses of the theme relating to rural Europe.
- (c) Identifying the main driving forces for change (as it relates to the theme) in rural Europe.
- (d) Identifying inter-relationships with other themes.
- (e) Reviewing current EU and MS policy approaches and best practice.
- (f) Formulating hypotheses regarding future directions of change.
- (g) Identifying operational indicators (relating to the specific theme) of regional state and change, and supporting/advising the partners responsible for each MS in the acquisition of regional data for the project database.
- (h) Preparing a thematic working paper, summarising their activities and findings, following a standard structure and format.
- (i) Thematic advisory inputs to the Activity 2.12 (synthesis report), 2.13 (Exemplar regions reports), 2.25 (Future perspectives) and 2.32 (Cohesion policy Implications).

It is anticipated that 2.11 will tell us more about exogenous *drivers* of change – 2.13 will thus compliment 2.11 by providing more information about local/regional *opportunities* and *constraints*. Further information regarding the specific content and methodologies to be considered for each of the themes is provided in Appendix A (at the end of this Annex), which reproduces the relevant text from the EDORA proposal.

The output from Activity 2.11 will be a set of thematic working papers which will form the basis of a section in the Intermediate, Draft Final and Final Reports. Further details are provided in Appendix 1 of the Inception Report.

Overall coordination of this activity is by NORD. Allocation of themes to partners is detailed in Appendix 1 of the Inception Report. Estimated input per theme: Lead partner; 2 person months, Secondary partner; 1 person month.

This is perhaps an appropriate point to respond to three specific queries raised by the Sounding Board relating to opportunities relating to renewable energy (p5 of the CU comments), rural-urban cooperation (p4), and the role of tourism (p3).

- o The first comment was: *“Climate change and energy: Although the knowledge of affects of climate change on rural areas is sparse and imprecise, it is recommended that theme (h) “Climate change” should also discuss the interactions between the use of renewables and economic development and environment in rural areas.”* This point is well made, and it is proposed that the climate change theme is simply extended to cover a review of opportunities relating to renewable energy in rural Europe.
- o The comment on Rural-Urban Cooperation is simply that insufficient attention is paid to it. It is perhaps important to make a clear distinction between the study of rural-urban *linkages* as an observed phenomena, which is the subject of Activity 2.11(d), and rural-urban *cooperation*, which is a potential policy option, and is the focus of Activity 2.31. Additional information relating to the methodology to be used in 2.11(d) (extracted from the EDORA proposal) may be found in Appendix A. The responsible researcher at the University of Gloucester is one of the few European specialists in this particular field of rural development theory and analysis. He will also lead the later work on R-U Cooperation (see below).
- o With regard to the third query, (basically that tourism opportunities should receive a greater emphasis in the analysis) the EDORA consortium fully appreciate the significance of tourism in certain rural contexts (especially in the Mediterranean MS and some NMS). For this reason environment and heritage-based activities are an important element of one of the nine thematic reviews in Activity 2.11. It also seems likely that one of the “Grand Narratives” will feature environment-based “post productivist” approaches. The EDORA team will also do its best to be take cognisance of European policy initiatives relating to tourism. However we are also aware that this is unlikely to be the way forward for many rural areas in the north of the EU15. Tourism development is thus viewed as one of several trajectories for rural areas which are likely to

feature in the Grand Narratives and in the policy recommendations which are the ultimate goal of EDORA.

Activity 2.12: Synthesis of findings (D.O.C) into “Grand Narratives”.

This task is essentially one of synthesis, providing an overview of the issues and processes of change (D.O.C - 2.11) into a limited number of cross-thematic “Grand Narratives” which will provide a structure for a systematic account of current spatial patterns of differentiation between, and likely future trends in, rural areas across the EU. The aim will be to establish and specify a limited number of key/typical development paths which may be taken by rural regions in Europe. Initially these will be derived from the relevant literature, together with the expert judgement of consortium members and the Expert Group. The understanding of the Narratives will be deepened and illustrated through the study of Exemplar Regions (2.13). The geographical distribution of the Narratives will later be explored through the typology (2.22). The Narratives will later structure the Future Perspectives analysis (2.25), the consideration of Urban-rural Cooperation (2.31), and Cohesion Policy Recommendations (2.32).

The output from this task will take the form of a working paper which will later form a major component of the Interim, Draft Final, and Final Reports.

The Expert Group will meet for the first time, in a carefully structured workshop, to review and discuss a draft of the working paper for this task.

Person month input: NEWCL, 2.5 person months, UVAL and PAS, 1 person month, TEAGASC, 0.5 person months. The rationale for this allocation is based upon representation of NW, Mediterranean and NMS, but also the important links to other activities, especially 2.25 (Future Perspectives).

Activity 2.13 Holistic narratives of Exemplar Regions

The regions will be chosen (see 2.24 below) to represent the most common combinations of Grand Narratives with degree of rurality and broad location within the EU. The aim will not be to provide a comprehensive socio-economic account of these regions, but rather to identify the key features of the regions which define their success (or account for their decline), and the process of change they are exhibiting. The content of the reports will therefore vary according to the Grand Narrative which is associated with the region. For example, in the case of a region which is characterised by agro-industrial development, the report would consider the issues relating to farm structures, marketing of produce, and so on. By contrast, a region which is developing along a post-productivist path featuring activities based on rural landscapes or traditional primary activities and associated heritage, the focus might be upon issues such as the exploitation of regional images, niche marketing, pluriactivity, access infrastructure etc. Details of processes of regional differentiation and inter-relationships between the different themes will also be explored. This is also the most appropriate context within which to consider the issue of national policies as a “driver” of rural change (CU comments p5).

The lead partner and the secondary partners will develop a clear set of methodological guidelines, including suggestions specific to each of the Grand Narratives. Information will be gleaned mainly from desk-based analysis of regional data sources, statistics, reports, and where appropriate, personal communication with regional experts and the policy community. The output of Activity 2.13 will be a series of concise papers which will be integrated into a single working paper, with discussion and conclusions, by the lead/secondary partners. This comparative working paper will form part of the Interim, Draft Final, and Final Reports.

Person month input: Partner NEWCL; 1.5 person months, partners NORD, UVAL, LJUB, DORT, PAS, 1 person month. Rationale for allocation: links to 2.12 and geographic coverage of EU.

12.2.2 Activity Group 2.2: Empirical and Presentational Activities

Before describing the individual research activities it will be helpful to state that the project will adopt the DG Regio (modified OECD) classification of NUTS 3 regions as its definition of rural areas in Europe. Despite its limitations⁴ it has the clear advantage of clarity, simplicity and widespread acceptance. Data will be collected for all NUTS regions (including PU regions).

Activity 2.21: Development of the Indicators Database - The EDORA database is intended as a compilation of available regional indicators on drivers, opportunities and constraints (D.O.C.), which have been identified through activities 2.11 and 2.12. As such it will incorporate what is useful from the previous ESPON projects, extracts from the REGIO database, plus suggestions/contributions from other sources by the thematic experts. It will be structured according to the themes featured in 2.11, and broad in scope (with an appropriate balance between indicators relating to primary industries, and other sectors/themes). Where international sources are not forthcoming, and there is nevertheless a strong possibility of comparable data being available from national sources, data will be collected from the MS Statistical Offices, under the arrangements described in Activity 2.41 (below).

The EDORA database will be implemented primarily at the NUTS 3 level, although some indicators will only be available at NUTS 2 or higher. It will fully comply with the specifications established by the ESPON Database Project. The data will be regionally structured according to the NUTS nomenclature in effect since January 1st 2008 (NUTS 2006). Full metadata will be provided according to the format specified by the ESPON Database Project.

This is a pivotal task – feeding into all the other tasks in the empirical part of the project (2.22 Typology, 2.23 Country Profiles, 2.24 Selection of Exemplar regions, 2.25 Future Perspectives, and 2.26 Mapping, contributions to the ESPON database).

Person month input: vTi; 4 person months, NORD and PAS 1 person month.

Activity 2.22: Typology elaboration – Typologies can be "inductive" - i.e. types emerge from patterns and relationships in the data, and/or "deductive" - in the sense that the classes are defined on the basis of the needs of an "exogenous" research process, or policy requirements. The former tends to be weakened in the rural development context by the rather patchy coverage of data (both in terms of themes and regions), and a purely data-driven typology will therefore not really reflect the real world situation, but rather the historical bias in terms of data collection. Although it is, of course important that the typology reflects rural differentiation in Europe as far as possible, at the same time its usefulness to ESPON requires types which are meaningful in a policy context. This suggests a typology which is based on a combination of inductive and deductive methods.

The starting point for the EDORA typology is the DG Regio modified OECD classification of NUTS 3 regions. The five types in this classification are then elaborated by "cross tabulating" them against the Grand Narratives. The aim is to develop a typology which is very much based on available data, but which clearly reflects both our understanding of the key D.O.C processes of differentiation, and Grand Narratives, and makes sense in the context of developing territorial cohesion policy.

The establishment of the "Grand Narratives" (Activity 2.12) represents the first (*deductive*) element of a hybrid typology methodology. The second (*inductive*) phase will be based upon indicators informed by Activity 2.11 (thematic review), and 2.13 (analysis of Exemplar Regions). Having identified some key indicators associated with each narrative the typology will be elaborated through a simple cartographic/multi-criteria analysis. Initially this will consider each Grand Narrative of rural development separately, "cross tabulating" with the DG Regio typology. Subsequently the possibility of combining the

⁴ The classification does not, as yet cover the entire ESPON space. Like all NUTS 3 based analyses it is affected by the Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP).

Narratives will be considered. However since many regions will present a mixture of “Narratives”, it is not possible to anticipate the precise outcome.

The typology will provide the framework for the country profiles (2.23). This task will be reported in a working paper which will form the basis of a section of the Interim, Draft Final and Final Reports.

Person month input: UHI; 2.5 person months, UVAL 0.25 person month.

Activity 2.23: Country profiles – These will comprise two main sections. The first section will take the form of tabular summaries of average indicator values across the nine themes (2.11) for each type of rural area (as defined by the DG Regio modified OECD classification) within each member state, accompanied by a brief explanatory text. The second will be based around tabulation of a more limited set of indicators (area, total population, population change etc) against the elaborated typology (i.e. differentiated according to the Grand Narratives). The standard tables will be prepared by the lead partner for this activity (UVAL), using data from the project database (2.21). Responsibility for the commentaries for the 32 countries will be shared between the partners as shown in Table 1. The lead partner (UVAL) will summarise the individual profiles in a chapter of the Interim, Draft Final, and Final Reports This summary will reflect on evidence of macro-scale patterns across contrasting parts of the ESPON space (initially in terms of groups of MS) - N-S, NMS, etc. Consideration will be given to the practicality of grouping regions (coastal, islands, mountains, core-periphery etc), although the resources required for this will depend very much upon the availability of regional classifications for the current version of the NUTS.

Person month input: UVAL; 2.2 person months, other partners 0.2-1.0 person months (depending on allocation of MS).

Table 6 : Partner Responsibilities for Country Profiles (2.23) and Member State Data Collection (2.41)

Partner	Countries
UHI	UK MT
Nord	SE FI DK NO EE LV LT IC FR
NEWCL	RO BG
UVAL	ES
PATRAS	GR CY
TEAGASC	IE
LJUB	SL
vTI	DE NL LU BE
BABF	AT LS CH IT
PAS	PL CZ SK
HAS	HU
HIA	PT

Activity 2.24: Selection of “Exemplar Regions” – The “exemplar regions” are intended to provide the context for “real world” exploration and illustration of the processes of change associated with the “Grand Narratives”. They are not intended to be a “statistically representative” sample of regions. They will be chosen by the (5) responsible partners, on the basis of “local knowledge”. They will generally be NUTS 3 regions, although it may be necessary to make exceptions in MS where the NUTS 3 regions are particularly large or small, and where sufficient data is available for more appropriate regions. The lead partner for this task (UVAL) will develop a “selection grid”, in consultation with the other 5 partners, to ensure that the 10 regions chosen cover common combinations of Grand Narrative, degree of rurality (as represented by the DG Regio OECD typology) and the three major groups of MS (NW, Mediterranean and NMS).

Person month input: UVAL; 1 person month.

Activity 2.25: Future Perspectives Analysis- This will be structured according to the Grand Narratives. The time horizon is relatively short (10-15 years), and the next EU Structural Fund programming period is the context. Climate change will play an explicit role in this task. This is a key input for Policy related Tasks 2.31 and 2.32. The following steps are envisaged:

- Identification of an agreed (policy) 'Vision' of the future. (There can be multiple visions depending on the number of stakeholders)
- Observe current trends
- Consider likely future implications of current trends.
- Will the policy vision be attained?
- Identify alternative measures are required to attain the preferred vision.

This task will produce a working paper which will form the basis of a section of the Draft Final and Final Reports.

The Expert Group will review the draft output from this activity (at a meeting which will also consider the output from 2.32).

Person month input: TEAGASC; 2 person months, partners NORD and PAS; 1 person month. Expert Group Meeting.

Activity 2.26: Mapping, contributions to the ESPON database etc – this activity encompasses all the data management and mapping tasks not already covered. The ESPON 2013 map templates will be applied to all maps, and all indicators will be collated and stored in the database/metadata formats provided by the ESPN DB project, from the outset of this activity.

Person month input: vTI; 3 person months, PAS; 1 person month.

12.2.3 Activity Group 2.3: Policy Related Activities

Activity 2.31: Establish potential for territorial co-operation - This relates to the concept of enhancing regional cohesion and competitiveness by strengthening the links between urban and rural regions and between rural regions. Evidence does indeed suggest that there are benefits to be gained by taking an integrated urban–rural approach to regional development and by focusing on interdependencies and commonalities rather than on differences. For example, European policy documents are increasingly stressing collaboration and interdependencies, and the move towards regionalisation adds to the shift in emphasis towards functional regions rather than to town and country. Evidence of urban-rural collaboration will be captured alongside that relating to wider and varied forms of urban-rural interaction within task 2.11, this will be placed within the context of a review of the emerging policy debate, allowing policy recommendations to be drawn.

This activity will seek to build upon the relevant achievements of ESPON 2006 projects, particularly 2.1.3, (Territorial Impact of the CAP). Thus the methodology will combine a careful review of and commentary on recent policy documents, together with an assessment of the implications to be derived from the empirical material assembled in the earlier phases of the project. The output from this task will be a working paper which forms part of the Draft Final and Final Report.

Person month input: GLOUCS; 1.5 person months, PATRAS; 1 person months.

Activity 2.32: Implications for orientation of cohesion policy – In a sense this is the ultimate objective of the project, and the output will form a key element of the Final Report. It will draw on most, if not all, of the previous tasks, and the Expert Group will play an important role through a workshop focusing on the outputs of 2.25 and 2.32). Policy recommendations will be structured and differentiated on the basis of the main kinds of regions distinguished in the Typology (2.22), and Future Perspectives (2.25). It will also be very important to bear in mind the potential interaction of these different kinds of rural regions and urban Europe too. The methodology used in this activity will parallel that of 2.31.

Person month input: BABF; 2 person months, UHI and NORD, 1 person month, NEWCL, 0.5 person month. Expert Group meeting.

12.2.4 Activity Group 2.4 “Horizontal” Activities

Two additional activities will be necessary for the completion of the analysis. They are “horizontal” in the sense that they underlie all three activity groups.

Activity 2.41 - Member State data collection: It will be necessary (2.13, 2.21, 2.26) to supplement Eurostat, and other international sources with data from member states. This responsibility will be shared by the partners listed in Table 1. It will be clearly helpful if partners have appropriate language skills for the countries for which they are responsible. Probably more important is the existence of trusted contacts.

Activity 2.42 - The Expert Group will be composed of 4 senior experts on rural and regional development and policy. They will participate in two workshops, the first to support Tasks 2.12, and the second to review the draft outputs from 2.25 and 2.32.

13 Data constraints

13.1 Agrarian Bias

Data availability is a major constraint for EDORA. The agrarian bias in rural development research and policy has already been mentioned. It has substantial impacts upon data availability. Data collection is expensive, many EU MS have (over many years) developed substantial infrastructures to collect detailed information on farm structures, production and income. However, as the “Wye Group Handbook” (UNECE 2007) states, the focus of rural development is changing, and: ‘Statistics for rural areas need to go far beyond agriculture and cover a wide range of economic, social and environmental indicators.’ Such change is, however rather slow, and there remain substantial gaps in terms of harmonised regional data sets relating to issues such as rural employment, quality of life, access to services, landscape and heritage based leisure and tourism, and likely regional impacts of climate change. These will present a substantial challenge for the creation of the EDORA database, (2.11) and the typology (2.12). There is no easy solution, a pragmatic approach is necessary, making use of “proxy” indicators, data available at less detailed regional levels (NUTS 2 or 3), and, where practicable, assembling datasets from MS sources.

13.2 Paucity of NUTS 3 data, and implications for Rural Analysis

Even where relevant data sets are available in the Eurostat REGIO database experience of previous European projects, notably ESPON 2.1.3 and DG Agriculture’s SERA project (Copus *et al* 2006) tells us that missing data problems are substantial at a NUTS 3 level. Furthermore some key sources relating to farm performance (the Farm Accountancy Data Network) and structures (European Farm Structures Survey) are available only, or mainly at NUTS 2. Thus ESPON 2.1.3 reported (p311):

“The availability of detailed territorial data on agriculture across Europe is surprisingly poor, given the huge extent of agricultural data collection and the bureaucratic burden on farmers. Very little data relating to agriculture are available at NUTS3 level from Eurostat, DG Regio or DG Agriculture, and where they do exist up to 91% of data are missing.”

Similarly some demographic, and most employment, indicators are not available at NUTS 3. The significance of these NUTS 3 data gaps lies in the fact that the DG Regio modified OECD typology is implemented at NUTS 3. Where data is only available at NUTS 2 it is not possible, without considerable

efforts of estimation or approximation to achieve even a relatively crude distinction between urban and rural data.

13.3 Changes in the NUTS Classification

At the beginning of 2008 Eurostat began to introduce data tables for the new (2006) NUTS region classification, withdrawing those for the previous version of NUTS. At present the online REGIO database comprises tables using both new and old region lists, which are incompatible in a number of EU MS, including Denmark, UK, Poland, Finland, Sweden and Germany. In some cases the boundary changes are relatively trivial, and the problem can be circumvented simply by changing codes. In other cases the region boundaries have been substantially redrawn, and there is no practicable solution until data is provided for the new boundaries. Some piecemeal progress may be made through accessing data through the MS, perhaps aggregating from smaller administrative areas. However such work is painstaking, time consuming and therefore expensive. Careful prioritisation will be required before any decisions can be made to carry out such work. Finally, it is understood that the ESPON Database Project team are consulting with Eurostat on this issue, and will make a recommendation for a programme-wide approach. This decision is not anticipated before February 2009. This will inevitably have consequences for progress with the EDORA database.

13.4 Turkey and the Western Balkans

Coverage of Turkey and the Western Balkans in the EDORA database will be, at best, partial.

Although NUTS regions are well established in Turkey, and statistical data is already included in the Eurostat Regio Database, experiences in other projects have shown that the overall data availability for Turkey is still very fragmentary – i.e. most of the data are missing- throughout all NUTS levels and socio-economic themes.

With the exception of Croatia and Kosovo we are not aware of a NUTS classification of the Western Balkan regions below the country level (NUTS 0). Furthermore, at country level there are coding inconsistencies as the countries Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia bear the same country code (CS), which is likely to result in data allocation problems/errors. In addition as a first scanning of data availability has shown, no data are available at Eurostat's New Cronos Regio Database for the Western Balkan Candidate Countries. However, in the case of Croatia and Serbia data availability from MS sources will be further explored.

14 Integration of ESPON 2006 results and links to other ESPON 2013 projects

1.1.2 Urban-Rural Relations

ESPO 1.1.2. took as its starting point the need to establish an EU-wide definition of rural areas. This proved very challenging, although a valuable inventory of national approaches was accumulated in the process. An alternative approach was also explored, using secondary data on urbanisation and land-use, which led to a typology which "cross-tabulated" NUTS 3 regions according to degree of urban influence and the level of human intervention. Clearly this represents an alternative to the DG Regio classification, as a starting point for EDORA Activity 2.22, and it will be worth exploring the relative merits of these two typologies. It is perhaps worth stressing the fact that the EDORA typology is intended to be fundamentally different, to that of ESPON 1.1.2 in that it will attempt to differentiate rural areas in terms of their economic development paths and potentials, rather than simply in terms of the degree of rurality.

“Urbanisation” is a key concept/process in ESPON 1.1.2., as is urban-rural linkages in terms of migration, commuting, and the supply of goods and services. There is also a very useful section discussing the way in which EU policies treat urban-rural linkages. All of this is very useful background for EDORA, especially Activity 2.32. However the ESPON 1.1.2 analysis does not have a specific focus (as EDORA does) upon differentiation between rural areas, and the processes of change which account for that differentiation, and which determine the performance of different kinds or rural areas.

2.1.3 Territorial Impact of the CAP

ESPON 2.1.3 was a policy impact project. The main focus was upon assessing the impact of the CAP (including Rural Development) on territorial cohesion. As such it might be assumed that much of the material presented in the final report would be agriculturally focused and therefore mainly relevant to Activity 2.11(i) – (Farm Structural Change). This is true to some extent. However in broad terms the report concluded that the CAP offers little in terms of benefits for territorial cohesion (rather the opposite), and this in itself provides a strong case for a search for alternative policy options for rural Europe, which is a clear justification for the EDORA approach. It also found that different parts of the CAP had very different spatial impacts. This is very instructive for Activity 2.31, as it shows that EU policies should not be treated as monolithic entities, but should be disaggregated in order to consider the cohesion implications of their various components.

ESPON 2.1.3 is also a useful resource for EDORA from a range of other perspectives. Several of these are enhanced by the fact that the 2.1.3 Coordinator and two other members of the TPG are also members of the EDORA TPG:

- It sets out a clear principles for considering the territorial cohesion impacts of a key sectoral policy in relation to the objectives of EDORA. This will be a valuable resource for Activity 2.31.
- A substantial proportion of the work of 2.1.3 related to Pillar 2 of the CAP – and the final report discusses rural development issues and best practice, from a cohesion perspective, at some length. Again this will be a valuable resource for EDORA, especially Activity 2.31.
- It has provided valuable experience for several members of the EDORA TPG, in handling the key agricultural data sources.
- Similarly, Activity 2.22 will benefit from ESPON 2.1.3 in terms of lessons learned in typology construction in a rural context.

3.2 Spatial Scenarios

The ESPON 3.2 Spatial Scenarios project clearly has very substantial relevance for EDORA. In some ways the EDORA “Grand Narratives” are a kind of scenario. There are therefore many practical methodological lessons to be derived from 3.2, especially within the context of Activities 2.12, 2.22 and 2.31. However, EDORA focuses only on rural areas, and as such it will go further, in two respects:

- 3.2 seems to follow the conventional regional development approach in assuming that the future of rural areas is mainly determined exogenously (in adjacent urban areas). *“The fate of rural areas is tied to their location. Those in the proximity of major urban agglomerations often benefit from the presence and development of residential areas, industrial estates, and recreational amenities. They are affected by high socio-economic dynamics and pressures in terms of population density and urbanisation.”* (ESPON 3.1 Final Report Vol 1 p20). It could be argued that this is reflected in the “marginalisation” terminology used to differentiate rural areas in terms of expected performance. By contrast EDORA focuses upon the endogenous potentials of rural areas.
- 3.2 was tasked with creating scenarios for the entire ESPON space, and differentiated rural areas mainly in terms of “degree of marginalisation”, also highlighting the structural duality of agriculture and the likely impacts of decoupling. By contrast EDORA, with its more specific rural focus, takes a more nuanced “territorial” view of European rural economy and society. One of the central objectives of EDORA is to better understand the *differentiation* of rural Europe in terms of the multi-dimensional processes of change taking place within them. That these vary (qualitatively as

well as quantitatively) across the ESPON space is an important initial assumption, and a key issue to be explored.

Links to other ESPON 2013 Projects

The EDORA TPG will seek to interact with the other ESPON 2013 projects, both Priority 1 and Priority 2. Of particular relevance are:

- FOCI (Future Orientations for Cities), which faces many similar challenges to EDORA, though in an urban context, and also, for example, plans to develop typologies relating to development paths. Contact will be sought between the two TPG, or at least the two coordinators, in an effort to coordinate our efforts, possibilities for a joint meeting will be explored.
- DEMIFER (Demography and migratory flows affecting European regions and cities) – which connects particularly to EDORA Activity 2.11(a) (Demographic Theme) and 2.26 (Future Perspectives). Contact will be sought between the two TPG, or at least the two coordinators, in an effort to coordinate our efforts, possibilities for a joint meeting will be explored. This will be facilitated by the fact that Nordregio is involved in both projects.
- ESPON DB 2013 (The Database project). Clearly a close collaboration with the DB 2013 project will be necessary in order to ensure a smooth exchange of data between the two TPG. This interaction will be predominantly between vTI and TIGRIS (the designated contact for EDORA).

15 Overview of detailed deliverables and outputs

In common with other ESPON projects EDORA is required to deliver an Interim Report (IR) a Draft Final Report (DFR) and a Final Report (FR). These reports will be compiled by the Lead Partner (UHI), in collaboration with NEWCL. With a few minor exceptions, every EDORA research activity will be documented (internally) in the form of a series of “working papers” (WP). These are of variable length and format, according to the task. The more concise WP will form sections of the IR, DFR and FR. Longer WP will be summarised in the IR, DFR, and FR, whilst the full WP will form annexes as appropriate.

Table 7 lists the planned outputs by task, with indicative delivery schedule, and showing how each of these feeds into the formal reporting process.

Table 7: Planned Outputs by task, showing links to Formal Reports

Activity	Output(s)	Responsible Partners	Date of Delivery to Lead Partner (Indicative)	Formal ESPON Reporting Link
2.11 Review of Current Situation and Trends	9 Thematic Working Papers (WP1-9)	NORD , IOM, LJUB, UHI, GLOUCS, PATRAS, HIA, SAC, UVAL, DORT, HAS, PAS, vTI	19/01/09 - First Draft (esp. Sections 2 and 3) 30/06/09 Final versions	Summary of preliminary conclusions in IR, updated in DFR and FR. Full text of WP an annex to DFR.
2.12 Synthesis of findings relating to D.O.C. – Description of Grand Narratives	Working paper (WP10)	NEWCL , UVAL PAS, TEAGASC	31/03/09 First Draft 30/06/09 Final version taking account of Expert Group (EG) comments	First Draft will form a section of IR. Final version will form section of DFR and FR
2.13/2.24 Narratives of Exemplar Regions	10 Working Papers (WP 11-20)	NEWCL , NORD, UVAL, LJUB, DORT, PAS	31/03/09 First Draft 30/06/09 Final version taking account of comments	Summary of findings in IR, updated in DFR and FR. Full text of WP an annex to DFR and FR.
2.21 EDORA Indicators Database (also 2.26)	Database in format required by ESPON Database Project. Metadata Manual (WP 21)	vTI , PAS, NORD	Interim version of DB and Metadata Manual 31/06/09 . Final version 29/01/10 .	Summary of progress will be a section in the IR, DFR and FR. Meta data manual will form an annex to the DFR and FR.
2.22 Elaboration of Typology	Working paper (WP 22)	UHI , UVAL	31/03/09 First Draft 30/06/09 Final version taking account of comments	First Draft will form a section of IR. Final version will form section of DFR and FR
2.23 Country Profiles	Individual MS will contribute sections to a single working paper (WP 23).	UVAL , UHI, NORD, NEWCL, PATRAS, TEAGASC, LJUB, vTI, BABF, PAS, HAS, HIA	31/03/09 First Draft 30/06/09 Final version taking account of comments	Summary will form a section of IR and DFR. Full WP will form an annex to DFR and FR.
2.25 Future Perspectives	Detailed proposal for methodology will form the first part of working paper (WP 24), findings will be added in the final version.	TEAGASC , NEWCL, PAS	31/03/09 First section of WP, 30/09/09 draft full WP, 29/01/10 , final version, taking account of comments	WP24 will form an annex to the IR, DFR and FR.
2.31 Establishing Potential for U-R Cooperation	Working paper (WP 25)	GLOUCS , PATRAS	31/03/10 draft version of WP25, 30/06/10 , Final version of WP25, taking account of EG comments.	WP25 will form a section of the DFR, and the FR
2.32 Implications for Orientation of Cohesion Policy	Working paper (WP 26)	BABF , UHI, NORD, NEWCL	31/03/10 draft version of WP26, 30/06/10 , Final version of WP26, taking account of EG comments.	WP26 will form a section of the DFR, and the FR

16 Orientation of Research to be carried out before the Interim Report

16.1 Thematic and Conceptual Activities

In accordance with the plan (set out in the EDORA Proposal and the main text of the Inception Report), EDORA research activity in the period leading up to the Interim Report (30/04/09) will predominantly reflect the need to establish the conceptual framework for the later phase of empirical analysis. As stated in Section 2 above, this is particularly important for EDORA, because the specified aims and approaches require the researchers to step aside from the dominant traditions of rural and regional development research, and from the conventional rural development data sources. This implies a need for significant efforts to construct an innovative conceptual framework (encapsulated in the D.O.C. and “Grand Narratives” approaches). In a very real sense this stage of the research strategy is concerned with **formulating hypotheses**, which will be “tested” in the second phase of the project (between the IR and DFR). This exercise is all the more challenging because we are aware that the data sources available for the second phase fall a long way short of the ideal, and this is a substantial constraint on the methodology. There is, of course little point in developing a conceptual framework which cannot be operationalised due to lack of secondary data.

This predominantly **conceptual orientation** of the initial research stage is manifested in the following activities:

Activity 2.11 This is a desk based *review of current situation and trends* – designed to highlight the key **Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints** (D.O.C.) in rural areas across Europe.

Detailed guidelines (see Appendix 1 of the Inception Report) have been issued to the partners responsible for the 9 themes, in an attempt to ensure that the working papers will be comprehensive and broadly comparable. In order to allow activity 2.12 (below) to begin work, using material derived from 2.11, an early deadline (19/01/09) for submitting draft versions of WP 1-9 has been agreed. It has been further agreed that these initial draft WP will focus primarily upon sections 2, (State of the art) and 3, (Implications for EDORA conceptual Framework (D.O.C.)). Partners have also produced proposals for indicators relating to their theme (section 4) these were discussed at the recent project meeting. A summary of the first drafts of WP 1-9 will form part of the IR.

The remaining sections (and updated versions of 2-4) will be completed during the period up to the end of June 2009, and the findings summarised in the DFR.

Activity 2.12 builds on 2.11, by *synthesizing (D.O.C) findings into “Grand Narratives”*. As a result of discussions at the recent consortium meeting, it has become clear that the central role played by these “Grand Narratives” requires slight adjustments to the sequence of activities which depend upon them, in various ways. This affects 2.22 (Elaboration of the typology) and 2.24 (Selection of Exemplar Regions) in particular. This change is fully reflected in the description of these activities provided in Section 3 above. It does not result in any major shifts between project phases, but rather to the ordering of tasks within the pre-IR period. Thus the task of drafting a list of narratives is already well under way, so that these narratives may play a role in the selection of the Exemplar Regions, and the structure of the Typology.

A first draft of WP 11 – based upon Activity 2.13 is scheduled to provide a section of the IR.

Activity 2.24 and 2.13 both relate to the *Exemplar Regions*. These (especially 2.13) belong firmly in the conceptual phase of the research. It is important to be clear that they are not conventional “case studies” – because it is not the intention to provide a full or balanced description of the chosen regions, but rather to use them as a vehicle to explore and illustrate the interaction of D.O.C. factors within the process of change associated with a “Grand Narrative”. The methodology will be predominantly desk-based, using

local sources of information such as available analyses (academic and policy related) policy documents, regional statistical resources, telephone interviews with regional experts or policy staff (if appropriate.)

First drafts of WP 11-20 are planned to be completed in time to be summarised in the IR.

The above activities, and the associated WP, will be reported in the IR, with due consideration of the following guidance regarding the content of the Interim Report, as set out in the Technical Specification:

“The report is envisaged to include elements such as:

(a) Preliminary results on the basis of available data, developed indicators, typologies, and European maps, including:

- **First assessment of the development opportunities of different types of European rural areas.***
- **First indicative identification of drivers of favourable development in the different types of rural areas...***

16.2 Empirical and Presentational Activities.

Most of the activities in this phase of the project will be well under way by the time the Interim Report is submitted. However, due to the deductive approach adopted some of them will not be fully developed until the summer of 2009.

The activities which are intended to be complete (at least in draft form) in time to be reported in the Interim Report are 2.22 – (Typology elaboration), 2.24 (Selection of Exemplar Regions) and 2.23 (Country Profiles). The elaboration of the typology will have generated a number of European maps.

The EDORA Indicators Database (2.21) and other data related and cartographic tasks (2.26) have already been initiated, and a summary of progress will be included in the IR. Progress with the Future Perspectives (Activity 2.25) will take the form of a detailed methodological proposal, structured around the Grand Narratives and the Elaborated Typology. This progress will be summarised in the IR, and a draft version of WP24 will be provided as an annex.

It is therefore anticipated that sufficient progress will have been made to satisfy the following (preliminary results) reporting requirements from the Technical Specification:

“- Data collection achieved, including an overview on statistical and geographical data collected by EUROSTAT, and national Statistical Institutes etc.

- Draft European maps.”

As regards the Future Perspectives requirement, however: (“...*First indicative outcomes of the projections developed...*”) it is anticipated that progress reported will be in terms of methodological development rather than results.

16.3 Policy Related Activities

The two policy-related activities (2.31 and 2.32) are not scheduled to begin until month 15 (October 2009) and reporting on these in relation to the requirement below will of necessity be impressionistic, derived from the above conceptual and empirical activities, rather than progress with 2.31 and 2.32.

“First indicative identification of development opportunities for cooperation between rural areas/towns in rural areas.”

and

“First indications on the conclusions and policy relevant options that could be the outcome of the project.”

17 More detailed proposals on EDORA-led dissemination programme

This project considers the role of dissemination and the exploitation of project results to be intrinsic to the project design. The project is fully intended to ensure that information and knowledge is shared among the project partners and that the findings of the project are disseminated to a broader audience as soon as is practical. The objectives of our Dissemination Infrastructure are, more specifically, to;

- make information about the project available to a broader audience,
- make all information and knowledge acquired by any partner available to all,
- make results and ideas from the project available to a broad audience,
- draw conclusions and summarise important events marking the progress of the project,
- contribute to the scientific discourse on the issues in the project, especially where the approach is innovative, and,
- to have a positive influence on the future development of EU policy, in the sense of rendering interventions more compatible with the objectives of territorial cohesion.

The Dissemination function will operationalise these objectives by maintaining and running several different project-specific facilities. While the ESPON Programme website will be the main vehicle for disseminating EDORA outputs and reports, a dedicated section of either the UHI or Nordregio website will be established as an additional means of raising awareness about the project. Information about the project and its activities will be frequently updated here. This “public” Internet presence will be complimented by a password-protected Sharepoint site that will be available only to the TPG. Here all partners may exchange ideas, experiences, information, links, etc to be used by other partners. Some information uploaded here may be also posted on the web page.

The extensive informational infrastructure of Nordregio and all other partners will be used to spread information and results that are of interest. The facilities at our disposal include the Journal of Nordregio, the quarterly journal published by Nordregio, with its specially targeted subscriber base of approximately 3,000 subscribers in organizations throughout Europe and elsewhere; it is available for the publication of articles and announcements to be included as appropriate. The Nordregio News, an electronic newsletter sent to a broad spectrum of users, will include announcements, and link to the web site, to be published as needed. Nordregio will use its own publishing production facilities for publishing documents, working papers, reports, as needed. Nordregio and TUDelft are also co-editors of the EJSD, the European Journal of Spatial Development, an electronic journal, a potential channel for articles or debate essays produced by partners. Both peer-reviewed and editor-chosen options are available.

In addition, each of the partners will be able to use the same materials prepared for the overall project in their own dissemination activities, such as via their own web pages, publications and newsletters, and networks to which the partners belong will be used for dissemination electronically. Results and information will be presented at EU events that are appropriate. The results from this study will be submitted to conferences or congresses, at the discretion of the partners, according to usual scientific praxis. Conditional upon acceptance, the results will be presented. Press releases will be considered.

Appropriate Academic Journals:

The following are examples of academic periodicals which would be appropriate vehicles for dissemination:

English Language:

- Journal of Rural Studies,
- ACME, an International Journal for Critical Geographies,
- EuroChoices,
- European Review of Rural Sociology
- European Planning Studies
- Sociologia Ruralis

- o Regional Studies.

Other languages:

- o RAUM (A),
- o Etudes Rurales (F) etc.

Specific Opportunities for Presentations during 2009:

- Regional Studies Association (RSA): "Understanding and Shaping Regions: Spatial, Social and Economic Futures", 6-8 April 2009, Leuven, Belgium.
- European Regional Science Association (ERSA): "Territorial cohesion of Europe and integrative planning", 25-29 August 2009, Lodz, Poland.
- Commission on Local Development IGU and Polish Academy of Sciences: "Socio-economic disparities and the role of local development", 7-14 September 2009, Warsaw, Poland.
- The XXIII ESRS congress, Vaasa, Finland 17-21 August 2009 Re-inventing the Rural, between the Social and the Natural.
- European Association of Agricultural Economists, 114th seminar, Structural Change in Agriculture. April 15-16, 2010, Berlin, Germany

In addition to these we have received an invitation from the Royal Town Planning Institute in Edinburgh, to discuss possibilities for organising a workshop or seminar on the EDORA theme. The coordinator will explore this possibility during 2009.

Plans for 2010-11

The Coordinator will explore possibilities for four specific dissemination activities which will be appropriate during the second/third year of the project as project findings become more developed:

- (a) A special session at an appropriate annual congress/conference – targeting the academic community
- (b) A workshop or seminar targeting the rural/regional policy community (perhaps through the RTPI – see above).
- (c) A special issue of one of the journals listed above, or another appropriate publication.
- (d) A book based upon the working papers produced by Activity 2.11 and 2.12.

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Appendix A Approaches used to elaborate the themes of Activity 2.11 (text from EDORA proposal)

(a) *Demography.*

Patterns of change within the rural regions of Europe are easier to describe and explain if disaggregated it into two major components:

Natural change: In recent years the death rate has exceeded the birth rate in most “deep rural” regions - resulting in natural population decrease. In more accessible or mixed regions the relationship is reversed, resulting in a tendency towards natural increase. The natural population development is, however, not only a consequence of changes in the fertility rates. Migration also has an impact on natural population change as it changes the gender and age structure in both in- and out-migration areas. In many out-migration rural areas – especially the peripheral ones - there is a shortage of women in fertile ages, with associated lower reproduction potential.

Migration: In quantitative terms, migration is more important – both in terms of its direct effect on numbers and, as mentioned above, indirect effects on population structure – in most rural regions. Across Europe, the more accessible or mixed regions generally show the most positive/least negative net migration figures, since they benefit both from (urbanisation) movements from less accessible regions on one side, and (counter-urbanisation) movements from the urbanised regions on the other. By contrast most of the regions in peripheral and sparsely populated parts of Europe show relatively negative net migration trends, though even here there are exceptions from which we can learn.

European migration patterns differ, however, between types of regions as well as age groups. In this study both youth and family migration patterns will be analysed especially concerning the development in different types of urban and – especially - rural areas. At a first glance, youth migration is characterised by rural exodus while family migration shows the opposite development. There seem, however, to be differences with regard to location and size of the rural areas. Densely populated rural areas are much more attractive than sparsely and isolated populated ones concerning family migration while the migration pattern of young people seem to be more straightforward.

In this study several hypotheses will be tested by a method where youth and family migratory movements are calculated in an indirect way, as a consequence of the shortage of age specific migration data concerning rural and urban regions at NUTS3-level. The method used will be cohort model where different age groups are analysed over a defined period during the last part of the 1990s and the beginning of the 21st century. The urban-rural delimitation will be based on OECD definitions – predominantly urban, intermediate rural and predominantly rural – and combined by structural indicators concerning population development. These delimited areas will then be disaggregated regarding size, population density and localisation in order to get a better understanding of the processes behind the migratory movements.

Some of the hypotheses that will be analysed are:

- There is a connection between the size of the urban areas and the relative number of in-migrants of young people and possible out-migration of families.
- The densely populated rural regions are more attractive than the sparsely populated rural regions regarding family migration.
- The reproduction potentials of the sparsely populated rural areas are eroded as a consequence of out-migration of young people and a low level of family in-migration and women in fertile ages. This will hit these regions in at least two ways with effects on the future development – one is lopsided age structure and depopulation and the other is eroded social and territorial cohesion.

(b) *Patterns and trends in employment.*

Rural labour markets are "open systems" with segments of the population moving in and out of the workforce and with movements of workers across regional boundaries. As described in a greater detail in Section I of this text, rural labour markets in EU-27 have sought deep and diverse structural changes.

The key issues in relation to labour market disparities depend to some extent on the perspective taken by the researcher, which can be either aggregate and “top down”, or, by contrast, “bottom-up”, beginning from the experiences and constraints of individual workers. From an aggregate “top down” perspective structural change is a key issue. In order to reduce regional disparities it will be necessary to accelerate structural change within lagging labour markets, and to reduce the dependence upon traditional primary and secondary sector activities, in favour of appropriate tertiary activities. The literature which adopts a “bottom up” perspective is less concerned with sectoral structure, and rather seeks to understand the constraints and barriers facing individual workers of different kinds, as they seek to maintain or better their employment situation.

As a starting point, a comparative analysis of rural labour markets will be carried out. The work will be based on existing data sources relevant for the labour force analysis (deriving essentially from the Labour Force Survey, but also other relevant statistical sources will be consulted). The comparative analysis intends to tackle the following issues:

- A time-series data analysis of cross-country differences in rural adjustment patterns (regional and sectoral adjustment patterns);
- A cross-sectional analysis of the structure of the rural labour force (cross-country, types of rural regions)
- A special insight to the status of vulnerable social groups (eg. first job seekers, long-term unemployed persons) and to gender balance on rural labour markets.

As a further step, determinants of rural adjustment patterns will be analysed. A particular focus will be given on the bi-directional interaction of labour market dynamics, farm restructuring and non-farm sector employment diversification. Methodologically, the analysis will rely on relevant multivariate statistical techniques.

The analysis is intended also to highlight and explain how the changes in policy and institutional settings have affected adjustments and the structure of the rural labour market. Impacts of processes that are external to the local labour markets (eg. EU accession) will be taken into consideration. Based on the previous migration flows as well as the specifics of individual Member States, a prognosis on the development of rural labour markets in EU-27 will be made possible.

A special emphasis will be given to the issue of pluriactivity and off-farm diversification. This is an employment strategy undertaken especially in remote rural regions characterised by scarce employment alternatives. A conceptual model of farm pluriactivity will be challenged by statistical evidence. This will hopefully provide a better insight to the question whether such strategies are of a transitional nature, or they are rather becoming a permanent characteristic of rural labour markets.

(c) Rural business development.

Based on the ESPON specific rural typology, we will try to identify the existence of business clusters (as these are identified by the European Cluster Observatory) in the different types of rural areas. European clusters are readily available (and ranked) according to the methodology developed by Professor Michael E. Porter at the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School. The geographic levels vary from NUTS 2 to NUTS 1 for certain countries.

The same rural typology will be related to the Regional Innovation Scoreboard matrix to find out which types of rural areas are related to certain innovation scores according to innovation inputs and outputs.

Unfortunately, for entrepreneurship, the data available from the European Observatory of SMEs surveys are not readily available in geographic unit other than national ones. An effort will be put into collecting data related to entrepreneurship indicators (firm births, high tech firm start-ups, etc). These data may then be related to the types of rural areas they occur in order to see which types of rural areas foster or inhibit entrepreneurship.

A crucial question to be addressed by this analysis is whether, in rural contexts, competitiveness can be maintained by substituting networks clusters for geographically proximate linkages (Johansson and Quigley 2004), achieving agglomeration effects without co-location. Will this become more likely in the 21st Century? Are such networks facilitated by migration flows?

(d) *Rural-urban relationships.*

It is important to appreciate that rural-urban linkages are not restricted to urban dwellers' consumption of nearby rural space. SMEs in rural areas are connected to distant businesses and markets through networks of 'spaces and flows' which transcend Euclidian distance. The 'relational space' of networked societies challenges traditional assumptions about hierarchies of settlements and central places. Research in Finland, for example, showed how innovation processes in wood-processing, software and electronics industries in Oulu followed four different models of rural-urban interaction (Virkkala 2006).

This research activity will begin with a comprehensive review of existing empirical evidence from as many European countries as possible, and incorporating case study research, studies based on the disaggregation of national Input/Output tables, regional and sub-regional SAMs and other (sub)regional economic approaches. In identifying potential indicators to measure and predict the strength and nature of R-U interactions, a key focus in the synthesis of this review will be on;

- (i) controlling for differences in spatial scales, methodologies and data sources to ensure that findings are comparable and applicable to the wider European population; and;
- (ii) identifying the variables that help explain the nature and strength of linkages in different regions, which are likely to include, for example, demographic group, industrial sector, settlement size, distance from urban centres, distances between towns, prevalence of home working etc for which there are likely to be proxy variables readily available in secondary data sets.

(e) *Cultural heritage.*

There is little conceptual clarity over 'cultural heritage' as an asset. As a starting point, a comparative analysis of the functions of cultural heritage in rural areas will be conducted, through analysis of existing literature and studies. Key reports to be consulted will include the SPESP 'Cultural assets' project report (Anzuini et al); the ESPON 2006 'Cultural heritage and identity' project report (Dynamo, 2006) in addition to central policy documents (e.g. CEC, 1996; UNESCO; 2003) and special studies, such as the FAIR 'RIPPLE' project report (Ilbery and Kneafsey, 1999). The purpose of this review will be to:

- Identify components of rural cultural heritage which have a direct and measurable relationship with economic functions in rural areas;
- To determine the processes through which cultural resources (e.g. 'built' and 'living', tangible and intangible) are used as an asset for rural development;
- To analyse cross-country differences in components of rural cultural heritage, and;
- Identify trends in the formation, production and consumption of cultural heritage between different types of rural regions

The development potential of cultural heritage (e.g. embedded and disembedded, 'built' and 'living') is expected to be explained by structural and geographical factors e.g. peripheral rural areas would be hypothesised as having higher levels of 'traditional' and 'intangible' culture which can be transformed into cultural products and used to strengthen regional identity. Methodologically, analysing the nature and strength of relationships between regional cultural distinctiveness and other socio-economic variables is constrained by available data. These arise due to the variations of definitions of "cultural heritage" between ESPON countries, and the resultant differences in methods of collecting and compiling data on components of culture (Eurostat, 2007). Given that cultural heritage is not equivalent to one sector – rather it interacts with tourism, agriculture, language diversity, the arts, creative industries and so forth – it is not covered by sectoral surveys, nor a single policy. This theme will build on the analytical and empirical work of ESPON 2006 and subsequent publications and datasets (e.g. Eurostat, 2007) to identify available data which could be operationalised to illustrate and explain relationships between the types of rural areas and cultural resources, and cultural assets and regional competitiveness. It is anticipated that the most meaningful analysis will be generated through the collection of regional data in "exemplar regions" (2.13). The collection of national regional and small-area statistics (NUTS III and below) in exemplar regions will enable us to better understand the processes which link culture and endogenous development – and which will be tested using appropriate statistical methods - and identify opportunities for policy intervention and territorial co-operation, in addition to identification of appropriate indicators.

(f) *Access to services of general interest.*

In this task the goal is to achieve a better understanding of factors that condition accessibility to services in rural areas. Using an extensive review and analysis of scientific literature, policy documents and statistics it is intended:

- (i) to adequately establish a priority of strategic public and private services that have more capacity to retain social fabric in rural areas, and to promote their conservation and improvement under adequate accessibility conditions;
- (ii) to determine, through review and analysis of existing literature, good practices and innovative solutions for basic service provision to rural population, and develop structured procedures for their implementation;
- (iii) to propose methods and procedures to improve accessibility conditions for basic public services once real needs of rural population is better understood
- (iv) to propose innovative forms of private basic services that are both economically sustainable, and more efficient to answer the needs of rural population and;
- (v) to pay attention to the diversity of accessibility problems in rural areas in relation to their degree of remoteness;
- (vi) to pay attention to the specific problems of accessibility of disadvantaged social groups.

Although a number of member states have developed procedures and indicators to monitor changes in access to services, there is as yet no common approach. An inventory and comparative assessment of these national solutions will be a valuable start. The Exemplar Regions will provide another source of information, and the activity leader will provide a standardised procedure for data collection within the context of Activity 2.22. On the basis of the information gleaned from this exercise it may be possible to develop proxy indicators which may give at least a crude overview of patterns and change in different kinds of rural regions across Europe.

(g) *Institutional capacity.*

This theme provides a critical review of relevant information sources in the topic of rural development governance and institutional capacity. The intention is to explore the different processes of the local, regional and national contexts, within which the *rescaling* and *reshaping* of rural development has taken place. A crucial question in rural development is how its implementation may foster and maintain diversified interrelations.

Rescaling refers to multilevel governance that concerns the ongoing shift of rural policy away from sector specific policy to integrated policy. *Reshaping* relates to institutional capacities that include among other things human resources, social capital and collective actions. This theme examines the relationship between rescaling and reshaping of rural development. Rural development remains partly centrally driven in terms of budget resource and strategic planning, but has also new institutional setting combined with local and regional capacities.

The work will start in summarising the most recent rural policy related research topics, including the requirement to further develop territorial approaches within multilevel governance processes and institutional capacities. Second, a number of policy approaches to strengthen the capacity of policy to reply and facilitate the role of new institutional arrangements will be defined. Third, the rationalities which might comprise new spatial units of rural development will be identified.

This activity is by its very nature less amenable to quantification and very little conventional secondary data is available. Furthermore the interpretation of information on institutional capacity is very context sensitive. This will mean that the analysis is heavily dependent upon information collected within the Exemplar Regions (2.13). The activity lead partner will provide a carefully structured and specified data collection instrument which will provide standard information on institutional arrangements and capacity for each of the Exemplar Regions. On the basis of the findings in the Exemplar Regions the potential for

proxy indicators, and other strategies to facilitate the assessment of patterns of institutional capacity at a European scale will be explored.

(h) *Climate change and energy issues.*

One of the primary needs related to climate change and energy is to increase the scale of resolution of basic knowledge, compared to what is available in the macro- or country-scale work that has been done to date. Although country-level projections and analyses vary from country to country, they nevertheless provide only scanty sketches of how changes in climate and energy (also understood in a co-evolutionary manner) will impact and interact in various ways in rural regions. An initial review of those country level-based studies in order to assess the differences in their approaches, focuses and results will be carried out.

That review will include a search for inputs and points of entry into understanding the respective changes in particular rural areas; those expressions which will in turn be analyzed and organized. That will then be taken one step further by searching for patterns, as well as disruptive singularities, in the multiplicity of rural regions in each country. Examples of the expressions of both patterns and singularities commence with the kinds of climate changes that are beginning to emerge in and that are projected for the rural areas.

In addition to classifying them on those grounds (which is actually only the most fundamental level), the work immediately moves on to the significance of the identified climate changes for the social sphere. In other words, what is the meaning of the changes for society and how does society respond (or not) to them? Thus, categories of classification initially include their type: changes in average precipitation (leading to an increase in floods and droughts), in average temperature (cold spells and heat waves), in lengths of seasons, frequency of extreme weather (eg. several "one-hundred-year-floods" in one area within only a few years), changes in biodiversity and in species range, and so on. These then proceed to their meanings: Are they threats? Do they create opportunities? How are they responded to? Some responses may be government-driven, while others are more directly within the private and economic spheres (Van Well, 2007). Some responses may even be typified as changing the gendered structures of their rural regions, and of their interactions with their urban counterparts of significance. Another way of classifying the responses is whether they are more directed at mitigation of climate change (i.e., working to decrease the causes of climate change), or on adaptation to it (that is, with finding ways to live with the changes that are already "locked into").

One method for such synoptic surveys of classification is an extensive program of telephone calls to the administrations of rural regions, which builds on work already pioneered in Sweden (Langlais, et al. 2007) and readily applicable elsewhere. This has the advantage of not relying on random responses. Such work takes on even greater reliability when it is complemented by triangulation with other methods, such as Internet mining, media scanning, targeted stakeholder analysis and actor-network methodology.

Only some work has been done internationally with regards to classifying responses to climate change. A primitive, but no less useful, conceptual framework has been developed (Bowman, et al., 2008), with reference to Metropolitan New York and The Netherlands, and provides an analytical baseline. It differentiates response to sea level rise, both in terms of singular events and centuries-long climate characteristics, in three categories: the "do-nothing," approach, the iterative approach and the regional approach. An interesting observation is that each of the three approaches can be discerned in rural regions, and it is only when the response approach becomes long-term and sustainable, with "no going back," that it is considered to be regional in character. This conceptual framework will be refined and developed in the project.

Some of the most valuable outputs of such methods is that patterns of reliance on organizational forms (i.e., network organizations, regional twinning initiatives, collaborations between NGOs, firms and public administrations, citizens' alliances, and so on) become visible and become part of the referents for deducing patterns of association and differences in responses in rural regions. In other words, differences in rural change emerge as a consequence of variation in social response.