



Rural Potentials for Regional Development

Conference of the 6th Framework Programme
projects TERESA and ETUDE

Introduction

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Background: new CAP

includes measures designed to promote

- a living countryside with high environmental standards and to
- gain an improved competitiveness of the farming sector

Core research question in FP6:

"How are agriculture and rural economy interwoven and to what extent does agricultural production contribute to the rural economy?"

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ETUDE: Enlarging theoretical understanding of Rural development



- develops an **integrated conceptual framework** that integrates several currently emerging theoretical strands.
- acquires a **better understanding of the dynamics, scope and regional economic impact of rural development processes**,
- assesses the **differential impact of newly emerging rural constellations** in terms of land management, the competitiveness of rural economies and the quality of life in rural areas and explores the **interfaces** between different rural development trajectories and governance structures and rural policies

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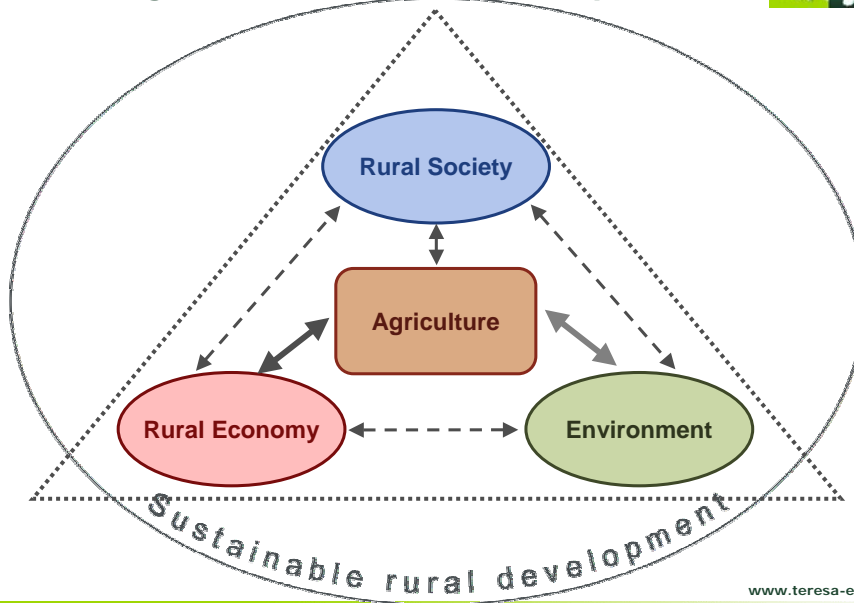
TERESA Types of interaction between Environment, Rural Economy, Society and Agriculture in European regions



- analyses the typical patterns of the **interrelationship** between different forms of **agriculture** and the **rural economy** and between agriculture and **land management**
- develops an agent based **model based on existing supply chains and potential alternatives** picturing the typical interrelations between agriculture, the rest of rural economy and the environment
- **identifies and assesses different policies** regarding their effectiveness in generating positive externalities for farming activities and rural development

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Triangle of sustainable development



Goals of the conference



- To share (first) results of the research projects
- To exchange knowledge and to enlarge the horizon
- To focus on relevant issues for the future of the development of rural areas

Thematic Focus

- Day 1: **Regions engaging in rural development: The impact of policy strategies**
- Day 2: **Regions dealing with disturbances: Resilience and diversification**

Day 1: Regions engaging in rural development: The impact of policy strategies



Core questions - to be discussed in the workshops

- How can the structural separation of rural and regional development be challenged?
- What makes rural regions successful and what is the role agriculture plays?
- What is the contribution of local capacity to rural development?

With inputs from ETUDE, TERESA and additional experts

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Day 2: Regions dealing with disturbances: Resilience and diversification



All regions face disturbances coming in the form of brief shocks or lasting stresses. A system's ability to deal with disturbances is called "resilience". There is a close link between resilience and diversity.

Core questions - to be discussed in the workshops

- When is further diversification desirable for sustainable rural development?
- Which policies and strategies would make rural areas more resilient?

With inputs from ETUDE, TERESA and additional experts

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Program of Day 1



- 10:00 **Introducing day 1: Keynote statement on rural policy**
Franz Fischler, Franz Fischler Consult, Austria
- 10:45 **Introducing day 2: Resilience as a factor in rural development**
Andy Stirling, Science and Technology Policy Research (SPRU),
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 12:00 **Thematic plenary sessions**
The rural web: conceptualising dynamics, diversity and synergies
The role of agriculture in rural development today
Rural networks and the activation of local capacity
- 13:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 **Parallel thematic discussions - Workshops**
- 15:45 Coffee break
- 16:15 **Concluding plenary**
- 17:00 Conclusion of day 1 with Austrian wine tasting!

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Program of Day 2



- 08:30 Welcome coffee
- 09:00 **Thematic plenary sessions:**
Building resilience of rural areas - multifunctional farms and village action groups
Resilience and viability: from formal definitions to practical approaches
Diversification within rural areas and resilience – the TERESA agent-based model
- 11:15 Coffee break
- 11:45 **Parallel thematic discussions - Workshops**
- 13:00 coffee break, snacks
- 13:45 **Concluding plenary:** Reports from the parallel sessions
- 14:00 **Wrap-up and discussion**
- 14:30 Farewell

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