



How can the structural separation of rural and regional development be challenged?

Input from TERESA:

5 Challenges and 5 Hypothesis

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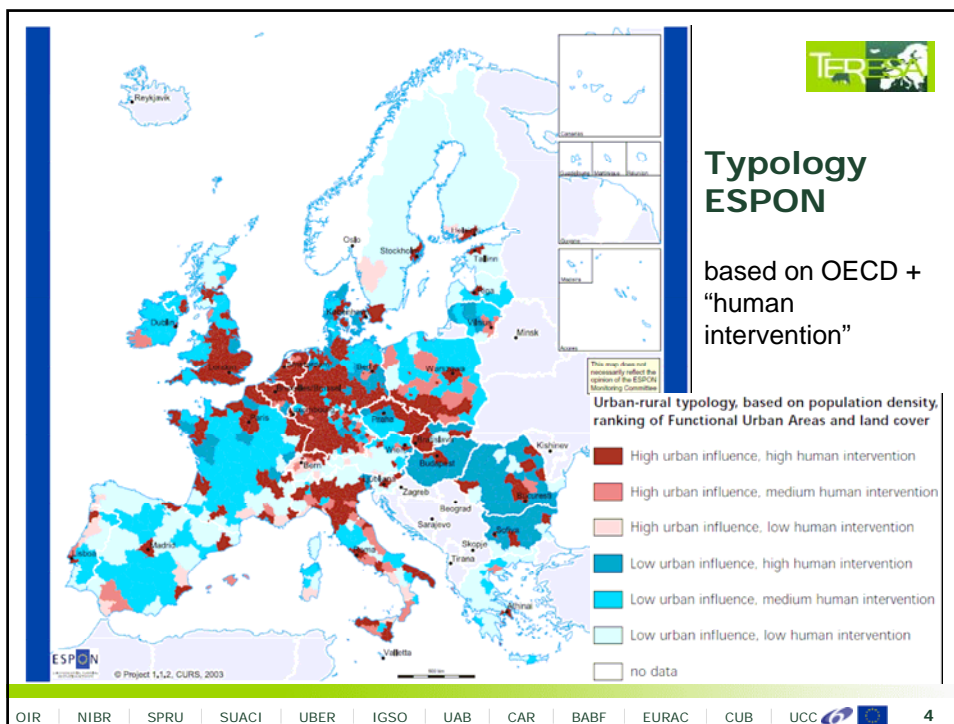
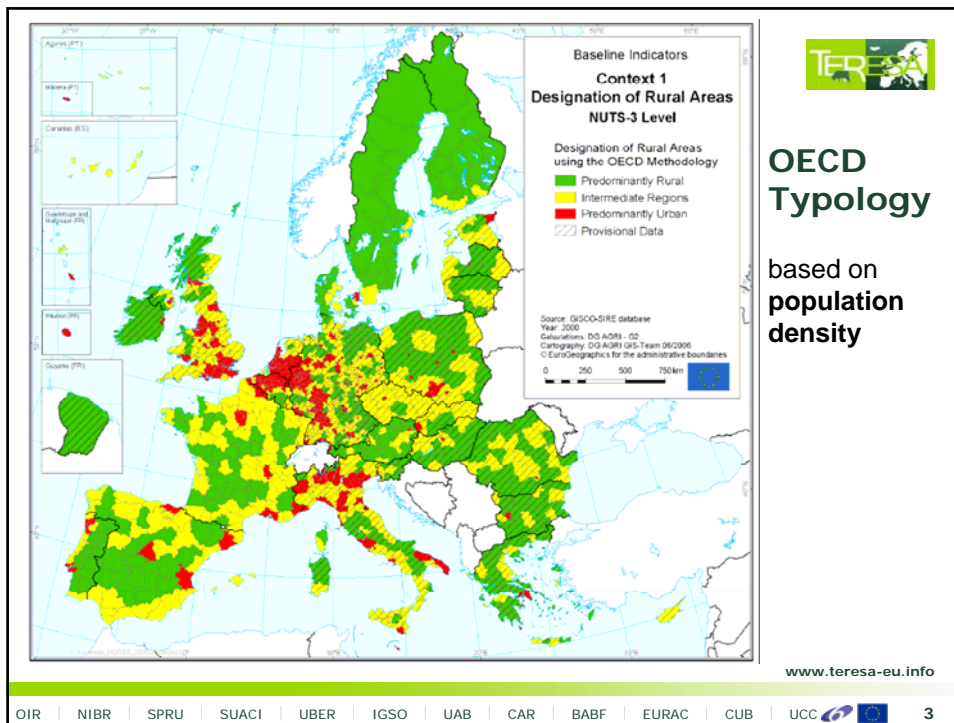
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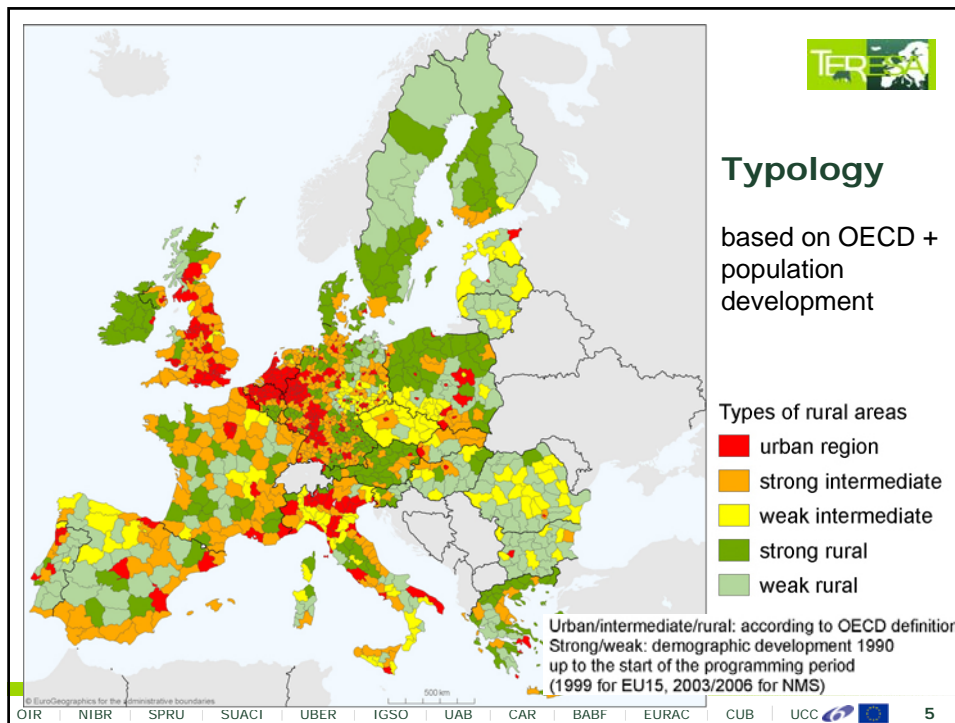


1: The territorial challenge: Rural areas vs. urban areas?

- many countries have long experience in analysing “rural” areas and rural development policy -
but: **no single commonly accepted definition** exists internationally
- increasing **inter-dependence between urban and rural areas**
process of rurbanisation makes the traditional distinction between rural and urban increasingly blurred

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2: The conceptual challenge: rural vs. regional



"rural":

- often taken to indicate open country or agricultural areas,
- But the term includes also small towns
- The difference to „urban“ is not sharp

"region":

- Has a specific spatial scale, that can be described using physical-metric measures (Capello 2007),
- is also a particular – socially constructed – abstract space, constituting and shaping economic, social, ecological, political and cultural relations and processes (Pike et al. 2007)

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3: The conceptual challenge: growth vs. development



"growth":

- meaning expansion of total economic activity within an area, (measured via GDP, employment, income)
- Programmes stimulating growth: focus on job generation through spending and public subsidies (short-term expansion)

"development":

- fundamental and sustainable increases in the productivity of individuals and institutions, to higher per capita incomes
- Programmes focus on changing underlying conditions, a long-term perspective, making investments in institutions, facilities and people, rather than handing out subsidies

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4: The conceptual challenge: regional vs. rural development



"regional development":

- refers to a spatial phenomenon, requires an appreciation of the geographical concepts of space, territory, place and scale
- traditionally rooted in the context of economic development
- No principle distinction between urban and rural areas

"rural development" (Van der Ploeg et al. 2000):

- "the concept of rural development [...] represents a search for new futures and reflects the drive of the rural population"
- „goes beyond modernization theory where the problems of agriculture and the countryside were considered resolved."
- „is about the way agriculture and the countryside might be reconfigured".

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5. The institutional challenge: Regio-policy vs. Agri-Policy



“Regio-policy”:

- DG REGIO
- Basis: Cohesion policy ERDF
- Aiming at Lisbon - economic growth / competitiveness

“Agri-policy”:

- DG AGRI
- Basis: CAP, EAGGF
- Focusing on the role of agriculture

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Five hypothesis



1. **The distinction between urban and rural** regions is quite **fuzzy**
2. **Urban and rural development** is like the **exchange between communicating tubes** – thus development within one setting will always interfere with the development of the other and vice versa
3. **A strong institutional „gap“** between rural development and regional development exists especially on EU level
4. **Rural development** is foremost **a matter of regional economic development** in principle
5. **However, special conditions in rural areas** have to be taken into account, especially the **role of agriculture**

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