

RUFUS Rural future networks

As the objectives of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) shift from an agricultural-centred approach to wider rural development, the idea of multi-functionality of rural areas comes into play. This in turn brings the CAP into closer association with a wide range of other policy regimes. These sectoral regimes interact in complex ways; sometimes mutually reinforcing, sometimes contradicting each other, and with a determining effect on the sustainable development of rural areas. The project will address these multifunctional aspects of rural areas. It will assess the possible combinations of policy regimes to build up networks and to ensure sustainable and integrated rural development.

Objectives

- ▶ To understand how policy regimes interact in rural areas;
- ▶ To link policy regimes to different types of rural areas;
- ▶ To integrate the social dimension into the analysis of rural change;
- ▶ To communicate the nature of rural change through scenarios;
- ▶ To include the experiences of local stakeholders;
- ▶ To derive policy recommendations.

Methodology

The project will use an interdisciplinary methodology which encourages a confrontation of the quantitative approach with more qualitative social and policy approaches.

The top-down and largely quantitative analysis of rural dynamics will be combined with bottom-up and largely qualitative experiences of stakeholders. An integrated typology of rural areas in Europe will be built combining the bottom-up and top-down perspectives and will be tested in cases studies.

Expected results

- ▶ A baseline assessment of policy regimes in European rural areas;
- ▶ A new typology of rural areas in Europe including social indicators;
- ▶ A set of land function maps and photorealistic landscape visualisations of representative areas;
- ▶ Scenarios of future rural development based on case study results;
- ▶ Policy recommendations to ensure a more sustainable rural development.



Work Packages

WP1

Coordination and project management
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WP2

Policy integration and knowledge generation
WP leader:
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WP3

Typology of rural areas
WP leader:
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WP4

Scenarios and visualisation
WP leader:
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WP5

Case studies
WP leader:
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WP6

Policy conclusions and territorial approach
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RUFUS RUral FUTURE NetworkS

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Theme 8: Socio Economic
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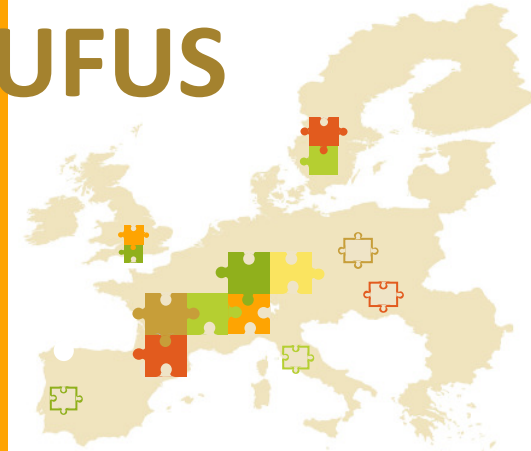
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Seventh Framework Programme
Theme 8: Socio Economic Sciences and Humanities

RUFUS



Rural Future Networks

- Integrated policies for rural areas
- Based on appropriate typologies and scenarios of rural futures
- To influence the CAP reform



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