

# EDORA

## European Development Opportunities for Rural Areas

Applied Research 2013/1/2

Final Report: Version 1, 30/09/2010

Annex 1 (Part C: Scientific Working Papers)

This report presents the draft final results of an Applied Research Project conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2013 Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The partnership behind the ESPON Programme consists of the EU Commission and the Member States of the EU27, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Each partner is represented in the ESPON Monitoring Committee.

This report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the Monitoring Committee.

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The web site provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent documents produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

This basic report exists only in an electronic version.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This annex contains 26 working papers produced by the EDORA TPG as outputs from the activities (2.11-2.26) of the first two (conceptual and empirical) phases of the research. Due to the size of some of the documents each working paper is provided in the form of a separate PDF file.

The first nine working papers represent the output of Activity 2.11, which was a review of the recent literature, the current situation and recent trends. These reports deal with demography, employment, rural business development, rural-urban relationships, cultural heritage, access to services of general interest, institutional capacity, climate change, and farm structural change. They follow a common structure and format with the objective of building up a comprehensive coverage of the recent policy and academic literature, and of providing systematic consideration of the drivers, opportunities and constraints, perspectives for the future, and policy implications, across the range of themes. Each of them also incorporates a proposal for appropriate indicators, relating to the theme in question.<sup>1</sup>

Working paper 10 is a synthesis of the findings of WP1-9. It advances the concept of “meta-narratives” of rural change, which draw together the “little stories” of different aspects of socio-economic development in different geographical contexts into a small number of coherent “evolutionary tendencies” which are observable across the range of rural European environments. These meta-narratives focus upon rurality/accessibility, the changing role and characteristics of agriculture, and the increasing impact of global capital on the economies of even the most rural and remote localities.

Working papers 11-22 shift the focus from generalisation to specific examples, through description of recent change in twelve “exemplar regions” from seven Member States. Again these reports follow a standard structure and format, and are intended to elucidate and illustrate the conceptual issues highlighted by the first ten working papers. In particular they attempt to demonstrate the validity of the meta-narratives proposed in working paper 10.

Working Paper 23 provides a detailed and comprehensive description of the database compiled by the project.

Working paper 24 returns to the issue of valid generalisations, this time in the context of macro-scale (NUTS 3) patterns of differentiation across the EU. Three typologies, together forming an “analysis framework” are presented. The first dimension of this framework relates to rurality and accessibility, and is implemented through the Dijkstra-Poelman modified OECD typology. The second dimension reflects the evolution of economic (sectoral) structure associated with both the agri-centric and the globalisation meta-narratives. This is captured by a four-fold structural classification of regions. The third dimension is regional performance, represented by a synthetic indicator which places regions on a continuum between “Accumulation” and “Depletion”. The working paper explores the relationships between these dimensions, and the geographical patterns revealed.

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<sup>1</sup> However the ability to propose appropriate and practicable indicators, harmonised at NUTS 3 region level, inevitably varies considerably between themes.

Working Paper 25 presents socio-economic profiles for the rural regions of the EU27 member states, based upon the EDORA database, and the typologies described in WP24.

All the preceding activities, and the findings presented in the working papers, provide a rich resource for Working Paper 26, which deals with Future Perspectives for rural Europe. In a sense these extend the meta-narratives of WP10 by constructing a series of alternative qualitative accounts of possible future rural trends, which represent a strong starting point for the analysis of policy implications (phase 3 of the project), which are previewed in the main text of the Draft Final Report. The full working paper for Activities 2.31 and 2.32 (WP27) will be presented with the Final version of the Final Report.

## APPENDIX 1: KEY TO PARTNERS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Short Name</b>	<b>MS</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>UHI Millennium Institute</b>	<b>UHI</b>	<b>UK</b>
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