

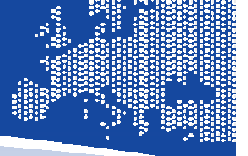
Rurban: Rural-Urban Partnership for Sustainable Development

Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF) Project Dissemination Conference

27-28 June 2012, Aberdeen City Council

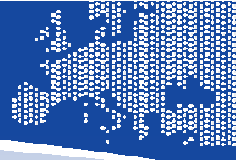
Sabrina Lucatelli

DG REGIO, Directorate for Policy Conception and Coordination



An Issue Based Approach to Rural-Urban Partnerships

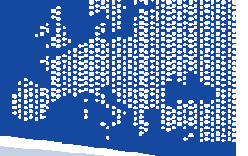
- Urban development can have negative social and environmental consequences in many EU peri-urban rural areas: « Urban Sprawl » (*Pluriel Project*)
- Strong Rural/Agricultural Land pressure in both developing and developed countries – *housing issue* - (*FAO, OECD, European Commission*)
- Small and medium sized cities can be quite dynamic! (*OECD and Canada*)
- Difficulties in accessing social services in remote rural areas (*5th Cohesion Report, EDORA-ESPON*)



Strong and bidirectional relationships between urban and rural areas can generate **positive externalities** and **improve economic competitiveness**

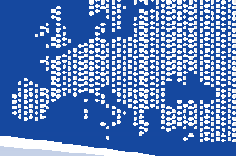
- Several functional linkages: Demographic; Environmental-natural resources management; Economic and innovative transactions, Delivery of public services
- Three Main Spatial categories (OECD):
 - **Metropolitan regions** and **peri-urban rural areas**
 - **Networks of small and medium-sized cities**
 - **Sparsely populated areas with market towns**

Rural-Urban Partnerships as a possible “tool” with **multiple** and **flexible** governance solutions



Three Spatial Dimensions

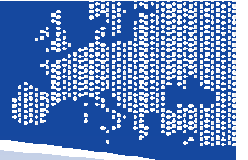
- **Metropolitan regions:** *Rural Areas as service providers for the urban regions and urban areas supporting and providing services to rural surroundings*
- **Networks of small and medium-sized cities:** *Rural Areas act as semi-autonomous growth poles but depend on urban centres for specialised services and for accessing larger markets*
- **Sparsely populated areas with market towns:** *Rural Areas are the engine of growth. The regional economy depends on resources located in rural areas with small towns acting as market points*



Partnership Fundamental Ingredients

- Common strategy and vision
- Cooperation (Spontaneous!)
- Mutual benefits (Recognising what rural areas can offer)
- Governance solutions (More or less formal)
- Long term (They need time!)
- Project based (Local shared)
- Participation

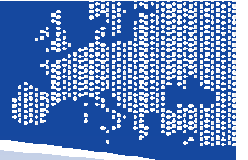
*What role for policy
intervention?*



Existing Good Practices

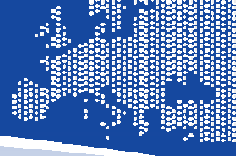
- *Le Pays du Man*, 48 Municipalities organised around a common territory « *Un Bassin de Vie* » - Leader
- Amsterdam, Hamburg, Montreal, Nuremberg and Rennes Metropolitan Regions
- Integrated Territorial Projects in Italy
- Creating Medium size cities network at Luxembourg and French Border "*Projet Alzette-Belval*"
- The New Bridges Project – 7 rural-urban co-operations in the Baltic region

Connections to shaping rural-urban interactions not always explicit!



What the existing policy obstacles?

- Not enough territorial attention and **territorial analysis** capacities (especially at functional regional level)
- Rural policies versus Urban policies ...
- Not appropriate **policy integration** between Regional policy, Rural development policy and other policies
- Absence of “higher level” **incentives** ... especially for intra-municipal cooperation
- Not appropriate capacity to **delegate** policy building at local level
- Not strongly enough developed « **Rural Voice** » and rural (not sectoral) partnership/governance (small and not coordinated municipalities)

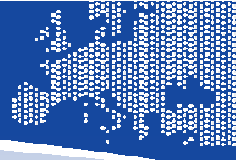


RURBAN Parliament/EC Preparatory Action

General Objective:

- to identify and assess formal and informal partnership practices for towns/cities and rural areas and
- the role that these partnerships can play in **regional “sustainable” development** and in bridging the coordination gap in policies form urban and rural dwellers
- To analyse the form and the functions of these partnerships to promote territorial multilevel governance

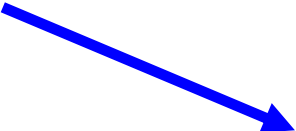
*TO CREATE A BRIDGE BETWEEN
REGIONAL POLICY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY*



Two main actions: study & results diffusion

1. A preparatory study building up on existing bibliography (ESPON; OECD; DG Regio Seminars; TA)
2. A comprehensive study covering cases of urban-rural partnerships in the 4 main EU macro geographical areas (EC/OECD)
3. Analytical framework for defining functional regions (EC/OECD)
4. A final Conference + 2 regional workshops Metz 15-16 November!
5. One VIDEO showing main Rurban results

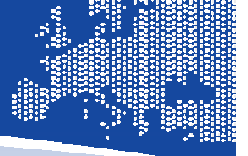
*Continuous dialogue with stakeholders
(COTER, Eurocities, Metrex, Red, Purple)*



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Regional Policy



Deutscher Verband für Wohnungswesen,
Städtebau und Raumordnung e.V.



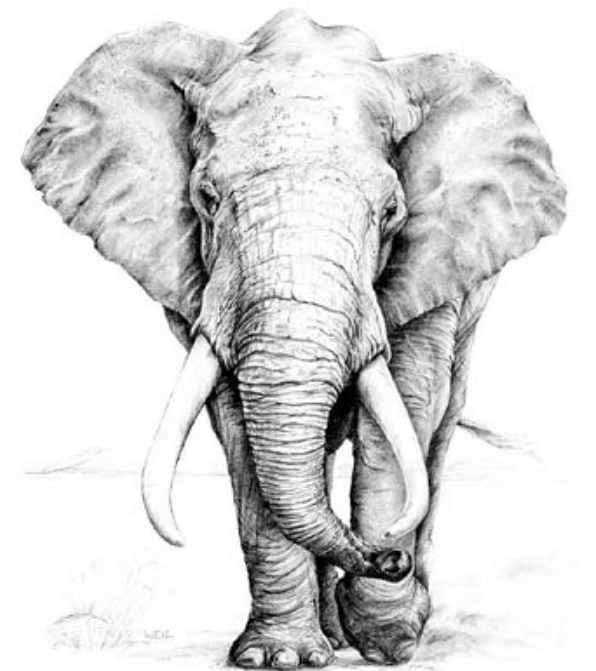
A Preparatory Study - Partnership for Sustainable rural-urban development: existing evidences

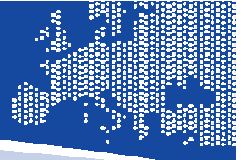
- Urban-rural partnerships (or forms thereof) across Europe *Moro; Surf; Purple; Hinterland*
- Basic Ingredients for Partnership (a project based approach, time and governance!)
- “Research oriented” versus “Action oriented”
- Several already existing cases: what role for cohesion policy?
- Starting from existing “policy” failures, **facilitating** and **spreading** good governance

The study is available on InfoRegio Web Site - Rurban

Many good reasons against partnerships between unequal places

- different demands and goals
- different economic power (GDP/empl.: PR = 74 % of PU)
- different management capacities
- prejudices (parasitism, free raiders)
- administrative additional burden
- no statistically proven surplus value
- municipal legal power
- additional concept for space
- no altruism



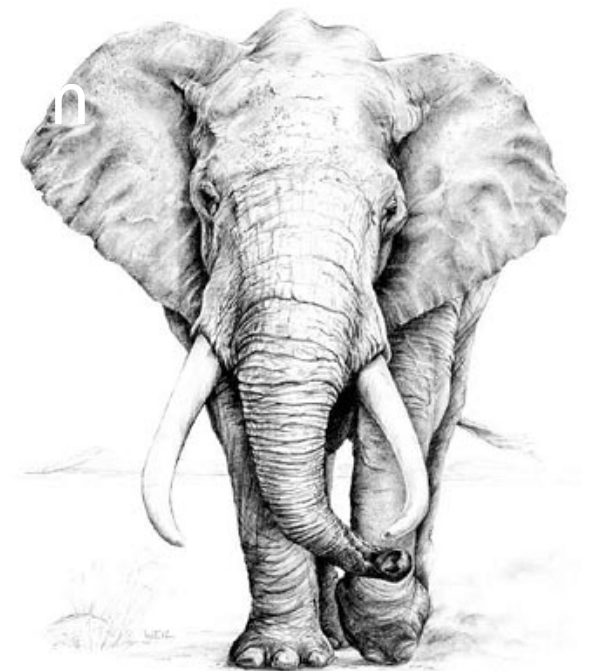


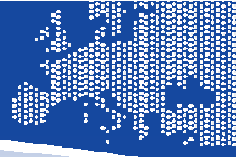
OECD: Partnerships and Rural-Urban Relationships

- A methodological framework to assess rural-urban linkages in functional areas;
- Administrative regions versus Functional regions
- Measuring rural-urban linkages – Status and Results Measures (e.g. for services organisation and implementation)
- Different categories of rural-urban functional regions
- Main impact of partnership is to improve **local governance** by stimulating the uptake of public programmes in a manner consistent with **locally shared priority**

Many good reasons for partnerships between different places

- complementary potentials
- partly similar/same potentials
- problems to be solved
- management of linkages and flows
- bringing together regions, actors, funds
- via projects and a strategy
- mutual benefit, no free riders, synergies
- additional output for redistribution
- (economic, quality of life)
- no “beggar thy neighbour”
- win-win and conflict management

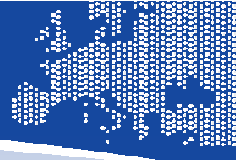




8 EU Case Studies + 1 Extra EU

- **Large Metropolitan Regions:** Rennes, Nuremberg and Prague
- **Network of Small and Mediums sized cities:** Brabant (Netherlands); Cesena-Forli Emilia Romagna Region (Italy); Greelong Region, Victoria (Australia)
- **Sparsely Populated Areas with market Towns:** District of Castel Branco (Portugal)/Extremadura (Spain); Saarijärvi-Viitasaari Region (Finland) and WestPomeranian region (Poland)

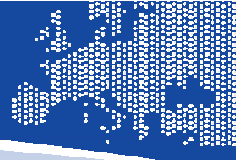
Formal/Informal Partnerships



8 EU Case Studies + 1 Extra EU

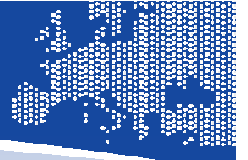
In order for partnerships to contribute to the policy development process, they need to:

- have a strong influence on multi-level and cross-sector collaboration.
- have a receptive attitude on the part of policy makers in regional, national and supranational government institutions
- work on the basis of sound local knowledge and expertise,
- use local data and indicators;
- adopt a **flexible strategic approach** that goes beyond the delivery of projects and programmes
- be able to enhance policy outcomes through appropriate monitoring and evaluation
- **Interact with/linked to the national level**



Future Opportunities

- A stronger territorial approach for Cohesion Policy: Territorial Cohesion Objective
- **Common Strategic Framework** and **One Partnership Contract** for all Structural Funds and major attention to Funds Coordination
- How to translate Territorial Cohesion Objective within National and regional programmes, *taking into consideration urban-rural linkages*
- Reinforcing **local development in regional policy** and opening to pluri-funds local projects



Territorial Cooperation

- Separate Regulation
- Increase of financial resources (+30%)
- 75% co-financing rate
- Concentration of programmes on up to 4 thematic objectives
- Interregional cooperation has to promote exchange of experience in the field of sustainable urban and rural development



Sustainable
URBAN FRINGES
SURF

Gordon McIntosh

*Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure,
Aberdeen City Council.*



European Union

The European Regional Development Fund