

Towards a holistic strategy on
sustainable and equitable rural
and urban development

"Rural as equal partner –
messages from rural Europe"

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”No-one should be left behind”

”Rural should be listened to and be considered as a partner”

”Sectoral and human egoism/competition as challenge”



"France has fallen in an urbanisative ideology".

"Even the national statistics institute took "rural" off in its terminology"

"All territorial laws have been inspired by centre-periphery thinking and this should be challenged"

Ruralisons –"let´s ruralize" "be rural" - event, where the creation of the French Rural Parliament was decided, June 2019



Manifesto



4. We assert the right of rural areas and communities to full recognition by all the people and institutions of Europe, to a **quality of life and standard of living equal to that of urban populations**, and to full participation in political processes.
5. We are concerned about **urban and growth thinking** dominating the political discourse and development policies. European rural people and communities are also concerned that many regions are affected by narrowness of rural economies, the lack of opportunities, the loss of population, the decline in services, poverty, the environmental degradation, the lack of affordable housing and the social exclusion among disadvantaged people or ethnic minorities.

Challenges – what has changed?

Admitting the diversity of rural areas...

- There is an urban pact (Amsterdam), is there a rural pact/agenda?
- Equality: service gap, digital gap, employment, economic loss
- Is programming and funding distribution equal? Cohesion funds, recovery funds (10% only rural?), resilience funds aso...
- Will a holistic approach be given a chance or will lobbies and governments keep status quo? Acquired benefits are not easily given away.



Challenges – what has changed?

Ref . Mr Milouchev in Sherpa Annual



Conference

- Costs for services of same quality than in urban areas are requested but higher
- What data and statistics are used in society planning and policy work? Eg. in Lithuania 87% of the territory rural/predominantly rural but in official statistics only 16%. **ERP: in that light where goes development actions and funding?**
- We read **diversity** differently: In average rural areas are fine, but that is forgetting other realities. If you are far from cities, the urban connection is not so relevant. Closer to cities rural benefits from agglomeration effect. **ERP: Are diversity, differences, shrinking well managed?**
- **Who is in charge of the holistic rural development** in EU (Article 174 TEU) and member states – There are good initiatives but no follow-up nor actions – what to conclude?



1 - Is research of help?



Andrés Rodríguez-Pose: The revenge of the places that don't matter (and what to do about it) 2018

“Poor development prospects and an increasing belief that these places have “no future”—as economic dynamism has been posited to be increasingly dependent on agglomeration economies—have led many of these so-called **“places that don't matter”** to revolt against the status quo. The revolt has come via an unexpected source: the ballot-box, in a wave of political populism with strong territorial, rather than social foundations. I will argue that the populist wave is challenging the sources of existing well-being in both the less-dynamic and the more prosperous areas and **that better, rather than more, place-sensitive territorial development policies are needed in order to find a solution to the problem.**”

2 - Is research of help?

Andrés Rodríguez-Pose and Callum Wilkie 2019 - Innovating in less developed regions... What drives patenting in the lagging regions of Europe and North America

“Not all interregional knowledge flows and nonlocal connections operate in the same way or offer the same benefit for different lagging regions in different geographic contexts. Policy-makers need to recognize this latter phenomenon and should attempt, through the engagement of, and consultations and dialog with, local actors—a cornerstone, in fact, of bottom-up, territorial specific policy-making (Rodríguez-Pose and Wilkie, 2018) —**to identify the types of extra-local connections, partnerships, and relationships—be they with actors in academia or the private, public, or third sectors—from which local innovators garner the greatest benefit and should channel resources accordingly**”



- The EESC calls for real involvement of organised civil society in the implementation phase of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans. The involvement of organised civil society is far from satisfactory in a majority of EU countries, warned the European Economic and Social Committee at the annual conference of its European Semester Group 31.5.2021 Commission, on the 2 June 2021.

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/eesc-calls-real-involvement-organised-civil-society-implementation-phase-national-recovery-and-resilience-plans>

- EESC President Christa Schweng: "Only by increasing its impact will the ECI be able to reconnect the EU with its citizens"

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/news-media/press-releases/eesc-president-only-increasing-its-impact-will-eci-be-able-reconnect-eu-its-citizens>



Thank you for your time!

PREPARE Partnership for Rural Europe / ERP