

Friday April 7, 2017

Seminar on linking rural definitions, policy and coordinated rural development

Venue: Ministry of Economic Development, ul. Wspólna 2/4, room 1105, 1st floor, Warsaw, Poland

Simultaneous interpretation with cabin will be provided

Introduction

How rural areas are thought about and defined has important policy implications. The OECD's work in this area has long remarked on the fact that while administrative boundaries are often a convenient way of collecting and analysing data, they may conceal important functional connections between territories (e.g. overlapping urban and rural areas) that are more useful for policy purposes. To this end, many OECD countries have established new definitions and indicators to better understand rural areas and structure policy responses – from distance to services to functional labour markets – these new analytical frameworks have great potential to improve quality of life in rural communities.

This seminar brings together comparative expertise from OECD countries on how different rural definitions have been used to structure policy responses and also how they have combined EU policies for coordinated approaches to rural development.

This seminar is part of the OECD's current *Rural Policy Review of Poland* which is focussed on providing holistic approaches to rural development. It looks at how policies can better support development opportunities in rural areas including non-agricultural employment and the diversification of rural economies. It also focuses on how rural policies in Poland can prepare for the post-2020 EU funding environment which will likely entail more complex financial instruments and a smaller funding envelope.

Agenda

9:15 - 9:30 ***Welcome and update on project***

This brief introduction provides an update on the Rural Policy Review of Poland project and introduces participants.

9:30 - 10:30 ***Diagnosis of key issues of PL rural development by OECD Secretariat*** (1 hour)

While Poland's economy shows very strong performance overall, regional disparities present an important threat to sustainable development. This presentation by the OECD Secretariat provides a diagnosis of the key rural development issues in Poland, along with comparative OECD benchmarking. This includes a profile of rural Poland (demographic and labour market trends), an overview of the rural economy, an assessment of the key enablers of growth and development and an assessment of quality of life in rural areas. It will take into account the diversity of Polish regions development potentials, functional linkages with the local centres of growth (medium and small cities) and areas at risk of exclusion.

- Presentation by OECD Secretariat (30 min.)
- Open discussion (30 min.)

10:30 - 12:00 **Rural definitions – presentations of approaches and moderated discussion**

There is no internationally recognised definition of a “rural area” and there are ongoing debates about how best to define the concept. While a low population density is a common starting point, it is generally recognised that “rurality” is a multidimensional concept, which can embody different meanings for different purposes. For example, it may encompass a geographical or spatial concept, socio economic or socio cultural descriptor, or a functional concept related to, for instance, labour market flows, or simply as “not urban”.

The OECD has developed a regional typology that is part of a territorial scheme for collecting internationally comparable “rural” data. Regions of OECD member countries have been classified into Predominantly Urban, Intermediate and Predominantly Rural to take into account geographical differences among them. Comparing the socioeconomic performance of regions of the same type (whether urban or rural) across countries is useful in detecting similar characteristics and development paths.

This typology—developed in close cooperation with the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission—further refines the current typology by including a criterion on the accessibility to urban centres. This allows for distinction between remote rural regions and rural regions close to a city. It facilitates analysis of their different characteristics, such as declining and ageing populations, levels of productivity and unemployment rates. The OECD’s rural typology is presently being revised in close cooperation with DG Regio. The Polish Academy of Sciences has recently developed its own rural typology to explore regional dynamics. This seminar will share recent developments by all three actors – OECD, DG Regio and the Polish Academy of Sciences in order to highlight emerging best practices and the policy implications of these rural definitions.

- OECD – why rural definitions are important for policy making (20 min.)
 - Presentation on the OECD’s evolving definition
 - Presentation on rural definitions on behalf of DG REGIO
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - definition used in the policy (10 min.)
- Ms. Monika Stanny, PChD, Polish Academy of Science (20 min.)
 - Summary of definitions for policy purposes and discussion of their advantages and disadvantages
- Mr. Mariusz Stefan Migas, Head of Farm Economics Unit, DG AGRI (20 min.)
- Open discussion (20 min.)

12:00 - 13:00 **Lunch break**

13:00 – 14:30 **Linking definitions to policy – international examples**

Many OECD countries are trying to move away from traditional definitions of rural areas perceived as simply the remaining “left-over” space that is not urban. Traditional definitions do not differentiate among different types of rural areas nor do they recognise areas of strong urban and rural interactions. With the advancement of Geographic Information System (GIS) tools and better availability of data,

many OECD countries have revised and advanced their definitions to incorporate new criteria such as distance and accessibility to services, and are now recognising areas with strong urban and rural interactions. The shared goal in these efforts is to have a tool that can more accurately differentiate between types of rural areas and identify common challenges and opportunities to design more effective policy responses. Definitions of rural areas have important implications for the delivery of services and allocation of public resources. This seminar shares lessons across a number of OECD countries on how definitions have been used to operational policy responses.

- Discussion of how rural definitions have been linked to public policy by selected OECD member countries
 - Ms. Anne Sormunen, Manager of International Affairs, Regional Council of Central Ostrobothnia, Finland (15 min.)
 - Ms. Christell Åström, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland (15 min.)
 - Ms. Sabrina Lucatelli, Coordinator, Italian Committee for Inner Areas, Italy (15 min.)
 - Ms. Alexandra Helgesson, Ministry of Industry, Sweden (15 min.)
- Open discussion (30 min.)

14:30 – 14:45 **Break**

14:45 – 16:45 **Combining EU policies for coordinated approaches to rural development**

The concept of policy complementarity refers to the mutually reinforcing impact of different actions on a given policy outcome. Policies can be complementary because they support the achievement of a given target from different angles. For example, increased broadband in rural areas should proceed along with policies that focus on the accessibility and diffusion of these services to the population.

OECD research has stressed that policies – territorial and sectoral – are more effective where they are co-ordinated and aligned along similar goals and objectives. In effect, governments should frame interventions in infrastructure, human capital and innovation capacity within common policy packages that are complementary to sectoral approaches as well. This requires that policies are integrated horizontally, through management arrangements and development plans amongst different sectors, services and agencies within a given level of government. It also requires that policies are vertically integrated, from the national to the local level of government, and that interventions are territorially integrated and consider the interrelationships and interdependencies between different territories.

This session focusses on the idea of policy complementarity by sharing comparative OECD experiences on how EU policies can be combined for coordinated approaches to rural development.

- Ms. Alexandra Helgesson, Ministry of Industry, Sweden (25 min.)
- Ms. Sabrina Lucatelli, Coordinator, Italian Committee for Inner Areas, Italy (25 min.)
- Mr. Georgios Mathioudakis, Head of Farm Economics Unit, DG AGRI - reflections on above (20 min.)
- Open discussion (50 min.)

16:45-17:45 **Post session meet and greet with the local team**

Biographies of Speakers:

Alexandra Helgesson works as an economic analyst at the Economic Analysis Secretariat at the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation in Sweden. At the Ministry there are four ministers, the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, the Minister for Infrastructure, the Minister for Housing and Digital Development and the Minister of Rural Affairs. Among other things Alexandra works with issues related to a new strategy for Swedish Food production, the Swedish Rural Development Programme and the development of a new rural policy. Alexandra studied Agricultural Economics at The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala and has long experience from the Dairy sector before she started at the Ministry.

Anne Sormunen is manager of international affairs in Central Ostrobothnia region. Region situates in western coast of Finland. Rich in natural resources and beauty, Central Ostrobothnia is a highly productive northern region with successful connections to international trade. Previously during 10 years Anne Sormunen was chief executive officer of a national growth company program called Venture Cup and thus is familiar with national innovation system. She has also worked in business management consulting, ICT development, export industry and been a theatre producer. She has multidisciplinary educational background from various universities

Chiara Allegri is a consultant in the Rural and Regional Development Programme of the Regional Development Policy Division of the OECD. Prior to joining the OECD she has conducted research on regional cohesion at the University College of London. Her areas of interest span from regional inequalities to migration patterns, wellbeing and bottom-up development processes. She holds two Masters degrees, in Local Economic Development from the London School of Economics and in Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics from the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam.

Christell Åström works as a Ministerial Adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland. She is also the Secretary General of the national Rural Policy Council, which is led by the minister of Agriculture and Environment. The Council assists the Government in cross-sectoral and strategically important rural policy issues. The Council leads the work and creates the guidelines for the national rural policy. Christell has been working with rural development and rural policy issues on both local and regional level before she started in her current job.

David Freshwater is a professor at the University of Kentucky, with appointments in the Department of Agricultural Economics and in the Martin School of Public Administration and Public Policy. He has been a consultant to the OECD Rural Policy Programme since 1993, and in 2009 was Head of the Programme. His main research and teaching areas are rural and agricultural policy in North America and Europe. Currently, he is focusing on factors that influence economic progress in rural areas, including: agricultural policy reform, innovation, access to finance and workforce development. Prior to joining the University of Kentucky he was a senior economist on the Staff of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, and before that a member of the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

Enrique Garcilazo is the Head of Unit for the Rural and Regional Development Programme within the Regional Development Policy Division at the OECD. His work has mainly focused in the areas of regional competitiveness, measuring the performance of regions and understating the key factors for growth at the regional level and their impact to aggregate performance. He obtained a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Mariusz-Stefan Migas is the Head of Farm Economics Unit of European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. He is an economist and holds an MBA from Open University.

Monika Stanny is the Director of the Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, Faculty of Sciences and Humanities and Social Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Institute takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of rural areas including economics, sociology, demography, ethnography, education, geography, etc. Dr. Stanny has published widely on such topics as the spatial differentiation of rural development in Poland, social and economic development and the implementation of Cohesion policy.

Sabrina Lucatelli is a Policy Coordinator for the Italian Presidency of the Council of the Ministers in the Department for Cohesion Policies. She is also the Italian Delegate at RDPC/WPRUR. She previously worked at the OECD as economist for the Directorate for Food Agriculture and Fisheries and the Economics Department. Sabina graduated from Rome University and undertook a Master of Science degree in Agriculture Economics at the Catholic University of Milan and a High Diploma in Rural Development at the University College Cork. She has been implementing important evaluation activities that assess how Rural Development Policy and Regional Policy impact rural areas in Italy and on the development policies for rural areas of less developed countries. Her works include papers and articles on the relationship between agriculture and the broader regional economy; local development issues; and rural development, including basic services provision and rural-urban partnerships.

Tamara Krawchenko is a policy analyst in the Rural and Regional Development Programme of the Regional Development Policy Division of the OECD. She has worked for both federal and provincial governments in Canada and for a number research institutes and universities in Canada, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan as a professor and researcher. Her multi-disciplinary research has covered a wide range of topics—from community capacity building and rural development, to the governance of land use, intergenerational equity and public finance. Tamara holds a PhD in public policy from Carleton University and degrees in public administration, history and political science from Dalhousie University.