

FP7 project SPARD (contract number 244944)
Spatial Analysis of Rural
Development Measures: Providing
a Tool for Better Policy Targeting

FINAL PROJECT WORKSHOP

June 18, 2013

Examining the Impact of the Spatial Dimension of Rural Development Policies on the example of EU second pillar (2007-2013)



Venue:
Representation of the Land
Brandenburg to the EU
Rue Joseph II 108, 1000 Brussels



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

13:00 Welcome session

Fingerfood, softdrinks, coffee

- Flash presentations from SPARD Case study research:
Scotland, Noord Holland, Brandenburg, Emilia Romagna, Midi Pyrenees, Slovenia
- Posters from case studies

14:00 Core session

- Welcome (by hosting representation)
- Background (Scientific project officer H.J. Lutzeyer, DG RTD)
- Why did we do this project and what is the output of SPARD? (coordinator A. Piorr)
- Keynote: Towards the CAP 2014-2020 (Rob Peters, DG Agri)
- Determinants for participation in RDPs, neighbourhood effects and spillovers
 - The role of targeting strategies of RDPs across Europe
 - Dependent variables for participation and scale dependency
 - Expected spillover effects: what do programming authorities assume?
 - Evidence on spillovers effects: what do selected results from spillover effects tested in the SPARD case studies tell us?
- **Panel discussion** related to key SPARD policy messages and their practical use for RDP planning and evaluation (participants from DG Agri, ENRD, DG RTD, researchers)

17:00 Open end session

Appetizers

- Tool training SPARD-IS:
the Spatial Analysis of Rural Development programmes Information System
- Result and practical added value discussion with end users and evaluators

Participation on invitation only, please send your request to apiorr@zalf.de

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BACKGROUND

The spatial dimension of Public Payments for Rural Development: allocation practices, impact mechanisms and scope for improvement

The EU expenditures for Rural Development, having raised from 2.9% of the total CAP budget in the 1990ties to 12.3% in the beginning of the 2010ths reflect the growing strategic and societal value attached to this policy in addressing the new global challenges for rural areas in the enlarged EU. Analysing the recent and ongoing reforms proves that Rural Development Programmes (RDP) made substantial progress towards sectoral integration and thematic broadening, and at the same time provided continuity of well-established and important measures. Still, under growing budget constraints better targeting of funds becomes more crucial. Comparing design and allocation practices of Regional RDPs however, reveals large differences in targeting strategies, all too often based on implementation history and experience of previous periods. Better availability, coordination and digital connectivity of expenditure data and different other data sources across the EU introduced the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF), aiming at clearer depicting intervention needs at a regional scale (NUTS2-NUTS3).

The EU project SPARD (www.spard.eu) took those data as a starting point to find out more about the causal relationships between RD measure implementation, their determining factors and their impacts with a specific look at their spatial dimension: For which rural development measures is success affected by conditions of neighborhood and at what scale?

SPARD developed and applied new methodological approaches, particularly spatial econometrics, to evaluate selected measures that contribute to improved competitiveness, environmental performance and rural viability.

Results presented touch the following issues:

- EU RDP intervention logic, RDP effectiveness and the spatial dimension
- Neighbourhood effects and spillovers between regions and between municipalities
- Learning about spatial and non-spatial determinants of participation and about effectiveness and efficiency: An in depth view into European case studies, specific measures of the three RD axis, indicators and shortcomings of the CMEF
- Experiences and requirements towards the CAP 2020 from an evaluation practice point of view

Overall, the results emphasizes the difficulty of evaluation of RDPs even using instruments much more sophisticated than those used in the current evaluation practices. While lack of appropriate information remains an issue, the experience carried out also show the trade- offs between generalized approaches and need for consideration of ad hoc local determinants, as well as between the quest of higher precision and the implied information burden.

Participation in the Final Workshop on invitation only, please send your request to apiorr@zalf.de