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Greetings From Wales

Cyfarchion o Gymru



Thematic Working Group

“Agriculture and the wider rural economy”

Objectives

Relevant analysis to identify the relationship and potential synergies/ conflict between
Agriculture and the wider rural economic activity



Methodology

- Step 1 Analysis of the link between Agriculture and other rural activity across all member states
- Step2 Analysis of factors and drivers that have and will influence this relationship



Step 1

- To collate general information from over 500 NUTS 3 areas throughout the EU
- Clustering the regions into 3 main areas

Non Dynamic areas

Agriculture Dynamic areas

Diversified dynamic areas



Initial findings

- Agriculture is an influential economic contributor in all the areas
- Backward linkage was generally low
- Forward linkage were generally very strong with Tourism recreation / leisure and trade
- Considerable complexity and variance within and between rural areas
- Human resource, educational and training to develop innovation
- Accessibility and competitive Agri-food chain critical factors underpinning Agriculture with the rural economy



Examples of Good practice

- There are many good examples of the strong links between Agriculture and other rural economic activity
- Many good examples of sector and cross sector adaptability and innovation
- Good examples of institutional/technical support to entrepreneurs



Possible implications

- Agriculture should not be viewed in isolation to other economic activities
- Importance of qualitative as well as quantitative analysis,
- Capturing and documenting good practice examples offers enormous potential to guide current/ future projects and programmes



Step 3

- Focus on smaller number of areas
- 6 areas now under the microscope

Trikila Greece

Somogy Hungary

Gers France

Matera Italy

Kaslmar Sweden

Gwynedd UK



- Refine the approach of collecting information
- Focus on more qualitative analysis (peripherality, education levels, migration, change in GDP of Country)
- Review past and current programmes and projects
- Identifying relevant case studies
- Focus on identifying factors of success



Final Step

- Produce documentation of all the findings
- Develop instruments that will be used to inform policy at European and member state level
- Dissemination of innovative programmes that will assist future rural development practice