

THE DIVERSITY OF NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS IN EUROPE:

A CHALLENGE FOR THE RURAL ANIMATOR

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Abstract

Rural areas make up more than 75% of the territory of the European Union, and they include very different "realities", from peri-urban, under-pressure rural districts to mountainous, lagging behind and remote rural areas. The rural animator needs to be aware of this diversity that can challenge his/her work and the overall rural development process. This talk will present a new typology of non-urban regions in Europe, incorporating an analysis of the main development indicators per type of non-urban area. The main challenges for the rural animator in relation to the extreme diversity of non-urban territories in Europe will be presented.

1. The diversity of rural areas in Europe: getting the picture

Between 2008 and 2011 the author participated in the ESPON project "European Development Opportunities for Rural Areas" (EDORA). The project belongs to the first strand of the ESPON 2013 program: "Applied research on territorial development, competitiveness and cohesion: Evidence on European territorial trends, perspectives and policy impacts". As such it is intended to "create information and evidence on territorial challenges and opportunities for success for the development of regions."

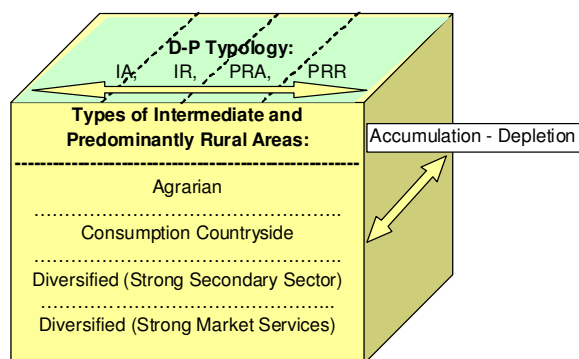
One of the central tasks of the EDORA project was the creation a set of typologies for understanding the state and dynamics of non-metropolitan regions in Europe (in the so called ESPON space). The work has been directed and performed mostly by Prof. Dr. Andrew Copus, senior fellowship in Nordregio, with the author of this paper contributing to the process. A better understanding of non-metropolitan reality of Europe should greatly contribute to a development policy more attuned to the real needs and demands of citizens and, therefore, more effective, efficient and relevant. Below we roughly present the characteristics of EDORA typologies as a starting point for understanding the subsequent comparative analysis between different geographical areas and different types of non-metropolitan regions.

Since this is specified as a typology of "rural areas", most of the analysis excludes those regions defined as "Predominantly Urban". It thus focuses on the "non-urban" regions of Europe, (including both Intermediate and Predominantly Rural regions – see below) rather than "rural areas" per se. This choice follows partly from the specification of NUTS 3 regions as the units of analysis. Furthermore (from a more theoretical perspective) it also reflects the fact that rural areas cannot, in any case, be separated from adjacent settlements, with which their economy is closely connected by a complex web of daily interactions.

Analyses carried out have produced the so called EDORA Cube (Copus 2010), a set of three typologies that, together, provide an interesting breakdown of the non-metropolitan regions, and an analysis of their current state and socioeconomic dynamics. These are the rural-urban typology of Dijkstra-Poelman, the EDORA Structural typology and the EDORA Performance Typology. The Dijkstra-Poelman typology of rural-urban regions (European Commission 2008) distinguishes five categories in relation to accessibility and rurality: Predominantly Urban, Intermediate Accessible, Intermediate Remote, Predominantly Rural Accessible and Predominantly Rural Remote. On the other hand, the EDORA Structural typology seeks to capture the most important differences in economic structure between the Intermediate and Predominantly Rural regions of the ESPON space. This typology considers four

categories in relation to the socioeconomic structure: agrarian economies, consumption countryside, diversified (with important Secondary Sector), diversified (with important Market Services Sector). Finally, the EDORA Performance typology, the last “cube” face, is calculated from a regional composite performance indicator from 5 rates (net migration, per capita GDP, average annual change in GDP, average annual change in total employment, and unemployment rate). The composite indicator is calculated as the average of the normalised (Z) scores for the five indicators. The four categories have been defined by the average standardised score from *Accumulation regions* (<-0.5 standard deviation below average) to *Depleting regions* (<-0.5 more than half a standard deviation below the “non-urban” average).

Figure 1. The EDORA Cube – a 3 dimensional framework for analysis



Note: IA = Intermediate Accessible,
PRA = Predominantly Rural Accessible
Source: Copus and Noguera, 2010

IR = Intermediate Remote
PRR = Predominantly Rural Remote

2. Analysis of the diversity of rural regions based upon the EDORA typology

This section presents rural Europe in its internal diversity. In order to achieve this goal, three typologies (and their specific division of rural Europe) are D-P, Structural and Performance typologies (the components of the EDORA Cube) and four main variables: number of regions, total area, population and GDP. The analysis compares the three EDORA typologies for the EU27 countries as a whole. D-P, Structural and Performance typologies are considered as well as the four variables mentioned. In each case, “residuals” are calculated between types and variables.

Distribution of NUTs 3 regions according to the “EDORA cube” typologies

Table 1 analyses the distribution of NUTS3 regions of the EU27 according to categories of the Dijkstra-Poelman typology (hereafter D-P). DP Typology classifies regions according to their accessibility and rurality. Accessibility is measured in % of population which access to a market town under a particular time threshold. Rurality is linked to more extensive (as opposite to intensive) land use and, therefore, the variable is % of population living in rural LAU; that is, those below 150 inhab./km². Special attention is given to the categories “Intermediate” and “Predominantly” rural, while reducing attention to category “Predominantly Urban (PU) due to the research focus of EDORA on rural areas. Only few countries have significant percentages of their NUT3 regions in PU categories. These are smaller countries in which the urban component is dominant either due to its administrative function (Netherlands or Belgium) or touristic (Malta). Relatively large countries also have a significant percentage of urban regions. It is the case of the UK (61.6%) due to the existence of a dense and balanced urban fabric, and Germany (44%) which combines a dense urban fabric with a NUT3 size that allows a more effective identification of urban regions. Most remaining countries are located in values ranging from 31% in Italy to 0% in countries like Cyprus and Slovenia.

Higher percentages of accessible regions (70-80%), according to the definition of D-P, match smaller countries, mainly located in central Europe (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia). Also larger countries have high percentages of accessible regions, either because possess a dense urban fabric (France) or due to their favourable geomorphologic conditions (Poland). Countries with higher percentages of remote regions (about 40) are clearly within the geographical periphery of the EU and, in some cases, have large territories (Sweden, Finland, Greece, Portugal).

On the other hand, rurality is concentrated in countries that combine a larger area and a peripheral geographical position. Thus, we observe rates of over 70% of predominantly rural regions in Finland, Sweden, Ireland and Greece. Furthermore, Austria is over 70% due to the dominance of mountainous areas.

Table 1. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. Number of regions (in % of MS total)

Regions		D-P Typology			% of MS Total	
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	PRR
Austria	AT	5,71	22,86	0,00	48,57	22,86
Belgium	BE	61,36	22,73	0,00	15,91	0,00
Bulgaria	BG	3,57	50,00	7,14	14,29	25,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	7,14	85,71	0,00	7,14	0,00
Germany	DE	44,06	35,43	0,00	20,05	0,47
Denmark	DK	27,27	27,27	0,00	18,18	27,27
Estonia	EE	20,00	40,00	20,00	0,00	20,00
Spain	ES	20,34	37,29	5,08	15,25	22,03
Finland	FI	5,00	5,00	5,00	45,00	40,00
France	FR	13,00	50,00	0,00	24,00	13,00
Greece	GR	1,96	17,65	7,84	9,80	62,75
Hungary	HU	5,00	40,00	0,00	25,00	30,00
Ireland	IE	12,50	0,00	0,00	50,00	37,50
Italy	IT	31,78	42,06	4,67	11,21	10,28
Lithuania	LT	10,00	40,00	10,00	20,00	20,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	16,67	16,67	16,67	33,33	16,67
Malta	MT	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	67,50	30,00	0,00	2,50	0,00
Poland	PL	18,18	27,27	3,03	50,00	1,52
Portugal	PT	23,33	26,67	0,00	10,00	40,00
Romania	RO	2,38	42,86	0,00	35,71	19,05
Sweden	SE	4,76	9,52	0,00	42,86	42,86
Slovenia	SI	0,00	25,00	8,33	58,33	8,33
Slovakia	SK	12,50	62,50	0,00	25,00	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	61,65	28,57	1,50	3,76	4,51

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40% -

Yellow: 40-60%

Red: > 60%

Table 2 shows the percentage of NUT3 regions of the EU27 which is located in each of the categories of the EDORA Structural Typology. The structural typology classifies regions according to their economic settings. According to this typology, regions can have an economic base focused on primary activities, or be focused on the "consumption countryside", or have diversified economies dominated by secondary

activities or by private services. The analyses carried out on the EDORA typology and those made elsewhere in this report show that regions with an agricultural economy and to a lesser extent, those focused on "consumption countryside" concentrate the main problems associated with rural decline. By contrast, rural regions with diversified economies have better economic and demographic indicators.

Rural regions whose economies are primarily agriculture-based match peripheral areas that have kept less modernised agricultural structures and means of production. Moreover, social modernization has only been carried out partially and, therefore, there are still few opportunities for economic diversification in rural areas. Therefore, most countries with the highest percentages of rural areas under the category "Agriculture" (more than 50%) are located in the NMS. We need to keep in mind, in any case that these agriculture-based rural regions includes a variety of types ranging from some areas of subsistence farming in Romania or Bulgaria to industrialised agricultural production complexes in Poland or other countries.

The regions defined as "consumption countryside" are characterised by areas dominated by one or more services together, typically geared to the urban population (access to environmental assets, tourism capacity, and farm diversification). Consequently, there is not only one type of rural areas but many rural profiles that have in common the orientation to urban consumption, usually in forms of tourism. Most countries show significant percentages of their regions in this category. Due to the diversity of sub-categories implicit in the Consumption Countryside we can not speak of uniformity; each region under this category may have a different economic settings with the common denominator of their orientation to urban consumption. Only two conditions seem to be implicit in this type of regions: on the one hand, a relative low importance of agriculture as economic activity and employment provider; on the other hand, a mature urban demand that makes possible consumption of rural goods beyond a critical threshold.

Within these diversified rural economies the EDORA Structural typology differentiates two situations: on the one hand, areas where secondary activity (industry and construction) is the most relevant; on the other hand, areas where private services constitute the main economic activity.

Diversified rural economies with strong secondary sectors may refer to the implementation of diffuse processes of industrialisation in intermediate rural areas (ie. Marshallian districts in Spain or Portugal). It may, on the other hand, be the remnants of industrial specialization associated with the communist era (Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland) to be reinforced in recent years because of relocation of large industrial plants from other less competitive locations in terms of costs. For these areas, industrial know-how accumulated during the twentieth century and the lower costs of land and labour, along with the EU "umbrella" are the main potentials. However, the maintenance of an industrial activity of this sort does not guarantee an easy path to long term, sustainable development unless work is undertaken in a proper embedding of the industrial fabric, usually exogenous, in the local development strategy. It can also mean the case of rural regions where agriculture is not a relevant activity due to land or climate constraints and they have managed to develop or attract industrial activity.

Rural areas with diversified economies that have a powerful private services sector are present in few regional environments. It is the case for non-urban tourist regions in which much of the economy hinges on the services sector without a very specific thematic orientation as with the "consumption countryside". It should also be included here a set of regions of France, Denmark and the Netherlands. Territorial diversity of these countries, the presence of consolidated urban markets, or counter-urbanisation processes that have brought urban population to rural areas may be explanatory factors

Table 2. Structural Typology. Number of regions (in % of MS total)

	Structural Typology	% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	8,57	60,00	17,14	8,57
Belgium	BE	2,27	18,18	4,55	13,64
Bulgaria	BG	78,57	17,86	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	28,57	57,14	7,14
Germany	DE	0,00	41,96	6,06	7,93
Denmark	DK	0,00	45,45	9,09	18,18
Estonia	EE	20,00	60,00	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	22,03	40,68	11,86	5,08
Finland	FI	0,00	95,00	0,00	0,00
France	FR	8,00	23,00	1,00	55,00
Greece	GR	80,39	17,65	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	50,00	20,00	20,00	5,00
Ireland	IE	0,00	75,00	12,50	0,00
Italy	IT	12,15	40,19	1,87	14,02
Lithuania	LT	50,00	20,00	10,00	10,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	66,67	16,67	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	2,50	10,00	20,00
Poland	PL	53,03	7,58	13,64	7,58
Portugal	PT	33,33	40,00	0,00	3,33
Romania	RO	88,10	2,38	4,76	2,38
Sweden	SE	0,00	90,48	0,00	4,76
Slovenia	SI	16,67	83,33	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	62,50	25,00	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	26,32	3,01	9,02

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%

Yellow: 40-60%

Red: > 60%

Table 3 shows the percentage of rural regions of the EU27 countries for each category of the EDORA Performance Typology. The EDORA Performance Typology is calculated from a regional composite performance indicator from 5 indicators (net migration, per capita GDP, average annual change in GDP, average annual change in total employment, and unemployment rate). The composite indicator is calculated as the average of the normalised (Z) scores for the five indicators.

More or less pronounced, NMS concentrate higher percentages of depleting regions. Thus, Romania and Bulgaria are the countries with the highest percentages (over 70%) but closely followed by Latvia (66%), Poland (59%) and Lithuania (50%). These low regional yields are associated with a set of elements that, in this case, refer to population dynamics, wealth and its evolution, and the strength and dynamism of the labor market. The percentage of depleting regions in the EU15 is very low. It is worthy highlighting 14% in Germany, related to the adjustment problems of Eastern Landers, and 12% of Greece for the problems of isolation and rurality of some areas.

The set of rural regions "below average" includes areas facing some weakness in the indicators used (emigration, wealth and employment) that gives them a lower performance than the European average. These are regions that are in a position of weakness, however, is not as pronounced as in the case of

depleting regions. At this level are placed high percentages of some of the NMS rural regions (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania) and somewhat lower percentages of other NMS whose highest percentages are located in the "Depleting" areas. Besides these cases, unlike the previous category, a number of EU15 countries also have percentages of rural regions in this category that are around 20-30% (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France) and raises above 40% in Portugal and Sweden. When we accumulate the percentages of the regions below the mean ("depleting" and "below average") we get a truer picture of the situation that reinforces the above arguments. Ten of twelve NMS get percentages above 60% of their rural regions in these categories. The percentages go to more than 80% in Romania, Bulgaria and Lithuania.

Table 3. Performance Typology. Number of regions (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	25,71	34,29	34,29
Belgium	BE	2,27	22,73	11,36	2,27
Bulgaria	BG	75,00	14,29	7,14	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	71,43	21,43	0,00
Germany	DE	15,15	14,45	21,45	4,90
Denmark	DK	0,00	9,09	45,45	18,18
Estonia	EE	0,00	60,00	0,00	20,00
Spain	ES	0,00	10,17	25,42	44,07
Finland	FI	5,00	25,00	50,00	15,00
France	FR	1,00	25,00	42,00	19,00
Greece	GR	13,73	39,22	35,29	9,80
Hungary	HU	15,00	55,00	20,00	5,00
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	87,50
Italy	IT	3,74	23,36	21,50	19,63
Lithuania	LT	50,00	40,00	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Latvia	LV	50,00	16,67	16,67	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	5,00	20,00	7,50
Poland	PL	56,06	21,21	4,55	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	40,00	30,00	6,67
Romania	RO	69,05	26,19	0,00	2,38
Sweden	SE	0,00	33,33	61,90	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	41,67	50,00	8,33
Slovakia	SK	37,50	37,50	12,50	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	6,77	12,78	18,80

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%
Yellow: 40-60%
Red: > 60%

As for areas that are placed above the average, most do in the "above average" category and only a relatively small percentage in the category "Accumulating". In any case, it is noteworthy that most of these regions are concentrated in countries with higher GDP per capita (ie. the EU 15). Furthermore, the highest percentages of rural regions in the category "Accumulating" are located in small countries (Cyprus and Luxembourg) and in countries that, at that point in time, were under the influence of an explosive development of the building and associated sectors (Ireland and Spain).

Total area distribution of NUTs 3 regions according to the “EDORA cube” typologies

This section presents the distribution of the total area of NUT3 in the three EDORA typologies: D-P, Structural and Performance. This is done in two ways: first, as the total percentage of each category in each typology; second, as the differential between the percentage of regions in each category and the percentage of total area representing these regions. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state. Tables 4, 6 and 8 present the percentage of total area of NUT3 regions for the EU27 for each EDORA typology. Tables 5, 7 and 9 show differentials between the percentage of NUT3 regions in each category and the percentage of total area representing these regions.

Table 4 analyses the total area of NUTS3 regions of the EU27 according to categories of the Dijkstra-Poelman typology. Most of the territory is located in urban or intermediate areas (IA-IR) in small countries (Cyprus), where the geomorphological conditions do not impose significant restrictions on accessibility (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia) or where infrastructure networks are dense and well development (Italy, Germany, France, Spain). Some of these countries combine several of these factors (Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg). Rurality in terms of territory is most pronounced in the entire area of Ireland (99%), Finland (93%), Poland (91%) and Sweden (90%). It also shows percentages above 70% in Austria, Denmark, Greece, Portugal and Slovenia.

Table 4. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. Total area (in % of MS total)

		% of MS Total				
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	PRR
Austria	AT	1,36	20,20	0,00	47,65	30,79
Belgium	BE	54,86	20,64	0,00	24,50	0,00
Bulgaria	BG	1,22	53,36	8,86	13,02	23,54
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,63	90,75	0,00	8,62	0,00
Germany	DE	19,48	44,55	0,00	35,42	0,55
Denmark	DK	4,58	23,67	0,00	38,64	33,11
Estonia	EE	7,70	46,07	25,48	0,00	20,75
Spain	ES	14,06	37,35	2,79	21,01	24,78
Finland	FI	2,00	3,22	1,65	36,36	56,76
France	FR	4,44	47,23	0,00	36,05	12,28
Greece	GR	2,89	21,44	1,75	11,39	62,54
Hungary	HU	0,56	41,47	0,00	28,71	29,25
Ireland	IE	1,32	0,00	0,00	58,05	40,63
Italy	IT	25,40	43,94	3,92	16,15	10,59
Lithuania	LT	14,90	45,51	6,66	15,14	17,78
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	0,47	22,54	21,06	32,32	23,62
Malta	MT	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	56,12	41,07	0,00	2,81	0,00
Poland	PL	3,10	4,83	0,00	86,71	5,35
Portugal	PT	8,58	21,70	0,00	9,99	59,73
Romania	RO	0,10	44,62	0,00	34,32	20,96
Sweden	SE	1,54	8,33	0,00	31,14	59,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	24,45	5,15	65,27	5,13
Slovakia	SK	4,19	63,59	0,00	32,22	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	22,96	49,76	1,56	11,12	14,61

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: Green: 20-40% ; Yellow: 40-60% ; Red: > 60%

Differentials between number of regions and total area are shown in Figure 5. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state.

Figure 5 shows that the largest positive differential (ie, a percentage of regions greater than the percentage of geographic area) relate mainly to urban and, to a lesser extent, intermediate regions. Thus, urban regions of the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark show differentials over 20% while urban regions of Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Estonia and Ireland, are above the threshold of 10%. By contrast, rural areas are those that accumulate wider negative differentials, mainly due to their larger size. It is the case in Poland, Denmark, Portugal, Finland and Sweden. The countries where differentials are lower and thus where there is a greater balance in the size of the regions are Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovenia.

Table 5. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. % Number of Regions - %Total area (in % of MS total)

		D-P Typology				% of MS Total
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	PRR
Austria	AT	4,35	2,66	0,00	0,92	-7,93
Belgium	BE	6,50	2,09	0,00	-8,59	0,00
Bulgaria	BG	2,36	-3,36	-1,72	1,26	1,46
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	6,51	-5,04	0,00	-1,47	0,00
Germany	DE	24,57	-9,12	0,00	-15,37	-0,08
Denmark	DK	22,70	3,60	0,00	-20,46	-5,84
Estonia	EE	12,30	-6,07	-5,48	0,00	-0,75
Spain	ES	6,28	-0,06	2,29	-5,76	-2,75
Finland	FI	3,00	1,78	3,35	8,64	-16,76
France	FR	8,56	2,77	0,00	-12,05	0,72
Greece	GR	-0,93	-3,79	6,09	-1,58	0,20
Hungary	HU	4,44	-1,47	0,00	-3,71	0,75
Ireland	IE	11,18	0,00	0,00	-8,05	-3,13
Italy	IT	6,38	-1,88	0,75	-4,93	-0,31
Lithuania	LT	-4,90	-5,51	3,34	4,86	2,22
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	16,20	-5,87	-4,39	1,01	-6,95
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	11,38	-11,07	0,00	-0,31	0,00
Poland	PL	15,08	22,44	3,03	-36,71	-3,84
Portugal	PT	14,75	4,96	0,00	0,01	-19,73
Romania	RO	2,28	-1,77	0,00	1,39	-1,91
Sweden	SE	3,22	1,20	0,00	11,72	-16,14
Slovenia	SI	0,00	0,55	3,18	-6,94	3,20
Slovakia	SK	8,31	-1,09	0,00	-7,22	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	38,70	-21,19	-0,05	-7,36	-10,10

Source: EDORA Typology,

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%
Light blue: 10 to 20%
Yellow: -10 to -20%
Orange: < -20%

Figure 6 shows the total area of NUT3 regions of the EU27 which is located in each of the categories of the EDORA Structural Typology. Rural areas whose economy is centred on agriculture account for most of the countries in which rurality is high or those holding weaker economies. This is the case of Romania (89%), Latvia (84%), Greece (82%), Bulgaria (79%), Poland (79%). Also relevant percentages are present in Hungary (58%), Portugal (56%) and Lithuania (47%)

The areas of 'consumption countryside' are dominant in most countries. Within diversified rural economies the EDORA Structural typology differentiates two situations: on the one hand, areas where secondary activity (industry and construction) is the most relevant; on the other hand, areas where private services constitute the main economic activity.

Diversified rural economies with strong secondary sectors are only relevant in Czech Republic (70%), and Slovakia (21%). On the other hand, rural areas with diversified economies that have a powerful private services sector are present in few regional environments. It is the case for non-urban tourist regions in which much of the economy hinges on the services sector without a very specific thematic orientation as with the "consumption countryside". It should also be included here a set of regions of France (68%) and the Netherlands (35%). Territorial diversity of these countries, the presence of consolidated urban markets, or counter-urbanisation processes that have brought urban population to rural areas may be explanatory factors.

Table 6. Structural Typology. Total area (in % of MS total)

	Structural Typology	% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	11,55	62,41	19,38	5,30
Belgium	BE	1,19	23,46	3,96	16,53
Bulgaria	BG	79,74	19,04	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	20,00	70,24	9,12
Germany	DE	0,00	56,89	10,45	13,18
Denmark	DK	0,00	61,80	16,75	16,88
Estonia	EE	20,75	71,55	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	34,65	30,72	13,86	6,71
Finland	FI	0,00	98,00	0,00	0,00
France	FR	7,20	19,56	0,83	67,97
Greece	GR	82,57	14,54	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	58,07	17,79	16,70	6,87
Ireland	IE	0,00	81,19	17,49	0,00
Italy	IT	12,01	47,24	1,36	13,98
Lithuania	LT	47,04	19,00	6,66	12,39
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	83,84	15,69	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	4,95	9,27	29,65
Poland	PL	79,54	14,63	2,73	0,00
Portugal	PT	56,03	32,98	0,00	2,41
Romania	RO	92,04	2,97	4,23	0,66
Sweden	SE	0,00	95,89	0,00	2,58
Slovenia	SI	13,78	86,22	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	74,42	21,39	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	57,39	2,73	16,93

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: Green: 20-40%

Yellow: 40-60%

Red: > 60%

Differentials between number of regions and total area for the Structural Typology are shown in Figure 8.6. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state in relation to each type.

The vast majority of relevant differentials (>10%) occur in the negative side (ie. usually rural regions accumulate more land per unit of measure and this is the reason why most negative differentials are in the agriculture and consumption countryside regions). The biggest differentials are:

In the case of rural regions with dominant agricultural economy greatest differentials are in Poland (-27%), Portugal (-23%), Latvia (-17%) and Spain (-13%). In rural regions dominated by "consumption countryside" greatest differential occur in United Kingdom (-31%), Denmark (-16%), Germany (-15%), Slovakia (-12%) and Estonia (-12%). Rural regions with diversified economies and dominant secondary sector show differentials in the positive and negative sides. The former refers to Poland (11%) while the latter refers to Czech Republic (-13%). Rural regions with diversified economies and dominant "private services" sector show significant negative differentials in France (-13%).

Table 7. Structural Typology. % Number of Regions - %Total area (in % of MS total)

		% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	-2,98	-2,41	-2,24	3,27
Belgium	BE	1,09	-5,28	0,58	-2,90
Bulgaria	BG	-1,17	-1,18	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	8,57	-13,10	-1,98
Germany	DE	0,00	-14,93	-4,39	-5,26
Denmark	DK	0,00	-16,35	-7,66	1,31
Estonia	EE	-0,75	-11,55	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	-12,62	9,96	-1,99	-1,62
Finland	FI	0,00	-3,00	0,00	0,00
France	FR	0,80	3,44	0,17	-12,97
Greece	GR	-2,18	3,11	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	-8,07	2,21	3,30	-1,87
Ireland	IE	0,00	-6,19	-4,99	0,00
Italy	IT	0,14	-7,06	0,51	0,04
Lithuania	LT	2,96	1,00	3,34	-2,39
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	-17,17	0,97	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	-2,45	0,73	-9,65
Poland	PL	-26,51	-7,06	10,91	7,58
Portugal	PT	-22,69	7,02	0,00	0,92
Romania	RO	-3,95	-0,59	0,53	1,72
Sweden	SE	0,00	-5,41	0,00	2,19
Slovenia	SI	2,89	-2,89	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	-11,92	3,61	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	-31,07	0,28	-7,90

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%
Light blue: 10 to 20%
Yellow: -10 to -20%
Orange: < -20€

Table 8 shows the percentage of total area of the EU27 countries for each category of the EDORA Performance Typology. The total area under the "depleting" category involves more than 50% of the total in 5 of the new member states: Poland (63%), Latvia (63%), Bulgaria (66%), Romania (70%), Slovakia (51%). Close to these values is Lithuania (45%). It is relevant to point out that 1/4th of German

territory is classified under this category, matching the eastern Lander. These are the areas suffering more problems of emigration, unemployment and lower income level. Regions "below average" are relevant in a number of countries, especially the new member states. As in the analysis of the distribution of NUT3, "below the average" and "depleting" areas are located in the less modernised economies of Europe. By contrast, the "above average" and "accumulation" areas are mainly located in countries with stronger economies and higher income levels.

Table 8. Performance Typology. Total area (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	27,04	39,50	32,09
Belgium	BE	3,06	26,96	14,22	0,90
Bulgaria	BG	66,62	22,36	9,80	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	63,07	36,31	0,00
Germany	DE	24,01	20,18	29,62	6,71
Denmark	DK	0,00	1,37	78,48	15,58
Estonia	EE	0,00	82,39	0,00	9,92
Spain	ES	0,00	18,00	30,41	37,53
Finland	FI	7,23	49,33	35,87	5,58
France	FR	0,27	35,61	40,55	19,12
Greece	GR	11,04	42,30	33,25	10,52
Hungary	HU	16,58	60,27	15,71	6,87
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	98,68
Italy	IT	2,74	28,94	17,78	25,14
Lithuania	LT	44,99	40,10	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Latvia	LV	62,78	21,06	15,69	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	3,06	28,14	12,68
Poland	PL	63,26	33,64	0,00	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	50,31	33,79	7,32
Romania	RO	70,00	29,23	0,00	0,66
Sweden	SE	0,00	53,74	44,72	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	29,16	58,24	12,60
Slovakia	SK	51,35	35,28	9,18	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	10,17	33,47	33,41

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%

Yellow: 40-60%

Red: > 60%

Differentials between number of regions and total area for the Performance Typology are shown in Figure 9. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state. Differentials resulting from the comparison between number of regions and total area, in the case of the Performance Typology are, as in the case of the Structural Typology, mostly negative. Again, the cause is the exclusion from the analysis of Urban regions and the empirical evidence that Rural regions are more extensive.

Important differentials are not recorded in the case of “depleting” regions. Just highlight the cases of Latvia (-17%) and Slovakia (-14%).

Differentials in "below average" regions are more significant. Here stand Finland (-24%), Estonia (-22%) Sweden (-20%) and France (-10%). On the positive side, Slovenia shows a differential of 12%.

In the case of regions "above average" differentials are shown both in positive and negative. In the first case includes Sweden (17%) and Finland (14%). In the case of negative differentials includes Denmark (-25%), United Kingdom (-20%) and the Czech Republic (-15%).

As in case of "depleting regions", the areas of differential accumulation are not elevated. Just highlights the UK (-15%) and Ireland (-11%) for negative differentials, whilst Estonia (10%) stands for its positive differential.

Table 9. Performance Typology. % Number of Regions - %Total area (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	-1,33	-5,22	2,19
Belgium	BE	-0,79	-4,23	-2,86	1,37
Bulgaria	BG	8,38	-8,08	-2,66	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	8,36	-14,88	0,00
Germany	DE	-8,86	-5,72	-8,17	-1,82
Denmark	DK	0,00	7,73	-33,02	2,60
Estonia	EE	0,00	-22,39	0,00	10,08
Spain	ES	0,00	-7,83	-4,99	6,54
Finland	FI	-2,23	-24,33	14,13	9,42
France	FR	0,73	-10,61	1,45	-0,12
Greece	GR	2,68	-3,09	2,05	-0,72
Hungary	HU	-1,58	-5,27	4,29	-1,87
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	-11,18
Italy	IT	1,00	-5,57	3,71	-5,51
Lithuania	LT	5,01	-0,10	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	-12,78	-4,39	0,97	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	1,94	-8,14	-5,18
Poland	PL	-7,20	-12,43	4,55	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	-10,31	-3,79	-0,65
Romania	RO	-0,95	-3,04	0,00	1,72
Sweden	SE	0,00	-20,41	17,19	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	12,51	-8,24	-4,27
Slovakia	SK	-13,85	2,22	3,32	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	-3,40	-20,68	-14,62

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%; **Light blue:** 10 to 20%; **Yellow:** -10 to -20%; **Orange:** < -20€

Population distribution of NUTs 3 regions according to the “EDORA cube” typologies

This section presents the distribution of the population of NUT3 in the three EDORA typologies: D-P, Structural and Performance. This is done in two ways: first, as the total percentage of each category in each typology; second, as the differential between the percentage of total area in each category and the percentage of the population representing these regions. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the total area and the population match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant concentration of the population in one or more typology categories.

Tables 10, 12 and 14 present the percentage of population of NUT3 regions for the EU27 for each EDORA typology. Tables 11, 13 and 15 show differentials between the percentage of total area in each category and the percentage of the population representing these regions.

Table 10 analyses the population of NUTS3 regions of the EU27 according to categories of the Dijkstra-Poelman. The analysis of population distribution among the categories of the D-P typology allows isolating the percentage of each country's population that resides in PU regions. Predominantly urban regions account for a significant portion of the population of small countries without complicated terrain like Malta (100%), Belgium (85%) and the Netherlands (83%). Stands also the case of the United Kingdom (70%) associated with the existence of a dense urban system which connects the country, aided by a “friendly” physical environment without major accidents. At a second level there are some of the largest countries (territorial and demographically), in which PU regions also accounts for a significant percentage of the population thanks to the existence of dense and well organised urban systems. This is the case for Germany (58%), Italy (54%) and Spain (48%). Surprisingly, however, the low percentage of population in urban areas of France (30%) as a result of the network of intermediate cities only headed by Paris and a handful of metropolitan area (Lyon, Marseille, Lille, Toulouse and Bordeaux).

Accessibility is one of the main parameters to measure population settlement. If we add up the population living in accessible areas (IA-PRA), without the PU population, results indicate that there is a clear concentration of population in accessible areas to the detriment of remote areas. If we, then, add to this figure the population of PU regions, almost all countries show over 80% of the population in the resulting sum. Consequently, few countries maintain significant portions of the population in remote areas: Greece (32%), Ireland (28%), Denmark (26%), Latvia (24%) and Finland (22%). The reasons are diverse but are related to their geography: the complicated terrain of Greece, the strong peripherality of northern Scandinavia (Finland) or Ireland's urban macrocephaly.

The above analysis does not imply that predominantly rural regions have been emptied demographically. The relationship between rurality and population operates under different parameters than those explaining accessibility. In the case of D-P categories, the population in predominantly rural regions (PRA-PRR) is still significant in a number of countries. More than half of the population live in predominantly rural regions in 6 countries of the EU27: Ireland (72%), Estonia (65%), Finland (62%), Slovenia (57%), Sweden (51%) and Denmark (50%). It is evident that those are not economically weaker countries but territories with geographic peculiarities that have a significant percentage of its land in categories of rurality which implies a high percentage of rural population.

Table 10. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. Population (in % of MS total)

	D-P Typology	% of MS Total				
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	PRR
Austria	AT	23,42	30,87	0,00	35,19	10,52
Belgium	BE	84,71	11,06	0,00	4,22	0,00
Bulgaria	BG	16,18	52,37	6,88	9,23	15,35
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	11,61	83,43	0,00	4,96	0,00
Germany	DE	57,77	29,27	0,00	12,77	0,20
Denmark	DK	29,26	20,83	0,00	23,60	26,31
Estonia	EE	12,76	64,75	12,02	0,00	10,47
Spain	ES	48,50	35,81	2,23	7,37	6,08
Finland	FI	26,12	8,67	3,48	42,43	19,31
France	FR	29,56	53,66	0,00	12,97	3,81
Greece	GR	36,16	25,31	2,16	6,77	29,61
Hungary	HU	16,90	42,02	0,00	21,89	19,19
Ireland	IE	27,96	0,00	0,00	44,09	27,95
Italy	IT	54,14	34,02	2,61	6,31	2,92
Lithuania	LT	25,12	50,13	5,15	10,66	8,94
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	31,63	15,44	13,39	29,04	10,50
Malta	MT	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	82,85	15,88	0,00	1,26	0,00
Poland	PL	21,56	29,78	2,34	45,49	0,81
Portugal	PT	52,31	26,76	0,00	5,83	15,10
Romania	RO	9,01	50,29	0,00	27,49	13,20
Sweden	SE	21,14	29,89	0,00	29,35	19,61
Slovenia	SI	0,00	37,27	5,30	53,78	3,65
Slovakia	SK	11,28	63,48	0,00	25,24	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	69,56	27,24	1,17	1,48	0,54

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%
Yellow: 40-60%
Red: > 60%

Finally, it is worth noting the behaviour of the variable "population" when combined low accessibility and high rurality. This applies to the category "predominantly rural remote" (PRR). In this case it is clear that both variables (accessibility and rurality) and operating effectively to reduce the intensity of human occupation. In 15 of the 27 EU countries PRR regions do not reach 10% of the population in their respective states. Comparatively, only 10 countries of the 27 member states have less than 10% of its territory in this category. Interestingly, remote rural residence is not located primarily in the NMS but in countries with specific geographical constraints that limit the accessibility to parts of their territories, mainly by island or by geography.

Differentials between % of total area of regions and % of population are shown in Figure 8.11. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state.

Differentials between total area and population show, first, that urban areas concentrate a lot more population than the geographical area they represent. This general trend is more pronounced in the UK

(-47%), Portugal (-44%), Germany (-38%), Spain (-34%), Greece (-33%) and Latvia (-31%). This means that the population is more concentrated in PU areas in relation to the surface they occupy. Interestingly, both countries recorded negative differentials in PU regions. This is Slovakia (-7%) and Estonia (-5%). These differentials mean that the territorial dimension of the predominantly urban regions is greater than its population size. This contradicts the own definition of urban as an area of higher density and human occupation.

Apart from the PU areas, only the Intermediate regions close to cities (IA) show a tendency to negative differentials, although much less pronounced than in the previous case. These are regions whose accessibility and relatively low rurality allow for dense urban networks and major population settlements. There are several countries that show negative differential in IA regions confirming this hypothesis, Poland (-25%), Sweden (-22%), Estonia (-19%) and Slovenia (13%), among other. However, there are three countries where the trend is the opposite: less demographic than geographic weight in IA regions. This is Netherlands (25%), United Kingdom (23%) and Germany (15%).

The other three categories of the D-P typology (IR, ARP and RRP) show positive differential; ie. the geographic "weight" is greater than the demographic "weight". While differentials are scarce in IR regions, they are much more important in predominantly rural regions (both accessible and remote). Only Finland shows a negative differential (greater geographic than demographic weight) for the case of predominantly rural accessible regions.

Table 11. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. % Total Area - %Population (in % of MS total)

		D-P Typology					% of MS Total
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	PRR	
Austria	AT	-22,06	-10,67	0,00	12,46	20,27	
Belgium	BE	-29,85	9,58	0,00	20,27	0,00	
Bulgaria	BG	-14,96	1,00	1,99	3,79	8,19	
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Czech Republic	CZ	-10,98	7,33	0,00	3,66	0,00	
Germany	DE	-38,29	15,28	0,00	22,65	0,35	
Denmark	DK	-24,69	2,84	0,00	15,05	6,80	
Estonia	EE	-5,06	-18,68	13,46	0,00	10,28	
Spain	ES	-34,44	1,54	0,56	13,64	18,70	
Finland	FI	-24,12	-5,45	-1,82	-6,06	37,45	
France	FR	-25,11	-6,43	0,00	23,08	8,46	
Greece	GR	-33,27	-3,87	-0,41	4,62	32,93	
Hungary	HU	-16,33	-0,55	0,00	6,82	10,06	
Ireland	IE	-26,64	0,00	0,00	13,96	12,68	
Italy	IT	-28,74	9,92	1,31	9,84	7,68	
Lithuania	LT	-10,22	-4,62	1,51	4,48	8,85	
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Latvia	LV	-31,16	7,10	7,67	3,28	13,11	
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	
Netherlands	NL	-26,73	25,19	0,00	1,54	0,00	
Poland	PL	-18,46	-24,95	-2,34	41,22	4,54	
Portugal	PT	-43,73	-5,06	0,00	4,16	44,63	
Romania	RO	-8,91	-5,67	0,00	6,84	7,75	
Sweden	SE	-19,60	-21,57	0,00	1,78	39,38	
Slovenia	SI	0,00	-12,82	-0,15	11,49	1,48	
Slovakia	SK	-7,09	0,11	0,00	6,98	0,00	
United Kingdom	UK	-46,61	22,52	0,39	9,63	14,06	

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%; **Light blue:** 10 to 20%; **Yellow:** -10 to -20%; **Orange:** < -20%

Figure 12 shows the total population of NUT3 regions of the EU27 which is located in each of the categories of the EDORA Structural Typology. Regions dominated by an agrarian economy (category "Agriculture") host more than 50% of the population only in the case of 3 countries: Romania (78%), Bulgaria (64%) and Latvia (52%). Not far from these percentages are four other countries: Poland (49%), Greece (44%), Hungary (40%) and Lithuania (33%). Three other countries exceed 10%: Portugal (13%), Estonia (10.5%) and Spain (10.3%). Based on these data, we can argue that the population stays in rural areas dominated by an agrarian economy in the case of societies where agriculture is not yet completely modernised, either because of the general state of the economy, or because the geographical constraints that limit accessibility and difficult or make it impossible to implement this process of modernisation.

Table 12. Structural Typology. Population (in % of MS total)

	Structural Typology	% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	6,61	39,10	21,20	9,67
Belgium	BE	0,46	4,71	1,98	8,14
Bulgaria	BG	64,14	19,68	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	20,86	56,53	11,00
Germany	DE	0,00	29,43	6,37	6,43
Denmark	DK	0,00	40,96	14,81	14,97
Estonia	EE	10,47	76,77	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	11,24	30,58	5,78	3,90
Finland	FI	0,00	73,88	0,00	0,00
France	FR	2,37	15,41	0,45	52,22
Greece	GR	44,71	19,13	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	40,92	15,95	14,45	11,79
Ireland	IE	0,00	57,39	14,65	0,00
Italy	IT	7,35	25,70	1,27	11,53
Lithuania	LT	33,34	16,38	5,15	20,01
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	51,82	16,55	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	1,67	4,27	11,21
Poland	PL	48,68	7,61	13,53	8,62
Portugal	PT	13,33	30,96	0,00	3,40
Romania	RO	79,72	3,33	6,57	1,37
Sweden	SE	0,00	65,83	0,00	13,03
Slovenia	SI	8,61	91,39	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	65,32	23,40	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	21,04	2,45	6,94

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: Green: 20-40%; Yellow: 40-60%; Red: > 60%

Population in 'consumption countryside' regions is relevant in virtually all countries to account for rural territories that benefit from demands of urban markets. The regions defined as "consumption countryside" are characterised by areas dominated by one or more services together. Most countries show significant percentages of their rural population in this category. Due to the diversity of sub-categories implicit in the Consumption Countryside we can not speak of uniformity.

Diversified rural economies with strong secondary sectors contain significant contingents of people in some countries. Higher percentages of population for this type of region are in: Czech Republic (57%), Slovakia (23%), and Austria (21%). Percentages in the remaining countries are much lower, mostly below

10%. Rural population in regions with diversified economies that have a powerful private services sector, is relevant only in few regional environments of France (52%) and Lithuania (20%). Differentials between % of total area of regions and % of population for the case of the Structural Typology are shown in Figure 13. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state. The vast majority of differentials shown between the percentage of total area and the percentage of population in each category of the Structural Typology are positive. This means that, in most cases, rural areas have less demographic than territorial weight. This results in many implications for territorial planning and management of public resources in systems where allocation of funding is done according to population size.

Depending on the distribution of rural areas in different categories, and the characteristics of rural settlement in each country, the differences are more or less relevant for each country and rural type. For example, in the case of agricultural areas, differentials are always positive (more territory than population) are more important in countries such as Portugal (43%), Greece (37%). Latvia (32%), Poland (31%), Hungary (17%) among others. In the case of Portugal and Greece it could be the case for remote rural areas (mountain environments) in which there has not been a sufficient degree of diversification of the agricultural economy. These are regions that have been losing population for decades. In the case of NMS regions these are the less modernised agricultural areas that, while not suffering so much the problems of inaccessibility, are the source of an important part of immigration to Western Europe.

Table 13. Structural Typology. % Total Area - %Population (in % of MS total)

	Structural Typology	% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	4,94	23,31	-1,81	-4,37
Belgium	BE	0,73	18,75	1,98	8,39
Bulgaria	BG	15,60	-0,64	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	-0,86	13,72	-1,87
Germany	DE	0,00	27,46	4,08	6,75
Denmark	DK	0,00	20,84	1,94	1,90
Estonia	EE	10,28	-5,22	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	23,41	0,14	8,08	2,81
Finland	FI	0,00	24,12	0,00	0,00
France	FR	4,83	4,15	0,38	15,76
Greece	GR	37,86	-4,59	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	17,15	1,85	2,26	-4,92
Ireland	IE	0,00	23,80	2,84	0,00
Italy	IT	4,66	21,54	0,09	2,45
Lithuania	LT	13,71	2,63	1,51	-7,62
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	32,02	-0,86	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	3,29	5,01	18,44
Poland	PL	30,86	7,03	-10,81	-8,62
Portugal	PT	42,70	2,02	0,00	-0,99
Romania	RO	12,33	-0,37	-2,34	-0,70
Sweden	SE	0,00	30,05	0,00	-10,45
Slovenia	SI	5,17	-5,17	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	9,10	-2,01	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	36,35	0,28	9,98

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%; **Light blue:** 10 to 20%; **Yellow:** -10 to -20%; **Orange:** < -20%

Differentials are wider in the case of the Consumption Countryside areas. Most of them are over 20% and do not correspond, in any case, to the same countries where differentials were important in the Agrarian type. Here are included countries like the United Kingdom (36%), Sweden (30%), Germany (27%), Finland (24%), Ireland (24%), Austria (23%), Italy (21%) and Denmark (21%). All countries with high per capita incomes where the urban demand for rural goods and services is more consolidated. The larger urban development and characteristics of the regional division are the factors explaining these differentials.

In the case of rural areas with diversified economic structures the balance between area and population is more equilibrated. The vast majority of countries show differential close to zero and, when higher differentials are present, there is some balance between positive and negative values corresponding to characteristics of the spatial structure of each country.

Table 14 shows the percentage of total population of the EU27 countries for each category of the EDORA Performance Typology. The total population under the "depleting" category involves more than 50% of the total in 5 of the new member states: Poland (63%), Latvia (63%), Bulgaria (66%), Romania (70%), Slovakia (51%). Close to these values is Lithuania (45%). It is relevant to point out that 1/4th of German rural population is classified under this category, matching the eastern Lander. These are the areas suffering more problems of emigration, unemployment and lower income level.

Table 14. Performance Typology. Population (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	11,52	26,33	38,73
Belgium	BE	1,39	7,99	5,35	0,56
Bulgaria	BG	51,58	22,90	9,34	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	65,38	23,01	0,00
Germany	DE	9,31	10,08	18,48	4,35
Denmark	DK	0,00	0,79	57,94	12,01
Estonia	EE	0,00	48,27	0,00	38,96
Spain	ES	0,00	8,31	16,89	26,29
Finland	FI	1,59	16,92	44,11	11,26
France	FR	0,69	19,38	32,35	18,03
Greece	GR	5,04	22,45	31,91	4,44
Hungary	HU	12,98	43,62	14,71	11,79
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	72,04
Italy	IT	1,52	18,18	11,17	14,99
Lithuania	LT	28,06	46,82	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Latvia	LV	38,43	13,39	16,55	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	1,24	10,09	5,82
Poland	PL	52,67	21,26	4,51	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	19,56	21,62	6,51
Romania	RO	60,57	29,04	0,00	1,37
Sweden	SE	0,00	18,01	60,85	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	28,29	46,62	25,09
Slovakia	SK	41,32	36,29	11,11	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	2,01	8,19	20,23

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%
Yellow: 40-60%
Red: > 60%

Population concentrated in regions "below average" are relevant in a number of countries, especially the New Member States. As in the analysis of the distribution of NUT3, "below the average" and "depleting" areas are located in the less modernised economies of Europe. By contrast, the "above average" and "accumulation" areas are mainly located in countries with stronger economies and higher income levels. The rural population distribution according to categories of the Performance Typology reinforces the arguments presented so far. The rural population is concentrated in categories below the European average ("depleting" and "below average") mainly in the NMS and the countries that formerly constituted the European periphery. Thus, the rural population in "depleting regions" is more than half of total in Romania (61%), Poland (53%), Bulgaria (52%), and also show relevant percentages in Slovakia (41%), Latvia (38%) and Lithuania (28%). The category "below average" is relevant in most of these same countries and in other NMS and Greece.

By contrast, the rural population is concentrated in regions above the European average ("above average" and "Accumulation") in countries with higher levels of economic development. Differentials between % of total area of regions and % of population for the case of the Performance Typology are shown in Figure 15. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a Member State.

Table 15. Performance Typology. % Total Area - %Population (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	15,52	13,18	-6,64
Belgium	BE	1,67	18,97	8,87	0,34
Bulgaria	BG	15,04	-0,54	0,46	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	-2,31	13,29	0,00
Germany	DE	14,70	10,09	11,14	2,36
Denmark	DK	0,00	0,58	20,54	3,57
Estonia	EE	0,00	34,11	0,00	-29,05
Spain	ES	0,00	9,69	13,52	11,23
Finland	FI	5,64	32,41	-8,24	-5,69
France	FR	-0,42	16,23	8,21	1,09
Greece	GR	6,00	19,85	1,34	6,08
Hungary	HU	3,60	16,66	1,00	-4,92
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	26,64
Italy	IT	1,23	10,76	6,61	10,15
Lithuania	LT	16,93	-6,72	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	24,35	7,67	-0,86	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	1,82	18,05	6,86
Poland	PL	10,59	12,39	-4,51	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	30,75	12,17	0,81
Romania	RO	9,43	0,19	0,00	-0,70
Sweden	SE	0,00	35,73	-16,13	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	0,87	11,62	-12,48
Slovakia	SK	10,04	-1,01	-1,93	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	8,16	25,27	13,18

Source: EDORA Typology,

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%; **Light blue:** 10 to 20%; **Yellow:** -10 to -20%; **Orange:** < -20%

The vast majority of differentials shown between the percentage of total area and the percentage of population in each category of the performance Typology are positive. This means that, in most cases, rural areas have less demographic than territorial weight. This results in many implications for territorial planning and management of public resources in systems where allocation of funding is done according to population size.

Depending on the distribution of rural areas in different categories, and the characteristics of rural settlement in each country, the differences are more or less relevant for each country and rural type. For example, in the case of depleting and "below average" areas, differentials are always positive (more territory than population) and more important in countries such as Latvia (24%) for Depleting regions, and Sweden (36%). Estonia (34%), Finland (32%) or Portugal (31%) for "below average" regions.

In the case of regions "above average" differentials are mainly positive (UK 25%, Denmark 21%, Netherlands 18%, etc.) but there is a high negative differential in Sweden (-16%) that reflects an overconcentration of population in "above average" rural areas in relation to their geographical size. Accumulation regions are quite equilibrated when comparing population and territory. Most countries show values close to zero. Main positive differentials are in Ireland (27%) and UK (13%), and negative differentials are in Estonia (-29%) and Slovenia (12%).

GDP distribution of NUTs 3 regions according to the "EDORA cube" typologies

This section presents the distribution of the GDP of NUT3 in the three EDORA typologies: D-P, Structural and Performance. This is done in two ways: first, as the total percentage of each category in each typology; second, as the differential between the percentage of total area in each category and the percentage of the population representing these regions. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the total area and the population match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant concentration of the population in one or more typology categories.

Tables 16, 18 and 20 present the percentage of population of NUT3 regions for the EU27 for each EDORA typology. Tables 17, 19 and 21 show differentials between the percentage of total area in each category and the percentage of the population representing these regions.

Table 16 analyses the GDP of NUTS3 regions of the EU27 according to categories of the Dijkstra-Poelman typology (hereafter D-P). The analysis of GDP distribution among the categories of the D-P typology allows isolating the percentage of each country's GDP located in PU regions. The most important finding is the concentration of GDP of the countries in PU and AI regions. In fact, the sum of the values of these two categories gives very high percentages of the GDP of most countries. These are, of course, the areas of greatest concentration of population and economic activity although it seems that the concentration is even greater in the case of GDP than it was in the case of population.

Differentials between % of total population of regions and % of GDP for the case of the D-P Typology are shown in Figure 17. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state.

Differentials between % of total population of regions and % of GDP show, first, that urban areas concentrate a lot more share of GDP than the % of population area they represent. This general trend is more pronounced in Latvia (-23 %), Hungary (-20%), Bulgaria (-17%), Poland (-16%).

The other four categories of the D-P typology (IA, IR, ARP and RRP) show very little differentials and most values close to zero; ie. the demographic "weight" very similar to the "economic" "weight".

Table 16. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. GDP (in % of MS total)

GDP		D-P Typology				% of MS
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	Total
Austria	AT	30,10	34,64	0,00	26,97	8,29
Belgium	BE	90,01	7,37	0,00	2,62	0,00
Bulgaria	BG	33,31	43,44	4,74	6,24	12,27
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	24,19	71,60	0,00	4,21	0,00
Germany	DE	67,00	23,16	0,00	9,70	0,15
Denmark	DK	37,34	24,12	0,00	22,21	16,32
Estonia	EE	7,23	78,16	8,21	0,00	6,40
Spain	ES	53,65	33,66	1,64	6,16	4,89
Finland	FI	35,43	8,38	3,55	37,08	15,56
France	FR	39,40	47,47	0,00	10,18	2,95
Greece	GR	49,42	21,07	1,66	5,35	22,51
Hungary	HU	37,29	34,86	0,00	15,44	12,41
Ireland	IE	40,80	0,00	0,00	39,91	19,29
Italy	IT	59,68	30,90	1,84	5,19	2,38
Lithuania	LT	38,38	44,64	4,24	6,84	5,90
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	55,12	7,51	10,32	20,44	6,61
Malta	MT	100,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	84,00	15,03	0,00	0,97	0,00
Poland	PL	37,95	25,48	1,48	34,62	0,47
Portugal	PT	60,40	22,88	0,00	4,67	12,04
Romania	RO	19,99	50,13	0,00	20,46	9,42
Sweden	SE	28,63	28,39	0,00	25,35	17,63
Slovenia	SI	0,00	45,95	5,39	45,84	2,82
Slovakia	SK	26,27	53,51	0,00	20,22	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	74,70	23,10	0,80	1,03	0,37

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green**: 20-40%

Yellow: 40-60%

Red: > 60%

Table 17. Dijkstra-Poelman Typology. % Population - %GDP (in % of MS total)

	D-P Typology	% of MS Total				
		PU	IA	IR	PRA	PRR
Austria	AT	-6,68	-3,77	0,00	8,22	2,23
Belgium	BE	-5,29	3,69	0,00	1,61	0,00
Bulgaria	BG	47,14	8,93	2,14	2,99	3,08
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	49,59	11,83	0,00	0,75	0,00
Germany	DE	-9,23	6,11	0,00	3,07	0,05
Denmark	DK	-8,08	-3,30	0,00	1,39	9,99
Estonia	EE	5,53	-13,41	3,81	0,00	4,07
Spain	ES	-5,14	2,16	0,59	1,21	1,19
Finland	FI	-9,31	0,29	-0,07	5,35	3,75
France	FR	-9,84	6,19	0,00	2,78	0,86
Greece	GR	33,33	4,23	0,50	1,42	7,11
Hungary	HU	-20,40	7,17	0,00	6,45	6,78
Ireland	IE	12,84	0,00	0,00	4,18	8,66
Italy	IT	-5,54	3,11	0,77	1,12	0,54
Lithuania	LT	22,22	5,49	0,92	3,82	3,04
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	-23,50	7,93	3,07	8,60	3,90
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	-1,14	0,85	0,00	0,29	0,00
Poland	PL	35,35	4,31	0,86	10,87	0,34
Portugal	PT	-8,09	3,88	0,00	1,15	3,05
Romania	RO	66,67	0,17	0,00	7,02	3,78
Sweden	SE	-7,49	1,50	0,00	4,00	1,98
Slovenia	SI	0,00	-8,69	-0,09	7,94	0,84
Slovakia	SK	24,24	9,97	0,00	5,02	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	-5,14	4,14	0,36	0,46	0,18

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%
Light blue: 10 to 20%
Yellow: -10 to -20%
Orange: < -20%

Table 18 shows the GDP of NUT3 regions of the EU27 which is located in each of the categories of the EDORA Structural Typology. Regions dominated by an agrarian economy (category "Agriculture") host more than 50% of the national GDP only in the case of Romania (66%). Not far from these percentages is Bulgaria (47%). Five other countries exceed 20%: Poland (35%), Greece (33%), Latvia (32%) Hungary (27%) and Lithuania (22%). Based on these data, we can argue that GDP stays in rural areas dominated by an agrarian economy in the case of societies where agriculture is not yet completely modernised, either because of the general state of the economy, or because the geographical constraints that limit accessibility and difficult or make it impossible to implement this process of modernisation.

GDP in 'consumption countryside' regions is relevant in virtually all countries to account for rural territories that benefit from demands of urban markets. Diversified rural economies with strong secondary sectors contain significant percentages of GDP in few countries. Higher percentages for this type of region are in: Czech Republic (49%), Slovakia (24%), and Austria (20%). Percentages in the remaining countries are much lower, mostly below 10%. Rural population in regions with diversified economies that have a powerful private services sector, is relevant only in few regional environments of France (46%) and Lithuania (19%).

Table 18. Structural Typology. GDP (in % of MS total)

	Structural Typology	% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	3,90	35,02	19,57	11,40
Belgium	BE	0,31	3,23	1,40	5,04
Bulgaria	BG	47,27	19,42	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	16,77	48,93	10,10
Germany	DE	0,00	23,26	5,34	4,40
Denmark	DK	0,00	43,58	7,72	11,36
Estonia	EE	6,40	86,37	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	8,67	28,19	6,18	3,31
Finland	FI	0,00	64,57	0,00	0,00
France	FR	1,84	12,79	0,33	45,64
Greece	GR	33,22	17,37	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	27,23	11,63	13,95	9,90
Ireland	IE	0,00	41,97	17,23	0,00
Italy	IT	4,60	23,25	1,47	11,00
Lithuania	LT	22,46	15,73	4,24	19,18
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	100,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	31,72	13,15	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	1,30	5,66	9,03
Poland	PL	35,17	7,14	12,13	7,62
Portugal	PT	11,31	25,28	0,00	3,01
Romania	RO	65,99	4,24	7,26	2,52
Sweden	SE	0,00	59,74	0,00	11,63
Slovenia	SI	5,93	94,07	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	49,99	23,74	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	17,05	1,90	6,35

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%
Yellow: 40-60%
Red: > 60%

Differentials between % of total population of regions and % of GDP for the case of the Structural Typology are shown in Figure 19. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state.

All differentials shown between the percentage of total population and the percentage of GDP in each category of the Structural Typology are positive. This means that, in most cases, rural areas have less economic than demographic weight (ie. the share of GDP is lower than the share of population for most rural areas). This trend is exacerbated in the less favoured rural areas (ie. agrarian). One would expect that diversified rural economies would do better in retaining GDP according to their demographic size. Although this is, to some extent truth, the positive sign in most countries reflects an extension of the same trend (ie. there are gaps also in diversified rural areas between their bigger demographic size and a relatively smaller economic size)

Table 19. Structural Typology. % Population - %GDP (in % of MS total)

	Structural Typology	% of MS Total			
		Ag	CC	D(Sec)	D(PServe)
Austria	AT	2,70	4,09	1,62	-1,74
Belgium	BE	0,15	1,48	0,58	3,10
Bulgaria	BG	16,88	0,26	0,00	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	4,09	7,59	0,89
Germany	DE	0,00	6,16	1,03	2,04
Denmark	DK	0,00	-2,62	7,09	3,61
Estonia	EE	4,07	-9,60	0,00	0,00
Spain	ES	2,57	2,39	-0,40	0,59
Finland	FI	0,00	9,31	0,00	0,00
France	FR	0,53	2,62	0,12	6,58
Greece	GR	11,50	1,76	0,00	0,00
Hungary	HU	13,69	4,32	0,50	1,89
Ireland	IE	0,00	15,42	-2,58	0,00
Italy	IT	2,75	2,46	-0,20	0,53
Lithuania	LT	10,88	0,64	0,92	0,83
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	20,09	3,40	0,00	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	0,36	-1,40	2,18
Poland	PL	13,51	0,46	1,41	1,01
Portugal	PT	2,02	5,68	0,00	0,39
Romania	RO	13,73	-0,91	-0,69	-1,15
Sweden	SE	0,00	6,09	0,00	1,40
Slovenia	SI	2,67	-2,67	0,00	0,00
Slovakia	SK	0,00	15,32	-0,34	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	3,99	0,55	0,60

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%
Light blue: 10 to 20%
Yellow: -10 to -20%
Orange: < -20%

Table 20 shows the percentage of GDP of the EU27 countries for each category of the EDORA Performance Typology. The % of total GDP under the "depleting" category involves more than 50% of the total only in the case of Romania (52%) (it was 5 countries in the case of the variable "population"). Close to these values are Poland (39%) and Bulgaria (38%). The 25% of the German population living in "depleting" regions only gather 6% of the national GDP.

Table 20. Performance Typology. GDP (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	7,95	21,04	40,90
Belgium	BE	0,58	4,73	4,18	0,50
Bulgaria	BG	37,76	18,51	10,42	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	54,53	21,28	0,00
Germany	DE	5,88	7,36	15,27	4,48
Denmark	DK	0,00	0,58	45,30	16,78
Estonia	EE	0,00	31,70	0,00	61,07
Spain	ES	0,00	5,78	14,30	26,28
Finland	FI	1,11	13,61	38,71	11,14
France	FR	0,43	15,44	27,92	16,81
Greece	GR	3,97	15,94	27,33	3,35
Hungary	HU	7,99	30,11	14,71	9,90
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	59,20
Italy	IT	0,85	12,48	10,22	16,77
Lithuania	LT	19,02	42,60	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	100,00
Latvia	LV	21,41	10,32	13,15	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	0,87	8,64	6,49
Poland	PL	39,06	17,19	5,80	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	14,39	18,48	6,73
Romania	RO	51,67	25,82	0,00	2,52
Sweden	SE	0,00	15,85	55,53	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	22,66	41,27	36,07
Slovakia	SK	29,16	34,17	10,40	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	1,47	6,00	17,83

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Green:** 20-40%

Yellow: 40-60%

Red: > 60%

Share of GDP concentrated in regions "below average" is relevant in a number of countries, especially the New Member States. As in the analysis of the distribution of NUT3, "below the average" and "depleting" areas are located in the less modernised economies of Europe. By contrast, rural GDP is concentrated in the "above average" and "accumulation" areas in countries with stronger economies and higher income levels.

Differentials between % of total population of regions and % of GDP for the case of the Performance Typology are shown in Table 21. The differential results in a percentage that goes to 0% to the extent that the number of regions and the total area match. A high differential (over 10%) indicates a significant heterogeneity in the size of the regions of a member state.

Table 21. Performance Typology. % Population - %GDP (in % of MS total)

	Performance Typology	% of MS Total			
		Deplet.	Below	Above	Accum.
Austria	AT	0,00	3,57	5,28	-2,17
Belgium	BE	0,81	3,26	1,17	0,05
Bulgaria	BG	13,82	4,39	-1,08	0,00
Cyprus	CY	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Czech Republic	CZ	0,00	10,85	1,73	0,00
Germany	DE	3,43	2,72	3,21	-0,13
Denmark	DK	0,00	0,21	12,64	-4,77
Estonia	EE	0,00	16,57	0,00	-22,10
Spain	ES	0,00	2,53	2,60	0,02
Finland	FI	0,48	3,31	5,40	0,12
France	FR	0,26	3,93	4,43	1,22
Greece	GR	1,07	6,51	4,58	1,10
Hungary	HU	4,99	13,50	0,00	1,89
Ireland	IE	0,00	0,00	0,00	12,84
Italy	IT	0,67	5,70	0,95	-1,78
Lithuania	LT	9,04	4,22	0,00	0,00
Luxembourg	LU	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Latvia	LV	17,02	3,07	3,40	0,00
Malta	MT	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Netherlands	NL	0,00	0,37	1,45	-0,68
Poland	PL	13,61	4,07	-1,29	0,00
Portugal	PT	0,00	5,17	3,14	-0,22
Romania	RO	8,90	3,22	0,00	-1,15
Sweden	SE	0,00	2,17	5,32	0,00
Slovenia	SI	0,00	5,63	5,36	-10,98
Slovakia	SK	12,15	2,12	0,71	0,00
United Kingdom	UK	0,00	0,54	2,19	2,41

Source: EDORA Typology

Key: **Dark blue:** >20%
Light blue: 10 to 20%
Yellow: -10 to -20%
Orange: < -20%

The vast majority of differentials shown between the percentage of population and the percentage of GDP in each category of the performance Typology are positive. This means that, in most cases, rural areas have less economic than demographic weight. This exacerbates the implications for territorial planning and management of public resources in systems where allocation of funding is done according to population size, because in most countries, there is a further gap between population and economic capacity.

Depending on the distribution of rural areas in different categories, and the characteristics of rural settlement in each country, the differences are more or less relevant for each country and rural type. For example, in the case of depleting, “below average” and “above average” areas, differentials are always positive (more population than economic relevance) and more important in NMS.

In the case of “accumulation” regions differentials are more equilibrated with positive and negative values. Negative results (Estonia -22%; Slovenia -11%) indicate rural areas where the share of GDP is larger than it should according to their population.

3. Discussion: implications for the Rural Animator

No doubt the extreme diversity of rural Europe imposes enormous constraints and challenges in the work of rural development animators and professionals. A rural animator believes in the benefits of an endogenous development approach that put local resources and strengths first when defining the orientation of rural development strategy. This obviously requires a different approach depending on whether we are in a lagging or advantaged territory.

In the case of municipalities or territories in decline or high rurality (eg mountain regions inaccessible or very small municipalities), the rural animator often face a comprehensive work comprising virtually all dimensions of the local reality. The rural animator drives the process of local development through their skills and knowledge and often becomes the true leader that drives the local development process.

Creativity is a major strength for the rural animator in depleting regions. There is a lot to do, even the most basic, and resources available are not much, at least in the territory. Therefore, the animator must be skilful in order to detect, obtain and implement in the best way available resources to provide basic services and needs for the local residents make the place attractive for visitors.

In most cases a rural animator in depleting area is a focal point for local entrepreneurs and citizens looking forward to start a new business. The rural animator has knowledge on available resources at local, regional, national and international levels, and is the closest instance to locals when advice and support is needed.

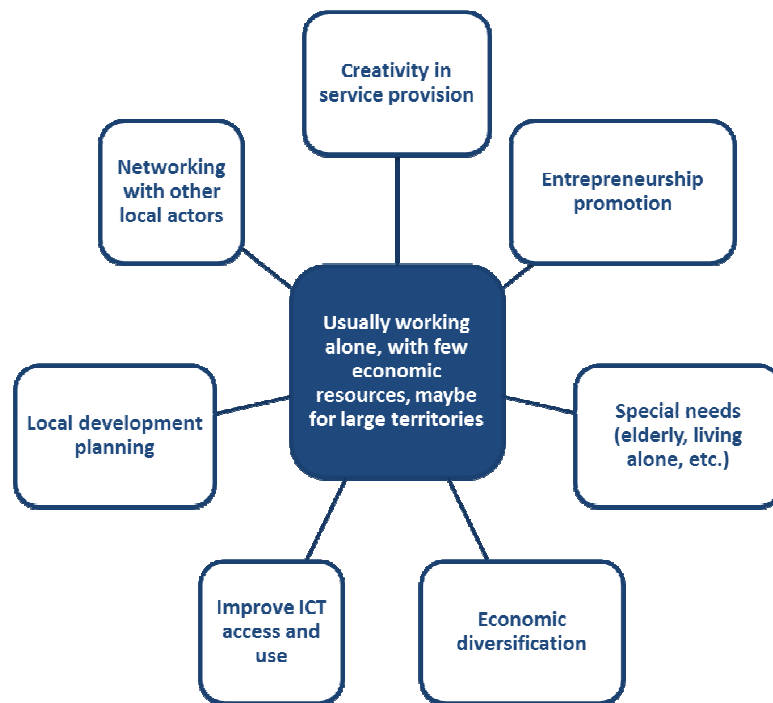
In many rural areas, especially those that still are too much dependent on agriculture, a big challenge for the local animator is the strategy to achieve a more diversified and competitive local economy. This does not mean that competitiveness can not be achieved on the basis of agriculture, but it surely need the incorporation of transformation (agri-business) and complementary (tourism, crafts, etc.) activities. The local industrial fabric is very weak and the businessmen profile is usually not very favourable (ie. aged, low education, very small and traditional sectors, etc.). In this context, the figure of the local animator becomes central since it is the one that can not only assist and provide advice, but also convince and bring potential and actual businessmen into the valid path towards success.

Who takes care of the special needs collectives (ie. handicapped, elderly, children) in a context of reducing public budgets and a political dominant approach that rejects a strong intervention from the state? Rurality, accessibility and individual handicaps form together a critical condition that is very difficult to resolve from higher administration levels and, of course, it is not of the interest of markets. The local animator allows for strengthening the action of local government through the knowledge of a specialised person to reach individual dramas more effectively.

It is not unusual that the action of local animators have brought to lagging rural areas the concept of strategic planning process. For instance, the story of the LEADER and LEADER-like programs in the European Union tells us that the effective leadership of managers (one equivalent to local animator) has made possible the introduction of the strategic approach to public and private action. This, of course, should not let us obviate the many deficiencies registered during these processes (ie. lack of compromise from local actors, a certain distance between the strategy and the action of local actors, the highly possible chance that the strategic process will collapse in the absence of the animator leadership, etc.).

There are, very briefly, some of the most important aspects of the role of local animators in depleting regions (see Figure 2)

Figure 2. The role of local animators in depleting regions



Source: own elaboration

The spatial organization of regions of accumulation is certainly different, but they share some of the focuses of the rural animator.

On the one hand, the local animator in remote or lagging rural areas usually works alone, with little support from local resources and, in any case, with connections with colleagues from other surrounding municipalities. The executive capacity of local animators in this type of area is comparatively higher, and he/she comes more easily to the implementation of actions in different domains.

The local animator in accumulation territories often work in local government (but not exclusively) of medium or large municipalities. In these municipalities local animation happens in multidisciplinary teams and in defined areas of competence. Thus, the local animator is part of local development agencies that are in charge of a portion of the development action. However, types of local development agencies are varied and depend on several factors such as the political sensitivity, territorial issues, etc. For this same reason, leadership and capacity for action of animators can be compromised by these factors, leading to situations in which the animator's scope of action is very limited.

Whatever the circumstance, the local animator in accumulation areas usually focus in the following issues:

- A big scope of action is the local labour market. Here, the local animator has an important role in advising people looking for jobs, promoting training actions for workers and entrepreneurs, matching needs of labour in local companies with the skills of the local labour, accompanying potential entrepreneurs in the way to start new business or to re-orientate them. The relevance, visibility and urgency of this intervention often makes local animator very dependent on it, thus leaving other intervention areas in a secondary place.
- Putting local actors to cooperate, especially in strategic development processes, is one of the most relevant actions of local animators. In the case of larger municipalities or territories, this is

challenging because of the number of relevant local actors and the usually low history of successful previous cooperation.

- Networking is also an essential task for the rural animator. Networking is seen as a mechanism to increase territorial competitiveness through exchange of experiences and information, and through the establishment of fruitful relationships between actors in the network. The local animator promotes business networks, institutional networks and even networks of local animators

Figure 3 presents some of the main scopes of action of local animators in accumulating regions, as described above.

Figure 3. The role of local animators in accumulating regions



Source: own elaboration