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Agriculture and Rural Development



Forest recreation and tourism and the EU Forest Action Plan

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- EU Forest Action Plan
- Rural Development Policy
- Relevance to forest recreation and tourism



EU Forest Action Plan

- FAP adopted in 2006
- For the period 2007-2011

A coherent framework for implementation of forest-related actions and an instrument of coordination between Community actions and the forest policies of the MS



The Action Plan focuses on four main objectives:

- improve long-term competitiveness
- improve and protect the environment
- contribute to the quality of life
- foster coordination and communication

18 key actions are proposed by the Commission to be implemented jointly with the Member States



Objective

To contribute to the quality of life by preserving and improving the social and cultural dimensions of forests

3 key actions



KA 10: Encourage environmental education and information

KA 11: Maintain and enhance the protective functions of forests

KA 12: Explore the potential of urban and peri-urban forests



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Work programme for implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan (2007-2011)

Annual Standing Forestry Committee work programmes



Several types of activities:

- Commission actions
- Working groups under the SFC
- Exchanges of experience, sharing information
- Strengthening cooperation
- Recommendations for Member State actions



- The EU rural development policy - changing paradigm (agricultural diversification; from sectoral to territorial approach)
- Rural development measures related to forest recreation and tourism



Concept of rural development policy - changing paradigm

European Conference on Rural Development
(Salzburg, 2003)

“The development of rural areas can no longer be based on agriculture alone [...] diversification both within and beyond agricultural sector is indispensable in order to promote viable and sustainable rural communities”



OECD "The Future of Rural Policy: From sectoral to place-based policies in rural areas" (2003)

Discussions on policy objectives and instruments for policies in rural regions should address:

"...shifting from a sectoral to a place-based approach, including attempts to improve coordination and to integrate the various sectoral policies at regional and local levels..."



Implications of the changing paradigm:

- Rural development policies will be increasingly important for forest-related actions (e.g. recreation and tourism)
- Forest-related policy in the future will increasingly be interconnected with rural development policies



The EU rural development policy

- Rural regions in the EU25 represent 92% of the territory
- Over half of the European population live in rural areas
- These regions generate 45% of Gross Value Added in the EU25 and provide 53% of the employment



Council Regulation No 1257/1999 - the Rural Development Regulation

New RDR: Council Regulation 1698/2005 - applicable for the financial period 2007-2013

Key tool to create growth and jobs in rural areas, while enhancing sustainable development and aiming to improve competitiveness, stimulate diversification, and improve environmental protection



CURRENT

5 types of programming

Guarantee

Guarantee Objective 2

Guarantee new MS

Guidance Objective 1

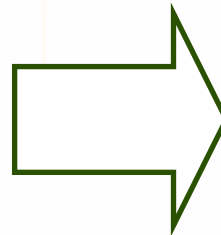
Guidance LEADER+

*3 financial management
and control systems*

Guarantee

Guarantee new MS

Guidance



SIMPLIFICATION

Single funding,
programming,
financial
management and
control
framework for RD



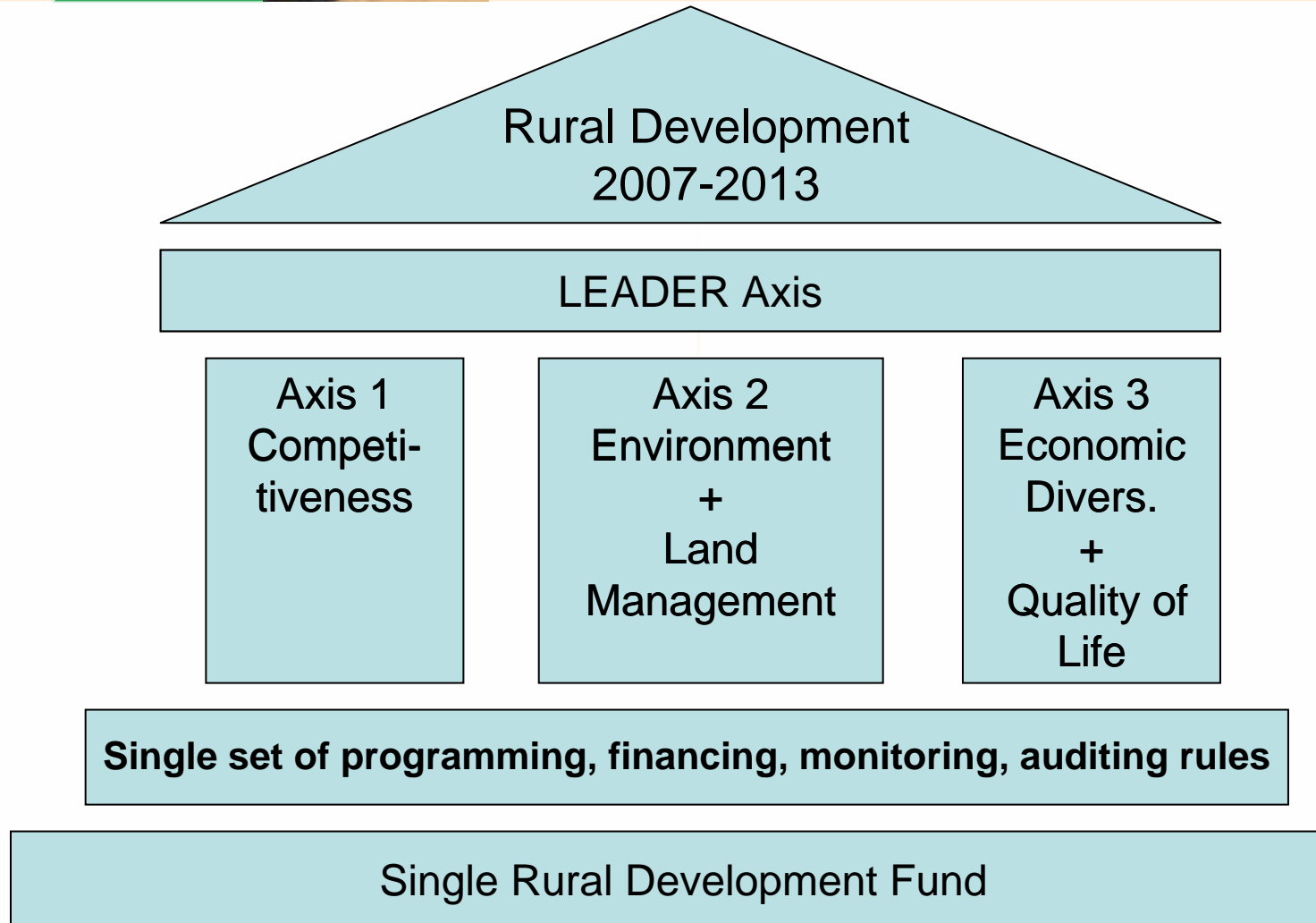
Three core objectives:

- Improving the competitiveness of the farm and forestry sector through support for restructuring, development and innovation
- Improving the environment and the countryside through support for land management
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity



Four axes to implement the objectives:

1. Improving the competitiveness of the farm and forestry sector
2. Improving the environment and the countryside
3. Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
4. LEADER





Axis 1: Improving competitiveness

Measures aiming at promoting knowledge and improving human potential

- Vocational training and information
- Use of advisory services
- Setting up advisory services

Measures aiming at restructuring physical potential and promoting innovation



Axis 2: Improving the environment and the countryside

- Afforestation
- Establishing agro-forestry systems
- Natura 2000 payments
- Forest-environment payments
- Restoring forestry production potential and introducing prevention actions
- Support for non-productive investments (amenity values)



Support for non-productive investments (amenity values) IN forests

..which enhance the public amenity value of forest and wooded land of the area concerned..

Non-productive investments mean investments that do not lead to any significant increase in the value of profitability of the agricultural or forestry holding ("implementing" Regulation COM R 197/2006)

Public and private forest owners are eligible for support (only IN forest)



Axis 3: Diversification, quality of life

- Diversification of the rural economy
- Improvement of the quality of life
- Training and capacity building
- Encouragement of tourism activities



Encouragement of tourism activities

Support could be provided for:

A: small-scale infrastructures such as information centres and signposting of tourist sites, or

B: recreational infrastructure such as that offering access to natural areas

C: the development and/or marketing of tourism services relating to rural tourism

No requirement that the infrastructure objects would be in the forest area



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Relevance to forest recreation and tourism
(*relevance to and of your work*)



EU Forest Action Plan
Implementation of the Rural Development Policy



KA12 calls for exploring the potential of urban and peri-urban forests

12.1 Review and integrate methodologies for evaluating the social and human impacts of urban and peri-urban forests

12.2 Explore structures to engage local communities and non-traditional stakeholders in planning, creating, managing and using urban and peri-urban forests



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Thank you for your attention