

11th September 2020

Tallinn Forum

Session J

Rural Development Programs- a future challenge

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Introduction – What bring us here?

- What is happening with Rural Development (RD) in the EU?
- Is Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) playing a role?
- What change has SEA been making?
- Challenges and benefits (from empirical experience)

Introduction – Personal presentation

- Manuel, Portuguese, 30y, grown-up in the country-side within a **family agricultural context** (to be continued...)
- **Education:** B.Sc In Economics, B.Sc and M.Sc in Agricultural Engineering, currently doing a Ph.D in Environmental Engineering;
- **Work experience** (besides farming): agroindustry (in Chile), agri-food distribution (in Angola) and consultancy (RD incentive programs in Portugal).



What is happening with RD in the EU?

- Currently they are two major drivers:



C.A.P.

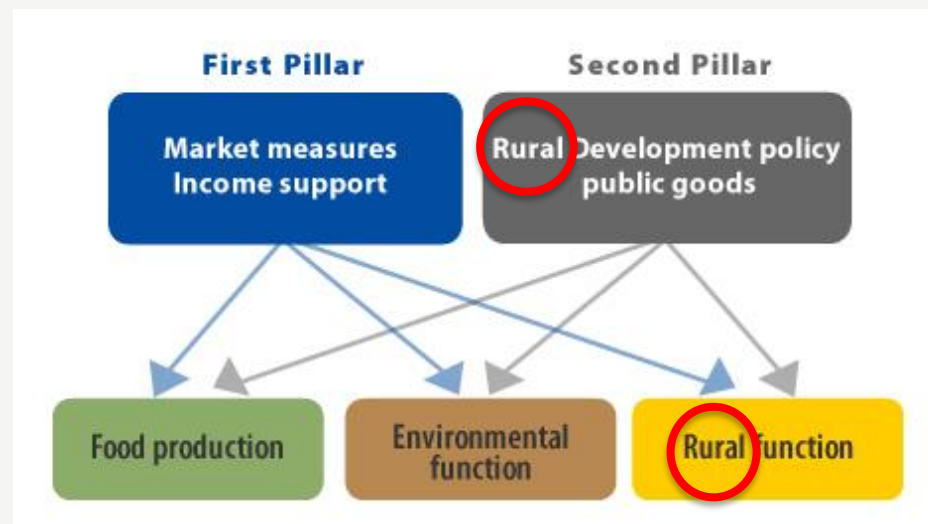


Green Deal



What is happening with RD in the EU?

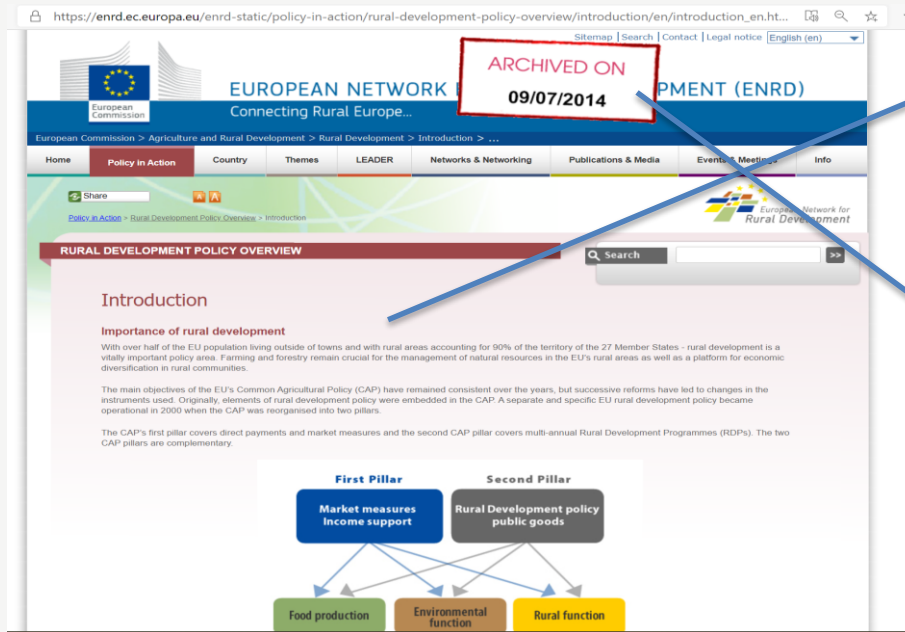
C.A.P. general scheme



Source: European Network for Rural Development

- We can observe explicit RD related concerns, but...

What is happening with RD in the EU?



The screenshot shows the ENRD website with a red stamp that reads "ARCHIVED ON 09/07/2014" placed over the "Importance of rural development" section. The page content includes the following text:

Importance of rural development

With over half of the EU population living outside of towns and with rural areas accounting for 90% of the territory of the 27 Member States - rural development is a vitally important policy area. Farming and forestry remain crucial for the management of natural resources in the EU's rural areas as well as a platform for economic diversification in rural communities.

The main objectives of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have remained consistent over the years, but successive reforms have led to changes in the instruments used. Originally, elements of rural development policy were embedded in the CAP. A separate and specific EU rural development policy became operational in 2000 when the CAP was reorganised into two pillars.

The CAP's first pillar covers direct payments and market measures and the second CAP pillar covers multi-annual Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). The two CAP pillars are complementary.

First Pillar
Market measures
Income support

Second Pillar
Rural Development policy
public goods

Food production Environmental function Rural function

Importance of rural development



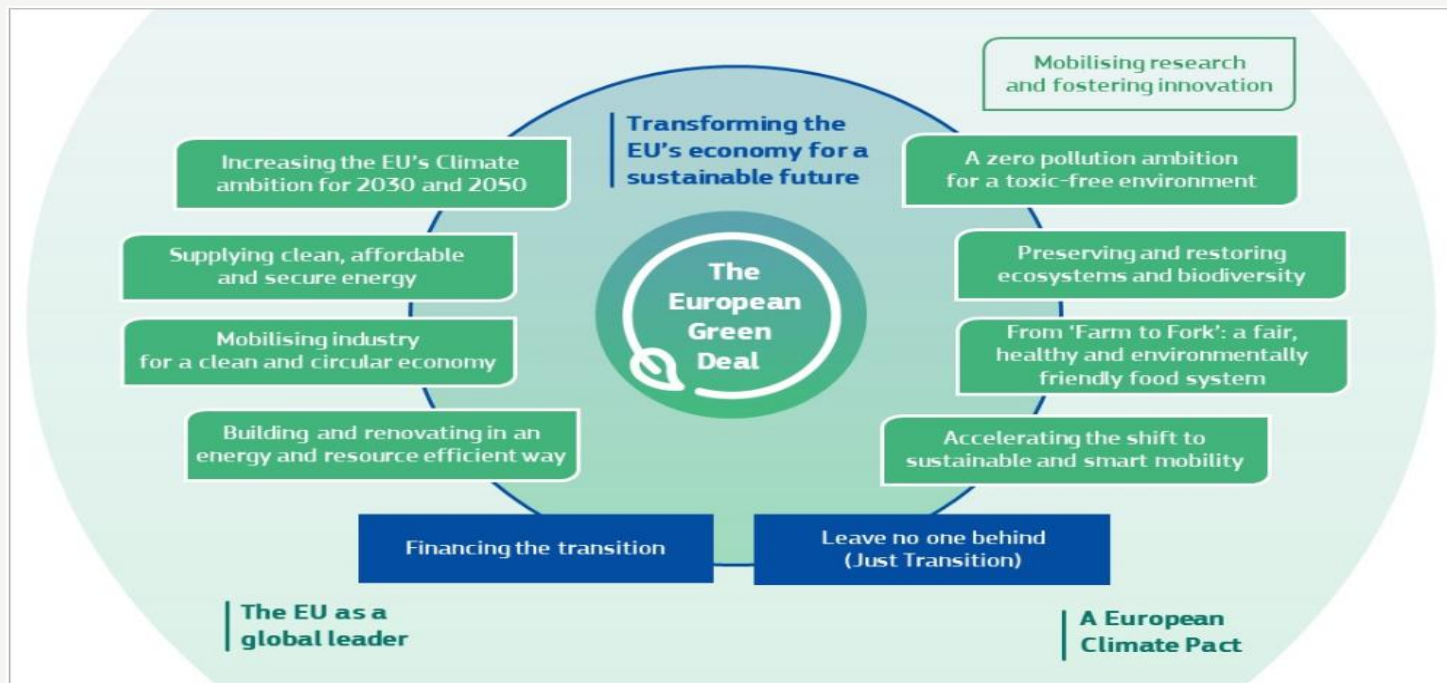
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09/07/2014



- Rural Development not a priority anymore?

What is happening with RD in the EU?

- New priorities arrived...



Source: European Commission

What is happening with RD in the EU?



- Does not has explicit RD concerns but...
- Rural Development is in truth an implicit key factor for its objectives' achievement

An opportunity for SEA?

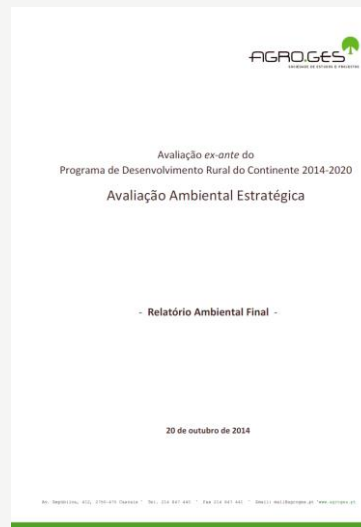
- Maybe, but first...

Is SEA already playing a role?

Timeline of SEAs concerning RD programs (in Portugal)



Ex-Ante Evaluation
for 2007-2013,
presented in **2006**



Ex-Ante Evaluation
for 2014-2020,
presented in **2014**



- **What about 2020 onwards!?**



Does it matter??

SEA Challenges and benefits (from experience)

...Continuation of family agricultural context:

- medium size extensive beef production farm
- small orchard of orange trees
- vegetable garden for family consumption



SEA Challenges and benefits (from experience)

1. Medium size extensive beef production farm:

Some bullet points in 2000	Mains changes (in 20y)	SEA scope
- Agrosystem responsible for the majority of family farming income	- Reduction of overall income due to increase of production costs	Access to agro-environmental measures denied by lack of budget of national RD program
- Lack of water in summer	- Water supply regularized after some investments	Fraction of investment supported through RD support programs
- Scarcity of tree shadows for the herd welfare	- Plantation of forest areas	Investment and maintenance supported through RD support programs
- Conventional meat production	- None (the market by himself does not remunerate certifications)	Access to production system conversion incentives denied by lack of budget of national RD program

SEA Challenges and benefits (from experience)

2. Small orchard of orange trees:

Some bullet points in 2000	Mains changes (in 20y)	SEA scope
- Conventional production	- Organic production	Production system conversion incentives didn't apply due to small scale
- Negative economic results	- Good economic results	Market started to remunerate organic production
- Flood irrigation	- Drip irrigation	Water efficiency incentives not accessed due to bureaucratic questions and implementation timings

3. Vegetable garden for family consumption:

Some bullet points in 2000	Mains changes (in 20y)	SEA scope
- Application of herbicides without restrictions	- Minimization of herbicides use	Restricted list of available products and requirement of certified applicators

What change has SEA been making in RD?

- Promoting more **sustainable farming practices** through RD incentive mechanisms;
- Making **rural** populations and areas **more resilient and better adapted to global warming**;
- Inducing some **market changes**.

Does it matter??

**Yes, but more is
needed!**

Main conclusions

- SEA has played an important role on defining **a-priori sustainable rural development guidelines**
- However **it should be applied as a continuous instead of static** process in order to ensure it is not oblivious by circumstantial situations and reaches its objectives
- **RD apparently does not have the preeminence it deserves** in the upcoming major policies related to environment and society
- **SEA** could be the optimal path **to articulate and harmonize the European Green Deal with Rural Development**

Thank you for your attention!

And special thanks to prof. Maria Partidário for the invitation to participate

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Acknowledgments: This work is supported by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia through grant SFRH/BD/147158/2019 (M. Paiva dos Santos)