

EAFRD regional programmes 2007-13

“An opportunity to be realised?”

**A report of the PURPLE network
based on work to date in 12 European regions
in 8 Member States**

June 2006



The regional leader for
developing economic prosperity



Citation and disclaimer

This report should be quoted as follows:

Keenleyside, C. (2006) *EAFRD regional programmes 2007-13 "An opportunity to be realised?" a report of the PURPLE network based on work to date in 12 European regions in 8 Member States*. PURPLE network: Den Haag.

This report was produced by the author on behalf of the Peri Urban Regions Platform Europe (PURPLE). The views expressed within the report are those of the contractor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the regions within PURPLE.

Contacts: www.purple-eu.org and clunie@crex.co.uk

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank all members of the PURPLE rural development group for their assistance in the preparation of this report.

EAFRD regional programmes 2007-13

“An opportunity to be realised?”

**A report of the PURPLE network
based on work to date in 12 European regions in 8 Member States**

1	Introduction	1
2	Rural Development In PURPLE Regions	1
2.1	The diversity of PURPLE peri-urban areas	1
2.2	Rural development in peri-urban areas	1
3	What Does EAFRD Offer?	3
3.1	A new policy led focus for rural development	3
3.2	New EAFRD measures	4
4	PURPLE Regional Proposals For EAFRD 2007-13	4
4.1	Governance, policy and funding	4
4.2	Delivery responsibilities	5
4.3	Balance between axes and measures	6
5	Examples From PURPLE Regions 2007-13	7
5.1	Regional control or regional influence?	7
5.2	Integration and cohesion	7
5.3	Different ways of targeting EAFRD at peri-urban issues	8
5.4	Working with others	10
5.5	LEADER	10
6	The Emerging Policy Agenda	11
Annex 1	PURPLE regions in Europe	14
Annex 2	Extract from PURPLE position paper	15
Annex 3	Summary of EAFRD Measures	18
Annex 4	Summary of information from the twelve PURPLE regions	21

1 Introduction

This report considers some of the proposals for the use of rural development funding in the PURPLE regions in 2007-13 and the opportunities and challenges facing regions using the new EAFRD Regulation.

The report starts by outlining the diversity of peri-urban areas in Europe and the particular rural development problems they face, considers how EAFRD differs from the current Rural Development Regulation and what opportunities it offers, then outlines some of the approaches to using EAFRD in the twelve PURPLE regions and draws out examples of approaches which could be considered for wider application. It concludes by identifying the emerging policy agenda for rural development in peri-urban areas.

The report is simply a snapshot of some of the proposals in May/June 2006, before any of the national strategies have been submitted to the Commission or the Rural Development Programmes 2007-13 finalised. It does **not** attempt a formal or comprehensive review of the draft national strategies or programmes. Data was collected from PURPLE regions using self-completion questionnaires, telephone interviews and discussions at meetings with PURPLE group members.

2 Rural development in PURPLE regions

2.1 The diversity of PURPLE peri-urban areas

PURPLE (Peri Urban Regions Platform Europe) was set up in 2004 and brings together regions from across the EU including Catalunya, Flanders, Frankfurt Rhein/Main, Île de France, Mazovia, MHAL (Province of Limburg), Nord Pas de Calais, Regio Randstad, Rhône Alpes, South East England, Stockholm and West Midlands (a location map is at Annex 1). They vary significantly in size, population, governance, urban structure, rural land-use and their involvement in rural development policy and delivery (it is important to note that most of these are not regions in the formal sense used by the European Commission). The PURPLE Position Paper sets out the problems and opportunities facing peri-urban areas (an extract from the Position Paper is at Annex 2).

2.2 Rural development in peri-urban areas

PURPLE is committed to striving for sustainable rural and agricultural development in the peri-urban regions. The active management of the rural landscape around our towns and cities is essential to maintain the green landscapes, biodiversity and open spaces which are so valuable to the quality of life of the urban residents. The perception of an accessible, high quality rural environment can be a very important factor in attracting new investment to urban areas and contributes to the health and well-being of those already living there.

The rural areas in peri-urban regions are not 'lagging' areas, but they have other pressures, unfamiliar in deeper rural areas, which threaten the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the land based industries of agriculture and forestry. These pressures, which are common to most peri-urban areas although the balance will vary from one region to another, are summarised in the box below.

Pressures on farming and forestry in peri-urban areas

high cost of labour, in competition with urban industries which may offer more attractive working conditions;

loss of young family members who can easily find other ways of earning a living;

isolation of farmers from other rural land managers and other members of the community because of demand for commuter housing in formerly rural communities;

high value of land for urban uses (formal and informal), particularly in areas where land-use planning and development control policies do not provide effective protection for agricultural and forestry land;

fragmentation of farms by development of infrastructure for transport, energy, water and sewage for expanding urban areas;

problems caused by the large numbers of people living nearby - vandalism, dogs disturbing livestock, rubbish dumping, fires, unauthorised access, biking and damage to crops or animals;

pollution from traffic, industry and urban waste disposal;

consequent decline in the quality of landscape and biodiversity as a result of the fragmentation, damage and pollution described above and also through agricultural intensification;

abandonment of agricultural or woodland management and consequent loss of rural landscape and biodiversity. The cross-compliance requirements to maintain farmland in 'Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition' may not protect these valuable green spaces because farmers may choose to forgo CAP payments (and thus avoid the work involved in cross-compliance), find an urban job which is a better source of income than food production in difficult conditions, and keep ownership of the land because it has hope value - of future sale, not necessarily for built development but perhaps for golf courses, fishing lakes, riding centres or other recreational uses.

In the survey of rural development proposals for this report the key issues raised by the PURPLE regions included:

- loss of farmers and farmland to other uses and the consequent loss of open space, rural landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage;
- the need for farmers to adapt their businesses to the opportunities and challenges of peri-urban areas, taking advantage of marketing opportunities for fresh local food and for non-food products and services;
- farmer training and advice;
- support for young farmers;
- problems caused by intensive pig and poultry production (pollution of water by animal waste and/or the need to relocate these units to avoid outbreaks of animal disease);

- ensuring that there is a constructive dialogue between urban and rural interests – whether between producers and consumers/users of services or between the many sectors of government involved in the peri-urban area; this may require ‘animateurs’ to facilitate the process;
- gaining recognition that there is not a rural unemployment problem in these areas but there is a need to adapt farmland to new uses which will continue to maintain a viable rural community whilst managing the open countryside for the wider public benefit; farmers are essential for a green environment but they need a secure economic base;
- the management and use of rural open space for landscape and recreation;
- biodiversity management of farmland – re-introduction of mixed arable and livestock farming, or grazing instead of mowing; and
- how and where to use LEADER.

Some of these problems are found in other rural areas but the difference in peri-urban areas is in the intensity of some of the pressures and the risks of losing rural land management altogether. These differences mean that the wide scope and flexibility of the new EAFRD regulation may need to be used in quite different ways in peri-urban areas, compared to other rural areas. If the key objective is to safeguard the environmental and public benefits of having rural green space around our cities, it is essential to find an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable basis for this rural land use - in many of these areas current farming activities are no longer doing this.

3 What does EAFRD offer?

3.1 A new policy led focus for rural development

Support for rural development under the new European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, covering the programming period 2007-13, has four aims:

- to improve the competitiveness of farm and forest enterprises through support for restructuring, development and innovation (Axis 1);
- to take better care of the environment and the countryside through support for land management and the conservation of natural resources (Axis 2);
- to promote diversification of the rural economy and improvement in the quality of life in order to create a more secure and stable socio-economic context for farmers, their families and the wider rural population (Axis 3);
- the use of area-based, bottom up local development strategies using participatory decision-making (Axis 4, the Leader approach).

EAFRD introduces a new mechanism for ensuring that Member States target rural development funding at EU priorities. Member States must define a national rural development strategy, in line with EC Strategic Guidelines, before preparing their programmes. The guidelines emphasise:

- the potential for high-quality and value-added products;
- using Axis 2 measures to integrate the three EU priority areas of biodiversity, water and climate change, and to contribute to the implementation of the Natura 2000 network, the commitment to reverse biodiversity decline by 2010, the Water Framework Directive objectives and to the Kyoto Protocol targets for climate change mitigation. Specific reference is made to the preservation and development of high nature value farming and forestry systems and traditional agricultural landscapes;

- the role of Leader in mobilising the endogenous development potential of rural areas, promoting public-private partnerships and promoting co-operation and innovation;
- ensuring that synergies between the Axes are maximised and conflicts avoided.

3.2 New EAFRD measures

The Regulation specifies minimum proportions of the EU co-financing to be allocated to each Axis, but as these minima account for only half the available co-financing there is considerable scope for Member States to shift the balance of their programmes to meet their own priorities, as shown below, including the possibility of allocating more than half the funding to the Leader approach in which the objectives of different Axes may be combined.

EAFRD budget allocations to axes			EAFRD co-financing rates ¹
	compulsory minimum	possible maximum	
Axis 1	10%	65%	20 – 50% (75% convergence objective)
Axis 2	25%	80%	20 - 55% (80% convergence objective)
Axis 3	10%	65%	20 - 50% (75% convergence objective)
Leader	5%* from allocation to any/all of the three axes *phased in for EU10	100% provided minimum allocation to each axis is observed	20 - 55% (80% convergence objective)

The scope of measures in EAFRD is much wider than in the current RDR, with a 'menu' of 37 measures (plus any extra developed under Leader). The main additions compared to the original RDR are measures on food quality; meeting EU standards for the environment, health, animal welfare and occupational safety; animal welfare; young farmers (reinforced); implementation of Natura 2000 (Birds and Habitats Directives); widened support for forestry; farm and forestry advisory systems; and management of integrated rural development strategies by local public-private partnerships across all Axes with LEADER. The EAFRD measures are summarised in Annex 3.

4 PURPLE Regional proposals for EAFRD 2007-13

This section and section 5 draw on information provided by each of the regions, which is summarised at Annex 4. This section deals with governance, policy, funding and delivery.

4.1 Governance, policy and funding

The differences in governance of the PURPLE regions mean that some regions, such as Catalunya, have almost complete control over the use of EAFRD funding whereas in others, such as the three French regions, the national strategy, budget allocations and most of the measures are defined by the national government, with little formal input from the regions. Similarly there is no 'lobbying' structure for Sweden and the national government is working on its own with little dialogue, though perhaps more than with the previous programme (peri-urban issues are highly relevant in the

¹ not including special rates for Aegean Islands and outermost regions

Stockholm region, which comprises only 1.5% of Sweden's surface, yet is home to the majority of the population).

Most of the other regions fall somewhere between the two, for example the UK where the allocation between the Axes is determined nationally, and Axis 2 is also managed nationally, but the regions are free to choose measures and allocate funds within Axes 1, 3 and 4.

The Frankfurt/Rhein-Main region is an exception – as a metropolitan area within the Land of Hessen and despite having a significant area of land in agricultural use this region was allocated no EU rural development or LEADER+ funding at all under the 2000-06 programme for Hessen.

4.2 Delivery responsibilities

There is an equally wide range of delivery responsibilities, ranging from entirely national delivery (through regional offices of the national Ministry of Agriculture) in France to completely regional delivery in Flanders. Most regions have a mixture of national and regional delivery – for example in England where Axis 2 will be delivered by regional offices of the national countryside agency but Axes 1, 3 and 4 will be delivered by the regional development agencies. In many countries there is also a split within Axis 2 because forestry measures are delivered by one agency and agricultural measures by another. The Netherlands appears to have one of the most integrated funding and delivery systems, summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 SELECTED EAFRD PROPOSALS IN THE NETHERLANDS			
Axis	% EU	Responsible for co-financing	Responsible for execution
1	30	National 30%	National 15%, regional 15%
2	30	National 30%	National 10%, regional 20%
3	30	Regional 30%	Regional 30%
4	10	Regional 10%	Regional 10%

Notes: the above may vary over the programming period. Regions want to have a say about the spending of EU and national money on the Axis 1 measures too, but they are satisfied that the actual handling is done at a national level. Regions will have to inform their farmers about Axis 1 and keep them aware of opportunities.

The articles x are to be executed on national level
 The articles x are to be executed on regional level
 The articles x may be executed by the LEADER groups
 The articles x may be co-financed by the regions

Axis 1 - Improving Competitiveness of the Agricultural and Forestry sector

24 Use of advisory services
 26 Modernisation of agricultural holdings
 28 **Adding value to agricultural and forestry products**
 29 Co-operation for development of new products, processes and technologies
 30 **Infrastructure related to development and adaptation**
 31 Meeting standards based on Community legislation
 32 Participation of farmers in food quality schemes
 33 Information and promotion activities / producer groups

<u>Axis 2 - Improving the environment and the countryside through land management</u>	
37	<u>Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas</u>
38	Natura 2000 payments
39	<u>Agri-environment payments</u>
41	<u>Non productive investments</u>
43	<u>First afforestation of agricultural land</u>
<u>Axis 3 - Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity</u>	
53	<u>Diversification into non-agricultural activities</u>
54	<u>Business creation and development</u>
55	<u>Encouragement of tourism activities</u>
56	<u>Basic services for the economy and rural population</u> <u>Village renewal and development</u>
57	<u>Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage</u>
58	<u>Skill acquisition, animation and implementation of local development strategies</u>
<u>Axis 4 - LEADER</u>	
61	<u>Implementing local development strategies concerning articles Axes 1, 2,3</u>
62	<u>Implementing (other) cooperation projects</u>

4.3 Balance between axes and measures

Not all regions yet have details of the allocation of EAFRD funds between Axes and measures but in some there is a suggestion of 'business as usual' in many of the proposals. Others will re-allocate funding, in some cases to meet the requirements of the Regulation – for example Catalunya has to move funding from Axis 1 (now 67%) to Axis 2, while Stockholm is likely to take funds out of Axis 2 (now 80%). Where information is available the following allocations are expected:

Region	Axis 1	Axis 2	Axis 3	Axis 4 Leader
Catalunya	50-52%	25-30%	20-25%	11% (Axis 3)
Flanders	65%	25%	10%	minimum of 5% within Axis 3
Frankfurt/Rhein-Main	25%	50%	20%	5% within axis 3
Mazovia (Mazowieckie Voivodship)	50%	26%	20%	4%
MHAL	30%	30%	30%	10%
Nord Pas De Calais	53%	23%	24%	5% within axis 3
Randstad	30%	30%	30%	10%
Rhône-Alpes	35-43%	22-28%	14-18%	15-17%
South East England	10%	80%	10%	5% within other axes

Stockholm	15%	75%	10%	5% of total
West Midlands	10%	80%	10%	5% within other axes

Some regions are planning new measures or increased emphasis on existing measures – for example young farmers, LEADER, agri-environment measures, experimental food chains, new markets in tourism, experimental produce for industry, bio-energy, regional food products.

5 Examples from PURPLE regions 2007-13

This section looks in more detail at some of the issues faced by the regions in preparing their programmes for 2007-13, and gives examples that may be of interest to other regions.

5.1 Regional control or regional influence?

Those regions which have full or partial responsibility for regional government and rural development would appear to be in a much better position to control the use of EAFRD funds in peri-urban areas than those regions where the funds are controlled by other authorities within the region or by larger authorities. But even among those regions which share the experience of not being in control of EAFRD funds there are striking differences - ranging from frustration at the lack of both information and influence in some Member States, to complete satisfaction with the process of preparing and implementing the programme in regions where they feel they have real influence over national decisions.

Examples:

Co-operation between national government and the regions - in the strongly consultative process of rural development programming in the Netherlands both the national government and the provinces write the national strategy and programme together in a joint committee, with input from the regions and the ministries. There are writing groups for every region, every Axis and every chapter of the NSD/Programme, plus expert groups on legal issues and the definition of the articles. There are also groups working on the interaction between EAFRD and other documents, like the Structural Funds, the national Electronic Service System and the Investment Programme for Countryside Development. In Ranstad the region was able to influence its four provinces, who control 40% of the rural development budget, and also the national government which controls the remaining 60%, through a formal process of consultation and co-ordination, including co-operation on cross-border issues between the four provinces.

5.2 Integration and cohesion

There are two issues of integration and cohesion – between the axes of EAFRD and between EAFRD and other EU, regional or national funding for rural areas.

Examples:

Farm Management Contracts – Catalunya is introducing a new farm contract throughout the region in 2007-13, combining measures from all 3 axes in one contract. Based on a model from Scotland, but orientated more to production and less to land management, it was piloted in four counties in 2005. The contracts are

for 5+ years and offer farmers a menu of measures from all three Axes, from which they can choose, although there are also compulsory elements for every contract including:

- a minimum number of days training;
- keeping farm accounts;
- traceability procedures;
- use of advisory services;
- production insurance;
- at least one commitment to sustainable farm management from the 'menu' available in that area.

Ideally the contracts would be the only way of delivering EAFRD support to farmers but in practice some measures will be available only through a contract, some only outside a contract and some either with or without a contract.

A single government fund for rural areas - In the Netherlands around 75% of EAFRD funding is delivered as part of the national investment programme for Countryside Development (ILG) and although the EAFRD funds are only about 10% of the ILG budget of 450 million euro per annum they are seen as important because of the strong multiplying effect of EU funding. The ILG fund brings together all national funding for rural development (plus support for water quality and management and restoring damaged soils) which was previously in 30 separate schemes, each with its own allocation. The single fund brings the advantage of flexibility and is divided between the 12 provinces according to government targets for rural areas (the provinces then co-finance at 50%).

Wider rural policy - In Flanders, in addition to the EAFRD rural development plan prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment is developing a wider rural policy for Flanders covering other rural community concerns (e.g. social housing). This started in 2005 and will be completed by 2009 and will ensure that Flanders has a policy (and a national fund) to deal with rural problems not covered by the EU Rural Development, Social and Regional Funds.

5.3 Different ways of targeting EAFRD at peri-urban issues

The following examples illustrate how regions have approached the particular problems of rural development in peri-urban areas – not all the examples are from current RDPs and many apply equally to other parts of the region.

Examples:

Farm assessment – at least three regions offer farmers subsidised farm visits and reports by government approved consultants who undertake an assessment of the farm and help the farmer to prepare an application for rural development funding. In Catalunya this is part of the farm contract application process and concentrates on the economic performance of the farm, in the two UK regions it is available for the higher levels of the agri-environment scheme. In both cases the farmer makes a small contribution to the cost of this service (about 20%) which it is hoped will encourage 'ownership' of the assessment results.

Training and advice – farmers and other rural entrepreneurs may need not just financial support to improve or re-orientate their business but also information, training and advice. In Catalunya the farmer is provided with free advice during the course of the 5-year farm management contract and is required to undertake a

minimum number of days' training (at no charge to the farmer, who chooses the training course and is paid travel expenses).

Government investment in infrastructure to support farm diversification - when strawberry production moved from northern Spain to the south, the strawberry farms of northern Catalunya changed to growing flowers and ornamental plants. The regional government built a modern, computer equipped wholesale flower market, which is now managed by a public/private partnership.

Special measures for peri-urban areas - there are two groups of special measures. The first is measures available to farmers throughout the region or country adapted to fit the particular markets, production systems or land management needs of peri-urban areas – for example quality assurance, marketing of fresh produce, or using cattle to manage grasslands for biodiversity. The second is measures specially introduced, particularly for investment and diversification, which take advantage of opportunities, markets or public needs that are concentrated peri-urban areas. Some of the examples here have not been funded by the RDP but there seems to be considerable scope for innovative support, particularly for farm families looking for new business enterprises. Examples include:

- **social care**, where farmers provide activities for disabled people (Flanders) or childcare nurseries or residential care for the elderly;
- **student accommodation** in Nord pas de Calais, where investment in high quality purpose-built student accommodation and meeting/conference facilities on farms, for the 12 universities in the region, has revitalised some local communities;
- **farmers' contracting services for public authorities** include maintenance of paths and public parks (Nord pas de Calais), snow clearance (Stockholm), and educational visits for local schools (English regions);
- **higher percentage rates of aid for some measures in peri-urban areas** e.g. + 4% or 5% for young farmers and for investment in agricultural holdings in Catalunya.
- **special agri-environment measures for peri-urban areas** – around Paris and Marseilles there is a special agri-environment measure which supports farmers dealing with the problems of farming near urban populations, such as damage by vandalism;
- **green services for urban communities** can include not just landscape management but waste disposal (e.g. composting household and garden waste), energy crops (a significant element of the England programme 2007-13) and amelioration of industrial pollution (Nord pas de Calais would like to offer EAFRD funding to farmers with soils affected by heavy metal contamination to help them convert to production of non-food crops).

Compensation payments for environmental improvement, landscape, nature conservation and tourism – few peri-urban areas qualify for natural handicap payments for farming in mountains or areas with poor soil or climatic conditions but some regions have used the measure introduced in 1999 for areas *'affected by significant handicaps, and where land management should be continued in order to conserve or improve the environment, maintain the countryside and preserve the tourist potential of the area or in order to protect the coastline'* with payments up to 150 euro per hectare compensating for *'additional costs and income foregone related to the handicap for agricultural production in the area concerned'*². This payment can be additional to agri-environment payments on the same land (provided the specific management requirements do not overlap) and has been used by Randstad for peat

² (Art. 20 in 1257/1999, now Art.37 and 50.3b in 1698/2005)

meadows. This region also plans to use the new Natura 2000 compensation payments in EAFRD which are similar but have higher rates (up to 500 euro per hectare initially)³.

5.4 Working with others

One of the key issues for the regions seems to be the need to work with a variety of other authorities and stakeholders, if they are to achieve their rural development objectives. This applies to almost all the regions, whether or not they control the EAFRD budget.

Examples:

Non-farmer beneficiaries - in the UK regions Axis 2 land management measures are available not just to farmers producing for the market but to anyone managing agricultural or forest land who can meet the requirements of the measures. In a peri-urban area open spaces may be managed by a variety of other organisations including community associations, nature conservation groups or other non-governmental organisations. The EAFRD regulation defines 'beneficiary' quite widely as *'an operator, body or firm, whether public or private, responsible for implementing operation or receiving support'*⁴.

Involving stakeholders – a number of regions make efforts to involve stakeholders in defining the problems of peri-urban areas and proposing solutions. In Catalunya the area of peri-urban agriculture has been defined and will have specific measures. Stakeholders are involved through area councils (local authorities, farmers' groups, co-operatives, agri-food industry etc.) which have made proposals for the peri-urban areas including legislation and land-use planning to protect agricultural land; investment to improve competitiveness; farm advisory services; support for processing and marketing (e.g. development of markets for fresh produce from area north of Barcelona); and improvement of irrigated land, re-use of waste water and collection of rainwater.

The role of regulation and land-use planning in peri-urban areas - development control and the relationship with rural development support was an issue raised by several regions. There appears to be a need for stronger protection of agricultural land – for example Catalunya is seeking high priority for investment in areas protected for agricultural use, and also a means of integrating EAFRD support with other investments in these areas. On land-use planning the regional government would like to set up official liaison arrangements with town councils, who designate statutory protected areas for agricultural use in peri-urban areas which also have to accommodate other functions such as transport corridors, urban sewage disposal etc. It is important to have good working arrangements with the urban planning authorities because although the Catalan Ministry of Agriculture has a seat on the Committee that approves (or rejects) land use plans, the Ministry of Agriculture cannot make changes to the plans after they are submitted.

5.5 LEADER

Not all the regions have previous experience of Leader, although many seem to be interested in making best use of the opportunity offered in the new Regulation. It is

³ Art. 46 in 1698/2005

⁴ Art. 2 of 1698/2005

interesting that there are also a number of other 'Leader-like' schemes in some of the regions.

Examples:

Leader in the Netherlands – there are 28 Local Action Groups in the Netherlands delivering Leader support for rural development in 50% of the rural area. In another 25% of the rural area there is coverage with nationally funded Leader-like groups which would probably meet the EAFRD requirements on size (no more than 100,000 inhabitants) and >50% non-government members. For example in the MHAL region a wide range of local organisations and interests are represented, including:

- the province;
- municipalities (both city and countryside);
- tourism/leisure;
- agriculture;
- water sewage board;
- forestry and landscape managers;
- others, when relevant, like Chamber of Commerce,

and all representatives are expected to be shareholders or stakeholders. (For more information on Leader in the Netherlands please see Annex 4, MHAL region.)

Leader-like experience in 2000-06 – several regions have used bottom-up approaches to rural development in the 2000-06 period using non-Leader funding and powers. In one case this used rural development funds to fill gaps in LEADER+ coverage or funding - Catalunya persuaded the Commission to allow them to use RDP funding to run Leader type rural development groups. In the French regions a law on territorial policy has, since 1999, provided national funding for Leader-like schemes that help local authorities develop projects at a local level covering a wider range of activities than Leader. In another example from France the Regional Parks of Nord pas de Calais (one in a peri-urban area) also have a bottom-up approach to support for rural development.

6 The emerging policy agenda

The diversity of the twelve regions of PURPLE in their approach to rural development should benefit from the wider scope and increased flexibility of the new EAFRD Regulation, which has a greater range of measures than any previous rural development regulation - although it is more tightly tied to EU policy (particularly on the environment) and the budget is constrained by the Financial Perspective.

This short study of the regional proposals for 2007-13 has thrown up a number of topical issues on rural development policy, implementation and delivery:

The new emphasis in EAFRD on EU environmental policy could be used to the regions' advantage in securing funding to maintain a high quality rural environment around their towns and cities. Axis 2 expenditure must contribute to three areas of EU environmental policy: biodiversity and the preservation and development of high nature value farming and forestry systems and traditional agricultural landscapes; water; and climate change.

It is not clear if full use will be made of the wider scope of EAFRD - for example, more support for the forestry sector, integration of supply chains, support for entrepreneurs, innovation, training and advice, tourism and rural and cultural heritage.

The Leader approach seems to have been neglected, although it is well suited to supporting different local interests working together in peri-urban areas, putting together packages of support from all three axes to meet local needs. This brief, subjective survey has revealed no plans to use Leader in this way and a great deal of uncertainty about how to use it at all. It is particularly worrying that regions with past experience and great enthusiasm for the Leader-style approach do not yet have a clear idea of how they will use Leader within EAFRD, what the objectives will be or how they will secure the mainstreaming of successful rural development projects. There is a real risk that in some peri-urban areas (and elsewhere) the opportunity for innovative solutions may be missed and the flexibility of Leader may be wasted.

Fragmentation of rural development policy, funding and delivery between different levels of government or different agencies at the same level may make it more difficult to integrate support from different axes into appropriate packages for individual beneficiaries. The Commission Guidelines note that *'in working out their national strategies, Member States should ensure that synergies between and within the axes are maximised and potential contradictions avoided. Where appropriate, they may develop integrated approaches'*. The Guidelines also note that Leader can *'play an important role in the horizontal priority of improving governance'*⁵. Some regions have well-rehearsed processes of co-operation between different levels of government which overcome the problems of fragmentation but in others it is not yet clear if or how an integrated approach across the Axes will work.

The strong element of subsidiarity in the new EAFRD Regulation gives Member States considerable freedom to devise a programme to match their needs but there is evidence that in some Member States **this principle of subsidiarity has not always been extended to regional levels of government**, who are unclear if their particular priorities will be met by the rural development programmes.

Many regions emphasise the need to support young farmers but to achieve the new multi-functional pattern of economically viable rural land uses needed in the peri-urban areas it will be just as **important to support a wide range of young rural entrepreneurs**. They may be using land directly (but perhaps not to grow conventional agricultural crops), using it indirectly as an attractive location for providing social or recreational services, or be part of a new supply chain - for example for renewable fuels. EAFRD support targeted at these young entrepreneurs and at emerging markets and new social and environmental services (such as renewable energy and waste management) could provide a springboard to the next phase of rural development. Peri-urban areas are particularly well-suited to this approach because they are so close to large potential markets.

Securing EAFRD funding in future is likely to depend on an ability to demonstrate the expected benefit. The **EAFRD monitoring and evaluation requirements at EU level** are not designed to demonstrate the impact of the 2007-13 programmes in peri-urban areas, but Member States could design

⁵ Council Decision - *Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development (Programming Period 2007-2013)*. 5966/06 Brussels 16 February 2006.

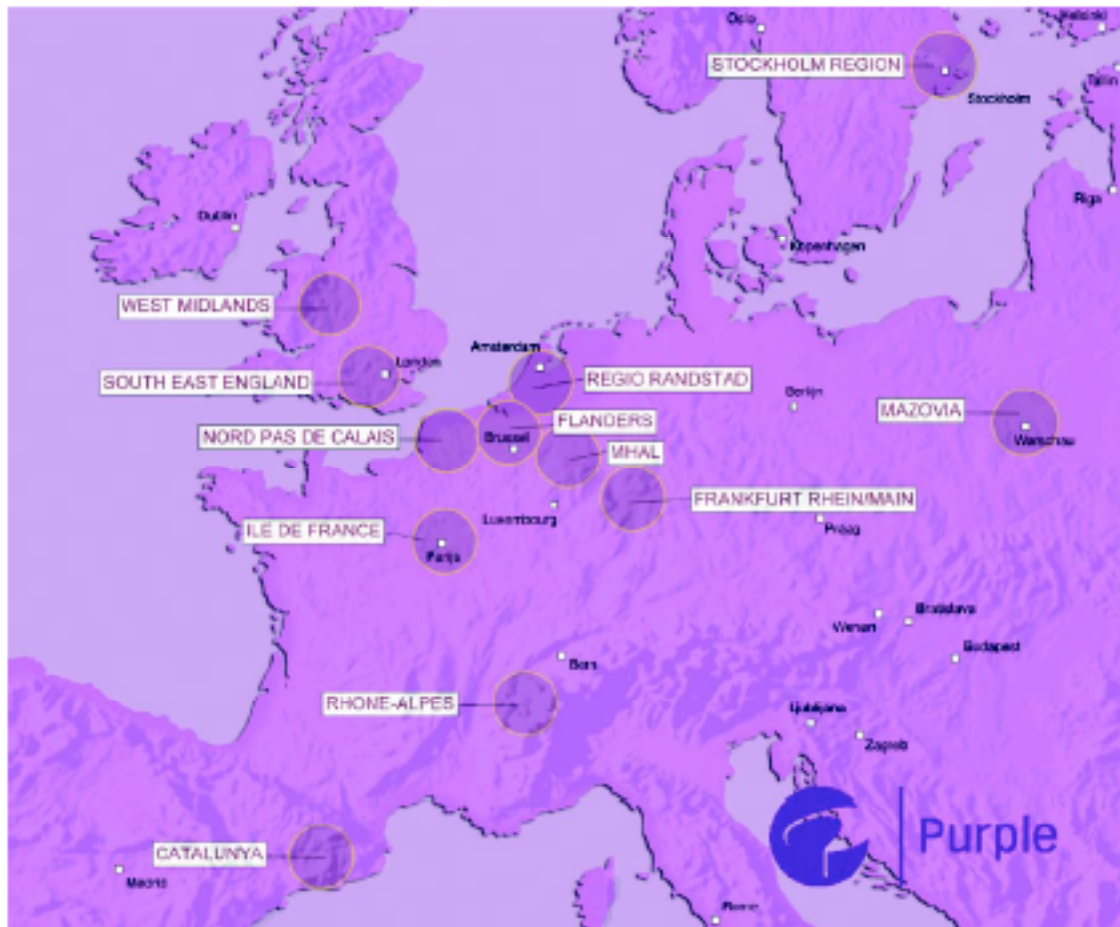
the collection of data required by the Commission in a way that provided separate data sets for the relevant common indicators⁶ in peri-urban areas.

Rural development support alone is not sufficient to safeguard rural land uses in peri-urban areas - it must be fully integrated with land use planning, development control, landscape and nature protection, management of the transport and other infrastructures. This may be a significant challenge in some regions where the responsibilities are split among several authorities.

These policy and implementation issues are particularly relevant to the problems and economic viability of rural land-based activities in peri-urban areas outlined at the beginning of this paper, but many of them would apply also to the wider rural area.

⁶ For example, the proposed common **baseline indicators** of: development of the service sector; self-employment development; tourism infrastructure; water quality; structure of the economy; the proposed common **output indicators** of: number of holdings introducing new products or techniques; value of agricultural production under recognised quality/label standards; area under successful land management contributing to biodiversity and high nature value farming or forestry / water quality / climate change / soil quality / avoidance of marginalisation; and the proposed common **impact indicators** of: economic growth; labour productivity; reversing biodiversity decline; improvement in water quality; and contributing to combating climate change. (Source: Annex VIII of draft of EAFRD Implementing Regulation - please note that final version of Regulation may differ)

Annex 1 PURPLE regions in Europe



Annex 2 Extract from PURPLE Position Paper

Peri-urban regions in Europe want to raise awareness about their position, problems and challenges concerning rural and regional development.

The over-pressure in peri-urban regions:

Peri-urban regions are characterised by the following opportunities and constraints:

1. Agriculture is a significant economic sector; it is important not only in terms of cultural heritage but also for the shaping of a region's future cultural identity. Furthermore it has a landscape or environment management function.
2. There is significant urban growth, often characterised by expanding commuter belts.
3. Rural space in peri-urban regions often includes areas with high levels of protection e.g. green belt, national parks.
4. Farmers need to diversify to maintain a reasonable level of income. They need to exploit specific opportunities which arise from their proximity to urban areas. They also face the challenge of successfully adopting new functions with regard to cultural heritage and landscape or environment management.
5. Rural areas provide a specific type of space and/or facilities for many leisure activities for urban populations.
6. Rural communities need to provide adequate services for all sectors of society to maintain a living countryside.

Rationale:

1. Over-pressure has, until now, not been a priority in European Union rural policy. It has been primarily focussed on agriculture, agricultural diversification and areas with under- pressure. This is now inadequate in many peri-urban regions where the role of agriculture in the regional economy has changed significantly in the last decades.
2. The spatial challenge consists in finding the right balance between the concentration of economic activities in Europe's highly urbanised areas (70% of general economic activities are undertaken in urban agglomerations; this is reflected in turn in demographic concentration in these agglomerations, which represent only 20% of total land area) and the increasing environmental pressures due to traffic, urban growth and intensive agricultural use of the land.
3. In peri-urban areas the amount of open space is diminishing and the quality of the environment, of biodiversity and landscape is under serious threat
4. Diversification of rural areas in peri-urban regions must necessarily entail both a "strategy for opportunities" for farmers and the transformation of a traditional area into a multifunctional, accessible and economically-viable open space.
5. The rural areas in peri-urban regions are not "lagging" areas, but have to find new balances between quality of life issues and urban pressures.
6. Peri-urban regions in Europe continue to work closely with farming organisations in the restructuring and re-development of their farms and territory towards sustainable agriculture and the maintenance of sustainable open space.
7. Consumers show an increasing interest in healthy, high quality, agricultural products, a trend which poses a challenge and presents an opportunity for those farmers in peri-urban regions who farm in close proximity to the 80% of European consumers who live in cities.
8. Peri-urban regions are aware that mass production will move to lower wage countries. The future of their regional economies will lie in high quality sustainable

production and the creation of new links between local producers and consumers (the farmer as next door neighbour of the citizen).

The need for a new balance between City and Countryside

Ambitions:

1. Peri-urban regions want to create a new focus for sustainable agriculture, with better recognition of the connections between product-farms, rural entrepreneurs and consumers/citizens.
2. Peri-urban regions aim to support the continued development of multi-functional agriculture on their territory.
3. As quality of life is key to the development of peri-urban regions, it is essential to create a better coherence between European regional development and rural policies and those of the Member States. Regional development is a driver of spatial and economic transition, while rural development addresses issues around agricultural transition and land management.
4. Peri-urban regions want to anticipate and benefit from changes in agricultural production chains arising from increasing competition, trade liberalisation and transitions in the agricultural sector (agri-food, greenhouse gardening etc).
5. Peri-urban areas are catalysts of agri-innovation and important players in agricultural markets and, as such, act as drivers of regional development.
6. To help redefine the cultural identity of the area, peri-urban regions provide a living and accessible countryside with vibrant rural communities.
7. Peri-urban regions strive to maintain a critical mass of agriculture and well-managed open space to support agricultural infrastructure and biodiversity.

Objectives for future Peri-urban transitions:

1. Peri-urban regions will follow a concerted approach through different levels of planning. This is seen as necessary in order to stimulate community involvement, cultural heritage and a consumer-led approach.
2. Open space in urbanised regions needs a distinctive cultural and natural identity, mixing traditional rural and new urban values of open space. Open spaces are living landscapes and will not be preserved as museums.
3. Sustainable open space will be addressed in a multi-disciplinary manner, taking into account natural, economic, social and cultural policy aims.
4. Young people are vital for the future of peri-urban open space as farmers, entrepreneurs and consumers to ensure balance in the regional economy and policies will be formulated to support them.
5. Local and regional actors representing the agricultural sector will be encouraged to develop solutions to farm in a sustainable way, while respecting the needs of their urban neighbours.
6. The different stages of the agricultural production chain will be highlighted by research and pilots within the framework of future regional rural programmes.
7. Citizens must be able to experience and enjoy the natural world. The accessibility of open space will therefore be improved but carefully managed to avoid excessive use.
8. Peri-urban areas will foster a local sense of identity through planning and regional marketing policies.
9. Interregional exchanges between peri-urban regions are seen as necessary for the development of a knowledge infrastructure, supported by a number of

research institutes and regional governments, to promote innovation and the use of new technologies.

10. Rural development planning in peri-urban regions will take into consideration wider environmental issues, such as water management, soil quality, mineral extraction, biomass fuels and alternative energies, which are particularly significant in open space in peri-urban regions.
11. Peri-urban regions will capitalise on their proximity to large urban areas by promoting entrepreneurship in other sectors such as ICT, tourism, leisure and social care.

Annex 3 Summary of EAFRD measures

Axis	Objective	Measures
Axis 1 Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector	promoting knowledge and improving human potential	vocational training and information , including scientific knowledge and innovative practices, for people in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors setting up of young farmers early retirement of farmers and farm workers use of advisory services by farmers and forest holders setting up farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, and forestry advisory services
	restructuring and developing physical potential and promoting innovation	modernising agricultural holdings improving the economic value of forests adding value to agricultural and forestry products cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions
	improving the quality of agricultural production and products	helping farmers to adapt to demanding standards based on Community legislation supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes

Axis	Objective	Measures
	transitional measures for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia	semi-subsistence agricultural holdings undergoing restructuring setting up of producer groups
Axis 2 Improving the environment and the countryside	sustainable use of agricultural land	natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC agri-environment payments animal welfare payments support for non-productive investments
	sustainable use of forestry land	first afforestation of agricultural land first establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land first afforestation of non-agricultural land Natura 2000 payments forest-environment payments restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions support for non-productive investments

Axis	Objective	Measures
Axis 3 The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy	diversifying the rural economy	diversification into non-agricultural activities support for the creation and development of micro-enterprises with a view to promoting entrepreneurship and developing the economic fabric encouragement of tourism activities
	improving the quality of life in the rural areas	basic services for the economy and rural population village renewal and development conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
	a training and information measure for economic actors operating in the fields covered by axis 3	
	a skills-acquisition and animation measure with a view to preparing and implementing a local development strategy.	
Axis 4 Leader	The Leader approach shall comprise at least;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area-based local development strategies intended for well-identified sub regional rural territories • local public-private partnerships (hereinafter local action groups) • bottom-up approach with a decision-making power for local action groups concerning the elaboration and implementation of local development strategies • multi-sectoral design and implementation of the strategy based on the interaction between actors and projects of different sectors of the local economy • implementation of innovative approaches • implementation of cooperation projects • networking of local partnerships

Annex 4 Summary of information from the twelve PURPLE regions

Page	Region	Member State
22	Catalunya	Spain
25	Flanders	Belgium
28	Frankfurt/Rhein-Main	Germany
31	Île-de-France	France
34	Mazovia (Mazowieckie Voivodship)	Poland
39	MHAL	Netherlands, Belgium and Germany
44	Nord Pas De Calais	France
49	Randstad	Netherlands
51	Rhône-Alpes	France
53	South East England	United Kingdom
56	Stockholm	Sweden
58	West Midlands	United Kingdom

Region	CATALUNYA Spain
Size and population density	32 000 km ² of which 1.15 million hectares are agricultural land and 18.9 million hectares are forest. 20% of Catalunya is designated as nature reserves and parks. Population density 204 per km ² overall but ranges from 50 per km ² in the rural hinterland to 400-800 per km ² around Barcelona. There are 15 administrative areas in Catalunya, (covering 41 counties, 946 town councils) of which 2 or 3 are peri-urban.
Regional role in rural development	There are 17 regional RDPs in Spain. Preparation and delivery of the 2007-13 rural development plan is the responsibility of the Catalan regional government although some measures are compulsory for all 17 regional administrations. The Spanish national government will be responsible for running the Leader network (not the LAGs) and for evaluation and monitoring of the regional RDPs.
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	Very active agri-food industry. Opportunities to produce fresh and quality produce for Barcelona, also for leisure and tourism. Problems of water pollution from manure disposal (particularly from intensive pig production).
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	458 million euro for Catalunya, including LEADER+ programme.
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	370 million euro – 24% less than previous period, since the reduction of EAFRD for Spain will be approximately 40%, but the reduction for non-convergence regions is supposed to be not so sharp since the funds were already low in the previous period. Central government plan to ensure that the total spend on the 2007-13 programme remains broadly the same as that for 2000-06 (there may be a reduction of around 5% but no more than 10%). This ‘top-up’ will be achieved by compulsory and possibly voluntary modulation (%age rate not yet decided) and possibly some national funding too.
Modulation	see above
Axis1	50 - 52 % (currently about 67% of the 2000-06 RDP, spent on management of water resources, processing and marketing agricultural produce, investment in farm holdings and young farmers). This will be less than the 2000-06 Plan, and expenditure on some measures will be restricted - for example support for the agri-food industry will be restricted to micro-enterprises (<10 people), and to small (<50) or medium enterprises (<250) if they are co-operatives or producers’ associations.

Axis 2	25 – 30 % (currently about 20% of the 2000-06 RDP, spent on agri-environment, forestry and animal welfare). This will be a significant increase on the current plan, taking funding from Axis 1. (LFA payment rates are likely to be higher per farm, following Commission recommendations – but LFA is only in mountains, not in peri-urban areas).
Axis 3	20 - 25 % (currently about 13% of the 2000-06 RDP, spent on agricultural infrastructure, services for rural communities and farm diversification and tourism).
Leader	11 % to be used in measures included in Axis 3 of EAFRD.
National strategy 2007-13	The national strategy requires all regional governments to include in their rural development plans some horizontal measures across the whole of Spain (these include support for young farmers, water management, LFA and possibly others such as diversification).
Development of measures	Measures are defined by the regional government (except those mentioned above). The area of peri-urban agriculture has been defined and will have specific measures. Stakeholders are involved through the area councils (local authorities, farmers' groups, co-operatives, agri-food industry etc.) which have made proposals through agro-rural agreements; for the peri-urban areas proposals included legislation and land-use planning to protect agricultural land; investment to improve competitiveness; farm advisory system; processing and marketing (e.g. development of markets for fresh produce from area north of Barcelona); and improvement of irrigated land, re-use of waste water and collection of rainwater. These territorial agro-rural agreements could be used to define EAFRD measures for 2007-13.
Delivery of measures	The measures are all delivered by the Regional Ministry of Agriculture through their county offices, except forestry measures which are the responsibility of the Regional Environment Ministry.
Measures 2007-13	Main measures will be similar to current RDP, but there will be new agri-environment measures. Innovative Farm Management Contracts (based on model from Scotland, but orientated more to farm activity and less to land management) – piloted in four counties in 2005, these will be 5+ year contracts with a menu of measures from all 3 axes, with compulsory elements including a minimum number of days training (no charge to the farmer, travel expenses paid, farmer chooses the training course), farm accounts, traceability procedures, use of advisory services, production insurance and at least one commitment to sustainable farm management from the 'menu' available in that area. Farm management consultants (approved by Ministry) will carry out an assessment of the competitiveness and sustainability of the farm, prepare an outline business plan and application for EAFRD support, with the farmer paying 20% of the cost of this. Advice will be available, its cost included in the contract, from the same consultants throughout the life of the contract. Ideally the contracts would be the only way of delivering EAFRD support to farmers but in practice some measures will be available only through a contract, some only outside a contract and some either with or without a contract.

Experience of Leader	Experience of Leader covers Leader I, II and +. In the 2000-06 plan period groups similar to Leader were set up using rural development funds, and the Ministry persuaded the Commission to pay for running costs using RDP funding. Now EAFRD funds can be used for Leader groups this will not be necessary.
Leader 2007-13	There will be some changes to Leader groups to make them less linked to local authorities – perhaps by defining Leader areas which cross local authority boundaries.
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	Farm Management Contracts (and, potentially, Leader) integrate funding from all 3 axes of EAFRD.
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farm Management Contracts, integrating all 3 axes. 2. Higher %age rates of aid for some measures in peri-urban areas (e.g. + 4% or 5% for young farmers and investment in agricultural holdings). High priority for investment in areas protected for agricultural use, and a means of integrating EAFRD support with other investments in these areas. 3. Specific measures for peri-urban areas, especially for quality assurance of farm produce and access to nearby markets. 4. Proposals to set up official liaison arrangements with town councils, who designate statutory protected areas for agricultural use in peri-urban areas which also have to accommodate other functions such as transport corridors, urban sewage disposal etc. It is important to have good working arrangements with the urban planning authorities because, although the Ministry of Agriculture has a seat in the Committee that approves (or rejects) land use plans, the Ministry of Agriculture cannot make changes to the plans after they are submitted. 5. Regional government investment in agri-food infrastructure – when strawberry production moved from northern Spain to the south, the strawberry farms of northern Catalunya changed to growing flowers and ornamental plants. The regional government built a modern, computer equipped wholesale flower market which is now managed by a public/private partnership.
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young farmers • processing and marketing farm products • marketing quality agricultural products • farm diversification • promotion of tourism and crafts • services for rural communities • agricultural infrastructure • water resource management
sources of information	Template, presentations December and April, telephone interview 4 May 2006 with Lluç Beltran 0034 93 304 6700

Region	FLANDERS Belgium
Size and population density	13 500 km ² of which 9 230 km ² are rural (68% of the total, 41% being agricultural land) and 1434 km ² are forest. Population density 437per km ² .
Regional role in rural development	Complete delegation to each of the two regions of Belgium for the national strategy, design of programme, delivery and evaluation.
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	Pressure on agricultural land.
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	214 million euro (EU co-financing only)
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	c. 180 million euro
Modulation	included in 180 million euro above
Axis1	65%
Axis 2	25%
Axis 3	10%
Leader	a minimum of 5% all within Axis 3 allocation
National strategy 2007-13	Emphasises that Flanders is very urbanised, cannot have the same rural goals as the rest of Europe (for example the OECD criterion of <150 per km ² does not work in Flanders - a more realistic definition of rurality would be the area outside the cities of Ghent, Bruges and Antwerp and their suburbs). Focus of strategy is on supporting farmers because agriculture has significant problems and can provide green services for rural population.
Development of measures	

Delivery of measures	Axis 1 delivered by agricultural Ministry; Axis 2 by both agricultural and environment Ministries (but farmers declare which agri-environment measures they are applying for on their IACS forms, so the division of responsibilities is clear); Axis 3 is delivered by Ministries of agriculture, environment and spatial planning but where the recipient is a farmer the agricultural ministry will be involved; the provincial (local) government is intensely involved in the measures of Axis 3 and Axis 4.
Measures 2007-13	Same as current programme with minor changes. Expected to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment in farms • setting up young farmers • training • food quality • areas with environmental constraints (special LFA, there is no normal LFA in Flanders) • agri-environment • processing and marketing • forestry • marketing quality products • adaptation and development of rural areas (diversification, farm tourism, farm shops, farm activities for disabled people, village renewal, cultural heritage) Most measures are horizontal (except Leader and some agri-environment measures).
Experience of Leader	5 provinces of Flanders each had a Leader+ group. Existing 5 groups found it difficult to spend current budget, which is much less than 5% of EAFRD.
Leader 2007-13	Leader areas not yet decided but likely to be areas < 350 per km ² which occupy about 25% of Flanders. All funding will be within Axis 3, which will be split between Leader and horizontal measures.
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	Expected that all support for micro-enterprises will be from Regional Fund for rural areas using Objective 2 funding (which is less likely to be short of funds than EAFRD).
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	In addition to the EAFRD rural development plan prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture the Ministry of Environment is developing a wider rural policy for Flanders covering other rural community concerns (e.g. social housing). This started in 2005 and will be completed by 2009 and will ensure that Flanders has a policy (and a national fund) to deal with rural problems not covered by the EU rural development, social and regional funds.
Elements of PURPLE resolution implemented by EAFRD	Young farmers Leader

	Coherence between EAFRD and EFRD
sources of information	Template and presentation at April meeting and telephone interview 3 May with Patricia de Clecq 00 32 2553 63 63 DG Agri summary of Rural development programme for Flanders Decision N°: C(2000) 2970 Final approval date: 06.10.00 http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/rur/countries/index_en.htm

Region	FRANKFURT/RHEIN-MAIN Germany
Size and population density	<p>Frankfurt/Rhein-Main has a population of 2 million and covers 2 000 km², of which 94 214 hectares are agricultural land and 79 458 hectares are forest. It is one of the most prosperous areas of Germany.</p> <p>This region developed, like many other metropolitan regions, because of the favourable conditions for agriculture. Agricultural land is concentrated in the region's northeast, in the Wetterau. But even the city of Frankfurt am Main has a considerable proportion of agricultural land, i.e. more than 25%.</p>
Regional role in rural development	<p>The federal system in Germany means that most of the rural development input is at the level of the Länder, in this case Hessen.</p> <p>This is despite the fact that as a Planungsverband, Frankfurt Rhein/Main has 75 local authorities and is a 'region' of considerable size.</p> <p>The Planungsverband has little influence on the development of the countryside (Land Use Plan and Landscape Plan). The important decisions are taken by the Land government and the Regierungspräsidium (regional office of the Land government). The Planungsverband is trying to increase its influence through talks with the Land Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture.</p>
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	<p>There is a need for a clearer definition of 'peri-urban' to ensure it gets official recognition and implementation in policies that bring 'town'-related and 'rural'-related issues together.</p> <p>Peri-urban policies are more appropriate for polycentric regions such as Frankfurt/Rhein-Main where it is vital to ensure the future viability of open space between settlements.</p> <p>Key issues are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what landscape management means in metropolitan areas • a new role for farmers <p>The main problem in the region is the still high demand for agricultural land by other uses (settlement and infrastructure). Unfortunately, the specific challenges and opportunities of the conurbation are not yet taken into account satisfactorily.</p>
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	<p>None. Because Frankfurt/Rhein-Main is classed as a metropolitan area it received no RDP funding for 2000-06. All the EU rural development co-funding went to North Hessen. In 2000-2006 the priorities in the Hessen Rural Development</p>

	<p>plan were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved competitiveness of agriculture • Safeguarding natural resources (including Natura 2000 sites) • Village regeneration, basic service sector facilities for rural dwellers and rural economy and tourism • LEADER+ <p>Hessian Development Plan for the Rural Areas 1 000 million euro comprising: 600 million euro public funds, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 270 million euro EU • 350 million euro Bund and Land <p>Rest is private investments</p>
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	<p>It is not yet known if Frankfurt/Rhein-Main will receive any EAFRD funding in the 2007-13 period. On the Land level there will be a net reduction of funds by 30% (which would have been 40% without obligatory modulation).</p>
Modulation	see above
Axis1	25%
Axis 2	50%
Axis 3	15% plus 5% LEADER = 20%
Leader	Integrated in Axis 3
National strategy 2007-13	<p>The national EAFRD strategy from 2007 is 'work in progress' by the Bund and Länder. Frankfurt/Rhein-Main is not yet formally involved in the EAFRD strategy working group, but would like greater recognition, both as a stakeholder and a key participant.</p> <p>There is a draft dated 6th March 2006 written mainly by Land representatives and not really guiding the Land programmes.</p>
Development of measures	

Delivery of measures	
Measures 2007-13	
Experience of Leader	The exclusion of Frankfurt and the surrounding area from Leader+ was one of the reasons for joining PURPLE.
Leader 2007-13	We raised this issue at a recent hearing and will continue to lobby for the inclusion of our region into LEADER
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	Still in the drafting process
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	
sources of information	Presentations at December meeting Telephone conversation 9 May with Susanna Caliendo and additional information in May 2006 from Reinhard Henke and Michael Voll +49 69 2577-1611

Region	Île-de-France
Size and population density	12 072 km ² of which 80% is agricultural land and forest. Population density 911 per km ² The impact of the city of Paris stretches out along the infrastructure networks, into new towns, forests and leisure areas. The cultivation of the remaining open space reflects the distance to the capital of the nation: arable fields in the outskirts of the region and market gardening, fruit and flowers closer to Paris.
Regional role in rural development	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	<p>Need for special investment to support mixed farming (animals and crops) near the city, to support specific opportunities for farm diversification in peri-urban areas, and also training for farmers. Would like to use EAFRD funding for animateurs to encourage co-ordination between farmers, local authorities and stakeholders. This would help to avoid urban development in the wrong place, ensure that infrastructure is compatible with farming and bring producers and consumers together.</p> <p>In an “agri-urban program”, the region promotes peri-urban agriculture through 3 types of intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotion of land banks; • promotion of the maintenance and development of agricultural potential; • taking into account the wishes of the population and collectives.
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	<p>During the 2000 – 2006 period the administrative level was national (National Rural Development Plan) with a regional touch (Objectives 1 and 2 Single Programming Document). Thus for the 2000 – 2006 programming period France negotiated with the European Commission one Single Programming Document for each region for objectives 1 and 2, one Single Programming Document at a national level for Objective 3 and one Single Programming Document for each CIP (Communitarian Initiative Programming). During the 2000-2006 period, the principal measures were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less Favoured Areas (principally mountain zone), 34% of global rural development credits • agri-environment, 34% of global rural development credits • farmers' installations, 10% of global rural development credits • farm investments, 6% of global rural development credits • forestry measures, 8% of global rural development credits

	<p>Total: 92% of credits are devoted to these 5 agricultural measures (equivalent of Axes 1 and 2 of EAFRD).</p> <p>Of a total of 160 m euros only 3.4 m euros (2.15%) returned directly to the region Île-De-France for the Rural Development Regulation. The region had no Objective 2 funding. The European Union funds used in the region Île de France for the 01/01/2000 to 15/06/2005 covered 13 measures, but the region is directly involved only with the 3 measures marked in bold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investments in farms : 125096982 Euros • young farmers: 1568960 Euros • training: 731732 Euros • early retirement: 62248 Euros • agri-environment: 3141225 Euros • transformation and marketing of agricultural products: 1414183 Euros • afforestation of farmland: 15816 Euros • other afforestation measures: 42145452 Euros • consolidation of lands: 95730 Euros • marketing of quality agricultural products: 13892 Euros • diversification of agricultural activities: 14868 Euros • management of water resources for agriculture: 322 Euros • environmental protection, animals' well-being: 16985 Euros
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	
Modulation	Voluntary modulation will not be used in France
Axis1	
Axis 2	
Axis 3	In the case of Île de France the Axis 3 minimum is 70 % of its regional allocation, but it varies from region to region
Leader	A minimum of 5% within the allocation for each region
National strategy 2007-13	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>

Development of measures	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Delivery of measures	Some measures are co-financed and delivered by the state office for the region, some by the regional council
Measures 2007-13	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Experience of Leader	No previous experience of Leader
Leader 2007-13	Uncertainty about how Leader will work, because of lack of experience.
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	The only regional plans in France were for the use of EU structural funds, Objective 1 and 2, but there were no rural areas in Objective 2 (only urban areas of Paris) and no Objective 1 programme in the region.
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	Two regions of France (Île de France and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) have a special peri-urban agri-environment measure for the areas around Paris and Marseilles, compensating farmers for problems caused by vandalism and trespass from nearby urban areas.
Elements of PURPLE resolution implemented by EAFRD	Not yet known but perhaps more emphasis on young farmers, by redefining eligibility so that more people qualify. Young farmers are already given priority in some measures. Concerns about natural resources and food security - one solution to meeting future urban food security demands, while protecting and conserving natural resources, is the conversion of unused parcels of land in the urban environment to sustainable food production areas.
sources of information	Telephone interview 5 May and further information provided by Anne-Sophie de Kerangal 00 33 153 855642

Region	MAZOVIA (Mazowieckie Voivodship) Poland																								
Size and population density	The region covers 35 598 km ² (11.4% of Poland) of which 67.1 % is agricultural land and 22% is forest. Within the agricultural land 71% is arable, 25 % meadows and pastures and 4% orchards. Population 5 140 000 (13.1 % of the Polish population) and a population density of 144 people per km ² . It is a region of great contrasts.																								
Regional role in rural development	<p>There is only one national Rural Development Programme for the years 2004-2006, and in the next programming period: 2007-13 there will be only one national RDP. As the regional government, the Office of the Marshal wanted to influence the shape of the programme through interviews with local authorities – the information from the questionnaires (showing their choice of the most popular activities) was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.</p> <p>The results of the interviews are shown below (how many communes have chosen certain measures as %)</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Modernisation of agricultural holdings</td> <td>93 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semi-subsistence farming</td> <td>93 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Setting up of young farmers</td> <td>85 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Support for less-favoured areas (LFA)</td> <td>82 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Early retirement</td> <td>81 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meeting EU standards</td> <td>81 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agri-environment payments</td> <td>80 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Encouragement of tourism activities</td> <td>79 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First afforestation of agricultural land</td> <td>79 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rural renewal and the preservation and protection of cultural heritage</td> <td>76 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agricultural producer groups</td> <td>70 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Advisory services</td> <td>70 %</td> </tr> </table>	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	93 %	Semi-subsistence farming	93 %	Setting up of young farmers	85 %	Support for less-favoured areas (LFA)	82 %	Early retirement	81 %	Meeting EU standards	81 %	Agri-environment payments	80 %	Encouragement of tourism activities	79 %	First afforestation of agricultural land	79 %	Rural renewal and the preservation and protection of cultural heritage	76 %	Agricultural producer groups	70 %	Advisory services	70 %
Modernisation of agricultural holdings	93 %																								
Semi-subsistence farming	93 %																								
Setting up of young farmers	85 %																								
Support for less-favoured areas (LFA)	82 %																								
Early retirement	81 %																								
Meeting EU standards	81 %																								
Agri-environment payments	80 %																								
Encouragement of tourism activities	79 %																								
First afforestation of agricultural land	79 %																								
Rural renewal and the preservation and protection of cultural heritage	76 %																								
Agricultural producer groups	70 %																								
Advisory services	70 %																								
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	<p>Problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spatial chaos - investments are placed by chance, inconsistent with the trends and rules of spatial planning (site functions) and without taking into consideration, for example, valuable nature areas (ecological corridors). • the pressure of urbanization on "green" areas, like Kampinoski National Park and Mazowiecki Landscape Park 																								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of local spatial development plans • ecological isolation of forest complexes due to urban sprawl • simplification of landscape structure <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of “environmental friendly” tourism for Warsaw citizens (kayaks, bikes, cross country skiing, walks) • economic growth (more and more companies are moving their headquarters from Warsaw to the Warsaw Metropolitan Area) • potential opportunities for ecological farmers (in the vicinity of the big market of Warsaw)
<p>Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)</p>	<p>Two different programmes are being implemented in Poland in 2004-06:</p> <p>The Sector Operational Programme (SOP) for Restructuring and Modernization of the Food Sector and Rural Development 2004-2006 is based on funds from EAGGF Guidance Section plus national funds (state budget, local government funds and beneficiaries' funds). The total EU allocation for SOP for the whole of Poland is 1 798 million euro.</p> <p>Beneficiaries can be local authorities, farmers, NGOs, producer groups and companies. Measures available include:</p> <p>Priority I – Supporting changes and adjustments in agricultural and food sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment in agricultural holdings • setting up of young farmers • training • agricultural advisory and extension services • improving processing and marketing of agricultural products <p>Priority II – Sustainable development of rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restoring forestry production potential damaged by natural disaster and/or fire and introducing appropriate preventive measures • land re-parceling • diversification of agricultural activities • agricultural water resources management • development and improvement of the agricultural infrastructure • LEADER + <p>The Rural Development Plan 2004-2006 is based on funds from European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) Guarantee Section plus national funds (from state budget, local government and beneficiaries). The total financial allocation for the RDP 2004-06 for the whole of Poland is 3 592 million euro. Beneficiaries are farmers. Measures include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • early retirement • semi-subsistence farming • agricultural producer groups • support for less-favored areas (LFA) • support for agri-environmental projects • first afforestation of agricultural land • meeting EU standards and supplementation of direct payments • technical assistance
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	Total for Poland 15 683 million euro (EAFRD 11 863 million, Poland 3 581 million)
Modulation	yes
Axis1	50%
Axis 2	26%
Axis 3 and Leader	20%
Technical assistance	4%
National strategy 2007-13 Regional strategy	<p>Based on state documents concerning National Development, the Development Strategy of Mazowieckie Voivodship has been prepared by the Mazovian Spatial Planning Office in cooperation with, for example, the Office of the Marshal. The document describes the directions and targets of development of Mazowieckie Voivodship in 15 years' perspective taking into account SWOT analysis, including the main human activities in the region and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Long-term /strategic aims up to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create e-society and to improve the standard of living of the Mazovian population • increase the competitiveness of the region in both European and global context • strive for social, economic and spatial cohesion in conditions of sustainable development <p>Medium-term aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide for human resources development • increase economic competitiveness and innovation • stimulate the development of Warsaw's metropolitan functions • stimulate the development and modernisation of non-metropolitan areas • stimulate inhabitants' activity and the image of the region

	<p>For agriculture the main stress was put on multifunctional development of rural areas and the promotion of environmental friendly agriculture within ecological farming. Also Warsaw Metropolitan Area was analysed and one of the targets concerning this area is to counteract landscape and environmental degradation (taking into account waste management, sewage management, Green Belt, realisation of the Natura 2000 network, and creation of a compact system of regulations to prevent urban pressure on valuable nature areas with a climatic function (exchange and regeneration of air), which also regenerate and supply ecological systems within Warsaw).</p>
Development of measures	<p>During preparation of the RDP for 2007-2013 certain regions/institutions could attend “working group” at the Ministry of Agriculture concerning almost all of the proposed activities. During these sessions each of them could (taking into consideration the specific situation in the regions) propose new activities and/or choose existing ones among certain measures e.g. Mazovia proposed the activity “protection of old orchards and old traditionally cultivated plants” as a part of the agri-environment programme. Also during “social consultations” certain interest groups could choose/propose measures for the RDP, using suitable arguments to support their case.</p>
Delivery of measures	<p>The final decisions haven’t been taken yet. The following activities will probably be implemented regionally - by the Office of the Marshal, powiaty (equivalent to counties) or local authorities within each powiaty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rural renewal • Leader • improvement of the infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry • basic services for the economy and rural population.
Measures 2007-13	<p>Axis 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocational training and information actions for people employed in agriculture and forestry. • Setting up young farmers. • Early retirement. • Modernisation of agricultural holdings. • Adding value to agricultural and forestry products. • Improvement of the infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry. • Participation of farmers in food quality schemes. • Support for producer groups in information and promotion activities for products covered by the quality schemes. • Producer groups. • Setting up of management, relief and advisory services and exercising of a advisory services by farmers and forest owners <p>Axis 2</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural handicap payments in mountain areas and payments in other areas with handicaps. • Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC. • Agri-environment payments and non-productive investments. • Afforestation of agricultural land and afforestation of non-agricultural land. • Forest-environment payments with forest NATURA 2000 payments • Restoring forestry production potential and introducing prevention actions. <p>Axis 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification into non-agricultural activities • Basic services for the economy and rural population • Rural renewal • Creation and development of small enterprises • Training and information <p>Axis 4 Leader 150 million euro Technical Assistance</p>
Experience of Leader	During 2004-2006 Leader was implemented as a 'pilot project'.
Leader 2007-13	Will be implemented in Poland
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	They complement each other (like probably everywhere else in the EU) meaning that the scope and type of support are different but they belong together.
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	New common initiatives between regions – new projects, ideas on how to solve problems in our regions - knowledge exchange.
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	Making the fullest use of the wider scope of EAFRD - for example support for the forestry sector, integration of supply chains, for entrepreneurs, innovation, training and advice, tourism and rural and cultural heritage.
sources of information	Presentations at December and April meetings, additional information provided by Rafal Rzepkowski (+48 22 3231920)

<p>Region</p>	<p>MHAL Netherlands, Belgium and Germany</p> <p>Note: The MHAL region is located partly in the Netherlands (cities of Maastricht and Heerlen), Belgium (Liège and Hasselt) and Germany (Aachen). The MHAL region has initiated a cross-border study concerning the issues for a Joint Action Programme, including Rural Development, but this had not been completed at the time of writing (the outcome is expected in Summer 2006).</p> <p>The following information is based on the Dutch (Netherlands) situation - the region South-Netherlands (provinces North Brabant, Zeeland and Limburg).</p>
<p>Size and population density</p>	<p>10 150 km² of which 57% is agricultural land, 13% is forest and nature area and 20% is water. There are 4 216 000 inhabitants and population density is 415.3 inhabitants per km² (inclusive of water area). (MHAL-region population density is 184 inhabitants per km²)</p> <p>The economy of the region is ruled by high tech industries, with large production sites for chemicals, electronics, automotive, maintenance, with R&D sites for bio based energy, life sciences, agriculture and health and with a good infrastructure. The highly dynamic activity is balanced by a diverse activity in the countryside, thus making it an attractive region for people both to work and live in.</p> <p>The region has a broad variety of rural activity. In the south of Limburg, the East of North Brabant and the Zeeland coast, tourism is the main source of income in the countryside. In large parts of Brabant and Limburg the poultry and pork industry are very strongly represented, in Zeeland beets and potatoes are important produce and in the North of Limburg there are fruit, flowers and vegetables, often grown in green houses. In Venlo there is a logistic main port and a greenport, adding value and distributing food to the urban area and exporting to other regions. The region has several National Landscapes and Parks.</p>
<p>Regional role in rural development</p>	<p>Although there is one Rural Development Plan for the Netherlands the state has given the 12 provinces responsibility for rural development at the regional level, including authority to define regional programmes and allocate funding. The regional organization has multiple levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Region of South Netherlands (three provinces; programming) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provinces of North Brabant, Zeeland and Limburg (NUTS 2, more detailed programming, finances) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counties (LEADER-level, in Limburg e.g. 9 sub regional “local” co-operations; 5-10 municipalities each) <p>The provinces will create a programme for the period 2007 – 2013. The local groups work out projects and the province does so too, sometimes in co-operation with cross-border partners, other provinces or other Member States. There is</p>

	<p>continuous consultation among the parties to create the most satisfactory outcome. The total of the submitted projects is turned into a more detailed programme every year. In the Netherlands around 75% of EAFRD funding is delivered as part of the National Investment Programme for Countryside Development (ILG) and although the EAFRD funds are only about 10% of the ILG budget of € 450 million per annum they are seen as important because of the strong multiplying effect of EU funding. The other 25% of the EAFRD funding will mainly be spent by the Ministry of Agriculture in national tender regulations; called the “Enterprise Programme”.</p>
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leisure possibility for city dwellers • good business climate for urban enterprises because of attractive environment • huge internal market for food and other high quality and regional agricultural products and services • space for diverse rural economic activity • urban facilities for rural inhabitants present <p>Problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farmers, needed to maintain the countryside, leave because of low income • urban sprawl • air pollution • soil pollution by agricultural activity
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	<p>Current RDP support for the Netherlands: 60 million euro a year for the Netherlands, about 25% is for the region; 15 million a year, 105 million euro in the period 2000 - 2006</p>
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	<p>For the whole country 63 million euro a year, total 441 million euro. For the three provinces the total EU contribution for whole period is 110 million euro, of which 44.1 million will be spent directly by the region, about 40 million will be spent as a part of the contract with the National government on the ILG-budget (see above) and about 20 million will have to be “earned in” by applying for specific National tenders under Axis 1. The total EU contribution of 441 million euro for The Netherlands, including modulation receipts, is a relatively small proportion of the 3 150 million euro (450 x7) the Dutch national government will spend on rural development in the period 2007 – 2013. Regional partners will about double this to 6 300 million euro (900 x7).</p>
Modulation	None
Axis1	30% (15% delivered nationally, 15% regionally)
Axis 2	30% (10% delivered nationally, 20% regionally)

Axis 3	30% (all delivered regionally)
Leader	10% (all delivered regionally)
National strategy 2007-13	<p>The Dutch government expects to allocate the resources for Axis 1 in the RDP 2007-2013 as follows: strengthening the potential of human capital 15%, strengthening the potential of physical capital 70%, and improving quality by using measurements for added value, co-operation on innovation, development of new techniques, food quality schemes 15%.</p> <p>The national financing of measures under Axis 2 will be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and by the provinces. With the help of EU financing for Axis 2 measures, the Dutch government wants to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to halt the deterioration of the biodiversity linked to agriculture, by 2010; • to preserve and strengthen the valuable man-made landscapes (through agri-environment payments which will take around 80% of the budget for Axis 2 and also allowances for areas with handicaps); • to improve the environmental and water conditions for the benefit of the objectives relating to nature; • to contribute to the objectives relating to climate and landscape (through afforestation of farmland). <p>The Netherlands will use Axis 3 to help the agricultural sector in: business modernisations; increasing the added value of agricultural and forestry products; improving the infrastructure; chain collaboration in innovation; participation in food quality schemes; the promotion and marketing of products under these schemes; and compliance with EU standards with a major impact on business operations.</p>
Development of measures	There are ambitions written down in our regional strategies for developing relations between “city & countryside”. We will use Axis 3 and Axis 4 for these.
Delivery of measures	<i>Please see Table 1 in the main report for details of responsibility for co-financing and delivery</i>
Measures 2007-13	<p>Regional priorities will follow from the priorities put down in the regional ILG (National Investment Programme for Countryside Development) programmes as mentioned above. In financing these priorities, specific RDF-measurements will be determined in coherence with ILG finances. Regional priority will be given to the problems and opportunities mentioned above, and in general to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agri-environment measures by dairy farms • new agricultural or other economic activity for arable farmers • innovation on sustainability and bio-based energy • maintaining countryside and nature quality and biodiversity by sustainable agriculture and tourism • innovation concerning new product market combination

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area branding and creating support for sustaining open space • water related issues
Experience of Leader	<p>There are 28 Local Action groups in the Netherlands, delivering Leader in 50% of the rural area. A evaluative report on the results and experiences has been published. Some regions were successful, some were not, in most regions the average project volume was very small; most regions wish to continue their activity. In another 25% of the Dutch rural area, Leader-like groups are active and cooperate with other groups covering the same area.</p>
Leader 2007-13	<p>LEADER and Regional Analysis</p> <p>The region strongly supports the LEADER philosophy and approach and will practise this approach, either under official LEADER colours or under colours of the National Investment Programme for Countryside Development, where the approach is named “Territorial Integral Cooperation”. The region has already created LAGs that are allowed to execute programs in their region, using both National and EU resources.</p> <p>These LAGs have a major say on a total budget of up to 10 times the RDF-budget, which would make them very powerful LEADER-LAGs.</p> <p>However, to be able to meet the formal EU-LEADER definition, three practical and maybe principal points would have to be solved:</p> <p>1. Calls for proposal:</p> <p>The regional LAGs (some LEADER, some active under another flag) are already active and have already worked out programmes. The regional authorities do not wish to frustrate these widely accepted and supported LAGs by bringing up new competition if not necessary. A call for proposal should rather be a check on terms for LEADER acceptance and a check on competitiveness.</p> <p>2. Decision making in the LAGs:</p> <p>Some of the existing LAGs are operating under a National law, resulting from the General Food Law, meant to control animal health disease: the Reconstruction Law. This law prescribes the composition of the decision making board of the LAG. Although tasks and responsibilities are alike, the composition differs slightly from the composition prescribed in the EAFRD.</p> <p>We wish to investigate a solution to solve the differences without having to change the National law or endangering the LEADER objectives.</p> <p>3. Population covered by LAGs:</p> <p>If the EAFRD requirement for areas of <100 000 population was applied to the whole of the Netherlands there would be too many groups (more than 60). The number of 150 000 is workable, though integrating two or three 150 000 groups at some point should be possible. The advantages should be clearly documented in such a case.</p> <p>Also, some of the population active in a LEADER-group might (should) be urban, but RDF-investments cannot occur in</p>

	the urban area.
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	<p>Now looking for complementary means in the Structural Funds, and currently negotiating budgets for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Belts and Areas in and around the Cities • Nature 2000 investments as an asset for enterprise establishment • reconstruction of agricultural zones for intensive poultry or pig meat production, susceptible to veterinarian disease • innovation in agrifood chains (non primary sector) and “Greenports” (food production, auction, added value, market place, transportation and distribution) <p>Also exploring the rural possibilities of the 7th Knowledge Framework and Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.</p>
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	<p>In the south there is not full coverage by Leader but there is 100% coverage with nationally funded Leader-like groups which would probably meet the EAFRD requirements on size (no more than 100,000 inhabitants) and >50% non-government members. For example in the MHAL region a wide range of local organisations and interests are represented, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the province • municipalities (both city and countryside!) • tourism/leisure • agriculture • water sewage board • forestry and landscape managers • other, when relevant, like Chamber of Commerce. <p>and all representatives are expected to be shareholders or stakeholders.</p>
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	<p>The EAFRD is fit to help strengthen the peri-urban area. By doing so, both countryside and urban area will profit. Solving unemployment is more about diversification and supporting urban employment and less about maintaining agricultural employment than in typical lowly populated rural areas.</p>
sources of information	<p>Template, presentations at December and April meetings, additional information from Annemiek Canjels (+31 43 3897 493) ampa.canjels@prvlimburg.nl</p>

Region	NORD PAS DE CALAIS France
Size and population density	12 000 km ² , of which 851 000 hectares are agricultural land (69%) and 105 000 hectares are forest (8%). Importance of borders: 350 km with Belgium, 140 km on the English Channel coast. 4 million inhabitants, population density 325 per km ² . Woodland and natural spaces are rather scarce and most of the non urbanised areas are managed for agriculture. So farmland contributes to the landscape identity and around half of the farms are located in peri-urban areas.
Regional role in rural development	<p>The French government decides on policies centrally and the regions have almost no influence, although this may change a little in the 2007-13 programme, but not nearly as much as the regions had hoped.</p> <p>In the 2007-13 programme there is likely to be a greater regional influence in two ways;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the regional programme will include some measures such as support for some agri-environment measures, some Axis 3 measures and Leader which may be designed (and will be delivered) at a regional level by DRAF, the regional offices of the national Ministry of Agriculture; there will be scope to match these measures to regional needs (for example in agri-environment); • the regional government will be allowed to co-finance EAFRD measures not covered by the national part of the programme - this is new, the current programme was designed so that the regional governments were almost unable to co-finance the RDP. The Regional Councils will therefore have some input to the design of these measures.
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	<p>Regional Council objectives are for a new regional agricultural policy (more or less finished by the end of June), connected to territorial policies and linked to EU funds, as well as a new peri-urban policy.</p> <p>Particular needs are support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • young farmers • modernisation of small farms • diversification of farm businesses • agri-environment projects and, particularly, farming on soils contaminated by former industries (e.g. with heavy metals) where farmers can be supported to grow non-food crops such as bio-fuels, construction materials, aromatic oils • food industry
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	11 million euro/year for Nord pas de Calais (compared to 230 million euro/year in Pillar 1)

Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	5 800 million euro for France for 2007-2013 divided as follows: 4 063 million euro for Corsica and overseas territories plans and for the national strand of national programme 1 737 million euro for the regional strand to be divided between the 21 regions, giving: 45.93 million euro for Nord Pas de Calais = 6.56 million euro/year
Modulation	Voluntary modulation will not be used in France
Axis1	# 53 % (in the first draft written for Nord Pas de Calais)
Axis 2	# 23 %
Axis 3	# 24%
Leader	5 % but within Axis 3
National strategy 2007-13	The main EAFRD programme proposed for France has both national and regional measures, with a rather complex mix of responsibilities for defining, co-financing and delivering the measures. There are two main strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a national strand, where the measures are defined, co-financed and partly delivered centrally by the Ministry of Agriculture, covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less Favoured Areas ○ setting up young farmers ○ two woodland measures • a regional strand, to be defined by the national Government office in each region (the “DRAF”) after discussion with local authorities. Central government will specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the measures which may be used regionally ○ if these are to be defined nationally (with or without regional adaptation) or defined regionally and ○ if the Ministry of Agriculture will co-fund them
Development of measures	The table below illustrates the proposed measures for regional implementation – for example some regional agri-environment and woodland measures will be defined and funded nationally by the Ministry of Agriculture, while many Axis 3 measures will be both defined and co-financed entirely by the regional government, by the <i>départements</i> (equivalent to counties) or by the local authorities or cities.

Axis	Measure	N° Article R(CE)1698/2005	Scope for regional adaptation or definition	Match-funding from Ministry of Agriculture
1	training and information	Art. 20 a (i)	regional adaptation	no
	investment in breeding holdings and for environmental goals on farms	Art. 20 b (i)	regional adaptation	yes
	other farm modernisation measures	Art. 20 b (i)	defined regionally	no
	investment in the food industry	Art. 20 b (iii)	regional adaptation	for specific projects
	woodland mechanisation	Art. 20 b (iii)	regional adaptation	yes
	co-operation for new products, processes and technologies	Art. 20 b (iv)	regional adaptation	no
	agricultural infrastructure	Art. 20 b (v)	defined regionally	for specific projects
	food quality supply chain	Art. 20 c (ii) and (iii)	defined regionally	no
2	organic agriculture	Art. 36 a (iv)	none – defined nationally	yes
	endangered breeds	Art. 36 a (iv)	none – defined nationally	
	agri-environmental measures, Natura 2000	Art. 36 a (iv)	regional adaptation	
	non-productive investments (measures large predators)	Art. 36 a (vi)	regional adaptation	
	first afforestation of agricultural land	Art. 36 b (i)	regional adaptation	no
	restoring mountain forests and protecting forests against fire	Art. 36 b (vi)	regional adaptation	yes
	non-productive investments in Natura 2000 woodland	Art. 36 b (vii)	regional adaptation	match funding from Ministry of Environment
3	diversification (non agricultural activities)	Art 52 a (i)	defined regionally	no
	creation and development of micro-enterprises	Art 52 a (ii)		no

	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>tourism</td> <td>Art 52 a (iii)</td> <td></td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>basic services</td> <td>Art 52 b (i)</td> <td></td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>village renewal and development</td> <td>Art 52 b (ii)</td> <td></td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guidance documents and Natura 2000 management plans for non-woodland and non-agricultural areas</td> <td>Art 52 b (iii)</td> <td>regional adaptation</td> <td>match funding from Ministry of Environment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage</td> <td>Art 52 b (iii)</td> <td rowspan="3">defined regionally</td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>training and information for economic actors in fields covered by Axis 3</td> <td>Art 52 c</td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>skills acquisition and animation for local development strategies (except for forests and woodland)</td> <td>Art 52 d</td> <td>no</td> </tr> <tr> <td>local development strategies for forests and woodland</td> <td>Art 52 d</td> <td>defined regionally</td> <td>for preparation of forest plans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>technical assistance</td> <td></td> <td>defined regionally</td> <td>no</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	tourism	Art 52 a (iii)		no	basic services	Art 52 b (i)		no	village renewal and development	Art 52 b (ii)		no	Guidance documents and Natura 2000 management plans for non-woodland and non-agricultural areas	Art 52 b (iii)	regional adaptation	match funding from Ministry of Environment	conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	Art 52 b (iii)	defined regionally	no	training and information for economic actors in fields covered by Axis 3	Art 52 c	no	skills acquisition and animation for local development strategies (except for forests and woodland)	Art 52 d	no	local development strategies for forests and woodland	Art 52 d	defined regionally	for preparation of forest plans	technical assistance		defined regionally	no
tourism	Art 52 a (iii)		no																																
basic services	Art 52 b (i)		no																																
village renewal and development	Art 52 b (ii)		no																																
Guidance documents and Natura 2000 management plans for non-woodland and non-agricultural areas	Art 52 b (iii)	regional adaptation	match funding from Ministry of Environment																																
conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	Art 52 b (iii)	defined regionally	no																																
training and information for economic actors in fields covered by Axis 3	Art 52 c		no																																
skills acquisition and animation for local development strategies (except for forests and woodland)	Art 52 d		no																																
local development strategies for forests and woodland	Art 52 d	defined regionally	for preparation of forest plans																																
technical assistance		defined regionally	no																																
Delivery of measures	<p>The scope for local implementation will be limited by the availability of EAFRD co-funding – before the regional allocation can be made available to local authorities it is first ‘top-sliced’ by subtracting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funds for regional measures defined and co-funded by the national Ministry; • Axis 4 minimum allocation of 5%; and • Axis 3 minimum allocation; this is defined nationally for each region and averages almost 30% for the whole of France but with large variations between regions (from 21% to 70% of the regional allocation). In the case of Nord Pas de Calais the Axis 3 minimum is 24.2 %. <p>To illustrate this calculation for Nord Pas de Calais: the global amount for the regional strand in Nord Pas de Calais is 6.56 million euro/year; subtract from this 2.21 million euro/year for measures led by the national Ministry; subtract 5 % for Axis 4, 0.33 million euro/year; and subtract 24.2% for Axis 3, 1.59 million euro/year; leaving 2.43 million euro/year for local authorities in Nord Pas de Calais to use for regionally determined Axis 1 and 2 measures.</p>																																		
Measures 2007-13	<i>Please see development of measures section above</i>																																		
Experience of Leader	Only one Local Action Group in the current programme, but relevant experiences of Objective 1 and other bottom-up																																		

	initiatives such as territorial policies and Regional Parks (see below).
Leader 2007-13	The methodology will be designed nationally, but the projects will be selected regionally (by a regional panel + a national expert, to endorse national equity). We may have a threshold of 100 000 inhabitants (maximum), which could be a real problem for our peri-urban areas.
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	In the 2000-06 period the national rural development programme has been mixed with some regional programmes in Objective 1 and 2 areas. The EC does not want this in the future. The regional administration of the national government will have to decide how to split support between the different strands of EU funding. The coherence between all the European funds (FEDER, FSE, FEP, ...) will be discussed at the regional level.
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	Local authorities have had little input to or influence over EU funding allocation and policies and have therefore developed their own local initiatives. Three are of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • territorial policies, implemented in the French regions since 1999, are Leader-like schemes funded by regional government and operating at a local level to help local authorities develop projects. They differ from Leader in that there is no EU funding and they cover a wider range of activities; • Regional Parks (of the 3 in Nord pas de Calais one is in a peri-urban area) which also have a bottom-up approach • existing local schemes for farmers not funded by the RDP (but possibly eligible) such as investment in high quality purpose-built student accommodation and meeting/conference facilities on farms, for the 12 universities in the region; and the use of farmers' time and equipment to maintain public paths on their land and in nearby public parks.
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	Likely to implement measures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting-up of young farmers • modernisation of small farms • development of local food chains • development of social services managed by farmers (why not: child care, senior care, etc. ?) • also green services (composting waste, recreational use) • non food products • the support of territorial projects (by Regional Parks...) like with Leader +
sources of information	Template, presentations at December and April meetings, telephone interview 9 May and additional information provided June 2006 by Elisabeth Lopez +33 328 827539

Region	RANDSTAD Netherlands
Size and population density	8 309 km ² of which 68% is agricultural land and 12% is forest. Population density 911 per km ² Polycentric urban structure; rural areas characterised by polders and peatland meadows.
Regional role in rural development	The region is only responsible for co-ordination between the four western provinces of the Netherlands and the four cities, it has no competence of its own in rural development. The Netherlands has a single national strategy and RDP which gives the 12 provinces the freedom to tailor measures to local needs. No strategy or programme is needed for Region Randstad but the four provinces negotiate on cross-boundary issues.
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	There is no national peri-urban strategy. Problems include the loss of farmers, which threatens the viability and management of open-spaces in the peri-urban area. The provinces are trying to maintain a critical mass of well-managed open-space to support agricultural infrastructure and biodiversity.
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	Current RDP support for the Netherlands: 60 million euro a year, total 420 million euro The total EU contribution for whole period for the three provinces (excl Flevoland) is 45 million euro.
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	The total EU contribution of 441 million euro for The Netherlands, including modulation receipts, is a relatively small proportion of the 3 150 million euro (450 x7) the Dutch national government will spend on rural development in the period 2007 – 2013. Regional partners will about double this to 6 300 million euro (900 x7). For the region the total EAFRD contribution for the 2007-13 period will be about 105 million euro.
Modulation	Will be used
Axis1	30% (15% delivered nationally, 15% regionally)
Axis 2	30% (10% delivered nationally, 20% regionally)
Axis 3	30% (all delivered regionally)
Leader	10% (all delivered regionally)
National strategy 2007-13	<i>please see notes for MAHL which applies to all regions of the Netherlands</i>

Development of measures	National government is responsible for Axis 1 (agricultural investment, infrastructure) and Axis 2 measures (Natura 2000, agro-biodiversity, Article 16 LFA in peat meadows) in consultation with the provincial governments. The provinces are responsible for Axes 3 and 4 measures. The Randstad provinces each prepared their own programme, choosing from a list of 13 measures, in close co-operation with neighbouring provinces. Some measures are relatively new, such as support for young farmers.
Delivery of measures	<i>Please see Table 1 in the main report for details of responsibility for co-financing and delivery</i>
Measures 2007-13	Funding to focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problems with water (e.g. coastal defence) • Greenports (innovation) for food production, auction, added value, market place, transportation and distribution) • competitive environment of high quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ healthy and clean (e.g. air quality) ○ variety of recreational amenities • tourism infrastructure
Experience of Leader	In Randstad there are 7 active LAGs. <i>Please also see notes for MAHL, for information on Leader that applies to all regions of the Netherlands.</i>
Leader 2007-13	Not yet known
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	4 LAGs with specific objective aiming at urban rural relationship (LAG Leidse Ommelanden and LAG Weidse Veenweiden, LAG de Waarden, LAG Kromme Rijn)
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	Young farmers as key rural entrepreneurs. Local food chains and visibility and traceability of different regional agricultural chains. Green services – the provincial governments have developed a common vision on green services, setting up an approved list of measures (taking into account the views of stakeholders) from which farmers and other managers can select.
sources of information	Template prepared for December meeting, additional information provided June 2006 by Piet Oudega, Randstad region tel no.0031-30-2582702

Region	RHÔNE-ALPES France
Size and population density	43 700 km ² , of which 75 % is occupied by agricultural land and forests. 5.9 million inhabitants, population density 130 per km ² A balanced area: Rhône-Alpes features a dense urban framework organised around a real network of cities; this urban environment is balanced by exceptional natural spaces.
Regional role in rural development	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	In the past, the Rhône-Alpes Region has helped the agricultural peri-urban programmes of Lyon, Grenoble and Saint-Etienne. Recently it has also helped a network of agricultural peri-urban experts which belongs to the chambers of agriculture. It still helps the "ADAYG" (<i>Association pour le Développement de l'Agriculture dans l'Y Grenoblois</i> - association for the development of agriculture in a special area of Grenoble called "Y"). It also finances research on agricultural and peri-urban issues. Finally, peri-urban issues are part of the important political objectives of Region. Either territorially or financially, the agricultural and rural development policy of the Region is based on several agricultural and rural development strategic projects (PSADER) in the areas of the " <i>Contrat de Développement Rhône-Alpes</i> " (CDRA), including urban centres, and in the natural regional parks. A lot of areas of the region are urban and peri-urban, and the Region today is thinking about fostering more emphasis on peri-urban issues.
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	465 million euro for EFDR/EAGGF/ESF
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	Projects PDRN (national plan of rural development) committed in 2000/2006, to be paid during 2007/2013: 101 million euro. National strand for Rhône-Alpes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 238 million euro: compensation for mountain handicap (ICHM) • 28 million euro: young farmers' grant (DJA) • 8.5 million euro: loan to young farmers • 13.5 million euro : forestry Regional strand : 136.47 million euro.
Modulation	Voluntary modulation will not be used in France

Axis1	48 to 59 million euro
Axis 2	30.6 to 38.4 million euro
Axis 3	18.6 to 24.4 million euro
Leader	21 to 23 million euro
National strategy 2007-13	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Development of measures	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Delivery of measures	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Measures 2007-13	<i>please see notes for Nord Pas de Calais which apply to all 21 regions of France</i>
Experience of Leader	12 Local Action Groups (GAL)
Leader 2007-13	No information at the moment
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	No information at the moment
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	Rhône-Alpes is interested in implementing all the points of the Purple resolution.
sources of information	Template, further information provided in June 2006 by Patrick VAUTERIN, Agriculture and Rural development direction of Rhône-Alpes Region, Mél.: pvauterin@rhonealpes.fr

Region	SOUTH EAST ENGLAND United Kingdom
Size and population density	<p>19 096 km² of which 70% is in agricultural use and 14% is woodland (some woodland is in urban areas and some on farms).</p> <p>Total population is 8.1 million and population density 424 per km² overall, in approx. three million households. There is no single dominant urban centre, but the two cities of Medway and Brighton have populations around 250,000. Almost 25% of the population live in the 83% of the area that is rural, in small towns, villages and the countryside – there are more than 170 small rural towns (with a population <20,000) and more than 1,400 villages.</p> <p>Areas with protective designation cover 40% of the region: a National Park (NP)⁷: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Green Belt and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). (There is some overlap of Green Belt and SSSI with NP and AONB areas). The region has a higher proportion of nationally recognised quality landscapes (National Park and AONB) than any other English region - nearly 33% of the region. A second National Park is under investigation.</p>
Regional role in rural development	Each region will be responsible for writing a Regional Implementation Plan [RIP] for each region. This process has started. We will be identifying a series of programme lines and will be pro-active rather than re-active. There will be a peri-urban element in the South East RIP, but there are different issues in different parts of the region.
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	Landscape and management of biodiversity is a key issue in many of the designated areas. Some species-rich grasslands require grazing by cattle, which could be linked to local production of red meat; other opportunities include the production of biomass for energy and public procurement - but there are gaps in the supply chain at present, for example a lack of abattoirs and meat cutting plants; fuel pelleting plants etc).
Current RDP funding 2000-06	<p>The estimated total RDP expenditure in the region over the current plan period is expected to be around 203 million euro (140.5 million sterling) of which about half is contributed by EAGGF. This total expenditure is divided approximately as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% agri-environment 9% investment in rural enterprises 4% investment in processing and marketing 2% vocational training

⁷ **Note:** a National Park designation in the UK recognises the importance of an area for both its landscape and recreational use, and places strict controls on land use – but the land itself remains in private ownership, and is eligible for EAFRD support

Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13	Not known (voluntary modulation levels are not yet decided). Because of the UK rebate and the UK's low historic uptake of rural development funding EU co-financing is now, and will remain, a relatively small proportion of the four UK RDP budgets, compared to some other Member States.
Modulation	The UK currently has the highest modulation rate in the EU (10% in 2006) and this may rise further, to fund agri-environment schemes in Axis 2
Axis1	10%
Axis 2	80% (much of this is already mostly committed for the entry level agri-environment scheme).
Axis 3	10%
Leader	at least 5%, within the allocation for the other axes
National strategy 2007-13	The national government Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will set the national framework, run the national consultation and make national decisions on Leader, axis balance, strategic priorities and perhaps other policy aspects. The national government is also likely to take responsibility for the payment agency role.
Development of measures	
Delivery of measures	Axis 2 is effectively a national measure delivered by Natural England (a national government agency) and targeted nationally. Axis 1 and Axis 3 will be delivered through eight regional programmes in England (of which the South East has one) – the Regional Development Agency (RDA) in each region will have the main responsibility for delivery. The maximum possible allocation of EAFRD funding to Axis 2 (80%) will inevitably reduce the flexibility of the RDAs in moving EAFRD co-funding between Axes 1 and 3, according to their needs – in the South East region this is likely to mean a shortage of funds for Axis 3 measures, where there are 109 000 businesses in the rural area but only 18% are land-based.
Measures 2007-13	Probably similar to those for 2004-06, with a heavy emphasis on agri-environment in Axis 2. Young farmers are not part of the current programme and are unlikely to be next time.
Experience of Leader	At present 5 Leader+ areas.
Leader 2007-13	The Leader+ programme comes to an end and it will not be a 'programme' under the new regime - 5% across the whole EAFRD budget will be used in a 'Leader approach', but we are very unsure of exactly what this means at present.

Integration of rural, social and regional funding	Yet to be determined
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	There are Rural Enterprise Hubs in several parts of the region which nurture start ups and young companies.
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	Will be looking at food chain issues.
sources of information	Template, presentations at December and April meetings, additional information from Valerie J Carter +44 1483 484 200 and Terry Bradfield +44 118 958 1222

Region	STOCKHOLM Sweden
Size and population density	A region of 6 500 km ² , an archipelago with 30 000 islands, of which 16.6% is in agricultural use and 40.6% is woodland. Stockholm comprises only 1.5% of Sweden's surface but is home to the majority of the population. The region has a population of 1.8 million with a density of 285 per km ² overall. The region has 26 administrative municipalities. The rural areas are characterised by an historic agricultural landscape with small farms, transport problems, and other infrastructure/resource issues.
Regional role in rural development	Sweden has national, regional and local (municipal) level government and a centralised system. Regional government is undeveloped, which may be a disadvantage in this context. There will be a regional programme for the 2007-13 period, developed by the Country Administrative Board (CAB), which is the regional level of central government, but municipalities, local government and major organisations will probably have an increased role as partners.
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	<p>Peri-urban issues are highly relevant in the Stockholm region, issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fewer family operated farms (bigger holdings taking over) • farmers are essential to the maintenance of the green environment so need an economic basis • the proximity of the city provides essential supplementary income (e.g. snow clearing) and opportunities for entrepreneurship <p>There are no peri-urban strategies currently but these will be developed in connection with the Rural Development Programme (by CAB), a government initiative on biodiversity (also CAB) and a new regional plan prepared by the county council. Specific plans for coastal areas have been developed by the CAB, county councils and local government.</p> <p>There is a need to create a dialogue between city and countryside to increase understanding (avoiding planning mistakes) and emphasise rural/urban interdependence. There are opportunities to develop an urban job market for farmers and an urban market for rural products, and also to exploit the value of rural areas for recreation.</p>
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (EU contribution)	27 million euro Sweden currently puts much greater emphasis than most other countries on environmental support (80% of current programme) and more generous funding into nature, landscape restoration and care. This may be re-directed to other sectors in the future.
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (EU contribution)	Not known as yet

Modulation	
Axis1	15%
Axis 2	75%
Axis 3	10 %
Leader	5% of total
National strategy 2007-13	The national government works largely on its own, with no 'lobbying' structure, although perhaps more dialogue than in the past. The regional programme will be based on the criteria defined for the whole of Sweden, and the national government will also set the budgets frames for each county and the relation between axes.
Development of measures	
Delivery of measures	Current programme mainly decided by CAB at a regional level, with only a few national measures. Details regarding 2007-13 programme are not yet stated.
Measures 2007-13	
Experience of Leader	None
Leader 2007-13	
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	The regional rural strategy is formulated in coordination with other relevant programmes and strategies.
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	Not clear as yet.
Elements of PURPLE resolution to be implemented by EAFRD	Not yet decided, regional criteria will be decided after national criteria.
sources of information	Template, presentation at December meeting, further information provided June 2006 by Pernilla Nordström +46 8 785 481130

Region	WEST MIDLANDS United Kingdom						
Size and population density	13 004 km ² of which 72% is in agricultural use (mainly sheep, cattle and pigs) and 10-12% is woodland. Birmingham is the region's capital and the second largest city in the UK, with a population of 1 million. Total population is 5.3 million and population density 408 per km ² overall, but 17% of the population live in the 85% of the area which meets the government's definition of rural. The mainly rural areas of Shropshire and Herefordshire to the west of Birmingham extend to the border with Wales.						
Regional role in rural development	There is likely to be a greater level of delegation for the 2007-13 period although the eight English regions will not have independent rural development programmes, they all fall within the England Rural Development Programme, one of the 4 RDPs in the UK. The regional programme (mainly Axis 1 and Axis 3) is to be developed by the Regional Development Agency, Forestry Commission and the Natural England team for the region.						
Peri-urban problems and opportunities	The West Midlands is the most accessible part of the UK, lying at the heart of the road and rail infrastructure – 75% of the UK population is within half a day's drive. It was the birthplace of the industrial revolution but the dependence on heavy industry has declined dramatically in the past 50 years. There is a significant area of "Green Belt", which is a land use planning designation, but the policy is primarily about restricting the spread of development. There is no specific peri-urban land management strategy, beyond the Green Belt policy in the West Midlands region. This is despite the intimate mix of urban and rural land uses, and the problems associated with the rural/urban fringe. Agriculture and tourism are important in the rural area, which is heavily used for recreational day trips from the city – both sectors were badly affected by the 2001 outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease.						
Current RDP funding 2000-06 (total including EU contribution)	<table> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>181 million euro (£ 124 million)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Socio-economic</td> <td>35 million euro (£ 24 million)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agri-environment</td> <td>146 million euro (£ 100 million)</td> </tr> </table>	Overall	181 million euro (£ 124 million)	Socio-economic	35 million euro (£ 24 million)	Agri-environment	146 million euro (£ 100 million)
Overall	181 million euro (£ 124 million)						
Socio-economic	35 million euro (£ 24 million)						
Agri-environment	146 million euro (£ 100 million)						
Estimated EAFRD funding 2007-13 (total including EU contribution)	35 million euro (£ 24 million) including mandatory modulation (voluntary modulation rates have not yet been agreed). Because of the UK rebate and the UK's low historic uptake of rural development funding EU co-financing is now, and will remain, a relatively small proportion of the England RDP budget, compared to other Member States.						
Modulation	The UK currently has the highest modulation rate in the EU (10% in 2006) and this may rise further, to fund agri-environment schemes in Axis 2. It is the only Member State to have indicated interest in taking up voluntary modulation						

	under EAFRD.
Axis1	10%
Axis 2	80%
Axis 3	10%
Leader	5% within the other axes – the region would like to see this used for both Axis 2 and Axis 3.
National strategy 2007-13	The national government Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will set the national framework, have run the national consultation and will make national decisions on Leader, axis balance, strategic priorities and perhaps other policy aspects. The national government is also likely to take responsibility for the payment agency role.
Development of measures	The national government will set national framework, programmes will then be developed, targeted and managed at regional level (in the case of Axis 2 by the regional office of a national government agency).
Delivery of measures	Axis 2 is effectively a national measure. The others are to be delivered through regional programmes. Main delivery responsibilities will sit with Regional Development Agency for Axis 1 and Axis 3, with Natural England (a national government agency) for Axis 2. Sub-regional delivery is being considered for facilitation and the development of delivery packages of projects. Payment decisions will also be made at regional level, responsibilities for compliance and disallowance will also be to some degree regional. Axis 2 measures will be delivered through a national scheme with some regional influence over targeting. In the later years of the programme, it is hoped to set up an Environmental Land Management Fund that will be more readily available to address regional priorities.
Measures 2007-13	Similar to those for 2000-06, with a heavy emphasis on agri-environment in Axis 2
Experience of Leader	Leader 2 and Leader+ programmes run in the region, but with reduced coverage between the two programmes.
Leader 2007-13	National decisions will lead to the mainstreaming of Leader (i.e. not a separate programme).
Integration of rural, social and regional funding	Yet to be determined
Examples of interest to other PURPLE regions	Proposed use of developing Rural Hubs to support development of farmer collaboration and “bottom up” project development. A rural hub exists for each rural county area.
Elements of PURPLE resolution	Our region is likely focus on green services and food chain work. Young farmers are not part of the current programme

to be implemented by EAFRD	and are unlikely to be next time. We are keen to look at food chain and green and blue services, although the national consultation is likely to constrain.
sources of information	Template, presentations at December and April meetings Additional information June 2006 from Ian Baker + 44 121 503 3259