



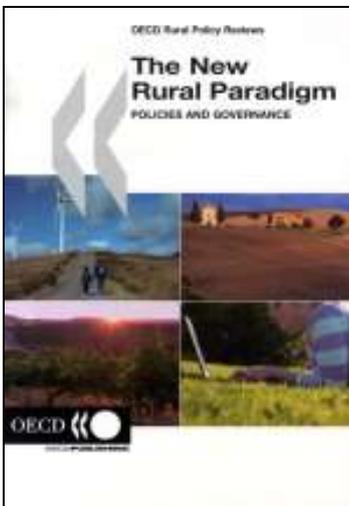
# OECD Rural Development Program

## Key Facts

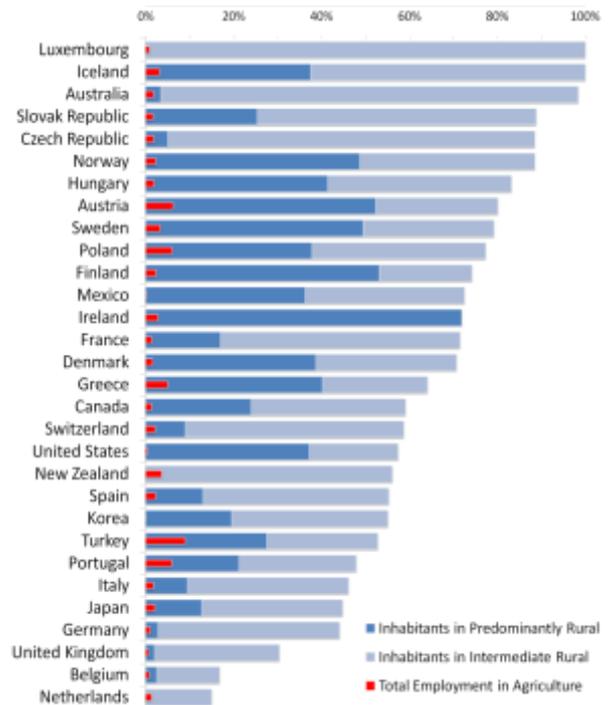
- **Rural is not synonymous with economic decline.** In some OECD countries the quality of life in rural areas, measured on a variety of socio-economic indicators, is higher than in urban areas.
- **Some rural regions are prosperous.** Important factors explaining the difference in performance are the economic structure, proximity to an urban area, and social factors.
- **The economic structure of most rural regions is similar to that found in urban areas,** although resource based industry and manufacturing have a larger importance.
- **A large share of the rural population lives in close proximity to a major city** and both urban and rural residents rely on each other for their quality of life.

## Rural Policy Goals

- Finding new ways to deliver **high quality public services** to rural households and firms
- Matching workforce **skills to employment** opportunities
- Balancing economic development with **preserving the environment**
- Adjusting to an **ageing** demographic structure



Rural Population and Total Employment in Agriculture (2007 or latest year available)



Source: OECD Regional Database.

## The New Rural Paradigm

<b>Objectives</b>	Competitiveness of rural areas, valorisation of local assets, exploitation of unused resources
<b>Key target sector</b>	Various sectors of rural economies (ex., rural tourism, manufacturing, ICT industry, etc.)
<b>Main tools</b>	Investments
<b>Key actors</b>	All levels of government (supra-national, national, regional and local), various local stakeholders (public, private, NGOs)

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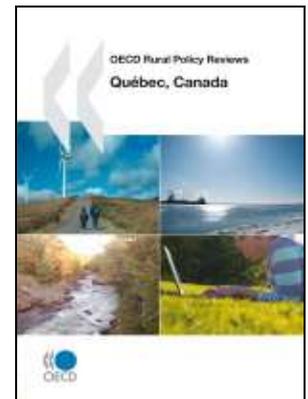
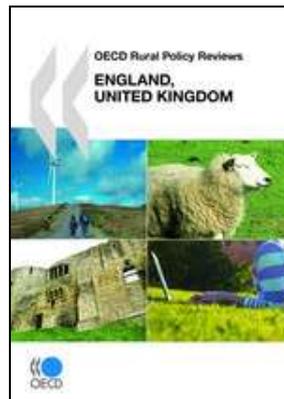




## Activities

### OECD Rural Reviews

- *England, United Kingdom (2011)*
- *Québec, Canada (2010)*
- *Strategies to Improve Rural Service Delivery (2010)*
- *Spain (2009)*
- *Italy (2009)*
- *China (2009)*
- *Scotland (2008)*
- *Netherlands (2008)*
- *Finland (2008)*
- *Mexico (2007)*
- *Germany (2007)*



The aim of national reviews is to **re-define the concept of development policy in rural areas** in line with the New Rural Paradigm. They also review **different country models** and **assess specific policies** to see how to realise local opportunities and achieve **sustainable growth**

### International Conferences on Rural Development

10-12 July 2002  
25-26 March 2004  
7-8 April 2005  
19-20 October 2006  
22-23 March 2007  
3-4 April 2008  
13-15 October 2009

**Siena, Italy**  
**Virginia, United States**  
**Oaxaca, Mexico**  
**Edinburgh, Scotland, UK**  
**Cáceres, Spain**  
**Cologne, Germany**  
**Quebec City, Canada**

Conferences organised by the OECD Rural Development Programme provide opportunities for sub-national government officials, local practitioners and civil society to **share their experiences**.

#### New Activities (forthcoming)

- Urban-rural interaction (jointly with the OECD urban programme)
- Climate change impacts on Nordic countries
- More effective rural service delivery
- Additional national rural reviews

### About the OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is a unique forum where the governments of 34 market democracies work together to address the economic, social and governance challenges of globalisation as well as to exploit its opportunities. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and co-ordinate domestic and international policies.