

## ANNEX 3

### RESULTS OF UNECE SURVEY ON METHODS USED FOR MEASURING RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS IN UNECE AND OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES

#### **Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**

##### Rural Development Statistics

- 1) Which organisation(s) is/are responsible for statistics on rural areas?
- 2) What variable(s) is/are used to distinguish rural from non-rural areas?
- 3) Are there any subdivisions of rural areas relating to the degree of rurality?
- 4) What is the threshold value that classifies an area as rural?
- 5) What is the smallest territorial unit/area on which the definition of rural is based i.e. postcode areas, community districts, communities, districts or regions?
- 6) What is the percentage of the population that are classified to live in rural areas?
- 7) What is the percentage of the total land area that is classified as rural?
- 8) Is there a set of core indicators used to monitor rural development policy?
- 9) Can rural development statistics be found on the Internet and if so where?

##### Availability of statistics for small areas

- 10) What is the smallest area for which statistics are available and what is the average size of this area (e.g. average population size, average area, range of population sizes or range of area)?
- 11) What statistics are available for this smallest area?
- 12) Are statistics on urban settlements/urban land use available?

##### Rural Development Policy

- 13) Which organization(s) is/are responsible for rural development policy?
- 14) What are the aims/objectives of rural development policies?
- 15) What are the main themes of rural development?

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 1**

<b>Which organisation(s) is/are responsible for statistics on rural areas?</b>	
Australia	Australian Bureau of Statistics (responsible for national statistics for all areas including rural areas); Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), State Government agencies and some Industry Associations also collect statistics on various aspects of rural activity.
Bulgaria	National Statistical Institute; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Canada	Statistics Canada; other federal agencies; provincial, territorial and local agencies;
Czech Republic	Czech Statistical Office (Agricultural and Environment, Family Accounts and Population Statistics)
Denmark	Statistics Denmark; Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Estonia	Statistical Office
Finland	Statistics Finland; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (joint Finnish Rural Indicators Project)
France	INSEE; Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs
Germany	Federal and Regional Statistical Offices
Hungary	Hungarian Central Statistical Office; Tax and Financial Control Administration; Research and Information Institute for Agricultural Economics; Institute for Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Ireland	Central Statistics Office Ireland
Italy	Istituto Nazionale di Economia Agraria/National Institute for Agricultural Economics (INEA), Istituto per Studi, Ricerche e Informazioni sul Mercato Agricolo/Institute for Analysis, Research and Information on the Agricultural Market (ISMEA); Istituto Nazionale di Statistica/National Statistical Institute (ISTAT)
Kazakhstan	Agency of Statistics
Kyrgyzstan	National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic
Latvia	Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia
Lithuania	Statistics Lithuania
Netherlands	Statistics Netherlands
Norway	Statistics Norway
Romania	National Institute of Statistics; Ministry of Development and Prognosis; Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry; Ministry of Education and Research; Ministry of Health and of the Family; Life Quality Research Institute; Institute of Agrarian Economy
Russian Federation	Local statistical committees are responsible for statistics on rural areas. Local data are aggregated in regional, territorial and republican committees and in Goskomstat for the country as a whole.
Slovakia	Statistical Office of Slovakia
Sweden <sup>1)</sup>	National Rural Development Agency; Swedish Board of Agriculture
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Statistical Office (Agricultural Statistics Section, Spatial Data Section and Population Census)
Turkey	Regional Statistics Division of the State Institute of Statistics
United Kingdom	Defra and Devolved Departments responsible for Rural Affairs/Development; Office for National Statistics; Countryside Agency; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; and others
United States	U.S. Census Bureau; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Bureau of Economic Analysis; Economic Research Service; National Agricultural Statistics Service

1) no official statistics for rural areas, thus no responsible organisation but some information provided by these organisations

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**
**Question 2**

What variable(s) is/are used to distinguish rural from non-rural areas?	
Australia	Population density and population level; remoteness from services and goods
Bulgaria	Population density and population level in the biggest town of the municipalities
Canada	Population level and population density; population level and intensity of commuting to a major urban centre within a labour market radius; population density; population level
Czech Republic	Number of permanent residents in the municipality (population level)
Denmark	Population level of municipalities
Estonia	Administrative distribution; population level
Finland	Various i.e. Urban Network Study
France	Number of jobs and commuting pattern
Germany	Population level of urban centres and population density of surrounding areas of urban centres
Hungary	Population level and population density at settlement level
Ireland	Population level
Italy	Population density (no single official definition though)
Kazakhstan	Population level and share of population engaged in agriculture
Kyrgyzstan	The status of every settlement/village is defined by Jogurky-Kenesh - the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic
Latvia	In Latvia the rural area is the total land area excluding urban areas. Rural areas will be in the Draft Law on Agriculture and Rural Development which is not yet approved by the Cabinet of Ministers).
Lithuania	Population level, characteristics of towns
Netherlands	No official statistics to monitor rural policy yet. Discussions started with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality on possible definitions. Possibly for different aims of rural development policy different definitions of rurality are appropriate.
Norway	At present there is no official definition of rural/non-rural in Norwegian statistics. However, Norway has a Standard Classification of Municipalities based on industry, population density and centrality.
Romania	The 'rural' status for a settlement is established by law without taking into account the demographic size or population density
Russian Federation	Various variables among others types of activities i.e. crop and livestock production
Slovakia	Population density and population level; municipalities that have no urban status and have got a characteristic settlement and economical structure based on agriculture, forestry and that have got less developed infrastructure.
Sweden	Population level of settlement
Switzerland	All the areas outside isolated towns and agglomerations are considered as rural (population level, commuting pattern, population growth rates, built-up area, population/job density and employment in the primary sector are used delimit agglomerations and isolated towns).
Turkey	Population level
United Kingdom	A variety of definitions, including one based on settlement size and one based on socio-economic variables
England	A variety of definitions, including one based on settlement size and one based on socio-economic variables
Scotland	Population density; settlement size
Wales	All rural except for a small list of communities in towns and cities that were deemed to be entirely non-rural; population density
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	Population level of urban centre and commuting pattern; Population density

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 3**

<b>Are there any subdivisions of rural areas relating to the degree of rurality?</b>	
Australia	No subdivision for rural area definition but subdivision of remoteness division (major cities, inner regional, outer regional, remote, very remote)
Bulgaria	See Annex C.
Canada	Yes, both major rural definitions currently used in Canada have subdivisions.
Czech Republic	Yes.
Denmark	No.
Estonia	No.
Finland	Yes.
France	Yes.
Germany	Yes.
Hungary	Yes.
Ireland	No.
Italy	No.
Kyrgyzstan	No (except high mountain rural population)
Latvia	No.
Lithuania	n/a
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No official subdivision. However, rural areas may, for example, be classified according to level of centrality.
Romania	Yes.
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Yes.
Sweden	Yes.
Switzerland	No, not yet (but subdivision into agricultural, wooden and unproductive area)
Turkey	Yes.
United Kingdom	Yes. England Yes. Scotland Yes. Wales Division into severely disadvantaged, disadvantaged and other but this is not really related to the degree of rurality. Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Yes.

## Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

## Question 4

What is the threshold value that classifies an area as rural?		
Australia	Rural/urban definition	There is not distinct threshold as such, since rural areas are defined at those areas other than urban centre. Smaller urban centres are conglomerations with Census Collection Districts with a total population of 1,000 or more and containing a discernible urban pattern of population distribution such as formed streets, etc. Thus, an approximate threshold is 1,000 people.
	Remoteness definition	n/a
Bulgaria		Population density of less than 150 people per square kilometre and the biggest town of the municipality of less than 30,000 inhabitants.
Canada	OECD Definition	A region is defined as rural if 50 per cent or more of the population live in a community with less than 150 people per square kilometre.
	Rural and Small Town Methodology	Areas under 10,000 people outside the commuting zone of a Census Metropolitan Area and Census Agglomeration Area
Czech Republic		Less than 2,000 residents in the municipality
Denmark		Areas that are not urban (all villages of 200 and more inhabitants are defined as urban).
Estonia		2500 inhabitants
Finland		n/a
France		Settlements with less than 2,000 inhabitants
Germany		Regions with a population density of 100 inhabitants per square kilometre with an urban centre of 100,000 and more and regions with a population density of below 150 inhabitants per square kilometre without a urban centre of 100,000 or more.
Hungary	Narrow definition	Less than 120 inhabitants per square kilometre or under 10,000 residential population at settlement level.
	Broader definition	Predominantly rural at NUTS IV level if 50 per cent of residential population live in a settlement with a population density of under 120 inhabitants per square kilometre and significantly rural if 15 to 50 per cent live in a settlement with a population density of under 120 inhabitants per square kilometre.
Ireland		Outside clusters with a population of more than 1,500 inhabitants
Italy		100 inhabitants per square kilometre
Kazakhstan		A village with at least 50 people of which at least half is engaged in agriculture production
Kyrgyzstan		No threshold as rural is defined by the parliament.
Latvia		n/a
Lithuania		Small towns (population less than 3000) and villages (other residential areas having no characteristic features of towns) are attributed to rural residential areas.
Netherlands		n/a
Norway		No official definition, thus no official threshold.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 4 (concluded)**

Romania		No threshold as rural is defined by law without taking the demographic size or population density into account
Russian Federation		n/a
Slovakia		100 inhabitants per square kilometre; rural settlement is a municipality with less than 5000 permanent residents.
Sweden		All settlements with less than 1000 inhabitants are rural.
Switzerland		Agglomerations of 20,000 or more inhabitants and isolated towns of 10,000 or more are considered urban. To delimit agglomerations, the number of jobs (at least 2,000) and the commuting pattern (of the economically active population 85 per cent or more work in the agglomeration). Commuting pattern, population growth rates, built-up area, population/job density and employment in the primary sector are used to decide if municipalities are part of an agglomeration or not.
Turkey		Less than 2,000 inhabitants.
United Kingdom		n/a
	England	All areas outside settlements with a population of 10,000 or more.
	Scotland	All areas outside settlements with a population of 10,000 or more.
	Wales	All areas are rural except those of a small list of communities in towns and cities that were deemed to be entirely non-rural; 150 people per square kilometre
	Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	Census Bureau Definition	The Census Bureau classifies as "urban" all territory, population, and housing units located within an urbanized area (UA) or an urban cluster (UC). It delineates UA and UC boundaries to encompass densely settled territory, which consists of core census block groups or blocks that have a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile and surrounding census blocks that have an overall density of at least 500 people per square mile.
	ERS Metro and non-metro classification	Non-metropolitan areas that contain (1) core counties with one or more central city of at least 50,000 residents or with a Census Bureau - defined urbanized area (and a total metro area population of 100,000 or more), and (2) fringe counties that are economically tied to the core counties. Non-metropolitan counties are outside the boundaries of metro areas and have no cities with as many as 50,000 residents.
	Official Federal definition	Rural areas comprise places (incorporated or unincorporated) with fewer than 2,500 residents and open territory.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 5**

<b>What is the smallest territorial unit/area on which the definition of rural is based i.e. postcode areas, community districts, communities, districts or regions?</b>	
Australia	Census Collection District i.e. census enumeration area.
Bulgaria	Municipality i.e. well-defined system settlements/villages around a municipality centre (municipalities consist of between 1 and 134 villages).
Canada	Census sub-division (CSD); Census consolidated sub-division (CCS); Census division (CD)
Czech Republic	Municipality
Denmark	Address
Estonia	Municipalities but the Territory of Estonian Administrative Division Act divides rural municipalities further into settlements.
Finland	Municipalities (NUTS 5)
France	Municipality (NUTS 5)
Germany	Kreis (NUTS 3)
Hungary	Settlement (NUTS 4)
Ireland	District Electoral Division (DED)
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	A village with at least 50 people of which at least half is engaged in agriculture production
Kyrgyzstan	Village
Latvia	Parishes and rural areas
Lithuania	Post code areas
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No official definition of rural, however, density and centrality variable is mostly applied at municipality level.
Romania	Village/municipality
Russian Federation	Farm, village, selo (rural town)
Slovakia	Municipality
Sweden	Geographical coordinates/address
Switzerland	Community (municipality)
Turkey	Village.
United Kingdom	Land parcel/address; Ward; in future: Census Output Area (COA); Unit postcode; county England Land parcel/address; Ward; in future: Census Output Area (COA) Scotland Unit postcode Wales County (NUTS 3) Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Census block (Census Bureau definition); County (ERS definition)

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire  
Question 6**

<b>What is the percentage of the population that are classified to live in rural areas?</b>	
Australia	12.84 per cent
Bulgaria	41.9 per cent (11.2 per cent in less developed rural areas)
Canada	22 to 38 per cent depending on the definition used
Czech Republic	26.5 per cent
Denmark	14.7 per cent
Estonia	32.6 per cent
Finland	43 per cent (27 per cent excluding urban adjacent rural areas)
France	24 per cent
Germany	13.03 per cent
Hungary	Narrow definition: 47.35 per cent; broader definition: predominantly rural 31.3 per cent and significantly rural 43.2 per cent
Ireland	n/a
Italy	n/a
Kyrgyzstan	65 per cent
Latvia	47.5 per cent
Lithuania	33.1 per cent
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	22.3 per cent (population not living in urban settlements)
Romania	45.4 per cent
Russian Federation	27 per cent
Slovakia	29.9 per cent (OECD definition at NUTS 4 48 per cent in predominantly rural areas)
Sweden	35 to 40 per cent
Switzerland	32 per cent
Turkey	35.1 per cent
United Kingdom	n/a England 20 per cent (settlement based definition); 28 per cent (ward based definition) Scotland 30.9 per cent <sup>1)</sup> Wales 32 per cent Northern Ireland n/a
United States	21 per cent (Census Bureau definition); 20 per cent (ERS definition)

1) <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/scosett#res>

## Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

## Question 7

What is the percentage of the total land area that is classified as rural?	
Australia	99.74 per cent
Bulgaria	83.7 per cent
Canada	99.8 per cent 'rural' and 95 per cent 'predominantly rural' (OECD definition)
Czech Republic	73.7 per cent
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	98.4 per cent
Finland	95 per cent (83 per cent if urban adjacent rural areas)
France	82 per cent
Germany	30.35 per cent
Hungary	Narrow definition: 88.3 per cent; broader definition: predominantly rural 58.3 per cent and significantly rural 37.7 per cent
Ireland	n/a
Italy	n/a
Kyrgyzstan	28.8 (53.9) per cent of the land is agricultural land and land of rural settlements (about 90 per cent of the territory lays higher than 1,500m above sea level).
Latvia	98.2 per cent
Lithuania	97 per cent
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	99.3 per cent (land outside urban settlements)
Romania	89 per cent
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	76.7 per cent (OECD definition 59.5 per cent in predominantly rural areas)
Sweden	more than 95 per cent
Switzerland	77 per cent (approximately)
Turkey	n/a
United Kingdom	n/a
England	93 per cent (settlement based definition); 87 per cent (ward based definition)
Scotland	n/a
Wales	82 per cent
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	97 per cent (Census Bureau definition); 80.8 per cent (ERS definition)

## Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

### Question 8

<b>Is there a set of core indicators used to monitor rural development policy?</b>	
Australia	Not at present but work is underway. The Australian Government is investigating the feasibility of a whole-of-government framework to attempt to measure rural/regional policy and outcomes and indicators will be developed in support of this.
Bulgaria	There is a core set of indicators to monitor the implementation of the Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD).
Canada	No official core set of indicators. An integrated Canadian national rural database is currently considered as a developmental component of the National Framework of Rural Policies (NFRP). Sets of indicators for monitoring rural communities usually start with the major variables for demography, labour force, income and health status but each list differs.
Czech Republic	There is no specific set of indicators used only for rural areas. There are several key indicators surveyed jointly in both, rural and urban areas, but they are not strictly divided according to rural or urban area.
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	The most comprehensive system for monitoring and evaluating has been developed for the Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (SAPARD). The indicators used for monitoring the programme are agreed with the Monitoring Committee of the SAPARD that regularly reviews the programme progress on the basis of these indicators.
Finland	Yes, there are the indicators of the Finnish Rural Indicators project. See annex A.
France	Legislation is in preparation and should come into force end of 2003. Indicators should then be set up to monitor this policy.
Germany	Indicators to monitor the EU rural development plan agreed between EU and Member States.
Hungary	Set of indicators is being developed in relation with the National Development Plan, Agricultural and Rural Development Operational Programme and the National Rural Development Plan.
Ireland	Under development. <sup>1)</sup>
Italy	n/a

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 8 (concluded)**

Kazakhstan	The development is monitored by the Agency for Statistics through individual farm accounting on the approved form and the collection of statistical data twice a year from each farm record. It questions members of farms about all social issues and gathers information on current plantings, farms' own property (cattle, poultry and buildings) and sampling data on crop and livestock output. Information for State-owned agricultural enterprises is compiled on the basis of State statistical reporting.
Kyrgyzstan	No but there are a few indicators used for monitoring rural development these include poverty and extreme poverty levels, poverty gap and severity, gini coefficient, children school enrolment, adult literacy level, life expectancy, unemployment level, access to drinking water, access to medical service, average per capita calorie intake.
Latvia	The Ministry of Agriculture uses a set of indicators for drawing up the Rural Development Plan.
Lithuania	No.
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No.
Romania	There is a set of core indicators used in monitoring rural areas (see 'Carta Verde of rural development in Romania' by the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the European Commission).
Russian Federation	The following indicators can be used for monitoring rural development policy: income levels, employment/unemployment, prices of goods and services, the level of development of social, market and utilities infrastructure.
Slovakia	Not yet. There are plans to use data from the Ministry of Agriculture, from the payment agency and from beneficiaries to monitor rural development policy.
Sweden	No.
Switzerland	No, not yet.
Turkey	In the Household Labour Force Survey settlements with 20,000 or less are defined as rural. Numbers of persons employed in rural areas by sex, age, educational status etc are gathered regularly.
United Kingdom	No. England No. Scotland n/a Wales Yes. The main sections are demographics, economy, agriculture, education, health, personal social services, local government finance, housing, transport, law and order, environment, tourism, deprivation, etc. Northern Ireland n/a
United States	No.

1) See paper submitted for the Food and Agriculture Meeting held in Geneva 2-4th July 2003.

## Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire

### Question 9

Can rural development statistics be found on the Internet and if so where?	
Australia	Some small area statistics on <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">www.abs.gov.au</a> (themes then regional statistics). There is concern however that rural/regional statistics are not visible enough on the ABS website and the home page is currently being redeveloped to include a regional portal.
Bulgaria	Not yet but database is under construction. Some information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture <a href="http://www.mzgar.government.bg">www.mzgar.government.bg</a>
Canada	No systematic collection on a given site but three (partial) views are available at: a) the Canadian Rural Partnership <a href="http://www.rural.gc.ca">www.rural.gc.ca</a> b) The Rural & Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletins at <a href="http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/free.htm">www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/21-006-XIE/free.htm</a> c) community profiles of census data at <a href="http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm">www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01/PlaceSearchForm1.cfm</a>
Czech Republic	No.
Denmark	Population data etc can be found at <a href="http://www.statistikbanken.dk">www.statistikbanken.dk</a>
Estonia	Rural development statistics/regional statistics are available on the homepage of the Statistical Office at <a href="http://www.stat.ee">www.stat.ee</a> at local government unit, county and NUTS 3 level.
Finland	No.
France	Statistics on rural and urban zones can be found at <a href="http://www.insee.fr">www.insee.fr</a> under 'territoire'.
Germany	Information on the publication 'Aktuelle Daten zur Entwicklung der Städte, Kreise und Gemeinden' (up-to-date information on the development of towns, districts and municipalities) at <a href="http://www.bbr.bund.de">www.bbr.bund.de</a> . Information on regional data at <a href="http://www.destatis.de/themen/d/thm_regional.htm">www.destatis.de/themen/d/thm_regional.htm</a>
Hungary	No data available on the website of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. Some selected data are available at the Internet site of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in the supplement of Hungary's SAPARD Plan at <a href="http://www.fvm.hu/english/annex2.pdf">www.fvm.hu/english/annex2.pdf</a>
Ireland	n/a
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	<a href="http://www.stat.kz">www.stat.kz</a>
Kyrgyzstan	<a href="http://www.stat.kg">www.stat.kg</a>
Latvia	Yes, the Agricultural Census 2001 and Population Census 2000 data base are available at <a href="http://www.csb.lv/">http://www.csb.lv/</a>

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 9 (concluded)**

Lithuania	www.std.lt/: General statistics - agricultural statistics by county (NUTS 3); Population and social statistics - average annual number of rural population, main indicators of employed population and earnings by economic activity; Agriculture - main indicators of agricultural activity; Environment - water consumption according to needs.
Netherlands	n/a
Norway	No rural statistics as such but regional statistics can be found at <a href="http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/02">http://www.ssb.no/english/subjects/00/00/02</a>
Romania	No.
Russian Federation	Yes: Ministry of agriculture <a href="http://www.aris.ru/DBASE/">www.aris.ru/DBASE/</a> ; Goskomstat Russia <a href="http://www.gks.ru/">www.gks.ru/</a> ; Agro-industrial complex Market <a href="http://www.apkmarket.ru/">www.apkmarket.ru</a>
Slovakia	No.
Sweden	No.
Switzerland	Scattered information can be found under <a href="http://www.bfs.admin.ch">www.bfs.admin.ch</a>
Turkey	The press releases and the results of the Household Labour Force Survey are available on the website of the State Institute of Statistics <a href="http://www.die.gov.tr">www.die.gov.tr</a>
United Kingdom	Defra Internet site under construction at <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/esg/work_html/publications/cs/ruralinfo_web/default.asp">www.defra.gov.uk/esg/work_html/publications/cs/ruralinfo_web/default.asp</a> . Small area statistics at <a href="http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk">www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk</a> England see United Kingdom Scotland n/a Wales Yes, in the report 'Statistical Focus on Rural Wales' ( <a href="http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/compedia/2001/sb49-2001/sb49-2001.htm">http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/compedia/2001/sb49-2001/sb49-2001.htm</a> ), in the Rural Development Plan and in the statistics by Local Authority area on the Local Government Data Unit website <a href="http://www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk/">http://www.lgdu-wales.gov.uk/</a> Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Data related to rural development can be found at a) U.S. Census Bureau at <a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a> b) Bureau of Labor Statistics at <a href="http://www.bls.gov">www.bls.gov</a> c) Bureau of Economic Analysis <a href="http://www.bea.gov">www.bea.gov</a> d) Economic Research Service <a href="http://www.ers.usda.gov">www.ers.usda.gov</a> e) National Agricultural Statistics Service <a href="http://www.nass.usda.gov">www.nass.usda.gov</a>

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 10**

<b>What is the smallest area for which statistics are available and what is the average size of this area (e.g. average population size, average area, range of population sizes or range of area)?</b>	
Australia	Census Collection District (CD) i.e. census enumeration area (average size in rural areas 100 dwellings, in urban areas 220 dwellings, area ranges from under 1,000 square metres to 230,000 square metres)
Bulgaria	Municipality (well defined system of settlements/villages around a municipality centre which may be a bigger village or a small town; between 1 and 134 villages).
Canada	Census subdivision (CSD) which are generally incorporated towns and incorporated municipalities. There are 5,600 CSDs with a population range from 0 to 2.38 million (average about 5,360).
Czech Republic	Municipalities.
Denmark	Addresses.
Estonia	Local Government Unit (average population 5494 with Tallinn, 3903 without Tallinn, range 56 to 396879; average area 176 square kilometres, range 1.8 to 582 square kilometre).
Finland	Sub-regional units (NUTS 4).
France	Municipalities.
Germany	Municipalities (average population about 5,900).
Hungary	Settlements (municipality?) (average population about 3230).
Ireland	District Electoral Division (DED) (average population 1096)
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	Private and state-owned farms
Kyrgyzstan	Districts, villages; for agricultural statistics usually the county within a district (between 4,000 and 20,000 inhabitants)
Latvia	Parishes (NUTS 5)
Lithuania	Rural settlement (village) (average size 53 inhabitants, range from 1 to 4700); Rural municipality (average size 24.4 thousand inhabitants, range 6.6 to 83.6 thousand inhabitants; average land area 135.3 thousand hectares, range 43.6 to 220.9 thousand hectares)
Netherlands	District (average population about 1500, range 0 to 30,000; average area 3 square kilometre, range from under 1 to 130 square kilometres); for statistics for funding purposes: statistics based on territorial unit of 500m square
Norway	Basic (statistical) units (subdivision of municipalities, there are about 14,000 basic statistical units in Norway; they are a flexible basis for the work with and presentation of regional statistics)
Romania	Villages (average population about 800)
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Municipality (average population 1844, range 10 to 117227)
Sweden	Individuals/households.
Switzerland	Hectare or commune - depending on the statistics.
Turkey	Village (average population about 640)
United Kingdom	Census Output Areas (average population about 250) England Scotland Wales Electoral districts; Small Agricultural Area for agricultural statistics (about 1000 farms) Northern Ireland
United States	Census Blocks (there are 7,017,427 census blocks)

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 11**

<b>What statistics are available for this smallest area?</b>	
Australia	Every five years, full range of variables from the Census of Population and Housing (demographics, employment, income, characteristics of dwellings). In non-census years data are only available for larger spatial units. Very few economic variables are available for small areas but agricultural commodity data are available for Statistical Local Areas every five years and for Statistical Divisions in other years.
Bulgaria	Data for age structure, inhabitants, area, population density, employment/unemployment levels, education level etc.
Canada	All Census of Population variables, however, data for census subdivisions with fewer than 200 inhabitants are typically suppressed for questions in the long questionnaire which contains the major variables on educational attainment, labour force participation, income etc.
Czech Republic	Only a limited number of indicators such as population, land area, social and cultural variables, health service and trade possibilities and for some environmental matters such as water supply network, public sewage system, waste collection.
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	The Estonian Rural Development Database contains official statistics on population, stock of urban streets and local roads at the local government unit level. It also contains non-official data on entrepreneurs, local budget revenue and expenditure, income tax, state budgetary relief fund, appropriations for investment, local government debt, dwelling completions, non-residential building completions, subsistence allowances, registered unemployed and the number and areas of fires. Non-official data on the number of schools and students, local land stock, main indicators on libraries and distance of local government unit from the capital and the county centre will be added soon.
Finland	The indicators of the Finnish Rural Indicators project which relate to population and migration, structure and function of the economy, living conditions and welfare, sustainable development.
France	Population census data, agricultural census data, municipality inventory, business survey results, services and facilities available to inhabitants of the municipalities, movements of inhabitants in municipalities lacking facilities.
Germany	Various statistics are available for municipalities, others for Kreise (districts) details can be found at <a href="http://www.brandenburg.de/statreg/regio-stat-katalog_2003.pdf">www.brandenburg.de/statreg/regio-stat-katalog_2003.pdf</a>
Hungary	There are about 400 variables collected annually for each settlement.
Ireland	Population statistics, agricultural statistics.
Italy	n/a
Kazakhstan	Individual farm records.
Kyrgyzstan	Statistics on agriculture, wages, population number, selected variables of transport statistics, finances are produced at the level of rural councils. The population census data are available by each town, urban-type settlement and village.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 11 (concluded)**

Latvia	Some agricultural, population and social statistics.
Lithuania	Rural settlements - number of population; Rural municipality - majority of agricultural, demographic and social statistics; Total municipality - majority of agricultural, demographic, social, industry, transport and service statistics.
Netherlands	Population data (number, gender, age class, population density, household composition, immigrants (first and second generation) from non-western countries); address density; residences (number and average value for tax); income (average per head, average per person receiving income, persons with high income (percentage), persons with low income (percentage), persons aged 15 to 64 with social security as main source of income (percentage); land area and total area (including water); land use (e.g. urban and rural area, traffic, built-up, semi-built-up recreational, agricultural, forest, nature).
Norway	Mainly population statistics. Furthermore, coordinates or basic statistical unit code identify most enterprises in the Business Register and almost all agricultural holdings are identified by coordinates.
Romania	Various statistics which can be found in the settlement/locality file.
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Statistics on a limited number of indicators are available (population, land acreage, social and cultural facilities, health service and trade possibilities etc) and for some environmental matters (water supply network, public sewage system, water waste treatment, waste collection, expenditures on environmental protection).
Sweden	Examples: number of inhabitants, number of households, migration, age distribution, educational level, unemployment, disposable income.
Switzerland	For the hectare Swiss land use statistics; for the commune/municipality the population, agricultural and enterprise statistics as well as the Swiss land use statistics.
Turkey	Social, demographic and economic characteristics of population are available for villages from the 2000 Population Census. Information about age and sex structure, literacy, fertility, labour force, occupation, economic activity and employment status is also available.
United Kingdom England Scotland Wales Northern Ireland	Census data, some survey data will be made available at this level.  Data for Electoral Districts are only available for data collected in the 2001 Population census. Most socio-economic indicators are only reliable at the Local Authority Level.
United States	Basic population and housing data. More information available at census tract level.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 12**

<b>Are statistics on urban settlements/urban land use available?</b>	
Australia	Yes, the full range of Census of Population and Housing variables is available for urban settlements.
Bulgaria	Yes, on urban municipalities.
Canada	Yes, data are available for urban settlements, but urban land use data is only available from specialised surveys on a case by case basis.
Czech Republic	Statistics on urban settlement and land use are available (in the statistical office and the cadastral office)
Denmark	Yes.
Estonia	Yes, on urban municipalities.
Finland	One of the area types is rural areas.
France	Yes, at the level of municipalities to follow the development of the different zones which are recalculated after every population census. At a more aggregated level through the LUCAS surveys.
Germany	Yes, updated every four years.
Hungary	Yes.
Ireland	n/a
Kazakhstan	A sample survey is held for urban settlements once a year.
Kyrgyzstan	Yes.
Latvia	Yes.
Lithuania	Yes, demographic statistics and urban land use statistics.
Netherlands	Yes, land use statistics are produced every 3 or 4 years. Delineating urban settlements on the basis of urban land use statistics is a research project for the next months. In principle, coding addresses to urban settlements is possible and is also subject to research.
Norway	Yes.
Romania	Yes.
Russian Federation	n/a
Slovakia	Yes, statistics on urban settlement and urban land use are available in the cadastral office/land registry and in the statistical office.
Sweden	n/a
Switzerland	Yes.
Turkey	No. However, a project is under way on Land Use by Using CORINE methodology. The aim of the project is to classify 44 classes of land use as applied in the CORINE project. At the end of this project some information on urban settlements will be available.
United Kingdom	Yes. England Yes. Scotland n/a Wales Yes. Northern Ireland n/a
United States	Yes, some data are available.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 13**

<b>Which organization(s) is/are responsible for rural development policy?</b>	
Australia	At federal level mainly the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia (AFFA - responsible for agricultural policy which impacts significantly on rural areas) and the Department for Transport and Regional Services (responsible for regional development in general and this includes rural areas). Economic development in rural/regional Australia is devolved to State/Territory Governments.
Bulgaria	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
Canada	The federal Rural Secretariat had the task of co-ordinating the federal approach to rural development because all government departments have policies and programs directed to rural citizens. Similarly, each provincial government has a lead agency with a mandate to co-ordinate the approach of provincial government ministries to rural development. Finally, there are regional and rural development groups within most provinces.
Czech Republic	Ministry for regional development and regional authorities.
Denmark	Ministry for the Interior and Health
Estonia	Ministry of Agriculture
Finland	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; Rural Policy Committee
France	Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Rural Affairs
Germany	The 16 federal Länder governments have the main responsibility for rural development policy. Within the Länder governments, it is the Ministries with responsibility for agriculture, regional policies, environment, protection of nature and transport that influence rural development most directly.
Hungary	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.
Ireland	Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
Italy	The 20 Italian Regions
Kazakhstan	Ministry of Agriculture.
Kyrgyzstan	At present, on the instructions of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and in pursuance of the goals of the Comprehensive Development Framework the Kyrgyz Republic has started to prepare a set of documents aimed at comprehensive rural development. Almost all ministries and agencies are preparing relevant documents in their respective fields.
Latvia	Ministry of Agriculture

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 13 (concluded)**

Lithuania	Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for rural development policy; Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is responsible for social aspects including rural areas; Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for coordinating National Regional Policy.
Netherlands	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning and the Environment; Ministry of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Employment; Regional Governments/Provinces (at NUTS 2 level).
Norway	Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development (main responsibility and co-ordination); Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Fisheries; Ministry of Transport and Communication; Ministry of Trade and Industry.
Romania	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and Ministry of Public Finance; Inter-ministry Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.
Russian Federation	Republics, territories and regions and coordinated by the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture.
Slovakia	Ministry of Agriculture
Sweden	Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication.
Switzerland	Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE)
Turkey	State Planning Organization (SPO) is responsible for project planning; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs is responsible for monitoring rural projects.
United Kingdom	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and devolved Departments. England Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Scotland Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department Wales Welsh Assembly Government Agriculture and Rural Affairs Department Northern Ireland Department for Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland
United States	The Rural Development (RD) Mission Area of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) operates as the main rural development programs in the United States. However, other Federal development programs critical to rural development are operated by other Federal and State agencies. USDA-RD is responsible for co-ordinating the rural aspects of these programs, to the extent this is possible. USDA also participates in and supports the National Rural Development Partnership, which includes representatives of Federal, State, and non-governmental organizations with an interest in rural development.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 14**

<b>What are the aims/objectives of rural development policies?</b>	
Australia	To improve the economic performance of rural and regional areas so that the potential for them to contribute to the wealth and competitiveness of Australia as a nation is maximised.
Bulgaria	See annex C.
Canada	Generally to improve the well-being of rural communities.
Czech Republic	Rural development means creating of administrative and economic conditions to support the rural area residents in their harmonised development of healthy environment, in their care about natural and cultural worth of rural landscape and in the development of environment-friendly systems of farming.
Denmark	n/a
Estonia	The main objective of the pre-accession programme for agricultural and rural development (SAPARD) is to contribute to the implementation of aquis communautaire concerning the common agricultural policy and related policies and to solve priority and problems for the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas in Estonia.
Finland	The Rural Policy Committee has been structured around five permanent priorities: (1) reform of the economic activities in rural areas (2) development of know-how and human resources (3) strengthening the existing service network (4) development of the quality of the residential environment and community structure in rural areas (5) sustainable utilisation of natural resources
France	n/a
Germany	The directive Nr 1257/1999 put the main focus on the promotion of the multifunctionality of agriculture. However, increasing emphasis was also given to non-agricultural activities, aspects of sustainability and the employment.
Hungary	(1) More competitive economy (2) Better utilisation of human resources (3) Better quality environment, more balanced regional development.
Ireland	Improving the physical, economic and social conditions of people living in the open countryside, in coastal areas, towns and villages and in smaller urban centres outside of the five major urban areas.
Italy	Enhance the competitiveness and viability of rural areas (the objectives stated in the regulations of the second pillar of the Common Agricultural Policy)
Kyrgyzstan	Development of small towns and remote districts.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 14 (continued)**

Latvia	(1) Promotion of dynamic development of rural economy, thus ensuring the increase in the level of welfare of the rural population (2) Maintenance of the population living in rural areas and ensuring the availability of various social infrastructure services in rural territory equivalent to the level available in towns (3) Ensuring the sustainable and efficient utilisation of rural resources by maintaining and preserving a tended and biologically diverse rural environment and landscape for future generations.
Lithuania	According to the Law on Regional development of the Republic of Lithuania (adopted in 2000) the main aims are to reduce the social and economic inequality between the regions and within the regions and to stimulate the equal and stable development of all regions. The Law on Agriculture and Rural Development of the Republic of Lithuania (2002) gives legal basis for the main principles of agricultural and rural development. It seeks to create a cooperative and competitive agricultural sector oriented towards the market; to increase agricultural income and to improve the quality of life of rural people as well as to meet their individual, social, economic and cultural needs; to ensure that high quality and safe agricultural and food products reach the market; to expand exports of agricultural and food products; to guarantee as high as possible self-sufficiency of agricultural and food products; to develop a sustainable food industry in which integrated agriculture has a main share; to save the environment by using agri-environmental methods and to induce sustainable use of renewable resources.
Netherlands	Objective for rural development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality: The creation of a living and sustainable countryside, allowing space for the various functions of living, work and recreation; to enhance liveability while preserving the existing qualities of the countryside. This is realised through the four policy fields of agriculture, nature, recreation and landscape.
Norway	To maintain the central features of the population settlement pattern and to have equal living conditions throughout the country.
Romania	The strategic objective proposed by the PNADR (Plan National of agriculture and rural development?) are the following: the sustainable development of agri-food competitive sector by modernisation and improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural and fish products; increasing of the living standard in rural areas by the improvement and development of social infrastructure and by defining and establishing good agricultural practice as a need for a sustainable agriculture and rural development; the development of rural economy by establishing and modernising buildings for private agricultural and forest exploitations, the development and diversification of economic activities, in order to maintain and/or create alternative/additional incomes and new employment; the development of human resources by improving professional training of agricultural producers and forest owners and by building institutional capacity consolidation.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 14 (concluded)**

Russian Federation	The social components of reforms in agriculture is one of the most important objectives of rural development policy.
Slovakia	The improvement of the quality of life of the rural population, provision of sufficient number of jobs and adequate income. To preserve environment and sustainable development for rural areas.
Sweden	Good living conditions and development opportunities for rural areas and rural populations.
Switzerland	The Confederation's policy in respect of spatial and transport planning, sustainable development and the alpine conservation convention has been prepared and implemented by the Federal Office for Spatial Planning since 1 June 2000. The remit of the Federal Office includes the following: (1) Strategies for spatial and transport planning and for sustainable development (2) Principles for spatial planning, general and leisure traffic, sustainable development and the alpine conservation (3) Liaison between federal authorities on projects affecting land use and transport (4) Collaboration with the cantons in all official tasks (5) Assisting with coordination to solve problems connected with agglomeration policy and equalisation measures in rural areas (6) Information (7) Monitoring spatial planning from a legal viewpoint.
Turkey	The aims of rural development are to support and encourage rural activities to increase income of the rural population by diversification and intensification of agricultural activities; to encourage agro-industry and finally to increase capacity building in those areas.
United Kingdom	<p>England The target is to reduce the gap in productivity between the least well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2006, and improve the accessibility of services for rural people. The evidence for poor economic and social conditions in some rural areas is both compelling and measurable. Our target is to lay solid foundations to achieve sustainable and long term regeneration in these areas.</p> <p>Scotland n/a</p> <p>Wales (1) To create a stronger agriculture and forestry sector (2) To improve the economic competitiveness of rural communities and areas (3) To maintain and protect the environment and rural heritage</p> <p>Northern Ireland n/a</p>
United States	Rural development policies have a variety of objectives. The general aim is to improve quality of life in rural areas. More specifically, USDA's RD programs cover infrastructure, business, and housing assistance, plus several comprehensive assistance programs, including the rural empowerment zone program.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**
**Question 15**

<b>What are the main themes of rural development?</b>	
Australia	Two over-arching themes are evident in Australian regional/rural policy: (1) place-based issues of economic growth and development and ultimate competitiveness, and the concomitant natural resource management and environmental impact issues (sustainable development) (2) socially focussed issues - the quality of life and well being of people who reside in rural/regional/remote Australia
Bulgaria	See annex C.
Canada	Creating a favourable environment for rural development by improving infrastructure; supporting the renewal of communities through innovation; support building community capacity potential.
Czech Republic	Development of agricultural activities and processing of the production; reestablishment of handicrafts, trade and business activities and services and tourism; support and development of employment opportunities; improvement of the municipality facilities for residents (schools, health services, etc.); maintenance of the public open space (including care of lawns and water areas)
Denmark	Economic activities and environmental aspects.
Estonia	Promotion of rural entrepreneurship; living conditions in rural areas; infrastructure and land improvements; private forestry and cooperative activities; research, training and advisory system.
Finland	According to the Rural Policy Committee outlines for rural policy are: there is a wide range of economic activities in the rural areas; the possibility to use modern information technology should be made available to everybody, the development of the environment for innovation in rural areas is one of the cornerstones in rural policy, multifunctional agriculture and pluriactive farms are special characteristics of the Finnish rural areas; the connection between culture and development is understood and recognised in all rural development work; curbing and reducing the differentiation of municipalities; in order to for the rural policy to succeed in securing the viability of the rural areas, watertight development systems are needed not only in the municipalities but also at the level of villages and sub-regional units; new means to advance the justice to the citizens and equality between the regions should be found for regional development; the urban, interaction and rural policies constitute an extensive and functioning whole for the regional development that is the best suited for the Finnish conditions
France	n/a
Germany	Improvement of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector; rural development; environment and compensatory measures
Hungary	Modernisation of agricultural production; improving human conditions of production; modernisation of food processing; improving the economic potential of rural areas; increasing employment; making rural areas more attractive; maintenance of agricultural land use in areas with unfavourable conditions and under environment protection restrictions; environment-friendly agricultural production, landscape protection and agricultural environment protection; maintaining the economic, ecological and social role of forests.
Ireland	Vibrant sustainable communities; sufficient income and employment opportunities; adequate access to education, training and social and other services and infrastructure; effective participation in structures and decision-making processes in an inclusive society; a situation where cultural identity including language, traditions and a sense of community are valued and retained; sustainable development and respect for the environment.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 15 (continued)**

Italy	Investment in competitiveness, rural viability, quality of life and sustainable agriculture, animal welfare, food quality.
Kyrgyzstan	(1) Development of effective local governments (2) Social development of local communities (3) Development of rural social and engineering infrastructure (4) Provision of sustainable growth in rural areas
Latvia	see annex B
Lithuania	<p>Investment in primary agricultural activity: reconstruction and equipment of farm buildings, purchase of agricultural machinery, creation of specialized farming; investment in agricultural and fish products processing and development of marketing; development and diversification of farm activities: stimulation of small businesses, processing of agricultural product produced on farm, rural tourism, non-traditional economic activities in rural areas; diversification of farm activities including processing; development of rural infrastructure for general use; development of forestry, of forestry infrastructure, afforestation of non-agricultural land; stimulation of ecological farming; professional agricultural training; support for preservation and breeding of rare fish, for breeding and seed farming, for purchase of seeds and pedigree material; support for establishment of young farmers; registration and identification of farm animals; creation and introduction of agricultural information system, development and consultation services; development of food quality control, veterinary and plant protection control</p> <p>including border control; direct payments for declared crop area of cereal, flax, rape, rich in starch potatoes and other agricultural crops, in animal production direct payments for suckling cows, ewes and animals to be slaughtered and to dairy farms; compensatory payments for farming in areas not favourable to farming.</p>
Norway	Development in population, economic development in general, business investments, establishment of new enterprises, employment/unemployment, service provisions, infrastructure.
Netherlands	Our most important policy tasks regarding the physical quality of the rural area are: putting the water system in order; realising the National Ecological Network; making agriculture more sustainable and more in tune with the wishes of society; preserving and developing a valuable living environment; specific tasks regarding specific landscapes (sandy areas, grasslands in the peatlands area and the riverlands).
Romania	The measures proposed by the SAPARD Regulations is as follows: processing and marketing of agricultural and fisheries products; improving the structures for quality veterinary and plant health controls, foodstuffs and consumer protection; development and improvement of rural infrastructure; management of water resources for agriculture; investment in agricultural holdings; setting up producer groups; agri-environmental measures; development and diversification of economic activities, multiple activities, alternative income; forestry; improving the vocational training; technical assistance.
Russian Federation	The main directions of rural development are defined in the Federal programme 'Social development in rural areas until 2010'.

**Rural Development Statistics Questionnaire**  
**Question 15 (concluded)**

Slovakia	SAPARD: Priority 1 Improvement of the agricultural production sector including food industry (measures: Investment in agricultural enterprises, improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural and fish products, setting up of producer groups) Priority 2 Sustainable rural development (measures: diversification activities in rural areas, forestry, agricultural production methods designed to protect the environment and maintain the countryside, land consolidation) Priority 3 Development of human activities (measures: development of human resources, technical assistance)
Switzerland	Decentralised settlement and conservation of the cultural heritage of the landscape; assisting with coordination to solve problems connected with agglomeration policy and equalisation of measures in rural areas.
Sweden	n/a
Turkey	Employment, rural infrastructure, human resources, settlement patterns, organisational arrangements, sustainability of rural development.
United Kingdom	n/a
England	The white paper focuses on: investing in quality services (schools, education and child care places, health care, internet access); improvements in service delivery (extended service provision by post offices, cash machines, support schemes for village shops, pubs and garages, etc.); affordable homes; better transport; rejuvenating market towns and creating a thriving modern economy; new future for traditional industries (i.e. agriculture); ensuring that everyone can enjoy the countryside (tourism); protecting what makes the countryside special (environment)
Scotland	n/a
Wales	(1) Income and employment of people found on farms (2) The environmental aspects of land use. The most significant strands of the Rural Development Plan for Wales are (1) support for farmers in disadvantaged areas (2) agri-environmental payments. Less important strands are the investment on farms for improving the holding and on-farm diversification, improving processing and marketing of agricultural products, forestry. Support for non-agricultural businesses and community development is not strong.
Northern Ireland	n/a
United States	Sustainable community development; 'bottom-up' policies in the sense that they support the community's own plans and goals for development, rather than a policy solution imposed by a higher level of government; Federal assistance targeted to places that need help the most; Federal assistance should 'leverage' assistance from other sources to get 'the most for the buck'

## **Annex A: The indicators of the Finnish Rural Indicators project.**

### POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Population density, inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

Distribution of population by types of area, %

Increase of population

Excess of births

Internal net-migration, total

Internal net-migration by age group

Area's population as percentage of whole Mainland Finland's population

Population by sex and age group

Men's relative proportion of population aged 25-64

Demographic dependency ratio

Summer residents' relative proportion of regular population (summer residents refers to the total number of persons in the household-dwelling units of free-time residence owners)

Free-time residences per 1000 inhabitants

### STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE ECONOMY

Number of labour force

Proportion of labour force in the population of working age

Economic dependency ratio

Unemployment rate, total

Change of unemployment rate

Workplaces by industry

Change of number of all workplaces

Ratio between number of jobs in an area and number of employed living in an area

Number of commuters (commuters are defined as persons who cross the municipal border to get from their place of residence to their place of work)

Percentage of commuters to employed living in an area

Net-commuting

Net income flow of commuting

Value added, whole country = 100

Value added per capita, whole country = 100

Number of establishments of enterprises by size category of personnel

Number of establishments of enterprises per 1000 inhabitants

Number of establishments of enterprises by industry

Number of enterprise openings and closures by industry

Number of active farms

Average area of arable land of active farms, ha

Average income subject to state taxation of farms by source of income

Commercial roundwood removals of private forests, m<sup>3</sup>

Local income tax rate in municipal taxation

Average total tax revenues of municipalities per inhabitant

### LIVING CONDITION AND WELFARE

Average income subject to state taxation per income recipient

Persons in receipt of living allowance as percentage of population

Population aged 15 years or over by level of education

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Arable land under cultivation and uncultivated arable land of all farms

Organic farms as percentage of all active farms

Organically farmed area as percentage of all arable land of active farms

## Annex B: Latvia - Answer to Question 15:

### Main Themes

Economic activities not related with the agriculture, forestry or fishery (in line with the National Programme for the Development of Small and Medium Size Enterprises, National Employment Plan, the actions listed in the action strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture for the years 2003-2005, etc.):

- efficiently utilises all resources available in rural environment, thus contributing to the employment and welfare of the rural population;
- maintains and develops the rural environment as an attractive life, work and recreational place for everyone;
- ensures the flexibility of rural economy with respect to the changes in the foreign and domestic markets, and maintains a stable welfare standard of the rural population.

*Tourism* (in line with the Rural Tourism Development Programme) -

- ensures the availability of the cultural and historical heritage and landscape qualities featuring the rural environment of Latvia to everyone ;
- ensures the good quality and environmentally adequate economic infrastructure for the needs of mobility, communications and economic activity of the population (in line with the Regional Development Law);
- improves, enhances and diversifies the professional skills of the rural population (in line with the National Employment Plan and the Strategy for Investments to Welfare Sector for the Years 2003-2007 and the Concept for Crediting of Students)
- creates and supports the groups / organisations of economic cooperation promoting and supporting the economic development of rural areas, involving socially outcast groups of population in business activity thus reducing the poverty in line with the Commercial Law of the Republic of Latvia, Cooperative Societies Law, Agricultural Law, the Strategy for Investments to Welfare Sector for the Years 2003-2007).

The measures implemented and/or planned for implementation under the objective 'Maintenance of population in rural areas and ensuring the availability of various social infrastructure services in rural territory equivalent to the level available in towns' are aimed at:

- rationalising and developing the services of social infrastructure (education and training systems, healthcare and social security systems, culture, etc.) and tending and maintaining the historical and cultural values / heritage (in line with the National Investment Programme);
- creating and supporting the local initiatives for the activation of economic and social life in the territory, encouraging the cooperation among inhabitants in the implementation of social and economic activities in the territory, and minimising the outcast of various social groups in rural villages / communities;
- establishing and supporting various social matters groups / organisations for dealing with social assistance issues and initiation of economic activities in rural territories (in line with the Strategy for Investments to Welfare Sector for the Years 2003-2007);
- improving and rationalising the operations of local administrative, regional authorities by securing the exchange of information and minimising the outcast of informative character in the periphery (in line with the Regional Development Law of the Republic of Latvia and the Administrative-Territorial Reform Law).

The attainment of the objective - *Ensuring the sustainable and efficient utilisation of rural resources by maintaining and preserving a tended and biologically diverse rural environment and landscape for future generations* - is supported by adoption of certain Regulatory enactments and strategic documents - laws of the Republic of Latvia, Cabinet Regulations, and by implementation of the National Biodiversity Programme (1999). Latvia has ratified different international conventions, and is proceeding with the harmonisation of its national legislation with the Directives of the European Union in the sphere of environment, with a view to:

- ensuring, in all kinds of economic activity, an environmentally friendly management meeting the environmental requirements to cause a minimum negative impact on the ecology of rural environment (nature, air, climate, soil, water) and maintaining a tended landscape characteristic to the countryside of Latvia;
- preserving, protecting and promoting the variety of wildlife populations, species and biotopes recognised both nationally and internationally;
- protecting and maintaining the historical, cultural and landscape (reserves, nature parks, coastline, etc.) values recognised both nationally and internationally.
- protecting, enhancing and promoting the local origin breeding animals of important breeds of agricultural animals and cultivated plants, which are recognised as endangered populations both nationally and internationally.

## Annex C: Bulgaria

### Answer to question 3: Are there any subdivisions of rural areas relating to the degree of rurality?

At present, Bulgaria doesn't have legislation to regulate assistance for agricultural producers in less favorite areas, compatible with EU analogues. Legal acts, which regulate similar matters are:

**The Farmer Support Act (published SG 58/22. 05. 1998)**

The Regional Development Act (SG 26/23. 03. 1999)

The Agricultural Land Protection Act (SG 35/24. 04. 1996)

*The Farmer Support Act.*

*The provisions of this law are closest to the provisions in Council Regulation 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the EAGGF. This law regulates the state support to farmers for the production of market oriented agricultural produce. One of the purposes of state support is the development of agricultural produce in regions with deteriorating social and economical characteristics, or in regions with unfavorable environmental conditions. These regions have been defined in the Final provisions to the law as follows:*

- **"Regions with deteriorating social and economical characteristics"** are regions threatened by depopulation or regions of low population density, with restricted employment possibilities, which accelerated rate of decline threatens the economic vitality of the specific region and its population in the long run.
- **"Regions of unfavourable environmental conditions"** for agricultural development are regions where there are permanent natural limitations on agricultural development, due mainly to the poor soil qualities, with cultivated land situated on steep slopes, and short vegetation periods. Such limitations can be overcome at high costs leading to high agricultural production cost, which prohibits the generation of incomes by agricultural producers in such areas, comparable to the incomes of agricultural producers occupied in the same kind of agricultural activity in other regions of the country.

The indicators in the Ordinance identifying the "less developed rural areas" are similar to these, used to define "less favored areas" in Article 19 from Council Regulation 1257/1999. According to the Ordinance the "less developed rural areas" cover municipalities or groups of municipalities with predominantly rural way of life, specialized in farming and forestry, with low level of economic development, underdeveloped technical infrastructure and workforce qualification, suffering from acute social problems such as high unemployment rate, low-income per capita, and rapid depopulation.

The criteria for the identification of less developed rural areas are as follows:

1. Absence of a big, very big or medium-sized city or town in the area – the biggest town in the area is with population below 30 000 people;
2. Income per capita during two of the last three years should amount to less than 30 % of country's average in the preceding year;
3. Average unemployment rate in two of the last three years should amount to over 50 % of the country's average in the respective year;

4. Population density below 75% of the country average, expressed in “persons per square km.”;
5. The relative share of agricultural or forestlands should exceed by 20 % the relative country’s average;
6. The relative share of employment in farming and forestry within total number of employed should amount to over 20 % of the country’s average for the preceding year.

According to Ordinance No 14 (SG, No 35/2003) on defining of settlements in rural and mountainous areas, the mountainous areas are defined as follows:

“Mountainous areas are areas with altitude above 600 m., with depth of relief segmentation above 200 m. measured between the lowest and highest point on 1 sq.km., while the density of relief segmentation is above 2 sq.km., and the area slopes are above 12° steep. Mountainous are municipalities, in which more than a half of their settlements territories are mountainous territories”.

With the completion of the Twinning Light Project BG/2001/IB/AG/03/TLF “Strengthening the administrative capacity of the Rural Development Directorate of MAF to implement chapter V of EC Regulation 1257/1999” under the Twinning Light Facility BG 0105.02, we have the methodology for defining of less-favored areas and areas with environmental restrictions in Bulgaria. Criteria for the definition of mountainous municipalities, which give the following indicators, have been prepared:

- Average altitude above 600 m;
- Average area slope above 10° (17,6);
- Average altitude from 500 m to 600 m, combined with an average area slope above 7 ° (12,3 %).

The criteria for the definition of other less-favored areas are as follows:

- Population density less than country’s average – 71 person/sq.km;
- Employed in Agriculture more than 10 % during the last 3 years;
- Low productivity of the agricultural lands with indicators – an average category of the soil less than 6<sup>th</sup> (country’s average - 5,5);
- Principle of the homogenization: next municipalities with a category of the agricultural land at least 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Answer to question 14: What are the aims/objectives of rural development policies?**

The main objectives of the NARDP (National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan 2000-2006) as follows:

- Improvement of agricultural production efficiency and promotion of a competitive food-processing sector by better market and technological infrastructure and strategic investment policies ultimately aimed at reaching EU standards.
- Sustainable rural development consistent with the best environmental practices by introducing employment, diversification of economic activity and establishment of the

necessary infrastructure. This in turn will improve the living conditions and standards of rural communities, generate fairer income and open up employment opportunities.

The main objective of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan (NARDP), which is under preparation, is achievement of strategic objectives of the National Development Plan of Bulgaria for the period 2007-2013, namely:

*Achievement and maintenance of high economic growth through a dynamic economics of knowledge in compliance with the principles of sustainable development.*

Increase of the potential of human capital and achievement of levels of employment, incomes and social integration thus ensuring high quality of life.

On the basis of the strategic guidelines of the Community regarding the policy in the field of rural areas development for the period 2007-2013 and in order to realize the main priorities of EU regarding employment, growth and stability (Lisbon, Göteborg), to guarantee that it complements the other policies of EU (cohesion, environment; especially, coordination with the Structural funds and management of the natural resources in the rural areas) and on the basis of the social-economic conditions, prevailing in the rural areas of Bulgaria, their strengths and potential, the following objectives of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan for the period 2007 – 2013 were defined:

1. Development of competitive agriculture, forestry and food-processing sector through support of productions adding value to the agricultural products and by transfer of innovations in small and medium enterprises, production quality improvement and development of human potential.
2. Conservation of the natural resources and protection of the environment in the rural areas through sustainable land and forestry management in compliance with the international commitments, ecological strategies and legislation environment protection.
3. Improvement of the quality of life in rural areas through of creation of employment opportunities in non-agricultural activities, development of services and building of the necessary infrastructure considering nature conservation and protection.

All of the three objectives are intended to improve the economic and social conditions in the rural areas. They complement each other and correspond to the final objective of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Plan. They are clearly directed to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural structures and market effectiveness and to increase the standard of living in the rural areas.

#### **Answer to question 15: What are the main themes of rural development?**

The main themes are:

1. Improvement of the conditions for production while taking account of animal welfare , food safety and quality in accordance to the EU requirements; fostering innovation in the processing and adding value, as well as support to organic production.
2. Environment protection and sustainable land management.

3. Sustainable development of the rural areas through the creation of employment and improvement of the infrastructure.
4. Investments in human resources.
5. Investments in the local communities in the rural areas development.

