



RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PERI-URBAN AREAS

PhD Winter School - First Announcement

February 6-9, 2012
Leuven, Belgium

THEME

IN RECENT YEARS, RURAL AREAS IN DENSELY POPULATED REGIONS ARE SUBJECTED TO IMPORTANT CHANGES.

General processes, such as globalisation of activities and decision-making, the urbanisation of rural areas, demographic change and specific processes in the agricultural sector are challenges these rural areas are faced with.

These processes lead to a larger transformation whereby rural and peri-urban areas are confronted with a gradual conversion from an agriculturally-based economy to a much more diverse economic base. As a consequence, rural areas now harbour an increasing number of functions, including residence, recreation, forestry and nature conservation and other economic activities. This functional and economic transformation not only changes the rural economic and social structure but it also changes biodiversity and natural resources, the landscape functions and the spatial and environmental quality.

Along with this increasing number of functions, different conflicting spatial claims arise. New emerging urban-rural linkages challenge the rural areas and simultaneously offer new possibilities. These change processes ask for a more integrated rural development policy, taking into account the diversity of actors and institutions in rural areas.



THE PHD WINTER SCHOOL FOCUSES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PERI-URBAN AREAS AS A MAIN THEME, WITH FOUR THEMATIC ORIENTATIONS:

- Questioning the rural
- Regionally embedded rural development
- Governance of rural development processes
- Networks in development processes

All contributions that study methodological issues, case studies and conceptual papers that add to the elaboration of the themes are welcome.



SLOW TALK CONFERENCE

The program of the conference includes keynote speakers, workshops and paper sessions. To create an atmosphere of trust, the PhD winter school is limited to a maximum of 30 participants. PhD students are required to attend the entire PhD winter school and there will be plenty of time for informal interactions among the participants.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is September 15, 2011.

For more information and application, please visit our web site:

<http://www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be/phdwinterschool>