



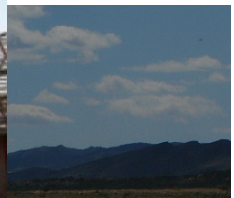
# Diversity of Rural Characteristics and its Use for Policy Purposes in Europe

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# Diversities of Rural Areas



Asset? Challenge?





# Diversities of Rural Areas - some quotations

'Rather than becoming more uniform in character, the European countryside is becoming more diverse than ever. The increasing differentiation produces both new policy challenges and new development opportunities'. (Copus 2010)

'Globalization is refashioning the diversity of rural Europe not eroding it.' (Woods 2010)

'Take diversity as a source of wealth, a development asset' (von Meyer 2010)

'The common EU targets for future development 'must be ... capable of reflecting the diversity of Member States situations and based on sufficiently reliable data for purposes of comparison'. (Europe2020, p8).

→ How to make diversity visible? How to compare it?  
How to make use of it?

# Diversities of Rural Areas - What is needed scientifically?

‘A better understanding of the **development opportunities and challenges** facing diverse types of rural areas in Europe’. (Copus 2010)

‘The aim is to understand the **differences and similarities in regional economic structures** which is essential for designing effective strategies which improve regional competitiveness’. (Bryce 2010)

‘The deepening of the **social division of labour** has led to increasing regional diversification of the rural areas. Each region may have a more or less unique development path. For policy purposes clarify the **essential factors** which cause regional differences in the rural occupations’ (differences in natural conditions, effect of centres, core-periphery structures, local factors) (Vihinen 2010)

→ **Indicators** for diversity, information about **pattern of diversity** (spatially explicit), **comparisons, assessment procedures**

# Diversities of Rural Areas - What is needed politically?

‘To support **targeted policy development** and to bring forward new principles for policy formulation at all levels’. (Copus 2010)

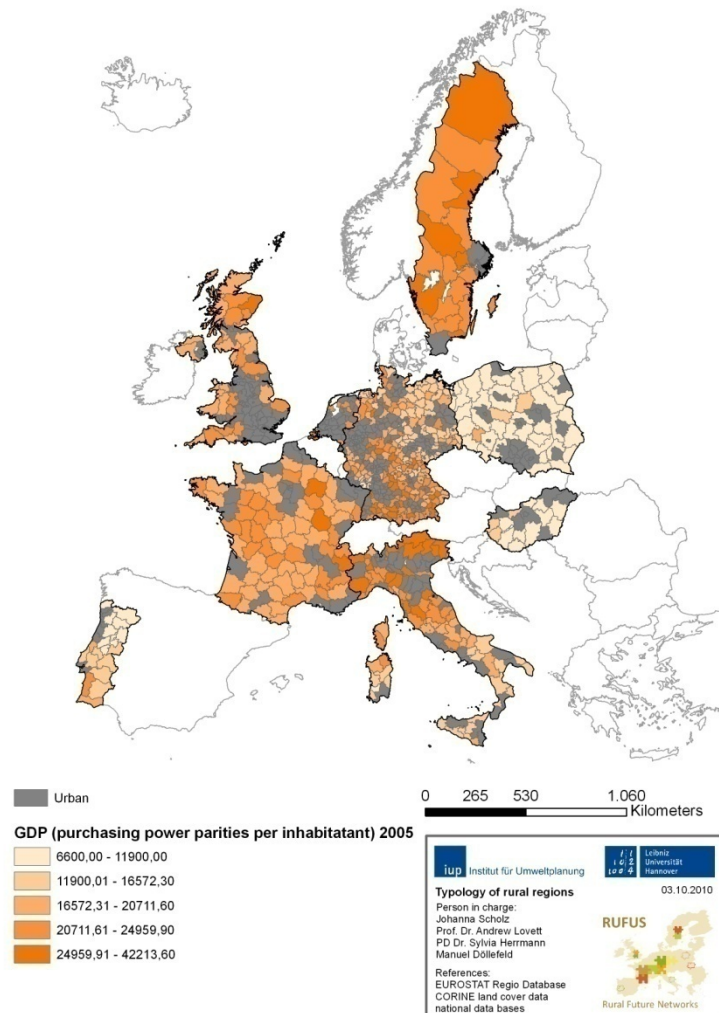
‘To design **effective strategies** which improve regional competitiveness and in turn increase national growth’. (Bryce 2010)

‘We need **principles for policy design and implementation** which reflect the relevance of Services of General Interest for territorial and social cohesion and for the overall development of rural areas has’. (Noguera – Tur 2010)

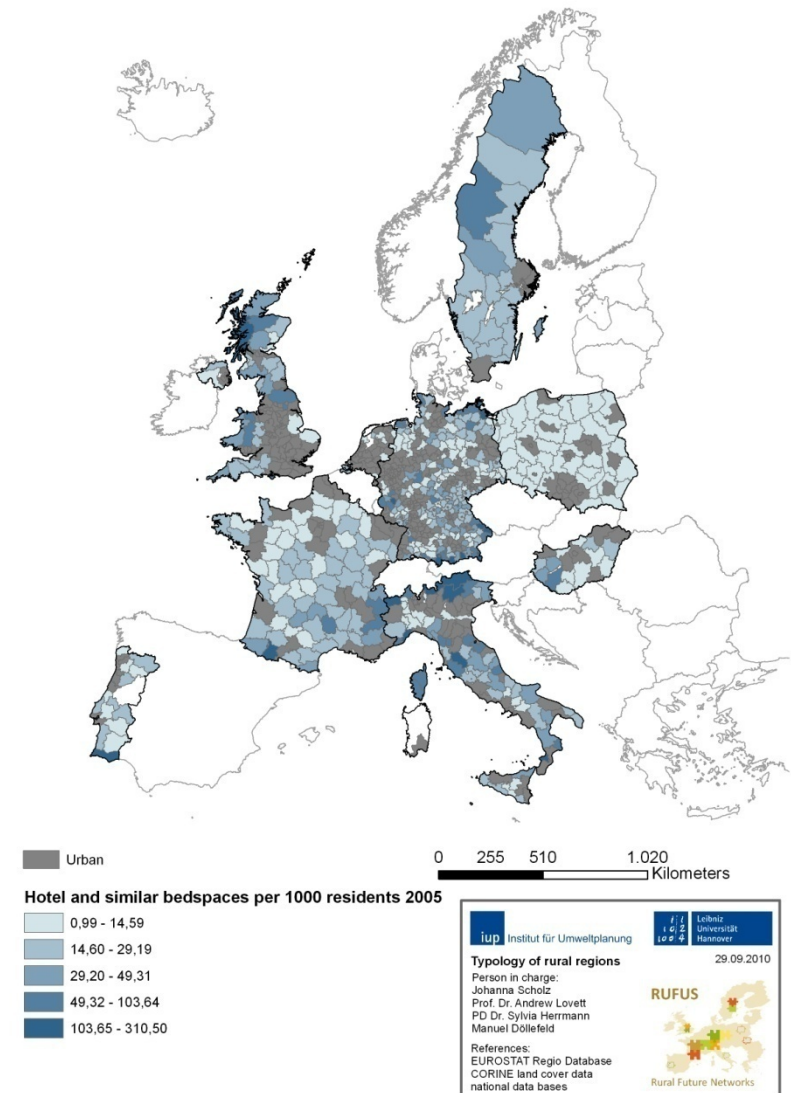
→ Policy targets, effective implementation strategies, design principles, evaluation criteria

# How to display diversity? – quantitative approaches

Maps  
of single  
indicators  
e.g. GDP  
and tourism  
activities



PD Dr. Sylvia Herrmann  
agricultural and rural policies



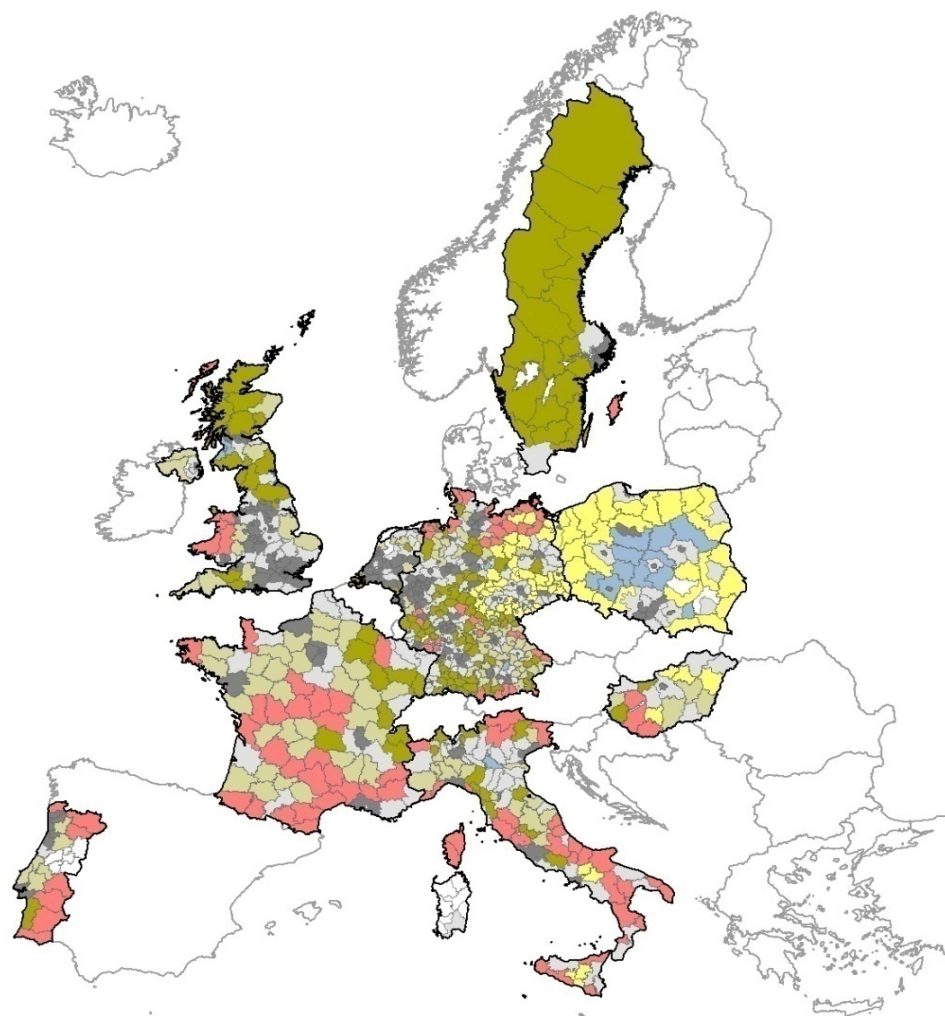


# Typologies – Combination of different indicators

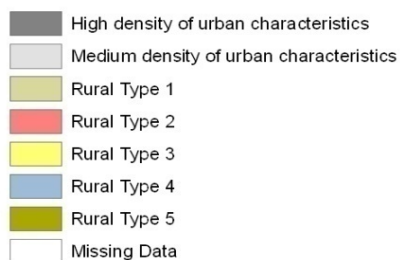
## RUFUS typology:

Combination of nine indicators in  
a cluster analysis on NUTS3  
level for nine European countries

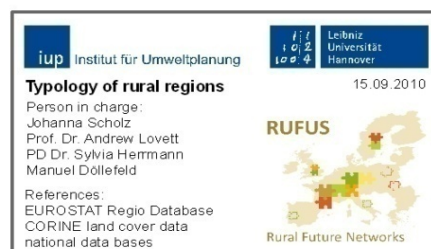
- Characteristic combination of indicators
- Distribution of the combinations in Europe
- Pattern of similarities and differences
- Information on EU level



Typology of rural regions











0 250 500 1.000  
Kilometers



# Information about main combinations of characteristic factors

## RUFUS

### Typology of rural regions

-  High density of urban characteristics
-  Medium density of urban characteristics
-  Type 1 areas are the most socio-economically successful with low unemployment and high income. No sector dominates in its contribution to the economy and there are a low number of Natura 2000 sites. Agricultural employment plays a major role.
-  Type 2 regions have a medium level of economic success in which agriculture and the service sector play a major role. They have a low level of immigration and their share of Natura 2000 sites and tourism is high.
-  Type 3 areas tend to be economically lagging behind with high unemployment and low income. There is a high level of migration out of the regions and a decline in population. The regions contain a high percentage of Natura 2000 areas, although tourism is low.
-  Type 4 regions are relatively few in number. Similar to Type 3 they are economically lagging behind with a high level of unemployment and a low income. However there is no out migration and a small level of immigration. These regions are orientated towards manufacturing with little potential for nature and tourism.
-  Type 5 regions have the highest income but higher unemployment than Type 1. They are dominated by the manufacturing sector. Tourism is moderately important although it is not reliant on nature potential as there is a marginal number of Natura 2000.
-  Missing Data

### Information about:

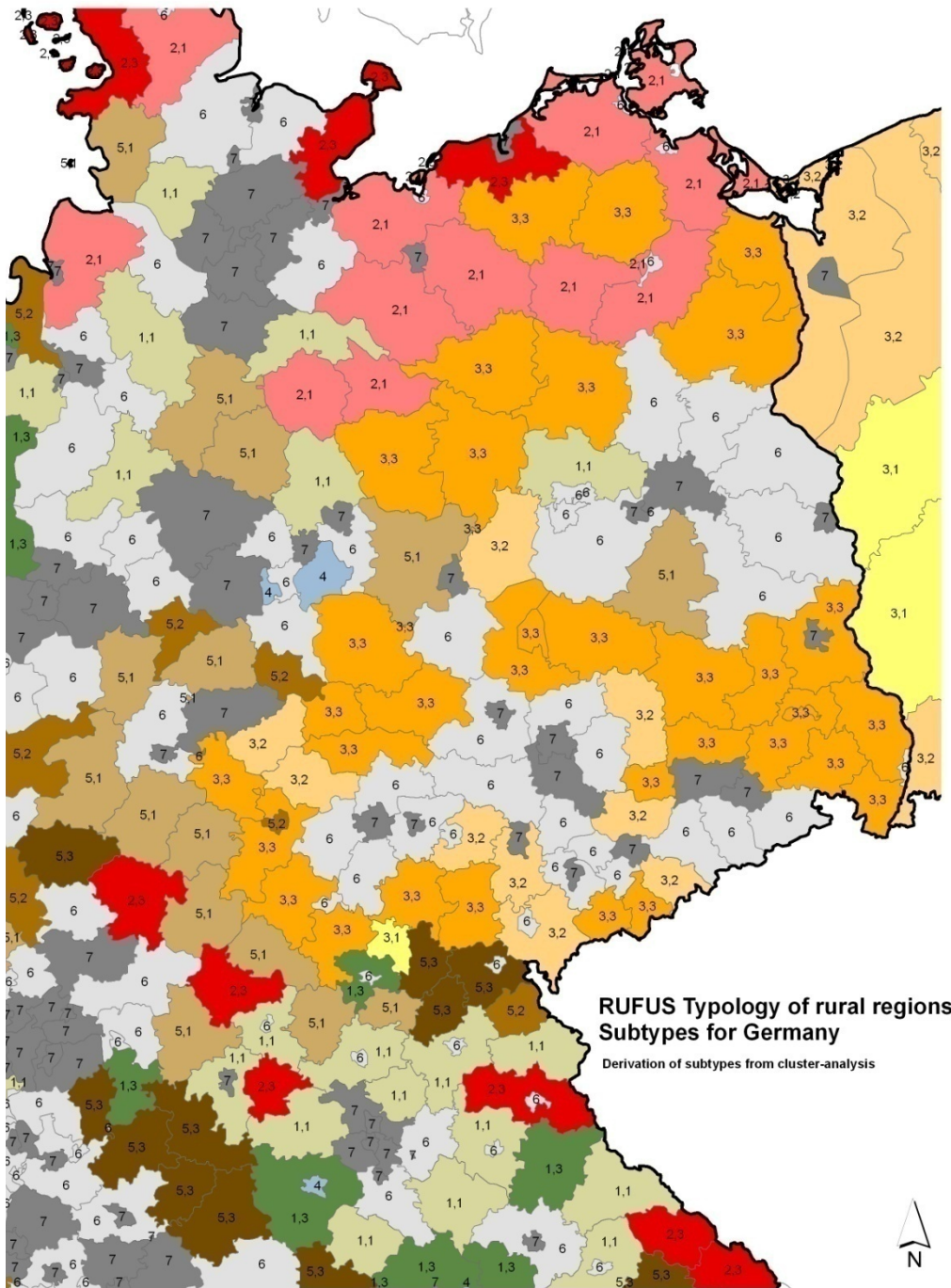
- Economic success
- Role of different sectors
- Social indicators like unemployment and migration
- Natural assets
- Specific economic activities (tourism)

→ Shows strengths and weaknesses of the regions

→ delivers basis for possible development options (e.g. valuing of natural capital)



# A closer look: subtypes

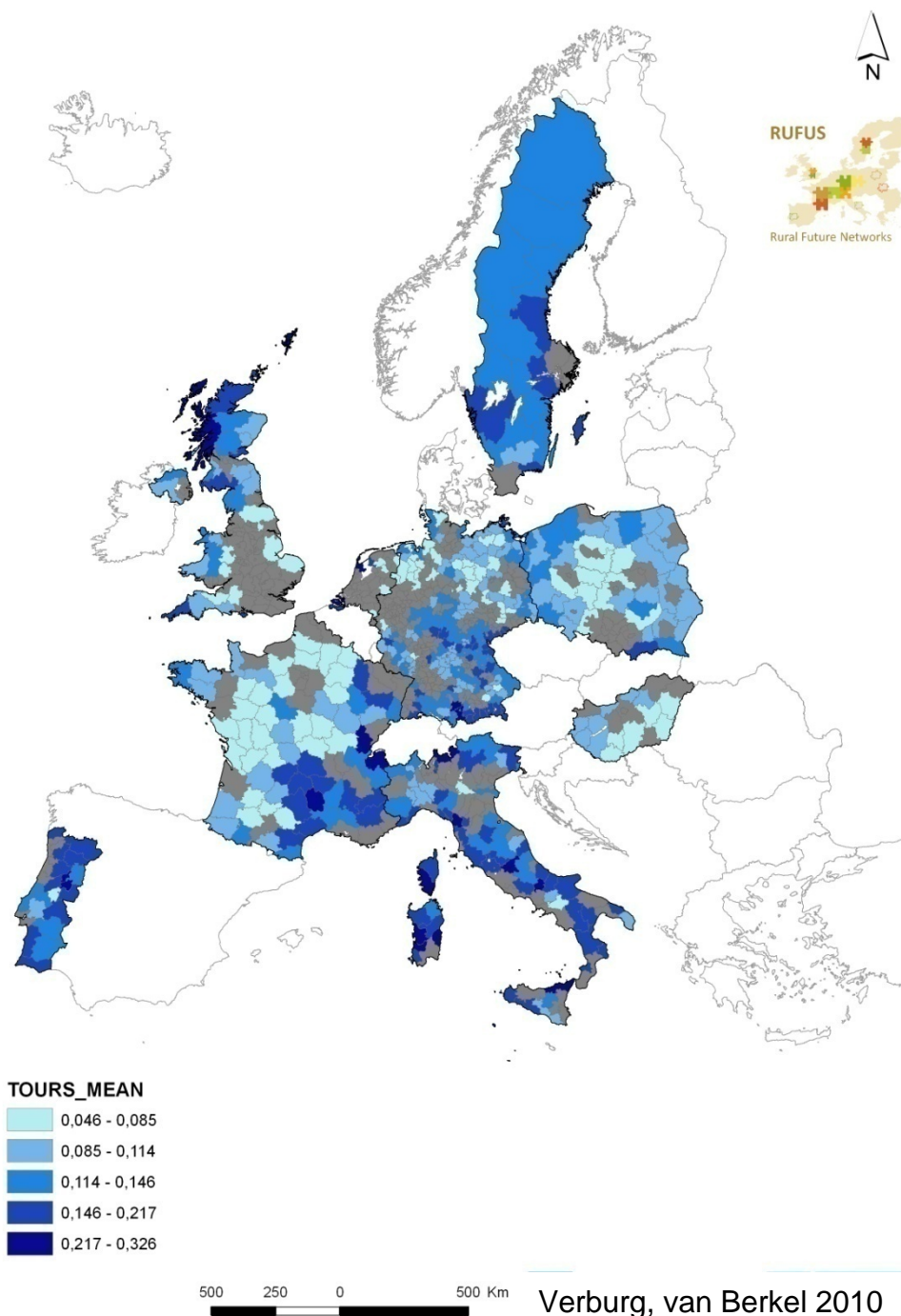


Information about:

- Importance of specific factors in single regions
- Variations of main types

→ Scale matters!

→ Information for MS level



## Displaying future options : Maps of potentials

RUFUS project:  
Potential for tourism

Information about:

- where are still future development options with regard to this activity
- possibilities of combination with current state
- MS level or local level

# Qualitative approaches: case studies describing local diversity

Examples from the **RUFUS project**: Enabling factors for rural development

- Role of **human capital** (leadership) is crucial for the development of regions
- **Integration of different actors** and policy fields is seen as crucial to overcome regional/local problems (e.g. cooperation between enterprises and schools to overcome lack of well skilled workers)
- If development is based upon regions' potentials it is essential that regional actors **understand** the variety of programmes and initiatives.
- **Knowledge transfer** about EU-initiatives is one of the most successful strategies.



# Qualitative approaches: case studies describing local diversity

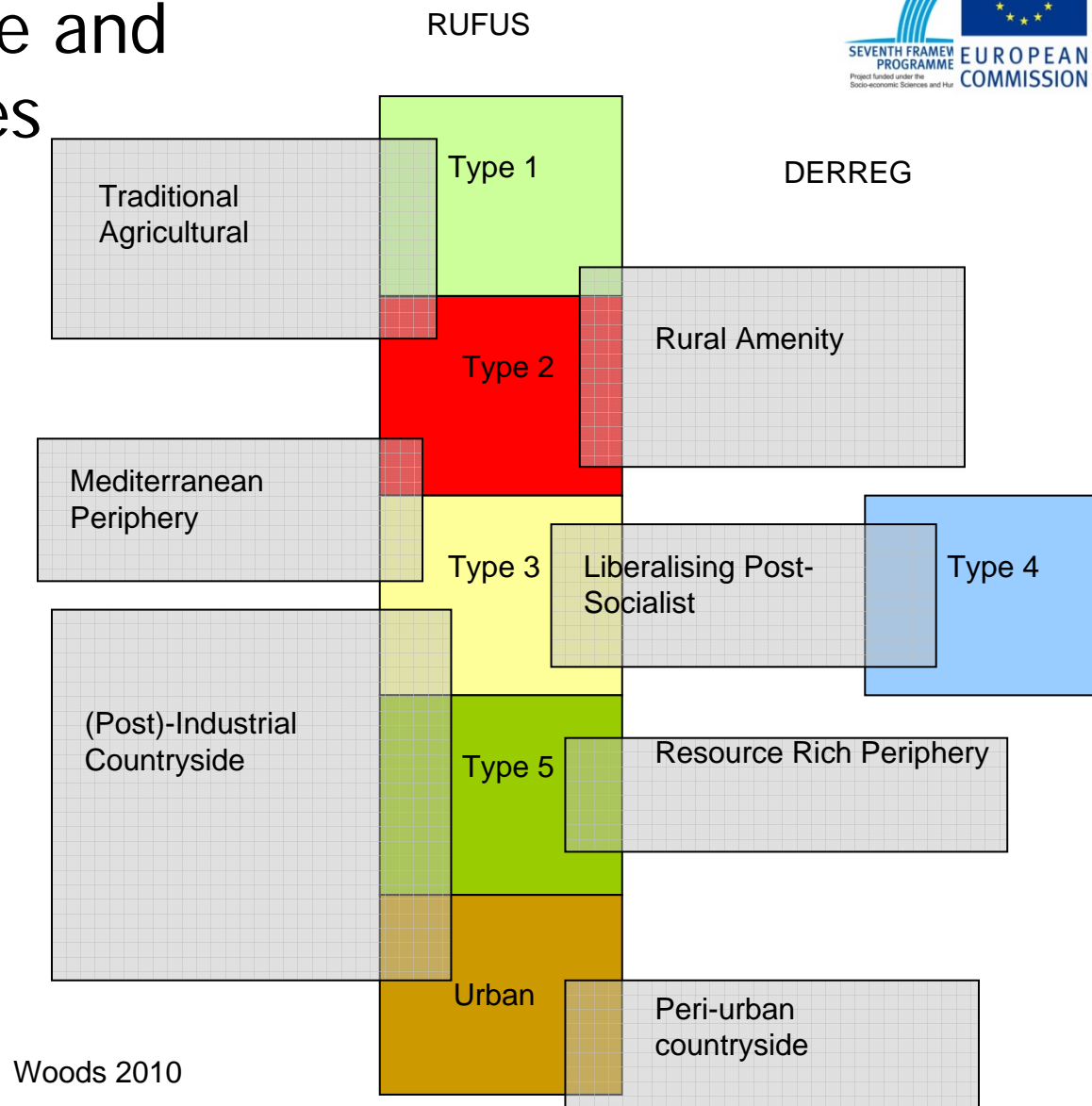
Examples from the **DERREG project** (Woods 2010): How regions cope with effects of globalisation

- Regional actors have the opportunity to **intervene** in globalisation processes and to shape outcomes in their locality
- Developing effective policy means **understanding** how globalisation works at the local scale
- Even small rural regions have a very rich and complex **web of actors** engaged in regional learning and innovation
- Key role of **LEADER** as an important institutional arrangement in all study regions that can be used to support and facilitate **regional learning** and innovation processes

# Combination of qualitative and qualitative approaches

Results from the DERREG project:  
Case studies work revealing the reaction of European regions to the challenges of globalisation  
– a description of different types of reaction (grey)

Attempt to combine the outcomes of DERREG case studies with the RUFUS typology to enrich the information content of both approaches



# Policy design, principles

- Important role of **local actors** for the consideration of diversity in the rural development is visible
- **Strategies and programmes** have to respond to the diversity in an appropriate way
- Advantages of **policy integration** and **regionalisation** of central / EU-policies have to be used to face the specific regional needs
- Necessity to find solutions:
  - within **mainstream policies** and funds
  - through **model projects** (allow exceptions) on MS and EU level
- Need for more **examples** that regionalisation works.



# Some proposals...

## Strategic Level

### Development of Joint Co-ordination Strategy

- a common framework on EU level is necessary
- need for compliance between national and EU regulations
- Definition of common understanding of regional /rural development is necessary
- More explicit spatial approach
- local co-operation models need extension and improvement

## Programmatic Level

### Policies should be based on regional diversity and potentials

- allocation of funds based on comparative advantages
- account for the high spatial variation of territorial capital
- integrated approaches need more scope for development

### General Council Regulation for Integrated Policy Approaches

- Common and simplified system for integrated approaches in all funds

## Delivery Mechanism Level

### Support of the Local Level

- comparison of approaches and problem solutions
- Simplification of procedures
- Building of competence

### Enabling of Financial Engineering

- regional budgets
- regional revolving funds
- EU-Community Initiative

# Conclusions and open questions

- Typologies are appropriate **tools to display diversity** in an understandable way and to compare different combinations of essential factors.
- Still need **more “territorial” indicators** (e.g. for endogenous potential, natural capital) and the related **data**.
- **Scale** is a critical issue – There is always a tension between providing a good overview and displaying (important) details.
- Therefore, **bottom-up information** is needed. This demands for a better **connection** between quantitative (top-down) and qualitative (bottom-up) approaches.
- This is true for the scientific methodologies as well as for the political approach.

# Diversity – a challenge or an asset?

It is a **challenge**, because

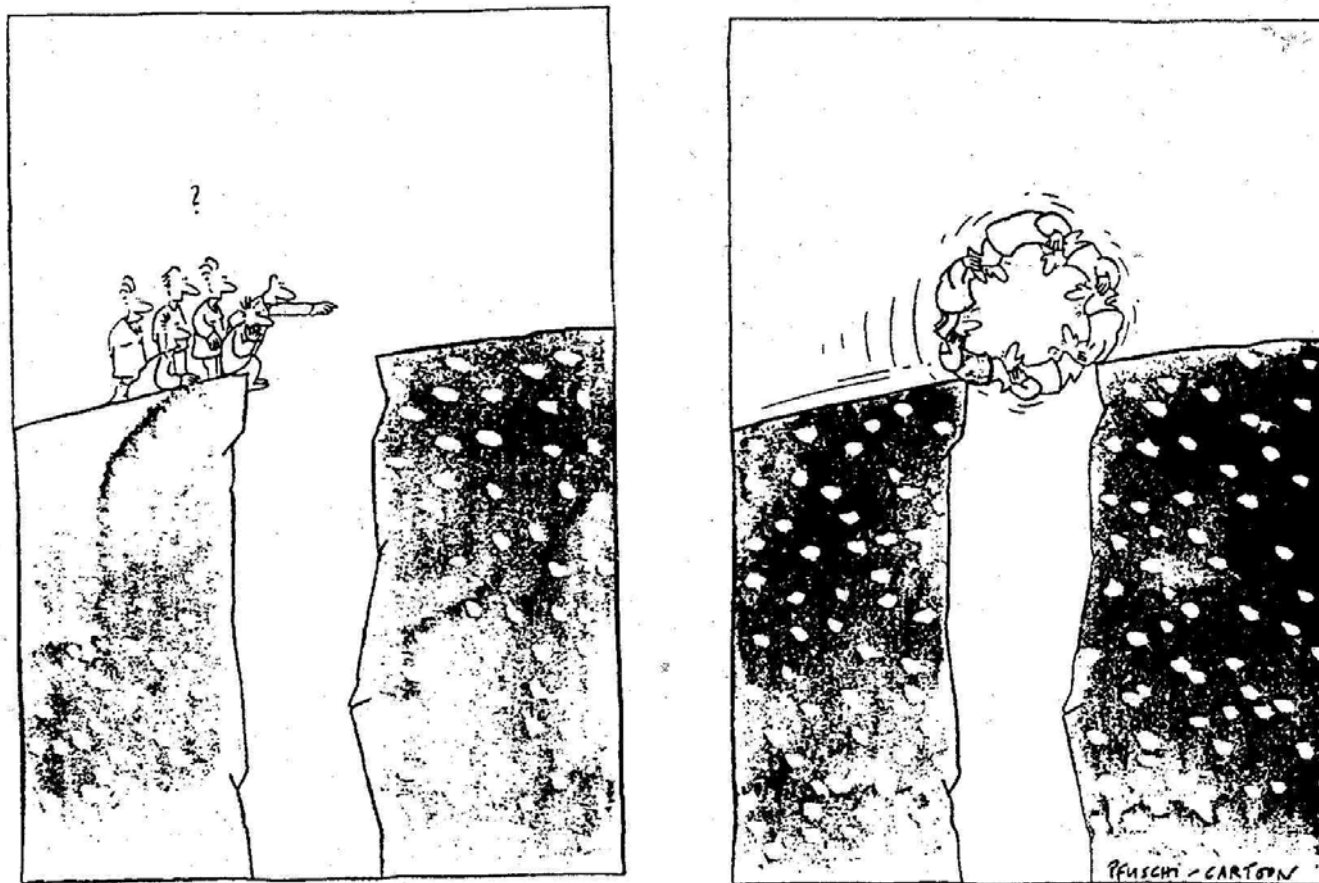
- it raises **complexity** and makes common **planning more difficult**
- it makes **programming more difficult**
- it needs **more information** about frame conditions, potentials, human capital
- it asks for **more policy integration** on all planning levels concerned

It is an **asset**, because

- it offers a broad range of **development options** appropriate to the diverging situations in the regions (not one size fits all, not all regions can become a touristic centre)
- it allows regions to **react in different ways** to the future challenges
- it enables **to be different**, which is a strong driver of human behaviour
- it supports the development of **place based solutions** ('intelligent growth')



# Let's look for appropriate solutions!



## Thank you for your attention !