

Conferenza Internazionale  
The territorial approach in agricultural and rural policy.  
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I<sup>st</sup> Session -The diversity of rural territory

Synthesis and conclusions

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To learn from each other

- In the EU in the early stage of implementation of a common policy for rural areas, as well as nowadays in many developing countries, there has been a tendency to perceive rural space as an undifferentiated marginal space
- There is a need to address specific policies to different typologies of rural areas (there is not an unique recipe to place based approach)
- Exchange experience and comparative analysis can help to identify different dynamics of rural areas and to better address policies

Keep the pace with changes

- Policies need to be adapted to the dynamic evolution of rural areas
- Changes in rural areas sometimes can explain a policy failure (e.g. growth pole policy)
- Theoretic research has a central role to play in explaining different development patterns, together with the mapping of the different typologies of rural areas, field research and scenario studies.

Need to make unpopular choices

- Findings from the studies presented on rural diversity clearly point to the need to better target the available resources towards more needier territories

## Key factors

- Need to Improve statistical information on rural areas at local level  
*Cooperation between National statistical office, research institutions and government bodies involved in RD policies implementation it is crucial*
- Networking between research institutes in different part of the world can play a key role in supporting the design of more effective policies for rural areas

## The frontier in the analysis of rural diversity

- need to focus upon rural-rural and rural-global relationship as a basis for rural development
- need to develop more qualitative indicators to measure intangible assets

