

Sustainable Development of Rural Areas in Luxembourg

A r n o F R I S I N G

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DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Viticulture
et du Développement rural

Why Integrated Rural Development ?

- clear, strong and mutual relations, incontestable synergies between «urban» & «rural» areas
"without our countryside and villages, the cities will suffocate" (Quotation Council of Europe, already 1988!)
- today: villages & countryside are in deep/constant change
„our village opens to the world!”
„the whole world becomes a global village!”
- therefore: high importance / essential value / uniqueness! of a rural / local identity
- these are unbeatable arguments in favour of an integrated & participating planning process in rural municipalities



Typology of rural areas in Luxembourg

- modest territory: 2.586 km² ;
nat.resid.population: 503.000 hab.(>42% non Luxemb.resid.)
- diversity of countryside; quite different regions/small distances
- >2% annual population increase in rural areas since 1980
- 103 of total 116 municipalities in Luxembourg are «rural» or «located in rural areas»
- rural areas in Luxembourg: >90% nat.territory ;
255.000 hab. ≈ 52% nat.resid.population
- 12 from 15 centres of development „Zentrale Orte“ (CDA) are located in rural areas



Typology of rural areas in Luxembourg

- in addition to « urban » or « rural » areas, also «rurban» areas (areas with urban + rural appearance; characterized by: monolithic residential areas & urban sprawl !)
- increased mobility inside the region for working people in different economic sectors (<20% modal split!)
- >125.000 working commuters daily from the 'Greater Region: F/D/B' into Luxembourg ; ► due to the appealing wage level !
- improved & significant local job density also in rural areas (N-region: 450-480 jobs per 1.000 residents)
- higher education & qualification level of younger working people from rural areas



Main Topics & Key Elements for sustainable rural areas in Luxembourg

- diversification of rural economy / development of highly qualified local/regional job-niches in rural areas
improved local offer of public/private services to the residents
- reinforcement of rural areas with multifunctional solutions of housing, quality of living/working conditions & convenient resident's mobility (short ways! /closed circuits!)
- conservation of nature/natural resources, biodiversity inside localities & outskirts, variety of countryside & natural heritage
- supporting cultural identity of village communities & human resources



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Integrated Municipal Development Plan (PDC = Plan de Développement Communal)

- PDC = planning initiative by 'Ministry of Agriculture, Wine-Growing & Rural Development' (MAVDR, 1990) in cooperation with rural municipalities
- PDC = integrated planning process, based on :
 - sustainable development (balance: economy/ecology/social welfare!)
 - open partnership & active participat.of local citizens
- MAVDR defines PDC-planning programme, default contract & task description / process coordination
- interdisciplinary planning team, commissioned by the municipality, elaborates PDC-development plan ; 50% public cofinancing by MAVDR, Depart.Rur.Dev.



4 equivalent thematic strands for PDC-development planning: (PDC = Plan de Développement Communal)

- **Habitat & Housing Space ; Quality of Life**
 - sustained & durable urban development ; rural architecture
 - village & building network ; protection of monuments & sites
 - centre renewal, building conversion, residential extension
 - integration of residential areas & transition to open landscape
 - adapted design of public spaces, road-building & -safety
 - convenient mobility: loc./reg.traffic planning, improve modal split!
 - careful use of resources & sustainable local energy solutions



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4 equivalent thematic strands for PDC-development planning:

▪ Socio-Economic Structures & Local Supplies

- context of nat./reg. territorial development programme & planning (PDAT / IVL, Plans dir. sectoriels)
- the municipality in the reg./nat. network & municipal alliances
- demographic data: evolution of population/households/settlem.areas
- economic structures ; primary/secondary/tertiary economic activities
- local employment branches/business capacity/range of local supplies
- proportion of outgoing/incoming commuters in municipality
 - ▶ incidence on mobility demand, local traffic & modal split
- opportunities & quality of local jobs ; specific regional job-niches!
- economic infrastructure ; trading/business activity zoning, local markets



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4 equivalent thematic strands for PDC-development planning:

▪ Natural & Human Environment / Ecology

- nature conservation & countryside preservation
- green elements / structures / biotope inventory
- ecology & biodiversity in the villages & rural areas
- resources protection/management: air/water/soil; waste recycling
- integration of settlement areas ; transition to landscape
- regeneration of urban spaces, greenery, 'green housing'
- limitation of pollution / soil sealing / urban sprawl
- sustainable & adapted use of natural space & resources



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4 equivalent thematic strands for PDC-development planning:

▪ **Socio-Cultural Activities & Communal Spaces**

- local/regional identity; village life & festivals
- sustained local education & life long learning
- cultural initiatives; sports, leisure, relaxation
- social & public spaces for villagers; communal activities
- public infrastructure & collective facilities; meeting points
- village traditions; local/regional products; «culture du terroir»
- civil society & proactive participation
- widespread involvement & support of citizens & local actors



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Integrated Municipal Development Plan (PDC = Plan de Développement Communal)

PDC = 4 coherent, linked & merging planning phases:

- task clarification with local authorities / planning team & groups of interest (timing/priorities/aims/running projects)
- updated & detailed inventory of municipality & localities in relation to the 4 mentioned thematic strands (public information & presentation sessions of planning process)
- SWOT-analysis (strength/weakness-opportunity/thread) & synthesis of local potentials & problems (active citizens' participation; organisation of thematic workshops)
- planning strategy & development concepts; catalogue of priority measures in space (where?) & in time (when?) (introduction of pilot projects & leading concepts by local actors)



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Integrated Municipal Development Plan (PDC = Plan de Développement Communal)

- 1990-2009: 88 municipalities engaged in PDC-planning & operating on integrated development processes
- since 2004: PDC = preliminary study as part of municipal «PAG» - urban development plan; obligation to all municipalities within context of urban planning & zoning law (Loi cc. aménag.comm. & dév.urb.,2004)
- PDC = open, citizen friendly planning process, aiming at dialogue, partnership & active participation of the local civil society
- PDC-development planning meets with general & positive acceptance: local authorities are in concrete cooperation with involved groups of interest & public services



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Benefits of Municipal Development Planning

(PDC = Plan de Développement Communal)

- framework / guide-line for short-/medium-/long-term planning & development processes within the municipality
- formal report on municipal problems, durable prospects & future development orientation
- concrete working document for local authorities & involved actors to guarantee a straight, well-ordered sequence of planning steps
- steering tool for practical coordination of integrated municipal development, following priorities in space / in time & on budget
- pluriannual sustainable action plan for the local government in open partnership with the citizens



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