

# Rural Development Statistics

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# Work under way with UNECE participation

## Task Force on rural development statistics

Hoped to start work in autumn 2003

## UNECE project on rural development statistics

Questionnaire sent to 12 countries to get a first overview but also as a test run which is hoped to be followed up by a more comprehensive next step

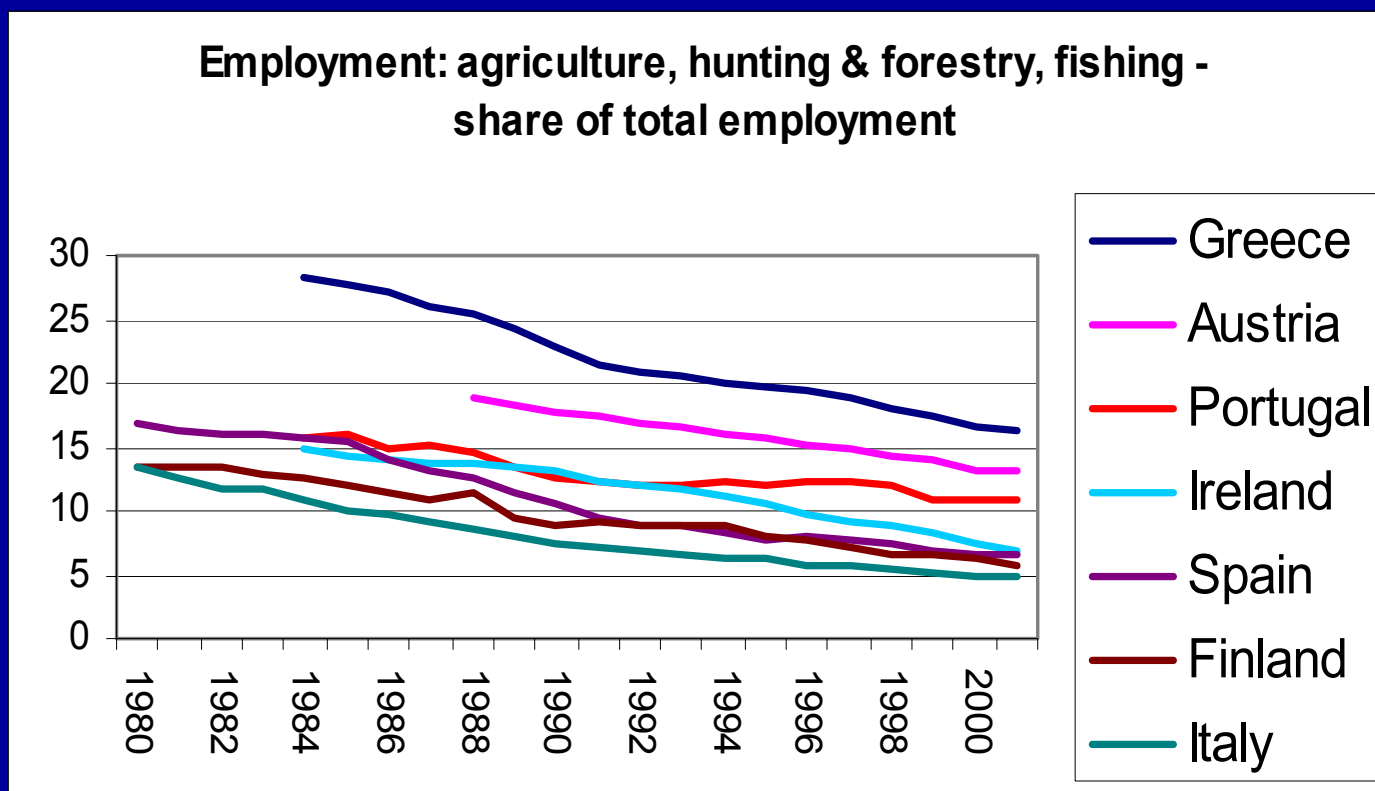
# Questions to be answered

- 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?**
- 2. What is meant by ‘rural’?**
- 3. What general topic areas need to be covered?**
- 4. What needs to be done next?**

# 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?

## Declining importance of agricultural employment

Example: Employment



Source: UNECE Economic Database

## 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?

### Shift in policy focus

Examples:

**United Kingdom:** From Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) to Department for Environment, Food and **Rural Affairs** (Defra)

**France:** Rural Affairs was added and it is now Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation, de la Pêche et des **Affaires Rurales**

**UN:** Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 “Promoting Sustainable Agriculture And **Rural Development**”

**EU:** Introduction of LEADER in 1991, “a new approach to **rural development policy**, which is territorially based, integrated and participative”

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## 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?

### Integrated approach on rural development

Rural development objectives:

#### Examples

Canada: Generally to improve the **well-being of rural communities**

United States: The general aim is to **improve quality of life** in rural areas. More specifically, the programs cover infrastructure, business, and housing assistance.

## 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?

Rural development objectives cont.

Germany:

Main focus on **multifunctionality of agriculture**

Romania:

- the sustainable development of the **agri-food** sector by modernisation and improvement of processing and marketing of **agricultural and fishing** products
- the development of the rural economy by the establishment and modernisation of buildings for private **agricultural and forests exploitations**, the development and diversification of economic activities, in order to maintain and/or create alternative additional incomes and new labour places

## 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?

### **The role of agriculture in rural development**

- agriculture is part of the economy of rural areas though with decreasing importance
- agriculture has a large effect on the environment in rural areas (both positive and negative)
- agriculture has shaped the life style of many rural communities

**However, agriculture is only one part of rural development.**



## 1. Why do we need rural development statistics?

### CONCLUSION

There is a need for statistical systems that allow to monitor rural development policies and that can be used as a basis for policy decision in rural development.

There is a need for international standards to provide internationally comparable data on rural development.

**At the moment, statistics on wider (non-agricultural) rural issues are thinly spread.**

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### Definitions in use:

#### 1. Population density

A At sub-municipality level (census enumeration area)

Threshold of 400 people per km<sup>2</sup>

B At municipality level

Threshold of 120 or 150 people per km<sup>2</sup>

C At more aggregated level

Threshold ?

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### **Definitions in use cont.**

#### 2. Population level

A At municipality level

Thresholds of 200, 1500, 2000 or 10000 inhabitants

B Settlement based

Threshold of 10000 inhabitants

#### 3. Labour market based definitions

A Commuting intensity

Less than 40 or 50 per cent of workforce commute to urban centre

B Number of people employed

Less than 5000 jobs

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### Definitions in use cont.

#### 4. Combined definitions

Example:

Definition of the 'Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung' in Germany

Combination of population level of urban centres and population density

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### Example

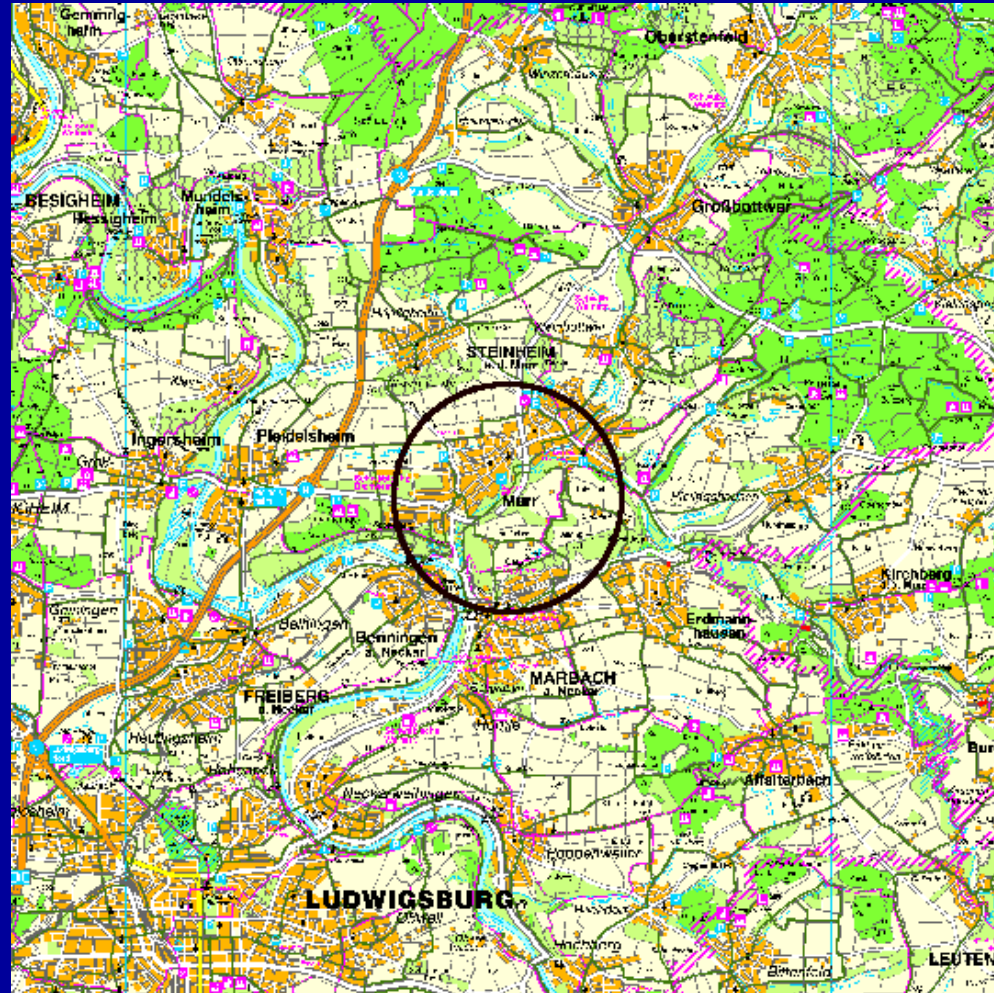
**SONNENHOF, MURR, GERMANY**

## 2. What is meant by ‘rural’?



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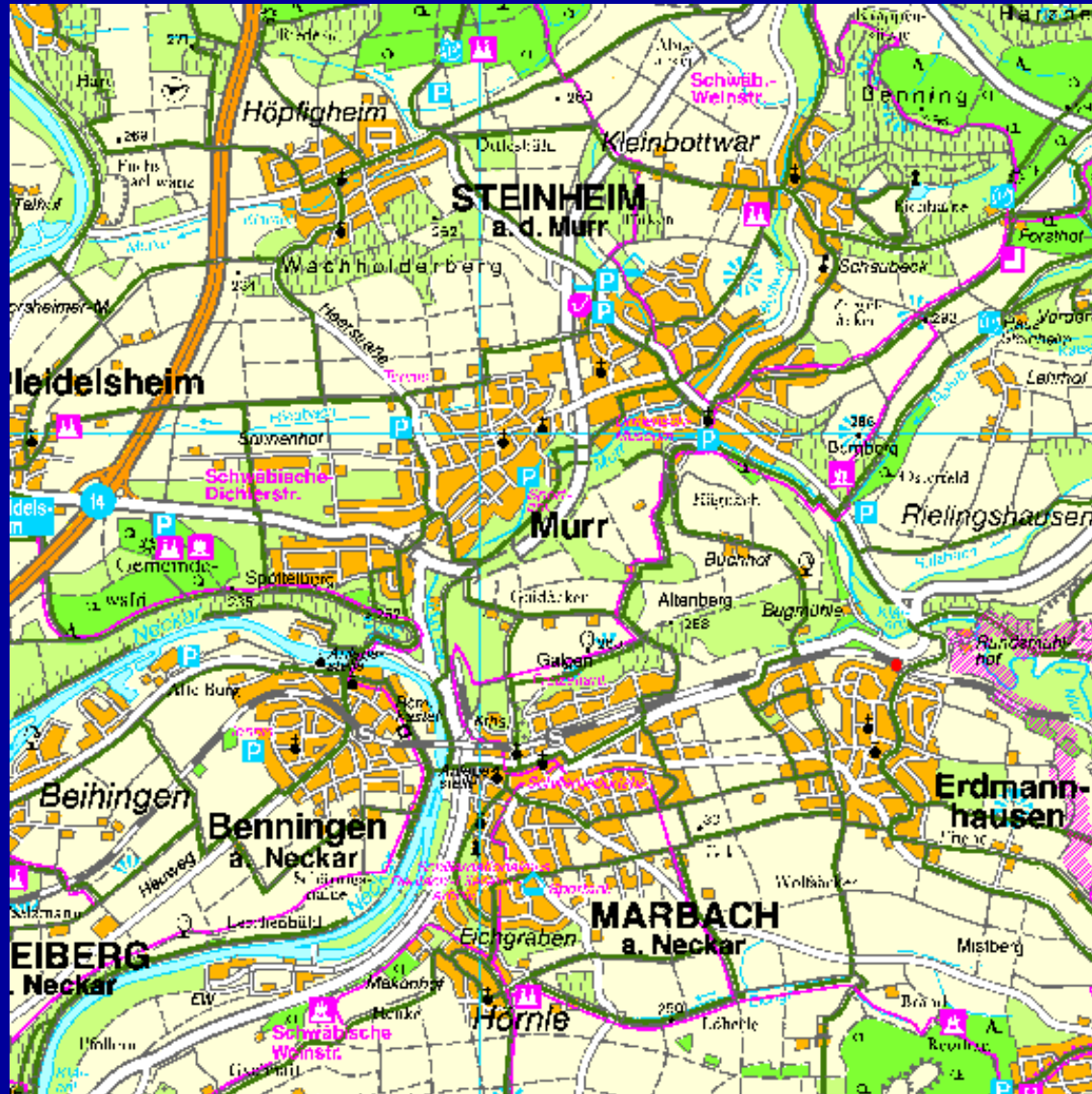
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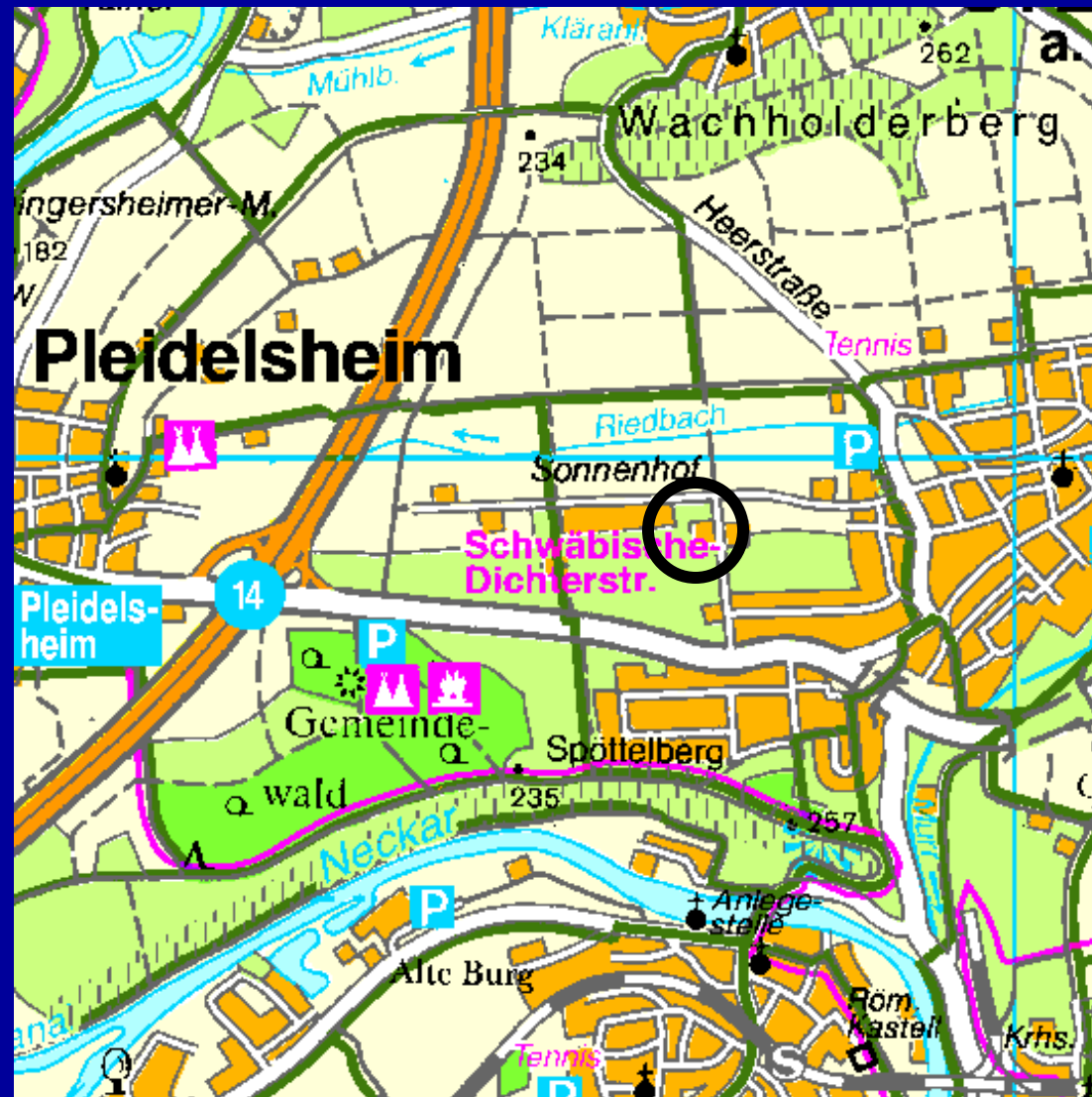
## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?



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## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?



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## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### Is 'Sonnenhof' rural?

#### 1. Population density

A At sub-municipality level (census enumeration area)

Threshold of 400 people per km<sup>2</sup>

**Could be rural** depending on area delimitation

B At municipality level

Threshold of 120 or 150 people per km<sup>2</sup>

**Urban (Murr: 760 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>)**

C At more aggregated level

Threshold ?

**Urban (NUTS 3: 733 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>)**

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### 2. Population level

#### A At municipality level

Threshold of 20, 1500, 2000 or 10000 inhabitants  
Urban or **rural** (Murr: **5922 inhabitants**)

#### B Settlement based

Threshold of 10000 inhabitants  
**Sonnenhof rural, Murr urban**  
(Murr/Steinheim about **13000 inhabitants**)

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### 3. Labour market based definitions

#### A Commuting intensity

Less than 40 or 50 per cent of workforce commute to urban centre

**Probably urban**

#### B Number of people employed

Less than 5000 jobs

**Rural**

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### 4. Definition of the Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung



Agglomerationsräume	Verstädterte Räume
Hochverdichtete Agglomerationsräume	Verstädterte Räume höherer Dichte
Agglomerationsräume mit herausragenden Zentren	Verstädterte Räume mittlerer Dichte mit großen Oberzentren
	Verstädterte Räume mittlerer Dichte ohne große Oberzentren
Ländliche Räume	
Ländliche Räume höherer Dichte	
Ländliche Räume geringerer Dichte	

Die Typisierung der Regionen verfolgt ausschließlich analytische Zwecke, sie stellt keine raumordnerische Funktionszuweisung dar.  
Quelle:  
Laufende Raumbewertung des Bundesamtes für Bauwesen und Raumordnung

Densely populated agglomeration

Regions with an urban centre of >100000 inhabitants and population density of the surrounding area of > 300 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>

## 2. What is meant by 'rural'?

### **Questions relating to the definition of rural:**

Is there a need for a standard definition?

Which variables fit the majority of users' needs?

Should the same threshold be applied in all countries?

Should rural be further subdivided in degrees of rurality?

### **3. What general topic areas need to be covered?**

- Depends on the objectives of rural development policy
- Emphasis on different areas in different countries/organisations

### 3. What general topic areas need to be covered?

#### **Four general topic areas mentioned in questionnaire**

- Economic/employment
- Service provision/infrastructure
- Environment
- Preservation or renewal of rural communities and tradition



### 3. What general topic areas need to be covered?

## Questions relating to the areas to be covered:

Any other topic areas?

The role/importance of agriculture?

## 4. What needs to be done next?

Inventory of rural development statistics  
(countries and international organisations)

Standard definition of rural?

Agreement on topic areas that need to be covered  
(role of agriculture)

Core set of indicators?

What is desirable? What is feasible?

**Any information on rural development statistics  
would be very useful to ECE:**

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