The ESPON 2013 Programme

Applied Research Project 2013/1/2

EDORA

(European Development Opportunities
for Rural Areas)

Country Profiles Report

FRANCE

Report nº 25.9

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EUROPEAN UNION
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
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CONTENTS

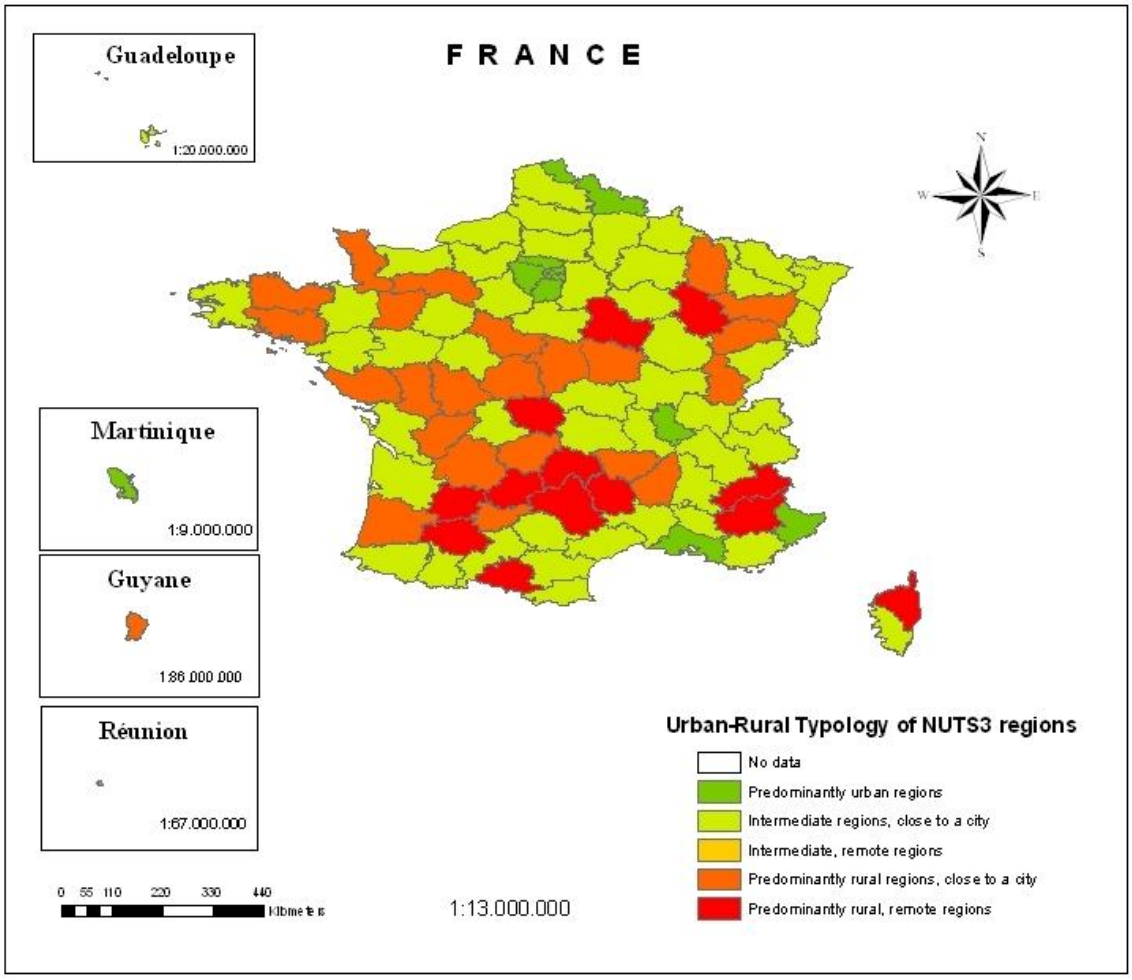
1. Introduction

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Key ideas/comments on the resulting DG Regio Typology (reasonable classification?, processes hindered?, degree of internal variation?, etc.)
- Basic comments on the main Drivers, Opportunities and Constraints affecting different typologies of regions in the country
- Basic comments on the implications of the three "Grand Narratives of Change" described by Mark Shucksmith in the rural areas of France (ref. document "Narratives of Change Affecting Rural Areas of Europe")

When using the urban-rural typology (DG region Poleman) based on NUT 3 regions, the greater part of France is classified as "intermediate regions, close to a city" (Figure 9.1). In five different locations, mainly in the eastern part of the country, there are predominantly urban regions. Scattered over the area predominantly rural areas, mainly close to cities, can be found. There is no clear pattern in the distribution of region types but the southwestern parts of France have slightly more predominantly rural regions.

Figure 9.1 DG Region modified Urban-rural typology of NUT3 regions: France



Source: own elaboration from http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/focus/2008_01_rural.pdf

2. Demography

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main demographic processes in the country?
- Which are the features of the "natural growth"? (positive or negative growth, ageing process)
- Which are the features of migration processes? (dimensions, size, directions, prevalence, tradition, consequences on territorial model).
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

During the last years the population has grown slightly in all types of regions in France (Table 9.1). When looking at the age of the population France has both a higher share of young and of old in the population compared to the EU 27 average. The country age dependency rate is 54,5 while the corresponding figure for the EU 27 is 43. Both rates have however increased between 2001 and 2007.

The share of the population over 15 years with lower levels of education is high in France while the share of the population with an educational level corresponding with upper secondary and post secondary school is below EU 27 average. The percent of the population with education in first or secondary stage of tertiary education in France follows closely the EU27 average.

A high share of the farmers have basic or full educational attainment, the share is though lower in the urban regions. The life long learning in rural areas does not differ much between the region types, it is in average below the figures for the EU 27.

Table 9.1 Demography indicators

DEMOGRAPHY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Census population 2001	% people aged 0 to 14 years	20.61	18.91		18.43	16.54	18.71	16.75	16.70
	% people aged 15 to 64 years	66.60	64.73		62.58	61.96	64.09	66.62	66.65
	% people aged 64 years and over	12.80	16.36		18.99	21.50	17.20	16.53	16.55
	Age dependency rate	19.30	25.40		30.36	34.82	27.02	25.09	25.09
Population*	Population change 2001-2007 (Index pop. 2001=100)	104.09	103.39		103.83	104.70	103.76	96.58	96.31
	% pop. 0_14_2007	19.83	18.13		18.37	16.74	18.23	16.68	15.97
	% pop.15_64_2007	66.65	64.67		63.83	64.12	64.65	69.75	70.18
	% pop. >64_2007	13.52	17.20		17.80	19.14	17.12	13.55	13.84
	Age dependency rate	50.12	54.21		56.71	55.99	54.51	44.08	43.17
	Natural increase change_01_06	9.43	-6.11		0.29	-45.42	-7.63	-5.99	-6.09
	Net migration change_01_06	-53.22	-53.27		-48.44	-42.32	-50.68	7.09	8.97
	% ISCED 0_2**	32.11	41.01		39.74	41.61	39.62	33.62	36.65
	% ISCED 3_4**	28.32	36.57		36.96	35.92	35.51	43.29	47.14
	% ISCED 5_6**	22.75	18.03		16.77	18.64	18.42	17.03	18.54
	% of farmers with basic or full educational attainment	42.99	52.78		57.29	57.40	53.19	35.34	39.54
	Life-Long Learning in Rural Areas*	6.03	6.66		6.91	6.27	6.59	7.69	8.61

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

** % ISCED by groups is calculated for population more 15 years.

3. Employment

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Main processes and trends in relation to the labour market (employment/unemployment, disadvantaged groups and territories). Explanatory reasons
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

As shown in table 9.2 the employment rate in France is slightly below the EU 27 average. The predominantly urban regions of the country have the lowest rate. More than 70 percent of the population is employed in the tertiary sector while only 5 percent can be found working in the primary sector.

The unemployment rate among young people between 15 and 24 years is high, most so in predominantly urban and predominantly rural remote regions. Between 2002 and 2005 the unemployment increased at a very high speed. The highest rise in unemployment was found in remote predominantly rural regions. In 2007 the long term unemployment was about 40 percent which is below the EU 27 average of 43. The rate did however grow during recent years in all types of regions.

Table 9.2 Employment indicators (a)

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+N O+ TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Employment rate*	T15_64 years	61.84	64.00		64.77	63.25	63.81	66.40	66.42
	Tmale 15_64 y	66.38	68.85		69.56	68.29	68.63	73.05	73.12
	Tfemale 15_64 y	57.56	59.28		60.05	58.52	59.14	59.72	59.70
	Total 15_24 y	27.69	31.60		32.07	29.85	30.98	39.66	39.67
	T 45_64 years	59.93	59.30		59.83	58.94	59.46	62.37	62.34
	Total 45_54	78.09	81.61		83.04	80.22	81.32	78.30	78.38
	Total 55_64	41.76	36.99		36.61	37.67	37.61	46.44	46.30
%Employment in principal sector	%Emp_primary	1.45	4.26		7.14	9.64	5.29	7.95	7.97
	%Emp_ secondary	17.24	24.19		26.73	20.80	23.46	26.71	26.71
	%Emp_tertiary	81.31	71.55		66.13	69.56	71.26	65.33	65.31
Unemployment evolution 2002_05*	Total > 15 years	591.22	480.36		701.27	1516.69	682.52	187.25	188.17
	Total 15_24 years	117.48	111.32		100.58	133.09	112.37	255.25	257.16
	Total >25 years	95.67	98.22		92.79	107.85	97.84	82.27	82.21
	Male > 15 years	97.33	102.20		97.19	111.28	101.44	82.45	82.35
	Female > 15 years	102.39	97.06		91.36	104.93	97.41	94.74	94.79

Table 9.2 Employment indicators (b)

EMPLOYMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+NO+ TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Unemployment rate 2007*	Total >15	10.87	8.34		7.33	7.77	8.36	7.61	7.63
	Total Male >15	10.53	7.57		6.53	7.95	7.76	7.06	7.05
	Total Female >15	11.21	8.95		8.53	9.22	9.18	8.61	8.59
	Total 15_24	23.44	19.36		16.59	20.16	19.35	15.80	15.64
	Total >25	9.37	6.90		6.32	7.16	7.11	6.66	6.66
Long term unemployment*	% long term unemployent rate_07	48.25	39.15		38.32	38.92	40.10	43.07	43.12
	Evolution of long term unemployment2 002_07	121.15	124.70		131.04	107.48	123.52	111.33	110.94

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

4. Rural business development

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the features of the rural businesses (size, dominant activities, employment, profitability, innovation, use of IST, etc)?
- Which is the profile of the rural entrepreneur?
- Which are the niches of activity in which rural companies are being created?
- Which are the opportunity sectors for future rural business operation?
- Which are the main constrains that need to be overcome?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in rural business promotion?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Table 9.3 shows that the distribution of firms by sector is quite even between the regions. The most prominent differences are that more construction businesses are located in predominantly rural regions while more real state, renting and business activities take place in predominantly urban regions.
When considering the distribution of employed in the different sectors the table shows that more people are employed in transport, storage and communication and real state, renting and business acticvities in urban areas while at the same time less people are employed in construction.

The share of employed in high and medium tech manufacturing was is 2004 below the EU 27 average. The share was especially low in the urban and “predominantly rural, remote regions”.
About 50 percent of the firms in France have their own website, in the urban regions this figure goes up to 65 percent.

Table 9.3 Rural business development indicators

RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+ IS+LI+MK +NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Nº FIRMS BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.08	0.23		0.36	0.25	0.24	0.30	0,30
	% Manufacturing	9.61	12.11		12.76	11.56	11.87	14.08	14,05
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	0.42	0.63		0.65	0.72	0.62	0.61	0,63
	%Construction	9.65	14.69		15.58	15.35	14.33	9.48	9,46
	%Wholesale and retail trade	32.33	33.56		33.65	33.69	33.44	23.02	21,83
	%Hotel and restaurants	8.59	10.23		9.93	10.55	9.99	6.52	6,15
	%Transport, storage and communication	6.25	5.78		5.80	5.60	5.82	8.69	8,46
	%Real state, renting and business activities	33.08	22.77		21.27	22.28	23.69	37.29	39,12
EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR OF OPERATION (1_2 digits)_2006	% Mining and quarrying	0.13	0.27		0.30	0.34	0.27	0.58	0,52
	% Manufacturing	16.65	28.28		30.36	23.67	26.66	29.18	28,08
	% Electricity, gas and water supply	1.65	1.22		1.15	1.41	1.29	1.14	0,89
	%Construction	10.11	12.53		13.18	13.91	12.55	9.09	9,14
	%Wholesale and retail trade	22.66	23.48		23.50	25.18	23.60	26.14	26,93
	%Hotel and restaurants	6.91	6.23		5.63	7.26	6.31	8.27	8,37
	%Transport, storage and communication	13.56	8.24		7.55	8.15	8.75	8.65	8,52
	%Real state, renting and business activities	28.32	19.72		18.29	20.05	20.54	16.78	17,51
Employment in high and medium technologies manufacturing activities_2004	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_Media	4.57	6.90		6.95	4.85	6.34	6.88	7,42
	Employment in high and medium tech manufacturing activities_2004_%EU 25	75.85	103.86		110.91	72.04	97.78	95.89	107,13
%firms with own website		65,30	50.88		49.33	49.30	51.95	50.21	50.21

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

5. Rural-urban relationships

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Are there established or incipient initiatives for cooperation between urban and rural areas?
- Is the “territorial approach” developed? (ie. Territorial Employment Pacts, supra-municipal planning, etc.),
- are there rural-urban partnerships? If so, which are their goals and ways of operation? Where is the power located?
- Which is the importance/extent of suburbanisations processes?
- What are the main demands/uses over rural areas from urban inhabitants? How these are met?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting appropriate rural-urban relations?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

6. Cultural heritage

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main cultural resources?
- Which are the main cultural resources of rural regions?
- Is cultural heritage used? If so, in which senses (ie. tourism, other economic activities, identitary reference, education, other non profit uses?
- Which are the main demands upon cultural heritage?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in protecting/promoting sustainability of cultural heritage?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

7. Services of General Interest

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which is the general situation of the services of general interest (SGI) in the country?
- Which are the main problems in relation to accessibility and provision to SGI for rural residents and visitors?
- Which are the main forms of provision of services in rural areas? Are there innovative solutions to low accessibility areas?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting accessibility/provision of Services of General Interest, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

In France the road and railway network is extensive, especially in the accessible intermediate and predominantly rural regions (Table 9.4). The average areas of the regions are about twice as large as the EU 27 average and the average population density a little over 80 percent of the EU 27 figure. In the last years the density has increased in all region types.
The accessibility by car (counted as the travel time from each regions centroid to all others over the road network taking into account additional factors such as lower average travel speeds in mountainous areas or border waiting times etc.) decreases as rurality and distance to cities increases. At a national level it is below the EU 27 average.
The accessibility to markets by road and rail is also slightly below what is the case in the whole of EU 27. These figures do also vary with the rurality and distances to cities; the urban areas have the best accessibility.
The share of the population studying at a lower educational level is hhigh in France while the share of students in upper secondary school and in levels of education above, is less than the EU 27 average share (Table 5).
In relation to population size there is a higher number of hospital beds in France than in the EU 27. Only the urban regions have a number below the European average. In all types of regions the number did though decrease in between 2000 and 2005.

Table 9.4 Services of general interest indicators (a)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
Density of motorways		0.07	0.02		0.01	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.04
Density of trunk road		0.30	0.09		0.07	0.06	0.11	0.17	0.17
Density of railways		0.25	0.06		0.04	0.04	0.07	0.10	0.10
Area (km2)**		28122.10	298900.00		228534.60	77694.90	633251.60	5659749.80	4600910.40
DENSITY	Evolution density 2001_06*	3.68	3.34		3.11	2.87	3.27	0.93	0.92
	Density of population 2006***	3483.49	119.27		53.13	30.74	529.23	414.65	446.23
Daily population accessible by car		22418.76	17145.32		12136.45	9661.23	15655.8	18078.54	19285.23
Time to nearest hospital		8.18	19.50		19.97	22.80	18.76	22.83	22.83
Time to nearest university		13.67	40.23		67.07	83.09	49.42	45.10	45.10
Time to nearest airport		25.12	80.69		109.75	125.95	87.41	83.44	83.44
%households with broadhand access		NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	49.07	48.00
% households with internet at home		NA	NA		NA	NA	NA	81.46	81.20
Nº STUDENTS ISCED 0_6*	Nºstudents ISCED_0 per 1.000 inhabitants	45.16	40.13		40.44	36.91	40.03	29.59	29.46
	Nºstudents ISCED_1 per 1.000 inhabitants	73.09	62.72		63.18	58.34	62.79	61.66	60.76
	Nºstudents ISCED_2 per 1.000 inhabitants	61.65	51.33		51.23	48.203	51.42	43.21	43.28
	Nºstudents ISCED_3 per 1.000 inhabitants	48.83	42.74		42.24	40.237	42.58	48.05	48.03
	Nºstudents ISCED_4 per 1.000 inhabitants	0.65	0.63		0.55	0.811	0.64	3.06	3.10
	Nºstudents ISCED_5_6 per 1.000 inhabitants	28.90	30.79		28.78	32.144	30.35	37.37	37.23

Table 9.5 Services of general interest indicators (b)

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS +LI+MK+N O+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
BEDS IN HOSPITAL PER 100.000 inhabitants*	Nº of beds in hospitals per 100.000 inhabitants _05	652.27	765.89		759.82	802.254	754.39	696.91	704.88
	Evolution nbeds 2000_05	89.22	90.13		90.28	88.668	89.86	91.53	91.94
	Density of hospitals	33.04	1.00		0.61	0.30	4.48	5.44	5.44
	Hospital beds per head	4.36	4.90		6.16	4.29	5.06	4.98	4.98
	Doctors per inhabitant	377.84	311.66		291.63	349.81	320.41	171.35	171.35

* Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

** The findings of these variables are the sum of values, not the average, as the others.

*** These values are only indicatives and aren't reals because in the calculation there are values NUTS2 and NUTS3.

8. Farm structural change

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main DOC in relation to agriculture?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting agriculture?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

A large part of the French holdings are geographically extensive and the economic size of the country’s holdings is in average large. The percent of holdings of a small economic size (European Size Unit (ESU) below 2) is low while the percentage of holdings with more than 100 ESU is high. The Urban regions and the predominantly rural ones have the largest shares of big holdings.

In all regions the number of economically small and middle sized holdings has increased between 2000 and 2005 while the number of large holdings decreased. This follows the European trend.

In all types of regions between 5o and 60 percent of the holders work full time, the country average is 52,6 compared to the EU 27 average of 35,5. This rate has however decreased significantly in urban regions in resent years. Only 25 percent of the French farmers are part of the Farmers Insurance Organization.

Considering the age of the farmers they are quite evenly distributed over the different types of regions. At a national level the share of farmers above 55 years is lower, while the share of holders below 35 years is higher, than the EU 27 average. Between the years 2000 and 2005 the percentage of older farmers increased, and the percentage of younger farmers decreased however. Especially the change in younger farmers was considerably smaller than the average change in the EU 27.

The share of farmers with basic or full education in agriculture is the highest in predominantly rural areas of France and the country average is above the corresponding European figure.

Table 9.6 Farm structural change indicators (a)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
% HOLDINGS 2005*	< 2 ESU	11.23	13.58		13.94	11.46	13.09	33.42	33.89
	2 to 100 ESU	70.61	70.73		72.20	78.13	72.03	57.56	57.02
	>100 ESU	18.16	15.68		13.86	10.42	14.88	8.33	8.38
%CHANGING Nº HOLDINGS 2000-2005*	% Change in number of total holdings 2000-2005	-18.42	-17.51		-18.35	-17.02	-17.75	-9.53	-9.19
	% Change in number of holdings less 2 ESU 2000-2005	-29.80	-34.69		-34.47	-31.26	-33.65	-2.22	-0.65
	% Change in number of holdings 2 to 100 ESU 2000-2005	-20.43	-17.77		-18.35	-16.89	-18.07	-13.91	-13.73
	% Change in number of holdings over 100 ESU 2000-2005	4.00	9.76		16.62	15.17	11.62	32.21	31.28

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

Table 9.7 Farm structural change indicators (b)

FARM STRUCTURAL CHANGE		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+IS+LI+MK+NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
HOLDERS	% Holders working full time 2005**	52.52	49.83		54.37	60.17	52.64	35.42	35.50
	% Change in Number of Holders working full time 2000 – 2005**	-18.44	-1.49		-1.63	3.94	-2.73	0.00	0.33
	Economic Farm Size	58.44	53.36		48.41	40.65	51.18	41.93	41.93

	(RDEU07)								
	Farmers with OGA (RDEU07)	21.55	26.64		23.82	24.46	25.02	37.56	37.56
	% holders > 55 years 2007*	44.59	40.94		40.01	41.78	41.30	50.19	50.62
	% holders < 35 years 2007*	6.41	7.88		8.39	7.69	7.79	6.35	6.32
	% change in holders > 55 years 2000 – 2005*	14.62	6.21		3.51	6.38	6.55	5.88	5.62
	% change in holders < 35 years 2000 – 2005*	-13.47	-11.36		-3.18	-14.11	-10.02	-34.01	-33.96
% farmers with basic and full education in agriculture attained (RDEU07)		46.58	52.78		57.29	57.40	53.73	42.30	42.30

*Values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2;

**Some values NUT3 are replaced by values NUTS2

9. Institutional Capacity

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- characteristics of the governance system (type of administrative system, levels of government, distribution of powers),
- Dominant types of interactions among levels of government (formal/informal, hierarchical/cooperative, open/closed, top-down/bottom-up, etc.)
- Which are the main problems in relation to government and governance?
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in promoting better institutional capacity, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.

Table 9.8 illustrates the institutional capacity of France. It shows that the urban regions contribute the most to the gross domestic product (GDP). Expressed in

PPS/inhabitants the GDP in France is slightly above the EU 27 average. When looking at regional level differences between the region types appear. Predominantly urban regions have the highest GDP in PPS/inhabitant and the levels decreases as the rurality and distances to cities increases. The urban regions are the only ones with a GDP in Euro at above the EU average levels in 2005.

Table 9.8 Institutional capacity indicators

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY		PU	IRA	IRR	PRA	PRR	Average country	Average EU 27 +CH+HR+ IS+LI+MK +NO+TR	Average EU 27
Variables		1	21	22	31	32			
GDP DISPERSION OF GDP_2005	GDP in Mio. Euro 2005	51600.96	16377.52		7394.07	3905.74	17179.21	9722.69	9856.11
	GDP in PPS per inhabitant 2005	30460.51	21981.87		19668.01	19243.10	22172.73	20926.84	21110.46
	GDP in euro per inhabitant in percentage of the EU average 2005	148.31	107.02		95.75	93.69	107.95	94.38	95.48

10. Climate change

Guidelines: please, add comments based on your local knowledge on the following (when possible, support your comment on provided tables and/or other sources):

- Which are the main perceived threats in relation to climate change for population, authorities, interest groups?
- Are there any scientific evidence pointing to climate change? Please describe
- Are there specific policies/programs/initiatives that could be labeled as “best practices” in counteracting the effects of climate change, particularly in rural areas?
- Are there significant variations in the above processes depending of the types of regions considered (ie. PU, IRA, IRR, PRA, PRR)? Please, describe briefly.