

Difficulties in defining territory boundaries in rural development

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More recently, the concept of neo-endogenous rural development has gained ground, in which the control of the process is recognised as an interplay between local and external forces. The balance of these forces will vary from region to region and within a region this balance can change over time. A question arising along rural development do borders of rural regions have to be defined, so as to make distinction between endogenous and exogenous resources? And if the answer is yes, how these boundaries can be defined? There are countries where these boundaries are visible and are the result of an organic, bottom-up development (example the so called pays in France), why in some countries, such as Hungary these are more top-down developed. The paper presents the problem, which the authors came through along their work linked to a FP7 project, called RuralJobs, which main objective is to provide a clearer understanding of the factors influencing the employment potentials of different types of rural areas to support the future evolution of rural development policies. One of the tasks along the work was to find functioning rural areas, so called labour markets. In the second step link these rural labour markets to different types, defined by three major indicators, namely: GDP, population density and accessibility and finally select a pilot area, which could represent a given type of region. The paper presents the steps and different problems, the authors came through along this work in the North Great Plain region of Hungary.

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