

# Sustainable Development of Rural Areas in Luxembourg

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# Why Integrated Rural Development ?

- there are clear, strong and mutual relations, incontestable synergies between «urban» & «rural» areas

*"without our countryside and our villages,  
the cities will suffocate"*

(quotation from Council of Europe, already 1988!)

- today: villages & countryside are in deep & constant change, permanent fresh start, latest reforms, perfect mobility and accessibility

*„our village opens to the world!"*

*„the whole world becomes one global village!"*



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# Why Integrated Rural Development ?

- therefore we bring into focus the high importance of rural areas, evidence of the essential value & the uniqueness of a rural and local identity
- these are unbeatable arguments in favour of an integrated & participating planning process in rural municipalities



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# Typology of rural areas in Luxembourg

- a modest territory:  
2.586 km<sup>2</sup> / 82km (N-S) ; 57km (W-E) as the crow flies  
current national resident population: 586.500 inhabitants  
>47% are non Luxemb.residents
- high diversity of the countryside;  
quite different regions on small distances
- >2,5% annual population increase in Luxembourg  
also in rural areas, since 1980





# Typology of rural areas in Luxembourg

- 79 of total 105 municipalities in Luxembourg are «rural» or at least «located in rural areas»
- 12 from the 15 centres of development (CDA) in Luxembourg are located in rural areas
- rural areas in Luxembourg represent:
  - >82% of the national territory
  - >38% nat.resid.population, with >220.500 inhabitants





# Typology of rural areas in Luxembourg

- one specific aspect for our country is: in addition to « urban » or « rural » areas, also « rurban » areas in Luxembourg
- these are areas with urban + rural appearance; characterized by monolithic residential areas & by urban sprawl !





# Typology of rural areas in Luxembourg

- increased mobility inside the region for working people in the different economic sectors  
current modal split : <20% !
- >165.000 working commuters daily from the 'Greater Region': Fr./De./Be. 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 :  
multifunctional solutions of housing, high quality of  
living/working conditions & convenient resident's mobility  
according to the principle of short ways !  
and closed circuits !



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# Main Topics & Key Elements for sustainable rural areas in Luxembourg

- conservation of nature & natural resources :  
biodiversity inside localities & in the outskirts,  
variety of countryside & upgrading natural heritage
- supporting the cultural identity  
of village communities & human resources :  
cultural & leisure initiatives, local education  
& life long learning



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# Integrated Municipal Development Plan

(PDC = Plan de Développement Communal)

- PDC = a planning initiative by the MAVDR since 1990  
'Ministry of Agriculture, Wine-Growing & Rural Development'  
in cooperation with the rural municipalities
- PDC = integrated local planning process,
  - based on sustainable development  
according to the balance: economy / ecology / social welfare!
  - based on open partnership & active participation of  
the civil society and the local actors



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

- MAVDR defines PDC-planning program with default contract & task description / process coordination
- an interdisciplinary planning team is commissioned by the municipality, elaborates the 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 local/urban development ; typology of local & 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, the 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 into the 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 & the 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 about timing / priorities / aims / running projects with the municipal authorities, rural development department, interdisciplinary planning team & local groups of interest
- updated & detailed inventory of municipality & localities in relation to the 4 mentioned thematic strands
- public information & presentation sessions on the planning process



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

PDC = 4 coherent, linked & merging planning phases:

- 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 proposed by local actors



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

- 1990-2016: 94 municipalities (of the former total of 116 municipalities before municipal merging process) are involved in PDC-planning or are operating on other integrated development processes
- new dimension for the PDC since 2004:  
PDC = also preliminary study as a part of municipal urban development plan «PAG» (plan d'aménagement général);  
obligation to all municipalities within the context of local/urban planning & zoning law  
(Loi conc. aménagement communal & développement urbain, 2004)





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

- PDC = an open, citizen friendly planning process, aiming at dialogue, partnership & active participation of the local civil society & involved actors
- PDC-development planning meets with general & positive acceptance; the municipal authorities are in concrete cooperation with involved groups of interest & public services





# 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

