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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE**

Cancels & replaces the same document of 26 April 2006

Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas

SUMMARY RECORD

**7th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas,
held on 29 November 2005**

This document is submitted to Delegates for APPROVAL at the Working Party's 8th Session.

For enquiries please contact the OECD Secretariat by e-mail: Suzanne-nicola.Leprince@OECD.org;
Tel.: 33 1 45 24 81 72; Fax: 33 1 45 24 87 96.

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WORKING PARTY ON TERRITORIAL POLICY IN RURAL AREAS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7TH SESSION

29 November 2005, OECD Headquarters, La Muette, Paris

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

1. The Working Party adopted the Agenda of its 7th Session.

Item 2: Bureau Renewal

2. Ms. Kovachazy (France) and Ms. C. Pachaki (Greece), informed Delegates of their withdrawal from the Bureau due to retirement at the end of the year. On behalf of the Working Party, the Chair, Ms. Margaret Clark, thanked Ms. Kovachazy and Ms. Pachaki for their contribution and active involvement over the years in the activities of the group. The Working Party noted the change in the Bureau, which was renewed for one year as follows:

Chair:	Ms. M. Clark	(United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairs:	Mr. Y. Saika	(Japan)
	Mr. S. Soto Priante	(Mexico)
	Mr. L. Elvan	(Turkey)
	Mr. M. Drabenstott	(United States)

Item 3: Summary Record of the 6th Session

3. The Summary Record of the 6th Session was approved.

Item 4: Opening Remarks by the Chair and Statement by the Director

4. The Chair, Ms. Margaret Clark, welcomed delegates to the 7th Session of the Working Party, reported on work in progress since the Working Party's last meeting and outlined the agenda items of the day. She highlighted the results of two international conferences. First, the OECD International Conference: *Designing and Implementing Rural Development Policies*, held in Oaxaca, Mexico on 7-8 April 2005. This was a follow-up to the rural development conferences held in Siena (2003) and Warrenton (2004) and provided another opportunity for an in-depth discussion on the design and implementation of rural development policies. Second, the recent OECD Workshop on the Coherence of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies, 24-26 October, 2005, held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, jointly organized by the AGR and GOV Directorates, where participants recognised the interconnectedness of agriculture and rural development and their differences.

5. Ms. Odile Sallard, Director of the Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate (GOV), briefed the Working Party on the latest development within the Directorate. She described the background documents for the roundtable discussion (item 7) on the future activities of the WPRUR and its contribution to the future work programme of the TDPC. These concern the results of the "Programme Implementation Reporting (PIR) for 2004" on which delegates were encouraged to send their views regarding the impact of this exercise for the work of the TDPC and its Working Parties. The second paper

is a short note on the preparation of the TDPC work programme for 2007-08; and finally, a document on Outreach activities, now referred to as Global Relations: “A Framework for OECD Relations with Non-Members”, which provides Committees with strategic guidance on relations with non-Members for the preparation of the 2007-08 PWB. The Outreach dimension should be taken into account in the discussions on the programme of work, focusing on regional programmes, identifying new regions and countries, main work orientations with these countries and the roundtable approach; and the work of the TDPC and its Working Parties.

6. The Chair introduced Mr. Ray Bollman, Delegate to the Working Party on Territorial Indicators, who made a presentation on some quantitative findings that were used to set the scene at the OECD Workshop on the Coherence of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies and that result from co-operation between the two working parties. The outcome of the Workshop highlighted that rural development areas need to develop analytic frameworks, as is the case for agriculture policies.

Item 5: Implementing Rural Development Policies: Discussion on the Case Studies on Tuscany, Italy; Lake Balaton, Hungary; and Crete, Greece.

7. The three case studies, carried out in 2005, on Italy (Tuscany), Greece (Crete) and Hungary (Lake Balaton), were discussed and approved at the Working Party. Their findings contribute to the OECD Thematic Review for Place-based Policies and Rural Development (item 6).

8. Ms. Sabrina Lucatelli, from the Department for Development and Cohesion Policies, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy, introduced the Tuscany Case Study. A particularly interesting and innovative experience is represented by this region, where an exceptionally wide range of instruments have been introduced in recent year as part of an overall effort towards integrated rural development policy and participatory governance. The report focuses on 4 specific areas: the Tuscan model of rural development within the EU context; the discussion at the Provincial level, through an illustration of the principal characteristics of Arezzo and Grosseto, and some innovative governance instruments and rural development policies that are being implemented in these Provinces. Finally, it describes the most defining characteristics of the Tuscan model of rural development and discusses some critical issues related to this highly advanced and ‘mature’ development model. The Tuscan model provides an example of ‘how things could be’ if a more decided impulse to integrated rural policy was applied throughout the EU and other Countries of the OECD.

9. Mrs. Helga Repassy, of the National Office for Regional Development (NORD) introduced the Lake Balaton Case Study. The report describes developments on regionalisation in Hungary, with a presentation of the specific governance features prevailing in the Lake Balaton region and a profile of rural areas as compared to others in the country. It analyses the evolution of Hungarian regional and rural development policy and the Lake Balaton Strategic Development Programme, with a specific focus on tourism. It also looks at national territorial development policy implementation in the Balaton region; and finally, it provides an overall evaluation of regional, rural development and tourism policies applied there and describes the efforts to foster local initiative, with recommendations to improve their efficiency.

10. Mr. George Lassithiotakis, Secretary General of the Prefectural Self-Government Institution of Heraklion, representing the Secretary General of the Region of Crete and Mr. Themis Manganas, Director General, Eastern Crete Development Organisation (OANAK) introduced the Case Study on Crete. The context includes developments on regionalisation in Greece highlighting the main demographic and economic features of Crete. It includes a profile of rural areas and of agriculture, tourism and innovation in the Region. This is complemented by an analysis of the evolution of regional and rural development policy in Greece with specific attention to niche Cretan products, tourism and the role of Higher Education Institutions in the local economy. It also looks at national territorial development policy implementation in

the Crete region, focusing both on financing and place-based policy governance and concludes with an overall evaluation of regional, rural development, tourism and R&D and innovation policies as applied in the Region of Crete and of efforts to foster local initiative, with recommendations to improve their efficiency.

11. Delegates commended the work of the Secretariat and discussed place-based policy findings from the case studies, focusing on main issues concerning 1) rural tourism opportunities and trends in mass tourism; 2) territorial frameworks, partnerships and incentives for rural development"; and 3) governance (horizontal and vertical co-ordination mechanisms). Delegates from Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Spain, United Kingdom drew parallels with policy experiences in their countries. The debate highlighted the usefulness of evaluation to identify best practices; and the importance of co-ordination and co-operation – including how to find measures to simplify the institutional setting.

Item 6: Report on “The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance”

12. This report was discussed by the Working Party before its discussion and approved at the 14th Session of the TDPC the next day. The report “*The New Rural Paradigm: Policies and Governance*” provides an overview of the main trends affecting rural economies and raises several issues with respect to both the way OECD countries conceive rural policy, and its governance at local and national levels, as well as co-ordination across different levels of government. It is based on information gathered through horizontal analysis of country experiences, case studies in rural areas and proceedings from international conferences (Siena, Washington, Oaxaca). During the lively debate that followed the Secretariat’s presentation, many countries intervened, including Canada, Finland, Greece, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States and delegates commended the report. Mr. Prodromidis, Greece, expressed concern about some of the references made to the agricultural policy effectiveness. The debate highlighted that more emphasis could be put on the paradigm paradox and on creating a new policy framework, with a clearer explanation of the old paradigm and the new truths behind the shift. Innovation could be included as a fifth category and analysis would be useful on migration and evaluation, in particular the assessment by the OECD of the EU rural policy, which is founded on agriculture, and the need for clearer statements to justify future work. On governance issues, it would be interesting to learn about the role of federal governments. The Secretariat noted the comments made following its presentation, which will be taken into account in the publication, due to be released mid 2006.

Item 7: Roundtable discussion on future work

13. A roundtable discussion helped guide the Working Party in deciding the future direction of its work and its contribution to the TDPC Programme of Work and Budget, 2007-8. Austria, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Slovak Republic, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States, presented examples of the implementation of rural development policies from their countries’ perspectives. The Working Party noted the conclusions from the Workshop on the Coherence of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies, held in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Three main priorities emerged from the roundtable discussion. The first was the need for hard tools, such as territorial indicators to identify and value assets, moving from performance measurement only, to including the measurement of assets (i.e. analytical tools to diagnose competitive advantages), and the impact of using these tools to measure the competitive success of regions (e.g. regions that used them versus regions that did not); the second concerned the need for soft tools, to support governance by connecting all the different actors involved; capacity building of local actors and assess how this is done in practice; and finally, the need for in-depth assessment, to show how the central level manages rural policies (relationship between ministries, spending, etc.). The Chair presented the ideas gathered by the Working Party to the TDPC at its 14th

Session the following day. The Secretariat will be drafting a programme of work based on the discussions at the TDPC, taking into account contributions made by the working parties.

Item 7: Other Business

14. Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair thanked delegates for their participation at the Working Party's 7th Session and informed the group that the 8th Session of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Rural Areas would be held on 29 November 2006, at the OECD Headquarters.

**WORKING PARTY ON TERRITORIAL POLICY IN RURAL AREAS
GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LES POLITIQUES TERRITORIALES EN ZONES
RURALES
7TH SESSION - 7ÈME SESSION**

PARTICIPANTS LIST/ LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

30 November 2005 - 30 November 2005

Chair / Président

Ms. Margaret CLARK
Director
(a division of the Countryside Agency)
Portland House
London
SW1E 5RS
United Kingdom

Tel : +44 20 7932 5804
Fax : +44 20 7932 5841
Email : margaret.clark@countryside.gov.uk

Australia / Australie

Ms. Karen GOSLING
General Manager
Department of Transport and Regional Services
Sustainable Regions and Operations Branch
GPO Box 594
2601 Canberra ACT

Tel : +61 2 6274 7760
Email : karen.gosling@dotars.gov.au

Austria / Autriche

Ms. Christa BAUER
Counsellor for Agriculture
Permanent Delegation
3, rue Albéric Magnard
F-75116 Paris
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1/53 92 23 42
Fax : + 33 (0) 1/40 50 87 05
Email : christa.bauer@bka.gv.at

Ms. Elisabeth LOIBL
Federal Institute for Less-favoured and Mountainous Areas
Research and Policy Analyses
Marxergasse 2
A-1030 Vienna

Tel : ++43/1/504 88 69-21
Fax : ++43/1/504 88 69-39
Email : elisabeth.loibl@bergegebiete.at

Canada / Canada

Mr. Ray BOLLMAN
Statistics Canada
Agriculture Division
Jean Talon Building Tunney's Pasture
OTTAWA
Ontario K1A 0T6

Tel : 00 1 613 951 3747
Fax : 00 1 613 951 3868
Email : RayD.Bollman@sasktel.net

Ms. Marilyn KAPITANY
Assistant Deputy Minister
Western Economic Diversification
250-240 Graham Ave.
Winnipeg
Manitoba R3C 2L4

Tel : 001 204 983 5715
Fax : 001 204 983 0966
Email : Marilyn.Kapitany@wd.gc.ca

Mr. Ian MATHESON
Director
Rural Policy and Strategic Development
Agriculture & Agri-food Canada
1341 Baseline Road Tower 7
Skyline Building
Floor 6, Room 6212
Ottawa
ONTARIO K1Y 0A7

Tel : 001 613 759 68 38
Fax : 001 613 715 5544
Email : mathesoni@agr.gc.ca

Mr. Adam OSTRY
Deputy Head (Policy)
Infrastructure Canada
55 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1390
Ottawa
Ontario K1A 0A3

Tel : 613-952-4970
Fax : 613-952-4978
Email : Ostry.Adam@infrastructure.gc.ca

Ms. Fiona SALKIE
Senior Policy Analyst
Western Economic Diversification Canada
9700 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton
Alberta T5J 4 H7

Tel : + 001 780 495 6882
Fax : + 001 780 495 6876
Email : Fiona-Salkie@wd.gc.ca

Czech Republic / République Tchèque

Mr. Jan JERABEK
Expert/Senior Officer
Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic
Department of Regional Development Strategy
Staroměstské náměstí 6,
Staré Mesto
11015 PRAHA 1

Tel : 00 420 2 2486 1238
Fax : 00 420 2 2231 3227
Email : jerjan@mmr.cz

Finland / Finlande

Ms. Johanna HEIKKILÄ
Senior Officer
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Department of Agriculture, Rural and Support Policy Unit
P.O. Box 30
00023 Government FIN

Tel : +358-9-160 52506
Fax : +358-9-160 54290
Email : johanna.heikkila@mmm.fi

Mr. Olli VOUTILAINEN
Senior Officer
Ministry of the Interior
Department for Development of Regions and Public
Administration
P.O. BOX 26
00023 GOVERNMENT FIN

Tel : +358-9-160 43425
Fax : +358-9-160 44655
Email : olli.voutilainen@intermin.fi

France / France

Mme Sylvie ESPARRE
Directrice
Ministère de l'Intérieur et de l'Aménagement du territoire
Délégation à l'aménagement du territoire et à l'action régionale
(DATAR)
1, avenue Charles-Floquet
75343 Paris cedex 7

Tel : +33 (0)1 40 65 12 34
Fax : +33 (0)1 43 06 99 01
Email : sylvie.esparre@datar.gouv.fr

Mme Marie-Christine KOVACSHAZY
Conseiller Scientifique
Commissariat général du Plan
Conseiller prospective au secrétariat d'Etat au Tourisme
18, rue de Martignac
F-75700 PARIS 07 SP

Tel : +33 (0)1 45 56 51 72
Fax : +33 (0)1 45 56 51 78
Email : mckovacshazy@plan.gouv.fr

Germany / Allemagne

Mr. Theo AUGUSTIN
Ministerialrat
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection
Division 525, Rural Development
Rochusstrasse 1
Bonn

Tel : +49 228 529 4365
Fax : +49 228 529 4276
Email : theo.augustin@bmelv.bund.de

Greece / Grèce

Mr. Sifis KAMARIS
Interpreter

Email : monkan@hol.gr

Mr. George LASSITHIOTAKIS
Secretary General
Prefectural Self-Government Institution of Heraklion
Greece

Tel : 00302810342584
Fax : 00302810342588
Email : nairak11@otenet.gr

Dr. Themis MANGANAS
Director General
Eastern Crete Development Organisation

Email : themis@oanak.org.gr

Dr. Manolis MARINOS
Eastern Crete development Organisation

Email : emarinos@oanak.org.gr

Mr. George MILIARAS
MAYOR
Municipality of Oropedio of Lassithi

Tel : 00302844089047
Fax : 00302844089051

Mrs. Kalliope PACHAKI
Research Fellow
KEPE - Center of Planning & Economic Research
Agriculture & Rural Development
22, Hippocratous St.
GR-10680 ATHENS
Greece

Tel : 00 30 210 36 27 321
Fax : 00 30 210 36 30 122
Email : ptonikid@kepe.gr

Mr. Michalis PERISYNAKIS
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Eastern Crete Development Organisation

Tel : 0030 2810 311316

Mr. CHARALAMBOS-NIKOLAOS PITERIS
Advisor to the Prefect
Prefectural Self-Government Institution of Rethymnon

Tel : 00302831088705
Fax : 00302831057311
Email : ges@na-rethymnis.gr

Dr. Prodromos-Ioannis PRODRONIDIS
Research Fellow
Centre of Planning and Economic Research
22, Ippokratous Str.
Athens 106 80

Tel : +30.210.3676412
Fax : +30.210.3630122
Email : pjprodr@kepe.gr

Professor Nikolaos SFOUGATAKIS-DASKALAKIS
Organization for Development of Western Crete

Email : oadyk@oadyk.gr

Mr. Emmanuel SPANOUDAKIS
General Manager
Organization for Development of Western Crete

Tel : + 302 8210 98388
Fax: + 302 8210 93350
Email : director@oadyk.gr

Mr. Aristide STAVRAKAKIS
MAYOR
Municipality of Courites

Tel : 00302833041055
Fax : 00302834041077

Mr. Emmanouil TSANTAKIS
Economist-Consultant
Prefecture of Heraklion

Tel : 00302810361242
Fax : 00302810361151
Email : mdt@etam.gr

Mr. Nikolaos XYLOURIS
Mayor
Municipality of Anogia

Tel : 00302834031207
Fax : 00302834031380

Hungary / Hongrie

Dr. Andrea IVÁN
Senior Advisor
Prime Minister's Office
National Office for Territorial Development
Hattyu u. 14
H-1015 Budapest Hungary

Tel : 00 36 1 441 7146
Fax : 00 36 1 441 7142
Email : ivan.andrea@meh.hu

Italy / Italie

Ms. Helga RÉPÁSSY
Hungary

Ms. Sabrina LUCATELLI
Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze Dipartimento per le
Politiche di Sviluppo e di Coesione
Unità di Valutazione degli Investimenti Pubblici (UVAL)
Via Nerva 1
00187 Rome

Tel : 0039 (06) 47619016
Fax : 0039 (06) 47619037
Email : sabrina.lucatelli@tesoro.it

Japan / Japon

Mr. Mototsugu OCHIAI
Research Associate
Rural Development Planning Commission
Baji-Chikusan-Kaikan Bldg, 5F
Chuo-ku
Shinkawa, 2-6-16
104-0033 TOKYO

Tel : 00 81 3 32 97 5641
Fax : 00 81 3 3297 5543
Email : m_ochiai@rdpc.jp

Mr. Yukiya SAIKA
Director, Rural Policy Coordination Office
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Rural Development Bureau
1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku
100-8950 Tokyo

Tel : +81 3 3502 5946
Fax : +81 3 3595 6340
Email : yukiya_saika@nm.maff.go.jp

M. Ryuji YOKOZAWA
Section Chief
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Rural Development Bureau, Rural Area Policy Planning
Department
1-2-1 Chiyoda-ku, Kasumigaseki
100-8950 Tokyo

Tel : +81 (3) 3502 5946
Fax : +81 (3) 3595 6340
Email : ryuuji_yokozawa@nm.maff.go.jp

Korea / Corée

Mr. Dae Geun KIM
First Secretary
Permanent Delegation
2-4 rue Louis David
75016 Paris
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 44 05 20 57
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 47 55 86 70
Email : kimde10045@hanmail.net

Mexico / Mexique

Ms. Leticia DESCHAMPS

President
INCA
San Lorenzo 1151
Esq. Cuauhtémoc
C.P 03310 Mexico D.F

Tel : + 52591830199
Email : ldeschamps@inca.gov.mx

Ms. Lourdes MELGAR PALACIOS

Minister
Permanent Delegation
8, rue de Berri
Paris
France

Tel : (+33) 1.56.59.29.14
Fax : (+33) 1.45.63.03.63
Email : lmelgar@delegamexocde.org

Mr. Sergio SOTO PRIANTE

Cheif of Unit of Micro-Regions Strategy
SEDESOL
Paseo de la Reforma 51, piso 12 Col Tabacalera
06030 Mexico D.F.

Tel : (+52) 55 53 28 50 00 Ext. 54950
Fax : (+52) 55 53 28 50 00 Ext. 54950
Email : ssoto@sedesol.gob.mx

Mr. Marvin TAYLOR

Chief Economist
Central American Bank for Economic Integration

Tel : (+504) 2 40 22 26
Fax : (+504) 2 40 22 27
Email : mtaylor@bcie.org

Dr. Roberto VILLARREAL GONDA

Coordinator, Social and Regional Policies
Presidency of Mexico
Office for Politic Policies
Ave. Constituyentes 161, piso 4
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec
Deleg. Miguel Hidalgo, Mexico City

Tel : 00 52 55 50 91 15 34
Fax : 00 52 55 55 15 70 24
Email : rvillarreal@presidencia.gob.mx

Netherlands / Pays-Bas

Mrs. Eva CORNELISSEN

Policy Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Department of Rural Area
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
2594 AC The Hague

Tel : 31.70.378.4353
Fax : 31.70.378.6122
Email : e.m.b.cornelissen@minlnv.nl

M. Ancel VAN ROYEN
Counsellor
Délégation Permanente
Agriculture
12-14, rue Octave-Feuillet
PARIS, France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1. 45 24 99 71
Fax : + 33 (0) 1. 45 24 99 38
Email : ancel-van.royen@minbuza.nl

Norway / Norvège

Ms. Kristin NAKKEN
Deputy Director General
Royal Ministry of Local Government and Regional
Development
Akersgt. 59 Postbox 8112 Dep.
OSLO OSLO 0032

Tel : 00 47 22 24 70 30
Fax : 00 47 22 24 27 38
Email : kristin.nakken@krd.dep.no

Poland / Pologne

Mr. Roman CHMIELEWSKI
Counsellor to the Minister
Ministry of Regional Development
Department of Regional Policy
ul. Wspolna 2/4
WARSAW

Tel : +48 22 693 58 52
Fax : +48 22 693 42 90
Email : romchm@mgip.gov.pl

Portugal / Portugal

M. Pedro LIBERATO
Conseiller
Délégation Permanente
10 bis rue Edouard Fournier
75116 Paris France

Tel : +33 1 45 03 31 00
Fax : + 33 1 45 03 22 03
Email : pedro.liberato@ocde-portugal.com

Mr. Vitor ROLO DOS SANTOS
Consellor
Ministère de l'Environnement, Aménagement du Territoire et
du Développement Régional
Direction Générale du Développement Régional
Rua S. Juliao - 63
P-1149-030 LISBOA
Portugal

Tel : 00 351 21 881 40 00
Fax : 00 351 21 881 11 11
Email : vitor.rolodgdr.pt

Slovak Republic / République Slovaque

Ms. Zuzana GERGELOVA
Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic
Department for Rural Development
Dobrovicova 12
Bratislava

Tel : +421 2 592 66 430
Fax : +421 2 592 66 435
Email : zuzana.gergelova@land.gov.sk

Mr. Martin SZENTIVÁNY
Second Secretary
Permanent Delegation
28, avenue d'Eylau
75016 Paris
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 56 26 50 96
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 56 26 50 92
Email : szentivany@oecd-sr.com

Spain / Espagne

Mr. Jesus GONZALEZ REGIDOR
Prof. de Economía Agraria y Desarrollo Rural
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Facultad de Ciencia Económica
Ciudad Universitaria de Cantoblanco
Ctra. de Colmenar, km 15
E-28049 MADRID

Tel : 00 34 91 397 49 85
Fax : 00 34 91 397 49 71
Email : jesus.regidor@uam.es

M. Francisco Javier LÓPEZ INIESTA
Conseiller pour le Développement Rural
Junta de Extremadura
Cárdenas, 11
06800 MERIDA

Tel : + 34 924 00 38 51
Fax : + 34 924 00 38 14
Email : consejero@dr.juntaex.es

Mr. Roberto SANCHO HAZAK
Chief of Area
Ministere de Agriculture, Pesca y Alimentacion
Direction General de Desarrollo Rural
Madrid

Tel : 0034913471685
Email : rsanchoh@mapya.es

Switzerland / Suisse

Mme Barbara JEANNERET
Office Fédéral de la Statistique
Espace de l'Europe 10
CH-2010 Neuchâtel

Email : barbara.jeanneret@bfs.admin.ch

M. Martin SCHULER
Géographe
Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne - INTER-CHOROS
Station 16
CH-1015 LAUSANNE

Tel : 00 41 21 693 34 24
Fax : 00 41 21 693 38 40
Email : martin.schuler@epfl.ch

M. Laurent ZECHA
Office fédéral de la statistique
Section Analyse spatiale
Neuchâtel

Email : laurent.zecha@bfs.admin.ch

Turkey / Turquie

Mr. Ömer BILEN
Planning Expert
State Planning Organisation (SPO)
Necatibey cad.108
Yücecepe
06100 Ankara
Turkey

Email : obilen@dpt.gov.tr

Mr. Sevki EMINKAHYAGIL
Deputy Permanent Representative
Permanent Delegation
9, rue Alfred Dehodencq
75116 Paris
France

Tel : + 33 (0) 1 42 88 50 02
Fax : + 33 (0) 1 45 27 28 24
Email : sevki.eminkahyagil@mfa.gov.tr

United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

Ms. Margaret CLARK
Director, Commission for Rural Communities
(a division of the Countryside Agency)
20th Floor
Portland House
London
SW1E 5RS
United Kingdom

Tel : +44 20 7932 5804
Fax : +44 20 7932 5841
Email : margaret.clark@countryside.gov.uk

Mr. Robin MORTIMER

Head, Rural Energy and Strategy Division
DEFRA
Room 209, Ergos House
Horseberry Road
London
SW1P 2AL

Tel.: +44 207 238 6444

E-mail: robin.mortimer@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Mr. Dev VIRDEE

Deputy Director
Office for National Statistics
Regional & Local Division
B4/11
London
SW1V SW1V 2QQ

Tel : +44 207 533 5790

Fax : +44 1 633 652648

Email : dev.virdee@ons.gov.uk

United States / Etats-Unis

Mr. Dennis ALVORD

Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 7816
Washington D.C.

Tel : 00 1 202-482-4320

Fax : 00 1 202-482-0995

Email : dalvord@eda.doc.gov

Sandy BARUAH

Chief of Staff and Acting Assistant Secretary
US Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Ave, NW, Suite 7800
Washington
DC 20230

Tel : +1-202-482-5081

Fax : +1-202-273-4781

Email : sbaruah@eda.doc.gov

Dr. Mark DRABENSTOTT

Vice President and Director
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Center for the Study of Rural America
925 Grand Blvd
64198 Kansas City MO

Tel : +1 816-881-2697

Fax : +1 816-881-2199

Email : mark.drabenstott@kc.frb.org

EC / CE

Dr. Berthold FELDMANN

Head of Sector
EUROSTAT
Regional and Urban Statistics
Plateau du Kirchberg
L-2920 LUXEMBOURG

Tel : +35 24 30 13 44 01
Email : berthold.feldmann@cec.eu.int

Morocco / Maroc

M. Mohamed SOUAFI

Directeur
Ministère de l'aménagement du territoire, MATEE
4, rue Moulay Ali Chrif
Rabat
Morocco

Tel : + 212 37 76 19 52
Fax : 00 212 37 66 14 69
Email : m.souafi@matee.gov.ma

World Bank / Banque mondiale

Ms. Marsha McGraw OLIVE

Lead Knowledge and Learning Officer
The World Bank
Office of the Vice President for Europe and Central Asia
United States

Tel : 1 202 473-8148
Fax : (202) 522-2758

OECD / OCDE

Mrs. Odile SALLARD

Director
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 87 40
Email : Odile.SALLARD@oecd.org

Mr. Rolf ALTER

Deputy Director
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 14 10
Email : Rolf.ALTER@oecd.org

Mr. Mario PEZZINI

Head of Division
Regional Competitiveness and Governance

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 16 62
Email : Mario.PEZZINI@oecd.org

Mr. Eiji TORISU

Head of Division
Regional policies for Sustainable Development

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 76 94
Email : Eiji.TORISU@oecd.org

Mr. Vincenzo SPIEZIA
Head
Statistical Indicators Unit

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 97 45
Email : Vincenzo.SPIEZIA@oecd.org

Mr. Nicola CROSTA
Administrator
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 98 45
Email : Nicola.CROSTA@oecd.org

Mr. Philip WADE
Administrator
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 15 90
Email : philip.WADE@oecd.org

Mr. Andrew DAVIES
Administrator
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 15 1592
Email : andrew.DAVIES@oecd.org

Mlle. Carine FERRETTI
Statistical Indicators Unit

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 91 58
Email : Carine.FERRETTI@oecd.org

Mr. Jose Enrique GARCILAZO
Statistical Indicators Unit

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 86 18
Email : JoseEnrique.GARCILAZO@oecd.org

Ms. Suzanna GRANT
Assistant
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 16 63
Email : suzanna.GRANT@oecd.org

Ms. Erin HADDOCK
Assistant
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 85 78
Email : erin.HADDOCK@oecd.org

Ms. Karen MAGUIRE
Administrator
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 98 45
Email : karen.MAGUIRE@oecd.org

Mr. Brian MCCAULEY

Administrator
Regional Competitiveness and Governance Division

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 13 59

Email : Brian.MCCAULEY@oecd.org

Mrs. Suzanne LEPRINCE

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 81 72

Email : suzanne.LEPRINCE@oecd.org

Ms. Ritsuko YAMAZAKI-HONDA

OECD
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL
DEVELOPMENT
2, rue André Pascal
75016 Paris
France

Tel : +33 (1) 45 24 98 02

Email : Ritsuko.YAMAZAKI-HONDA@oecd.org