



Framework

Rural regions in Europe are evolving under powerful boundary conditions such as economic and political globalisation, socio-cultural transformations and increasing natural hazards, in particular due to climate change. The regional land use and the forming and evolution of landscapes is increasingly shaped by over-regional, even international trends and drivers like infrastructural, energy or housing needs, globalised agricultural markets, and even tourism and recreational fashions.

MURAL Research Project

The MURAL project intends to assess users preferences for different landscape types and land cover compositions. It`s general objectives are: 1. Verification at local level of the typology defined for the Ministry and the role that agriculture may have in different types of rural areas; and, 2. Contribution to the definition of a methodology for the assessment of functions at the local and farm level, in rural territories. The projects specific objectives are:

1. Assessment of main characteristics and trends of change in local case study areas: land cover, agricultural sector and community;
2. Identification of which functions are relevant at landscape level at present;
3. Assessment of expectations and preferences of users for different functions, in relation to landscape;
4. Evaluation of the role of agriculture in preserving the preferred landscapes and of limitations and potentialities for the support and development of new functions.

INNOLAND Research Net

InnoLand is a research and development network that offers promising land use innovations to European rural areas facing these drastic challenges. The InnoLand partners, research organisations in 12 countries all over Europe, initiated regional projects with the objective to support a sustainable land use at landscape level. In a dialogue with political decision-makers and regional stakeholders, upcoming changes are anticipated and strategies developed to enhance the regions' competitiveness, natural amenities and socio-cultural assets. The InnoLand approach focuses landscapes that are shaped by either severe intensification or by extensification in productive land use and undergo socio-economic transformation caused by demographic and migratory phenomena.



Workshop Mural + Innoland

Scope of the workshop

The idea of this workshop is to gather experts from various levels, from the local to the European, to discuss about the multifunctionality challenge and the need for innovative approaches in order to find the required solutions for the future, in peripheric rural areas of Europe. These challenges are both for management, but also for research, which should produce knowledge that can support decision-making, from the farm to the administration level at several scales.

The workshop will be held in Castelo de Vide, a municipality in NE Alentejo, 300 km from Lisbon and close to the border to Spain, where the team from the EPM/ICAM/UEVORA has been working for several years on research projects on the rural landscape, the assessment of its dynamics and of its multifunctionality. The team has just finished a large research project on the preferences of different users for the landscape, concerning four different landscape areas in the municipality, the pattern of land cover in each of them, the intensities of use, and the individual elements (cultural or natural) that are characteristic from the local landscape. The results of this project are to be presented to local stakeholders and discussed. Specially the strategies to be defined, according to the several demands identified and the changing role of farming has the main activity in the countryside, need to be discussed. Further, approaches from other examples in Europe, about innovation in rural areas and how multifunctionality of the landscape can be transformed into an asset, would be extremely relevant to be presented by Innoland partners, and further discussed.



Workshop Mural + Innoland

Programme

(All sessions will take place in the Auditorium of Castelo de Vide's municipality.)

Wednesday 4th February, (in Portuguese)

Arrival Innoland partners (transport can be arranged from the airport, partners should not arrive later than 15h00 to Lisbon airport)

14h00 – 18h00

Revision of objectives and methodology and presentation of results of the MURAL Project , by the EPM/ICAM/UEVORA team, to local and regional stakeholders.

Thursday 5th February, (in English)

09h00 – 17h00

Field visit, to small and large farm units in the municipality, ending with a visit to the town of Castelo de Vide: limitations and potentialities of investing in different functions provided by the landscape; the changing role of farming; jointness between farming and other functions; compensation through market versus public policies. (guided visit of someone from the municipality? From 16h to 17h, or from 17h to 18h)

Friday 6th February, (in English)

09h00 – 10h00

Presentation of objectives, methodology and results of the MURAL project + results of the discussion the 4th, to the Innoland partners and other invited stakeholders and researchers.

10h00 - 11h00 – Examples of the local innovative strategies and solutions by the local association – OCRE.

11h00 – 11h30 - intervalo

11h30 – 12h30 - Examples of innovative strategies and solutions for other peripheric regions of Europe, by Innoland partners.

12h30 – 13h30 – open discussion

13h30 – 15h00 – lunch (with guests from morning session for further discussions)

15h00 – 16h30 - Innoland organization and book issues.



Departure to Lisbon on Friday evening or Saturday morning

Venue Parc or municipality buildings in the town of Castelo de Vide

Costs The team of UEVORA supports the organization and eventually the meals (to be confirmed) but has no funds to support travel or stay.

A transport can though be organized from the airport to the town of Castelo de Vide (3 hours drive) if all participants agree to arrive until a certain timeslot .