



rethink

Farm Modernisation
and Rural Resilience

Rethinking the links
between farm modernization,
rural development and resilience
in a world of increasing demands
and finite resources.



rethink

RETHINK is a transdisciplinary research project supported by the European Commission and funding bodies in 14 countries under the umbrella of FP7 and the RURAGRI ERA-NET.

Questions How do market forces, societal demands and resource constraints interact to create opportunities and constraints for agriculture and rural areas across Europe? Where are the links between farm modernization, rural development and resilience and how can we shape them positively? And, how can we develop the relationships between rural areas and urban centres in ways that increase overall resilience?



In addressing these questions the RETHINK project explores the meaning of agricultural modernization. It does so at a time of potentially profound change - when the agricultural sector must finally respond to increasing resource scarcity and distributional demands, and when economies, production systems and lifestyles must be transformed. RETHINK explores the connections between the development of agriculture and the wider societal and policy goal of vibrant and prosperous rural areas, explicitly recognizing the complexity of the challenges, the diversity in situations, and the multidimensionality of strategies for a more balanced development.

Case studies The analyses to be carried out are based on a set of common research questions. These have been used to select 14 major case studies, one in each participating country. The case studies will improve our understanding of the many factors that contribute to rural prosperity and resilience. Each case is an expression of an innovative development trajectory, highlighting potential synergies between farm modernization and sustainable rural development.

A joint analytical framework will ensure the comparability of case study analyses and allow for recommendations to be made at a European level.



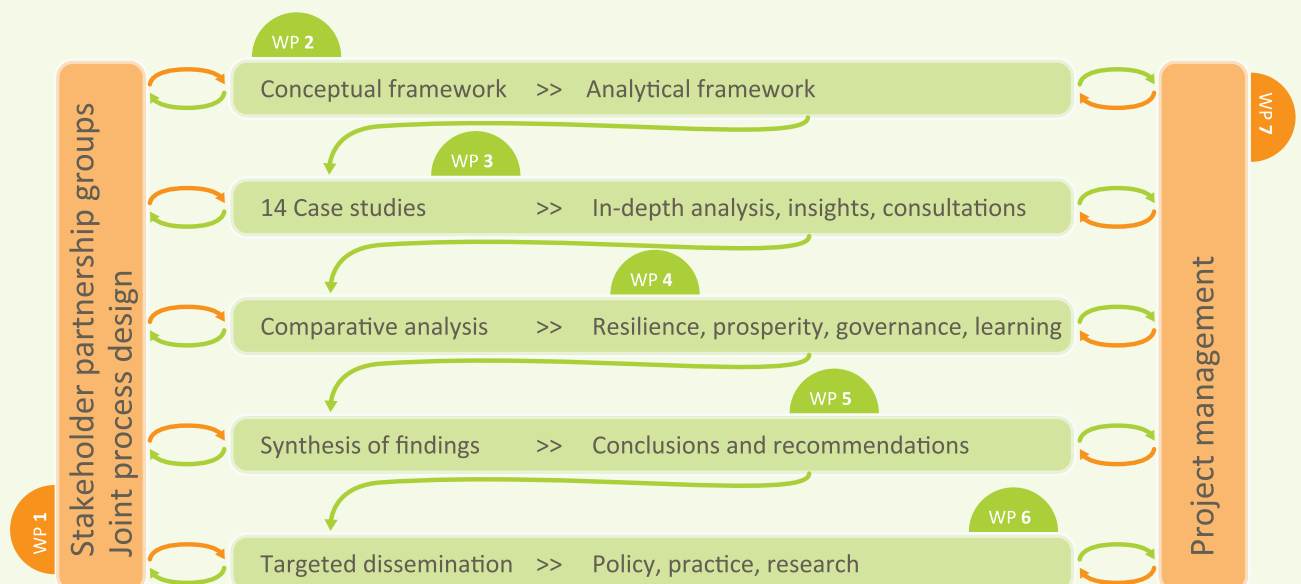
research

Analysis The international comparative analysis builds on the national level analysis of the case studies and related workshops. The analysis will be structured around four themes, each of which will be led by two partners with a solid track record for the theme:

- 1 **Resilience:** *this analysis will draw on a socio-ecological perspective. Particular attention will be paid to the role of diversity in farming systems, farming styles and land uses, adaptive capacity and the (co)production of ecosystem services. Lead: Gunilla Almered Olsson (SWE) and Ika Darnhofer (AT).*
- 2 **Prosperity:** *here we will explore the shift from a focus on costs of production, productivity and cost-efficiency (i.e. input-output relations) to effectiveness (i.e. the ability to meet a specific goal such as quality of life). The potential contribution of integrating agriculture with other economic and non-economic functions will be explored. Lead: Kees de Roest (IT) and Ignacio de los Ríos (ES).*
- 3 **Governance:** *we will explore the shift in the role of the state from ,provider' to ,enabler'. The role of cooperative approaches and multi-actor networks will be examined. Particular attention will be paid to ways to mobilize actors so that they are in a position to develop strategic agendas collaboratively. Lead: Guido van Huylenbroeck (BE) and Marguerite Paus (CH).*
- 4 **Knowledge and learning:** *the role of human resources, social learning and of different knowledge bases in the case studies will be explored. We will examine how knowledge is accessed and or generated. Particular attention will be paid to the role of learning and innovation networks which will contribute to the operationalization of the new European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) policy at the European, national and regional levels. Lead: Talis Tisenkopfs (LV) and Karlheinz Knickel (DE).*

RETHINK combines an explorative perspective with an action-oriented policy and governance orientation. Decision-makers from the public and private sectors will help shape its implementation. The comparative analysis and synthesis will focus on issues that are highly relevant for decision-makers, including factors that enable and encourage the creation of synergies, and the roles of agency and institutional structures.

RETHINK will be organized as an open research process that connects with and integrates other ongoing work. The project will facilitate informed and productive interactions between industry, government, academic institutions, civil society organizations and farmers. It provides a key and strategic opportunity for all actors involved in to contribute to the existing discourse about the future of European agriculture.





Institution	Case study	Contact persons	Website / Email
DE IfLS – Institute for Rural Development Research at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany	Opportunities for creating an eco-economy? Lessons learned from the Regional Action Scheme about the factors that enable farm development to contribute to this	Karlheinz Knickel (Scientific Coordinator) Simone Schiller (Project Manager)	www.ifls.de knickel@em.uni-frankfurt.de
AT BOKU – University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Economics, Vienna, Austria	<i>What impact does a high share of organic farming have on resilience, adaptive capacity and innovation networks?</i>	Ika Darnhofer Nikola Patzel Agnes Strauss	www.wiso.boku.ac.at/afo.html ika.darnhofer@boku.ac.at
BE UGent – Ghent University, Department of Agricultural Economics, Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Ghent, Belgium	<i>Alternative financing mechanisms to promote multifunctional agriculture and increase the resilience of farming systems</i>	Guido Van Huylenbroeck Evy Mettepenningen	http://www.ugent.be/bw/agricultural-economics/en Guido.VanHuylenbroeck@UGent.be
CH AGRIDEA – Swiss Association for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas, Lausanne/Lindau, Switzerland	<i>Suburban food procurement systems in a Swiss municipality</i>	Marguerite Paus David Bourdin Sophie Révillon	http://www.agridea.ch/ Marguerite.Paus@agridea.ch
DK KU – Copenhagen University, Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, Copenhagen, Denmark	<i>Developing landscape strategies: a framework for place-based local development strategies</i>	Jørgen Primdahl Lone Kristensen Kamilla Hansen-Møller	http://sl.life.ku.dk/English.aspx jpr@life.ku.dk
ES GESPLAN – Technical University of Madrid, Technical College of Agriculture, Madrid, Spain	<i>Innovation and social learning in intensive vegetable production in the Murcia region</i>	Ignacio de los Ríos Adolfo Cazorla Jose María Díaz	http://ruraldevelopment.es/index.php ignacio.delosrios@upm.es
FR INRA-SAD – Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Sciences pour l'Action et le Développement, Ecodéveloppement, Avignon, France	<i>Trajectories of combined specialization and diversification in fruit and vegetables production in the south of France</i>	Claire Lamine Naoufel Mzoughi Claude Napoleone Mireille Navarrete	http://www.sad.inra.fr/en/ Claire.Lamine@avignon.inra.fr
IE TEAGASC – The Agriculture and Food Development Authority, Johnstown Castle Research Centre, Wexford, Ireland	<i>Towards the sustainable intensification of grass-based production: the role of innovation in the Agricultural Catchments Programme (ACP)</i>	Ger Shortle Cathal Buckley Paul Murphy	http://www.teagasc.ie/agcatchments/ Ger.Shortle@teagasc.ie
IL ARAVA / SACOG – Central and Northern-Arava Research and Development Sustainable Agriculture Consulting Group, Tel Aviv, Israel	<i>Managing arid land for water-efficient, high value, crop production: the central role of knowledge systems</i>	Raanan Katzir Eviatar Etel Rivka Ofenbach	http://www.arava.co.il/haklaut/English/welcome.htm# rannan@zahav.net.il
IT FSRC – Fondazione Studi e Ricerche CRPA, Reggio Emilia, Italy	<i>Extensive pig production systems: the role of local breeds and innovation in meeting urban demand for quality pork</i>	Kees de Roest Claudio Montanari Paolo Ferrari	http://www.crpa.it/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=1109&lang=en k.de.roest@crpa.it
LT ASU – Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Kaunas, Lithuania	<i>Resilient farming systems and market differentiation: challenges and opportunities in farmers' markets</i>	Romualdas Zemeckis Vilma Atkočiūnienė Vidmantas Spruogis	http://www.asu.lt/ev/en/ romualdas.zemeckis@asu.lt
LV BSC / LUA – Nodibinajums Baltic Studies Centre and the Latvian University of Agriculture, Faculty of Economics, Riga, Latvia	<i>Development trajectories for small-scale farming: valorization of local knowledge and learning</i>	Talis Tisenkopfs Sandra Sumane Irina Pilvere	http://www.bscresearch.lv/ talis.tisenkopfs@lu.lv
SE GU – University of Gothenburg, Global Sustainability Studies, School of Global Studies, Gothenburg, Sweden	<i>The sustainability of developmental trends in agricultural landscapes, assessed through ecosystem services</i>	Gunilla Almered Olsson Anders Wästfelt Karl Bruckmeier	http://www.globalstudies.gu.se/english/ gunilla.olsson@globalstudies.gu.se
TR SDUZF / BATEM – Suleyman Demirel University, Faculty of Agriculture, West Mediterranean Agricultural Research Centre, Turkey	<i>The role of farmer organizations in strengthening the resilience and competitiveness of farming</i>	Fatma Handan Giray B. Karlı, T. Bal, M. Gül B. Sayın, E. Öztürk	http://www.sdu.edu.tr/Katalog.aspx?tip=birim&id=17 handangiray@sdu.edu.tr

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