The territorial approach to rural policies is receiving a growing consensus in many countries. Recently, the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloș, announced that one of the most important future challenges for the EU agricultural policy will be strengthening a territorial approach (European Conference on Post-2013 CAP, Bruxelles, 19-20 July, 2010).

Promoted by European Community policies, the approach achieved more interest in many other countries. The OECD in particular highlighted how much these experiences were recurrent, even in different areas, till the point to consider developing a “new rural paradigm”.

Networks as RIMISP (Latin American Center for Rural Development), through designing and implementing territorial research projects, allowed these experiences to emerge and to be recognized as effective innovations in rural policies in many different Latin American countries.

Indeed, it becomes increasingly evident that territorial approach can ensure a better integration among the sector policies at local level in different countries.

The Conference aims to:

a) provide the opportunity for an international consultation and interchange of experiences;

b) call for attention of the main institutional actors to the benefits of territorial approach;

c) establish and strengthen future collaborations among institutional actors, international organizations and rural development networks.

Representatives of international organizations as the European Commission, FAO, IFAD, OECD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIFEM (part of UN Women), The Ford Foundation and prestigious research institutes have been invited from different geographical areas to show evidence of territorial approach effectiveness in socially and economically distinct rural contexts.
9,00 Welcome and introduction
• Giuseppe Blasi, Director, Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies
• Claudia Serrano, Executive Director RIMISP
• Alberto Manelli, Executive Director INEA (Italy)

9,30 1st session: THE DIVERSITY OF RURAL TERRITORY
Introduction and rapporteur: Daniela Storti, INEA (Italy)

Contributed papers:
• Future Scenarios for Agriculture and Rural Areas in Europe: Some Reflections from SCENAR2020 - Peter Nowicki, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, LEI-Wageningen (NL)
• Diversity of Rural Characteristics and its Use for Policy Purposes in Europe - Sylvia Herrmann, Leibniz University, Hannover (Germany)
• New Relationships Between Rural and Urban Areas in EU Countries - Andrew Copus, NORDREGIO (Sweden)

Debate

11,00 Coffee break

11,30 Contributed papers:
• Territorial Dynamics and Guidelines for New Rural Development Strategies in Latin America - Alexander Schejtman, RIMISP

• The Challenges to Rural Development Policy in the New Independent States (NIS) - Eugenia Serova, FAO

Debate

13,30 Lunch break

15,00 2nd session: POLICY PRIORITIES AND INSTRUMENTS
Introduction and rapporteur: Maria Fonte, University of Naples Federico II (Italy)

Contributed papers:
• Cultural Resources and Territorial Identity as Resources for Rural Development in Latin America - Carolina Trivelli, Instituto de Estudios Peruanos-IEP (Peru)
• Sustainable Use of Bio-Cultural Diversity in the Southern Mediterranean Area - Guillén Calvo, Independent Expert (Morocco)
• Economic Opportunities for Rural Poverty: a Multi-Sector Approach - Jean Paul Lacoste, Ford Foundation
• Reflecting on the Specificities of Marginal Areas and the Appropriate Policy Instruments in EU Rural Areas - Janet Dwyer, University of Gloucestershire (UK)
• Gender Inequalities and Empowerment in Rural Policies - Carolina Taborga, UNIFEM (part of UN Women), New York
• Policy Instruments and Public Investments for Human Capital - Roberto Haudry de Soucy, IFAD

Debate
9,00 3rd session: GOVERNANCE ISSUES
Introduction and Rapporteur: Francesco Mantino, INEA (Italy)

Contributed papers:
• The Delivery of Rural Development Policies: Some Reflections on Problems and Perspectives in EU Countries - Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
• The Role of Place-Based Approach in the European Policies - Patrick Salez, Directorate General for Regional Policy, European Commission
• Which New Challenges for the ‘New Rural Paradigm’ in OECD Countries? - Raffaele Trapasso, OECD
• Territorial and Sector Approaches in Rural Development Policies in the EU and Latin America: Objectives, Design and Delivery Mechanisms - Elena Saraceno, Independent Expert

Debate

11,00 Coffee break

11,30 Contributed papers:
• Governance, Public Policies and Territorial Programmes in Brasil - Sergio Schneider, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brasil)

• Territorial Approach, Devolution and Combating Against Disparities in Latin America - Claudia Serrano, RIMISP
• Introducing Place-Based Policies: Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Countries - Nicola Crosta, UNCDF/UNDP

Debate

13,30 Lunch break

15,00 4th session: SYNTHESIS AND CONCLUSIONS
Presentations by the three rapporteurs: Daniela Storti, Maria Fonte and Francesco Mantino

Debate

• Conclusions and implications for future research and collaborative initiatives - Claudia Ranaboldo, RIMISP

18,00 Conference Closure
Conference Financial Support provided by:

**Italian Ministry for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies**, within the framework of the Observatory for Structural Policies’ Activities **RIMISP**, as part of the “Rural Territorial Development with Cultural Identity” Project funded by Ford Foundation