



8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER WORLD URBANISM DAY  
41<sup>st</sup> COLLOQUIUM

# rural areas and region in planning



SELÇUK  
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TMMOB  
Selçuk Planlancılar Odası

8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER WORLD URBANISM DAY  
CALL PAPER for 41<sup>st</sup> COLLOQUIUM

## “RURAL AREAS AND REGION IN PLANNING”

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Selçuk University - Konya

Definition of rural areas, which have been the subject of changing policies and paradigms in recent years, differs from the baseline criteria in different periods. The simplest definition of rural areas expressing as non-urban areas is an open swath of land that has few homes or other buildings, and not very many people with demographic, economic and sociological aspects. In other words, it can be said that some central features of rural areas are to have less density of population than urban and limited links economic hubs, based on agriculture sector than commerce and services sector and a smaller variety of income distribution, limited the effect of technological development on life style and production methods, limited the process of social and cultural changing, dominated traditions and customs on social life and rules, and accepted face-to-face relations on interaction channels.

The tension arising from definitions between rural and urban can lead to prejudice on these areas at times. Especially, in discussion during the modernization process, while urban areas have been evaluating as representation of progressiveness and modernity in social, economic and physical structure, rural areas is stated as the geography taking on a new meaning as social backwardness and conservatism, low-value-added agricultural production, and poor quality of life and housing. This approach is denying that offering a humanistic living environment to people should be considered at every stage of the planning process has brought along the perception of rural areas as a place where has been lived by people having time on one's hands. In this process, both the interest in economic, social and physical aspects of rural area focused on the socio-economic development policies for reducing regional inequalities under the control of central government, and urbanization caused some problems such as prioritizing of economic activities and growth, the increase and diversification of consumption, the decrease of cultivable agricultural areas with the pressure on environmental and natural resources, and the destruction of water sources and forests.

One of the major turning points is the 1970s when rural areas have left the understanding of increasing agricultural production and agricultural policy. The economic depression in 1970s has triggered the development of ideas about paradigm based on the mobilization of resources and competition belonging to regions. In this period, while the region is evaluated as a part of system interacting with other regions, rural settlements as important

pieces of local knowledge and dynamics have become, the re-interested areas of the planning institution. In other words, rather than the space is a part of a specific land and the advantages presented for production of its in traditional paradigm, the space has become to be regarded as a concept that allows for focusing on social relations, different human practices, economic, historical and cultural diversity, and rural areas that incorporate all these features have increased their importance. Therefore, rural with disadvantaged positions against urban areas have become a place to go facilitating competition and adaptation to social and spatial dynamics against urban, with rural growing potentials based on internal dynamics such as social capital potential, cultural and historical background, cognitive and learning capacity, and natural and economic diversity. As mentioned above, the growing literature on city and regional studies points to the effects on space of economic, social and cultural change in the rural area. In other words, the rural areas have begun to be evaluated as a component that directly shapes the social and economic milieu and holds abstract forces. In this understanding that is explained according to production and consumption activities, it is expressed that rural areas are associated with the manufacturing and services sector in addition to agriculture sector, and it has evolved from static structure to very dynamic and innovative structures.

In perspective that reconsidered the rural area at the relational dimension, rural areas are being rediscovered by paradigms re-defining of roles within social and economic structure. In against mainly on the basis of low productivity and declining economic value/importance. The paradigms to the rural area not only predicts new interactions, strategies and practices at production processes, but also emphasizes institutional restructuring and network-based collaborations that will lead the process. In this restructuring, it is a matter of the situation developing an institutional relations rather than personal relations, providing the diversification of labour force and emerging the new economic hubs, re-considering the value of agricultural land, and being the part of institutional process to governance from government.

Notwithstanding that Turkey having diverse experience in rural areas shows difference potentials on regional inequalities, rural areas in Turkey contain about of 25% of population, and its 30% of population is employed in agriculture, livestock and fishery, and forestry sectors. Sustainable development approaches being the subject to these areas not only based on conservation on natural and environmental resources, but also should include holistic policies in order to get a state of the country's development within the framework of equality and justice principles of rural population, to have stable income and life security and to develop rural social capacity.

When considering the way of handling of rural areas in Turkey, it is seen that rural areas have subjected to important development policies, and approaches and models since the first years of Republic. Rural areas politics in Turkey have gotten ahead with expressed positions under the names of community development, model village, multi-directional rural area planning, central village, village-city, and agricultural city since the Village Law (1924), which contains provisions that can be considered quite advanced for the period. These policies, which are aimed at socio-economic development of rural areas, have revealed many different analysis practices. Effected the National Rural Development Strategy in 2006 recently is one of the important documents prepared for rural areas. The main aim of the National Rural Development Strategy is to improve the assessment living and working conditions of rural areas in harmony with urban areas through assessment of local potential and resources, taking into account the protection of natural and cultural assets. The main principles of National Rural Development Strategy have been identified as "spatial sensitivity", "cooperation and participation", "sustainability", "social inclusion",

"adaptation capacity", "consistency in policies and regulations" and "efficient use of resources".

In spite of developed the strategies and gained the experiences for the rural areas, it should be emphasized that there are some structural problems in Turkey and the most important problem is the lack of "specific to rurality" in spatial approaches. Rural areas remain under pressure in different forms due to their geographical location and economic structure within the country, proximity to urban areas, and natural-cultural characteristics. Effectively, management of this pressure is to play a crucial role in terms of the preservation of settlement characteristics and spatial sustainability in rural areas. However, one of the main reasons of the deterioration of the rural settlement character is that spatial development of rural areas in Turkey is regulated by law prepared for handling spread the situation of urban areas. Another important development entered into force upon the 6360 numbered law "Bütünleşik Yassı (Whole City Law) November 12th of 2012 since it is envisaged that the 6360 numbered law will substantially change the character of rural settlement. Metropolitan municipality service boundaries was rearranged as provincial administrative boundaries in the region consisting of 30 metropolitan areas (Adana, Antalya, Aydın, Balıkesir, Bursa, Denizli, Diyarbakır, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mardin, Meşin, Muğla, Ordu, Sakarya, Samsun, Sarıyer, Tekirdağ, Trabzon, Van) by accordance with the provisions in this law, and administrative status of rural settlements in Turkey have converted to neighbourhood from village. It should be of course known that the changes in administrative status of the settlements do not remove "rurality" in terms of economic, social, cultural and physical conditions. Qualifying as urban area status to rural areas can increase dense housing in rural region of the metropolitan areas where constitute more than %75 of the country's population, and it should not be forgotten that the situation may bring about impossible consequences for the rural areas, when taking into consideration the lack of "specific to rural" issues referring to spatial development in rural settlements.

In this context, the subject of 8th November World Urbanism Day Colloquium, which will be realized as 41th anniversary, is determined as "Rural Areas and Region in Planning". Colloquium will be held on 7-9 November 2017 at Selçuk University-Konya and the themes of the presentations are given below. The program will be forwarded later.

- National Development and Regional Planning Approaches
- Regional Development Policies and Rural Areas
- Rural Areas and Region within Accessibility Scope
- City and Country Tension in New Paradigms
- Rethinking Rural Areas in its Region
- Whole City Law and Rural Areas
- Rural Areas Management and Planning Policies
- The Future of Rural Areas in Turkey
- Planning and Design in Rural Areas
- Destroyed Rural Areas and its Impacts on Cities
- Rural Areas on the Protection of Natural Values
- Protection of Rural Settlement Texture, Rural Architecture and Landscape
- Rural Areas and Sectorial Diversity
- Social Capital in Rural Areas
- Rural Resilience
- The Impacts and Management of Migration Movements
- Rural Threats and Sustainability