

Rurality: renaissance economics

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ABSTRACT

This paper sets out the concept of a renaissance economics model that counters some of the issues of conventional economic models when applied to rurality. The impact of such models on EU enlargement and accession programmes as we move towards 2020 and the next CAP reform will be explored. It will reflect on the legacy of rural development programmes since the establishment of the EU and on alternative approaches to stimulating rural economic development that conforms to the author's rural renaissance model for a vibrant, vital and viable community and regional based economy. The paper will highlight some of the transition points of EU CAP policy past and future together with the impact on the nature and scale of the rural businesses that have now emerged from these policies. It speculates that CAP has simply maintained a largely irrelevant lifestyle for the majority of the rural population or has there been a paradigm shift in the balance between social and economic capital in the competitiveness of modern rural economies.