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Head of the Bavarian Administration for Rural Development: Sustainability,
Subsidiarity, Civic Responsibility

Sustainability, Subsidiarity, Civic Responsibility –
Guidelines for the development of vital rural areas

Abstract

The rural regions in Bavaria as well as in other parts of Germany are facing increasing challenges by trends such as globalisation, enlargement of the EU, demographic development etc. Considering the different frame conditions there is a wide variety of impacts e.g. between the rather peripheral rural areas and those near the great agglomerations. It is, however, one of the main political goals to achieve or to secure conditions of living in rural and urban regions that are not the same, but on the same level. To reach this goal, an approach is needed which is fitting the various problems and needs of every single region or micro region. It is therefore crucial to keep to the basic guidelines of sustainability, subsidiarity and civic responsibility. These guidelines are also part of the integrated rural development, which is the strategic approach to vital rural areas. Within this approach, "integrated" refers to intercommunal as well as to inter-administrative cooperation and to the encouragement of a new common responsibility of state, administration, communities, economy and citizens. Land management especially by land consolidation and village renewal is the basic instrument for the realisation of ideas and plans that are worked out by self-responsible local groups and authorities. This way of bottom-up-approach has been very successfully developed in the past two decades in Bavaria. It has to be continued and strengthened to achieve or to secure the vitality of rural regions and, by this way, to secure the stability of rural-urban relationships.



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Short biographical notes

1955	Born in Starnberg
1975–80	study of geodesy at the Technical University of Munich
1980–82	trainee in the Bavarian Administrations for Land Consolidation and for Land Survey finished with the Great Examination
1982–88	Land Consolidation Authority in Regensburg; responsible for several projects of land consolidation and village renewal in Upper Palatinate and Lower Bavaria
1988–93	Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry
1993–97	Vice-Head, since 1994 Head of Department for Applied Research of the Bavarian Administration for Rural Development
1995/96	course in governmental and administration management at the Bavarian State Chancellery
1997–99	Speechwriter at the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry
since 1999	head of department of the Bavarian Administration for Rural Development and CIO in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
since 2005	President of the Federal – State Task Force for sustainable rural development