

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction and Scope of the Report	13
2	EU Rural Development Framework	15
2.1	The Debate on Rural Development in general	15
2.2	The Evolution of Agricultural Policy in the EU since 1957	17
2.3	Council Regulation 1698/2005 and Related Issues	18
2.4	The Strategic Guidelines of the EU Rural Development Policy	22
2.5	Relevant EU Policies	26
3	The Cases of Austria, Bulgaria, Greece and Spain, Similarities and Lessons for the Thrace Region	35
3.1	Basic Agriculture Indicators and Socio-economic Characteristics	35
3.2	Administrative and Governance Structures in the 4 Countries	37
3.3	Associations, Civil Society and Regional Disparities in the 4 Countries	39
4	Rural Development Plans for the Period 2007-13 (Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Andalusia/Spain)	43
4.1	Rural Development Policy 2007-2013	43
4.2	Structure of the Programmes	44
4.3	Administrative Structures	45
4.4	Complementarity, Consistency and Conformity	46
4.5	Partnership, Consultation and Subsidiarity	46
4.6	Monitoring and Evaluation	48
	Promotion of the Civil Society Dialogue Between EU and Turkey	
4.8	Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) for Bulgaria	50
4.9	Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) for Greece	52
4.10	Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) for Andalusia, Spain	54
4.11	Conclusions	56
5	Rural Development at the EU-Turkey Relations Context	63
5.1	EU-Turkey Accession Negotiations	63
5.2	Instrument for Pre-Accession	64
5.3	Cross-border Cooperation	73
6	Good Practices in the EU Rural Development Context	81
6.1	Leader Good Practices	84
6.2	SAPARD Good Practices	120
7	Conclusions for the Situation in the Project Area	127
8	Sources	129