Contemporary Functions of Small and Medium-Sized Towns in the Rural Economy

Modern Europe has rural roots. Even today, as much as 90 per cent of Europe (EU25) consists of rural areas in which half of the population lives. The different challenges that rural areas face today demand a diversified rural economy, as well as the top-down approach and local focus of rural policies. Understanding of the current function of towns in the rural economy in Europe in general and in the Netherlands more specifically, by using both micro- and macro-approaches, the increasing value assigned to environmental values affects all rural development projects. The understanding of the current function of towns in the rural economy requires a clear knowledge of the current understanding of the current function of towns in the rural economy in Europe in general and in the Netherlands more specifically.