



European seminar on AECMs : preparation of the round tables and the workshop

The various sessions that will be held during the seminar will be organised in round tables or in workshops:

- **Round tables:** comparative presentations will be provided by three to five Member States on a common theme. Those contributions will be followed by a question-and-answer session with all the attendees
- **Workshops:** the attendees will share their methods for designing AECMs in groups of 15 to 20 (each group will work on this same subject)

We would like you to participate actively in the question-and-answer sessions and the workshops. In order to give you the opportunity to **prepare your interventions in advance**, you will find below the main questions and themes that will be discussed during the round tables and the workshops. We thank you in advance for sharing your experiences.

ROUND TABLE 1 : Comparison of the different rules of governance for AECMs in the Member States

- Organisation of your State: Federal State, Confederate State, unitary State (and level of regionalisation in the latter case). Specify the competences and the powers of the territorial subdivisions (regions, autonomous regions, Länder...)
- What are the Managing authority(ies) and Paying Agencies of the EAFRD?
- Content and number of the Rural Development Programme(s) and content of the National Framework if applicable
- Role of the various organisms involved in designing and negotiating the AECMs
- Role of the various organisms involved in implementing the AECMs (choice of proposed measures, application, instruction, control, co-financing...)
- Advantages and disadvantages of these rules of governance

ROUND TABLE 2: CRITERIA USED TO DESIGNED TARGETED MEASURES

The European Commission's document provides technical elements of AECM in the programming period 2014-2020 (RDC 21/05/14 WD 08-18-14) provides some examples of methods of targeting. According to this document, a type of operation could be based on commitments which:

- are linked by their nature to areas with specific natural features
- are linked by their nature to specific types of production
- could be applied broadly but would have to be adjusted to specific local conditions
- respond to a very specific need in a specific location only (a « particular case »)

In order to complete the above list and the six presentations that will be provided during the round table, we invite you to share:

- the targeting approach adopted in your country
- tools used to design targeted measures (zoning, selection criteria, eligibility criteria...). How are these tools used?
- the advantages and concerns raised by those methods

it will help use to get an overview of the criteria and/or methods of targeting adopted in the Member States.

ROUND TABLE 3: OVERVIEW OF INNOVATIVE AECMS IMPLEMENTED IN THE MEMBER STATES

- Can certain measures implemented in your Member States be considered innovative (due to the environmental issues the measure addresses, due to the kind of commitments, due to the modalities of subscription to the measure or due to the way it is implemented)?
- Can you describe this measure?
- What are the environmental issue being addressed through this measure ?
- Why this measure or approach is innovative?

ROUND TABLE 4: RESULT-ORIENTED AECM

- Presentation of a result indicator used to verify result-oriented measure: what does it measure?
- For what AECM this result indicator is used?
- How was the result indicator designed?
- Critics: advantages, disadvantages, difficulties of implementation

ROUND TABLE 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE AECMs

- Presentation of one or more non-compulsory evaluation(s) performed:
 - Scientific studies? What method? What partner(s)?
 - AECM-specific evaluation?
 - Indicators used (beyond the compulsory indicators of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework)
- Financial means
- Results
- Lessons learnt for the current and/or future programming period
- Difficulties encountered in evaluating the AECMs

WORKSHOPS: AECM DESIGN PROCESS

During the workshops, the participants will be invited to share the method used to design AECM in their country. The discussions will be held on the following themes:

- Identification of areas with an environmental issue and where AEC commitments can be undertaken
- Identification of current agricultural practices on the identified territories, and the practices that would offer environmental benefits (i.e. the practices that will be supported via one or more AECMs)

Then, for each AECM:

- Definition of a baseline for each AECM
- Design of commitments and of eligibility/selection criteria
- Verifiability/controllability of the commitments and the eligibility/selection criteria
- Premium calculations
- Definition of a regime of sanctions

And more broadly for all the AECMs:

- Revision clause
- Interfacing with other regulations

For each of these stages of the design of an AECM, the participants will be invited to discuss the following questions :

1. How do you proceed in your country? What is the method used ? Which partners are involved? What data sources are used?
2. What difficulties did you encounter?
3. What are the success factors you identified?