

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

«TOWARDS CREATIVE RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP»

NOVEMBER 21-22, 2013 • ABBAYE DE LA PAIX-DIEU IN AMAY (BELGIUM)

In today's constantly changing economic climate, the Walloon Network for Rural Development focuses on identifying and analyzing what is at stake in terms of economic development. Its goal is to find innovative answers to stimulate the local economy and support rural entrepreneurship now.

The seminar will give participants the opportunity to:

- > **Study new forms** of rural entrepreneurship;
- > **Learn about policies and schemes** implemented in other regions of Europe in terms of economic development;
- > **Promote exchanges and dialogue** among local stakeholders, institutions and public authorities involved with economic development.

FOUR TOPICS



Alternative financing for local projects

What are innovative and alternative financing options for stimulating the development of local economy projects? How do they complement the more traditional financing options that are less accessible or less suited to rural entrepreneurs and farmers?



R&D and rural innovation

What are emerging forms of support for innovation, technological and organizational creativity for agricultural entrepreneurs and farmers? How do they promote their survival and development in a competitive market?



Collaborative schemes in rural areas

What innovative processes/tools are implemented to ensure the continued existence of rural enterprises, to guarantee their development and sustainability, to increase their innovative abilities and to promote partnerships between enterprises and stronger relations among economy stakeholders?



Access to land

What systems should be implemented to improve land access requirements for farmers and rural entrepreneurs? How can land transfer be made easier and how can a farmer be given the ability to master his production tool? How can the effects of speculation on agricultural land be diminished?

PARTICIPANTS

- > 200 participants from Europe and Wallonia are expected.
- > The seminar will benefit the stakeholders in rural development: entrepreneurs, farmers and foresters, agro-processors, business associations, training companies, tourist offices, nature parks, rural communities, economic development agencies, local action groups, local economy support project initiators, administrations and local, provincial and regional public services, elected officials,...

Simultaneous translation into English/French will be available during the seminar.

NOVEMBER 21, 2013: OPENING SESSION AND WORKSHOPS

9:00 > 9:30

Welcome and registration

9:30 > 12:30

Opening session: «Rural economy challenges and their innovative answers in a changing world»



Sjoerd Wartena, from the Netherlands, has lived in France for more than 40 years. Today, a retired farmer and the founder and former president of Terre de Liens, an agrarian movement (www.terredeliens.org), he makes every effort to change the way people relate to the land, agriculture, food and nature and fights to develop a more human-scale, ethical and diversified agriculture. He is in charge of the international working group «Access to Land for Community Connected Farming».



Bernard Lietaer, an international expert in the design and implementation of currency systems, is one of the founders of ECU, the European Currency Unit, the ancestor of the Euro. A university professor and researcher at Berkeley and Moscow, he has authored numerous books and articles, among which *Rethinking Money* (2013), *Au Coeur de la Monnaie* (2011), and *The Future of Money: creating new wealth, work and a wiser world* (1999), which has been translated in 18 languages. His publications are available on www.lietaer.com.



Jörgen Andersson, a Swedish farmer dedicated to sustainable development, is the founder of the economic association Fjällbete which allows its 150 members from the agricultural sector to collaborate and promote «community entrepreneurial spirit» through a citizens' fund, the Crowd Equity Fund.

12:30 > 13:45

Lunch

13:45 > 17:00

Workshops and round table discussions

The «Librairie des territoires», territorial bookshop, will be there with book to sell (www.lires.org)

	TOPICS	WORKSHOP 1 SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP	WORKSHOP 2 PUBLIC SUPPORT SCHEMES	WORKSHOP 3 COLLABORATIVE TOOLS AND NETWORKS	WORKSHOP 4 LOCAL INITIATIVE NETWORKS
13:45 > 14:15	Alternative financing	Mobilizing local savings to serve community development Jörgen Andersson, Are Lokalkapital AB, Crowd Equity Funding (Sweden)	Portuguese national micro-credit program (Portuguese rural network)	CREDAL Alternative financing cooperative, Isabelle Philippe and Jérôme Rassart (Belgium)	Alternative financing network Citizen movement for ethical and joint financing (Belgium)
14:15 > 14:45	Innovation	Innovation program for SMEs Public program for the financing of innovative entrepreneurial projects, Felix Richter, AiF Projekt GmbH (Germany)	Rur@l Inov Project Capitalizing on and measuring the impact of innovative practices in rural areas, Livia Maria Costa Madureira (Portuguese rural network)	Rural Center of Excellence «Cork Sector» Christophe Arrondeau, GAL Pays d'Adour Landes Océanes (France)	FabLab Net'Iki Rural digital fabrication lab promoting creativity and innovation, Pascal Minguet, TMHC The Média Hall Company (France)
14:45 > 15:15	Collaboration	Creating businesses in rural areas Methodology, results and recommendations from the CRER project, Claudia Silva, ADRIMAG (Portugal)	Cluster Eco-construction Network of economy stakeholders in green building, Hervé Jacques Poskin, coordinateur (Belgium)	Employers' alliances and labour sharing Pierre Neuray, Chambre du Commerce et de l'Industrie Liège Verviers Namur (Belgium)	Building networks of producers, consumers and restaurateurs in Ayrshire and Arran Howard Wilkinson, Ayrshire Food Network (Scotland)
15:30 > 16:00	Access to land	Land policy in Scotland Land fund, preemptive rights of local communities,... Stephen Pathirana, Deputy Director, Scottish Government (Scotland)	Flemish public land bank Hendrik Vermeulen, Vlaamse Landmaatschappij (Belgium)	RegionalWertAg Citizens' cooperative supporting local and organic agriculture, Peter Volz, AGRONAUTEN (Germany)	Terre de Liens Network of land associations supporting farmer-based, organic and diversified agriculture, Sjoerd Wartena (France)
16:00 > 16:30	Walloon representatives	Trends Observatory (Creative Wallonia) Prospective monitoring for companies, universities and Walloon economical actors, Oxana Rogozina, AWEX	Land policy in Wallonia Eric Méganck, Direction de l'Aménagement Foncier Rural, SPW (DGO3)	Coopérative fermière de la Gaume SCRL Group production of diversified, ethical and environment-friendly products from the Gaume region, Nicolas Ancion, GAL Cuestas	Terre-en-vue Land cooperative and non-profit organization facilitating access to land in a farmer-based agriculture, Zoé Gallez
	Resource persons	Competitiveness and Innovation Departement (DGO6) – Public administration responsible for promoting creativity and entrepreneurial spirit in Wallonia, Daniel Collet, Inspecteur Général	European Network for Rural Development The hub that connects rural development stakeholders throughout the European Union, Fabio Cossu and Peter Toth (Europe)	La NEF Solidarity-based financing system that supports socially and environmentally useful activities (France) To be confirmed	Les CIGALES Investment club promoting an alternative and local way of managing solidarity-based savings to serve local development (France), Sandra Monteiro, Development manager
16:30 > 17:00	Debate				

NOVEMBER 22, 2013: FIELD VISITS AND WORKSHOPS

8:00 > 8:30

Welcome coffee at Abbaye de la Paix-Dieu in Amay

8:30 > 12:30

Field visit and off-site workshop

12:30 > 13:30

Lunch

13:30 > 17:00

Field visit and off-site workshop (continuation)

17:00 > 17:30

Coffee and pie at Abbaye de la Paix-Dieu in Amay



WORKSHOP 1: FINANCING LOCAL ECONOMY PROJECTS

- > Citizen funding, group lending and micro-credits
- > Local economy projects: Brasserie de la Lesse SCRL (brewery), citizens energy cooperative, local currency, local exchange trading systems, citizens supporting farmers through short food supply chains, etc.



WORKSHOP 2: R&D AND FARMING INNOVATION

- > Innovation through the hemp chain supply and green building in Wallonia
- > How to consider «innovation» in context of the next programming period 2014-2020 (Rural Development Program)?
- > Innovative projects, case studies: Newfarm, Agricover, Precision farming, farming collaborative projects, "LaitHerbe" project...



WORKSHOP 3: COLLABORATION BETWEEN ENTREPRISES

- > Partnerships in green building: ecovillage, clusters and collaborations
- > NTICs in rural areas and Club PME 2.0: Walloon e-business network
- > Coworking spaces, business partnerships and clubs



WORKSHOP 4: ACCESS TO LAND

- > Organizations and support systems for young farmers taking over farms: testimonies and debate
- > Problems surrounding the access to land for farming
- > Guidance and support for market gardeners

PRACTICAL DETAILS

- > Address: Abbaye de la Paix-Dieu, Rue Paix-Dieu 2 - 4540 Amay (map at <http://www.paix-dieu.be>).
- > Registration is open until November 5, 2013, by clicking on the link: https://fr.surveymonkey.com/s/Towards_Creative_Rural_Entrepreneurship
Registration is mandatory.
- > Participation is free.
- > Shuttles will be organized from Brussels Airport, Brussels South Charleroi Airport and Liège Guillemins Station.
- > You will find the «How To Get to Amay» file on our website to find your way to the conference.
- > The Network Support Unit can organize carpool and transportation from the Huy train station upon request (Julien at 019/54.60.51 or info@reseau-pwdr.be).

For more information, contact:

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