

ENRD Seminar

“Connecting rural Europe:

Learning from the past, preparing for the future”

DRAFT PROGRAMME

2 June 2014

Centre Albert Borschette - Rue Froissart, 36 - 1040 Brussels

ENRD Seminar

“Connecting rural Europe: Learning from the past, preparing for the future”

Rationale and objectives of the seminar

The **June 2014 ENRD seminar** will be a unique occasion to recognize the work achieved by the EU rural development community during the 2007-2013 programming period. The event will offer the opportunity for ENRD stakeholders to take part in appreciating and discussing the **past 6 years of rural development networking and its achievements**, and to **exchange their views in relation to upcoming challenges during the 2014-2020 programming period**.

The event will be structured according to the main themes of improving RDP implementation, increasing stakeholder involvement, and the role of networking in cooperation and LEADER in three parallel workshops. The morning sessions will look at lessons learnt, while in the afternoon preparing for future challenges will be the focus.

Outline programme

Chair: DG AGRI

08:30-09:30	Registration of participants
09:30-11:00	<u>Opening plenary:</u> <u>“ENRD – six years of a rural development policy network”</u> Opening Address, Jerzy Plewa, Director-General, DG AGRI, European Commission Presentations • The role of EU rural networking in improving Rural Development Policy (ENRD, EIP, EEN) • ENRD from the stakeholders' perspective Q&A • How can we build on the last six years of rural development policy networking? <i>(a lead-in to the workshops)</i>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break

11:30-13:00	Morning sessions: “Learning from the past” • Workshop 1: Improving RDP implementation The workshop will highlight the role and impact of those networking tools which contribute to improving policy implementation. Notably, the focus will be on activities such as thematic exchanges (joint initiatives, focus groups, thematic working groups, seminars, workshops etc.) and good practice-sharing. These are not only at the center of a better understanding of policy implementation, but also powerful networking instruments which encourage improvements through direct exchange of knowledge, practices and possible solutions to common issues. • Workshop 2: Increasing stakeholder involvement in the implementation of rural development The workshop will focus on the experiences and methods relating to the challenge of increasing stakeholder involvement in the implementation of rural development, drawing on the experiences and perspectives of various local and institutional stakeholders. The morning session will look at how this challenge has been tackled in different Member States, how the National Rural Networks have contributed to this, and what are the key lessons learnt from the process. In the afternoon session, we will explore how different Member States plan to approach this objective in the 2014-2020 programming period and how the added value of European rural networks can be maximised through exchanges of experience and use of networking tools. • Workshop 3: An enlarged role for networking in cooperation and LEADER The workshop will focus on understanding what benefits rural networking across the EU have brought to rural development stakeholders, specifically in terms of promoting joint activities and forms of cooperation at different level including among Local Action Groups, within and across Member States. The workshop will also discuss about the contribution of rural networking to increased cooperation in 2014-2020 rural development policy and to multi-fund approach to local development.
13:00-14:30	Buffet lunch
14:30-16:00	Afternoon sessions: “Preparing for the future” – How can we improve rural networking in 2014-2020? • Workshop 1 (continued) • Workshop 2 (continued) • Workshop 3 (continued)
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-18:00	Closing plenary featuring: • Sharing lessons learnt from the workshops • Panel discussion on the importance of networking for supporting policy implementation • Overview of contribution of the ENRD Contact Point & Presentation of latest ENRD ‘capitalisation’ products • Closing reflections - The ENRD in retrospect – a witness` perspective - Video “A day in the life of the ENRD”
18:00-20:00	Networking cocktail