



RUR@L

EN RD Newsletter

November EN 2010

NEWS

EN RD REPORT

Salone del Gusto, Turin 21-25 October

The EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş attended the 8th 'Salone del Gusto' celebration of food culture, in Turin from 21-25 October, organised by the NGO Slow Food (www.slowfood.com) in collaboration with the Piedmont region and the city of Turin. This highly anticipated event brought together food producers and consumers from all over the world to promote sustainable local food production, in harmony with the environment. The EN RD Contact Point assisted with presentations of rural development projects, on quality and organic food production. For further information, [click here](#).

REVAMPED EN RD WEBSITE NOW LIVE!

We are delighted to announce that the revamped EN RD website is now live! The website now allows for better access to information, including an interactive map of the EU-27. There is also a brand new homepage and improved newsreel, containing images and a 'story of the month' section, where we turn the focus on you for our 'project of the month' and 'NRN Focus'. The new site also boasts a media gallery, with photos and videos from EN RD events, as well as rural development images from all across Europe. If you have images/videos or any news you'd like to share with us, do let us know at info@enrd.eu.

[Click here](#) for the new website...enjoy!

'New LAGs' Invited to Brussels

The Directorate-General of Agriculture and Rural Development, with the support of the EN RD Contact Point, is organising a 'new LAG' event to take place in Brussels on January 19-20, 2011. Some 300 LAGs are expected to take part in the event, which aims to provide new LAGs with advice and further training relating to: previous experience in terms of Leader implementation; how to efficiently implement their Local Development Strategy; and best-practice in terms of transnational cooperation (TNC). NRNs will also be represented at the event, as well as European organisations such as ELARD (European Leader Association for rural development).

POLICY BRIEF

Commission Outlines Blueprint for CAP after 2013

The European Commission has published a Communication on the "Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) towards 2020 – Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future". It sets out broad orientations to make European agriculture and rural areas more dynamic, competitive and effective, in responding to the 'Europe 2020' vision of stimulating sustainable, smart and inclusive growth.

This Communication looks at the future instruments that might be suitable for best achieving the three main CAP objectives: viable food production (the provision of safe and sufficient food supplies, in the context of growing global demand, economic crisis and much greater market volatility to contribute to food security); sustainable management of natural resources and climate action (farmers often have to put environmental considerations ahead of economic considerations – but such costs are not rewarded by the market); and maintaining the territorial balance and diversity of rural areas (agriculture remains a major economic and social driving force in rural areas, and an important factor in maintaining a living countryside).



On this basis, the future CAP should become a more sustainable, balanced, targeted, effective, and less complicated policy, more accountable to the needs and expectations of the EU.

Rural Development policy has enhanced the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the farming sector and rural areas, but there are strong calls to fully integrate environmental, as well as climate change and innovation related considerations into all programmes across the board. In order to be more effective, a move towards a more outcome-based approach has been suggested, possibly with quantified targets. Attention is drawn to the specific needs of young and new farmers and to the importance of direct sales and local markets. The Leader approach is to be further integrated.

The Commission will present formal legislative proposals in mid-2011. Contributions are now invited towards the impact assessment on CAP proposals; the period of consultation is from 23 November 2010 to 25 January 2011. [Click here](#)

Please note: 'Rur@l News' is an online publication; for further information, please go to <http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>



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A new subscription form is available which makes it even easier to subscribe to EN RD publications. The form also ensures you are updated on any major rural development news. [Click here.](#)

• **Working Paper on Approaches for the Evaluation of NRN Programmes now available**

The Help Desk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development has developed a Working Paper which summarises the approaches of Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain for the evaluation of their NRN Programmes. [Click here.](#)

• **TNC Guide with rules and procedures now online**

Local Action Groups seeking partners for transnational cooperation (TNC) can now consult and compare the specific rules which apply to each Member State. [Click here.](#)

Leader Implementation discussed at 5th Leader Subcommittee Meeting

Ways in which to promote the effective implementation of 'Leader' were discussed at the 5th Leader subcommittee (LsC) meeting, held in Brussels on November 12. This extended LsC also welcomed representatives from 38 Local Action Groups (LAGs), in order to elicit constructive feedback from a broader set of stakeholders.

The main conclusions of the work achieved by each of the three Focus Groups (FGs) were presented. FG1, which examined issues relating to 'implementation of the bottom-up principle: decision making process and mainstreaming' placed a particular emphasis on running costs and complex and small scale projects. On LAG running costs, difficulties were identified as regards securing bank guarantees for advances, providing own funding and the 20% ceiling in certain implementation models. FG2, which analysed issues relating to 'preserving the innovative/experimental character of Leader: difficulties identified and good practices' raised concerns pertaining to the definition and eligibility of 'innovation' and/or 'innovative projects'. The group's participants recommended that 'innovation' always be regarded in a local context and defined by LAGs. FG3 presented its findings on the 'implementation of the "cooperation" measure: key bottlenecks

and solutions'. The group provided a specific progress report on LAG/project-holder management practice and MA/PA administrative practice, regarding the definition of common action, the funding of common costs and key areas for cooperation.

Representatives from the EN RD Contact Point presented an update on specific EN RD website tools, regarding Leader. The European Commission provided some interesting statistics relating to the current state of play of Leader in the EU Member States, noting that there are currently 2,192 selected LAGs in the EU. In 2010, an acceleration in project approval and budget spending was noticed. Since the beginning of the programming period, 31,281 local projects and 598 cooperation projects have been approved; however, only €366 million has been spent on projects so far, representing 6.4% of planned expenditure.

All completed reports are available on the EN RD website, with additional reports related to the specific aspects mentioned above, to be added by the end of 2010. With the mandate for the FGs now concluded, the results will now be presented to the Coordination Committee, on 9 December. [Click here.](#)

NRN FOCUS

EN RD Contact Point hosts Candidate Countries NRN Event

Representatives from three countries, currently preparing to join the EU, visited the EN RD Contact Point on Thursday, November 11, to learn more about how to set up a National Rural Network (NRN). Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia are all 'candidate countries' and have the opportunity to use special funding under the EU's 'Instrument for Pre-Accession' to implement a range of rural development measures, prior to their future accession to the EU. Like existing Member States, the candidate countries are also obliged to set up an NRN. Presentations from the Swedish, Finnish and Estonian NRNs, plus a panel discussion with several other NRN representatives, provided a uniquely practical insight into the day-to-day management of an active NRN. For further information, [click here.](#)

Dutch and Walloon Networks Jointly Host European Rural Days Event

The first ever European Rural Days event was held in Belgium (Turnhout and Namur) on November 18-19. The event, jointly hosted by the Walloon and Dutch Rural Networks, focused on Environmental Public Goods and Rural Entrepreneurship. Both of these issues are major driving forces behind rural development, helping to improve the quality of life of communities in rural and peri-urban areas, as well as contributing to the economy and environment. The EN RD CP played an active role at the event, moderating round-table discussions at the various workshops. [Click here.](#)

COUNTRY FOCUS



Sweden

Size: 449,964 km²

Population: 9 million inhabitants

Sweden joined the EU in 1995, but decided against introducing the euro in a 2003 referendum. Approximately 8% of Sweden's land area is agricultural (concentrated in the South) and over half of its landscape is covered by forest. The landscape has a high nature value (HNV) and is perceived as being a high quality environment with clean waters. Some 24% of the population live in rural areas and tend to be older (up to 25% are pensioners) with many young people moving away from rural communities. Economic growth has been relatively robust in recent years. However, employment has not grown apace, with lowest employment rates to be found in sparsely populated rural areas. Approximately 168,000 people are employed in agriculture, 90,000 in the forestry sector and 60,000 in the food industry (in 2004). Farming and forestry are also regarded as key players in the transition to sustainable development. For more information on rural development policy in Sweden, [click here](#)



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