



RUR@L

ENRD Newsletter

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NEWS

ENRD REPORT

Results of Thematic Working Group 4 – Delivery Mechanisms

The main findings of Thematic Working Group 4 (TWG4) were discussed at a meeting in Brussels on 14 June, 2011. Participants were called upon to comment on the first draft of the Final Report, which synthesises the outcomes of 12 case studies and addresses common issues related to the delivery mechanisms of EU Rural Development Policy. Click [here](#) for further information.

Global Dissemination of Leader discussed in Finland

A seminar, organised by the European Leader Association for Rural Development (ELARD), on global networking for Leader Local Action Groups (LAGs), was held in Finland on 15-16 June, 2011. The event focused on piloting Leader outside EU borders, and participants were invited from Brazil, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, the FAO, European Commission, and the ENRD. Click [here](#).

Cooperation in Action in Rome

The first ever 'CooperAction Day' was held in Rome on 20 June, 2011, to promote inter-territorial and transnational cooperation (TNC). It featured a 'cooperation showroom', a 'face-to-face' meeting space and of course a 'cooperation corner' featuring relevant cooperation project offers. Click [here](#).

SPECIAL REMINDER:

Your opinion matters!
Click [here](#) for surveys on the ENRD [website](#) and [publications](#).

POLICY BRIEF

Networking Added Value Discussed at Coordination Committee Meeting

The issue of improving current and future networking in EU rural development policy was the main item on the agenda of the ENRD Coordination committee meeting of 9 June, 2011. After the mid-term review of the rural development programmes it was appropriate for the ENRD and its stakeholders to assess the benefits of networking and to measure its "added value".

A lively exchange followed between members of the Committee, with various experiences and opinions presented on how to improve rural development networking from the 'grass roots' to EU level. Alexander Ferstl, from URBACT – the EU network promoting

urban development – spoke about the Directorate General for Regional Policy's (DG REGIO's) preference for a more thematic network structure, not one organised by country. He also stressed the fact that networks should be less 'talking clubs' and focus more on the exchange and transfer of experience. Numerous other contributions followed on how to increase interaction between key rural stakeholders, to better base networking activity on the interests and demands of members and to widen ENRD membership. Discussions on lessons learnt from the recent Coordination committee survey led to the identification of a number of key priorities for the ENRD:

- **ENRD Website:** The inclusion of a more user friendly My ENRD; better information for LAGs; the possible use of social media; and better interaction with National Rural Network (NRN) sites;
- **Events:** Proposed 'LAG seminars' and more events involving cooperation and joint-action;
- **Publications:** Improving networking through new publications; additional topics for the RDP Project Examples brochure and suggested themes for future editions of the EU Rural Review magazine.

In general, a shift towards a more thematic structure was favoured with a broader selection of themes, to include new challenges such as climate change and renewable energy. Participants at the meeting were also presented with a progress report on the NRN

Self-Assessment Toolkit; an overview of comments on networking, included in the 2010 RDP Mid-Term Evaluation reports; the RDP projects database; and the state of play as regards the Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative. Click [here](#) for further information.

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



NEW ONLINE...

- The new Rural Entrepreneurship Gateway is now online. [Click here;](#)
- Remember to check out the RDP Projects Database - all you need for RDP projects in the EU. [Click here;](#)
- Attention LAGs! New Leader Cooperation Offers have been posted on the website. [Click here.](#)
- Multilingual Guide on Leader Application to RDPs available. [Click here;](#)

Workshop on Short Supply Chains for food

Representatives from 10 National Rural Networks met on 8 June, 2011 in Brussels for a workshop on finding a common working approach to support the development of joint NRN actions on emerging EU local food sectors. This topic was first suggested at the 9th NRN meeting in Malta in June 2010, and suggestions for further work on this topic have received much support since then, including during a workshop at the 11th NRN meeting in Germany, in April 2011. The French NRN took the lead in organising this meeting in Brussels and undertook a survey of interested NRNs to collect background information.

During the Brussels meeting three key topics were discussed: 'Improving the knowledge of Short Supply Chains', 'Supply Structure' and 'Governance', and a number of potential actions

were proposed. These included greater consultation with policy makers; a dedicated "handbook", including a review of approaches to adapting national legislation to support short supply chains; a European Day of Local Products, and activities related to local governance of the food supply chain. Speaking after the event Maria Custodia Correia, from the Portuguese NRN said, 'The meeting was very useful, especially since better legislation has been identified as a key issue. I'm also very interested in the possibility of the development of more targeted EU policy on this topic in the near future'. Christophe Buffet, who organised the meeting, concluded, 'We are very pleased with the enthusiasm shown by our colleagues from other networks. We look forward to working together further.'

NRN FOCUS

Links between Forestry and Economic Recovery Discussed

The Italian NRN organised a two-day congress on 23-24 June, in Rome, on the present and future role of forest resources in the socio economic development of rural areas. The meeting will carry out a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis of the forestry sector, with a view to assessing implications for the next programming period. [Click here.](#)

12th NRN Meeting to Focus on Communications

The 12th NRN meeting takes place on 28 June, 2011 in Brussels, focusing on ways of 'communicating' rural development. It represents the beginning of a new NRN initiative on communications, proposed by the Italian NRN. This initiative culminates in a public event in November, in Milan. [Click here.](#)

Food Security Meeting in Estonia

The issue of ensuring food security in the EU was discussed at a meeting in Estonia on June 15, 2011, organised by the Estonian NRN. The objective was to provide an overview of developments and challenges for the EU in this area, and open the debate on the future of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in relation to food security. [Click here](#) for further information.

COUNTRY FOCUS



GREECE

Population: 10.8 million
Area: 131.940 km²

Greece is located in the southernmost part of the Balkan Peninsula and its position is of strategic importance as a link between Europe, Asia and northern Africa. Over 10% of its territory is characterised as coastal or maritime, and of the remaining area, some 40.9% is deemed agricultural, with the rest covered by natural areas (37%) and forests (19%). The main agricultural sectors are those of fruit and vegetables including olives and olive oil, wine, meat, milk and cheese, poultry products and honey. Dairy products and olive oil have a strong presence in international markets, while there are favourable climate and soil conditions for organic agricultural and livestock production. However, the contribution of the rural sector to Gross Value Added (GVA) has been decreasing. In general, rural depopulation continues to be one of the greatest concerns for rural Greece. [Click here](#) for further information.

