

Beyond indicators: evaluating the process of EU rural development policies

RuDI - Final conference

European policy makers, member states representatives, researchers and other key actors in the field of rural development, will be gathering at the final conference of a major European rural development research project in Brussels on Tuesday 15 June 2010, entitled 'Beyond Indicators: Evaluating the Processes of EU Rural Development Policies', which will present the main findings and policy recommendations of a major European rural development research project.

The research project - Assessing the Impacts of Rural Development Policies (including Leader) (RuDi) - has involved a ten-country consortium conducting a major analysis of the design, implementation and emerging impacts of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) funded under the so-called second pillar of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy over the period 2007-13.

The conference aims to provide a better understanding of the diversity of EU Rural Development Pro-grammes, their priorities, and implementation. It will also give an insight into the process effects of Rural Development programming, imple-mentation and evaluation and will provide a forum for discussion of possible improvements of policies that more effectively target the challenges of Rural Development in Europe. The conference takes place at a time when the Commission is considering its proposals for the 2014-2020 framework period.

Dr Janet Dwyer (project leader for the CCRI team) says: "We feel that our study has really got under the skin of what rural development policy means, in Europe today. The RuDI conference will be an important opportunity to debate and discuss how to improve the policy, and how best to learn lessons from effective policy evaluation, for the future beyond 2013."

The conference will also provide an opportunity for networking between Rural Development stakeholders and the RuDI consortium to foster mutual learning and knowledge sharing for the development of better policies. The keynote speakers are from DG Agriculture and DG Regio. To consult the conference schedule go to the link www.rudi-europe.net/rudi_conference.html

The conference will take place on Tuesday 15 June 2010, at Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Participation is free of charge. You can register online at www.rudi-europe.net/rudi_conference.html or send an e-mail to: conference@rudi-europe.net

Objectives of the conference

- Better understanding of the diversity of EU Rural Development Programmes, their priorities, and implementation.
- Insight into the process effects of Rural Development programming, implementation and evaluation.
- Discussion of possible improvements of policies that more effectively target the challenges of Rural Development in Europe.
- Exchange and networking between Rural Development stakeholders and the RuDI consortium to foster mutual learning and knowledge sharing for the development of better policies.

Content of the conference

- Keynote speakers from DG Agriculture, DG Regio and OECD
- Presentation of the main findings and policy recommendations of the RuDI project
- Illustration by in-depth case studies of: Vertical and horizontal policy coordination issues; LEADER mainstreaming and evaluation; Sustaining marginal rural areas; New delivery systems for agri-environmental measures; Policy targeting and efficiency issues
- Comments from stakeholders from EU and national policy level, researchers, evaluators and other interested participants
- Discussion of the findings and recommendations with conference participants

Target group

- Policy decision makers from European countries

- Key actors and researchers in rural development institutions
- Representatives of DG Agri, DG Regio, the European Network for Rural Development, and the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development

Conference organisation: The expected number of participants is 60 - 80. Participation is free of charge, and a lunch buffet, coffee and after-conference drinks will be provided. Participants must bear the costs for accommodation and travel, and will receive further details and hotel information upon registration.

Date: Tuesday 15 June 2010

Conference venue: Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 47, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Registration

Please register online at http://www.rudi-europe.net/conference_registration.

Web: www.rudi-europe.net

Agenda

Time	Topics	
9:00-10:00	Registration	
10:00-12:30	Official welcome	Danielle Tissot, DG RESEARCH
	Keynote speech	Loretta Dormal-Marino, DG AGRI
	The RuDI project: Introduction into Project Main findings & conclusions short discussion Introduction into aces studies and poster session	RuDI Team
	Walk, see and reflect Case study presentations in poster format	
12:30-14:00	Buffet lunch + coffee	
14:00- 16:00	Improving policy evaluation - improving evaluation policy presentations Discussion	RuDI Team
	Rural Development policy - opportunities for change to tackle challenges Presentations Discussion	RuDI Team
16:00-16:30	Conclusion and end	Patrick Salez,

		DG Regio
16:30-17:30	<i>Champagne + snacks (to facilitate more informal discussions and networking)</i>	