

Cooperation projects as a tool for development of rural areas



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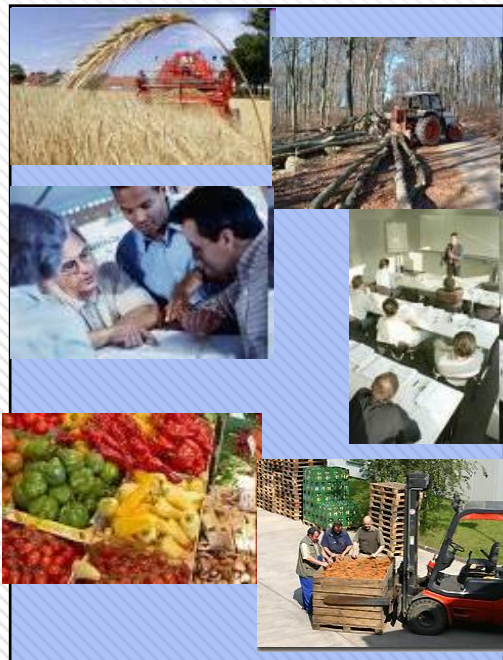
Overview of the presentation

- 1. EAFRD- European framework for cooperation**
- 2. What is cooperation?**
- 3. Why cooperate?**
- 4. What is a good cooperation project?**
- 5. Cooperation and networking**
- 6. EN RD CP and its tools to support Cooperation**

1. EAFRD- European framework for cooperation

- 1 common policy (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, EAFRD)
- Projects implemented until 31 December 2015 (Art.71.Regulation 1698/2005)
- 27 Member States
- More than 2400 Leader territories, with similar issues

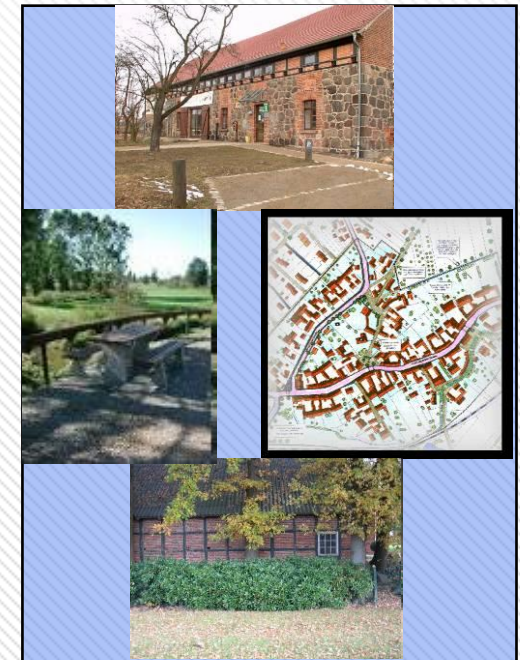
Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector



Improving the environment and the countryside

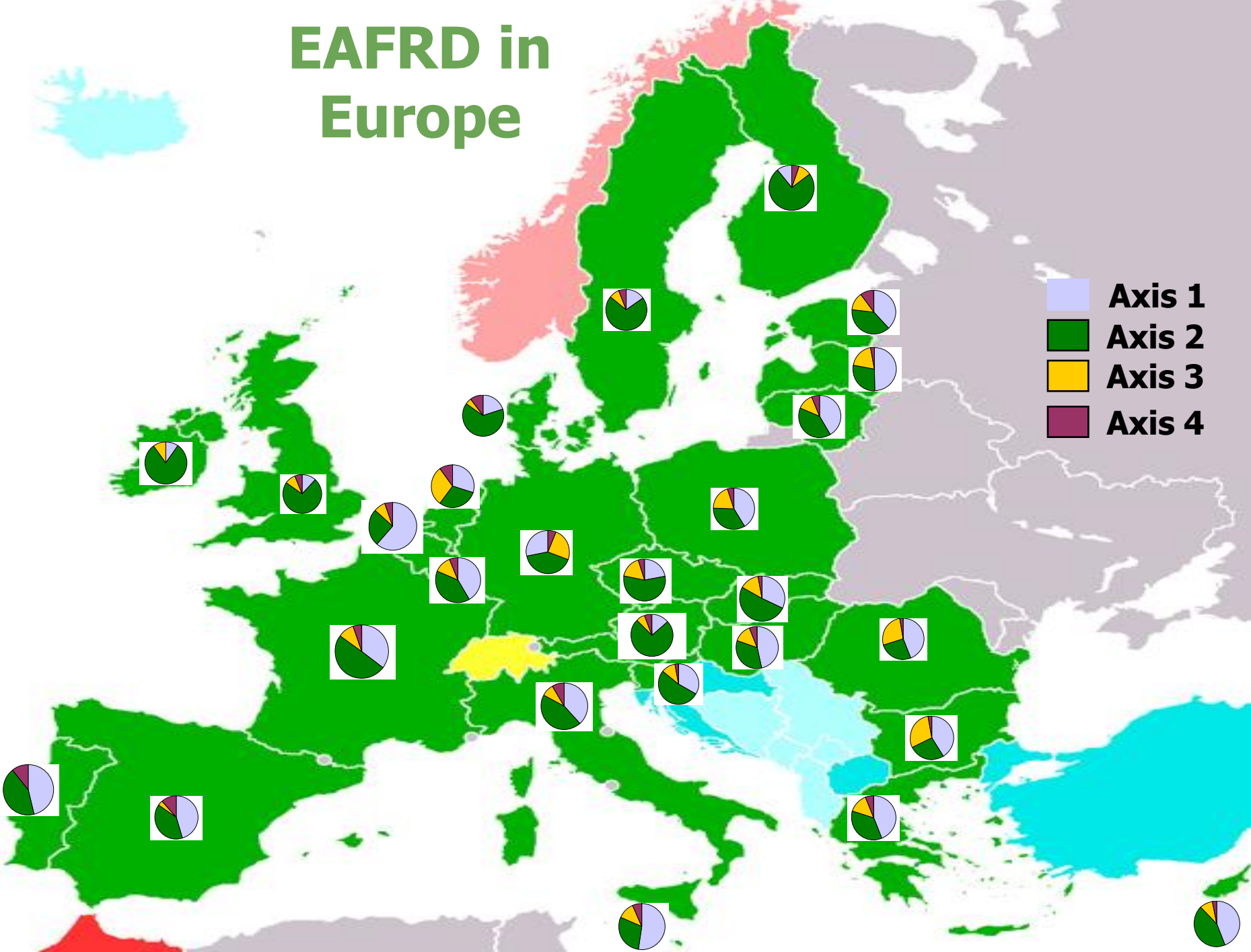


The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy



Leader

EAFRD in Europe



Cooperation as part of the Leader approach...

- Is funded under Axis 4 (Leader) of the EAFRD (Art.65 of of Regulation 1698/2005) through the national or regional rural development programmes from 2007-13.
-> part of the implementation of local development strategies by local action groups (LAGs)
- Transnational cooperation is desired by the European Commission, but not mandatory.
-> All rural development programmes have though foreseen a budget for cooperation within the Leader-axis.
- One of the features of the Leader approach (together with networking).
- Was also part of the Leader II and Leader+ initiatives.

- **TOTAL (expected) NUMBER OF LAGs**
 - Number of LAGs already selected: **2. 124**
 - Expected number of LAGs to be selected: **2. 432**
- **LAGs selection process: state of play**
 - 18 out of 27 Member States have completed the selection process
 - In the other cases, Member States (7 MS) are going to close the selection process by the end of 2009
 - RO and BG by the end of 2010 and 2011

EAFRD budget for cooperation* in EU-27

- 265 million Euro = 4,8% of the EAFRD budget for Axis 4 (Leader), Interterritorial and transnational cooperation
 - Italy (45,7 million), Spain (33,8 million) and Germany (30,2 million) are the Member States with the highest amounts for cooperation
- * for both inter-territorial and transnational cooperation; no separation between the two types is made in the budget

2. What is cooperation?

- Cooperation measure
- Two main types of cooperation
- TNC: Cooperation with third countries
- Cooperation with third countries under Leader+ (2000-06)



- The "cooperation" measure is one of the three Leader Axis measures.
- Cooperation encourages and supports a LAG to undertake a joint action with another Leader group, or with a group taking a similar approach, in another region, Member State, or even a third country.
- Joint actions are achieved by running a common structure, coordinated by a Lead Partner.
- LAGs are encouraged to incorporate cooperation into their local development strategies.
- The joint/coordinated development work leads to clearly identified deliverables producing benefits for the territories involved: cooperation results in real added-value for the area, which obtains access to new information and ideas.

Two main types of cooperation

- **Inter-territorial cooperation** - cooperation between different rural areas within a Member State;
Cooperation within a Member State concerns at least one LAG selected under the Leader axis and it is open to other local groups using a similar participatory approach; and
- **Transnational cooperation** - cooperation between different rural areas from at least two Member States;
Covers at least one LAG selected under the Leader axis and additional partners could include other local groups using similar participatory approach. It is also possible to extend this cooperation to groups in third countries following a similar approach.

Cooperation with third countries

Conditions:

- *The partner from a third country could be*
 - = a public private partnership,
 - = a local group active in rural development having the capacity to draw up a development strategy,
 - = a open and wide partnership in which participation of local actors is encouraged (from various socio-economic sectors, including associations),
 - = the group should strive to work on a network basis

Ireland: USA, Canada

Italy: Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Canada, Georgia, Syria,
Turkey

Spain: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala

Portugal: Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Morocco,
Mozambique, Uruguay

France: Morocco, Tunisia

Austria, Germany, Greece: Switzerland

United Kingdom: FYROM, Russia

3. Why cooperate?

- Tangible results of cooperation on the development of local areas
- 'Soft benefits' of cooperation
- Direct economic impact of cooperation
- Tangible results of cooperation on networking, evaluation

- Strengthening of territorial strategy and local partnerships: TNC projects help to meet the needs and challenges addressed in the strategies of the cooperating areas
- Reaching critical mass: pooling resources and expertise, the total benefits are much greater than the sum of individual achievements (1+1=11)
- Improving competitiveness: finding new business partners & positioning on new markets help the promotion of local products and the area of their origin
- Supporting work and promoting innovation through new skills: adopt improved operational approaches, generate knock-on socio-economic and/or environmental benefits.
- Developing territorial identity and raising awareness: help local people discover their area and history (thereby becoming true 'ambassadors' of their areas).

'Soft benefits' of cooperation

Other results of cooperation on social capital and administrative procedures:

- Strengthening social capital:

- Broadening one's mind by considering differences as a source for enrichment – discovering different ways of thinking, acting and solving similar issues
- Developing European citizenship and sense of identity - identify and present the local area's place within Europe;
- Acquisition of new skills - gaining new know-how about specific development methodologies or techniques;

- Technical and management capacities

- Cooperation enables to compare methods and learn about other functioning of RDP's

Direct economic impact of cooperation

Cooperation is also about economic output...

- **Further financing for the partners**
- **Better access to employment for some actors**
- **Direct economic return :**
 - consolidation of existing markets
 - developing new markets
 - reaching a critical mass and making economies of scale
- **Local competition → positive collaboration**

Tangible results of cooperation on networking, evaluation

- **Networking:**

Coop. is a tool to build links between people, actors and areas

Cooperation approach of networking occurs for different reasons:

- on specific themes
- to overcome administrative or geographic barriers
- to defend common interest or similar issues

- **Evaluation:**

Coop. is a tool contributing to the evaluation of local projects and local strategies

4. What is a good cooperation project?

- What is a good cooperation project?
- Factors for a successful cooperation
- Cooperation step by step

What is a good cooperation project?

- **Following a territorial approach** which ensures relevance and added value.
- **Having a strong and clear project idea** which contributes to the realisation of the objective(s) of the local development strategy
- **Going beyond simple exchanges** by including common actions which create tangible results
- **Planning properly for human resources**
- **Building a strong partnership**

Factors for a successful cooperation

- Quality of the relation between actors needs time
- Step by step approach
- Cooperation should build on common issue
- Early involvement of local decision makers

1 . Getting ready to start

- Make local stakeholders interested in cooperation;
- Create a local 'cooperation think tank'; and
- Identify cooperation ideas.

2. Preparing a cooperation project

- Finding transnational partner(s);
- Meeting your partner(s) and agreeing to cooperate;
- Preparing a transnational cooperation application for funding;
- Preparing a project monitoring framework
- Negotiating the financial aspects of a cooperation project;
- Bringing together the required resources (knowledge and technical); and
- Getting the financial, legal and administrative structures right



3. Implementing the project

Ensure:

- Cooperation partnership organised (action plan accepted)
- Partnership formalised (validated/shared common goals)
- Cooperation partnership animated (guide and move project forward)

4. Evaluation and valorisation

- Monitoring (agree and use target indicators) and evaluation
- Capitalisation and dissemination of results of the cooperation project (so everybody can benefit from the experiences of others)

5. Cooperation and networking

- Cooperation and Networking
- European Network for Rural Development
- The National Rural Networks



Widening the perspective ...

Networking helps:

- Finding suitable partners
- Strengthening individuals
- Rural actors and areas to participate actively in the future of Europe

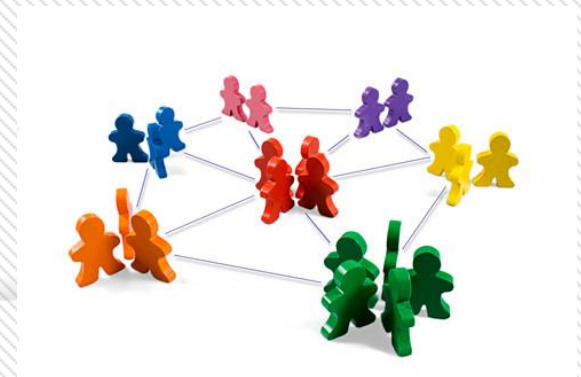
Networking is giving space for...

...not being obliged to reinvent the wheel again and again

...distributing ideas, innovations and information

...making topics transparent

...building interfaces



Article 67 of Regulation 1698/2005 establishes a *European Network for Rural Development* for the networking of national networks, organisations and administrations active in the field of rural development.

Aims:

- To collect, analyse and disseminate information on RD measures;
- To consolidate good rural development practice
- To provide information on developments in rural areas;
- To organise meetings and seminars;
- To set-up and run rural expert networks (notably for evaluation);
- To support the **national networks and transnational co-operation initiatives**.

As part of the EU rural development policy for 2007-2013, each MS shall establish a national rural network, which groups the organisations and administrations involved in rural development.

Their action plan shall contain at least:

- the identification and analysis of **good transferable practices** and the provision of information about them,
- **network management**,
- the organisation of **exchange of experience** and know-how,
- the preparation of **training programmes** for LAGs in the process of formation,
- and technical assistance for **inter-territorial and transnational cooperation**.

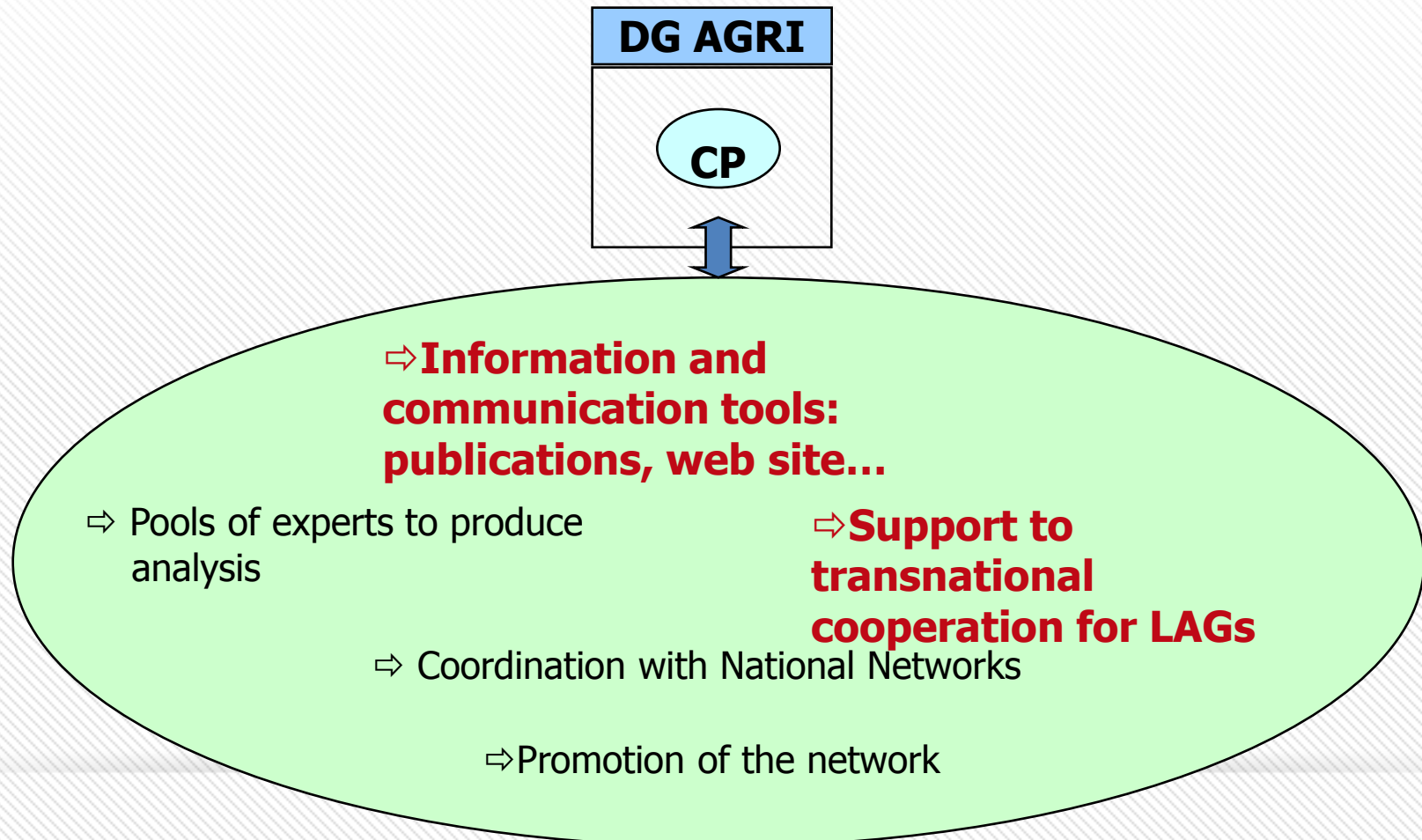
(1) Regulation 1698/2005 Article 68

6. The Contact Point of the European Network for Rural Development 2007-2013 and its tools to support cooperation

- ENRD Contact Point /CP services and tools
- Support to cooperation through the European and National Rural Development Networks
- How to find examples of Leader transnational projects

ENRD Contact Point

CP is the operational instrument of the network.



Support to cooperation through the European and National Rural Development Networks

- Development of an *'Integrated European Cooperation guide'*
- Databases: LAG DB, Approved TNC Projects, Partner Search Tool
- Events
- Direct support: Technical assistance in the design and implementation of projects (to some extent)

ENRD Contact Point: cooperation@enrd.eu

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/enrd/>

(dynamic website with tools under development)

Polish Rural Development Network:

Website: <http://www.minrol.gov.pl/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabOrgId=1469&LangId=0>

Currently only examples from the previous programming period:

- Leader+ database of transnational cooperation projects
- Leader+ database of Best Practice
- Publications of the Leader+ Observatory (Magazine and „Best practice“ publications: <http://ec.europa.eu/leaderplus>)

Copies of the publications can be ordered for free via

AGRI-LEADERPLUS-PUBLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu

For further information:

- ENRD:
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>
- DG AGRI – Rural Development:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm
- Summaries of legislation – Rural Development:
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l60032.htm>
- Conference on Rural Development, Cyprus, 2008:
<http://www.aimgroup.eu/2008/cyprusagri/index.html>
- European Evaluation Network for Rural Development:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/eval/network/whatwedo_en.htm



European Commission
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

*Thank you for your
attention!*



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