

**"Capacity building for national rural networks"**  
**The challenges of national rural networks to efficiently support the implementation of EU rural development policy**

Proposed Date: **30-31 March 2009** in Centre Borschette, Brussels, Belgium

**Draft Programme \***

**08:30 Registration**

**Chairman: John Lougheed**, DG AGRI, European Commission

**09:30 Welcoming address**

- **Mariann Fischer Boel**, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

**09:45 Keys of success of networking: existing concepts and instruments: theoretical and practical dimensions**

- **Harald Katzmaier** (Expert for social network analysis, FAS research)

<b>10:15 – 13:00: National rural networks (NRN): what major challenges?</b>
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**10:15 Overview of set up of national and regional networks and first identification of challenges<sup>1</sup>:**

- the Contact Point

**10:40 Coffee break**

**11:00 How to build a strategy? What instrument to support the strategy?**

- **Michel Ehrardt** (Deputy Head of the Sub-Direction for Rural Development and Horses, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, France)
- **Jan Swoboda** (Head of National Rural Network, Germany)

**11:30 How to find the right synergies and establishing interlinks at regional and national levels as well as at EU level?**

- **André Marcon**, President of Euromontana
- Representative from a regional network

**12:00 European Network for Rural Development: expectations for national rural networks and support to be delivered**

- **José Manuel Sousa Uva**, Director, DG AGRI, European Commission

**12:25 Discussion**

**13:00 Lunch buffet** offered by the European Commission

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\* Please note that the participation of some speakers still has to be formally confirmed!

**Parallel workshops: 14:30 – 17:30 (including coffee break at 16.00 – 16.15).**

<p><b>14:30 Group A</b>  <b>Strategic framework for national rural networks</b></p> <p><b>Topics covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Strategic planning, definition of objectives</li> <li>o Network strategies and grouping stakeholders: meeting the expectations of a variety of interests</li> <li>o Thematic priorities of national networks</li> </ul>	<p><b>14:30 Group B</b>  <b>Efficient tools and interlinks between networks</b></p> <p><b>Topics covered:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Setting up efficient tools targeting the real information needs</li> <li>o Boosting innovation, Human Resources aspects</li> <li>o Coordination with existing networks at EU and national levels</li> <li>o Evaluation, information from evaluations, coordination with Evaluation network</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 moderators:</b>  <b>Part 1: Csaba Forgács</b> (Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary)  <b>Part 2: Franco Mantino</b> (INEA – Italian Network)</p> <p><b>Rapporteurs:</b>  <b>Paul Keating</b> (NRN, Ireland)  <b>Maria-Christina Makrandreou</b> (NRN, Greece)</p>	<p><b>2 moderators:</b>  <b>Part 1: Gerard Peltre</b>, President R.E.D.  <b>Part 2: Urszula Budzich-Szukala</b>, (PREPARE network)</p> <p><b>Rapporteurs:</b>  <b>Marga de Jong</b> (NRN, the Netherlands)  <b>Juha-Matti Markkola</b> (NRN, Finland)</p>
<p><b>Presentations by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Henk Kieft</b>, NRN, the Netherlands</li> <li>o <b>Maria Gustafsson</b>, NRN, Sweden</li> <li>o <b>Camillo Zaccarini Bonelli</b> NRN, Italy</li> <li>o DG AGRI, European Commission</li> </ul>	<p><b>Presentations by:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Severine Bressaud</b> (the Contact Point)</li> <li>2. <b>Ivo Tartaglia</b> (consultant, LAG manager and coordinator of a TNC project involving many partners (ELREN), Italy).</li> <li>3. A representative of <b>COPA-COGECA</b></li> <li>4. DG AGRI, European Commission</li> </ol>
Room: Plenary Room	Room: Workshop Room

**17:30 End of day one**

**Date 31 March - day two –plenary session**

**Chairman: Pavel Sekac**, Director General, Rural Development Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic

**9:30 Reports of the workshops from day one, followed by a questions & answers session**

- o **Paul Keating** (NRN, Ireland)
- o **Marga de Jong** (NRN, the Netherlands)

**10:30 Coffee break**

**10:45 Round table: Networking to achieve a better integration of rural development policy**

- o Moderator:  
  - o **Liisa Häme** (networking expert, Leader+/other networks (PREPARE), Finland)
- o Panellists: **Harald Katzmair** (expert for network analysis, FAS Research), **DG Agri**, Head of Unit, Rob Peters, **Paul Keating** (rapporteur), **Marga de Jong** (rapporteur), **Miguel Afan de Ribeira**, chairman of the Advisory Group on Rural Development, **Olivier Dulucq** – (UNADEL - French local development network)

**11:45 Discussion**

**12:30 Concluding remarks**

- o **Loretta Dormal Marino**, Deputy Director General, DG AGRI, European Commission