



# RUR@L

Dec-Jan **EN** 2010-2011

## EN RD Newsletter

# NEWS

### EN RD REPORT

#### **New Task Force on Roma Integration**

On 7 September, 2010, the European Commission established a Roma Task Force (RTF) to assess Member States' use of EU funds for Roma integration and to identify ways to improve the funds' effectiveness. The RTF will analyse the follow-up given by Member States to the Commission's Communication of 7 April, 2010, which called for concrete programmes to help Roma integration. [Click here.](#)

#### **RDP Monitoring Indicators**

The EN RD website now hosts a new section, dedicated to the RDP Monitoring Indicators – the basic data through which RDP progress is assessed. It includes snapshots of the state of implementation of the EU 2007-2013 Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) based on financial data and the indicators submitted by the Managing Authorities, along with the annual progress reports. Figures are provided, up to and including, 2009 (financial data only) for all 27 Member States. However, updates are ongoing and will be made available by the end of the year. [Click here.](#)

#### **French Overseas Departments visit EN RD Contact Point**

The EN RD Contact Point welcomed visitors from the French Overseas Departments (Guyane, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Réunion) on Monday, December 13. The representatives were interested in information on Leader implementation in the Member States, lessons learnt from previous experiences and expectations, as regards the development of Leader in the next programming round. The EN RD CP also took the opportunity to share with the group the various activities and tools used by the EN RD to support networking of Local Action Groups (LAGs) and promote transnational cooperation (TNC).

*Best Wishes for the Festive Season from all at the EN RD!*

### POLICY BRIEF

#### **EN RD REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

As we near the end of another busy year, we take a look back at what the EN RD accomplished in 2010. . .

With 2010 came a new slogan... 'Connecting Rural Europe' and this year certainly saw the growth of the EN RD as a practical mechanism, which bridges the gap between EU institutions and rural development stakeholders across Europe. Indeed, the EN RD played a pivotal role in many aspects of rural development policy advancement this year, including its engagement in the CAP debate post 2013 - with over 5500 contributions received. This year also saw the launch of a new Thematic Working Group on the delivery mechanisms (TWG4) to identify the main bottlenecks in the implementation of Rural Development Programmes (RDPs), so as to ensure these programmes are used more efficiently in the future. "It is early days but the process of engagement has really grown in 2010, involving all NRNs, many LAGs and a range of European and Member State representative bodies," said Adrian Neal, of the EN RD Contact Point in Brussels. Of course, effective communication is the key to effective networking, and the gradual expansion and enhancement of the EN RD website has been crucial in this regard. Work is ongoing, but clearly the website is already a valuable tool for all EN RD stakeholders, as it includes summary information on rural development institutions, structures,

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Adrian Neal,  
EN RD Contact Point, Brussels



programmes and measures at Member State level. The range and depth of information and analysis available is immense and with the redesign of our home-page, this information is now easier to access. Ways in which EAFRD funding helps to revitalise rural economies was the focal point for the development of the RDP Projects Database, due to go live in early 2011. This process involves the collection and dissemination of relevant examples across Europe. July saw the launch of the 'My EN RD' dynamic tool, and we look forward to engaging more with you on this next year, to ensure this tool supports all your networking needs. From Malta to Romania, the EN RD was represented at an array of events and fairs across the EU in 2010 and we look forward to meeting you at next year's events...And one final thing, look out for yourselves in our new media gallery which will continue to feature photos and videos of all EN RD related activity for the coming year...In the meantime, we wish you all a very merry Christmas, and much happy networking in 2011!

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



- The brochure on 'Public goods and public intervention in agriculture' has been published, [click here](#).
- Documentation on the EN RD Coordination Committee meeting held on December 9, is [available here](#).
- Issue 6 of the EN RD magazine 'Rural Review' on Employment and Social Inclusion has been published online. [Click here](#);
- A new IPARD (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance for Rural Development) discussion group has been launched on My EN RD; for further information, contact [myenrd@enrd.eu](mailto:myenrd@enrd.eu);

## Seminar Highlights Links between Public Goods and Agriculture

On December 10, 2010, a seminar on "Public goods and Public Intervention in Agriculture" took place in Brussels, in the presence of a wide range of stakeholders at European level. The seminar, organised by the ENRD and chaired by DG AGRI, came at the conclusion of the work of the EN RD Thematic Working Group 3 (TWG3) on "Public goods and public intervention", whose activities were launched in early 2009. The main objective of the event was to present the outcomes of the work of TWG3 to a larger group of stakeholders, and to clarify the concept of public goods to a wider audience. In the presence of the Managing Authorities of the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs), NRNs, National Ministries of Environment, NGOs and European organisations, as well as experts active in TWGs, the seminar sought to demonstrate that the conceptual framework of public goods in agriculture can provide a common ground for discussions, on the CAP and rural development policy generally. An opening presentation by David Baldock, from the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP),

introduced the concept of public goods and the role of agriculture in their provision. Examples of this and the multi-faceted processes through which it can be realised, were presented. Based on the work of the ENRD's TWG2 on 'Agriculture and the wider rural economy', linkages between agriculture, public goods and the wider rural economy were described. Practical examples of EAFRD funded initiatives were illustrated, which showed that even when interventions are focused on the generation of economic benefits, environmental and social public goods can be generated. Initiatives aimed at promoting a healthy and attractive environment were also shown to help generate economic benefits and – more widely – 'rural vitality'. The insights provided by the interventions were acknowledged as "food for thought" for panelists and the wider audience, who engaged in an open debate on policy implications, and the links between public goods and agriculture. The proceedings of the seminar are available [here](#).



## COUNTRY FOCUS

 **Hungary** Size: 93 030 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 10 million

Approximately 83% of Hungary's territory is classified as rural, and more than half of its land area is under agricultural use, leading to the production of high quality agricultural products. However, employment in agriculture has decreased in the last decade and rural employment prospects generally are limited. About one fifth of the country's territory is covered by forests. Hungary's rural areas contain many natural resources and are rich in biodiversity. However, the quality of some habitats requires strengthened and increased uptake of sustainable agricultural practices. This would also improve opportunities for developing quality-based and regionally-specific rural products. The New Hungary Rural Development Programme (NHRDP) aims to address these issues, by increasing competitiveness through investments in technology and innovation. It also aims to preserve areas with high nature value (HNV) and promote environmental farm practices. [Click here](#) for more information on Hungary's RDP.




## NRN FOCUS

### Czech Conference on Rural Development after 2013

Some 330 participants attended the conference 'Rural Development after 2013', held in Lázně Bělohrad, Czech Republic from 23-25 November, 2010. The annual conference was co-organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Agrarian Chambers and the National LAG Network. At the conference, rural stakeholders from across the EU discussed visions for the future programming period, and ways to develop a common approach for rural development, after 2013. Speakers from the EN RD Contact Point and representatives from Finland were invited, and the event also included the participation of candidate countries such as Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. [Click here](#).

### Conference on Policy Approaches for Rural Areas in the South West of France

A conference on 'New approaches to rural areas; new public policies' took place on 16-17 December, 2010, in Agen, in the South West of France. This event was organised by the French NRN. Around 600 rural stakeholders were in attendance, to exchange views on recent changes to rural policies, highlight good practices and formulate proposals for future national and European policies. The EN RD Contact Point was in attendance to contribute to forums and present information on NRN thematic initiatives and transnational cooperation (TNC), as well as general Q&A sessions on the EN RD. [Click here](#).

### Successful European Rural Days in Namur and Turnhout

Over 160 people attended the European Rural Days event, organised by the Walloon and Dutch Rural Networks, on November 18-19. Visitors included local stakeholders and representatives from all across Europe - from Ireland to Cyprus. The first day, in Namur, highlighted ways in which multifunctional agriculture and forestry enterprises contribute to environmental public goods and the preservation of rural eco-systems. The second day, in Turnhout, showed how public/private cooperation contributes to regional enterprise development. [Click here](#).