



## **European Network for Rural Development**

### **17<sup>th</sup> NRN Meeting**

14-15 March 2013

Åre, Sweden

Venue: Åre Continental Inn

Funded by the



**ENRD** *Connecting Rural Europe*  
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

Dear NRN colleagues,

In keeping with most other activities organised by the Swedish network support unit (NSU), the 17<sup>th</sup> NRN meeting in Åre promises to be both interesting and innovative!

A two day meeting (14-15 March) is planned to combine the main business of the NRN meeting with the second 'module' of our pilot NSU Training Programme. As we have already communicated, the ENRD Contact Point is currently organising a pilot training programme for NSUs. The first module takes place in Budapest on 19 - 20 February 2013 (kindly hosted by the Hungarian NRN), and the second module will be in Sweden.

The overall objective of these pilot modules is to bring national and regional NSU representatives together to participate in a structured and facilitated process of "peer-to-peer learning and exchange" – in other words, learning from each other. If this process is assessed by you (the participants) to be successful, more peer-to-peer training activities will be organised using a variety of training formats.

Please see our previous e-mails for full details. There is also a MyENRD Forum:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/myenrd/myenrd/thematic-e-network/forum/?action=viewtopic&FORUMID=49>

A total of 34 people from 17 networks registered for module 1. This is a clear indication of the relevance of our pilot NSU Training Programme and we look forward to further building-up the process of peer-to-peer learning and exchange in Sweden.

We are actually rather excited by module 2 of the training programme since our Swedish colleagues will be introducing us to a new participatory discussion technique called the 'RICA' - Research, Ideas, Concepts and Action – method.

This method has been extensively used by the Swedish NSU to engage a broad range of stakeholders in building creative solutions to various important rural development challenges identified through the Swedish rural network. You can read more about the RICA process here: [www.rika.se](http://www.rika.se). In order to make optimum use of the time available in Sweden, you will need to prepare some materials in advance of the training day - we will be in touch again soon about this.

The draft programme for the 2 day meeting is included on the following pages. Further details will follow - we look forward to seeing you in Sweden.

All the best,

Networking and LEADER Team  
**ENRD Contact Point**

## Draft Programme

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March Arrival of Participants

20:00 - Welcome drink hosted by Swedish NRN at Hotel Åre Continental Inn

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March Module 2 of Pilot Training Programme

#### Morning session

8:30 – 13:00

Welcome and introduction

- Hello and Check-in – “who we are, why we are here and what do we expect?”
- Introduction to the Pilot Training Programme – why peer-to-peer?
- Practical information about Module 2

#### Training Topic: Introducing and Practicing the RICA Methodology

- Introduction to the RICA Methodology – Research, Ideas, Concepts and Action (Swedish NSU)

The process will be used to find some common answers and concepts to meet the challenge on **how to better involve relevant stakeholders in rural networking**. This will give all participants possibilities to bring forward their own methods but also imagination for better approaches.

- Practicing the RICA Method

#### Afternoon session

14:00 – 17:30

- Practicing the RICA Method (Continued)
- Group discussion about the method
- Reflection on key learning points from the process

#### Evening

Networking Dinner

- End of Day 1 -

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March NRN Meeting

Half a day Meeting

Exchange between NRNs on involvement in the consultation and programming process for the preparation of the Partnership Contract and RD Programmes.

8:30 - 13:00

Guidance on “Networks and Networking” for NRNs and Managing Authorities

- The NRN Toolkit
- Demonstrating the added value of networking

The Youth Initiative - Presentations and discussion on various initiatives by ENRD and other Networks

Other NRN Activities

- Presentation by the French NRN on the findings of the NRN survey on Short Food Supply Chains
- 3rd LEADER Event – NRN support and follow up actions
- 18th NRN meeting/3rd NRN training module - Portugal
- Other NRN initiatives

Check-out and Farewell

## Optional Field Trips - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March (Afternoon, 2-3 hours)

Afternoon Visit Fjällbete AB , a local initiative for meat and milk and open landscape supported through local funding:

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=sv&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=sv&ie=UTF-8&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Ffjallbete.se%2F>

Please note that there will be a small charge that participants have to cover. Further details are provided in the separate *Field Trip file*.