

Added Value of Networking

Success Story

Success Story title *Consultation Day: "The countryside after 2013: what are our aims?"*

Theme *Network communications; Knowledge exchange; Cooperation*

NRN *BE-Flanders* Coordinator *Flemish Rural Network*

Period *7 February 2012* Resources *Approx. €65,000*

Geo-location *Brussels*

Beneficiaries *All actors of the Flemish countryside (municipalities, farmers, nature foundations, ...)*

Background

At the start of the preparation of the next Flemish Rural Development Program (RDP) (2014 – 2020), the Flemish Rural Network has united all key rural development actors in the Flemish countryside to give all these people the chance to share their ideas on the next RDP and the role of agriculture, nature, supply chains and the countryside in this program. The current known European framework and the six European priorities formed the basis for the debate. The opportunities and chances for Flanders were discussed. The results of these discussions will form the basis of a report that can be used in the preparation of the next Flemish RDP.

Main activities

The Flemish Rural Network prepared a document explaining the European framework and the six European priorities, as published in January 2012. This document was sent in advance to all participants invited to the Consultation Day.

The Consultation Day took place in Brussels. At the start of this day the European framework and the six European priorities were explained. After this short plenary session, the group was divided in smaller groups, to encourage discussion between the participants. First, these small groups examined the fit of the European framework with the Flemish situation. The participants also had the opportunity to identify other priorities. In the second round the groups had to divide an amount of money between the European priorities. This is a way to let the participants decide which priorities are more important to them than others.

After lunch the participants were again divided in smaller groups. There were two groups for each of the six priorities, twelve groups in total. In these workshops the participants had to identify actions/measures for one specific priority. A few of these actions/measures were concretized in the workshops. This round was held twice in the afternoon, to give all participants the opportunity to work on two of the six European priorities.

At the end of the day there was a plenary session where the participants shared their findings and concerns.

Main results/benefits

The Flemish Rural Network is now making a report of this Consultation Day with the results of all the different groups. This report will be published and sent to all the participants. The report will also be an important tool for the preparation of the next Flemish RDP.



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development



European Network for
Rural Development

Contribution of the NSU

All members of the NSU are involved in this activity

Success factors

All actors of the Flemish countryside were invited and were represented at the Consultation Day. Some participants had different or even opposite views, so now we have an overview of the opinions of all different actors. Everybody could share his/her views, and the participants could explain to each other why a certain priority is very important or not important for them. That made this Consultation Day a real success.

Additional information

A report of the Consultation Day is available in Dutch on the website of the Flemish Rural Network:
<http://www.ruraalnetwerk.be/activiteitenverslagen/activiteiten-vlaams-ruraal-netwerk/verslag-consultatiedag-%E2%80%98platteland-na-2013>

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