

FOR A BETTER POLICY DELIVERY

The findings of the working group have been synthesised in a final report which includes a summary of the case studies by topic, a number of positive delivery practices put in place across the EU and, conclusions which identify six possible areas for improvements in the delivery of the EU rural development policy, namely:

1. Sharpening the focus on policy goals and strengthening coherence through the delivery chain.
2. Offering fewer, simpler measures and more flexibility in their use.
3. Devising and implementing specific conditions for Leader.
4. Improving implementation rules (including applications and controls).
5. Further enhancing Monitoring and Evaluation as a support tool for making and implementing policy.
6. Improving coordination and exchange of information.

The results and the conclusions of the TWG were discussed at the ENRD seminar "Improving the delivery of the EU rural development programmes" which took place in Brussels on the 9 December 2011.



For further information:
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>



European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)

Contact Point:

Rue du Marteau, 81
B - 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 235 20 20
Fax: +32 2 280 04 38
E-mail: info@enrd.eu
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/>



Photo : © Contact Point

ISBN: 78-92-79-23533-7

doi:10.2762/36981

ISBN 978-92-79-23533-7



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K3-31-12-591-EN-N

IMPLEMENTING EU RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Thematic Working Group (TWG) 4 on
**Delivery mechanisms
of EU rural development
programmes**



ENRD THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Rural development is a wide and complex topic with many different themes and areas of interest. In order to increase knowledge and ensure greater effectiveness in the current and future delivery of EU rural development policy, “working groups” of experts have been established within the ENRD. They present a detailed analysis of relevant themes, with a strong Europe-wide dimension.



DELIVERY MECHANISMS OF EU RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The European Union rural development policy is implemented jointly by the Commission and the Member States. The Commission is responsible for approving the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs), as well as for ensuring sound financial management of the Community funds. Member States define the national legal and administrative procedures in order to ensure the correct use of the EU budget they dispose. The day-to-day implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the national authorities. The implementation of RDPs can be further delegated to regional or sub-regional levels. The management and the delivery of rural development policy therefore occur at different levels and exhibit a high degree of variability between countries. **Delivery mechanisms may be considered as the set of processes and procedures which ensure that policy objectives become concrete actions on-the-ground.**

THEMATIC WORKING GROUP 4 OVERVIEW

The fourth thematic working group of the ENRD was formally launched in February 2010 in order to look at how EU Member states and Regions implemented their rural development programmes (RDPs). Under the guidance of the Commission (Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development - DG AGRI) and the participation of national experts, the group aimed at: assessing what worked well and less well in the delivery of the 2007-2013 EU rural development programmes; identifying common issues and the ways in which they have been overcome and; suggesting possible further improvements. Based on an analysis of 12 case studies at national and regional level, the group looked into how delivery of the RDPs was put in place through the following stages:

- the definition of the strategic approach including targeting;
- the programming process and financial aspects;
- implementation procedures and organisational set up (including specific aspects as: Leader, monitoring and evaluation, controls);
- the functioning of the partnership principle;
- ensuring complementarity and coordination with other EU policies.

