



Outcomes: 10th Coordination Committee meeting

Minutes

6th December 2012



Connecting Rural Europe

10th Coordination Committee Meeting, Brussels, 6 December 2012

Agenda Item	<p>Welcome and short introduction, <i>Rob Peters, Head of Unit 'European Network and monitoring of rural development policy', DG AGRI</i></p> <p>The agenda of 10th CC meeting was dedicated to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation and discussion of the major ENRD activities in 2013. - Launch of a new thematic activity on youth in rural areas.
Agenda Item	<p>ENRD in 2013: further activities, planning for the year 2013, <i>Riin Saluveer, DG AGRI</i></p>
Presentation Link:	<p>Planned activities and indicative calendar for 2013</p> <p>The indicative calendar for ENRD activities for 2013 was presented to the CC members, with particular focus on the main working meetings and events envisaged for the first half of the year (January – June).</p> <p>Participants were invited to provide comments and suggestions.</p>
Discussion points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the constraints generated by the economic crisis, the access to and the availability of public funds might become more difficult. The ENRD can take into account this issue by collecting best practices on the combined use of public and private funds and to explore the possibilities offered by the legal framework to promote the establishment of public-private partnerships. This could be considered as follow-up of the work previously carried out on the use of financial instruments and the related ENRD workshop held in October 2012. • Autumn 2013 has been indicated as the right time to look in more depth at how to make use of evaluation results in the RDPs. One of the two workshops planned for the second half of 2013 could be dedicated to this topic. The basis for discussion could be provided by the analysis of past experiences. • Participants stressed the need to keep the Leader Sub-Committee meeting in the first half of 2013. It was clarified that even not explicitly appearing in the calendar the intention would be to link the LSC meeting with another ENRD event.
Agenda Item	<p>Introducing a new thematic initiative on 'Youth', <i>Mara Lai ENRD Contact Point</i></p>
Presentation link:	<p>With the aim of launching a new ENRD thematic initiative on the theme of youth in rural areas, the ENRD CP illustrated the rationale behind the proposed activities, objectives and expected results, envisaged target groups and first steps to be taken.</p> <p>In setting the context for the initiative, reference was made to the recent</p>

package of measures proposed by the Commission to support youth employment, released on the 5th December.

The presentation also provided information about youth projects, namely:

- A video from the NRN collaborative initiative on young farmers "*Young & farmers around Europe*" (<http://youngandfarmer.blogspot.be/>) about the process undertaken by a Greek young farmer to start a farm company in the snail production sector.
- A fundraising project under LEADER, in which rural youngsters from the Village of Urk (NL) created a recreational and educational centre supported by the LEADER fund and active fundraising activity in the area. The project was presented by *Pieter Brands* (member of the Board of the youth organisation "De Rots") and a video was also included in the presentation.

Discussion points

Participants generally welcomed the proposed initiative. Representatives from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, UK and from organisations such as CEJA, ELARD and PREPARE, expressed their interest in being involved in the activities.

The main points addressed during the discussion were that:

A number of experiences and research activities on rural youth and young farmers have been conducted (or are on-going) at MS level, whose findings could be relevant for the future work under the proposed initiative:

- In the Netherlands a project to make young people aware about the concept of food quality, called "Youth and food", has been carried out. Food quality could also be proposed as a topic to be explored within the thematic initiative.
- The Finnish youth association together with a research institute is about to start a youth project on how young people in rural areas think about their future.
- The Swedish NRN recently published a report on rural youth.
- In Austria a work has been carried out together with the NRN in order to explore how youth can be supported in future programmes.
- In Poland the NRN already established a thematic working group dedicated to the youth theme. The topic is also jointly tackled by the MS involved in the Baltic Sea Strategy.
- The French experience with the involvement of youth at regional level has indicated that young people are interested in contributing to such initiatives and being involved at the wider EU level.
- The experience from ELARD is that young people are often active participants in LEADER projects and LAGs have proved to be useful tools

to involve youngsters.

The initiative should also look beyond rural development policy and take into consideration support provided by other programmes where youth is already (or can be) included as target group.

- In considering other youth-related EU policies, attention should be paid to the *Youth in Action* programme, which has proved to be effective in involving youth in rural areas, especially in LEADER projects.
- Multi-fund approach and coordination between different policies should be explored.
- Synergy with and involvement of other DGs in the proposed initiative was recommended.

To define the target groups and how to reach them is a priority to ensure the goal of the initiative is met.

- It is necessary to define which categories of young people are going to take part in this initiative and how their participation can be encouraged.
- The involvement of young people under 25 should be ensured. Young people from different sectors and from grass roots organisations should also be engaged.
- In terms of how to interact with and engage young people, NRNs can play an important role and could adopt an innovative approach by using social media and new tools.

Action points

All the members of the Coordination Committee will be informed about further developments of the agenda for the proposed initiative and first steps. They will be invited to be active participants in the initiative - also according to the interest expressed during the meeting – and to indicate other possible interested stakeholders at national level (e.g. young people and youth representatives).