

CC-Focus group « Delivery of environmental services » [immediate launch]

Possible issues:

- What are the main approaches and measures to support the delivery of environmental services under the RDPs? What worked well and what worked less well?
- How can future RDPs best contribute to restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems? To promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy and climate resilient economy?
- How can environmental and climate concerns be integrated throughout RDPs as a cross-cutting priority?
- How can the approach of collective contracts enable better achievement of environmental outcomes throughout the territory? And how such approach can be best implemented in the framework of rural development.

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Possible inputs:

- Outcomes of TWG3 « Public goods and public intervention »
- Case studies of the TWG4 « Delivery mechanisms of European rural development policy » on the agri-environmental measures.
- First results from the mid-term evaluations
- Special report of the Court of Auditors on « Is agri-environment support well designed and managed? » (2011)

CC-Focus group « Knowledge transfer and innovation » (KT&I) [Launch in June-July 2012]

Possible issues:

- What role does KT&I play in the current National Strategy Plans?
- What measures have been used so far to support KT&I in the rural development programmes*? What worked well? What worked less well? What are the bottlenecks?
- What are the existing links between the scientific community, farmers and other rural actors? What is the role of the Farm Advisory Services?
- What are the needs in terms of cooperation between actors?
- For the next programming period, KT&I is proposed as cross-cutting priority. What would this imply in terms of programme design?
- How can the « European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability » effectively promote KT&I in RDPs?
- What role can rural networks and advisory services play (e.g. in facilitating the emergence of operational groups?)

^{* (}e.g. 111 – Vocational training and information actions; 114 – Use of advisory services; 115 – Setting up of management, relief and advisory services; 124 – Cooperation for development of new products; etc...)

CC-Focus group « Knowledge transfer and innovation » (KT&I)

- Possible input:
- Finnish NRN proposal presented at the 13th NRN meeting: A book on "Innovative Rural Europe – Best Practices and New Insights across European Rural Regions"
- Implementation of the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability'
- DG AGRI assessment of the cooperation measure
- IN-SIGHT FP6 research project: Strengthening Innovation Processes for Growth and Development final report FP6-2005-SSA-5A
- SCAR 3rd Foresight Report and results of SCAR working group on AKIS

CC-Focus group

General organisation

- Flexible format: open to all CC members and other participants designated by CC members – but no reimbursement.
- Chair/ lead: from CC organisations (can be 2 or 3). Refine topics, define scope and work plan, ensure reporting to CC.
- Contribution of participants: contribute to definition of scope and work plan; ensure provision of relevant and useful information / case studies / practical experience.
- Support of Contact Point : secretariat + expert support.
- <u>DG AGRI</u>: content support.

Calendar of events – Proposals of workshops

(Year 4 – Year 5)	Committees / seminars / NRNs meetings
1-3 February 2012	NRNs meeting, Thessaloniki (indicative: regional clusters)
14 March 2012 (tbc) 15 March 2012 (tbc)	CC-workshop (Topic: Strategic programming – to be discussed) CC-Workshop (Topic: Monitoring and Evaluation of policy, jointly with Evaluation Expert Network – to be discussed)
24-25 April 2012 (tbc)	Leader event (Local development strategies and Co-operation: Key Approaches to Local Development) – Link with Leader Focus group 4
8-9 May 2012 (tbc)	NRNs meeting, Finland (tbc) (indicative: value-added of networking)
May 2012 (tbc)	Leader subcommittee, Brussels + CC-Workshop (Topic: Community led Local development – to be discussed)
June 2012 (tbc)	Enlarged Coordination committee , Brussels
July 2012	NRNs meeting, Latvia (tbc) (Indicative: Rural Enterpreneurship)
Sept / Oct 2012	CC-Workshop (Topic: Networking – to be discussed)
Sept. / Oct. 2012	NRNs meeting (Indicative: Innovation)
Sept. / Oct. 2012	CC-workshop (Topic: financial engineering – to be discussed)
November 2012	Leader subcommittee, Brussels
December 2012	Coordination committee + Wrap-up seminar "successful programming"

