



# Dissemination of Focus Groups results

5<sup>th</sup> Leader subcommittee meeting  
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*Connecting Rural Europe*



## Products and status of development (1)

- **Focus Group 1: Implementation of the bottom-up principle**
  - **Extended report** on the implementation of Leader approach
    - ↳ Completed → EN RD public website
  - **Summary of the Extended report**
    - ↳ Completed → EN RD public website
  - **Draft supplementary report** on specific issues of Leader implementation: running costs and complex & small scale projects
    - ↳ To be finalised by end November 2010
    - ↳ To be added to the above products by mid-December 2010





## Products and status of development (2)

- **Focus Group 2: Preserving the innovation/experimental character of Leader**
  - **Extended report** on preserving the innovative character of Leader
    - ↳ Completed → EN RD public website
  - **Summary of the Extended report**
    - ↳ In preparation/to be finalised by mid-December 2010 → further dissemination on EN RD public website





## Products and status of development (3)

- **Focus Group 3: Implementation of the “ccoperation” measure**
  - **Report to the LsC** of 20/05/2010 on the implementation of the cooperation measure: bottlenecks and solutions
    - ↳ Completed → EN RD public website
  - **Draft supplementary report** on common action definition, common costs and key areas for cooperation projects
    - ↳ To be finalised by end November 2010
    - ↳ To be added to the above product by mid-December 2010







#### EN RD REPORT

##### Rural Development Days at the Ploughing Championships in Ireland

Around 10,000 people made their way to County Kildare, Ireland for the National and European Ploughing Championships, from 21-23 September. The event included a series of workshops hosted by the European Commission with the assistance of the EN RD Contact Point. Rural Development projects were presented on the themes of bioenergy, business creation and development and transnational cooperation regarding energy projects. Organic farming took centre stage on September 23rd, when an entire day was devoted to the subject. [Click here](#) for further information.

(Photo above courtesy of NRRI, Ireland)

##### Ceremony for the Award of the Village Renewal Prizes

The European Village Renewal Awards Ceremony was held in San in Tauris, South Tyrol, Italy, from 23-25 September. The awards ceremony, held every two years, is organised by the European Association for Rural Development (EARD) and the EN RD Contact Point. The award promotes village renewal initiatives in Europe. This year's award was based on the theme 'New Energy for Strong Villages' and was won by the community of Langenegg in Austria, who implemented the international judging panel with a comprehensive range of integrated village development projects. The European Commission was represented at the event by Mr. Antonio Costantini, director of Rural Development Programme 8 - Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

##### New Brochure on EAFRD Funded Projects

A new brochure entitled 'The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Examples of Projects' has been published on the EN RD website. The first issue of the brochure highlights examples from the RDP Projects Database (previously known as PRD) with a focus on innovative and innovative projects which are a real material as they are inspiring. The development of the RDP Projects Database itself is proceeding step-by-step. As the EN RD collect project examples for inclusion in the database, development work is also well underway on the final database, which will be hosted on the EN RD website. [Click here](#) to download the brochure.

#### POLICY BRIEF

##### Semi Subsistence Farming Seminar Highlights Key Issues

The small farm debate has taken on special significance with the last two enlargements of 2004 and 2007, more than tripling the number of subsistence and semi-subsistence farmers to 11 million in the EU-27. As testimony to mounting interest in this area, some 140 people attended a recent seminar entitled 'Semi-subsistence farming in the EU: current situation and future prospects' in Romania, on October 13-15.

It was to assess the current situation and policies directed towards subsistence farms across the EU. "These farmers face particular challenges, as a considerable amount of their production is for self-consumption and so they are often not integrated into agricultural and/or product markets," said Sophia Davidova, Reader in European Agricultural Policy, University of Kent, who wrote the main background paper for the event. This seminar focused on the on-going debate about the role of small and semi-subsistence farms as providers of food to poor households, suppliers of environmental services, contributions to the diversification of the rural economy and guardians of cultural traditions in rural areas.

Closing the seminar, Mr. Dacian Cioloș, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, praised the value of these farms and stressed that the Common

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Dacian Cioloș, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Agricultural Policy after 2013 will support both the diversity and the performance of European agriculture. Referring to the second Pillar of the CAP, he noted that rural development programmes will give more importance to the transfer of know-how, training programmes and the mobilisation of local initiatives. Mr. Cioloș also said he envisaged the creation of packages of measures that respond to the specific needs of small farmers or farmers in mountain areas. "I am convinced that as long as small farms are in a position to market their production and contribute to maintaining landscapes and the vitality of rural areas, they must be supported," he said. [Click here](#) for more information.



## The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

### Examples of Projects brochure





**Thank you for your attention**



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