



TWG 1: Targeting territorial specificities and needs



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Objective: *Through analysis and diffusion of results contribute to an efficient targeting of territorial specificities and needs in RD programmes and to a more balanced development of rural areas across Europe*

- **Step 1:** analysis of **how MS have defined rural areas** for 2007-2013. Problems encountered and solutions found in defining and designating rural areas.
- **Step 2:** analysis of **how MS have used their definition of rural areas to territorially target RD measures**. What use was made of baseline indicators? Role of territorial targeting in ensuring complementarity with regard to other EU instruments. Type of problems encountered and solutions found.
- **Step 3:** Examination of the **feasibility of an EU level typology** of rural areas, to help better identify and target territorial specificities and needs across Europe's rural areas.



TWG 2: Agriculture and the wider rural economy



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Objective: *Through analysis and diffusion of results contribute to identification and description of the relationships and potential synergies/conflicts between, on the one hand, agriculture and, on the other hand, the wider rural economy*

- **Step 1: analysis of the link** between the agricultural sector and the rural economy in terms of in/outputs (market and non-market) and production factors. Possibility to derive a typology of regions.
- **Step 2: analysis of the factors and drivers** that have and will influence(d) this relationship over the medium-term. Key factors to create win-win situations.
- **Step 3:** what are the **policy instruments** and institutional framework set-up by Member States; problems and solutions found in defining the 2007-2013 rural development programmes.
- **Step 4:** Possibly, **guidelines** for developing synergies with examples of good practice, innovative approaches.



TWG 3: Public goods and public intervention



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

Objective: *Through analysis and diffusion of results contribute to ensuring RD interventions enhance the provision of public goods for the benefit of society*

- **Step 1:** Establishing a **common understanding** of the significance of public goods for the agricultural sector. The focus will be on implications for policy development and on understanding the relevant delivery mechanisms.
- **Step 2: Identification of public goods** delivered through agriculture in the European Union. The focus will be on presenting regionally differentiated examples of public goods delivered through agriculture and to identify examples of best practice of paying for the delivery of public goods via RD measures.



TWG 3: Public goods and public intervention



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

- **Step 3:** Analysis of the **spill-over effects of the provision of public goods** to other economic activities. The focus will be on identifying relevant examples and a quantitative assessment of the economic relevance of those spill-over effects in rural areas.
- **Step 4:** On the basis of the analytical work, conclusions on how and with which instruments the **right incentives** can be set to ensure the provision of public goods.
- **Step 5:** Based on the conclusion, a strategy will be established for facilitating the **communication on the complex issue of public goods** and its significance for agriculture and rural areas.



Round Table: “Meeting the Common Concerns”



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

- Which are the main environmental issues to be addressed by Rural Development Policies in the view of farmers, environmentalists, and regional administrations?
- Are there currently shifts in the importance and the balance concerning the different elements of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental?
- What is a reasonable balance between mandatory legal requirements (polluter pays principle) and voluntary action under Rural Development (paying for public goods). Should there be a clearer dividing line or more interaction?
- Which balance should be applied between 1st and 2nd pillar measures? Do you see a need for convergences or merging both pillars?



Round Table: “Meeting the Common Concerns”



European Commission
Agriculture and Rural Development

- Is the RD Policy sufficiently flexible to allow addressing your priorities? Which environmental issue and which delivery mechanism is missing in view of addressing priorities?
- Which problems arise with the 'adding-up' of single measures? Which importance have 'multi-purpose' measures and can they be targeted with sufficient precision? How about 'system approaches' (eco-system services)?
- In the public perception, which environmental messages concerning agriculture get across most successfully?