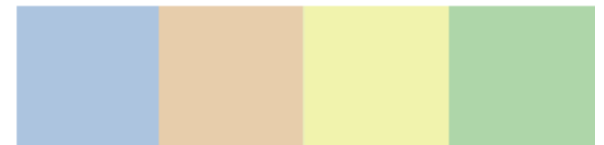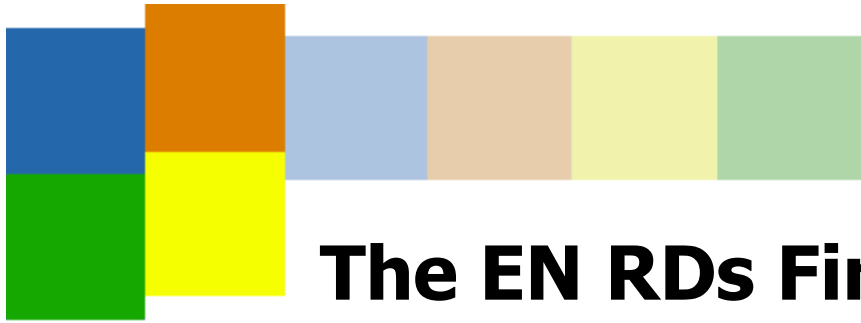# Synthesis of the morning session
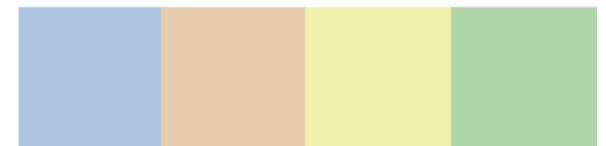
- Implications for the EN RD

Michael Gregory, EN RD, Contact Point
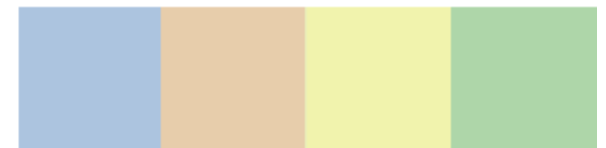Coordination committee meeting 19/05/09

The EN RDs First Year

- May be characterised by:

  - Lots of hard work…
  - the development of actions many involving both 'Brussels' and stakeholders in Member States
  - The initiation of new dimensions (particularly the TWGs)
  - The initial identification of some key issues (e.g. current complexity of RDP implementation, specific challenges for Leader…)
  - Set-up and initial conduct of communications, events, publications, website

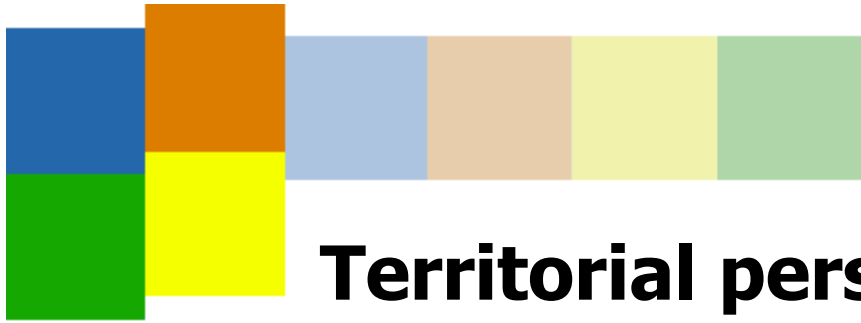- Overall as:
  - **"work-in-progress"**
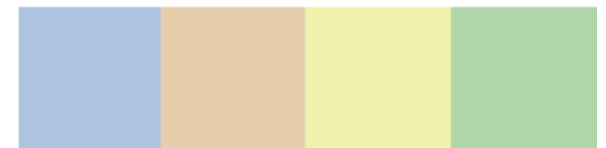
Thematic Issues and Work (overall)

- Fundamental to the work of the EN RD
- To analyse, on a practical basis, issues with a strong European dimension
- Current TWGs judged to be very relevant
- Method: 'what are we doing now', strengths and weaknesses, how can we do it better – both informing the policy debate and (where possible) policy implementation in the current programming period
- Several ideas for possible new thematic work (urban-rural / better governance : simplification, strategic approach,..)
- Information on thematic work should be as widely exchanged as possible on a regular basis

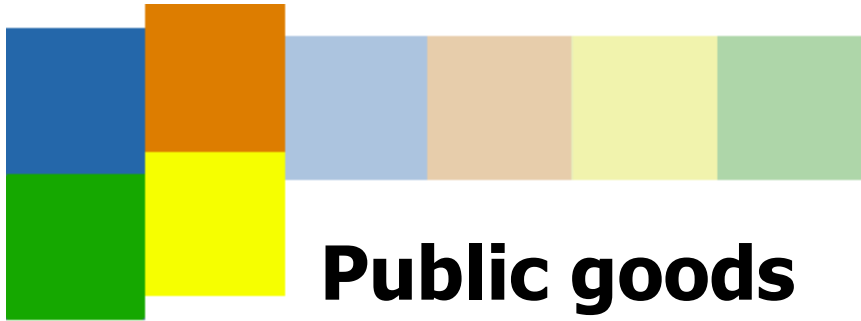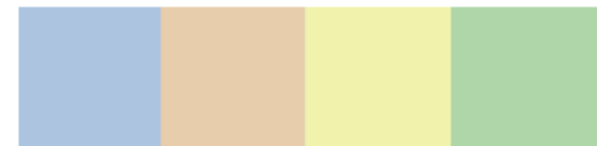European Network for Rural Development

Territorial perspective

- High importance of the territorial dimension in policy: to address economic, environmental and socio/cultural issues
- Some examples (in the current programming period) do exist of effective 'territorially based' integrated policy implementation
- Need to support the better understanding of urban:rural linkages (the concept of 'functional regions')
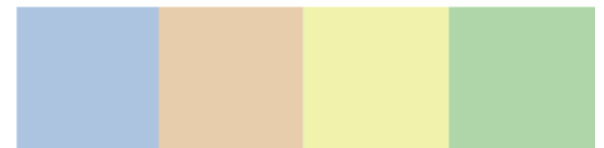- Leader approach for all axes

Public goods

- Recognition that market orientation is insufficient and the validity of public goods
- TWG will contribute to the development of conceptual and practical framework
- To promote common understanding of what the term public goods means in the context of RD policy
- To assist improved measurement for policy implementation purposes and to inform the policy debate
- Need to be very clear about the demarcation line between 'polluter pays' and paying for public goods. This will necessitate improvement in objective measurements
- To inform the debate on what are the best policy objectives and instruments to ensure the provision of public goods
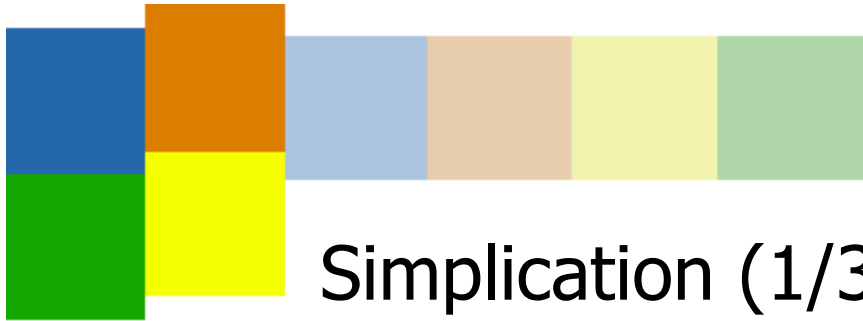- Not only related to environment

Environmental Issues in the context of RD policy

- Balance between economic, social and environmental sustainability
- What are the citizens main environmental concerns
- Is RD policy flexible enough to address environmental concerns
- 'System approach'?

Simplication (1/3)

Different contributions from networking, depending on the level considered:

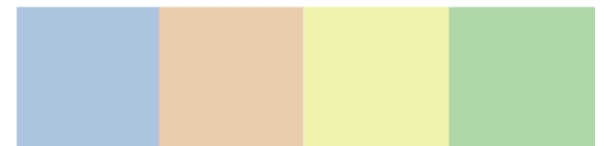- <u>At strategic level:</u>

  Clear policy objectives, as part of a global "picture"
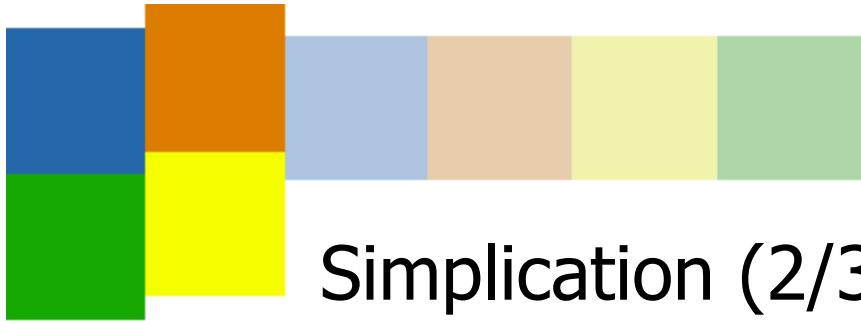
  => Networking to provide inputs

- <u>At regulatory level:</u>

  Mainly work of Member States and EU institutions but...

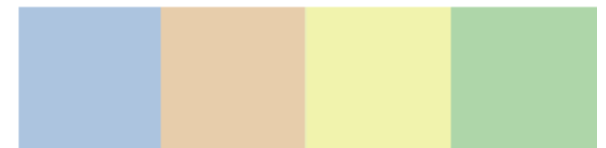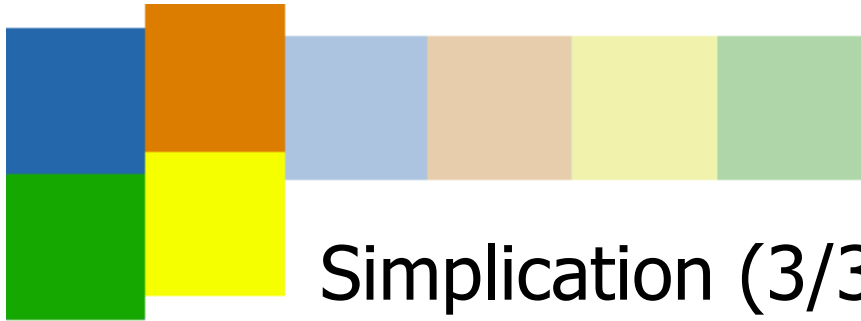 => Stakeholders to give feed-backs on bottle-necks

Simplication (2/3)

- <u>At implementation level / delivery systems:</u>

  - a part related to regulation

  - a part to do with dialogues between the actors of the policy from

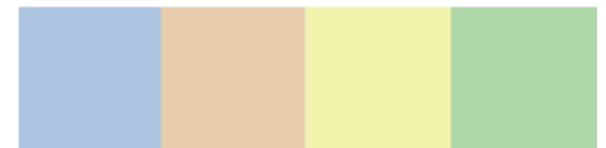Beneficiaries ⟷ Managing Authorities and PA ⟷ EC

=> Networking with a key role on the implementating chain level, including exchanges of pratices between regions / countries.

Simplication (3/3)

- **At monitoring and evaluation level:**
  - ensuring accountability but need for simplification
  => Networking for exchange of practices and methodologies (=> EEN)

- **In terms of communication and messages:**
  - need for simple messages to wider public
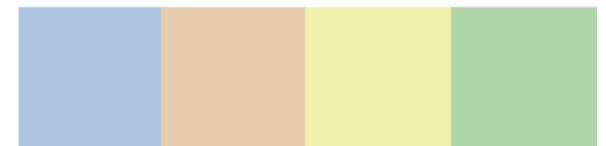 => Networking for communication EN RD / NRNs

To note: simplification but adjustments when needed (reactiveness to new challenges / adaptability to specificities and needs)
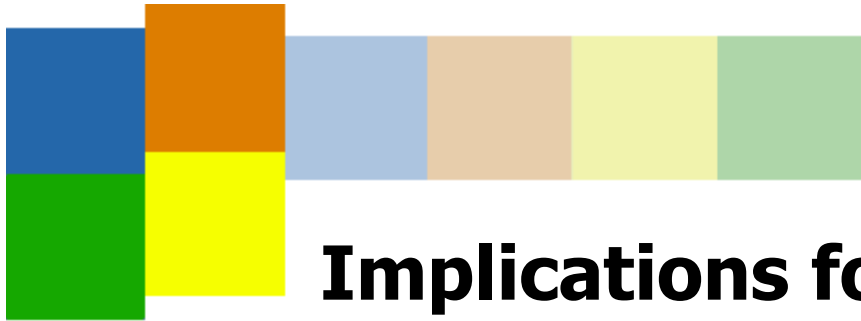
Policy assessment: monitoring and evaluation

- Evaluation is central to RD policy
- Context- CMEF; improvements in terms of evaluation objectives, common indicators, on-going approach based on continuous relationships with all stakeholders

- Methodogical issues: scope of evaluation, baseline, data collection, aggregation and comparison between MS, preparing for the new programming period
- Challenges at all levels
- Contribute to meeting the challenges – strengthening management, improving (developing new) methodologies

European Network for Rural Development

Implications for the EN RD

- Towards a twin track approach?

  - Building relevance for the future (in particular through Thematic Working Groups)

  - Demonstrably adding value (by facilitating improvements in policy implementation - management, M&E, simplification and for specific policy instruments)

This can only be achieved through effective – and two way communication