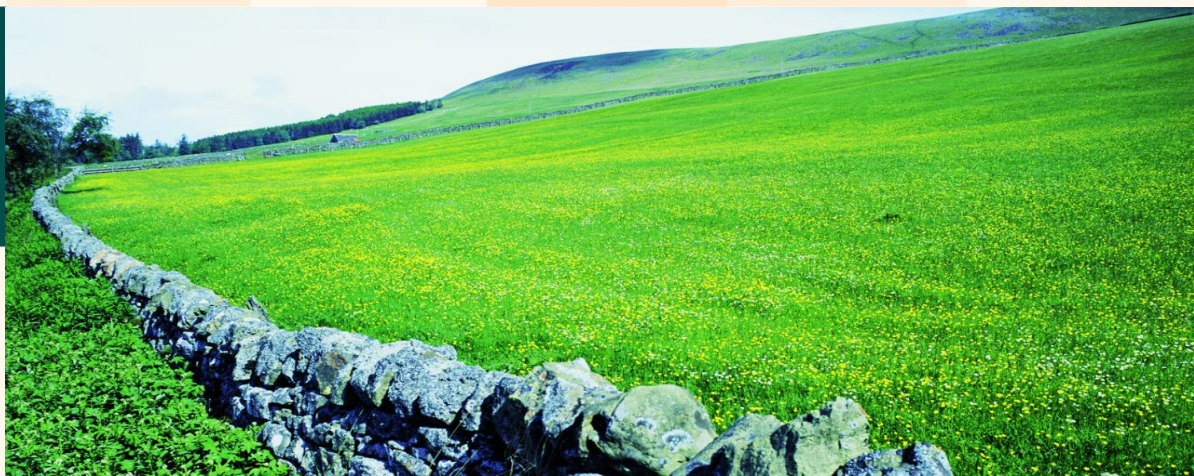




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# **The proposed specific activities 2008-2009**

Presented by: Gaelle Lhermitte

**Coordination committee – 01/10/2008**



## State of play and current steps:



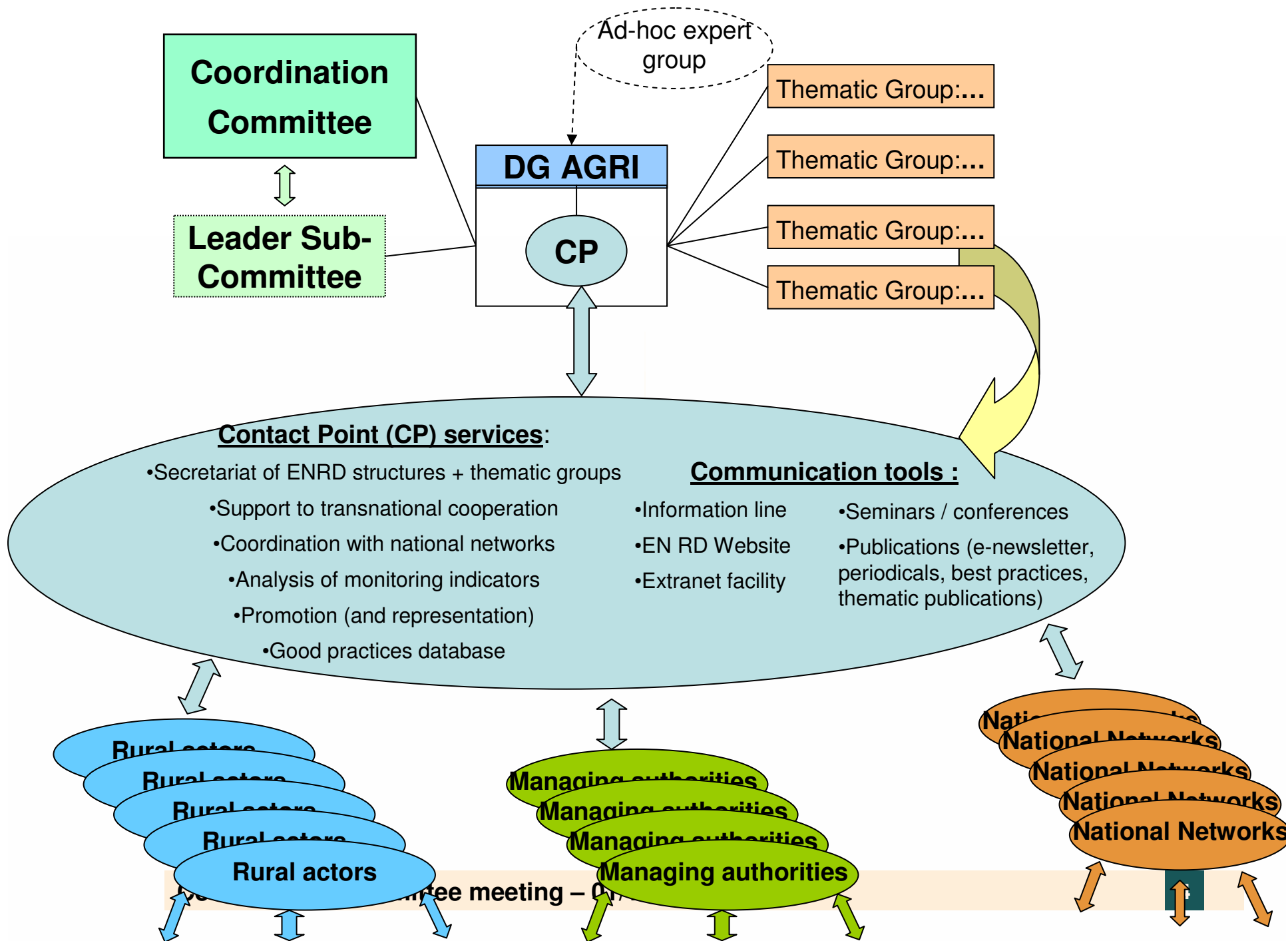
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- **Coordination Committee first meeting:**
  - Member States' representatives nominated
  - organisations selected, RD Advisory Group consulted
  - First meeting on **1st October** (input to thematic work and annual work programme)
- **Annual work programme:** to be finalised after the 1st meeting of the CC
- **European Conference on RD: Cyprus, 16-17 Oct (formal launch of the activities)**
- **Leader sub-committee:** foreseen **26 November** (to be confirmed)



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# **1) Setting up of the structures, the services and tools, the thematic working groups**



## 2) Creation of thematic groups



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### 1) Proposed lines to follow for the themes:

- Preferably across Axes
- Contributing to the understanding and diffusion of know-how and practice
- Allowing the exchange of experiences from RD programme implementation
- Touching on key issues of the EU Rural development policies – with the intention of informing the policy debate
- Facilitating the contributions from Leader groups

### 2) Options for the number, size and timescale of operation of the groups:

- Number of groups per year: max. 4 but can be less.
- Timing: can be created at all CC meetings (~2 times per year), and can start at different timepoints.
- Size: max. 15 members but can be less.
- Lifetime: maximum 2 years.

## => **Proposals:**

- ❖ To launch 2 groups after the 1st October meeting (themes 1 and 2), a third one later (theme 3).
- ❖ Targeted size: 10 members
- ❖ To agree on the general mandate and on the main themes, but to leave a sufficient margin of manoeuvre to the group itself.
- ❖ To ensure a review of the mandate by the CC after one year.



# Thematic group's general mandate



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The groups will organise their work under the authority of the Chairman, taking into account the following aspects :

## 1) Conceptual framework :

The CC will agree on the creation of thematic working groups, and the Commission will prepare a mandate on this basis. However, the mandate will not be too specific as regards the content. More detailed proposals (content + methodology) will be presented at the first meeting of the group. These will have been prepared by the Commission, with the support of the Contact Point, and possibly the support of an ad-hoc expert group.

It is thus in the first meeting of the thematic working groups that the conceptual framework (definition of concepts used in the group), and a refinement of the group's theme (more detailed list of tasks and topics to examine) will be established.

It is also at this first meeting that the needs for work to be done by experts (CP experts + possibly additional experts) would be examined: studies / literature reviews / analysis of programmes / collection of case studies etc...

## 2) RD programmes:

The thematic groups will examine *how the policy is implemented* (in the context of the theme of the group), using the programmes and projects of the programming period 2007-2013, but possibly of previous experiences (in particular under previous Leader programmes) as well.

- Review of experiences (analysis of information in the programmes)
- Identification of best practice/innovative approaches (These examples could be included in the database on the website of the EN RD)
- Identification of success stories/failures (using case studies)
- Recommendations and guidance.

## 3) Developing and exchanging broader expertise

Depending on the theme and on the time available, each group could examine existing or previous experience or expertise outside the programmes financed by the EU RD policy, using results of research projects, experience in countries outside the EU, specific national or regional initiatives, academic work etc...

- Exchange of knowledge/expertise on specific issues
- Possibly, recommendations for RD policy at EU level
- Identification of needs for further thematic work

## 4) Reporting

- The thematic working groups shall regularly reports to the CC (*and a review of the mandate after one year is recommended*).
- A final report containing the results of their activities shall be submitted at a meeting of the CC at the latest 2 years after their creation.
- Possibly, a thematic publication and a final seminar can be organised.

# Theme 1: Targeting territorial specificities and needs in RD programmes



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Objectives: Through relevant analysis and the diffusion of their results, the group shall contribute to an efficient targeting of territorial specificities and needs in RD programmes and to a more balanced development of rural areas across Europe.

In accordance with point 1 of the general mandate:

- ↪ Identifying the main factors contributing to the diversity of rural areas in Europe and describing their typical characteristics: experience, difficulties, comparability

In accordance with point 2 of the general mandate, this group could notably look at:

- ↪ The strategies adopted in the programmes as regards the different types of territories
- ↪ The different approaches used for targeting measures geographically (e.g. the agronomic, environmental and socio-economic criteria used for defining/mapping areas and for targeting interventions notably under Axes 2 and 3; consideration under the selection criteria etc.), considering how NNs and RDPs have adopted and used the OECD definition.
- ↪ The role that territorial targeting plays in demarcation.
- ↪ Innovative approaches / initiatives to target the funds where they are most needed within a territory.
- ↪ Lessons learned and possible recommendations at the level of programming

Under point 3 of the general mandate, this group could also collect and develop expertise under the following issues:

- ↪ Taking into account the different forms of relationships between the agri-food sector and the wider rural economy to target the interventions territorially.
- ↪ Tapping the potentials for synergies and complementarities between Community instruments at territorial level
- ↪ Governance and the territorial targeting in RD programmes (consistent delivery mechanisms, mobilising endogenous potential, mutual learning, etc.)
- ↪ Examples of institutional efficiency



## Theme 2: Agriculture and the wider rural economy



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**Objective:** Through relevant analysis and the diffusion of the results the group shall contribute to the 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.

These relationship would be described for various types of rural territories such as peri-urban, intermediate and remote ones.

In accordance with point 1 of the general mandate , the group could examine the following issues:

- ↪ How the diversification of the rural economy and farming are interlinked?
- ↪ Are there any recognisable drivers and/or patterns in these relationships? To what extent does a healthy rural economy improve the economic viability of the agriculture and vice versa?
- ↪ How can agricultural and rural policies become mutually supportive to create win-win situations?
- ↪ Which institutional and policy delivery arrangements can best support the positive development of farming in its rural context?
- ↪ How to enable favourable conditions for exploring economic opportunities and options for the diversification of income sources for farmers ?

In accordance with point 2 of the general mandate, the group could identify:

- ↪ Examples, good practices of mutually supportive effects of agriculture and wider rural activities
- ↪ Innovative approaches to diversification on - and off - farm and to developing mutually reinforcing relationships between farming and the wider rural economy.
- ↪ Tangible examples where a healthy rural economy is asociated with a traditionally strong farming sector and food chains (or the opposite)

In accordance with point 3 of the general mandate, the group could:

- ↪ Collect and develop experiences and expertise from third countries (candidate countries and others);
- ↪ Collect and develop experiences and expertise from previous Leader+ initiatives



## Theme 3: Public goods and public intervention (for later launch)



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**Objectives:** Through relevant analysis and the diffusion of their results, the group shall contribute to ensuring the RD interventions enhance the provision of public goods for the benefit of society.

A variety of operations and activities supported by RD interventions relate to the provision of public goods (agriculture and forestry, LFA, Natura 2000, high nature value areas, village renewal and upgrading of the rural heritage etc.). Their effects and interactions should be analysed to enhance the benefit to society and to contribute to improving the quality of life in rural areas.

In accordance with point 1 of the general mandate, this group would clarify the conceptual framework:

- ↗ Definition and identification of public goods
- ↗ Measuring added value and delivery costs.

In accordance with point 2 of the general mandate, this group could notably look at:

- ↗ The role of different public goods directly or indirectly supported through the RD measures;
- ↗ What instruments and delivery mechanisms, targeting, management and control mechanisms have been designed and implemented to support public goods?
- ↗ Innovative approach / initiatives to ensure the provision of public goods in areas under urban pressure / in areas suffering from depopulation.
- ↗ Role of local administrations and NGOs as beneficiaries.
- ↗ Lessons learned and possible recommendations at the level of programming

Under the point 3 of the general mandate, this group could also collect and develop expertise under the following issues:

- ↗ Responding to the (present and future) needs of the society: the question of effectiveness.
- ↗ How to set the right incentives for ensuring the provision of public goods : the question of the delivery mechanisms and the levels of governance
- ↗ Public goods as an enabling factor for integrated rural development: spill-over effects on other sectors
- ↗ Experiences in third countries.

### 3) Specific seminars



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- Proposals for 2008-2009 (to be discussed in the Coordination Committee):
  1. **Seminar on « Capacity building – setting-up of the national networks »** (1st trimester 2009)
  2. **Seminar on « Modernisation of semi-subsistence farms »** (mid-2009), as a case-study for the thematic working groups (in relation with territorial targeting / interlinks with the wider rural economy; delivery of public goods).
  3. **Seminar on « Innovation for the new environmental challenges »** (2d semester 2009 – to be confirmed), as an operational workshop to contribute to enhance the successful integration of environmental concerns in the RD programmes, notably those related to the new challenges (climate change, renewable energy, water management).

## 4) An expert group on Policy delivery and governance



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Objective: A group of experts shall work on the identification of efficient delivery mechanisms and good practices in the implementation of RD programmes and describe the lessons learned with respect to improving governance of RD policy.

- ✓ It would work in parallel with the thematic working groups, using their results and providing them with insights on delivery mechanisms and governance.
- ✓ Its action plan would be drafted by the Commission.

This group could look at, through the programmes, issues such as :

- ↪ How the strategic programming has been concretely implemented in practical terms (including difficulties, bottlenecks, etc.) (*link with evaluation network*);
- ↪ How managing authorities can use monitoring indicators, and prepare on-going evaluation to improve the efficiency of delivery mechanism (*link with evaluation network*)
- ↪ Case studies of different delivery mechanisms for a limited number of specific measures (eg. Agri-environmental measures / investment measures / human capital measures );
- ↪ Cost-benefit analysis of different delivery mechanisms;
- ↪ Good practices in the reduction of error rates;
- ↪ Innovative approach / initiatives for simplification of procedures for end beneficiaries.
- ↪ Assessing the first results and experiences on the mainstreaming of Leader, as an alternative delivery mechanism for some measures / axis

This group could also collect and develop expertise on the following issues:

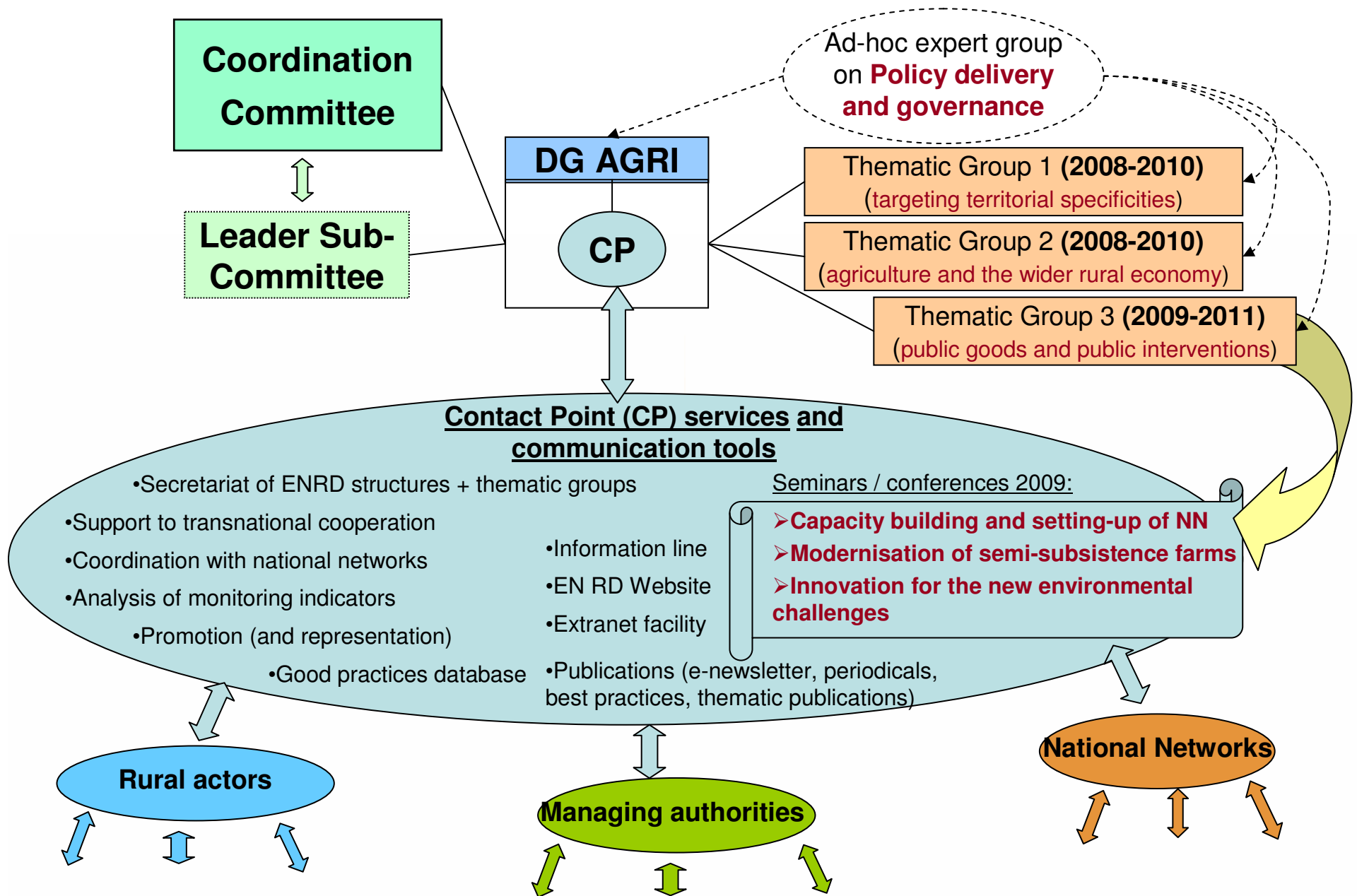
- ↪ How to ensure an efficient coordination between the actors involved in the implementation of the RD policy
- ↪ What new governance tools are most appropriate to ensure concerted action of local players, public-private partners and entrepreneurs in order to tap the endogenous development potential of rural areas and to ensure synergies accross sectors?
- ↪ The role of Information and communication in improving policy delivery and governance
- ↪ Assessing beneficiary satisfaction

**Coordination committee meeting – 01/10/2008**



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# **Overall view of the specific thematic activities 2008-2009**

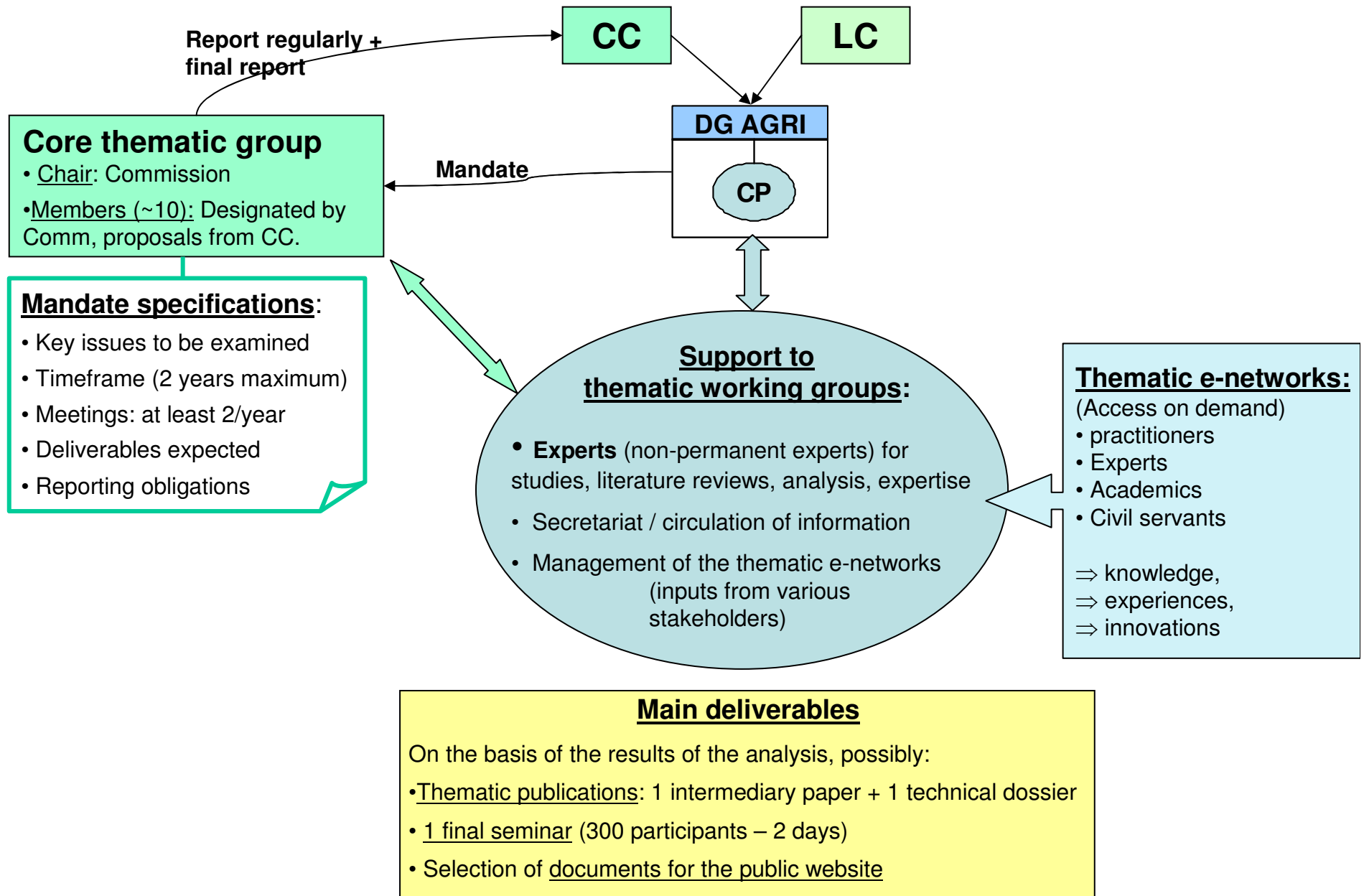




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# Organisation of the thematic working groups.

## Activities and mandate of the thematic groups of the EN RD



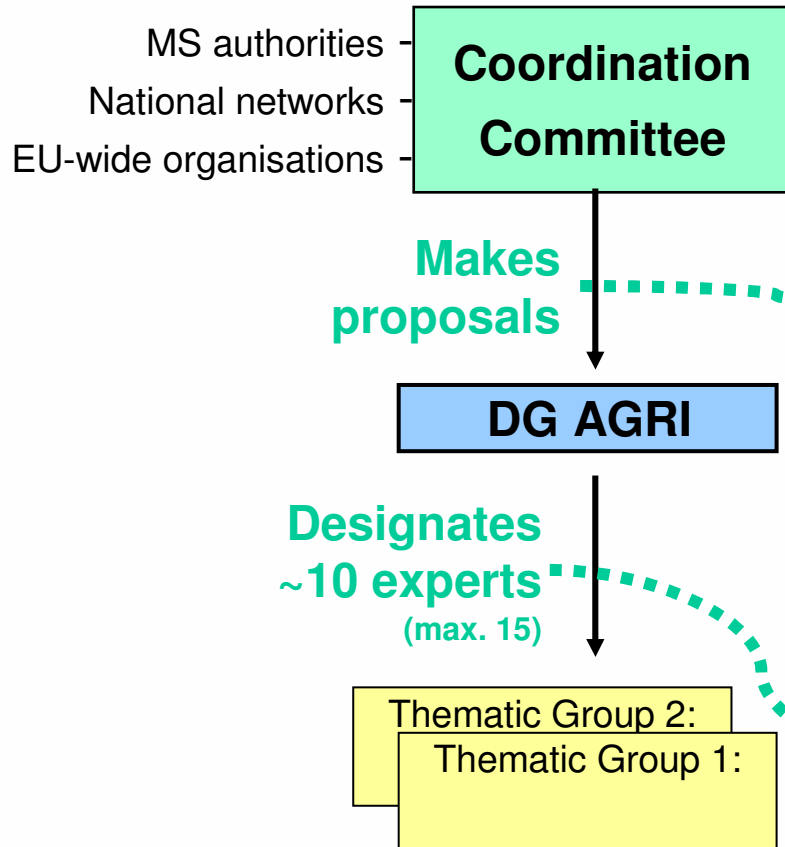


# Composition of the core thematic groups



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## Process foreseen in Decision 168/2008



## Proposals

### Suggested profiles of the members of the core group to be proposed:

- Representativity / connection with rural actors networks
- Very good proven knowledge of EU RD policy + experiences in RD implementation / expertise in RD policies
- From inside or outside CC member organisations
- Commitment to participate actively
- English as main working language

### Proposed targeted balance:

- Cross-sectoral representation
- Diverse geographical coverage
- Balance between state authorities, national networks, and EU organisations proposals

## Proposed modus operandi for the nomination of the members of the core thematic groups



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1)

### Coordination Committee

**Proposals limited in number**, targeting only the desired profiles (**about 20 members for 2 groups**)

- Proposals to be sent after CC meeting agreeing on themes, containing:
  - short description of the organisation (field + geographical coverage)
  - CV of the person
  - Agreement of the person proposed
  - thematic group (indicative)

Deadline to be agreed

2)

### DG AGRI

- Draw proposals on composition of thematic groups, aiming at the targeted balance
- Consults the internal agri steering group
- Informs the CC
- Designates the members and send the list to the CP