



# Youth and young farmers' workshop

Brussels, 11-12 December 2013

## Group 8

### Organisation of a meeting point for rural and urban youth

Funded by the



**ENRD** *Connecting Rural Europe*  
<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>

## Main issues and challenges identified

Bringing together all actors involved in the production and consumption of food products and foster a fruitful exchange between them is considered an important issue. This should be complemented by an educational process towards the urban and rural young people.

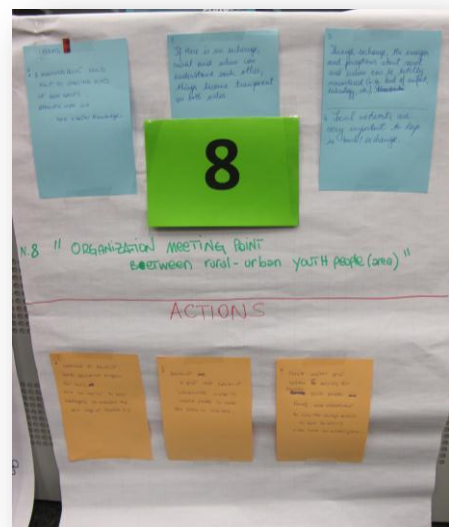
## Main obstacles identified

- ✓ The differences between the mobility of rural and urban youth should be considered.
- ✓ Different life styles and attitudes.
- ✓ Social and economic inequalities because of public funds disproportionately allocated.
- ✓ Lack of communication between rural and urban youth.
- ✓ Lack of bridging rural/urban education in schools and kinder gardens.



## Support needed to enhance rural/urban youth linkages

- ✓ Directly linking farmers to urban schools could make these exchanges possible and inform rural children from an early age about the reality of rural areas
- ✓ Exchange programmes between rural/urban inhabitants: exchange of know-how and skills.
- ✓ Hosting city people in farms and cooperatives.
- ✓ Organise Erasmus-type exchange programmes between urban and rural youth.
- ✓ More government support for rural youth to correct inequalities.
- ✓ Convince the young people who leave the countryside to come back after their studies.



### **Lessons learnt**

- ✓ A meeting point could help to open the minds of both groups, enhance mutual appreciation and have better knowledge about each other.
- ✓ More understanding, more transparency.
- ✓ Education and communication are essential to change perceptions.

### **Possible actions**

- ✓ Set up the educational programmes for young people to change their views about how it is like to be a farmer
- ✓ Invest in the infrastructure in rural areas to increase mobility
- ✓ Support/encourage better services for youth, families and small entrepreneurs