



**ENRD event**  
***“Connecting rural Europe –  
Learning from the past,  
preparing for the future”***

2 June 2014  
Brussels, Belgium

# ENRD event

“Connecting rural Europe – Learning from the past, preparing for the future”

## Rationale and objectives of the seminar

The June 2014 ENRD seminar will be a unique occasion to recognise the work achieved by the EU rural development community during the 2007-2013 programming period. The event will offer the opportunity for ENRD stakeholders to take part in appreciating and discussing the past six years of rural development networking and its achievements, and to exchange their views in relation to upcoming challenges during the 2014-2020 programming period.

The event will be structured in three parallel workshops according to the following main themes: improving RDP implementation, increasing stakeholder’s involvement, and the role of networking in cooperation & LEADER. The morning sessions will look at lessons learnt, while the afternoon will focus on preparing for future challenges

## Programme outline

**08:30-09:30**

*Registration of participants*

**09:30-11:00**

**Opening plenary:** ENRD – Six years of a rural development policy network

**Opening Address:** Jerzy Plewa, Director-General, DG AGRI, European Commission

**Moderator:** Michael Gregory, ENRD Contact Point

**Presentations**

The role of EU rural networking in improving EU rural development policy

**ENRD Contact Point - Fabio Cossu,**

**EENRD Helpdesk - Valérie Dumont,**

**EIP-AGRI Service Point - Pacôme Elouna Eyenga,**

**ENRD from the stakeholders’ perspective**

**Speakers:**

**Nathalie Prouhèze (DATAR/French NRN)**

**Heli Walls (Finnish LEADER-advocate) and Juha-Matti Markkola (Finnish NRN)**

**Questions & Answers**

How can we build on the first six years of rural development networking? (*a lead-in to the workshops*)

**11:00-11:30**

*Coffee break*



**11:30-13:00**

**Morning sessions: *Learning from the past***

**Workshop 1: Improving RDP implementation - Room OB**

The workshop will highlight the role and impact of those networking tools which contribute to improving policy implementation. Notably, the focus will be on activities, such as thematic exchanges (joint initiatives, focus groups, thematic working groups, seminars, workshops, etc.) and good practice-sharing. These are not only at the centre of a better understanding of policy implementation, but also a powerful networking instrument which encourages improvements through direct exchange of knowledge, practices and possible solutions to common issues.

**Speakers:**

**Judit Rácz (LAG manager, Hungary):** Participation in LEADER Subcommittee Focus Group 4 work, use of Focus Group results, multiplication and dissemination at national/local level.

**Riccardo Passero (Italian NRN):** NRN activity in support of M&E, coordination role at national level, capacity building for MA and evaluators, contribution to EU-level activities.

**Workshop 2: Increasing stakeholder involvement in RD implementation - Room OC**

The workshop will focus on the experiences and methods relating to the challenge of increasing stakeholder's involvement in RDP implementation, drawing on the experiences and perspectives of various local and institutional stakeholders. The morning session will look at how this challenge has been tackled in different EU Member States (MS), how the NRNs have contributed and what are the key lessons learnt from the process. In the afternoon session, we will explore how different EU MS plan to approach this objective in the 2014-2020 programming period and how the added value of ENRD as a network can be maximised through exchanges of experience and use of networking tools.

**Speakers:**

**Cécile Schalenbourg (BE- Wallonia NRN):** The thematic initiative of rural network on rural economy, an initiative that targeted various audiences, developed a transversal approach and produced a wide range of tools, studies, exchanges of practices, events including a European seminar.

**Michael Fischer (Austrian NRN):** A study on participation (processes and impact) in Austrian LEADER regions in the 2007-2013 period; overview of the main findings and discussion around some recommendations on LAG and MA level.

**Workshop 3: An enlarged role for networking in cooperation and LEADER- Room OA**

The workshop will focus on understanding what benefits rural networking across EU MS have brought to rural development stakeholders, specifically in terms of promoting joint activities and forms of cooperation at different levels including among LEADER LAGs, within and across Member States. Rural networking will also be questioned about its possible contributions in the perspective of an increased role of cooperation in 2014-2020 rural development policy and a multi-fund approach to local development.

**Speakers:**

**Kirsten Birke Lund (ELARD):** The use and usefulness of LEADER Subcommittee meetings and LEADER support mechanisms (including the LEADER Toolkit).

**Séverine Bressaud (French NRN), Stephen Delahaye & Maurizio Reveruzzi ('Villages of Traditions' project) from Italy:** Networking support for TNC.

**13:00-14:30**

*Buffet lunch*



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**14:30-16:00**

**Afternoon sessions: *Preparing for the future***  
**– How can we improve rural networking in 2014-2020?**

**Workshop 1 – Room OB (continued)**

**Speakers:**

**Isabelle Jaumotte (Fédération wallonne de l'agriculture, Belgium-Wallonia):**

The prospective exercise led by the NRN and how it supports a professional organisation in providing recommendations for future RDP.

**David Wilford (UK-England NRN):**

Set up and use of 'good practices' database, contribution to improving RDP implementation, self-assessment of the tools/methods and reflection on future approaches.

**Workshop 2 – Room OC(continued)**

**Speakers:**

**Küllli Kaare (Head of the research and development department, Estonian Ministry of Agriculture):**  
MA and NRN cooperation in developing EIP-Agri in Estonia.

**Martina Bolli (Italian NRN):** Networking and capacity building through E-platforms.

**Workshop 3 – Room OA (continued)**

**Speakers:**

**Gérard Peltre (President, International Association Rurality-Environment-Development):**  
Territorial perspectives in networking.

**Thomas Müller (CLLD-LEADER Expert and LAG manager, Austria):**

The future of LEADER: Networking support for CLLD.

**Charlotta Heimersson (LAG manager, Sweden):**

Bottom-up networking initiatives for exchange – Focus Groups.

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**16:00-16:30**

*Coffee break*

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**16:30-18:00**

**Closing plenary**

**Moderator: Michael Gregory**, ENRD Contact Point

Sharing lessons learnt during the workshops (from participants)

Panel discussion on the importance of networking for supporting policy implementation Featuring:

**FARNET – Paul Soto,**

**INTERACT – Ieva Kalnina,**

**PREPARE – Stig Hansson.**

Overview of contribution of the ENRD Contact Point &

**Presentation of latest ENRD 'capitalisation' products, ENRD Contact Point – Peter Toth**

**Closing reflections**

ENRD in retrospect – **a witness's perspective**

Closing remarks – **Aldo Longo, Director, DG AGRI**

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**18:00-19:30**

*Networking cocktail*



*For further information,  
please visit our website :*

**WWW.ENRD.EU**