

Speakers' biographies

LEADER Event 2013

ENRD Connecting Rural Europe

<http://enrd.ec.europa.eu>



European Network for Rural Development (ENRD)

Contact Point:

Rue du Marteau, 81
B - 1000 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32 2 235 20 20
Fax: +32 2 280 04 38
E-mail: info@enrd.eu

ENRD Connecting Rural Europe...

Welcome Session

Jean-Michel Courades

Since 2002 **Jean-Michel Courades** is a policy officer for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI). He is an expert in rural development policy with a special focus on local development. He currently works for the Unit in charge of ENRD. He has also been working in other services of

the European Commission, such as health and safety, food labelling, cultural cooperation and environmental protection, developing EU policies. Before joining the European Commission in 1987, Jean-Michel was head of the Unit called "Community Development" for the city of Lyon in France.



As a young expert for the Hungarian Managing Authority, **Anna Parizán** already knew she wanted to be actively involved with the LEADER approach in Hungary, and internationally as well. She was involved in the planning and implementation of the Hungarian LEADER Programme 2007-2013, and since 2010 she is responsible for Transnational and Inter-territorial Cooperation measures.

During the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union in 2011, she worked for the AGRI Unit of the Permanent Representation of Hungary in Brussels. After returning to Hungary, she got involved in a twinning programme in Kosovo. She is also planning a rural development project in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Anna Parizán

Petri Rinne

Since 2001, **Petri Rinne** has worked as the manager of the Joutsenten Reitti LAG in South-West Finland and was the first to introduce the LEADER approach in this area.

In addition to his LAG work, Petri has provided consultancy on the LEADER method in most of the new EU Member States, the Western Balkans, Russia, Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa. In 2008, in collaboration with Philip Wade,

who works for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), they published a LEADER Dissemination GuideBook. Currently, Petri is President of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development bringing together more than 700 LAGs from 20 different European countries. Petri is also a co-chair of the ENRD Focus Group 4 on 'Better Local Development Strategies'.



Wolfgang Jakubec has been involved with LEADER+ from 2001-2007. He was in charge of the development of local and national strategies as well as the creation of a Local Action Group in the NÖ Süd II Region. He has also participated in the preparation of LEADER 2007-2013 in the southern part of Lower Austria.

Since 2007, he has been working with Agro Market Austria (AMA) - the Austrian Paying Agency - where he is responsible for all LEADER measures. An agricultural engineer and an expert in rural development, he has experience in implementing and managing agricultural and rural development policies as well as strengthening the capacities of stakeholders in Kosovo, Serbia, Croatia and Bulgaria.

Wolfgang Jakubec

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Intro Panel Session

Pedro Brosei

Pedro Brosei has been working with LEADER for over 10 years. He started in the German LEADER+ Network Unit in 2002 and then moved to Brussels in 2004 to work for the European LEADER+ Contact Point. Since

mid-2008, Pedro has worked for the European Commission in the Co-ordination Unit for Rural Development of DG AGRI. His main day-to-day responsibility is dealing with horizontal questions regarding LEADER and policy development.



Joanna Gierulska

Since 2007, **Joanna Gierulska** is Head of the LEADER Division of the Rural Development Department of the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. For the last six years, she has been participating in the development and implementation of Rural Development Programmes co-financed by the European Commission. Currently, she is working on designing the LEADER approach for 2014-2020. On a daily basis, she is responsible for all aspects concerning the LEADER approach, from the selection of local development strategies to evaluation and control procedures.

Joanna has a wide range experience in training LAGs and others institutions. In 2008 and 2013 she participated in the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) training projects organised for LAGs and other groups involved in the LEADER approach in Croatia. Between 2010 and 2012, she was a short-term expert in two twinning projects on rural development in Turkey, where she supported the institutions in designing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in rural development (IPARD) delivery system.

Roland Hamel

Roland Hamel has been working for the French CAP Paying Agency (ASP) for 20 years, where he gained a solid experience of the European Union programme management. After an experience with a LAG, he started managing national and local programmes under the structural and rural development policies of the European Union. Roland has also been in charge of the French Managing Authority LEADER+. Roland was three times Resident Twinning Adviser, in Romania and in the Czech Republic where he supported the Ministry of

Agriculture to draft the rural development and fishery programmes. Roland has contributed to the launch of the LEADER approach in these two countries. He also gained experience in Cyprus where they set up a rural development programme in favour of the Turkish-Cypriot community. Roland is now in charge of the European and International affairs of ASP and currently involved with internal working groups designed to prepare the Paying Agency to cope with the new legal provisions laid down by the new Rural Development regulation 2014-2020.



Gustáv Nemes

Gusztáv Nemes is a Hungarian sociologist and economist, specialized in European rural development. He is a university lecturer and a permanent research fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Living in a small village, he is also an active member of his own LEADER LAG and is helping many others groups all over Hungary. Besides a teaching and extensive research portfolio, he has been involved at every level of the LEADER approach: providing training for LAGs and policy makers, contributing to EU and national network events, and producing evaluations

and methodological guidelines. He considers his work with the LAGs as the most important and productive one. A particular highlight is his role as a mentor of a bottom-up network of Hungarian LAGs, the NATURAMA Alliance. Over time, the Alliance has grown focusing mainly on collective practical initiatives. They created many videos and, together, participated in various international networks. They also organised and participated in a wide range of national events. Some of them are present today at the LEADER event.



Jenny Nylund

Jenny Nylund has been working in Sweden with LEADER since 2001 - first as a LAG member, then as a project leader and now as a LAG manager. She is also a member of the LEADER subcommittee for the Swedish National Rural Network. She and a few LEADER colleagues started the national

organisation "U-LAND" in 2004 in Sweden, that today works with youth involvement within LEADER all over the country. She loves travelling and on her spare time she is the chair-woman of an NGO that cooperates with Uganda to establish some LEADER areas in the country. She also enjoys live music and hiking in the Swedish mountains with her three children.

Roger Wilson

Roger Wilson is a member of the Northumberland Uplands Local Action Group in the North of England (Chair 2008-2012, currently member of the Executive Board). A scientist by training Roger worked for 20 years in Research & Development in the agrochemical and pharmaceutical industry as well as a tutor for the Open University business school.

Together with his wife he now runs a small hill stock farm rearing rare breeds of sheep, goats and cattle and works on environmental and rural development projects. In the LEADER programme he has taken a particular interest in cooperation projects, including transnational, and tackling the challenges of helping make rural communities sustainable and thriving.

