

ENRD REPORT

New National Network Monitoring Initiative

The ENRD Contact Point is currently developing an NRN Self-Assessment Tool-kit for measuring the progress and assessing the performance of NRN networking activities. The Tool-kit will be built-up jointly by the Contact Point and interested NRNs, in co-operation with the Evaluation Expert Network and its Helpdesk. This activity complements the work carried out by the Evaluation Expert Network (EEN) on the assessment of impacts of NRNs, and in particular the four NRN Programmes. The respective Working Paper, which aims to support the evaluators and Managing Authorities in conducting the mid-term evaluation of the Network Programmes this year and to provide inspiration for the evaluation of NRNs, will be available shortly on the [website of the EEN](#)

Leader Cooperation Meeting in France

On July 6th and 7th, Lons-Le-Saunier in France played host to the National Leader Cooperation meeting. The EN RD Contact Point was present at the meeting at which valuable workshops were held on transnational cooperation (TNC) projects and cooperation offers. <http://www.reseaurural.fr/>

Lithuanian Leader Event

The conference on 'International Cooperation through the Leader Approach' took place in Lithuania, from June 14th to June 16th. The EN RD Contact Point was in attendance to provide information on relevant support services. [Click here for more information.](#)

EN RD PILOT INITIATIVE FOR COLLECTING RDP PROJECT EXAMPLES - UPDATE

The EN RD pilot initiative (PIKSE) for collecting project examples (which are co-financed by the RDPs) is progressing. We encourage anyone with a relevant initiative to contact their respective NRN or info@enrd.eu. The soon to be launched database will be complemented by a series of RDP project brochures, which will be widely disseminated across the EU.

SIBIU CONFERENCE RESCHEDULED

The EN RD seminar on '[Semi-Subsistence Farming](#)' will now take place on **13-15 October 2010**, in Sibiu, Romania.

POLICY BRIEF

Strong response to public CAP debate underlines relevance of agriculture to the EU

The public response to the open debate on the future of the CAP greatly exceeded expectations, with almost 6,000 internet contributions received.

Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş said "It shows that people feel strongly about the CAP and the responses have illustrated that our policy is not only about food production, but also about the provision of broader public goods. This reiterates my fundamental belief that the CAP is not just for farmers but for all EU citizens, as taxpayers and consumers".

In addition, some 93 stakeholders, 80 think tanks and representatives from the EN RD expressed their views, centered on key aspects of the policy. Consequently, a number of themes have emerged which reflect the most pressing concerns in relation to agricultural policy.

Respondents noted that the CAP is pivotal to securing food supply and ensuring fair competition conditions, whilst preserving the diversity of agriculture throughout the EU.

In terms of citizens' concerns, one of the most commonly raised issues was that of the provision of safe food at affordable prices with a preference for healthy, natural food, produced in an environmentally friendly and traceable manner. The importance of the agriculture sector in providing employment in rural areas was also noted, as were environmental concerns.

Generally, respondents were in favour of the CAP reform so as to address the volatility of food prices and ensure decent standards of living for Europe's farmers. There was widespread agreement on the need to develop further the existing CAP mechanisms, with many urging an increased emphasis on paying farmers for providing 'public goods'.

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A synthesis of the results of the public debate was presented and further discussed during the conference "The CAP post 2013" which took place in Brussels on 19-20 July, bringing together over 600 participants from all over Europe. The conference confirmed the public perception and support for a strong CAP, highlighting at the same time the important challenges that need to be addressed in the period after 2013. The European Commission will now proceed with the drafting of a communication on the future of the CAP due for publication in November 2010, which according to Commissioner Cioloş, will be "a renewed CAP, for a Europe close to its farmers and for farmers more aware of the expectations of European citizens".

+ [more information](#)

- **LAG Cooperation Offers:** A searchable database of Leader Cooperation offers has been **recently launched** and will be regularly updated
- **Rural Development Programme (RDP) Fiches Published:** Summaries of various national and/or regional RDPs are **now available on-line** (more uploaded daily).
- **Monitoring Indicators (MIs) Published:** The 2008 MIs, including relevant tables and charts, have been **published online**.
- **European Evaluation Network (EEN) info:** A section focusing on the EEN for Rural Development has been added to **the EN RD website**.

Coordination committee meetings

The joint meeting of the four thematic working groups (TWGs) and the Coordination Committee of the EN RD took place in Brussels on the 7th and 8th of June, 2010.

Issues on the agenda for the TWG meeting included an update on the four working groups. TWG1 presented an overview of its work on 'targeting territorial specificities and needs in rural development programmes'. TWG2 provided an update in its work examining 'links between agriculture and the wider rural economy' and TWG3 presented its findings on 'public goods and public interventions'. In addition TWG4 presented a preliminary update on progress made in terms of its work on 'delivery mechanisms of European rural development policy. Before opening up discussion to the floor, Mr Rob Peters, Head of the Unit "European Network and Monitoring of Rural Development Policy" in DG AGRI, proposed some options for dissemination of TWG deliverables. The Chairman of this meeting, Mr. José Manuel Sousa Uva, Director of Horizontal Aspects of Rural Development in DG AGRI, said that the EN RD's analytical and thematic work will continue and is expected to provide an opportunity for informed reflection on the future, including further analysis on the CAP post 2013.

June 8th saw the fourth meeting of the Coordination Committee with a full agenda, which comprised an update on the CAP debate after 2013, with a focus on contributions from the Coordination Committee member organizations. An overview of the work plan for the EN RD for 2010-2011 was also presented, which centered on priorities for the year ahead, inputs from the Leader Subcommittee, improving synergies between the EN RD and the National Rural Networks (NRNs), EU and National Authority expectations.

Closing the meeting the Chairwoman, Mrs Loretta Dormal-Marino, Deputy Director General in charge of Rural Development in DG AGRI, said that there is a lot of work ahead but that she expects positive results. However, she stressed that while it may not be possible to address all problems and issues proposed, every effort will certainly be made to take all contributions into consideration.

+ *more information*

NRN FOCUS

Thematic Initiatives:

Work is progressing with three thematic initiatives, supported by the EN RD Contact Point, to connect NRNs with a common interest in specific areas of rural development policy and RDP implementation. A total of 23 NRNs have so far shown interest in working jointly on one or more of three themes: **Social Farming, Forestry** and **Strengthening Rural Entrepreneurship**.

The main aim of these joint initiatives is to connect like-minded NRNs so they can share knowledge and experience, and also develop common work plans and activities to address specific aspects of RDP implementation. For example, the new Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative focuses on addressing the challenge of promoting rural entrepreneurship in times of economic downturn and crisis. There are countless opportunities in existing RDPs, but how exactly to make full and effective use of them? That's the question asked by the 20 NRNs working together on this initiative – watch this space for news on progress!

NRNs Meet in Malta

The 9th meeting of the National Rural Networks (NRNs) took place in Qawra/Malta on the 29th and 30th June. Hosted by the Network Support Unit of the Maltese Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs, representatives of 20 NRNs from all over the European Union were in attendance to connect rural Europe by sharing knowledge and information. For more detailed information on the meeting itself, please [click here](#).

COUNTRY FOCUS

 **Denmark** Size: 43 098 km²;
5.4 million inhabitants.

Denmark has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the EU (3.5%) and some 53% of its population live in rural areas. About 45,000 agriculture holdings represent 60% of the total land area. Denmark's RDP focuses on strengthening the competitiveness of the agri-food and forestry sectors and responding to demands for quality organic food products that are environmentally friendly. So far, more than 6% of Denmark's agricultural land area has been converted to organic production. Environmental concerns and making rural areas more attractive places in which to live and work are also central to its RDP.

+ *more information*



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