



Thematic Working Group 1

“Targeting territorial specificities and needs
in Rural Development Programmes”



Connecting Rural Europe



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1. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of TWG1 is to contribute, through relevant analysis and the diffusion of results, to an efficient targeting of territorial specificities and needs in Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) and to a more balanced development of rural areas across Europe.

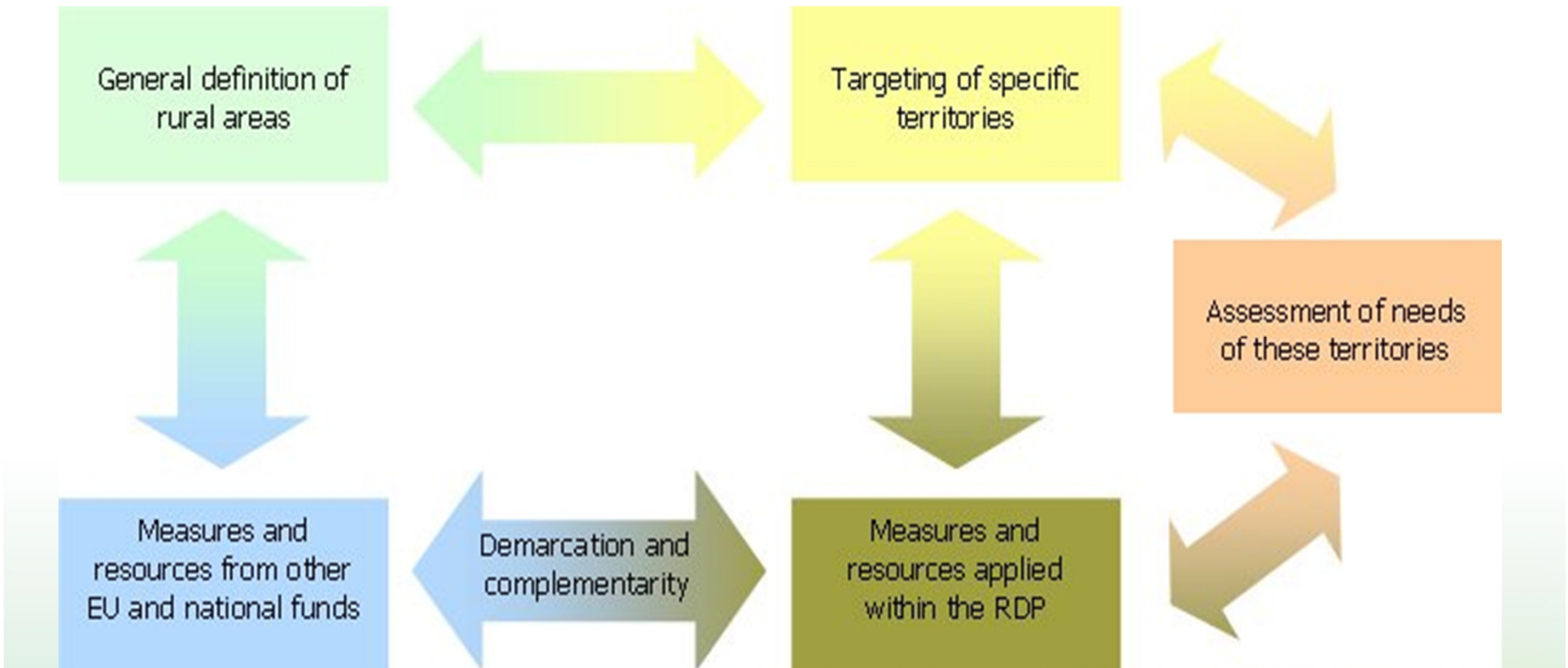
■ In this context TWG1 assessed:

- The definition of rural areas for RDP purposes by EU Member States and regions;
- The specification of needs and targeting of specific territories;
- RDP measures applied to cover those needs and specificities;
- Demarcation / complementarity between the different funding instruments (EU/National) applied to meeting those needs;





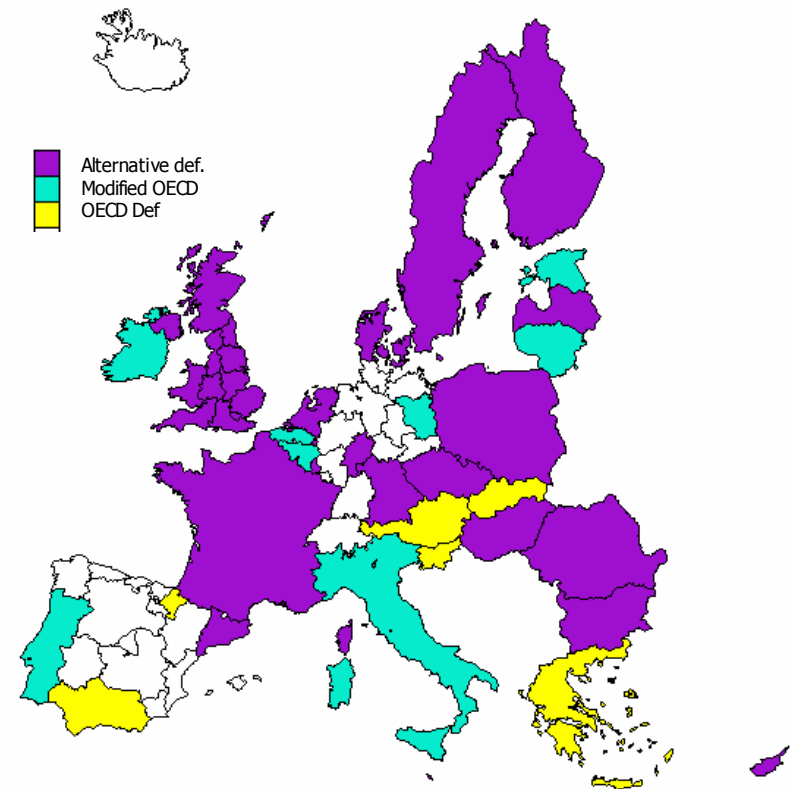
1. OBJECTIVES





2. DEFINITIONS OF RURAL AREAS FOR THE 2007-2013 RDPs

- Member States were offered (for defining their rural areas) the possibility of:
 - Adopting the standard or a modified OECD definition
 - Using and justifying an alternative definition
- An investigation of 35 RDPs, covering all MS, indicates that the vast majority of them, used an alternative definition of rural areas, due to:
 - A need to more “accurately” portray rural heterogeneity and area-specific development issues
 - A desire for a more relevant (nationally) distinction between rural and urban areas - including earlier national rural definitions
 - An aim to extend the eligibility of farm and forest land on which specific RDP measures can apply



Results of the survey of 35 RDPs





2. DEFINITIONS OF RURAL AREAS FOR THE 2007-13 RDPs

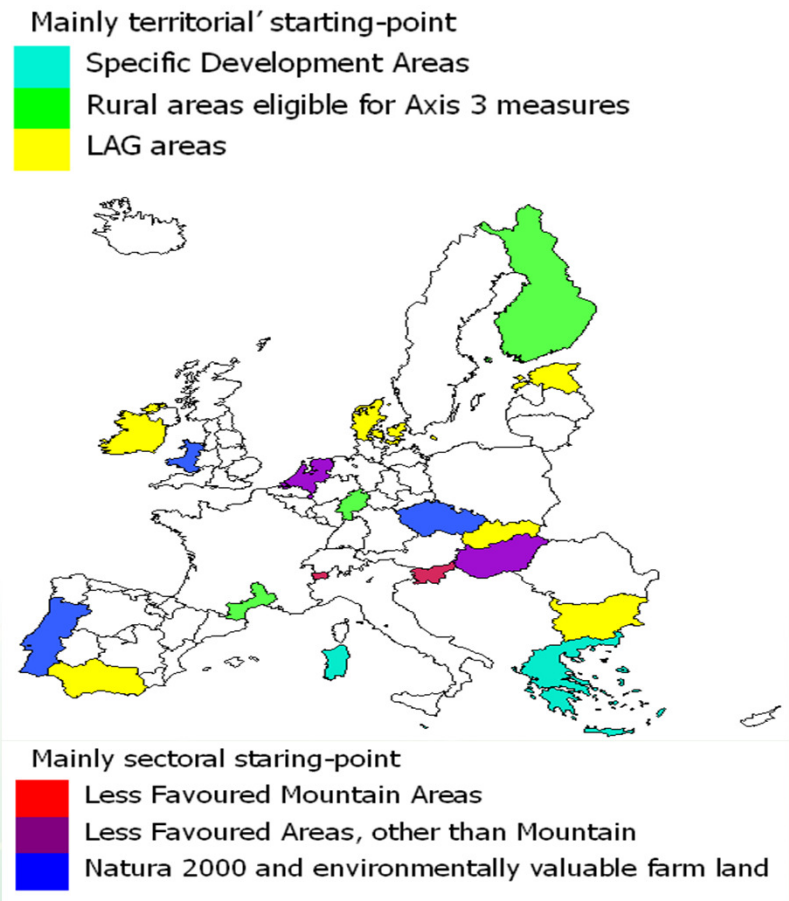
- Modifications to the OECD definition were carried out with an aim to fit national policy priorities (e.g. excluding large cities or inclusion of small towns)
- Reasons officially provided for not adopting the OECD definition indicated significant differences in the concept of rurality in terms of population density, size of communes or municipalities, remoteness and accessibility, rural and peri-urban areas, structure of land use, etc., but were also driven by policy considerations, that is the aim to specify rural areas with specific development needs
- The modification of the OECD definition and the use of alternative definitions of rural areas by MS RDPs have resulted in:
 - An increase between 8% and 10% in the national/regional territory classified as rural
 - An increase between 9% and 20% in national/regional population classified as rural
 - In some cases the above increase is modest, but in others (e.g. Italy, Malta, Luxembourg, Hessen, Flanders) they are more significant





3. TERRITORIAL TARGETING, NEEDS AND MEASURES

- MS or regions use a wide variety of territorial definitions to target their RDP measures. These definitions can be grouped in two broad clusters:
 - Those with a mainly sectoral focus on farming and forestry (Axes 1 and 2)
 - Those which have a mainly territorial focus, (Axes 3 and 4)
- 19 case studies - to understand better how MS and regions assess territorial needs and target measures
- These case studies focused on six main types of territory (3 from the sectoral cluster / 3 from the territorial cluster)





3. TERRITORIAL TARGETING, NEEDS AND MEASURES

- Most of the territories in the case studies are delimited and presented with a fair or good level of clarity. Over two-thirds of these territories are given priority in the respective RDPs
- Two types of relations to the overall rural definition:
 - 'Free-standing' from the definition of rural areas in the RDP ← those measures which have their own clearly defined target – such as LFAs or Natura 2000 areas
 - Closely related to the general rural areas definition ← territories which command the attention of a wider range of measures – such as 'Specific Development Areas' and the 'Areas Eligible for Axis 3 Measures'
- Some of the definitions of LAG areas (namely for Ireland and for Andalusia) extend beyond the rural areas as defined in the overall definition
- Case studies on LAG areas (IR, DK) and organised territories (Rural areas eligible for Axis 3 measures, e.g. Languedoc-Roussillon (FR), Hessen (D)) demonstrated that devolution of RDP powers to regions can allow territorial definitions to reflect a sharper relationship between needs and measures





4. COHERENCE IN TERRITORIAL TARGETING

- Case studies have showed a fair level of coherence between the sequence of elements of territorial targeting:
 - Definition of rural areas
 - Strategic goals of RDP
 - Definition of territories covered by each case study
 - Assessment of territorial needs
 - Measures and resources applied or allocated within the RDP and
 - Complementarity or/and demarcation with other instruments/programmes
- Main characteristics of relevant practices identified include:
 - The fact that territorial definitions refer to multiple development objectives
 - Territories in which a particular objective is a priority are often also the target of multiple measures aimed at supporting “territorial sustainability”
 - The involvement of LAGs (or other local institutions) also in the use of resources specific to other EU/national funds





5. COMPLEMENTARITY AND DEMARCATION

- Different EU funds provide thematic and geographical distinctions as a basis for demarcation (an obligation of MS), but can also allow for geographical, beneficiary and project overlap;
- Hence, to maximize policy effectiveness, complementarity between funds should be pursued;
- Complementarity between EAFRD and other EU funds has been widely acknowledged in the RDPs; thus, most RDPs provide “room” for overlap between EAFRD and other funds, in terms of territory, type of project and (in a lesser extent) beneficiary;
- RDPs state other funds (ERDF: diversification, accessibility, environment; ESF: training; Cohesion Fund: environment & transport, EFF) as complementing EAFRD; however, no information is given on the extent of resources or priorities of these funds to ensure complementarity in practical terms;
- Complementarity is pursued through (mostly) national/regional coordination and/or integration in programming and delivery at the local level;
- Coordination is mostly a “central” jurisdiction, but is sometimes delegated to local authorities or LAGs (e.g. Netherlands, Denmark). In some cases, local management of demarcation is pursued.



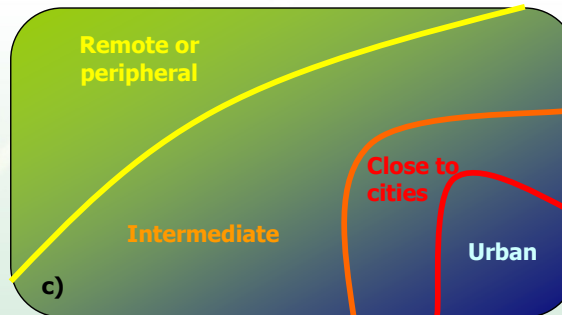
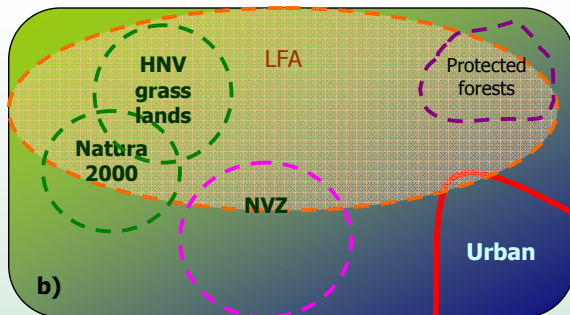
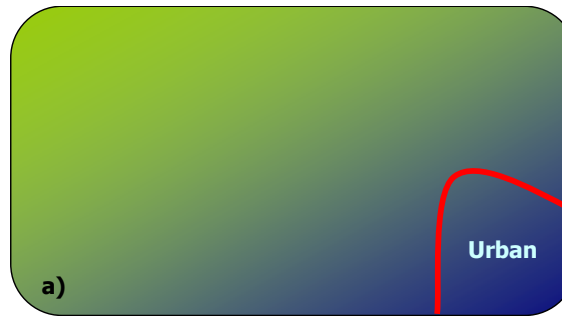


6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

- In the territorial scope of the rural development programming, three issues are perceived, which are linked but separate:



- The definition, at EU level or in each MS or region, of the boundary between 'rural' and 'urban' areas
- The targeting of particular territories for the application of specific measures
- The typology of rural areas





6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

- The prerequisite is to define the boundary between rural and urban areas, as the basis for:
 - at EU level, the division of labour between the rural development fund and other community instruments (eg. regional development)
 - at national or regional level, to set the geographic scope of the Rural Development Programme, also in relation to other intervening programmes
- The building blocks for a typology of rural areas and territorial targeting are needed :
 - A. To define the areas to which specific sectoral measures do or do not apply.
 - B. To define the areas which most need development, in the sense of social, economic or other change, in order to address socio-economic weaknesses and to achieve cohesion





6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

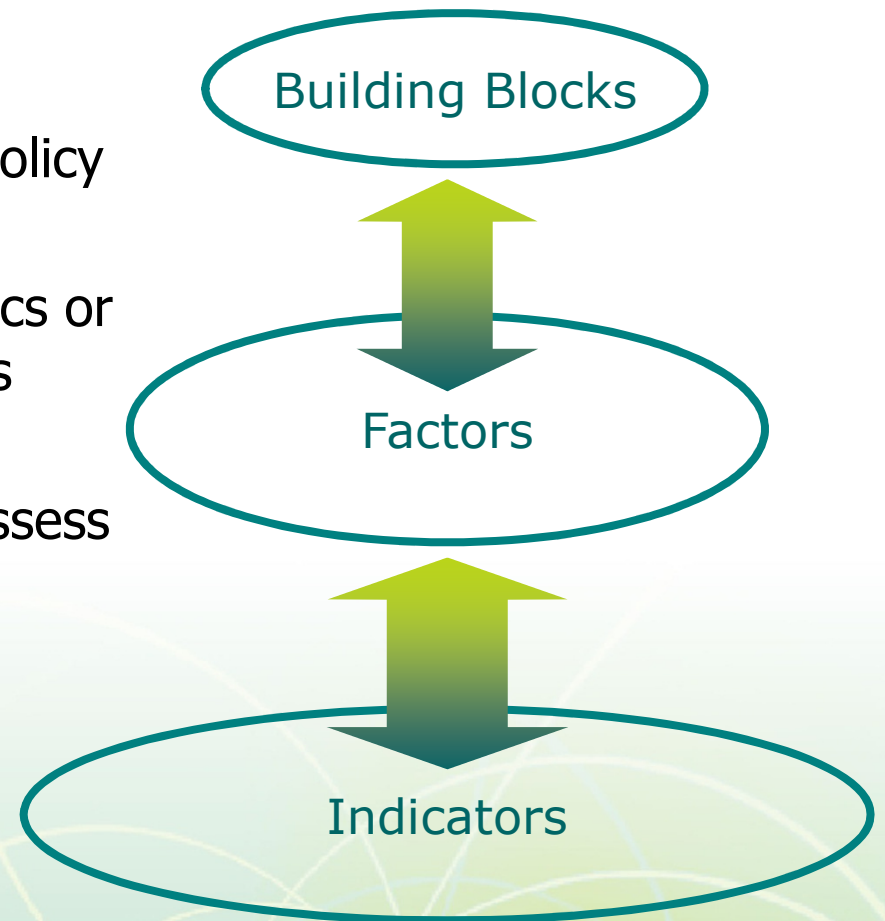
- In the context of TWG1, the development of building blocks as opposed to a revised typology was considered most appropriate
- For these reasons, what follows may be seen as:
 - a set of building blocks towards a revised typology on which further work will be needed (possibly by the EC and Member States)
 - a set of ideas or factors which may figure in the analytical work that will need to be done by Member States or regions in preparing the next generation of Rural Development Programmes





6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

- The building blocks refer to territorial development or agricultural multifunctionality issues – thus rural policy issues
- Factors refer to territorial characteristics or conditions relevant to the policy issues (building blocks)
- Indicators are to capture factors, to assess how these factors affect development/policy issues.
- Indicators are used to differentiate territories in a typology





6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

- **Three building blocks**
- Nine important factors have been identified from the research
- These factors and building blocks have an obvious reference to the typology purposes (as demonstrated in the table)
- Sets of indicators can then be chosen for each factor (by MS or regions, by the EU)

Building Blocks	Factors	A	B	C
Rural Definition	1 Population Density	X		?
	2 Urban Areas	X		?
	3 Land Use	X	X	
Block 1 - Physical handicap	4 Physical Handicap		X	X
Block 2 - Environmental Sensitivity	5 Environmental Sensitivity		X	
Block 3 - Socio-economic disadvantage	6 Demography			X
	7 Socio-economic problems			X
	8 Economic structure			X
	9 Access to urban services/economies			X

Key to column headings

A Definition of rural and urban areas for general purposes

B Definition of areas for application of specific measures

C Definition of areas which most need development

X = definite links, ? = possible links





6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

	Factor	Indicators
1	Population Density	Population density (BSLI 17)
2	Urban Areas	Size of LAU2 or built-up areas
3	Land use	Land cover (BSLI 7), Land use (BSLI 3,9)
4	Physical handicap	Latitude, altitude, slope, soil quality (BSLI 8), Climate - precipitation, temperatures, Water regime - aridity, salinity, drought, flood etc. (BSLI 15)
5	Environmental Sensitivity	Natura 2000 area (BSLI 10), Biodiversity: Protected Forests (BSLI 11), NVZ (BSLI 14), Protective Forests concerning primarily soil, water and other ecosystem functions (BSLI 16), Cultural heritage, Landscape diversity and quality
6	Demography	Balance of births and deaths, Balance of in- and out-migration, Age structure (BSLI 18), Life expectancy



BSLI – Baseline Indicators (CMEF)

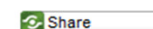
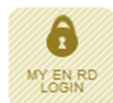
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6. BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A NEW RURAL TYPOLOGY

	Factor	Indicators
7	Socio-economic problems	Levels of educational attainment (BSLI 22), Levels of unemployment, under-employment, low levels of economic activity, Long-term unemployment (BSLI 21), Levels of average income and purchasing power, Access to basic communal services and infrastructure Standards of infrastructure, Internet infrastructure (BSLI 23)
8	Economic structure and strength	Structure of the Economy (BSLI 19), Structure of employment (BSLI 20), Structure of farming (BSLI 4) Structure, productivity and health of forests (BSLI 5,6, 13), Multipliers and leakage in regional and sub-regional economies, Levels of job vacancy, GDP and GVA per capita
9	Access to urban services and economies	Presence of basic services in urban areas, Presence of job vacancies in urban areas, Ease of access to urban areas, in terms of personal or public transport, Levels of commuting





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NATIONAL RURAL NETWORKS

EN RD THEMATIC INITIATIVES

EN RD LIBRARY

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European Network for Rural Development

The European Network for Rural Development (EN RD) was launched in October 2008, to act as a focal point for all rural development actors across the EU. In particular, the EN RD helps ensure that Member States efficiently implement Rural Development Programmes (RDPs). [Read more](#)

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EN RD NEWS and UPDATE

MAIN STORIES



PROJECT OF THE MONTH: PORTUGUESE PROJECT PROVES IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION

A Portuguese project which connects producers of fresh locally sourced fruit ...

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OTHER NEWS



15 February, 2011: EN RD newsletter for February available in six languages

The February edition of the EN RD newsletter Rur@l News is now available to download in the following languages: French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish, as well as English. This month we report on the recent workshop for new LAGs held in Brussels and much more. Click [here](#).



15 February, 2011: French LAGs visit EN RD Contact Point in Brussels

Two French LAGs visited the EN RD Contact Point in Brussels, on 9 February, 2011. The LAG representatives discussed the Leader Programme after 2013, as well as issues relating to Leader implementation and transnational cooperation (TNC).



15 February, 2011: Deadline for registration for LINC conference approaches

The 11th NRN meeting is scheduled to take place on 27 April, 2011, to coincide with the LINC Conference (27 - 29 April, 2011) in Bad Schandau, Germany. All LAGs and NRNs are welcome at this event but are advised the closing date for registration is **28 February, 2011**. Click [here](#).



[MEDIA GALLERY](#)



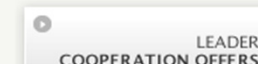
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