



**10th European Week of
Regions and Cities**
Brussels 8 - 11 October 2012

OPEN DAYS 2012

Workshop description

Organiser:

European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development with the collaboration of the European Network for Rural Development Contact Point

Title:

Networking as a tool for successful community-led local development (CLLD)

Theme:

Create a better understanding of how networking can be used as a tool to mobilise actors and create, share, build ideas and experiences that can evolve into a sustainable CLLD.

Workshop date / time / room:

10 Oct 14.30-17.00 workshop 10B13

Workshop description (max. 100 words):

The workshop will aim to inform participants on the **importance** that networking plays in **preparing and implementing** community based local development strategies. The presentations will seek to create a **better understanding of the role** that European and national formal networks can play in bringing together the Local Action Groups (LAGs) involved in the design and implementation of community-led local development.

The discussions will further explore the **added value of the networking** process through enhancement of knowledge and experiences at local, regional, national and European level and the different ways that LEADER networking has been developed throughout its inception till the current programming period. The role of ENRD and National Rural Networks will be tackled with a specific focus on the **functionality** of networks as a tool for **creating and sharing innovative ideas** but also as **facilitators of cooperation** amongst various stakeholders and decision makers.

Finally a collation of “stories” will be presented by networks on their current activities, the networking method and tools used.

Name and organisational affiliation of Chair:

Jean-Michel Courades, European Commission DG AGRI-G3 "European network and monitoring of rural development policy"

Name and organisational affiliation of speakers

(seminars and workshops: max. 4 / debates: max. 6):

Presentations

- **Jean-Michel Courades** (European Commission DG AGRI G3): *Networking as a LEADER feature*
- **Donald Aquilina** – (ENRD Contact Point): *The Role of Networks in supporting CLLD*

Presentation of Case Studies - What is the Network doing?

- **Ave Bremse** (Estonian National Rural Network)
- **Riccardo Passero** and **Raffaella di Napoli** (Italian National Rural Network)

Discussion on Networking