European Rural Networks' Assembly

Agenda

2nd Meeting, 26 November 2015

Centre Albert Borschette (room 0A)

Rue Froissart, 36

1040 Brussels

European Rural Networks' Assembly

2nd Meeting

Context and objectives of the meeting

The Rural Networks' Assembly is the main governance body of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks. A strategic framework for the networks has been put in place, and 2015 has effectively been the first year of the networks' activities in the 2014-2020 programming period. Over this period most of the RDPs have been approved.

The objectives of the 2nd meeting of the Assembly are to:

- Consider the main messages emerging from the preliminary review of the RDPs.

- Take stock of the activities of the networks up to now in the context of the strategic framework.

- Discuss and make proposals for the 2016 priority activities of the European Rural Networks in light of the opportunities identified for improving RDP implementation.

- Debate and make proposals for ensuring the Rural Networks' governance structures are effective in responding to the needs of the different stakeholders and to encourage active involvement of the RN Assembly members in future activities.

Outline agenda

Timing	Agenda item
Chair: Aldo Longo, Director for general aspects of rural development and research, DG AGRI	
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.10	**Welcome and introduction**, DG AGRI

09.10-10.45	**Unlocking the potential of the Rural Development Programmes** *Interactive session to present the 'state of play' of the RDPs. What are the distinctive features of the new programmes? What needs to be done to make the most of the new opportunities and overcome the challenges?*
	• State of Play of the RDPs, DG AGRI
	• Scope for unlocking the potential of the RDPs
	   ○ Panel discussion with representatives of major RNs' stakeholder groups
	   ○ Open discussion
	Panel discussion with representatives of RNs' major stakeholder group

10.45-11.15	Coffee

11.15-12.30	**Opportunities for improving RDP implementation through the Rural Networks**
	
	• Reminder of the RNs' common strategic strategic framework and specific objectives, DG AGRI
	• Current ENRD themes and activities
	   ○ ENRD Contact point
	   ○ ENRD Evaluation helpdesk
	• Current EIP-AGRI themes and activities
	   ○ EIP-AGRI Service Point
	• Update on the RNs' assessment activities
	
	Questions and discussion about how Assembly members can be involved and contribute to the different kinds of activities

12.30-14.00	Lunch break

14.00-15.30	**Activating Rural Networks to achieve results** Three parallel workshops designed to obtain the ideas of Assembly members about how to focus future work in a way that is most practical and effective for RD implementation. Workshop themes 1. Rural Networks: Contributing to smart and competitive rural areas 2. Rural Networks: Advancing the green economy 3. Rural Networks: Tackling key issues in RDP implementation (including a simpler and more effective rolling out of LEADER/CLLD) Principle objective for each workshop • To identify the priorities for the RNs' activities for 2016: building on but not necessarily limited to the on-going activities General format for the workshops • *Introduction of the workshop topic* • *Priority topics already identified within the workshop theme - given through the use of 4-5 short examples followed by group discussion* • *Identification of additional specific topics – informed by group discussion* • *Identification of areas and actions where the* **RNs can intervene** *to positive effect (including the involvement of Assembly members)*
15.30-16.00	Coffee
16.00-17.00	**Priorities for 2016** Recommendations from the workshops for making existing activities more practical and effective for RDP implementation and suggestions for further activities in 2016. Discussion on the RNs' priorities for 2016.
17.00-17.30	**Next steps & Closing** • Coordination with other networks: The European Rural Parliament • Up-coming events and activities • Closing remarks