ENRD Thematic Group on Rural Businesses

3rd Thematic Group Meeting

23-24 January 2017

Venue & Date

Molenaarsgraaf (The Netherlands), 23-24 January 2017

Montapacking E-fulfilment

Polderweg Oost 19, 2973 AN Molenaarsgraaf

Tel. +31 184 208 700, www.montapacking.nl

Objectives

- ✓ Present and discuss the **planned outcomes of the thematic work** on smart & competitive rural businesses;

- ✓ Present and discuss **inspiring examples** that stimulate discussion about the linkages between rural businesses, business support (including for digitisation) and the wider rural community;

- ✓ **Review selected examples** on rural businesses and business support with the aim of identifying success factors, challenges and possible recommendations.

Time	Day 1: Monday 23 January 2017

12.30   Arrival of participants at Rotterdam and departure to field visit:

Departure from Rotterdam Airport at 12:30 (Meeting point: near the Illy coffee shop, near the security checkpoint) see practical information document.

Departure from Rotterdam Train Station at 13:00 (Meeting point: stairs in the middle of the big hall bringing to the underground). See also practical information document.

13.00   **Field visit:**

Site 1: Montapacking E-fulfilment

Polderweg Oost 19, 2973 AN Molenaarsgraaf, Tel. +31 184 208 700, www.montapacking.nl

Montapacking is a technology-driven organisation operating since 1988. It is located in the rural area to the south of Rotterdam and provides e-fulfilment services. Montapacking operates through a logistics platform able to quickly connecting its customers including big, medium and small enterprises. They are also involved in the civil enterprise for Glassfibre in the rural area.

Site 2: Hazendonk Hoeve

Kweldamweg 3, 2973 LA Molenaarsgraaf
http://hethazendonkje.nl/locaties/molenaarsgraaf/

The Hazendock Hoeve is a farm and is a nursery where children can develop healthier and in a more balanced way, in regular contact with nature and natural elements. The Hazendock Hoeve is part of the Dutch network of nursery-farms called VAK. The VAK provides advice to farms that want to diversify their activities with childcare services and that therefore, need to comply with the numerous health and safety requirements imposed by the childcare sector. The Hazendonkhoeve recently developed new business models for the farm and is working on a new service called 'milk from cow directly to customer'.

Time	Day 2: Tuesday 24 January 2017
9.00	Registration and coffee
9.30	**Introduction** to the meeting: *Where we are and the purpose of the 3rd TG meeting, Edina Ocsko (ENRD CP)*
10.00	**Rural businesses and the wider rural economy: links between rural communities, local services (including digital technology) & rural businesses** **eTownz: Digital Development Research Project***, Pat Kennedy (eTownz project)* eTownz is a digital development company in Dublin. They have been involved in digital RnD in the community development sector. Pat Kennedy will tell his experience on setting up a rural-based company, experience with generating ideas (including business ideas) in the rural community and building on digital technology within this process. **Regeneration in Murat District – CoCotte virtual digital enterprise centre,** *Clive Peckham* CoCotte is a physical and virtual digital enterprise centre in a remote rural area that offers a hybrid smart or telenetworking centre, training and support programme, 'welcome' services to support new entrants, fab-lab, accelerator/competition programme.
10.30	**Discussion: How to create linkages with the wider rural economy and community that encourage new businesses into rural areas?** • *Reflection by participants on the presentations: Questions & Answers*
11.00	*Coffee*
11.30	**LEADER and business support** *Presentation by Alistair Prior about the Scottish LEADER Programme & business support* *Q&A*
12.00	**Working group:** Review of examples – scope/focus, main success factors/ challenges and the most relevant examples for the purpose of the TG: • **Review** of existing examples (based on preliminary material/ examples collected & experience of participants) • Identifying **key aspects**: main success factors/ challenges regarding examples identified • Identification of examples to be developed into case studies/ good practices (including any further examples)
13.30	*Lunch*
14.15	**Discussion:** Feedback from the morning sessions and possible recommendations to be developed by the TG
15.00	**Conclusions & Next Steps**
15.30	*End of meeting*