

**ENRD Seminar on
Stakeholder Involvement**

Brussels, 26 March 2015

Bringing hard-to-reach stakeholders into rural development policy implementation

Simonas Barzda

Union of Young Farmers Circles of Lithuania



Involvement of young farmers into rural development in Lithuania

- Shaping farmer support program measures
 - Advising Ministry of Agriculture on the design, criteria
 - Discussions with National Parliament Committee of Rural Affairs
- Only several suggestions remained in final versions of measures

A vision of involvement of young farmers in rural development

- In an imaginary perfect world:
 - Farmers are open-minded and actively involved
 - Interested in rural development as a whole
 - Farmer organizations come up with one common vision
 - Managing authorities willingly communicate with farmers
 - Suggestions are actually being taken into account
 - Monitoring the implementation of policy

Ways to be involved in rural development

- Lots of ways to be involved
 - Not necessarily shaping EU policy
 - Starting with simple things
- “Rural flagship” project
 - Countries involved: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, Sweden
 - Sharing experience
 - Identifying best methods and practice
- “Rural flagship 2.0”
 - Providing young people in rural areas with a “toolbox” for creating a sustainable local community

Thank you!