

ENRD SEMINAR

“Seizing the Opportunities for Improving RDP Implementation for 2014-2020”

AGENDA

Brussels, 11 June 2015

The Hotel
38, Boulevard de Waterloo - 1000 Brussels

Background and objectives

The Seminar is part of the ENRD integrated work package on ‘improving RDP implementation’ whose main objective is to *‘provide those directly and indirectly involved in RDP implementation with knowledge and tools in order to address key challenges and improve the quality of RDP implementation from the outset of the 2014-2020 programming period’*.

At a time when the majority of the 2014-2020 RDPs are adopted or next to be, the seminar focuses on the next steps that RDP authorities will need to take to lay down the operational framework for the implementation of programmes. National and regional rules and provisions will be rolled out determining among others, requirements and selection criteria that will translate strategies and priorities into concrete interventions. Crucially, the partnership will need to be consulted to ensure that decisions made in this respect reflect programming needs.

In this framework, the seminar aims at bringing together national and regional MAs and other stakeholders concerned with the implementation of RDPs to **identify main challenges for the successful start of RDPs, opportunities for improving RDP implementation and joint actions to be carried out at the EU level.**

At the operational level, the seminar aims at:

- Sharing experiences about methods and approaches to RDP implementation which address recognised weaknesses and embrace new opportunities and learn from them
- Raise awareness of administrative and/or practical constraints to implementation and highlight needs for further action
- Contribute to the creation of a “community of practice” at the EU level involving those responsible for designing and implementing RDPs.

Agenda:

8.30 – 9.00 **Registration of participants**

9.00 – 9.10 **Welcome and introductory remarks**

Markus Holzer, Head of Unit, DG AGRI H3

Paul Soto, Team Leader, ENRD Contact Point

9.10 – 10.15 **Morning plenary**

Objective: *setting the scene and prepare the ground for workshop discussion*

- Update of state of play of 2014-2020 RDPs, *Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director General, DG AGRI*
- Opportunities for improving RDP implementation in 2014-2020, *Martin Scheele, Head of Unit – Consistency of rural development, DG AGRI*

Questions and comments from the audience

- Introduction to the morning workshops, *Fabio Cossu, ENRD Contact Point*
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10.15 – 10.45 *Coffee break*

10.45 – 12.15 **Morning workshops**

Objectives: *focus on ‘processes’ to be put in place from the outset of the programming period that have a direct impact on the quality of RDP implementation; identify good methods and approaches and expected improvements on RDP implementation; raise awareness about possible constraints and put forward recommendations to overcome them.*

WS1 - Customer-oriented RDPs' implementation (*involvement of stakeholders in the rolling-out of measures, effective Monitoring Committees, communication challenges and approaches to improve take-up of new measures by potential beneficiaries*):

- Communicating the launch of the new RDP, *Zuzana Dvořáková, RDP Managing Authority, CZ*
- The RDP Monitoring Committee: opportunities and limitations, *Veronika Madner, RDP Managing Authority, AT*
- Building Common understanding: ‘reading together’, *Erja Loppi, Agency for Rural Affairs, FI*

WS2 - Result-oriented RDPs' implementation (*simplification of procedures, improving administrative capacity and quality of RDP management, avoiding "gold plating"*):

- The implementation of SCOs in the 2014-2020 RDP of the Canary Islands, *Carla Álvarez de Vera, RDP Managing Authority, ES*
 - “Learn and DO”: better RDP management for 2014-20, *Denis McGowan, RDP Managing Authority & Ian Dempsey, West Cork Development Partnership, IE*
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WS3 - Coordination and capacity building challenges in Member States with regional RDPs

- Adoption of Quality Management Systems for RDPs, *Andrea Evangelista, National Rural Network, IT*
- Training and capacity transfer to regional administrations, *Laurent Vignaud, Agence de Services et de Paiement, FR*

12.15 – 13.00 **Feedback from workshops and discussions**

Introduction to the afternoon workshops, *Fabio Cossu, ENRD Contact Point*

13.00 – 14.15 *Lunch*

14.15 – 15.45 **Afternoon workshops**

Objectives: *focus on practical implementation aspects linked to novelties and opportunities offered by the 2014-2020 RDPs; showcase MS plans and promising approaches for RDP measures' implementation; discuss about expected benefits and possible support (including from networks) to encourage the take up from beneficiaries.*

WS4 - Investments support measures:

- Introductory remarks, *Robert Hodosi, DG AGRI - H1*
- The Danish RDP strategy for support to investments, *Stefan Østergård Jensen, AgriFish Agency, DK*

WS5 - Area-based measures:

- Introductory remarks, *Krzysztof Sulima, DG AGRI - H1*
- England's new Countryside Stewardship scheme, *Kaley Hart, IEEP*
- Targeted agri-environment scheme and output-based projects in Ireland's RDP', *Anja Murray, Environmental Pillar, IE*

WS6 – Knowledge transfer, business development, cooperation & other measures

- Introductory remarks, *Mike Mackenzie, DG AGRI - H1*
- RDP support to public procurement in the food sector, *Robin Gourlay, Scottish Government, UK*
- Take-over support for young farmers, *Ariane Van Den Steen, Flemish Rural Network, BE*

15:45 – 16:30 **Feedback from workshops and discussion**

16:30 – 16:45 **Wrapping up and closing**