European Rural Networks Assembly
1st Meeting

AGENDA

26 January 2015

Centre Albert Borschette (room 0A)
Rue Froissart, 36
1040 Brussels

European Rural Networks Assembly - 1st Meeting

Objectives of the meeting

The overall aim of the 1st Rural Networks' Assembly meeting is to successfully launch the Rural Networks' Assembly as the main governance body of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks and as an effective forum for debating the strategic framework for their activities. The objectives of the meeting are:

- To reach a common understanding of the aims and functions of the common governance structure and organisation of the ENRD and EIP-AGRI networks and adopt the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

- To discuss the strategic framework for the rural networks, based on a logical framework derived from EU legislation.

- To identify priorities and subjects for the thematic work to be carried out by the ENRD and EIP-AGRI network, particularly for 2015.

- To propose the membership of the Steering Group.

Outline agenda

Chair: Aldo Longo, Director for general aspects of rural development and research, DG AGRI

Timing	Agenda Item
08.00 – 09.00	*Registration*
09.00 – 09.15	Introduction by Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director General, DG AGRI
09.15 – 10.00	'The Rural Networks' Assembly' Governance structure and rules of procedure by DG AGRI Q&A
10.00-10.30	Proposal for the Steering Group Confirmation of permanent sub-groups for Innovation and LEADER-CLLD
10.30 – 11.00	*Coffee*
11.00-11.45	Building blocks for the Strategic framework of Rural Networks Q&A

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11.45-12.00	Introduction to the parallel workshops
12.00-12.15	Keynote message by Phil Hogan, Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development
12.15-12.30	Keynote message by Kersti Kaljulaid, Member of the European Court of Auditors
12.30-14.00	*Lunch offered by the Commission*
14.00-15.30	Parallel workshops to discuss in which ways the ENRD and the EIP-network can best achieve their common objectives to: **Workshop 1 (Room: 0C)** 　　**"Better Networking with ENRD/EIP-AGRI**" - How rural policy networks complement other forms of networking to increase participation **Workshop 2 (Room: 0B)** 　　**"Farmers in Innovation"** - How to establish a dialogue between farmers and research community **Workshop 3 & 4 (Room: 1C)** 　　**"Networking priorities"** - What are the priority themes for improving RDP implementation that the Networks should address **Workshop 5 ((Room: 1D)** 　　**"What should come first in innovation"** - What are the priority innovation themes that the Networks should address? **Workshop 6 (Room: 2C)** 　　**"Better communication with stakeholders"** - How can the Networks communication activities complement existing awareness raising activities
15.30-16.30	Report back from workshops Priorities and subjects for the thematic work
16.30-17.00	Wrap-up and next meeting(s) by DG AGRI Closing remarks by Aldo Longo

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1st Rural Networks' Assembly - Parallel workshops

Workshop 1: "Better Networking with ENRD/EIP-AGRI" - *How rural policy networks complement other forms of networking to increase participation*

Aim: identify specific activities the Networks should prioritise to ensure more effective participation. This will be looked at from the perspective of competitive agriculture, the sustainable management of natural resources and balanced territorial development.

Questions: What are stakeholder needs?
What channels and methods for more effective participation?
What are the areas for common action?

Workshop 2: "Farmers in Innovation" – *How to establish a dialogue between farmers and research community*

Aim: identify the best ways to ensure farmers become more involved in EU Networks (EIP-AGRI and ENRD). Explore the benefits for farmers and how actors in both networks (NRNs, advisers, advisory organisations etc.) can support this.

Questions: What could be effective communication channels for the EU Networks?
What should be main messages (terminology, aspects etc.) to address?
How can stakeholders in EU Networks contribute to this?

Workshops 3 & 4: "Networking priorities" - *What are the priority themes for improving RDP implementation that the Networks should address*

Aim: identify priority themes the EU Networks should address. Challenges, and hence themes may be: <u>sectoral</u> (e.g. value chain, results-orientated AEC activities) or <u>horizontal</u> (e.g. access to finance, improving 'delivery' performance, end user simplification).

Questions: What are the most important challenges/themes?
How important can networking be to address any given theme or challenge?

Workshop 5: "What should come first in innovation" - *What are the priority innovation themes that the Networks should address?*

Aim: identify priorities for innovation themes that the EU rural networks should address.

Questions: What are possible innovation themes?
What are the priority innovation themes?
How can the EU networks contribute to addressing such themes?

Workshop 6: "Better communication with stakeholders" - *How can the Networks communication activities complement existing awareness raising activities*

Aim: identify communications activities the Networks should prioritise to ensure mutual benefit with other stakeholders' activities.

Questions: What are the priority rural development communication goals?
Which activities should be prioritised by EU Rural Networks taking note of other institutions' existing activities and opportunities for synergy?