



RUR@L

ENRD Newsletter

April ^{EN} 2011
NEWS

ENRD REPORT

Synthesis report on Public Goods Working Group (TWG3) published

The main outcomes of the work of the Thematic Working Group (TWG) 3 on Public Goods are now available in a synthesis report. Check out the TWG3 page for further information on a series of related products, including the Public Goods Brochure. Click [here](#)

Delivery Mechanisms Working Group (TWG4) Update

The second round of case studies of TWG4, which explores the delivery mechanisms of rural development programmes (RDPs), is being finalised. A final report, which brings together the outcomes of the work which commenced in spring 2010 is being prepared by the ENRD, and will be presented at the next Coordination committee (CC) meeting in June. Click [here](#).

ENRD attends French NRN General Assembly

The ENRD was represented at the General Assembly of the French National Rural Network (NRN) on the 5th April. Possibilities for further NRN joint activities were discussed, in particular the Rural Entrepreneurship NRN Thematic Initiative, in which the French NRN intends to play a key part. Click [here](#).



POLICY BRIEF

ENRD Tools Assist Local Action Groups with Transnational Cooperation

Transnational Cooperation (TNC) is one of the lynchpins of rural development policy, as it provides Local Action Groups (LAGs) and local development project managers with the opportunity to find new and innovative solutions to problems that may arise.

A dedicated axis 4 funding measure is available from Member States' Rural Development Programmes (RDPs) to support cooperation actions, and each Member State has established its own rules regarding implementation of this measure.

The [TNC Guide](#) provides practical, user-friendly advice on how to engage in effective cooperation. The guide already attracts the highest number of visitors on the ENRD website, and now a new version of the Guide is being prepared which will boast a range of interactive features, including videos with advice from experts, who share their top-tips for effective cooperation. The new guide will be divided into four sections on the planning, implementation, monitoring and follow-up of TNC projects. Expect to see this interactive new feature on the website within the next few weeks!



A [TNC Offers](#) database is also available on the ENRD website providing LAGs with a constantly updated list of project ideas, which project promoters can use to identify additional partners. Parties interested in joining a cooperation project are invited to carefully review the list

and contact the project promoters directly. A [database of all European LAGs](#) is also available on the ENRD website, searchable by LAG name and/or country.

Complementing this tool is the ['My ENRD'](#) online community, in particular the section 'My LAG' where LAGs can update their information profile and submit new TNC offers. Additionally LAGs can access the recently launched 'LAG Thematic Forum' via their My ENRD account. This allows users to find new cooperation ideas and explore solutions for common concerns at local level, as well as examples of relevant practices from other LAGs. This is a great opportunity to exchange ideas on themes ranging from tourism to the economy and the environment, among many others. Access to the 'MY ENRD' online community can be requested at myenrd@enrd.eu.

Of course, the ENRD is also about connecting people – not just virtually – but at organised EU events throughout the year. So far, the ENRD helped organise the Cooperation Fair in Edinburgh in September 2010, and the workshop for new LAGs, held in Belgium, in January 2011. Moreover the ENRD actively participates in fairs and exhibitions across Europe, where TNC opportunities are widely promoted. Click [here](#) to see cooperation offers.

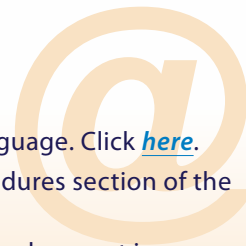
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NEW ONLINE...

- The ENRD website is now available in the Spanish language. Click [here](#).
- Updated information available in the Rules and procedures section of the TNC guide. Click [here](#).
- EU Rural Review issue 7 on Public goods and Rural Development is now available to download. Click [here](#)
- ATTENTION LAGs! New Leader Cooperation Offers have been posted on the website. Click [here](#).



Study highlights major changes in rural areas

A new 'Study on Employment, Growth and Innovation in Rural Areas' (SEGIRA) was carried out on behalf of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission. Concentrating on growth and employment, the study demonstrated the profound diversity of rural areas in the EU and the "regional finger print" of the term "rurality". While large parts of the Southern, Northern and Eastern Periphery of the EU, as well as many mountainous and other remote areas are still very rural, suffering from outmigration and issues relating to an aging population, other areas are performing better than comparable urban areas. Overall, growth of GDP per capita in rural regions from 2001 until the beginning of the financial crisis was higher than in urban areas (mainly due to strong growth in New Member States, especially from 2006 onwards) and there were also signs of improvement in the rate of employment. However, despite this positive trend, the gap in per capita income between rural and urban areas is widening and growth in the employment rate in rural regions for the period 2005-2007 remained below the average of all EU27-regions. The study also showed that most regions are generally positive about the effect of rural development policy upon growth and employment. According to this study, rural areas across the EU have undergone profound change in the last few

decades, both in terms of economic structure and demography. The most pervasive sectoral shift is the decline of the relative importance of agriculture, which accounts for 96% of rural land use, but only 13% of overall employment, and 6% of gross value added in rural and intermediate regions. Conversely, the importance of tourism is increasing in all regions and found to be a main driver for growth and employment, along with other new key activities, including small scale, niche manufacturing, food production and business services.

However, in general rural depopulation remains the dominant demographic trend, with the loss of young people cited as a 'critical threat' to the ongoing vitality of rural areas. Poor infrastructure and limited accessibility were also noted as barriers to development, with more emphasis needed on the emergence of the New Rural Economy, for example IT or sustainable energy production.

Rural areas do not necessarily 'lag behind' urban areas; in fact many rural regions 'perform better' than their urban neighbours in terms of some of the indicators analysed, such as the change in the economically active population, percentage of women in the workforce, etc. However, the critical 'lesson' to be learnt, according to the study, is that those areas which can best exploit synergies between economic sectors experience the highest employment and growth. Click [here](#) to read the report in full.



NRN FOCUS

ENRD visits Bulgaria

The ENRD visited Bulgaria in March on a networking mission to meet with the RDP Managing Authority and key stakeholders. Links were also forged with the European Fisheries Areas Network (FARNET) at a meeting in Sofia. Both networks have many areas of common interest and support similar activities. Click [here](#).

NRN Communication examples sought for major event

The Italian NRN wants to hear from all National Rural Networks about their publicity activities, in advance of a major communications event, planned for October in Milan. The event is being organised by the Italian NRN in conjunction with the ENRD, and is a great opportunity to showcase best-practice examples of Member State information and publicity campaigns on rural development. Contact [dapri@ismae.it](mailto:daprile@ismae.it) or e.cardosi@ismae.it for further information.



COUNTRY FOCUS



Germany

Population: 81,8 million
Area: 357,022 km²

In Germany, rural areas account for 80% of the land surface area and about 40% of the population live there. In comparison with other EU-27 Member States, Germany has a high overall population density and a relatively balanced spatial distribution of urban centres. Agriculture and forestry play a small role in many regions in terms of 'value added' and employment, with the secondary and tertiary sectors of greater importance. The high rate of unemployment is a major problem in rural areas, causing outward migration of young people, especially in parts of former Eastern Germany. There is a growing emphasis on the 'new challenges' of maintaining biological diversity, sustainable water management and mitigation of climate change; and a target has been set for the agricultural sector in Germany to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 14% by 2020 as compared to 2005 values. Click [here](#) for further details.



ENRD Contact Point PHONE: 0032/22352020 EMAIL: info@enrd.eu