European Network for Rural Development

3rd Rural Networks' Assembly: Discussion summary
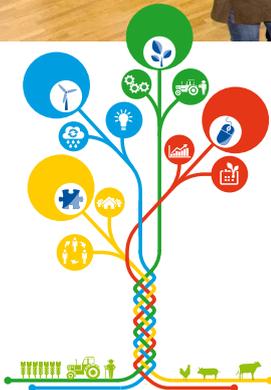
ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE CORK 2.0 DECLARATION

This reference document presents information collected at the 3rd Rural Networks' Assembly on planned and possible activities of network members linked to implementation of the Cork 2.0 Declaration. The Declaration that resulted from the Cork 2.0 European Conference on Rural Development (September 2016) sets out 10 policy orientations that should guide "an innovative, integrated and inclusive rural and agricultural policy in the EU".

Cork policy orientiations	Actions done or planned	Ideas for the future
Cross-cutting	• **Communicated** Cork 2.0 Conference and Declaration to rural development stakeholders (various) • Implemented **thematic working groups**, seminars, task forces and events on Cork 2.0 topics involving stakeholders (various) • Included Cork **discussions** in governance meetings of European Rural Networks • **Publications** – e.g. 'Rural Connections' thematic section and 'special edition ENRD Newsletter' on Cork 2.0 (ENRD CP)	▶ Use the Cork 2.0 Declaration in the **CAP post-2020** discussions ▶ Mainstream Cork 2.0 into the enhanced **Annual Implementation Reports** (AIRs) 2017 ▶ Design the future rural development policy **regulatory framework and RDP objectives** to align them with the Cork orientations ▶ Define a **Rural Agenda** for the next programming period ▶ Dedicated Cork 2.0 **webpage**(s) on the ENRD webpage
1 Promoting Rural Prosperity	• Implemented **rural proofing** (e.g. UK, FI) • Worked to ensure effective implementation and **roll out of RDP measures** for diversification, business development, entrepreneurship, investments, CLLD (Various MAs e.g. SE) • Dedicated campaign and thematic working group on '**entrepreneurship**' (FI) and support to innovations for entrepreneurship (SE) • LAG support (and other events) on **rural tourism** or the promotion of **local products** and local investments (various) • Events and support for **farm diversification** and business development (e.g. IE, UK-NI)	▶ Develop and implement a campaign to improve the **image of rural areas** (e.g. social media) (ES, UK) ▶ Focus resources to support the **wider rural economy** (tourism, education, health) (UK, ES, SI) ▶ Preserve and revitalise rural **cultural identity** to promote tourism ▶ Support the creation of **high skilled jobs** in rural areas (IE) ▶ Farmers discussion groups to boost innovation and product development for **food SMEs**

Activities around Cork 2.0

Cork policy orientiations	Actions done or planned	Ideas for the future
2 Strengthening rural value chain	• **Supported research** on rural value chains (e.g. ES) and quality products (e.g. SI) • Simplified **public food procurement** for healthier and cheaper food through short supply chains (e.g. SI) • **Charter of Mountain, quality food products** (EUROMONTANA) • Supported **local food networks** e.g. seminars, weekly information, database (e.g. EE NRN) • **Promoted agricultural products** to tourists (various LAGs)	▶ Support the development of a **new agricultural vision** ▶ Enhance **RDP support to short supply chains**, with focus on **cooperation** e.g. producer clusters among small farms ▶ A **workshop on forestry** involving the main farmers' and foresters' associations ▶ **Work closer with farmers' associations** on broader rural development topics ▶ Create a **training platform** (web based) for farmers
3 Investing in rural viability and vitality	• Raised the profile of periurban areas and outlined the importance of **rural-urban linkages** (PURPLE) • Focus on **young farmers** e.g. good practice collection (EE NRN) and events (UK-SCOT NRN) • Supported **land stewardship** activities (ECPA) • Provided access to higher **education through IT platforms** (e.g. Brie'Nov, FR) • European **NRNs Working group on integration of migrants and refugees** in rural areas (e.g. SE, FI, AT, DE)	▶ Facilitate **access to land** to young farmers and **information campaigns** and actions targeted at young people ▶ Activities on how to get **immigrants/refugees** to stay in our rural areas ▶ Enhance support for **family farming** ▶ Increase efforts of the Funds to support **diversification of income** ▶ Make a 'tour' of the ENRD **photo exhibition on migrants and refugees** (e.g. EE, BE-Wallonia)
4 Preserving the rural environment	• **Natura 2000 User Forum** focused on biodiversity and environment (ELO, CEPF, COPA, FACE) • Supported **conservation of high-nature-value farmland** and extensive farming systems, permanent grasslands conservation (various) • **PEGASUS: H2020 project** on ecosystem services • A **brochure** on 'Environmentally friendly agriculture' (EE NRN) • Supported **initiatives to recover river edges** for leisure and nature observation (PT)	▶ **Build relationships** between farmers and environmental NGOs and with foresters ▶ **Prioritise support** to those that implement sustainable farming, conservation of HNV grasslands and extensive livestock practices ▶ Introduce **results-based agri-environment schemes** ▶ Improve **evaluation of environmental impacts** of RDPs implementation ▶ Focus on extracting **market value of environmental public goods** (e.g. UK, SI) ▶ Implement **locally led environmental schemes (M10)**

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5 Managing natural resources	• EU **H2020 project "Agroforestry Innovation Network** (AFINET)" (EURAF) • **NRN working group** on the topic of 'natural resources management' (RO) • Activities to support **water use efficiency** in agriculture (PT) • Initiatives to support and improve **bio-economy** developments (various)	▶ Improve **evaluation and transparency of real environmental impacts** of agri subsidies (including supposed agri-environment payments) ▶ Demonstrate the value of **forestry connected to farms**
6 Encourage climate action	• **Research project** and an event on the contribution of **organic farming** to climate change mitigation measures in CAP (IFOAM) • **NRN thematic working group** on 'environment and climate' (FI) • **Climate change mitigation centre** (with demonstrations and engagement with EIP-AGRI) (Stulginskis University LT)	▶ Actions to further improve the **role of forests** in climate mitigation and adaptation and the **bio-economy** ▶ More support through the RDPs for **clean energy** ▶ Event on **sustainable development goals** and climate change in the future CAP
7 Boosting knowledge and innovation	• **Capacity building/training** of actors in innovation (various advisory services and MAs) • **Knowledge transfer and exchange** of good practices on innovation from research (various) • **Seminars** on innovation (e.g. ES, PT) • **Innovation support unit within the NSU** (e.g. UK-SC) • **H2020 project SIMRA**: promoting Social Innovation in Marginalised Rural Areas • **Coordination meeting of EIP-AGRI Focus Group members** to discuss follow up (NL)	▶ **Improved IT tools** for different stakeholders to share information and activities ▶ Allow **LEADER and M16** as a laboratory of ideas & learning by failure ▶ Implement **joint meetings** with LAGs, NRNs, MAs, PAs to overcome barriers to innovation ▶ **More support to innovation brokers**, knowledge providers, advisors etc ▶ More **detailed events on specific innovative solutions** which work in practice ▶ **Webinars** of innovation in agriculture with university specialists

Cork policy orientiations	Actions done or planned	Ideas for the future

8 — Enhancing rural governance

Actions done or planned

- **Multifunded CLLD strategies** (in various countries)
- **Declaration on the future of CLLD** (ELARD)
- Started a 'LEADER 2030 process' to rethink the future of LEADER (FI)
- Supported European & national **Rural Parliaments** (e.g. UK-SC, EE)
- **Thematic Working Groups and events** on CLLD (e.g. NRN SE, CZ)
- **LEADER Cooperation conferences** (e.g. Baltic region, UK-NI&IE)

Ideas for the future

- More activities to enhance the **integration of EU Funds** (holistic approach)
- Better **coordination between DGs** (&MAs) regarding CLLD – supported by the European Rural Networks
- **Engage LAGs** more directly in discussions on taking the Cork 2.0 Declaration forward
- More and earlier activities to **discuss the future of CLLD** and bottom-up approaches
- More reflection and discussion on how to deal with the **effects of globalisation** in rural areas

9 — Advancing policy delivery and simplification

Actions done or planned

- Included **Simplified Cost Options** in the RDPs (various MAs)
- **Simplified RDP implementation rules** (e.g. CZ)
- Use of **e-government** for RDP measures (e.g. BE-Flanders)
- **Collective approaches** for greening and agri-environmental-climate schemes (e.g. NL, HU)

Ideas for the future

- More activities to **build trust** between rural development actors (e.g. a "Trust Summit")
- More action to define **proportionate control mechanisms** – particularly for small projects
- Create local mechanisms for **advance payments for small projects**
- Further **harmonisation of national/regional approaches** regarding EU Funds
- Actions to improve **collaboration between Member States with regionalised RDPs**

10 — Improving performance and accountability

Actions done or planned

- **Communicated rural development achievements** to increase stakeholder/citizen awareness (various)
- **Translated important information** into national languages of (e.g. PT)

Ideas for the future

- **Ensure evaluation processes are understood and 'owned'** by rural development stakeholders (e.g. LAGs)
- **Accept more risk** and project failures to achieve bigger successes (especially around cooperation Measures 16+19)
- **Improve communication** with stakeholders

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