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News

New Projects Brochure online

A new edition of the [EAFRD Projects Brochure](#) on ‘Supporting Rural Business’ is now available online. It showcases examples of Rural Development Programme (RDP) projects that either support individual rural businesses or aim to create the kind of enabling environment that allows businesses to prosper in rural areas.

The projects highlight inspiring examples of how to provide advice, training and networking opportunities to rural businesses as well as targeted investment in the digital and physical infrastructure needed by rural business, both on-farm and in other rural sectors of activity.

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Resource efficiency in rural areas

An [ENRD Seminar](#) (13 June 2017 – Brussels, Belgium) discussed practical opportunities and key factors for enabling resource-efficient use and management of water and soils through the Rural Development Programmes (RDPs).

[Resource efficiency](#) is key for the long-term functioning of the rural economy and its true benefits need to be communicated better to farmers. Best agricultural practices that can be used within resource-efficiency strategies at a territorial scale, also need further dissemination.

The RDPs can be crucial in supporting resource-efficient land management practices, knowledge transfer, advice, cooperation and physical investments. The Seminar highlighted the need to improve the use and strategic combination of such RDP Measures.

Rural Development Priority and Focus Area summaries

The ENRD Contact Point has produced [summaries](#) of the way the Rural Development Programmes will contribute to achieve the six Priorities of EU Rural Development policy and the related areas of intervention (18 Focus Areas) in the 2014-2020 programming period.

The summaries provide aggregated information on the expected achievements and results, targets and interventions planned for each Priority and Focus Area (based on programme data as of March 2016). See also concise overviews, highlighting selected content of each [national and regional RDP](#) (prepared at the time of programme approval).

Areas with Natural Constraints: questions and answers



The ENRD Contact Point has published a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) concerning [Areas Facing Natural or Other Specific Constraints](#) (ANCs) – Rural Development Measure 13.



The FAQs include general questions on the designation of ANCs, as well as specific ones relating to the process of establishing ANC delimitations, biophysical criteria, fine-tuning, mountain areas, areas with specific constraints, and payment schemes.

Improving LEADER/CLLD implementation through practitioner-led work

An [ENRD workshop](#) (1 June 2017 – Brussels, Belgium) explored the topics of Transnational Cooperation (TNC) and Innovation under LEADER. It discussed the use of a practitioner-led approach as a networking and capacity-building tool.

The ENRD Contact Point supports two dedicated Practitioner-led Working Groups (PWGs) intended to discuss and examine LEADER/CLLD implementation issues, and propose practical and widely applicable solutions to overcome these. In this context, the event saw an exchange on: simplified costs; evaluation of cooperation projects; self-evaluation of Local Action Groups; stimulating local innovation; animation; and rural broadband.

Regional approaches to rural networking

A recent [ENRD workshop](#) explored how the National Rural Networks (NRNs) approach regional and local networking to reach out to stakeholders more effectively.



The event saw an exchange of practical experience, including challenges and potential solutions, and showcased the approaches of selected countries with different regional models.

A new European broadband support facility

The European Broadband Competence Office (BCO) [Support Facility](#) is now up and running in Brussels. The facility will support the work of the [European network of Broadband Competence Offices](#) that was announced by the European Commission in 2016. The main mission for 2017 is to contribute to the creation, consolidation and animation of the BCOs network in Member States.

The BCOs aim to create and disseminate knowledge to national and regional actors on how to invest effectively in broadband projects and to exchange [good practices](#) in rolling-out of high-speed broadband internet, notably into rural areas. It forms part of the EU's [Broadband Europe](#) initiative.

The launch event of the BCO network will take place on 20 November 2017 in Brussels, followed by the [2017 European Broadband Awards](#). This year, for the first time, the awards will include a new category dedicated to 'territorial cohesion in rural and remote areas'.

Investment opportunities for agri projects

The [European Investment Project Portal](#) (EIPP) now accepts smaller projects (minimum € 1 million). This aims to boost the visibility of projects led by municipalities, regions and start-ups to a large network of international investors.



Get inspired by [agriculture and rural development projects](#) already on the platform.

Find out more about [investment opportunities in rural areas](#) and how these can be strategically combined with support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development – read [Chapter 5 of EU Rural Review 21](#).

Cohesion policy in mountain areas

A recent [event](#), co-organised by [Euromontana](#) and the European Commission's [Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy](#), discussed a place-based and territorial integrated approach for the future [EU Cohesion policy](#) and how this policy should address the specificities of mountain areas.

The event considered developing “an agenda for mountainous regions” that could be “at the heart of an EU strategy on the development of mountainous regions”. Find out more about the [event](#) and read the full [press release](#).

Comparing food prices along the supply chain



A new online [food price monitoring tool](#) launched by [Eurostat](#) displays price changes in food products along supply chains across Europe.



The tool provides agricultural, import, producer, and consumer prices and shows to what extent price increases and decreases are transmitted from one stage of the supply chain to the next, what impact they have and how quickly. The tool is available in 23 EU languages.

Online platform on organic farming

The [Horizon 2020](#) thematic network [OK-Net Arable](#) has recently launched a free online platform aiming to facilitate exchange of knowledge on organic farming techniques among farmers, advisors and scientists across Europe.

The platform contains tools and resources related to soil quality, nutrient management, pest and disease control, weed management, and crop-specific techniques. It is available in Bulgarian, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, and Latvian.

Find out more about Horizon 2020 thematic networks for agriculture and farming in EIP-AGRI's dedicated [brochure](#).

Assisting agri-food SMEs in collaborating for innovation

The [Horizon 2020](#) project [Inno4AgriFood](#) has developed a [free e-learning course](#) for agri-food small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and consultants, providing training in online collaboration for innovation.

The course is intended to support SMEs in expanding their businesses by enabling them to find a broad range of suitable innovation partners, providing useful [information](#) and [services](#) related to agri-food trends, state-of-the-art technologies and practical solutions.



Events

2 - 6 July 2017

[ICT in the Agri-food Sector](#), Montpellier, France

3 July 2017

[AgriSpin Final Conference](#), Crete, Greece

4 July 2017

[Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture](#), Lempdes, France

5 - 7 July 2017

[Mountain Business Summit](#), Tarbes, France

7 July 2017

[The CAP: Have Your Say](#), Brussels, Belgium

11 July 2017

[Modern Farming in Europe: Unlocking the Potential of Farming 4.0](#), Brussels, Belgium

12 July 2017

[Financial Instruments for Agriculture and Rural Development](#), Tallinn, Estonia

16 - 20 July 2017

[European Conference on Precision Agriculture](#), Edinburgh, UK

20 July 2017

[Social Media Marketing for Agriculture](#), Oxford, UK

24 - 27 July 2017

[Uneven Processes of Rural Change](#), Krakow, Poland

4 - 6 August 2017

[Estonian Rural Parliament](#), Vana-Võidu, Estonia

12 - 19 August 2017

[European Rural Youth Forum 2017](#), Berlin, Germany

29 August 2017

[The Role of LAGs in Support of Rural Development Policies in Europe](#), Parma, Italy

29 August - 1 September 2017

[Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Balancing between Markets and Society](#), Parma, Italy

1 - 3 September 2017

[Finnish Rural Parliament](#), Leppävirta, Finland

3 - 8 September 2017

[Resilient Communities: Pillars of Sustainable Rural Development](#), Cork, Ireland

5 - 7 September 2017

[Transforming Food & Farming – Making it Happen](#), Tallinn, Estonia

13 - 14 September 2017

[20th Anniversary of LEADER France](#), Strasbourg, France

15 - 17 September 2017

[Rural Film Festival](#), Amegno, Omegna, Miasino, Italy

18 September 2017

[Forest Summit](#), Innsbruck, Austria

18 - 22 September 2017

[Interconnecting Forests, Science and People](#), Freiburg, Germany

19 - 20 September 2017

[Scottish Rural Action Conference](#), Dunfermline, UK

20 - 21 September 2017

[Agricultural Research for Development](#), Uppsala, Sweden

20 - 21 September 2017

[European Show on Organic and Alternative Farming Techniques](#), Valence, France

21 - 24 September 2017

[International Conference on ICT in Agriculture, Food & Environment](#), Chania, Greece

26 - 27 September 2017

[EIP-AGRI and Horizon 2020](#), Kiel, Germany

28 September 2017

[Modern Biotechnologies in Agriculture – Paving the Way for Responsible Innovation](#), Brussels, Belgium

28 September 2017

[European Greenways Award](#), Limerick, Ireland

2 - 4 October 2017

[International Conference on Agriculture & Horticulture](#), London, UK

3 - 4 October 2017

[Innovation and Cooperation in Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Regions](#), Eisenstadt, Austria

5 October 2017

[Rural Business Awards](#), Surrey, UK

5 - 6 October 2017

[Our Ocean, an Ocean for Life](#), Malta

11 - 12 October 2017

[Agricultural Innovation Summit](#), Lisbon, Portugal

13 - 14 October 2017

[Alternative Food Supply Networks in Central and Eastern Europe](#), Riga, Latvia

18 - 21 October 2017

[European Rural Parliament](#), Venhorst, The Netherlands

25 - 27 October 2017

[Moving Agroecology Forward](#), Lyon, France

14 - 17 November 2017

[Infoweek on Horizon 2020 Calls for Proposals](#), Brussels, Belgium

15 - 17 November 2017

[Organic Innovation Days](#), Brussels, Belgium

20 November 2017

[Official Launch of the European Network of Broadband Competence Offices](#), Brussels, Belgium

30 November 2017

[Agriculture & Food Summit](#), Paris, France

14 December 2017

[4th Rural Networks' Assembly Meeting](#), Brussels, Belgium

14 - 15 December 2017

[Bioeconomy Investment Summit](#), Helsinki, Finland

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