



Study Tour on Rural Development

LAF 45748

organised in co-operation with
the Committee of the Regions

Venue :

Committee of the Regions
Bâtiment Jacques Delors, JDE 53,
(day 1 and afternoon day 2)
rue Belliard 99-101;
rue Van Maerlant 2, VME 1 (day 3)
B - 1040 Brussels - Belgium

Brussels, Belgium
28 - 30 September 2011

For more information on TAIEX assistance and to download presentations of this event, please go to:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux>

Aim of the meeting :

The aim of this study tour is to present to local and regional authorities from the Western Balkans the EU policy on rural development.

In the Western Balkans rural areas face numerous structural and socio-economic problems, to which solutions can be found in the framework of EU rural development policy and the CAP. To increase the productivity and the employability of people in regions, and in particular in rural areas, the close participation of local actors has been identified as a key factor. A territorial approach to rural development requires among others the empowerment of regional and local authorities. They also play an important role in meeting the requirements for EU accession in the field of rural development.

Next to general information about the functioning and decision-making of the EU, this study tour will also cover the EU policy on rural development, in particular the Community strategic guidelines for rural development (Council Decision 2006/144/EC of 20 February 2006), Council Regulation (EC)1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), Council Regulation (EC) No. 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy and Council Regulation (EC)1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

This study tour will be organized in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions (CoR). The participants will have the opportunity to meet with members of the CoR working on external relations and on rural development. They will also be able to follow a meeting of NAT (Commission for Natural Resources), competent for rural development.

A visit to an office representing a Member State's region in Brussels is also foreseen in the programme. They will get information on how Extremadura region deals with a regional and rural development policy. Participants will also be introduced to umbrella organizations working in the field of rural development to exchange views and best practices with their counter parts in Member States.

The target audience of 30-35 participants will consist of elected representatives and senior administrative staff from municipalities (3 to 5 participants per beneficiary). The participants will be selected by the EU Delegations / European Commission Liaison Office.

Day 1: Wednesday 28 September 2011

Chair: **Boban Ilic**, SWG Secretary General

09:00	<i>Arrival and registration of participants</i> <i>Distribution of welcome package</i>
09:30	Welcome note: introduction to the LAF programme Unit D2 - Institution Building, DG Enlargement, European Commission
09:45	Round of table/Ice-breaking: brief verbal presentation, accompanied by materials if possible, max. 3 minutes per participant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introduction by participants • Current situation and challenges in your municipality
10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30	The EU institutions and decision-making process Mr Luca PRETE , Legal Service, European Commission
12:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00	EU policy in the field of rural development Mr Jean-Michel COURADES , DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
14:30	Connecting Rural Europe Mr Jean-Michel COURADES , European Network for Rural Development (EN RD), DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
15:15	Questions & Answers
15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00	The available funding opportunities for rural development under the different IPA components Ms Christine MEISINGER , DG Enlargement, European Commission Ms Kerstin ROSENOW , DG for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
17:00	Questions & Answers
17:15	<i>Closing of Day 1</i>

Day 2: Thursday 29 September 2011

Chair: **Boban Ilic**, SWG Secretary General

10:00	<p>Visit to a regional office: Regional Office of Extremadura (Spain)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to install and organize an office (venue, staff, financial aspects, etc...) <p>Mr Jose Maria CRUZ, Head of Regional Office of Extremadura</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good practices in Rural Development in Extremadura <p>Mr José Luis GIL SOTO, Director General de Desarrollo Rural, Junta de Extremadura</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development Law, application in Extremadura <p>Mr José Luis NIETO, Jefe de Servicio de Diversificación y Desarrollo Rural, Junta de Extremadura</p>
12:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00	<p>Institutions and governance of rural development: rural and cross border local development approaches in the Western Balkans</p> <p>Mr Jacques DELINCE, Head of AGRILIFE Unit, Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission</p>
14:45	<p>Enhancing Sustainable Rural Development in the WB Countries by introducing the LEADER experience</p> <p>Mr Günter SALCHNER, LEADER Specialist, LAG Ausserfern, Austria</p>
15:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00	<p>Support to enhance local absorption capacity for rural development funding; some case studies</p> <p>Ms Suzana DJORDJEVIC-MILOSEVIC, Programme Officer, MDG-F UNJP Sustainable Tourism for Rural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</p>
16:45	<i>Closing of Day 2</i>

Day 3: Friday 30 September 2011

Chair: **Boban Ilic**, SWG Secretary General

09:45	<i>Arrival of participants</i>
10:00	Work and functioning of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) Mr Klaus HULLMANN , Directorate Communication, Press and Protocol, Committee of the Regions
11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30	Activities of the CoR with the Western Balkans Mr Victor TILEA and Mr Petr VOTOUPAL , Directorate for Consultative Works, Commission CIVEX, Committee of the Regions
12:30	<i>Lunch break (including meetings with DG Enlargement geographical units)</i>
15:00	Meeting of the NAT Commission (Commission for Natural Resources)
16:00	<i>Closing of the event including feedback session</i>

This meeting is being organised by the
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of the European Commission

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