

# AER WORKING GROUP ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## CONCEPT PAPER

### **Objective**

Gathering regional officers and political representatives to discuss a number of key elements relating to rural development.

The objective of this working group is be double:

1. Giving AER an expert input on issues relating to rural development, to support the drafting of political statement that AER could defend at EU, national and regional level;
2. Providing for concrete actions at regional level, allowing for sharing best practices on identified topics

The work realised in the context of this group **could** be concluded in:

- a Conference on rural development,
- a common project
- the creation of a permanent group of experts in rural development within Committee 1

### **Working methodology**

1. First email contact and exchanges on the agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to come
2. First meeting in May in a place still to be defined (all suggestions are welcome) to discuss the content of the issues selected and foresee possible input to the future CAP and rural development.
3. Support to AER secretariat (via emails, phone conference, web forum) in the drafting of an official AER position on future CAP and in the implementation of any further activity.
4. AER secretariat and vice-President Claude Tremouille present the work of the working group in October in the AER Committee 1 plenary meeting in Abruzzo, Italy.
5. Meeting between AER representatives and new Commissioner for agriculture in the end of the year.

Follow-up meetings and activities to be decided with the members of the working group.

### **Possible topics for discussion**

Not more than 3 should be picked up in the end among this non –exhaustive selection

1. Impact on regional level of changes in CAP
2. Place of rural development in EU policies
3. Quality and quantity of services of general interest in times of population decrease.
4. Urban pressures on peri-urban regions
5. Economic diversification in rural areas and support to entrepreneurship
6. Climate change and environmental issues

### **First steps**

You are interested in working on this issue within AER?

- 1) Contact Estelle DELANGLE ([e.delangle@aer.eu](mailto:e.delangle@aer.eu); +33 (0)3 68 46 00 82)

- 2) Make comments, proposals, (constructive) criticisms on the enclosed document.
- 3) Confirm or not your participation in the meeting planned.
- 4) Check the agenda proposed by the AER secretariat after receiving all comments and make further comments or validate it.
- 5) Bring your ideas, comments and interesting background documents to the meeting of the working group.

Annex documents:

Agenda of the latest Coordination meeting of the European Network for Rural Development :  
[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/app\\_templates/filedownload.cfm?id=A2866BA2-FF69-17C2-08FD-4C7C2CEBBB48](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/app_templates/filedownload.cfm?id=A2866BA2-FF69-17C2-08FD-4C7C2CEBBB48)

EC discussion paper on future CAP:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/reports/why\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/reports/why_en.pdf)

Latest AER position on rural development: (2008)

<http://www.aer.eu/events/regional-development/2008/conference-rural-development.html>

## DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

May 2010

Place still to be defined

10:00 – 10:30

Introduction of the participants and the objectives of the meeting.

10:30 – 11:30 Regions and rural development

Presentation by each participant of the main topics at stake in his/her region and main interest in cooperating within the working group.

11:30 – 12:00 AER and rural development

Presentation of AER past and current involvement in the field of rural development.

12:00 – 13:00

Lunch

13:00 – 14:00 Rural development issues

Discussion on the topics chosen before the meeting (4 maximum)

14:00 – 15:30 Future of CAP

Discussion and elaboration of main guidelines for the paper to be drafted by the secretariat on the future of CAP.

15:30 – 16:00 Conclusions

Discussion on the next steps