



Minutes of the Civil Dialogue Group on Rural Development meeting 20th of September 2016, Brussels

Summary compiled by Kristiina Tammets

Civil Dialogue Group handled following themes:

- Election of new chairman of Civil Dialogue Group
- Outcome of the Cork Conference and next steps
- Exchange of views on the “Result based measures and payments”
- State of play of the simplification of the CAP
- Monitoring Committees – presentation of examples of good practices in MS/regions
- Cooperation measure: state of play, operational groups
- Update on the rural networks activities-priorities 2016-2017

Election of chairman

Mr Dominique Fayel, representative of Euromontana, was elected as new chairman of Civil Dialogue Group.

Cork Conference

DG Agri representatives gave short overview about Cork Conference and its results. There was 28% of territorial stakeholders among participants, the rest of participants represented agricultural value chains (31%), environmental organizations (21%), research and knowledge providers such as Court of Auditors, European Network for Rural Development, European Innovation Partnership, etc (18%).

Cork Declaration¹ takes following policy orientations:

1. Promoting rural prosperity; 2. Strengthening rural value chains; 3. Investing in rural viability and vitality; 4. Preserving the rural environment; 5. Managing natural resources; 6. Encouraging climate action; 7. Boosting knowledge and innovation; 8. Enhancing rural governance; 9. Advancing policy delivery and simplification; 10. Improving performance and accountability.

The architecture of the CAP must be based on a common strategic and programming framework that provides for targeting all interventions to well-defined economic, social, and environmental objectives. This should reflect the needs and aspirations of the territories concerned and should **respect the partnership principle**. Declaration refers to **bottom-up approach and LEADER method as good partnership tools to enhance good rural governance**. The idea of Commission behind the declaration is to extend the scope of the CAP and to find more opportunities for cross cutting and horizontal, bottom-up development in order to create additional synergy.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/rural-development-2016_en.htm



The Cork Declaration is addressed to policy makers and will be translated soon into all European languages so that parliaments of member states can use it designing their rural policy. It was mentioned several times that this is only the start of the debate, we need to keep declaration broad, but when it comes to policy debate we need to focus on specific issues.

The Cork Conference also started discussion about proportions of financial instruments (loans, etc) and grants. In the future the role of financial instruments can grow but it is very important to keep balance between loans and grants.

“Result based payment schemes”

Meeting followed by update on “Results based payment schemes”. Presentation of example from the Netherlands is available below among presentations. These payment schemes create clearer link between payment and achievement, they are less complex and more effective.

Simplification of CAP

Main changes presented by DG Agri. The modifications regarding CLLD are mainly seen as clarifications.

ELARD president, Kristiina Tammets, explained that additionally to SCO (Simplified Cost Options) we need simplification of procedures related to LEADER/CLLD implementation. Compared to previous programming period the amount of bureaucracy has grown, selection of projects takes more time and is more complicated for local beneficiaries. Commission answered that it is up to Managing Authorities to simplify procedures, Commission supports simplification. Managing Authorities can define alternative selection methods.

Monitoring committees

There were examples from Austria and Finland. Apart from the Ministry for Agriculture other ministries together with all important stakeholders are involved into monitoring committee. In Finland they have a meeting twice a year, at least half of the members should be present at the meeting. Unanimous decision-making. If item is not accepted unanimously then they continue working with this item. They bring all programme issues to the monitoring committee. Issues not requiring decisions are for information. They follow accepted procedures: deadlines and actions according to the rules of protocol. They encourage lively and constructive discussions. There can be different opinions, but they haven't had problems in decision-making. Chairman, members and secretaries are highly committed to the committee work.

Operational groups (OG)

First experience of Operational Groups has received. This is a new tool for rural policy. Last year was the first call for Operational Groups. At the moment Commission collects feedback about what and how they are doing. Knowledge transfer and co-operation between research and practice during development and implementation of projects are key components of OGs.

94 MS/regions will be implementing the EIP in their 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes. 3,205 Operational Groups are planned for 2014-2020 with average 1,8%



of the total RDP budget (total public expenditure). Highest number of Operational Groups is in Spain (849), then Italy (625), Greece (435), France (305).

ENRD priorities and activities for 2016-2017

ENRD focuses on green economy, smart and competitive rural areas, capacity building of MAs, LEADER and CLLD implementation.

There are different thematic working groups. ENRD established a new working group to improve and simplify transnational co-operation. ELARD participates in this working group. Rural Networks Steering group meeting will be on 25th of October. On 8.-9th of December there will be a CLLD seminar in Sweden. LEADER sub-group meeting will probably be in February 2017.

Civil Dialogue Group presentations are available here

http://www.elard.eu/news/en_GB/2016/10/04/readabout/minutes-of-the-civil-dialogue-group-on-rural-development-meeting