

61st EURAF Executive Committee Report

Wednesday, 3rd March 2016, 10:00-12:00 pm

Report written by Nuria Ferreiro-Domínguez and Rosa Mosquera-Losada

Present:

Officers: Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Gerry Lawson, Joana Amaral Paulo

National Delegates: Andrea Pisanelli (Italy), Adolfo Rosati (Italy), Anastasia Pantera (Greece), Bohdan Lojka (Czech Republic),

Apologies: Fabien Balaguer (France), João HN Palma (Portugal), Norbert Lamersdorf (Germany), Mark Vonk (The Netherlands), Andrea Vityi (Hungary), Robert Borek (Poland), Gerardo Moreno (Spain), Bert (Belgium)

1. EURAF Projects

- COST ACTION will be delayed until September
- AGFORWARD: The Rural Development Fact sheets have been re-done with more data, and this caused a delay in sending it to the different countries of the EC. Fact sheets of the RDP prepared by Rosa and Javier Santiago will be sent in the forthcoming days.
- NEW PROJECTS: in the last EC meeting Rosa had selected the following EU calls with a 2017 deadline. Rosa said that nobody has informed her about the participation in these projects or in other new projects. Some EC members agreed to collaborate in proposals once the consortium is created.

Ecosystem services

SFS-28-2017: Functional biodiversity – productivity gains through functional biodiversity: effective interplay of crop pollinators and pest predators 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 10 million

SFS-29-2017: Socio-eco-economics – socio-economics in ecological approaches 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 5 million

RUR-03-2017: Towards 2030 - policies and decision tools for an integrated management of natural resources 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 8 million

Knowledge transfer (AFINET)

RUR-10-2016-2017: Thematic Networks compiling knowledge ready for practice 17 Feb 2016 10 million

RUR-12-2017: Networking European farms to boost thematic knowledge exchanges and close the innovation gap 14 Feb 2017 7 million

RUR-15-2017: The benefits of working with others – fostering social capital in the farming sector 14 Feb 2017 3 million

RUR-16-2017: Optimising interactive innovation project approaches and the delivery of EU policies to speed up innovation in rural areas 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 5 million

Education (Charles Burriel?)

RUR-13-2017: Building a future science and education system fit to deliver to practice 14 Feb 2017 (First stage) 13 Sep 2017 (Second stage) 7 million

***ACTION:** If someone wishes to have EURAF in a project, please contact Rosa. Rosa will then inform the EURAF EC for avoiding any conflict of interests.*

2. EURAF events

2.1 EXPO past event

Rosa, Andrea and Adolfo solved the problem with the Expo-Milano event and they sent to the EU Commission the report, which had already been sent in December.

2.2. EURAF third Congress in Montpellier

Rosa said that we have received around 140 abstracts and we should thank Christian for the excellent job he is doing. Regarding sponsorship, Rosa also told that the company contracted to carry out all activities is also in charge of the sponsorship and the list of sponsors were already provided to them. New possible sponsors should be sent to Christian.

2.3 World Agroforestry Congress

We have not an official response on the proposal to carry out the congress in Montpellier.

2.4. CDG

Rosa asked for volunteers to make presentations in the different Civil Dialogue Groups like CAP, Rural Development on Greening. Gerry said that greening is a very important issue across Europe and agroforestry has not been very favoured by the rules so we should circulate a summary about that.

***ACTIONS:** Christian will take care of all aspects of the EURAF Conference in Montpellier with the EC willing to help. Rosa will ask information on the organization of the next world agroforestry congress and will try to organize talks for the CDG.*

3. EURAF Policy activities, CDG, others

3.1 The provisional dates of the meetings will be:

- 4 March Steering Committee Rosa will go
- 11 April CAP
- 12 April Direct Payments and Greening
- 15 April: Arable

- 13 May Arable
- 20 May Rural Development
- 25 May Environment and Climate Change
- 3 June Arable
- 21 June Forest and Cork

Voluntaries to participate in the CDG are necessary.

Rosa said that in the last month she participated in a Leader Sub-group and in a Parliamentary Session about LULUCF (16 March). Especially relevant was the Parliamentary session, as LULUCF activities will be part of the EU Kyoto protocol to fulfil the commitment to reduce emissions by 40%. Agroforestry was mentioned several times as part of the solution (Paul Brennan and the parliamentarians particularly from Netherlands and Portugal.), but it is not clear how. A summary of this aspect can be seen in the link of the document presented as a communication to the EURAF conference. Agroforestry is one of the activities mentioned by the Commission that may be recorded by the member states to fulfil the Kyoto Protocol requirements.

From this document Rosa, Gerry, Fabien Balaguer and Nathan have been working with Pawel (the assistant of Paul Brennan). Aspects related with LULUCF and also with eligibility were summarized in documents. Gerry will send some of them. Rosa also did factsheets to make more understandable the concepts for policy makers. Please, provide opinion on them and if you think that more documents of this type should be done, please do not hesitate to collaborate. The documents have answers to the following questions: Who does understand agroforestry as Agricultural activity or part of agricultural system? You can see them on the following [link](#).

We also were in the Innovation Sub-group of Agroforestry. The Agroforestry Focus Group was created and Rosa will participate in the design of the call of the Agroforestry Focus Group and she will circulate the documents. The call would be launched in June and the first meeting will be in November. Moreover, Rosa will be in the Steering Committee meeting this Friday 4 March.

ACTION: *Comment on documents and provide ideas for new fact sheets. Provide photos for the factsheets*

3.2 Others meetings (not paid):

- Stock taking of Civil Dialogue Groups. Invitation to an exchange of views
Jeroen was in this meeting and Rosa will ask him about this and will add to the minutes if possible
- 10th March Sustainable Food & Farming Platform meeting on 10th March 2016 - Brussels
- 17th March Workshop on The Role of LEADER/CLLD and networking in supporting social inclusion in rural areas' (17 March 2016 in Brussels)

ACTION: *If anyone wishes to participate in any meeting, please contact Rosa*

3.3 Innovation Sub-group: Operational Groups

Rosa thinks that the operational groups are very important to get money for working in projects. We can see global presentations in these links:

https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/field_event_attachments/20160218-pres06_og_toolkit_inge_van_oost_updated.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/sites/agri-eip/files/field_event_attachments/20160218-pres03-rdp_support_to_eip_operational_groups_update_fabio_cossu.pdf

It is important to be aware that there will be around 587 million euros for Operational Groups projects (cooperation measure number 16).

Rosa showed us the following figures with the number of planned Operational Groups and the amount of money allocated for cooperation.



Rosa also showed a table with the person who we can contact to know how the calls in each country to develop an agroforestry Operational Group.

National Rural Networks				
COUNTRY	FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL
Austria	FIDLSCHUSTER	Luis	Austrian NRN	luis.fidlschuster@zukunftstraumland.at
Belgium	SPRIET	Alexander	Vlaams Ruraal Netwerk	alexander.spriet@lv.vlaanderen.be
Bulgaria	NO NOMINATION			
Croatia	PAVLINIĆ	Vlatka	Ministry of Agriculture	vlatka.pavlinic@mps.hr
Cyprus	NO NOMINATION			
Czech Republic	BARTOŠOVÁ	Jana	State Agricultural Intervention Fund	jana.bartosova@szif.cz
Denmark	KRAGH	Dea Cordt	Danish Business Authority	DeaCor@erst.dk
Estonia	BREMSE	Ave	Rural Economy Research	ave@maainfo.ee
Finland	MARKKOLA	Juha-Matti	Rural Network Unit	juha-matti.markkola@mavi.fi
France	DENIS	Marcel	National Rural Network	mddenis23@orange.fr
Germany	KAEMPER	Stefan	National Network for Rural Areas	stefan.kaemper@ble.de
Greece	MICHAIL	Gavriela	Managing Authority for Rural Development Programme	gmic@mail.mou.gr
Hungary	SEBE	János	Hungarian National Rural Network	janos.sebe@me.gov.hu
Ireland	NO NOMINATION			
Italy	ZANETTI	Barbara	National Rural Network	zanetti@inea.it
Latvia	RADZINA	Liene	Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre	liene.radzina@lkkc.lv
Lithuania	INDRIOSIENĖ	Kristina	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development Department	Kristina.Indriusiene@zum.lt
Luxembourg	BONERT	Françoise	Ministry of Agriculture	francoise.bonert@ma.etat.lu
Malta	NO NOMINATION			
Netherlands	NO NOMINATION			
Poland	ZIELIŃSKA	Renata	Ministry of Agriculture	Renata.Zielinska@minrol.gov.pl
Portugal	PIRES da SILVA	Ana	Rede Rural Nacional	anasilva@dgadr.pt
Romania	POTORAC	Adrian	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	adrian.potorac@madr.ro
Slovak Republic	VNUK	Vladimír	National Rural Development Network	vnuk@arvi.sk
Slovenia	ŠTEPEC	Matej	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment	matej.stepec@gov.si
Spain	MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA-DENCHE	Lucía	Spanish National Rural Network	lmargarcia@magrama.es
Sweden	HEIMERSSON	Charlotta	Leader Norra Målarstranden	charlotta.heimerson@enkoping.se
United Kingdom	PRIOR	Alistair	Scottish Government	Alistair.Prior@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Local Action Groups				
COUNTRY	FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANISATION	E-MAIL
Austria	NIEDERMOSER	Stefan	Regionalmanagement regio ³ Pillerseetal-Leukental-Leogang	niedermoser@regio3.at
Belgium	DELMON	Xavier	Réseau wallon de Développement rural	x.delmon@reseau-pwdr.be

Andrea said that he will try to contact with the Italian person of the list because he contacted with other person of the Ministry. Andrea asked Rosa about the strategy to create the Operational Groups. Rosa suggested firstly see when the call will be launched and secondly which are the rules. Andrea thinks that in Italy each region manages the creation of the Operational Groups so each region gives priority to particular topics within Operational Groups. Rosa said that in Spain there is the opportunity to create Operational Groups at regional and national level but this depends on the country. In Galicia, there is not a list with specific topics because this is open. The proposers have to identify the problems of the farmers and to propose solutions through the creation of Operational Groups. Anastasia said that she does not know clearly how to proceed. Rosa explained us the case of Galicia. The most important aspect of the Operational Groups is to put important research activities in practice. First we have to write the project and identify the participants (companies, associations of farmers, research institutions...). Andrea suggested getting some information from each contact person in each country. Adolfo explained that in his region (Umbria, Italy) the government who has decided ten topics for the operational groups and agroforestry could fit into any topic but it is difficult to participate because it is necessary to create a fiscal and juridical group. Bohdan will also contact with the person from the Czech Republic who appears in the list provided by Rosa.

***ACTIONS:** Reports and documents will be included in the EURAF CDG Dropbox as usually. Rosa and Nuria will follow up all these activities to help with the organization and link everybody. It will be good if everybody contact with their own operational groups in or to see if we can connect operational groups about agroforestry among different EU countries*

4. EURAF Newsletter

We have prepared most of the content of the March newsletter but we have to start to work with the next one so any kind of information will be welcomed.

***ACTIONS:** Nuria and Teresa to take over the newsletter*

5. EURAF internal activities

5.1 Sponsorship

Rosa said that we will receive information about some sponsors. Jeroen and Rosa have contact with Triodos. Gerry sent information about Tubex. Gerry apologized for the delay in taking care about the brochure. He said that everything is finished. Rosa asked if the photo with the big tractor spraying herbicides/pesticides systematically to all the plot was taken out. Gerry said he is not sure but this is important demonstrate that herbicides/pesticides can be applied in the field without disturb trees. Rosa thinks that it is a kind of promoting spraying and that may have problems to sell agroforestry as a sustainable practice (less use of pesticides is defended thanks to the introduction of woody vegetation in the fields organic farmers see agroforestry as a good tool because woody vegetation is able to sustain natural enemies of the pests). Anyway, she said that it is better to replace the photo and then EURAF at least will have no position (better than promoting) about massive use of pesticides in the fields.

Gerry will circulate the brochure with photos to get opinion from the EC member. On the other hand, Rosa asked about the brochure translation. Gerry said that the brochure is English and in French and he will ask if more languages can be included.

Rosa said that Fabien Balaguer sent an email in which he asked if NORTENE could be a sponsor in the EURAF conference. The company contracted to organize the conference is in charge of the sponsors so we should ask Christian about this.

***ACTIONS:** Gerry circulate brochure with the photo of spraying to get opinion from everybody. He will ask TUBEX about the language issue. Rosa will send the information about NORTENE to Christian.*

5.2 Public Consultations

Rosa showed a slide with the following public consultations:

Experience with the first year of application of the greening obligations under the direct payment scheme (Common Agricultural Policy)	8 March 2016
Consultation on the functioning of the Auctioning Regulation pursuant to the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowances trading within the Community (EU ETS)	15 March 2016
Public Consultation on the potential priorities for research and innovation in the 2018-2020 work programme of Horizon 2020 for the societal challenge 5 "Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials"	8 April
Briefing - Understanding innovation Open Public Online Consultation: PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) in Horizon 2020 Tracking the actors of innovation in agriculture	24 April 2016

Gerry is in charge of the first one. Gerry said that the deadline is soon and the documentation is very complicated but he will circulate a short contribution about the consultation. Joana is in charge of the public consultation about PRIMA.

***ACTIONS:** Can someone take care of some of the Public Consultations? Please inform Rosa. Gerry send the documents about the first one Joana send the documents about the last one*

6. EURAF accounting (VAT, Agrofe Project)

Rosa said that we have a problem with the EURAF VAT. Adolfo asked several times about the EURAF VAT but Christian could not confirm with a document if EURAF has VAT or not. We have a problem with the company in charge of the Expo-Milano event because the invoice is different with the VAT or without the VAT in 900 Euros.

We have to pay the social security of the person in charge of the Agrofe project. Probably a consultancy firm from France should be hired for this.

***ACTIONS:** Rosa will try to ask Christian about the EURAF VAT. Rosa and Joana take care of the social security of Agrofe project contract of Sylvie.*

7. EURAF prize

Rosa sent a document to Christian with information about the EURAF prize but she has not received an answer yet.

***ACTIONS:** Rosa will ask Christian about the prize be forwarded.*

8. Other issues

Andrea Pisanelli mentioned that we should prepare the call for the place of the 2018 EURAF conference. This should be decided in the EURAF General Assembly. This point will be treated in the next EC meeting

The next EC meeting is scheduled for the 6th of April 2016 at 10:00 CET.