

ENRD Workshop  
**Extending LEADER Innovation**

*22 February 2017*

*L42, Rue de la Loi 42, Brussels 1040*

## AGENDA

### Background

This seminar will focus on the different ways in which LAGs and other actors can strengthen and improve innovation in LEADER at local, regional, national and EU levels, extending its scope and raising ambitions. Recognising the importance of rural innovation and that:

- Innovation is one of the founding principles of the 2,600 LEADER groups expected to be operating across Europe at local level but has faced implementation challenges;
- Around 3,000 Operational Groups will bring producers and innovation actors together to co-create knowledge tackling specific problems or opportunities relevant for farmers/foresters; and
- Every region in the EU has developed a Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation.

There are points in common and points of difference between these approaches. In focusing on LEADER's role in stimulating and supporting local creativity and the capability to build on local assets and achieve the best solutions the seminar will:

- Allow participants to explore how local strategies developed and managed by LEADER Local Action Groups can be reinvigorated by improving their approach to innovation and how delivery systems can support this; and
- Consider how synergies and complementarity between LEADER innovation and the local relevance of other strands of EU innovation policy (and in particular EIP Operational Groups and Regional Research and Innovation Strategies) can be strengthened. How enhancing local relevance and bringing these together can support local rural communities in addressing some of the major challenges and opportunities they face today.
- Develop a set of practical actions and recommendations through which LEADER innovation activities can be improved to better address local needs and take advantage of and contribute to regional and wider innovation initiatives.

The initiation of a practitioner working group focused on improving the implementation and effectiveness of LEADER's rural innovation activities and the links to other rural innovation instruments is anticipated as an output of this seminar.

Time	Session
9.00	<b>Registration of participants</b>
9.15	<p><b>Welcome and introductory remarks</b> by DG AGRI and the ENRD Contact Point (CP)</p> <p><b>Purpose and structure of the day</b>, ENRD CP</p> <p><b>Introduction: LEADER Innovation in Action, the history and current scope of LEADER innovation</b>, ENRD CP</p>
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Developing a Focus on Innovation</b>
9.45	<p><b>Keynote: Why do we need stronger rural innovation in LEADER? Embracing emerging needs, opportunities and benefits.</b> <i>Professor Bill Slee</i></p> <p><b>What has been achieved through LEADER innovation, experiences of innovation on the ground. Three inspiring experiences from selected LEADER LAGs</b></p>
10.45	<i>Coffee</i>
11.15	<p><b>Connecting the different worlds of rural innovation</b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> DG AGRI</p> <p><b>Panel Discussion: LEADER and its place in the wider scope of rural innovation</b></p> <p><i>Expert panel experienced in different aspects of rural innovation including EIP AGRI, SWG SCAR-AKIS, Smart Specialisations Platform, Operational Groups(OGs) etc.</i></p>
12.10	<b>Group work: Establishing the LEADER innovation niche</b>
13.10	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>How do we do it?</b>
14.00	<p><b>Workshops - Identifying the building blocks for extending and making more of LEADER innovation in rural areas</b></p> <p><i>Three themed workshops with inputs from selected examples on key elements/issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Building synergies, strengthening LAG partnerships, local / regional links, OGs, research and advisory systems, sources of finance;</i></li> <li>• <i>Priority LEADER innovation themes, objectives and targets, e.g. business, entrepreneurship, environment, social and societal, inclusion, rural urban.; and</i></li> <li>• <i>From innovatory strategies to innovative projects: making LEADER innovation a reality on the ground.</i></li> </ul>
15.30	<b>Closing session and coffee:</b> <i>Lessons, concluding discussions and action points.</i>
16.00	<i>End of event</i>