

Decentralized Cooperation Belgium - Romania

4th Forum October 25-27, 2013 Leuven

Fostering local governance between Romania and Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels

Workshop : agriculture

June 24 the European Parliament, Commission and the governments became a political agreement on the common Politics on Agriculture.

During the process, the three institutions reached a political agreement on the guidelines of the reform achieved. These includes an additional aid for young farmers, stronger agricultural organizations and the promotion of environmental protection.

The agreement does not limit the direct payments to bigger farms and the distribution of resources between the farmers who depend on the negotiations on the long-term budget of the European Union. The final vote is expected in autumn. (Even before the forum?)

It is necessary to remain vigilant. Will the desired changes become true thanks to this program? Will we find solutions for the increasing poverty in some rural areas, the lack of jobs that causes the depopulation of rural areas, the search for an existence for young farmers? ...

Will the future competition in the food sector muster sufficient respect for the environment?

Currently there are more than 163 LAG (Local Action Groups) in Romania, 140 in France, 15 in Wallonia, 10 in Flanders Are these Local Action Groups the way to get access into the LEADER program for financing and developing your actions?

Are initiatives based on diversity, self-sufficiency in terms of food and the preservation of family farming encouraged by the LEADER program?

How to get access to exchange of experiences and techniques?

Notes: Jean-Marie Dessèvre, agricultural advisor for the department of Maine-et-Loire, OVR Les Mauges - Poesti

Presentation of good practices on local level:

1. **Alba Afroda :** After an experiment of French-Romanian cooperation between three provinces the association Afroda limited its activities to the department Alba (Cernade, Radesti, the Rosia Secas, Cergau, Spring Sascion, Sancel and Sintimbru). The main objective of the association is the agricultural and rural development starting from the local initiative.

The association has about 200 members, all farmers who are willing to work with other farmers (joint use of machinery, ...) and quarterly pay a contribution to the association.

What sets this association, which could count on European funds for its development, and what does it concretely? (presentation by Rodica Parau, president of Alba-Afroda).

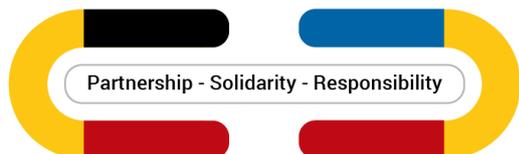


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2. **Obstea Pestisani** : Pestisani is a village 20 km from Targu Jiu. In this village is an association whose aim is to make the best use of natural resources in the region, as well in forestry as in the field of agriculture or others. The preservation of natural resources and historic buildings are kept in mind.

They invest in several areas: eg the construction of a mountain lodge and a trout farm in a small mountain river. These initiatives go against former habits and get a lot of criticism.

The promoters have submitted a dossier to obtain European funds to restore forest roads allowing improving access to the areas where their activities take place. (presentation by Ilie Fuiorea, vice mayor of Pestisani)

3. **Exchange of experiences with the Walloon Farmers Association**. Ever since 2006 between the Walloon and Romanian farmers discussions were held on the items of agricultural diversification and the creation of agricultural organizations. This project was conducted in collaboration with the Association of Walloon farmers and the Romanian Country Association with support from the consultancy on land management "Tr@me". This year, the discussion focuses on youth and the access to European funds. In 2014, the exchange with the farmers of the county Hunedoara is prepared. (Presentation by Myriam Lambillon, responsible project exchange of the Walloon Farmers Association)

Panel based on the presentations :

1. M. Xavier Delmon, coordinator Walloon network for Rural Development
2. Mme Rodica Parau, president of the association Alba Afroda (Alba)
3. M. Ilie Fuiorea, vice-mayor of Pestisani (Gorj)
4. Mme Myriam Lambillon, coordinator of the Walloon Farmers Association
5. **Moderator** : M. Jean-Marie Dessève, commission rural development of OVR France.

Possible results and follow-up :

- a. **Cooperation** between different initiators of exchanges
- b. **Maintain** a database of good practices
- c. **Regional and local information sessions** on national and European agricultural policy