

RURALAND

Rural Development Players

Rural areas in Europe are affected by various problems encompassing depopulation, ageing population, a lack of non-agricultural employment, and a less competitive productive sector than in the urban areas. With the RURALAND project, 10 partners coming from 9 EU countries expressed their wish to promote innovative and competitive rural development policies. RURALAND is thus encouraging territorial competitiveness and supporting the economic diversification of rural areas by exchanging knowledge and identifying good practices.

In order to reach this objective, the project partners have defined a methodology and selected four thematic areas to focus on:

- Economic competitiveness ;
- New technologies and renewable energy ;
- New employment, ICTs and services to the population ;
- Natural and cultural heritage valorisation.

In line with these thematic areas, specific seminars will be organised as well as study visits to enable partners to learn from the experiences carried out in the participating territories. Feasibility studies will also be made to assess the potential of transferability of the identified good practices.

The main output of these activities will consist of a set of publications including conclusions and results from each of the four themes identified by the project, together with a final publication which will compile with the main lessons learnt and global conclusion of the network and cooperation experience. In addition, regional policy recommendations for the participating regions and one joint European policy recommendation will be developed and used to directly influence rural development policies. With this project, partners also aim to strengthen the dialogue and capacity of agreement of regional authorities for future cooperation.

Lead partner

Regional Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Andalusia (ES)

Duration

01/2010 – 12/2012

Total budget

€2,117,553.00

ERDF contribution

€1,627,098.75

Partnership

- **Regional Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Andalusia (ES)**
- Regional Council of Limousin (FR)
- Rural Foundation of Wallonia (BE)
- Jämtland County Council Institute of Rural Development (SE)
- Pazardzhik Regional Administration (BG)
- Sicilian Region (IT)
- ODIANA – Development Association for the Baixo Guadiana (PT)
- Office for regional and agricultural development in Corsica (FR)
- Joint authority of Kainuu Region (FI)
- Salaj County Council (RO)