ADDED VALUE OF COOPERATION IN BIOECONOMY RESEARCH – TWO YEARS PROGRESS OF THE BIOEAST INITIATIVE

BREAK OUT SESSION PRESENTATION
EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

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Introduction to the network I

- European Rural Development Network (ERDN) dates back to 2002

- meant to encompass the leading research centres studying rural development in Europe, in particular in its central, eastern and south-eastern countries

- unique character of the ERDN, where informal ties (social capital) and commitment of a group of people from various countries is the value added of the strictly scientific work

- Unique group of experts from all CEE Countries!
Introduction to the network II

• From the point of view as user and long-term participant:

• Informal, non-bureaucratic network of researchers in rural development / agricultural policy

• Highly estimated: No (direct) political influence, no lobbies, no huge political, financial, organisational dependencies

www.erdn.eu
Challenges I

• Central Eastern European Network – how to expand to whole Europe?

• Legal status – informal ties vs. formal organisation

• Administration and staff

• How to manage cooperation, where to develop
Challenges II

• Keeping the network alive (at least one central institution/person who coordinates and has the financial background)

• Development: keeping small or growing (quantitative/qualitative)

• Differentiation/ unique from other networks (e.g. ENRD...)

• More and more difficulties to finance networks with „only“ indirect, often middle-, long-term use

• Dependencies on single personal engagement
Good examples I

• Conferences 2002-2017

• Networks and projects:
  • European UnionEU Framework Programmes: FP7 and H2020 projects: Compete, Perceive
  • Visegrad Fund Project: The central-eastern EU model for competitive and sustainable agriculture and rural development

• ERDN Yearbook „Rural Areas and Development”, since 2003, 15 volumes

• European Association of Agricultural Economists 2017 Congress Organised Session 8.5. Networks, Social Innovations And Short Food Supply Chains

• Special issue of Studies in Agricultural Economics devoted to ERDN research. Studies are indexed in Thomson Reuters™ Web of Science™ Core Collection.
Good examples II

- Informal and non-bureaucratic, quick exchange of shortterm needed information
- Contact persons in various countries for data or information exchange (data sources, specific experts eg. for national projects)
- Partners or contact persons for partner search for international projects
- Concrete offers to cooperate in specific research projects (exchange of researchers) or project applications
- Chance for younger researchers to get in contact and get information
- Possibility for dissemination and high level expert discussion of project (interim-) results