

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

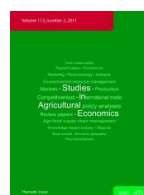
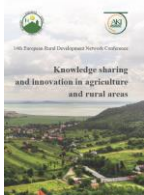
Challenges II

- 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 Union EU 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.



PERCEIVE



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