

# Smart and Competitive Rural Areas Thematic Group

## Introduction

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Brussels – 18 November 2015

## Aims of CP thematic groups

- To bring together an informed group of rural stakeholders to share knowledge about the state of play on a rural development topic
- To propose further EU work and activity on this topic and analyse results
- To make practical recommendations, provide examples, tools and methods which improve implementation
- To disseminate and support the application of results through EU and national network organisations.

# Characteristics of ENRD Thematic Groups

- 3- 4 one day meetings.
- 25-30 Informed RD stakeholders.
- Balance of roles in RD implementation + geographical balance depending on subject
- Participants bring and share ideas, examples, methods; propose and contribute to further work; support dissemination and implementation through their own organisations
- Draws on CP **inputs** – RDP analysis, good practices, thematic expertise + *those of participants*
- For **outputs** uses CP dissemination channels – Review, Seminar, Report, WS, NRNs + *those of participants*

# FIVE STEPS OF ENRD THEMATIC GROUPS

Findings of  
previous projects



1. Mapping needs and  
challenges



Opportunities for further  
network activity are  
identified (TG)



RDP analysis



2. Identifying RD policy  
tools and approaches



Overview of promising RD  
tools and approaches +  
national and regional  
examples



Good practices  
Case studies



3. Showcasing  
promising examples



Case studies show  
conditions for success +  
potential obstacles



Activities of NRNS



4. Designing network  
support activities



Shared examples of  
networking tools which  
can support transfer

5. Dissemination–Review –Report- Seminar–WS–networking

# KEY QUESTIONS

## 1. Mapping needs and challenges

- What are the main lessons from previous projects?
- What are the gaps and opportunities for work by EU Networks?

## 2 Identifying RD policy tools and approaches

- What are the main strategies, focus areas, measures, approaches?
- What countries and regions are exploring interesting approaches?

## 3. Showcasing promising examples

- What are the main lessons, conditions for success and obstacles?
- What type of support is needed to extend this kind of practice?

## 4. Designing network support activities

- Where can networking contribute to developing and delivering the appropriate tools?
- What support can be given to help develop these tools ?

## 5. Dissemination

- Messages, recommendations, practical guidelines, examples?
- What methods of communication are preferred?