



Official Participant

Report Template for EU Events at EXPO

Event Title :	<i>Conference on "Strengthening local development through cooperation"</i>	Date:	25 September 2015
Event Organiser:	H3/E5		
Event Target Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEADER/CLLD Subgroup members• LAGs, especially those with experience/interest in Third Country cooperation• Third Country representatives and networks in third countries (from identified cooperation projects and others, potentially interested)• Experts (incl. people who have facilitated/supported cooperation projects)• Other DGs, e.g. DEVCO, MARE, REGIO, Committee of the Regions etc...• ENRD Contact Point		
Rapporteur:	Antonella Zona (antonella.zona@ec.europa.eu)		
Event Concept			
<p>The conference was part of a two-day event (24-25 September 2015) organized by the ENRD Contact Point and DG AGRI in the framework of Expo Milano 2015. The overall objective of the events was to improve LEADER/CLLD implementation, with specific focus on strengthening National Rural Networks' (NRNs) capacity to provide support and guidance to LEADER/CLLD stakeholders and to boost transnational and inter-territorial cooperation.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>The main objective of the conference on "Strengthening local development through cooperation" was to exchange on how to support transnational and inter-territorial cooperation in the EU and with Third Countries. More specifically the event aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• promote peer learning between LEADER/CLLD stakeholders (Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, NRNs, LAGs etc.) on improving delivery and harmonising rules for cooperation projects;• reflect on and highlight the applicability of local development methodologies in different rural areas within and outside Europe;• offer opportunities to strengthen cooperation between local partnerships within the EU and with neighbouring countries, and globally.			
Main Conclusions			
<p>Local development strategies, like those put in place through Leader/CLLD are a powerful tool for addressing international challenges, including food and nutrition security. Leader/CLLD are efficient tools to foster growth and innovation in rural areas as well as to deal with environmental issues where collective approaches are needed. Cooperation between local action groups in different regions, countries or continents is beneficial for spreading good practices and inspire new ideas.</p>			
What follow-up actions emerged from this event?			
<p>The conclusions of the conference will be reported to the Assembly of the Rural Networks on 26/11/2015, a body made of 200 key stakeholders active in rural development. The topic of international cooperation on local development will be a regular point on the agenda of the Leader/CLLD permanent Subgroup, set up by the Rural Network Assembly to discuss local development topics at least once a year.</p>			

