



Report Template for EU Events at EXPO

Event Title :	Structural realities in EU agriculture: Does farm size matter?	Date:	20 October 2015
Event Organiser:	E1/E5		
Event Target Group:	Academics, researcher, stakeholders		
Rapporteur:	RUDOLF Kathrin Maria (Kathrin-Maria.RUDOLF@ec.europa.eu)		
Event Concept			
<p>Structural realities in EU agriculture: Does farm size matter? was a one day seminar which consisted in an exchange of views with experts and stakeholders on the recent structural developments in the EU agricultural sector and its implications for the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU agri-food sector and its rural areas as well as on possible needs, including in terms of public policy and the CAP. The seminar was attended by app. 65 participants from different Member States.</p>			
Expected Outcomes			
<p>The objective of the seminar was to take stock of the recent structural development in EU agriculture and in the light of it gather insights from experts and stakeholders on what they perceived</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be the role of farm size for the 3 key dimensions of sustainability (economic, environmental and territorial dimension) for EU agriculture and its rural areas To collect relevant evidence (data, studies, case studies) on these links To identify according challenges and needs and To discuss possible solutions, including public policy. 			
Main Conclusions			
<p>There was a general consensus 1. on the diversity of EU agriculture when it comes to farm size and, an even more pronounced one, 2. on the relatively low importance of farm size as factor for competitiveness, sustainability and the development of rural areas compared to other factors (networks and cooperation, ownership, resource management and specialisation/diversification).</p> <p>When it comes to policy making what can be retained from these comments is thus 1) that diversity is a reality of EU agriculture which needs to be taken into account by policy, 2) that coherence and long-term orientation emerged as key principles for policy making, together with the importance of certain categories of instruments, in particular organisational solutions such as networks and cooperation, diversification, "knowledge in broad senses" (education, technology, innovation) and a properly functioning food chain, 3) that, beyond agreement on these categories (of which most are already supported by the CAP) no technicalities of specific CAP measures were addressed.</p> <p>Overall the workshop was very much appreciated and produced results which will feed into the long term reflections on the CAP and the contribution of agriculture to the "Growth, jobs and investments" agenda. It also provided an excellent opportunity to network with academics and representative of different EU stakeholders (confirmed by the feedback collected which was overall very positive).</p>			
What follow-up actions emerged from this event?			
<p>The outcome of the event will feed into</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DG AGRI's ongoing analysis and debate on long term policy developments A follow-up discussion envisaged for the Civil Dialogue Group CAP meeting in December 2015 			