



Flanders - Proposal Open Days 2012: Rural-urban bonds in peri-urban areas

Dear colleague,

DG Regio initiated the Preparatory Action 'Partnership for sustainable urban-rural development' (RURBAN initiative) and cooperates with the OECD. The OECD study focuses on partnerships and rural-urban relationships. The analysed case studies will be presented in Poland in the autumn of 2013. However this initiative and analysis seem to remain rather theoretical and not really adapted to the needs and realities of all European regions.

This initiative and the context of the legislative proposals for the different EU-policies and budgetary framework encourage Flanders to set up a regional partnership within the Open Days 2012 on rural-urban partnerships. Flanders - as a dynamic region with a strong urbanised countryside; peri-urban region - in cooperation with regions with similar characteristics, would like to contribute to the development of this partnership and preparatory action at EU-level by:

- 1) presenting best practices in rural-urban bonds,
- 2) facilitating further cooperation between the stakeholders in the regions and amongst the regions,
- 3) defining possible pathways for rural-urban partnerships in future cohesion and rural development policy.

What are peri-urban regions?

Peri-urban areas are a laboratory for multi-functional land use and smarter policies for urban/rural coexistence. Peri-urban areas are also a resource bank for cities providing high-quality living and working locations, open space for recreation, water, food, energy, transport facilities and other resources. (Source: PURPLE)

Invitation

We would like to invite your region to co-organise a **workshop** during the Open Days 2012 and join our consortium.

To this end, we are organising a first **brainstorming session** on **Monday 27 February at 14h at the vleva offices** (Kortenberglaan 71, Brussels) to identify input and best practices from your region.

Please let us know by Monday 27 February before noon if you want to participate to the brainstorming session (ariane.decramer@vleva.eu - T 02 737 14 35). Please do not hesitate to reply fast, since we will apply the 'First-come, first-served' rationale.

Kind regards,

Liaison agency Flanders-Europe

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