European Rural Development Network (ERDN)
Research cooperation for development of rural, local (bio)economies

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National meeting in Poland disseminating knowledge about
the European Commission’s Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research
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Bio-economy is locally based

- Bio-economy is based on multi-functional geographies that support biodiversity and rural/regional development (Kitchen and Marsden, 2011)
  - ie. Policies that involve only the extraction of biomass from localities and ship them elsewhere to processing, refining and use will ignore the socio-economics of local determination and control within local nature-economy relations

- Bio-economy is embedded in local economic systems thus has a potential to renew or regenerate a less-favoured or declining regions without extracting resources, people or values (Coenen et al. 2015)

*BioEcon Conference „Visions of bioeconomy and agricultural policies” 25-26 September 2018, Puławy*
Rural Systems on CEECs

• The main geographical focus area of the ERDN, namely of eastern central and south eastern Europe, belongs mainly to the Continental and Pannonian bio-geographical regions

• distinctive farming systems
• likely to be very sensitive to the impacts of climate change - specific and extreme changes in the weather will lead to agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture being particularly severely affected
• structural problems in rural systems (often as a result of the common, historical basis).
• joint experiences, needs, challenges.

Source: European Rural Development Network Policy Brief: Knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture and rural areas: more attention should be paid to regional differences across the European Union by dr. Andrew Fieldsend Warszawa-Budapest 2016
Rural Systems on CEECs

- Agricultural and rural (bio-economy) development in the region will, as elsewhere, be **driven by innovation**, which in turn depends on knowledge sharing between actors.

- Through the **Agricultural (Knowledge and) Innovation Systems** concept AKIS/AIS, the EU and FAO (and others) have adopted broadly similar understandings of how innovation takes place.

- **Change in the knowledge flows**: from linear (from researchers via advisors to farmers) to complex, network-based with multiple forms.

- ‘**Co-production’ of knowledge and innovation** (between farmers, advisors and researchers).
Rural Systems on CEECs

- **Research on bio-economy** at EU level must take into account the special needs of these regions with targeted topics.
- **Skills and competencies in methods, organisation, presentation** must be improved. It is necessary to be **more innovative in science management and communication** – how messages are sent to other scientists, farmers and politicians is very important indeed.

- ERDN helps to influence the various agendas to ensure that the needs of farming, the agri-food supply chain, rural areas and researchers in the CEECs region are recognised fully.
ERDN is local in origin and regional in research

- 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
- **16 years of investigation of rural processes** provide extensive information needed to understand the specificity of rural development in CEE, especially in the context of the EU policy reforms and enlargements

Members

• Multinational team gives to ERDN a great potential for cross-country research, including surveys, pilots, case studies, data and policy analysis in native languages of many European countries, i.e.: Hungary, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Croatia, Ukraine, Serbia, Moldova, Bosnia, Slovenia, Turkey, Austria, Italy, Poland...

• ERDN as an important partner for eastern and south eastern European stakeholders
Annual meetings integrating European researchers

Conferences 2002-2017, e.g.:

• 8th ERDN Conference 2010: **Rural Development: Quo Vadis?**, Warsaw, Poland, 15-17.10.2010
• 9th ERDN Conference 2011: **Rural development policies from the EU enlargement perspective**, Kastel Ecka, Serbia, 8-9.09.2011
• 10th ERDN Conference 2012: **Knowledge as a factor of rural areas development**, Poznań-Zielonka, Poland, 17-20.10.2012
• 12th ERDN Conference 2014: **Rural development in Eastern EU And Neighbourhood Countries – Present And Future**, Chisinau, Moldova, 2-4.10.2014
• 13th ERDN Conference 2015: **The central-eastern EU model** for competitive and sustainable agriculture and rural development, Zakopane, Poland, 18-21.10.2015
Knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture and rural areas


- 80 participants representing 36 institutions from 13 countries
- Special sessions devoted to dissemination of EU projects
Topics:
Innovation and Cooperation in Rural Regions

Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Vienna, Austria

XV European Rural Development Network Conference:
Innovation and Cooperation in Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Regions
3-4 October 2017, Eisenstadt, Austria

• **What kind of innovation** activities happen in rural development (case studies, good practices, new business models)?
• **Which circumstances lead to innovation**, which obstacles and solutions exist?
• What are the **preconditions of successful innovation** from the rural community side?
• What are the **actual/potential effects**, impacts of innovation activities?
• Which **strategies/incentives/measures** could stimulate further innovation?
• How long term **effectiveness of innovations** can be measured, benchmarked
Topics:
New CAP and rural development

XVI European Rural Development Network Conference:

CAP 2020+: experiences and ideas for future rural areas and development

17-19 September 2018, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Forum
for research and projects outcomes

ERDN open-access, peer-reviewed yearbook “Rural areas and development”, since 2003, 15 vol.
Conference proceedings series and books of abstracts:

La Sala, P., Perri, P. (Eds.), 2015: Evolution of Producers Organizations as organizational model for
the development of services, district networks systems, managerial skills of agri-food SME,
technology transfer and internationalization, ERDN Conference proceedings, Warsaw-Foggia. ISBN:
978-83-7658-598-7
We support collaboration

- Networking members for EU Framework Programmes

- Visegrad Fund Project: *The central-eastern EU model for competitive and sustainable agriculture and rural development*

- ERDN Organised Session on XV EAAE 2017 Congress: *Networks, Social Innovations And Short Food Supply Chains*

- Cooperation with journal *Studies in Agricultural Economics* – 4 ERDN thematic issues.

- Joint research, data exchange, publications.
Cooperation

• ERDN has adopted a format that, over a 15-year period, has proved to have been outstandingly successful. No comparable organisation exists in the region.

• Not only CEECs networking but integration via strong, multi-actor partnerships.: *BioEcon, BIOEAST, H2020 projects (SKIN, POWER4FOOD...) and partnership in new consortia.*

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**Development of Bioeconomy in Central and Eastern Europe**

**BioEcon, BioEast and ERDN joint workshops**

**Monday, 17/09/2018, King Ferdinand Hall of the Life Sciences Institute, UASVM, Cluj-Napoca, Romania.**

• BioEcon: New Strategies on Bio-Economy
• Assessment of the importance of Bioeconomy at regional level
• Methods and indicators for assessment of bioeconomy development
European Rural Development Network is an research association (NGO) based in Poland.
We are registered in the EU R&I Participant Portal – Participant Identification Code (PIC) for the ERDN is 905106322