



## RDPE Network Update December 2009

### Regional Network for the RDPE in the East of England Inaugural Meeting 14th December 2009, 14.00-16.00, NFU, Newmarket

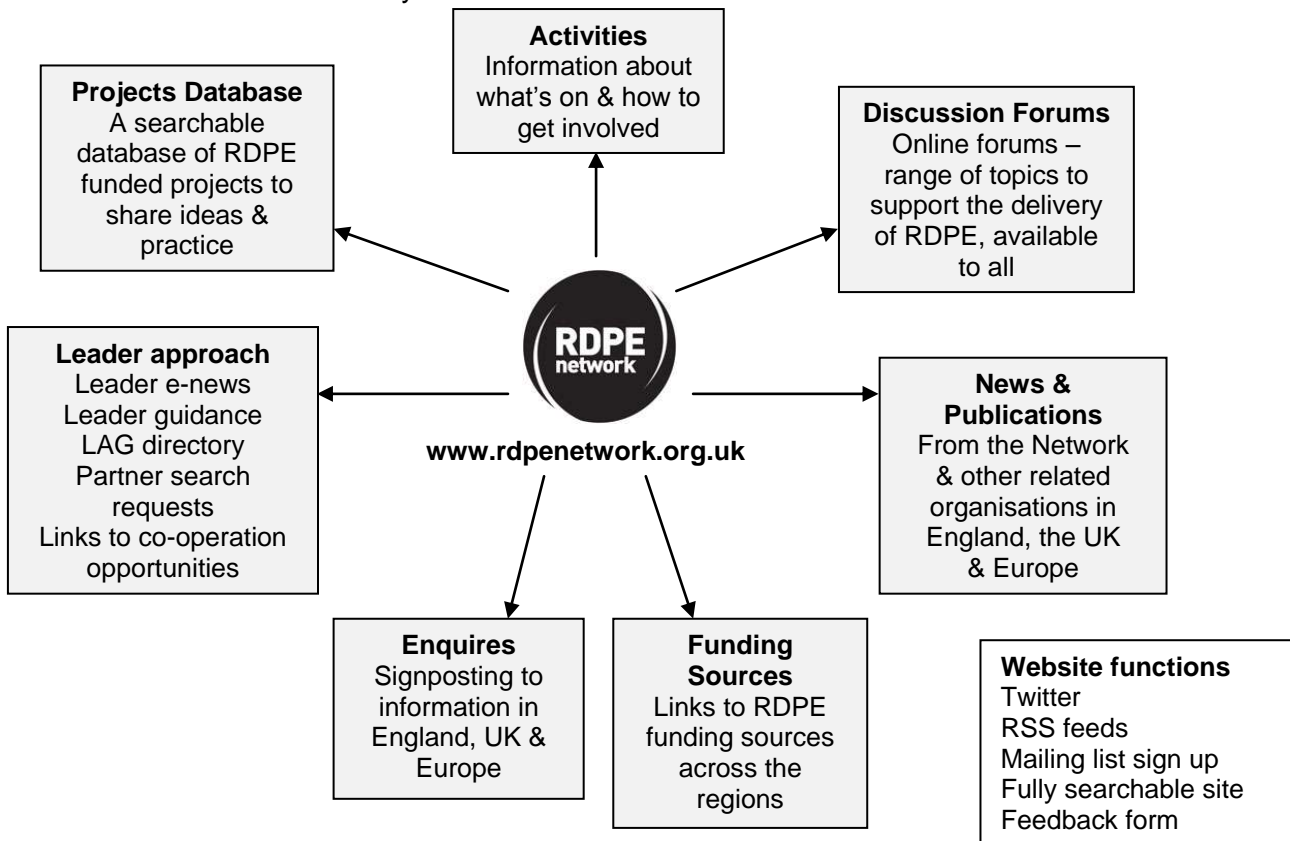
#### Introduction

The development of a national network, the RDPE Network, is a requirement of the European Rural Development Regulation. Its purpose is to: i) Support the delivery of the RDPE... ii) Through the exchange of ideas, practice and experience... iii) Across the 4 axes/policy priorities... iv) Across policy design, programme management and programme implementation/delivery.

Whilst the development and operation of the RDPE Network is compulsory, it is important to recognise that many national and sub-national structures and networks relevant to RDPE already exist. Thus, the RDPE Network is operating and will continue to develop, by working with and through these existing organisations and structures, in order to avoid duplication and support and add value to existing arrangements. In recognition of the regional variation in RDPE policy and delivery priorities, the Network must develop to be flexible to different regional RDPE needs, e.g. how it links to, works with and is used by, the eight regions and sub-regional organisations and interested stakeholders. The Network is currently looking to develop regional 'networking protocols' with each of the eight English regions, to ensure that the regions/sub-regions can benefit from and contribute effectively to the activities of the RDPE Network and that it remains useful and relevant through to 2013.

#### RDPE Network Services

The current services delivered by the Network are illustrated below:



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas

## RDPE Network Progress

The Network Action Plan for 2009-10 is available via <http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/news-and-publications/publications/rdpe-network-action-plan-2009-2010>. The Action Plan's priorities are based on the key recommendations from the market research and stakeholder engagement project and ongoing discussions with stakeholders as we develop working relationships. This activity has included a number of individuals and organisations from within the East of England.

In addition to the ongoing services that the Network offers, information about specific networking activity is available via - <http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/activities>. Some examples of the activity developed and delivered with others include:

- **Developing the cross-axes RDPE projects database.** This now includes over 120 projects funded through RDPE. This database can be searched by keyword or region to account for regional variations in funding priorities. It also feeds the UK level projects database, which can be searched by keyword or country - <http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/projects>;
- **Discussion seminar for Local Authorities**, joint with the Rural Services Network, focusing on their interests and role in securing integrated delivery in RDPE - <http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/activities/all-activities/rural-services-network-and-rdpe-network-discussion-on-integrated-delivery>;
- **National Leader Approach event**, to promote understanding and build LAG capacity and co-operation - <http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/activities/all-activities/the-leader-approach>;
- **Discussion with the EM, WM, Y&H, NE RDPE regional management groups** to agree a 'networking protocol'. This will ensure that the Network and regions can work together to offer mutual assistance that supports the delivery and performance of RDPE, both within the region and for broader use nationally;
- **Maximising opportunities for forestry businesses within RDPE workshop**, identify and share approaches to common issues affecting the forestry sector in RDPE delivery - <http://www.rdpnetwork.org.uk/activities/all-activities/maximising-opportunities-for-forestry-businesses-within-rdpe>.

Examples of forthcoming activity include:

- **RDPE: Delivering Success through Local Action** – 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> February 2010 – Free event for LAGs and those individuals and organisations that work with them to deliver RDPE;
- **Maximising the opportunities for forestry businesses within the RDPE** - Follow up identified by participants;
- **Local authority interest and involvement in RDPE** – Focus on local action, business support, environmental support and integrated delivery.

**Questions – What are the links and synergies between the East of England Network and the RDPE Network that we need to feed into the RDPE Network Action Plan 2010-2011; and where do we need to avoid duplication?**

For further information:

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