



National
Rural Network

Connecting Policy to Practice

Rural Development Networking Conference

10th and 11th March 2010
Holiday Inn, Belfast



Wales

England

Scotland

Northern Ireland



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



The UK National Rural Network is delighted to invite you to its first Rural Development Networking Conference on 10th and 11th March 2010. Hosted by the Rural Network for Northern Ireland this 2 day conference will take place in the Holiday Inn, Belfast.

Conference Purpose and Aims

The main purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for the 4 regions of the UK to come together to share ideas, experiences, knowledge and practices of delivering and implementing Rural Development Programmes.

It aims to provide an opportunity for participants to:-

- Learn more about the UK National Rural Network, through demonstrating how networks can support programme delivery
- Explore a range of approaches to the delivery of rural development actions within and across the UK, Ireland and Europe
- Network and share experiences; to build and establish new contacts and explore opportunities for transnational cooperation

Networking Hub

All participants are invited to visit the Networking Hub where they can find out more information on the work of each of the 4 UK Networks and the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD). There will be a 'match making' corner, offering delegates assistance in identifying potential co-operation partners and projects based on the partner search requests received to date.

Conference Dinner: 10th March at 8pm

A conference dinner will be held at 8pm on Day 1 of the conference. Please indicate at time of registration whether you wish to attend the dinner.

Projects in Practice

The Rural Network for Northern Ireland is hosting an optional Day 2 Afternoon Programme which

will include Study Visits and a Cross Border Co-operation Project Networking Workshop (hosted in partnership with the Ireland National Rural Network). Please indicate at time of registration if you wish to attend.

Venue and Accommodation

The conference will take place in the Holiday Inn, Belfast which is a 4 star hotel situated on the central Ormeau Road in Belfast. Accommodation is available at the conference venue. Please book directly with the hotel quoting '*UK National Rural Network 2010*'.

Further information including directions to the venue and alternative accommodation is available by logging onto www.uknationalruralnetwork.org.uk/connecting-policy-to-practice-uk-rural-development-networking-conference

Cost

There is no charge for attending this conference. However, delegates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Summary Programme

DAY 1: 10TH MARCH 2010

10.00am - 11.00am	Registration, Informal Networking, Opportunity to Visit Networking Hub
11.00am - 1.00pm	<p>Welcome Address: Martin McDonald <i>Rural Network for Northern Ireland</i> Rebecca Frost <i>UK National Rural Network</i></p> <p>Keynote Address: Meeting the Challenge of Rural Development;- Connecting Policy to Practice <i>Motivating, Engaging and Learning</i></p> <p>Workshops - Session One <i>Refer to workshop summaries overleaf</i></p>
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Networking Lunch
2.00pm - 6.00pm	<p>Conference Refresher <i>Paul Keating, Ireland National Rural Network</i></p> <p>Workshops - Session Two</p> <p>Workshops - Session Three</p> <p>Guest Speaker: <i>ENRD Contact Point</i></p> <p>Integrated Delivery Exercise</p> <p>Concluding Comments</p>
8.00pm	Conference Dinner

DAY 2: 11TH MARCH 2010

10.00am - 12.00pm	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Dr Kate Braithwaite MBE <i>Director, Rural Programme, Carnegie UK Trust</i></p> <p>Plenary Session of Day 1 Proceedings</p> <p>Action Planning Exercise</p> <p>Closing Remarks</p>
12.15pm - 1.00pm	Lunch

Projects in Practice

Hosted by Rural Network for Northern Ireland.

DAY 2: 11TH MARCH 2010

1.00pm - 4.00pm	<p>Themed study visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Renewable Energy' • 'Innovative Solutions to Service Provision' • 'Rural Enterprise in Action'
4.00pm - 5.30pm	Cross Border Co-operation Networking Workshop <i>Delivered in partnership with the Ireland National Rural Network</i>
5.30pm	Close

Workshop Sessions

9 themed workshops are planned as part of the conference. Each workshop will run three times. On the registration form please select your preferences for which workshops you would like to attend. Each workshop reflects themes of the Rural Development Programme and a summary of each is provided below:

WORKSHOP THEME		CO-ORDINATED BY
Into the Den <i>Entrepreneurship in the Rural Economy</i>	Looking at the role of entrepreneurship in the rural economy, this workshop will discuss what makes an entrepreneur, hearing first hand from people that have made it work for them, and providing examples of good practice in supporting enterprise development in a rural context.	Rural Network for Northern Ireland
Going Green <i>Developing a Low Carbon Community</i>	What does climate change mean to us? What can we do about it? Looking at the environmental impact of individuals, households, businesses and communities, this workshop will focus on how to match development needs with environmental opportunities.	Wales Rural Network
Can't See the Wood for the Trees? <i>Maximising Woodland and Forestry Opportunities</i>	How can the RDPs deliver real opportunities for forestry and woodland development? This workshop will consider what approaches can be used, from across the axes, to support broader forestry and woodland development, whether through related businesses, environmental benefits or local action.	RDPE Network - Rural Development Programme for England Network
Villages for the Future <i>Working Towards a Model of Sustainable Living</i>	Exploring Good Practice Models of Integrated Village Renewal, this workshop will explore village energy opportunities. Can villages generate their own electricity, or run their own heating system? Could farmers provide the fuel? How can villages be encouraged to consider and address sustainable development issues?	Rural Network for Northern Ireland
Wish you were here? <i>Sustainable Tourism Development</i>	Presenting recent trends in rural tourism and the development of sustainable products (both environmentally and economically) and the development of new approaches to co-ordinated, clustered marketing.	Wales Rural Network
Eating Well - Eating Local <i>Growing Your Local Economy</i>	Discussing trends in local food marketing, this workshop will examine what has been successful in maximising the selling potential of locally grown, clean green produce and putting together local growers and producers, restaurants, shops, guesthouses, hotels etc., identifying key market factors and trends for the future development of the sector.	Scotland National Rural Network
Old Problems - New Solutions <i>Tackling Service Provision in Rural Areas</i>	Key to rural development and the development of a sustainable rural community is the delivery of and access to essential services. This workshop will examine examples of current practice of what can be done through the RDP in meeting these needs, and will look at potential development in IT and other technologies that may provide future opportunities.	RDPE Network - Rural Development Programme for England Network
Building for the Future <i>Engaging Young People in Rural Development</i>	Highlighting the importance of young people in the community and economic life of rural areas, this workshop will examine the need to ensure that young people participate fully in and develop a sense of community, discussing how they can be encouraged to participate in the RDP and how youth entrepreneurship can be nurtured.	Rural Network for Northern Ireland
Farming as a Social Service <i>The Social and Health Benefits of the Farm for Others</i>	Although in its infancy in the UK and Ireland, Care / Social Farming is quite well developed in many parts of mainland Europe. Drawing on the experience of UCED (University College Dublin) and the UK NCFI (National Care Farming Initiative) this workshop will introduce the concept of Care/Social Farming, examining its history and considering the impact of some examples in practice. It will allow delegates to discuss the potential benefits of the approach to farm sustainability and the wider community, looking particularly at the potential for Care/Social Farming in the context of the Rural Development Programme.	Rural Network for Northern Ireland

How to Register

To reserve your place at the conference please complete and return this registration form on or before **Wednesday 24th February 2010**. Early booking advisable to secure a place.

I plan to attend (please tick all that apply):

Conference Day One: 10th March

Conference Dinner: 10th March

Conference Day Two: 11th March

'Projects in Practice': 11th March

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Tel No (incl code): _____

Email: _____


Special access/dietary requirements: _____

Please indicate in order of preference from 1 to 6 which workshops you are interested in attending:


WORKSHOP THEME	ORDER OF PREFERENCE
Into the Den <i>Entrepreneurship in the Rural Economy</i>	
Going Green <i>Developing a Low Carbon Community</i>	
Can't See the Wood for the Trees? <i>Maximising Woodland and Forestry Opportunities</i>	
Villages for the Future <i>Working Towards a Model of Sustainable Living</i>	
Wish you were here? <i>Sustainable Tourism Development</i>	
Eating Well - Eating Local <i>Growing Your Local Economy</i>	
Old Problems - New Solutions <i>Tackling Service Provision in Rural Areas</i>	
Building for the Future <i>Engaging Young People in Rural Development</i>	
Farming as a Social Service <i>The Social and Health Benefits of the Farm for Others</i>	


Please note that each workshop will run 3 times during the conference, offering delegates the opportunity to attend 3 workshops. Limited places are available within each workshop and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Every effort will be made to match you with your preferred workshops.

Please complete the registration form by **Wednesday 24th February 2010** and return by:

 **Post:** Rural Network for Northern Ireland, 17 Loy Street, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 8PZ

 **Email:** info@ruralnetworkni.org.uk

 **Tel:** (+44) 28 8676 6980

 **Fax:** (+44) 28 8676 6922

What happens next?

On receipt of your registration form, your place and registered workshops will be confirmed in writing either through postal or email correspondence. Further conference information will also be available.

CONTACT DETAILS



**National
Rural Network**

Email: uknationalruralnetwork@ruralcommunities.gov.uk
www.uknationalruralnetwork.org.uk
Tel: 012 4253 4054



**Wales Rural
Network**

Email: ruralnetwork@wales.gsi.gov.uk
http://wales.gov.uk/ruralnetwork
Tel: 0300 062 2173



**RDPE Network -
Rural Development
Programme for
England Network**

Email: rdpenetwork@ruralcommunities.gov.uk
www.rdpenetwork.org.uk
Tel: 012 4253 4054



**Scotland National
Rural Network**

Email: ruralnetwork@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
www.ruralgateway.org.uk
Tel: 013 1244 6180



**Rural Network
for Northern Ireland**

Email: info@ruralnetworkni.org.uk
www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk
Tel: 028 8676 6980

