Environmental evaluation and planning of rural development programmes:
How the evaluation results and experiences can be used for planning and operation of result oriented area-based schemes?

Conference invitation

Background

Regulation (EU) no. 1703/2013 is putting an ever greater emphasis on the evaluation of rural development programmes than before. Based on the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) EU member states are regularly required to produce evaluations (annual, mid-term and ex-post forms). Results of evaluations so far, in the case of measures with environmental targets in particular, raise several questions. There is ambiguity among experts especially with regard to the environmental impacts of measures. In the meantime research projects (such as ENVIEVAL[1]) are ongoing to seek for solutions to increase the efficiency of environmental evaluation approaches.

There are increasing concerns among programme planners as well about introducing result oriented area based schemes in parallel with management based measures.

The planning and the evaluation of programmes are carried out in separated working groups in most of the cases, therefore the synergies of planning and evaluation approaches rarely happen. The objective of our conference is to strengthen this link between environmental evaluation and programme planning in the policy loop.

The Institute of Nature Conservation and Landscape Management, Szent István University (SZIE) Hungary, a consortium member of the ENVIEVAL project is inviting you to participate at a conference dealing with the following issues.

Main questions of the conference:
1. Which are the best measurable environmental impacts of agriculture?
2. What experiences are drawn from the evaluations made based on the CMEF?
3. What kind of recommendations have recently been formulated to reform the CMEF?
4. What kind of plans/ideas are out for devising result-based schemes?
5. How can evaluation results be directly used in the planning/operation of the programmes?

Participants to the conference (approx. 30-35 persons):
 focus countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
- representatives of evaluation organisations and institutions;
- representatives of programme planning organisations and institutions;
- researchers in the field of relationship between agriculture and the environment (main focus on soil, water and biodiversity themes).

Venue: Erzsébet Királyné (Queen Elizabeth) Hotel***, Gödöllő, Hungary
Date: 8-9 October2015 (2 x half days)

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[1] ENVIEVAL: Development and application of new methodological frameworks for the evaluation of environmental impacts of rural development programmes in the EU. (Project Reference: 312071) http://www.envieval.eu/

Preliminary programme of the conference:

- 1st day afternoon: plenary presentations reflecting on the main questions of the conference from the perspectives of the focus countries
    - Austria: Hannes Wimmer (tbc)
    - Czech Republic: Jaroslav Prazan (confirmed)
    - Germany: Gerald Schwarz (confirmed)
    - Hungary: Péter Tóth (confirmed)
    - Italy: Andrea Povellato (confirmed)
    - Poland: (tbc)
    - Slovakia: Birdlife (tbc)
    - Slovenia: Mojca Hrabar (confirmed)
- 2nd day morning: discussion and workshop to establish potential further collaboration (e.g. Interreg Central Europe Programme) and launch an expert network for the Central European Region

Registration for participants:

Registration to the conference is free, it includes welcome lunch on 8 October and coffee breaks. Accommodation, dinner on 8 Oct. and lunch on 9 Oct. are excluded.

If you would like to attend please RSVP by Friday 11 September 2015 to Katalin Balázs (envieval.net@gmail.com) by filling out the attached registration form for participants.

We can accept a maximum of 35 registrations. If accepted, you will be contacted by the organisers and be requested to proceed with booking your accommodation directly with the venue hotel on a specific booking form.

Please note that attendance on both days is required.