



Learning Network

For EU Paying Agencies and Coordinating Bodies

FACT SHEET Version 28 March 2014

The Learning Network started in 2009 as a 'Coalition of the Willing' with representatives of Directors of Paying Agencies and Co-ordinating Bodies from 9 Member States. Today the network includes participants from all EU Member States

1. Main goals

- To be an independent **informal Network**, principally for Directors of European Paying Agencies and Co-ordinating Bodies throughout the European Union
- To initiate, co-ordinate and improve **informal and practical co-operation between European Paying Agencies, Co-ordinating Bodies and EC institutions**
- With focus on **concrete implementation**, not on policies and politics. And **what we have in common**
- Providing a **flexible and concrete response** to developments in the new CAP, especially in relation to **simplification** and the **reduction of implementation, control and administrative burdens**
- **Developing alternative regulation texts proposals**
- To be a **platform** for sharing experiences, best practices and solutions for each others problems
- **Advising and linking** relevant subjects to relevant conferences (like the half yearly Conference of Directors of EU Paying Agencies and Panta Rhei) and EU institutions (discussions, Non-Papers)



2. Organisation

- **Chairman:** United Kingdom: Michael Cooper
- **Secretariat:** The Netherlands: hans.vanek@rvo.nl
- **Steering Group 2014:** Greece (first half 2014), Ireland, Italy (second half 2014), Portugal, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom

3. Meetings

- 2-3 informal meetings a year on Directors' level in Brussels
- Informal Expert Meetings with DG AGRI and Learning Network experts
- 2-4 informal Learning Network Steering Group – DG AGRI (dept. DG, Directors, Heads of Unit) meetings a year

4. Digital Platform

The Learning Network runs an active web 2.0 digital platform (exchange of questions, information and active participation in digital working groups)

5. Examples of Learning Network Products

- Non-Paper "*Suggestions for a more simple, beneficiary oriented, effective and efficient implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2013 and beyond*"
- Non-Papers: new elements of the CAP and LPIS (parcel registration), implementation of Greening, Cross Compliance and on the spot controls, eServices, eArchiving and the creation of a common digital platform, A proper time path, (pre) audits, and the Clearance of Accounts, Reverification audits and on-the-spot controls, etc.
- Presentation Non-Papers at DG AGRI's Simplification Experts' Group
- State of Play presentations at the half yearly Directors of EU Paying Agencies Conferences and Panta Rhei Conferences
- Informal meetings with DG AGRI representatives on subjects like reverification audits, implementation of farmers and LPIS

