



Report from the Learning Network

For EU Paying Agencies and Coordinating Bodies

35th Conference of Directors of EU Paying Agencies: 11 April 2014: Komotini, Greece



Michael Cooper (UK), Chairman
Luis Souto Barreiros (PT), Co-Chairman
Hans van Ek (NL), Secretary



LEARNING NETWORK: RECENT WORK

- LN presentation in Vilnius
- Overview of topics discussed during LN plenary and DG AGRI/LN Steering Group meetings
- LN input to Simplification Experts' Group
- Latest LN non-paper
- Plans for the next three months



SUMMARY OF THE LN PRESENTATION IN VILNIUS, OCTOBER 2013

- CAP reform - delegated and implementing acts
- LN sub-groups (e.g. LPIS and greening)
- LN digital platform – 250 members from paying agencies
- Scope to simplify control procedures
- New Chair for LN



LEARNING NETWORK PLENARY MEETING, NOVEMBER 2013

- New Co-Chair, Luis Souto Barreiros (PT)
- Rules for Ecological Focus Areas
- Capture of landscape features
- Inspection requirements
- Maintaining permanent pasture
- LN sub-group on LPIS/Greening (co-ordinated by SE) created three documents
- LN sub-group on audit of legality and regularity

LEARNING NETWORK PLENARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 2014

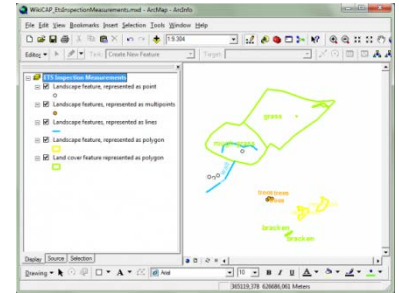


LEARNING NETWORK PLENARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 2014

- CAP implementation and relationship between Member States and Unit D3
- Simplification Experts' Group (DG AGRI presentation)
- Delegated and implementing acts
- Future work programme: risk-based approach to controls and audit
- Changes to LN Steering Network Steering Group

LN STEERING GROUP MEETING WITH DG AGRI, JANUARY 2014

- CAP reform state of play – delegated and implementing acts
- LN paper on the delegated acts
- JRC/WikiCAP guidelines
- Relationship between LN and Unit D3
- Simplification Experts' Group
- Paying Agencies' responsibilities regarding rural development plans



LN STEERING GROUP MEETING WITH DG AGRI, APRIL 2014

- Delegated and implementing acts
- Simplification of market measures
- Mission of Unit D3
- LN Non-paper
- Simplification Experts' Group
- Conference of Paying Agency Directors
- LN Factsheet



SIMPLIFICATION EXPERTS' GROUP

- LN and DG AGRI discussed working arrangements
- Working groups followed by plenary session
- Identify particular themes and send subject experts
- Liaison with relevant management committees
- Market measures
- Scope also to consider direct payments and rural development, particularly greening and mapping?

LATEST LEARNING NETWORK NON-PAPER

- Timepath for regulations and implementation
- LPIS/EFA issues
- Co-operation between LN and Unit D3
- Paying Agency accreditation
- Simplification Experts' Group



PLANS FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

- Sharing experiences and difficulties concerning implementation of CAP reform
- Clarifying interpretation of regulations (Q&A)
- Next plenary meeting scheduled for May 2014
- LN Steering Group/DG AGRI meeting before summer break?
- Co-operation with Unit D3 on IACS/LPIS
- Simplification Experts' Group

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?



LEARNING NETWORK DIGITAL PLATFORM

<https://learningnetwork.pleio.nl/>

now 275 members from Member States

Thank you very much for your attention



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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

