



Newsletter 4

A Motto of RENE:

“A single log does not burn”

Latvian Proverb





Dear RENE Partners and RENE Friends,

last April our Latvian Partner organized a conference for rural advisers from old and new EU-memberstates as well as close-by states.

Here you find the combined report of the event:

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Lettlands Zentrum für ländliche Beratung und Ausbildung

Einladung zur Konferenz

**EINFLUSS DER SYNERGIETÄTIGKEIT
 VON LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHEN UND
 LÄNDLICHEN BERATERN AUF DIE
 PROZESSE DER LÄNDLICHEN
 ENTWICKLUNG**



25.-28. April 2005
 Saulkrasti, Kreis Riga
 LETTLAND



NORTH East South West
INTERREG III C





Report on R.E.N.E. project International Conference
“INFLUENCE OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL ADVISERS OPERATION
SYNERGY ON THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES”

Conference was held in April 25–28, 2005 in Saulkrasti, Riga region, LATVIA. Conference discusses possibilities to foster rural development processes through cooperation between advisors of all sectors related to rural areas. There were 4 themes covered by the keynote speeches, workshops and study tours during the conference:

1. Cooperation between advisory organizations in different sectors (agriculture, forestry, rural tourism, fishery etc.).
2. Cooperation between different specialists (integrated approach).
3. Adviser as trainer, partner for farmers and rural entrepreneurs.
4. Cooperation between advisors, municipalities, development agencies and NGO's.

The number of participants was 71, most of them from Latvia – 55, 3 from Germany and Russian Federation, 2 from Czech Republic and Lithuania and one from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary and Ukraine. 61 (87%) participants came from newly accessed countries. Translation was provided into Latvian, English, German and Russian.

First day was dedicated for keynote speeches – a total of 8 speeches presented by 9 speakers. For the first theme there were 3 keynote speeches:

“Interrelation between agriculture and rural development and the further development of advisory services” by Laimdota Straujuma from Latvian Ministry of agriculture.

“Economical activity of people in Rural area of Latvia and development measures” by Daina Saktiņa from Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics and

“The Reformed Common Agricultural Policy as a Synergy Factor of Rural Development in Latvia” by Danute Jasjko from Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics.

For the second theme there were 2 keynote speeches: “Cooperation between different specialists (integrated approach) in Denmark” by Greta Rahbek from Danish Agricultural Advisory Service and

“Cooperation between different specialists (integrated approach) in Latvia” by Mārtiņš Cimermanis from Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre.

For the third theme there was 1 keynote speech: “Work of the Adviser in the Context of Education Ecology” by Baiba Briede and Ludis Pēks from Latvian University of Agriculture. For the fourth theme there were 2 keynote speeches:

“Cooperation between advisors, municipalities, development agencies and NGO's” by Natalya Andreeva - National Agriculture Expert from Russian Federation and

“Different level Partnerships for rural development” by Ināra Stalidzāne representing LTD “Konsultanti”, Latvia. In the evening of first day conference participants' had the opportunity to become acquainted with the Old Riga city.

On the second day participants had to choose between 3 study trip routes.



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During the study trips participants visited different farms (cash crop, pig, dairy chinchilla, fish reproduction), rural tourism facilities, nature parks and food processing enterprises in 3 Latvian regions – Cesis, Limbazi and Valmiera.

During the study trip every participant had to fill in a working sheet. They had to investigate what the advisor has done on the farm or facility till now and what could be the future field of work for the advisor.

In the cultural evening after the study trips participants were entertained by baron Minhauzen and his wife Jacobine and could join ancient Latvian songs and dances performed by folk group Delve.

In the final day of the conference participants had to present what they had experienced in the previous day and what were their suggestions for the advisors in the future. After the presentation there was time reserved for workshops on themes of the conference. A total of 11 short presentations were given in 3 working groups followed by discussion.

To evaluate the conference questionnaires were distributed to all participants. 32 questionnaires were returned. Answers showed that in general participants were satisfied with the programme of the conference (63% gave the highest rating (5), 34% gave the next highest (4) and 3% - average rate (3)). Participants were also satisfied with the lecturers/speakers, though in this case the highest value (5) was given by 50% of the participants (some participants commented that some of the presentations were too complicated to understand). Most of the participants (69%) admitted that the conference has brought benefits for their future work giving the highest rate (5).

Following benefits were named: information of advisory services in different countries, opportunity to share experience and knowledge with colleagues from other countries, to find out how particular problems are solved in other countries and others.

The highest ratings were given for general organization of the conference and the quality of presented materials (78% and 81% respondents gave the highest mark). 75% of the participants were very much satisfied with the time schedule of the conference. Most of the participants could actively participate in the programme of the conference (74% gave the highest rating (5)), but it should be noted that in the future organizers should think about activities that involve all the participants.

When asked which of the topics was the most useful for the future work 21,2% of the respondents mentioned the study trips, 18,7% the keynote speech by Baiba Briede and Ludis Pēks “Work of the Adviser in the Context of Education Ecology” and 9,3% keynote speech by Daina Saktiņa “Economical activity of people in Rural area of Latvia and development measures”.

When asked about the best and the worst at the conference respondents named study visits, time and place, good organization, cultural activities and others as the best. 75% respondents could not point out anything that could be classified as the worst. 91% of the respondents had no language barriers.

Most of the respondents (61%) found out of the event thru e-mail. The proceedings of the conference will be published both in the Internet and on the paper. There will be 100 copies of the paper edition distributed among the participants and other interested persons.

In the future it should be remembered to have no more than 1 or 2 conference languages. In our case there were 3 – English, German, Russian, but as most of the conference participants were from Latvia there was actually one more working language – Latvian. This resulted in translation and afterwards in some problems with timing.



R.E.N.E. Conference "Influence of Agricultural and Rural Advisers Operation Synergy on the Rural Development Process". 25.-28.04.2005. Saulkrasti, Latvia.

Participants list

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At the end here some photo-impressions from the congress:

on behalf of all participants we say sincere thanks for all commitment of our Latvian Partner and good bye at any time!

Marie-Luise Weigert and FÜAK Team





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