



# **Summary of Initial Stakeholder and Public Consultation Process on Preparation of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014 – 2020**

**In accordance with Article 5 of the draft Common Provisions Regulation**

**September 2013**

According to the draft European regulations Member States are required to consult widely during the preparation of their Rural Development Programmes. Article 5 of the draft Common Provisions regulation concerns Partnership and states that the following partners should be involved:

- competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities;
- economic and social partners; and
- bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, nongovernmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Therefore a public and stakeholder consultation was launched in December 2012 as part of the preparations for the development of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020. Submissions were invited from various groups including those referred to above. Appendix one contains the note that was sent to these stakeholders. At the same time an advertisement was placed in the national press and on the website of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine so that individual members of the public and any other interested groups could also make submissions.

More than 80 submissions were received in January 2013 from a broad mix of interested parties including representative farm associations, environmental and social interest groups, business representatives, local and regional authorities and LEADER groups and various individuals including some individual agricultural consultants. The list of organisations that provided submissions is set out at appendix two.

The results of these submissions were carefully considered by Rural Development Division and combined with other work such as the preparation of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and a needs assessment. The submissions were also provided to the independent ex ante evaluators for their consideration and assessment.

In mid July 2013 a stakeholder workshop was hosted by Rural Development Division and the National Rural Network in Portlaoise. Around 80 invited participants attended this workshop at which the preliminary findings of the SWOT analysis and needs assessment were presented. Detailed discussions took place in breakout groups at the level of each rural development priority in order to seek stakeholders' views on how they might be improved.

Further consultation is envisaged before the end of 2013 although the exact format has yet to be decided. Any queries in relation to this should be addressed by email to [ruraldevelopment@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:ruraldevelopment@agriculture.gov.ie) and we will respond to your query as soon as possible.

Rural Development Division  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
September 2013

## **Appendix 1 – Invitation to make Submissions**



### **Invitation to make Submissions on the Rural Development Programme for Ireland (RDP) 2014 - 2020**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is commencing its preparations for Ireland's Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 to 2020. The Programme will be co financed by the European Union and the enabling legislation is currently under discussion at EU level. As part of the preparatory process a stakeholder consultation process is being launched and submissions are invited from interested parties.

The European Commission's policy framework for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2013 encompasses draft legal proposals relating to the CAP for the period 2014-2020 including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The EAFRD provides the EU funding for Ireland's Rural Development Programme. Within the overall CAP, rural development policy in the period 2014 to 2020 is intended to contribute towards the following objectives:

- the competitiveness of agriculture;
- the sustainable management of natural resources, and climate action;
- a balanced territorial development of rural areas.

The achievement of these objectives, which contribute towards the Europe 2020 objectives for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, will be pursued through funding specific measures which address the following six priorities for rural development:

1. fostering knowledge transfer and innovation
2. enhancing competitiveness of all types of agriculture and enhancing farm viability
3. promoting food and non-food chain organisation and risk management
4. restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems
5. promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy
6. promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

In addition measures funded under all of the above priorities must contribute to the objectives of innovation, environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation which are considered as cross-cutting. These EAFRD proposals must be read in conjunction with another set of proposals under the Common Strategic Framework (CSF), also known as the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR). The CSF proposals encompass overarching obligations across a total of 6 EU Funds – EAFRD, European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Territorial Fund and European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. These funds will be fused under a Partnership Contract with the European Commission but the EAFRD will function separately at Programme level.

Many of the proposed measures for the RDP post 2013 are similar to those in the current round. However there are new measures proposed for farm and business development, aimed at young farmers and small businesses and for cooperation, aimed at various forms of partnership type arrangements both on and off farm. Other new options include support for producer groups, organic farming and insurance premia and mutual funds to compensate farmers for loss of production/income in specific circumstances. Less Favoured Areas will become known as Areas facing Natural or other Specific Constraints and significant changes are proposed to this measure. LEADER measures will also be funded under the Programme.

It is important to note that discussions between EU Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament on these proposals, are ongoing. The draft regulations are subject to change at any time, up to their adoption by the European Council and the European Parliament, which is currently expected during 2013.

As part of the overall RDP 2014 - 2020 design process, an independent Ex-Ante Evaluation, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), screening for Appropriate Assessment and Appropriate Assessment (AA) must be completed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A tendering process is currently underway and the successful tenderer is expected to start work in January 2013. The key role of the ex-ante evaluation is to contribute to developing an RDP that is both in line with the needs identified for Ireland but also with EU wide priorities. The key role of the SEA is to identify, describe and assess the likely significant effects on the environment of implementation of the RDP. The key role of the AA is to provide an impact assessment of the implications that the RDP may have on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and the development, if necessary, of mitigation measures.

The actual design and drafting of the RDP 2014-2020 will largely take place during 2013 but will be dependent on various factors including the agreement of the EU Budget for the 2014 -2020 period (Multi annual Financial Framework), an agreed regulatory framework being in place and detailed implementing rules from the European Commission.

The proposed date of commencement of Rural Development Programmes is 1 January 2014.

Submissions marked RDP 2014-2020 (not exceeding 10 pages in length) should be sent by email to [ruraldevelopment@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:ruraldevelopment@agriculture.gov.ie) or by post to Rural Development Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Floor 4 Centre, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. The deadline for receipt of submissions is Wednesday 16 January 2013. Please note that submissions received will be made available to the external evaluators.

### **Further Information**

Attention is drawn to the following potentially useful information sources:

1. European Commission CAP Post 2013 [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/index_en.htm)
2. Legal Proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2013 [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index_en.htm)
3. Future EU Cohesion Policy [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/what/future/proposals\\_2014\\_2020\\_en.cfm#1](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm#1)
4. Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopment/strategiesandprogrammes/>
5. Mid Term Evaluation of the Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopment/strategiesandprogrammes/MidTermEvaluationoftheRuralDevelopmentProgrammeIreland20072013.pdf>
6. National Rural Network (NRN) <http://www.nrn.ie>

## **Appendix 2 – List of Organisations who made submissions**

1. Agricultural Consultants Association
2. Agricultural Science Association
3. Animal Health Ireland
4. Association of Architectural Conservation Officers
5. Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd
6. Ballyhoura Development Ltd
7. Birdwatch Ireland
8. Border Midlands & Western Regional Assembly
9. Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (High Nature Value Services Ltd)
10. Centre for Environmental Living & Training
11. Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas
12. Connemara Hill Lamb Ltd
13. County and City Enterprise Boards
14. Countryside Council (Comhairle Na Tuaithe)
15. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht - National Monuments Service
16. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht - National Parks and Wildlife Service
17. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources – Geological Survey of Ireland
18. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government - Water quality section
19. Directors of Community and Enterprise Network
20. Donegal County Council
21. Environmental Pillar of Social Partnership
22. Environmental Protection Agency
23. European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland
24. European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism
25. Heritage Council
26. Inland Fisheries Ireland
27. Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland
28. International Council on Monuments and Sites Ireland
29. Inver Development Group
30. Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association
31. Irish Cooperative Organisation Society
32. Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association
33. Irish Farmers Association
34. Irish Forestry and Forest Products Association
35. Irish Local Development Network
36. Irish Organic Farmers & Growers Association
37. Irish Organic Milk Producers Ltd
38. Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee
39. Irish Rural Link
40. Kerry County Council
41. Kerry County Enterprise Board Ltd
42. Kilkenny LEADER Partnership
43. Leitrim County Council
44. Limerick Institute of Technology
45. Macra Na Feirme
46. Martin Ferris TD
47. Mountaineering Ireland
48. Muintir na Tire
49. National Association of Regional Game Councils
50. National Uplands Working Group
51. North & East Kerry Development
52. One Family
53. Organic Focus Group
54. Ox Mountain Hill Sheep Development Association
55. Rath Community Group
56. Roscommon County Council
57. Rosderra Farms

58. Shannon Fergus Islands Group
59. Sligo LEADER
60. Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly
61. Teagasc
62. Tuam Social Sports Club
63. Veterinary Ireland
64. Vincent Wildlife Trust
65. West Cork Development Partnership
66. Wicklow Uplands Council
67. Woodlands of Ireland