



NATIONAL CONFERENCE
FIRST STEPS OF THE NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK
22 November 2006, Bulgaria, Sofia, "Kempinski – Zografski" Hotel

- 09.00 – 10.00 Registration of participants
- 10.00 – 10.30 Official opening of the conference
- *Dimitar Peichev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests*
 - *Neil Buhne, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme - Bulgaria*

Session I: European and national legal context and policies for rural development

Moderator: Ogniana Glavoussanova, Programme Officer, United Nations Development Programme

- 10.30 – 11.15 Overview of the European policy and legal framework for supporting networks within EU rural development policy, and the current state of play in preparations for networking in the 2007 - 2013 period, *Helen Williams, Desk Officer for Bulgaria, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, Brussels*
- Questions and discussion
- 11.15 – 11.45 National policy for rural development and the possibilities for the establishment and strengthening of the National Rural Network, *Miroslava Georgieva, Director, Rural Development Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests*
- Questions and discussion
- 11.45 – 12.45 Break – coffee and refreshments

Session II: The National Rural Network

Moderator: Ginka Kapitanova, Executive Director, Foundation for Local Government Reform

- 12.45 – 13.30 Background and first steps of the National Rural Network: mobilisation of the local and regional stakeholders, participants, challenges and possibilities, *Marina Dimova, Programme Coordinator, Foundation for Local Government Reform*



- Questions and discussion



Ministry of Agriculture and Forests



Foundation for Local Government Reform



United Nations Development Programme

13.30 – 14.15

Achievements and results within the “Rural Network and LEADER” project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with the Foundation for Local Government Reform, *Tanya Shoumkova, Project Manager*

Certificates of achievement awarded to the participants within the long-term training of resource people within the “Rural Network and LEADER” project

14.15 – 14.30

Follow up steps. Closing the conference

