



Workshop on Climate Action in post-2013 Rural Development - Results from the OSCAR study -

Brussels, 22nd November 2012

REPORT

On 22 November 2012, the European Commission, together with a team of researchers led by the Agriculture and Environment Research Unit at University of Hertfordshire, organized a workshop to present the results of a study on "Optimal Strategies of Climate Action in Rural Development - the OSCAR study". About 60-65 participants came from the rural development units and Managing Authorities in the Ministries of Agriculture in Member States, the Permanent Representations to the EU stakeholder organisations and from the European Commission.

The morning session was focused on the policy approach to mainstreaming. The first presentation by Peter Wehrheim (Head of Unit "Climate Finance and Deforestation", DG Climate Action, European Commission) provided an overview of the role of agriculture in meeting the global climate challenge and the COM's proposal to climate mainstreaming into the post 2013 EU budget.

The second presentation by Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann (Head of Unit "Consistency of Rural Development", DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission) synthesized the state of play of negotiations and programming process related to rural development and explained the general mechanisms of mainstreaming climate into the second Pillar of the CAP: climate is a cross-cutting theme, relates to minimum 2 out of 6 key priorities and can be addressed with the majority of the different rural development measures. It was explained that the COM proposed that climate change will be a cross-cutting priority (mitigation and adaptation) in the post 2013 Rural Development Policy. Therefore, Member States will have to explain in their rural development programmes their strategic climate approach.

The third presentation by Rosario Bento Pais (Head of Unit "Adaptation", DG Climate Action, European Commission) explained the policy context for the forthcoming EU Adaptation Strategy to climate change and referred participants to the study on the inclusion of climate change adaptation considerations into future rural development programmes. (Shortly available on: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/documentation_en.htm)

The remaining part of the workshop focused on the work done by the consultants in the context of the OSCAR study. The team of researchers of the University of Hertfordshire presented a pragmatic conceptual and methodological framework for the assessment of mitigation and adaptation measures based on four criteria: 1) Life Cycle Assessment of on-farm GHG emissions; 2) Adaptive Capacity Impact Assessment mainly related to ecosystem services; 3) Productivity and 4) Practicality. A software tool was presented and demonstrated which allows spatial assessment (Nuts 1 to Nuts 3-level) of GHG emissions, carbon sequestration and adaptive capacity risks of existing and future rural development operations and measures at Nuts 1 to 3 levels. In addition, the results of 3 case studies were reported (PL, FR, UK) in which potential impact of selected rural development operations was explored on a site specific basis. The afternoon discussion showed that there is a substantial interest of participants in the OSCAR software in view of using it for the assessment of climate related measures in the context of the ex-ante evaluation.

The workshop ended with closing remarks and a presentation by Peter Wehrheim on *Successful mainstreaming of climate action into post 2013 Rural Development Policy*. It was argued, that mainstreaming needs to be included at each phase of the rural development programme cycle including: ex-ante evaluation, definition of the strategy, programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The OSCAR software can be downloaded from the following link:
<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/aeru/oscar/software.htm>