



ERDN Conference 2003:

Alternatives for European Rural Areas,

European Rural Development: Opportunities and Threats - What Can Be Done?

Falenty, Poland, 21-22.02.2003.

The seminar will be devoted to the **establishment of a wide network** of institutions and organisations, as well as individual scholars, interested in collaboration on the subject of the future of the European rural development (ERD), understood in a comprehensive manner, including, on the one hand, the present state and course of the socio-economic processes within the various parts of the European countryside, and, at the other extreme, the future of the Common Agricultural Policy, in the context of the EU extension, as well as the global economic processes.

A part of this potential broad network is already functioning, composed of a dozen institutions from Poland and other Central and Eastern European countries. It is expected that several institutions from Western Europe, having already expressed their interest in the endeavour, will soon join. You are cordially invited to take part in the work, indeed.

A very important objective of the meeting will be to define the modalities of a joint application to the EU's 6th Framework Programme. This will include the precise definition of tasks (work packages), institutions and persons responsible, and the co-ordinator(s). We assume that the outcome of the meeting will be a working document that would then soon be turned into a formal application, this document encompassing the organisational and the substantial parts of the potential joint undertaking, including the issue co-ordination.

For those of you, who have been already involved in the preparations of the ERD network, in particular through the previous meetings, we would like to inform you that it has been decided to publish an English-language series of *Proceedings of the ERD Network*. Thus, the materials from the Spring 2002 meeting in Warsaw, together with some complements, will make *the first volume of the series*. At the same time, the series will constitute the basis for elaboration of a book to be potentially published by a known international publishing house. Hence, we are kindly asking you to (1) express your agreement to publication of your papers, and (2) send us the current versions of the papers on paper and in electronic form.

You will therefore find enclosed the following documents:

1. a short presentation of the rationale behind the network, together with its current standing,
2. the (copy of the) EoI support addressed at the EU about half a year ago,
3. the information and registration form for the ERD Seminar in Falenty (please, note that the fee for participation is kept at minimum).

Venue of the seminar:

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