

Project Team

Co-ordinator:



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Partners:



FEEM - Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy, www.feem.it



FNL - Association for the promotion of sustainable Agriculture, Germany, www.fnl.de/willkommen_bei_ilu.html



UTAD - University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal, www.utad.pt/cetrad/



Institute of Technology and Regional Policy, JOANNEUM RESEARCH, Austria, www.joanneum.at/rtg



LUT - Lublin University of Technology, Poland, www.pollub.pl

EFL - Environmental Futures Ltd., UK, www.environmentalfutures.com



UNWE - University of national and World Economy, Bulgaria, www.unwe.acad.bg



UCV - University of Craiova, Romania, www.ucv.ro



VLK - German Chamber of Agriculture, Belgium, www.landwirtschaftskammern.de



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Contact Information

For further information, please refer to the project website:

www.rapido-fp6.eu

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RAPIDO - Project Team

RAPIDO

Rural Areas, People & Innovative Development

The overall objective of RAPIDO is to facilitate innovation and knowledge transfer in rural areas around Europe.



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Background

A large percentage of Europe's territory consists of rural areas with more than half of its population. The Lisbon Strategy, which aims to make Europe the most competitive, knowledge-based society in the world, is focusing on jobs and economic growth. Innovation is seen as precondition to reach these goals.

Despite three generations of rural development policies, there are still considerable problems. In fact, problems such as an ageing population, high unemployment rates, social disparities and the lack of adaptive potential to the global market, are more pronounced in rural areas than elsewhere in Europe.

To overcome these problems, it is essential to link public, private and inter-sectoral initiatives to foster innovation. RAPIDO has been established to analyse current best practices concerning the development of innovation in agriculture, forestry, the food sector and the wider rural areas as well as to analyse methods to transfer knowledge to different target groups.

Aims & Objectives

- To exchange information on experiences and strategies in rural development and to foster mutual learning and knowledge exchange across regions in Europe.
- To identify sectors where innovation would help to create employment in rural areas.
- To review the most promising methods to facilitate innovation (processes) and knowledge transfer.
- To evaluate the role of ETAP (Environmental Technology Action Plan) in fostering innovation in rural areas.
- To provide recommendations on how to facilitate innovation through
 - A: rural policies (question of policy design, efficiency of policies)
 - B: public/private and sectoral initiatives to foster innovative development,
 - C: funding mechanisms and
 - D: bottom up initiatives (local/regional bottom up initiatives)

Activities & Results

The RAPIDO project will conduct a scientific analysis of current processes and actors across Europe to identify key actors and sectors for future innovation as well as to analyse methods to transfer knowledge. This analysis will provide scientifically driven policy recommendations as to how the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda can be better integrated into rural development policies.

The RAPIDO project will disseminate its activities through its project website, which will feature policy briefs and scientific reports on topics such as:

- Best practices for rural innovation across Europe;
- Role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) within the innovation process
- Key factors for successful knowledge transfer mechanisms in rural areas;
- Policy recommendations on how to facilitate innovation and on which sectors to focus future investments.

