

## MINUTES

### STEERING COMMITTEE AND PROJECT WORKING MEETING

(14 JUNE 2013)

**LOCATION:** Bürgerhaus Wilhelmsburg, Megestraße 20, 21107 Hamburg

**Participants:** 23 (see list of participants)

**Attachments to the minutes** (see separate PDFs in the intranet):

- PPT from REM • Consult
- PPT from Andreas Obersteg, HCU Hamburg
- URMA Approach from Marta Jacuniak-Suda, HCU Hamburg
- PPTs C4 Pilots from Twente and Milano

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#### **1) Welcome and presentation of the agenda**

Jörg Knieling (LP) welcomed all participants to the Steering Committee and project working meeting. He shortly summarized the two previous days and underlined that for the URMA working group it is going back to business on Friday after Wednesday, when the conference presented the large-scale dimensions of urban-rural relations in Northern Germany and Thursday, when the starting phase of one concrete project related to the Hamburg Pilot was shown – the Jutland Route from Hamburg via Schleswig-Holstein to Copenhagen. Mareike Korb (REM • Consult) afterwards presented the agenda.

#### **2) Review on urban-rural partnerships conference and study visit in Hamburg**

Mareike Korb (REM • Consult) asked each participant to briefly comment on the contents and experiences from Wednesday and Thursday with regards to the questions “What could be learned from the Hamburg / Northern German Examples?” and “What could be useful or transferable for the partners’ implementation plans?”

The European partners firstly thanked the partners from Hamburg for the organisation and stressed different aspects. To some it was interesting which different scales of cooperation are tackled by the core city of Hamburg. Others highlighted that the concrete culture of informal cooperation with no need for a stronger organisational structure in Metropolitan Region Hamburg (MRH) would be impressive and very different to their respective countries. Furthermore it was stated that a variety of topics is included in the urban-rural cooperation and a task would be for the project partners to implement

some of the good examples, especially those shown on Thursday. Another opinion characterized the Hamburg approach as a way to rationalize the available resources, because the focus of activities is lesser on the initiation on new projects, but more on promoting existing projects.

The partners from Hamburg acknowledged that they perhaps have to be a little more patient with the progress of cooperation sometimes, but that a further and on-going challenge is always to include both rural and urban parts of the MRH. Related to this, a crucial question is what sort of quality does cooperation want to achieve and if there is a contrast between the more quantitative aim of “creating jobs” like heard from Danish speakers and more qualitative activities like at Pleven or Lombardy? With regard to results of cooperation, there will probably be different identities and activities at different scales - e.g. the identity of Jutland Route will never come to normal life, but will more likely be important at strategic level. A crucial test for this will be for the Hamburg Pilot, when the study has been finalized and it comes to the practical implementations of recommendations.

### 3) **Component 3 session**

#### **URMA approach**

Andreas Obersteg (LP) presented a first draft of the URMA approach (see file attached to this mail), a document prepared by Marta Jacuniak-Suda (LP), which should serve a theoretical frame for what the URMA partners understand as urban-rural partnerships. Especially the nine defining features (chapter 3. a. – i.) facilitate the identification of good practices and make easier to construct implementation plans. These are not like the nine commandments, but if several of the nine features are not fulfilled, it is questionable if it really serves as an intense urban-rural partnership.

The partners appreciated very much the preparation of the document and commented on it within the discussion. Guido Sempell (PP2) mentioned three additional facets for urban rural cooperation:

1. Competences – what can both sides bring in?
2. Project driven – often cooperation are driven by concrete actions, not by regional planning.
3. Profiling – there should exist a clear vision and picture of the whole region.

The feature “innovation”, as not fully agreed-on by Petra Pelster (PP2) and clarified by Anderas Obersteg (LP), should be seen in a broader way, as not all important cooperation projects necessarily include innovative behaviour in a strict definition. Finally, Martin Verbeek (PP8) added the feature of cost-resource-sharing, meaning that sometimes urban and rural partners bring in different resources into the partnership process, e.g. voluntary work compared to a bucket of money.

**All PP:** Please read and comment on the URMA approach to LP and REM • Consult by end of June.

### Status of inventory of policy frameworks

Andreas Obersteg (LP) gave a short overview of Component 3 process and outputs.

Answers to the more applied questions from the inventory questionnaire (5-8) were then developed and extended in group work at partition walls. Regarding the questions 5-8 several additional aspects to those, which have already been provided by the project partners, were written down on paper pieces. A documentation of these partition walls will be available in the intranet.

The inventory questionnaires have not been sent by all project partners to LP and REM • Consult.  
→ **Partners who have not finished their inventories** are requested to send their inventories to LP and Component Leader (PP3) **until end of June**.

Based on the inventory questionnaires, **LP and Component Leader (PP3)** will analyze jointly the general questions 1-4.

### Good practice guide

Andreas Obersteg (LP) presented some good examples that have been provided by the project partners from Pleven, Lombardy and Hamburg HCU.

→ **All partners** are asked to reflect the URMA approach and then send examples of good practices (please use the respective template, available on the intranet) to LP and Component Leader (PP3). During next meeting at Milano these examples and ideas from the partner regions (at last 2 examples/Partner) shall be presented as basis for discussion.

If partners have troubles identifying good practices please contact LP or REM • Consult for more information.

### Implementation Plans

Project partners (PP3, PP4, PP7, PP9) gave short presentations on the work steps in Component 3 towards the Implementation plans with regard to current status and contents, planning of the next steps and the time schedule (see presentations on the intranet). The film from the study visit in Tuscany (PP4) will be placed with additional English subtitles on the website soon. Their next planning steps towards IP will be presentable at the next meeting.

Andreas Obersteg (LP) reminded the project partners of the time frame for developing the Implementation Plans. Therefore, planning of next steps (e.g. contracting) should be conducted as soon as possible. The exact structure of the IP must individually be developed in more detail, opinions from all project partners on them are welcomed and intended.

#### 4) Component 4 session

Rolf Oldejans (PP10) and Monica Peggion (PP5) presented the implementation status of their pilots (see presentations on the intranet). Due to time constraints and the information already heard on Wednesday and Thursday, the Hamburg pilot is not presented.

Monica Peggion (PP5) presents the state of planning regarding workshop and study visit in Lombardy Region on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, 10 October, in the morning there will be a guided bus tour through Milan and an excursion to the Rice field park, located in the south area of Milan metropolitan area, representing a special case of agricultural land in an urban context. After lunch we will probably have a trip through the region, including a visit to the Panperduto Dam, place of origin of the water ways project, involving the Expo site. On Friday, 11 October, there will be an interregional workshop on urban-rural partnerships in the Lombardy Region, focusing on pilot and other projects related to this topic. In the afternoon, the steering committee meeting will take place.

More information will be sent out to all project partners soon.

#### 5) Component 2 session

Component Leader Martin Verbeek (PP8) presented the URMA Partner Communication Sheet. The Final Conference in 2014 will be added to the Communication Sheet and then **sent by PP8** to all partners.

→ **All Partners:** Have a careful look at the Communication Sheet, provided by PP8 and stick to these mandatory (!) activities!

One information good to know: Printing Roll-ups in individual partner regions is usually easier and cheaper than producing in Germany and sending it to partners.

→ **All Partners:**

1. Please place links to the URMA-website at your institutions' website.
2. Please also issue press releases!
3. Data base of contacts: Please always add updates and **project partners from IT / NL** add missing information in the sheet "Contacts in IT/NL". Current status can be found on the intranet.
4. Please always send information on upcoming regional events to REM • Consult and Martin (PP8) to be placed on URMA-website!

**PP5 (Lombardy):** Please send interview for the newsletter to Martin and Mareike until June 28!

**Reports from events and future events**

Andreas Obersteg (LP) reported from the Warsaw conference "Building urban rural partnerships in future European development programmes". For more information on the conference you can visit the following URL: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/conferences/rurban/2013/programme\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/rurban/2013/programme_en.cfm)

Szczecin Functional Area is one of ten regions, which are researched and presented by the OECD study. Draft versions of these analyses were presented and are currently being revised.

→ **PP 3 (Szczecin):** Please contact Jörg Knieling (LP) for a draft of the conducted case study after revision.

Lars Schieber (REM • Consult) reported from the conference in Büdelsdorf of the German-Danish region (see also presentation of Mr. Kleinschmidt on Thursday). Most important content is for the Hamburg Pilot. Unfortunately only some presentations have an English documentation, which can be found at:

<http://www.deinregionsportal.de/presentation-der-konferenz-forum-der-deutsch-daenischen-region/>

During the open days in Brussels there will be a side event on urban-rural partnerships. The event is organized by METREX, PURPLE, OECD, DG Regio among others, the two topics will be food security and economical development /employment, Rolf Oldejans (PP10) will be taking part due to his food related content. URMA will also be on the panel. All partners are invited to take part in the event....

Furthermore, Rolf Oldejans attends the open days with a joint exhibition stand of the projects SURF and URMA.

## 6) Component 1 session

Mareike Korb (REM • Consult) reports that re-imbursement for the second report will probably take place during the next days.

As “lessons learnt” from the previous processes,

**→ ALL PP:**

- please get in contact as early as possible with your FLC to accelerate the process
- provide information about the actual nature of costs and related to the Application Form!
- provide all information in English within your list of expenditure
- you are required to store all documents that you can find on the two slides (Accounting documents I+II) according to the programme manual. A separate word-file including these documents will also be saved on the intranet as a reminder.

Mareike Korb reminded all partners of the end of the reporting period on 30<sup>th</sup> June. REM • Consult offers a pre-check of partner reports.

**→ ALL PP:** please send the partner reports for the pre-check at the latest by 6<sup>th</sup> August to REM • Consult, better earlier!

Mareike Korb presented that there is a significant underspending at project level so far.

Lead Partner will prepare a shared cost report for 1/2012 – 6/2013 and has an appointment with the FLC by end of July.

Lars Schieber (REM • Consult) shortly presented the mid-term self-evaluation, that is carried out by REM • Consult during summer.

**→ ALL PP:** please fill in the online-questionnaire that will be sent to you by REM • Consult until July 12<sup>th</sup>!

Finally, Jörg Knieling (LP) closed the meeting and summarizes, that on the one hand the focus on different contents of cooperation is important (e.g. like in the Netherlands on food, while in Bulgaria more on knowledge), but on the other hand also the organization of the cooperation differs between the partners. These aspects make the individual approaches from the project partners so interesting.

## 7) Next steps

When	What	Who
12-14 June 2013	Regional stakeholder conference incl. study visit in Hamburg	All PPs plus stakeholders of related initiatives
25 June 2013	Feedback Seminar on the Exchange of Experience Study 'Improving policy-making through learning?' in Dublin	LP, PP3
30 June 2013	End of 3rd reporting period	All partners
by 6 August 2013	Pre-check of Partner reports (list of expenditure plus internal activity report)	All partners
30 August 2013	Deadline for submission of partner control confirmation	All partners
18-20 Sept 2013	METREX conference in Oslo and Akershus	???
7-10 October 2013	Open Days in Brussels	LP, PP8+10 (tbc)
10-11 October 2013	Study visit and workshop in Lombardia Region	All partners
23-25 October 2013	3rd European seminar on sustainable urban-rural partnerships in Emilia- Romagna (Italy)	???
31 December 2013	End of 4th reporting period	All partners
28-29 January 2014	Meeting in Pleven (C4 Workshop)	All partners