

Minutes of the Rural Development Working Group Meeting

In the framework of CEEWEB Annual Meeting

Budapest, Hungary

28th September 2006

1. Introductory round of participants

Melanie Ruppe – YEE, Czech Republic

Zvezda Bogevska – Eco Mission, Macedonia

Pal Peter – Agora, Romania

Zoltan Demeter – Green Action, Hungary

Anna Ivanyi – Nimfea, Hungary

Csilla Kiss – Protect the Future, Hungary

Rita Francia – CEEWEB Office, Hungary

Dalma Foldes - CEEWEB Office, Hungary

We have four new members welcomed to the meeting.

- Melanie works for Youth Environment in Europe. They produce a newsletter and a magazine as well. The reason why she is interested in RD is that the next issue of YEE magazine focuses on biomass. The time table for 2007 is ready, she will send it the mailing list.
- Zoli has great experience with agri + RD, they are working in strong cooperation with Bükk National Park (Environmentally Sensitive Area). They also have good contact with farmers around Miskolc, they organise an organic market. On national level they are involved in negotiations of the RD strategy and plan with the Ministry of Agriculture and RD.
- Anna presented a poster on the community based RD project of Nimfea. They, as a member organisation expect funds and support from the Office to their local projects. She pointed out that it would be important to see other member's similar activities and initiate joint projects.

The Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity (CEEWEB) is an international network of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Central and Eastern European region. The mission of the network is the conservation of the biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.

- Csilla works for Protect the Future, they are not members of CEEWEB, but cooperation partners. She personally deals with networking and creation of food sovereignty platform.

2. Needs assessments + RD strategy questionnaire:

Only 2 members have completed the needs assessment form and the questionnaire on the RD strategies and plans. The inactivity of the group is sad, we decided to attract new WG members! Every participant should look for relevant organisations in their country and plus Austria, Slovenia and Bulgaria.

3. Information on CAP health check:

In 2008 there will be a mid-term monitoring of the CAP: This topic should be definitely in the next work plan! EEB and other international networks will deal with it and they expect input from Central and East Europe regarding the issue.

4. Information on the Food Sovereignty Movement and Platform: Csilla Kiss was giving a presentation on her view and experiences gained in France. She has already started to organise the Hungarian National FSP.

5. Activities of the WG: we plan a training on direct marketing this year. Venue: Turkeve, Hungary, Date: end of November. We were brainstorming on potential lecturers. Regarding the work plan for 2006, we have completed the activities we planned except for the training, although the majority of the budget is still available. We created the Work Plan for 2007 as well, it was presented by the chair of the WG.

The activities will be the following:

- Continue the participation in the official advisory committee "Agriculture and Environment" of the European Commission.
- Participate in the EEB Agricultural WG twice a year.
- Ad hoc participation in relevant hearings and consultations of the EP and the EC in order to ensure the maximum representation of CEE views and concerns.
- Evaluation of Cross Compliance in 2007
- Preparation for the Mid-term review of the CAP in 2008
- Food Sovereignty Platform: establish and cooperate with other platforms
- Monitor the CAP reform (2008) and develop well-founded proposals reflecting the positions of CEEWEB member NGOs.
- Co-ordinate and strengthen the CEEWEB Rural development WG through electronic communication and with at least one WG meeting.