

To:

Dear

already six months have passed since the REP workshop in Falenty. On behalf of the REP Executive Committee, I like to inform you about the progress we have made so far.

- the Falenty workshop was a great success. During that meeting, it became clear, that, despite many national and regional differences, there is a common agenda on sustainable rural development in Europe. Please find details on <http://www.ruraleuropeanplatform.org/index.htm>.
- the Executive Committee have concentrated their efforts on three issues:
 - Creating a more professional REP organisation. We are now in the process of establishing a high level Advisory Board with highly respected members in the different European countries. The REP secretariate will most probably be hosted by South Downs (UK) and I will continue my work as a facilitator.
 - Finding long term funding for the REP initiative. Although we have not yet solved all financial problems, we are making good progress. We will need the help of the advisory board to find sustainable funding in the different European countries. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.
 - Taking steps towards the Third REP workshop, to be held in Portugal in October 2007. There will be a larger one day symposium on European rural policies and a one day workshop most probably focussing on Southern Europe.
- In the near future, we will have to work on
 - A more professional communication strategy: the website will be improved with the help of a professional web-designer. A flyer with a simple and clear message is being prepared. We will systematically present the REP message at workshops, symposia, etc.
 - The development of the REP project database: many more examples of innovative ways of reconciling the needs of agriculture, rural development, will be documented and made accessible on the internet. Please send us your favourite examples and talk to us how to put them on our website!
 - A small number of Regional REP Meetings will be organised, for example in the newer Central European EU countries and in the Ukraine. Any initiatives from your side are welcome!

We hope to meet you again at our next REP meeting in Portugal. We will inform you in a second e-mail about the date and place.

Best regards,

Reinier de Man
on behalf of the REP Executive Committee
reinier.de.man@rdeman.nl
Kloksteeg 33, 2311 SK Leiden, The Netherlands
Phone +31 71 512 8422
Skype reinierdeman

N.B.

Please excuse us, if you received this e-mail more than once, because of a technical problem.

You are on our mailing list, since you participated in one of our workshops (or you had intended to participate).

- if you want to be removed from the mailing list, please send me an e-mail.
- if you have suggestions for additional people who are interested to receive the REP newsletter, please send me names, affiliations and e-mail addresses.