



## Rural Areas, People & Innovative Development

Project n°: SSPE-CT-2006-44264  
Project acronym: RAPIDO  
Instrument: Specific Support Action  
Thematic Priority: 8.1 Policy Oriented research

### **Deliverable No. 8.2: Publishable Final Activity Report** (period covered by the report 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009)

Due date of deliverable: 14.04.2009  
Actual submission date: 29.04.2009

Start date of project: 01/03/07

Duration: 24 months

Lead contractor organisation for this deliverable:  
Ecologic Institute

Final Version

## 1. Project execution

Rural Areas, People and Innovative Development (RAPIDO) is a research project - funded under 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Commission - that aims to facilitate innovation and knowledge transfer in rural areas in Europe with a special focus on agriculture, forestry and food industry. The RAPIDO project began in March 2007 and will be completed in February 2009. The project is coordinated by Ecologic Institute in Berlin, Germany, and includes ten partner organisations:

- FEEM - Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
- FNL - Association for the promotion of sustainable Agriculture, Germany
- UTAD - University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal
- JOANNEUM RESEARCH, Institute of Technology and Regional Policy, Austria
- LUT - Lublin University of Technology, Poland
- EFL - Environmental Futures Ltd., UK
- UNWE - University of national and World Economy, Bulgaria
- UCV - University of Craiova, Romania
- VLK - German Chamber of Agriculture, Belgium
- UVEG - University Valencia - Estudi General, Spain

The RAPIDO project provides an opportunity for researchers interested in innovation to come together with leaders in the field – through questionnaires and workshops – to develop a detailed perspective on which sectors and actors should be targeted by innovation initiatives. The focus is on rural areas because most of the problems European societies are currently facing, such as ageing populations, high unemployment rates, social disparities and the lack of adaptive potential to the global market, are often more pronounced in rural areas than in other regions. However, aside from these general problems, rural areas face their own particular set of problems, which should be addressed by specific strategies and approaches. These issues have a major impact on agricultural markets in addition to local economies in rural areas. It is in these areas that innovation is most needed.

The RAPIDO project objectives have been accomplished through scientific analysis of current processes and actors in this field across Europe, the identification of key actors and sectors to focus on in the future and finally, scientific advice on to how to better integrate the Lisbon objectives into rural development policies. Based on the analysis of success criteria and promising options for the future, policy recommendations have been given regarding which areas to focus on and concentrate efforts. The project consists of 8 Work Packages, with Work Packages 1-5 focused on research, Work Package 6 focused on workshops, Work Package 7 on dissemination and Work Package 8 on management.

The Common Framework, RAPIDO research papers, meeting and dissemination documents are available on the RAPIDO project website: [www.rapido-fp6.eu](http://www.rapido-fp6.eu).

### **Methodology and Structure of activities:**

To achieve the abovementioned general objectives, the RAPIDO Specific Support Action has the following 8 specific objectives<sup>1</sup>:

1. To identify key areas in agriculture, the food industry and forestry (areas with high job creation potential, future markets, future technologies)
2. To exchange information on experiences and strategies in rural development and to foster mutual learning and knowledge exchange across regions in Europe (training/ mutual learning, ICT, etc.).
3. To extract key factors for success and constraints for successful innovation development in rural areas
4. To identify sectors where innovation would help to create employment in rural areas

5. To analyse the role of different actors (public / private / industry / policy makers/ community stakeholders) in the process of promoting and taking up of initiatives
6. To review the most promising methods to facilitate innovation (processes) and knowledge transfer (including analysis of common barriers for both)
7. To evaluate the role of ETAP (Environmental technology action plan) in fostering innovation in rural areas.
8. To give recommendations on how to facilitate innovation through A: rural policies (question of policy design, efficiency of policies) B: sectoral initiatives to foster innovative development, C: funding mechanisms and D: bottom up initiatives (local / regional bottom up initiatives)

The following tables provide an overview of the 8 project work packages and their respective deliverables. Every task or deliverable (D) under the work packages is linked to at least one of the specific objectives listed above.

Work-package No <sup>2</sup>	Work package title	Lead contractor No <sup>3</sup>	Deliv-erable No <sup>4</sup>
	<b>Support activities</b>		
1	Best practice examples for innovation in rural areas	2	D1.1 D1.2
2	Review of key areas in agriculture, food and forestry where innovation and research should focus	3	D2
3	Identification of sectors where innovation would help to create employment in rural areas	4	D3
4	Review and assessment of environmental technology initiatives and their dissemination strategies	1	D4
5	Review of processes and role of different actors (public/private) and summary overview of methods to transfer innovation to the relevant actors	11,5,6	D5.1 D5.2 D5.3 D5.4
6	2 workshops + 1 kick-off meeting	1,2+ 4	D6.1 D6.2
7	Dissemination	1	D7.1 D7.2 D7.3 D7.4 D7.5 D7.6 D7.7
	<b>Co-ordination activities</b>		
8	Project co-ordination	1	D8.1 D8.2 D8.3 D8.4

Deliverable No <sup>5</sup>	Deliverable title	Delivery date (project month) <sup>6</sup>
D 1.1	Best practice data base on case studies for innovation development and transfer in rural areas	6
D 1.2	Evaluation matrix to assess future initiatives and projects in the area of innovation	3

<sup>2</sup> Work package number: WP 1 – WP n.

<sup>3</sup> Number of the contractor leading the work in this work package.

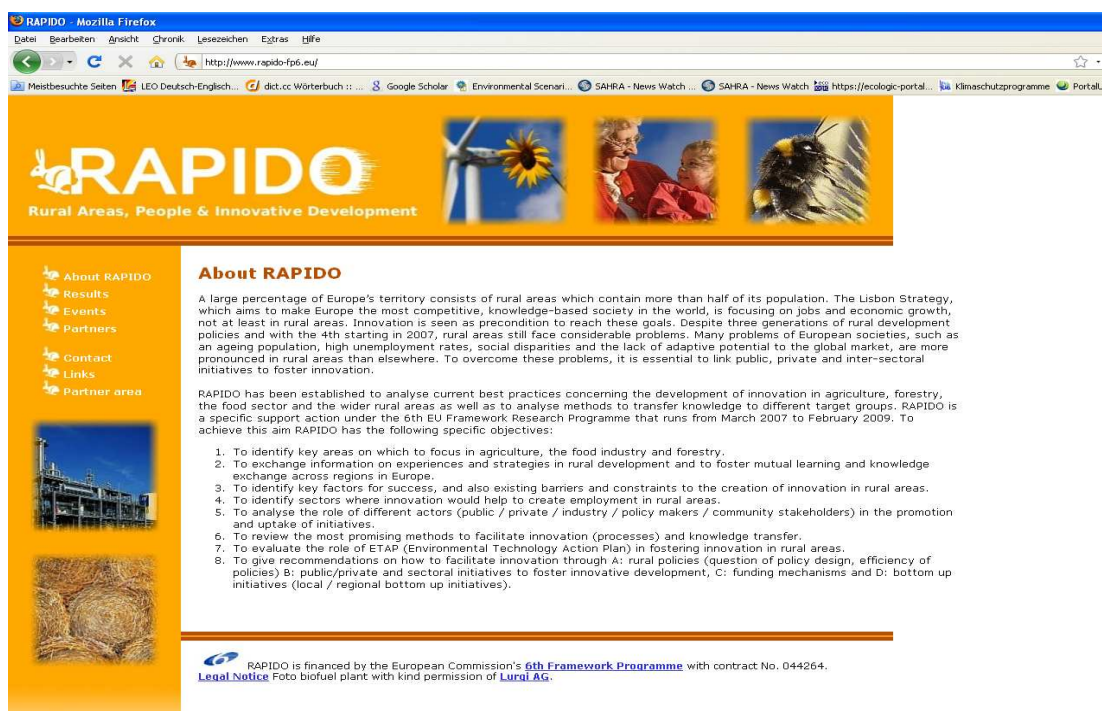
<sup>4</sup> Deliverable number: Number for the deliverable(s)/result(s) mentioned in the work package: D1 - Dn.

<sup>6</sup> Month in which the deliverables will be available. Month 0 marking the start of the project, and all delivery dates being relative to this start date.

D 2	Report on results of questionnaire on promising concepts and areas where to focus for innovation in agriculture, forestry and food industry.	9
D 3	Synthesis report on identification of the sectors with high potential to create employment in rural areas	13
D 4	Report on the application of ETAP in the Member states (including constrains for a better application)	18
D 5.1	Report on Analytical framework	11
D 5.2	Report on role models and actors in fostering innovation in rural areas	17
D 5.3	Synthesis report and recommendations on the organisations and process management	21
D 5.4	Report on key factors for successful knowledge transfer mechanisms in rural areas.	17
D 6.1	Updated work plan	2
D 6.2	Workshop binders (1-2)	11, 22
D 7.1	Project web site	3
D 7.2	First electronic news alert	8
D 7.3	Second electronic news alert	16
D 7.4	First Policy Brief	11
D 7.5	Second Policy Brief	22
D 7.6	Article in scientific journals (submitted)	24+2
D 7.7	Two one-page policy summaries for the DG h websites	11, 22,
D 8.1	First year scientific project report	14
D 8.2	Second year scientific project report	24+2
D 8.3	First year financial project report	14
D 8.4	Second year financial project report	24+2

The milestones and deliverables achieved during the project, i.e. from 1. March 2007 to 28. February 2009 were the following:

1. The Kick-off meeting took place in March 2007 in Brussels Belgium. Main issues were the presentation and discussion of the methodological approaches proposed for each work package. An updated work plan was also provided.
2. The RAPIDO website was launched in May 2007 and has since then been updated regularly. The website contains information about the project itself, about the partners, events and results. An internal password-protected page facilitates communication among the partners and the exchange of working documents and deliverables. Available for download on the public website are: all the RAPIDO report deliverables, both policy briefs, both E-news alerts, the RAPIDO indicator set, the RAPIDO flyer and poster, the initial description of work on which the project is based, both workshop agendas, all expert presentations, the RAPIDO first workshop video.



3. **Work Package 1** consisted of designing a matrix to qualitatively evaluate the sustainability and the success of the projects covered by the 67 best practice examples analysed in the field of innovation in rural areas. The matrix is composed of 26 indicators originating from the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic development, social development and the conservation of environmental resources. The set of indicators in the RAPIDO Evaluation Matrix aims to measure the overall sustainability of projects, while also offering a structured and comparable view on the complex realities covered by diverse projects. This Evaluation Matrix can serve the following purposes: assist policy and decision makers in monitoring policy impacts and measuring the progress and success of single projects, as well as indicate general directions of European sustainable rural development.
4. At the **first workshop**, was held in Venice, Italy on 29-30 November, six outside experts were invited to present their work to the project consortium. These presentations (available for download on the RAPIDO project website: <http://www.rapido-fp6.eu/events.html>) provided key insights into six of the 67 best practice case studies:
  - Coastal farm business diversification (Speaker: Howard Day, Dirt Consultancy, UK)
  - Agri-environmental schemes (Speaker: Andrea Povellato, National Institute for Agricultural Economics, Italy)
  - Organic food production (Speaker: Artur Tyminski, Symbio, Poland)
  - Renewable energy (Speaker: Marie-Luise Rottmann-Meyer, 3N, Germany)
  - Information dissemination (Speaker: Virgil Paraschiveanu, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Romania)
  - Local entrepreneurship and ICT (Speaker: Monica Leite, ANOP, Portugal)

A video of the workshop and of interviews with the experts was created and put on the RAPIDO website to be watched in streaming. <http://www.rapido-fp6.eu/events.html>

5. **Work Package 2** reviewed key areas in agriculture, forestry and food industry on which future investments in innovation and research should focus. A detailed questionnaire was first developed and then sent to targeted experts, representatives of organisations or companies – with expertise in innovation in rural areas – in several European countries, to gather information on key actors and sectors, important social and institutional preconditions, indicators of success and also possible barriers to rural innovation. The results were evaluated in terms of main fields, methods and approaches for development and innovation in rural areas.

Among others, these first findings show that fostering the implementation of innovations in rural areas offers multiple positive effects: inter-linkage of job creation, income generation, resource efficiency and environmental benefits. The challenge in Europe will be to proceed from individual innovations and innovative projects towards a “culture of innovation”. Fostering this process – via education, training, consultancy, financing, appropriate legal frameworks, flexible and efficient administration and incentives on EU, national and regional level – seems to be most promising in this context.

6. The Findings of work package 1 and 2 are briefly summarised in the first **E-News Alert** and highlighted in the **first Policy brief** (see <http://www.rapido-fp6.eu/results.html>). In general, the project disseminates its activities and outcomes EU-wide via the partner’s networks addressing policy makers and stakeholders as well as researchers in the agricultural and rural development scene, the representatives of the NGO’s (e.g. farmer associations) and private companies (e.g. farm device suppliers, retailers, tourism industry). Further dissemination activities, which are supported by all partners, include the production of a RAPIDO flyer and poster, the participation in relevant conferences and publishing project-relevant research papers.
7. The goals of **RAPIDO Work Package 3** were to identify the sectors where innovation enhances rural employment and to analyse the dual role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the creation of new jobs related to innovation. To meet these goals, an extensive economic literature review was conducted which provided an overview of the state of the art and highlighted limitations of available evidence regarding the effects of innovation on employment for agricultural-related sectors and emergent sectors within rural areas. Consequently, an analysis of previously compiled data from the RAPIDO project, as well as an in-depth survey of innovative initiatives was conducted.

The findings show that innovation is an effective approach to enhance the creation of new skilled jobs for qualified people. The sectors that show higher potential for the creation of these “new skilled” jobs include, as expected, knowledge-based activities, such as R&D, advanced technology production, and environment-related activities. Nevertheless, innovation undertaken by other sectors, namely the classical sectors such as agriculture and the food industry, also entails the creation of skilled jobs. Furthermore, innovation might be helpful to secure jobs as revealed by the sectors of agro-tourism and social services.

8. The objectives of **Work Package 4** were to provide a review and analysis of the European Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) and of the role of environmental technologies in rural areas. In the first stage, the role of ETAP was analysed based on the assessment of 12 national roadmaps from a representative group of EU Member States. In the second stage of the study, 13 case studies were conducted to provide an in-depth analysis of environmental technology initiatives taking place in rural areas. Results of the review showed that ETAP has significant potential to streamline and focus Member States’ efforts with regard to environmental technologies; however, its voluntary nature limits its effectiveness. The case study approach indicated that building confidence in new environmental technologies among government officials was a key factor in the long-term success of many case study projects. The occasionally difficult and time consuming process of working with governmental officials often led to the beneficial result of a more streamlined process, hopefully paving the way for more rapid approval of similar projects in the future.
9. The **second RAPIDO project workshop** was held in Vila Real, Portugal on 27-28 November 2008. The main objective of the workshop was to develop final policy recommendations, to serve as a basis for the 2nd RAPIDO policy brief, on how to facilitate innovation in rural areas. The results of Work Packages 3 to 5 were presented and discussed. To illustrate aspects of these results, four experts were invited to present their work, provide valuable input and interact with the RAPIDO partners. In addition, the main results and policy recommendations of the IN-SIGHT project, an FP6 sister-project, were presented by one of the IN-SIGHT partners, to share and compare the experience of a parallel research project.

The following input was provided by outside experts:

- Employment dynamics in rural regions in the EU, I. Terluin (Agricultural Economics Research Institute LEI/Netherlands)
- Lessons from the field: Innovation for rural development and job creation, L. Jacobs (Our Nature Park/Luxembourg)

- Promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency in rural areas: lessons from Pieria, Greece, K. Zapounidis (Pieriki Anaptyxiaki S.A./Greece)
- Establishing alliances and interactions between local actors: experiences from Spanish case studies, L.R. Velázquez (Dr. in Geography, Consultant)

The presentations and the agenda are available for download on the project website. <http://www.rapido-fp6.eu/events.html>

10. **Work Package 5** aimed to review the processes and the role of different actors (public/private) and to provide a summary overview of the methods used to transfer innovation to the relevant actors. The role of an information exchange process in selected case study regions, as well as the significance of networks, partnerships and regional and thematic clusters were identified as important factors for information transfer.

The investigation clearly indicates that there is a wide range of innovation potential in rural areas – but key factors for successful innovation differ in comparison to urban agglomerations. A key factor of successful innovation is tacit or embedded knowledge. All case study regions prove that the organisation and promotion of manufacturing traditions or traditional services on a very high level leads to spill-over effects, hence to further innovation among firms and customers.

11. The **second E-News Alert** was sent to a wide range of policy makers, interested stakeholders, research community etc. from the partners network (e.g. EISA, RENE). It briefly presents the main work and results of work packages 3 to 5 and of the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop, and announces the **second RAPIDO policy brief**.

The **second RAPIDO policy brief** provides policy and decision makers with insights into the characteristics of innovation in rural areas and points to further research needs in this field. The policy brief presents scientific advice and recommendations of measures, illustrated by means of case study examples analysed throughout the different phases of the project, to promote and facilitate the uptake and spread of innovative initiatives in European rural areas, as a key means of integrating the Lisbon objectives with rural development objectives. It was prepared by Ecologic, is based on the discussion on policy recommendations during the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop and on input from several partners.

Both RAPIDO Policy Briefs have been submitted as public outputs on the CORDIS project dissemination website.

12. The **scientific article** “Innovation as a tool to promote sustainable development in rural areas: recommendations for policymakers” has been prepared by some of the RAPIDO consortium partners as a dissemination activity. It presents some of the key results of the project and offers policy recommendations to increase efficient support to innovative initiatives in rural areas. These are the following:

- Strengthen local networks
- Invest in rural people: infrastructure and education
- Improve the receptivity and targeted support to small, diversified and multi-sectoral initiatives
- Cultivate an environment of trust and cooperation

It has been submitted as a manuscript on the online peer review system of the Environmental Policy and Governance Journal by the end of April 2009. <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/eet>

### 13. Dissemination and use

The following table gives an overview of the most important dissemination activities undertaken by the RAPIDO partners.

<b>Actual dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible/ involved</b>
08-10 May 2007	Conference <a href="http://ecologic.eu/2067">http://ecologic.eu/2067</a>	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Europe	600	Ecologic
20-22 September 2007	Conference	Researcher	International	130	LUT
27-28 November 2007	Poster Session	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Germany	100	Ecologic, FNL
29-30 November 2007	1 <sup>st</sup> Project Workshop	Project team, 6 external experts	Europe	ca. 25	All partners
12 December 2007	Executive Committee	Representatives of EISA members	SE, AT, FR, BE, DE, LU, UK	12	FNL
January 2008	Seminar/ Presentation	IN-SIGHT project team	Europe	25	Ecologic, FEEM
February 2008	1st Electronic News alert	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Europe	n.a.	Ecologic, all partners
February 2008	1st Policy Brief	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Europe	n.a.	Ecologic, all partners
30 May 2008	Conference	Research	Trans-European	150	UCV
July 2008	Contribution to Landaktuell Newsletter	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Germany	n.a.	Ecologic
18-20 September 2008	Conference	Research	Poland and USA	60	LUT
October 2008	Publication	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Germany	n.a.	Ecologic/FNL
October 2008	Meeting	Researchers	International	n.a.	UTAD
14 October 2008	Conference (final IN-SIGHT conference)	Policy makers, stakeholders, research	Europe	50-60	IN-SIGHT project, all RAPIDO partners
27-28 November 2008	2nd Project Workshop	Project team, 5 external experts	Europe	ca. 25	All partners
December 2008	Contribution to Ecologic Newsletter		Germany/ Europe	n.a.	Ecologic
December 2008	First national Conference for Young researchers				UNWE
4-5 December 2008	Conference	Research, stakeholders, policy makers	Europe	200	LUT
16 December 2008	Seminar	Master Students (Unv. Barcelona)	Spain	25	UVEG
January 12th	Launching conference of the strategic project STPSV (financed by ESF)	Regional stakeholders	Romania	20	UCV
January, February,	Workshops within the strategic project	Entrepreneurs and potential	Romania	100	UCV

March 2009	TREPAN (financed by ESF)	entrepreneurs			
February 2009	Contribution to Ecologic Newsletter		Germany/ Europe	n.a	Ecologic
February 2009	Second Electronic News alert	Stakeholders, research		n.a	Ecologic/all partners
February 2009	Second policy brief available on website			n.a	Ecologic/ all partners
10 March 2009	Seminar	Master Students (Autonomous University of Barcelona)	Spain	20	UVEG
March 2009	Workshop		England	n.a.	EFL
April 2009	Contribution to Ecologic Newsletter		Germany/ Europe	n.a	Ecologic
April 2009	RAPIDO Article submitted at the Environmental Policy and Governance Journal	Researchers (peer review)		n.a	Ecologic/ UNWE, LUT, UTAD, JR

<b>Planned</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible/ involved</b>
7 May 2009	Seminar	Master Students / researchers (Univ. Zaragoza)	Spain	20	UVEG
29 June 2009	Symposium	Researchers	Great Britain - Spain	50	UVEG
July 2009	Congress	Researchers	International	n.a.	UTAD
December 2009	Seminar	Seminar participants and others	Europe	n.a.	UTAD

### Conferences, seminars and lectures

Ecologic contributed to the following meeting and conferences:

- **"Sustainable Neighbourhood - from Lisbon to Leipzig through research"**, that was hosted on **8-10 May 2007** by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. The conference was attended by more than 600 guests. Rainer Müssner from Ecologic held the presentation "RAPIDO - Rural areas, People and Innovative Development" in the session "Innovative rural development from mountains to the coast" of the conference.
- **„Aktion zu nachhaltiger Entwicklung in ländlichen Räumen – Chancen durch Innovationen und durch Traditionspflege“** (International conference on innovative rural development) in Neuseddin/ Germany on **27-28 November 2007**. The contacts to the conference organiser were established by Andreas Frangenberg (FNL). The RAPIDO-project was presented by Ecologic during the poster session.
- **IN-SIGHT project meeting** in Rome on **28/29 January 2008** in order to present the project to the IN-SIGHT team as well as first results. Ecologic and FEEM participated actively in this meeting.
- RAPIDO participated in the **International final conference of the FP6 IN-SIGHT project** (Strengthening Innovation Processes for Growth and Development) in **October 2008** in Brussels. The RAPIDO-team played an active role within this conference and presented and discussed the project results, which are complementary to the outcomes of the IN-SIGHT-project.

LUT participated in the following events and disseminated project results:

- “International conference on **“Regional Development in Central and Eastern Europe”**, organised by the Regional Studies Association Poland in Warsaw from **20 to 22 September 2007**. Barbara Szymoniuk prepared a paper on “Partnership of clusters: an opportunity for European peripheries. The case of the Lubelskie Region in Eastern Poland” and mentioned the role of the RAPIDO project.
- International conference and forum **“Synergy as a method of creative success”**, organised on **18-20 September 2008** in Nowy Sacz (Southern Poland) by National Louis University. Stanislaw Skowron and Barbara Szymoniuk prepared a presentation on *“Collective learning as a key success factor of innovative clusters”*. The RAPIDO project was mentioned and its website was promoted.
- International conference **“Entrepreneurship towards global challenges”** organised on **4-5 December 2008** in Warsaw (Poland) by the Warsaw School of Economics. Barbara Szymoniuk prepared a paper on “Enterprise in the cluster structure: innovation, competition and cooperation”. The RAPIDO project, its objectives and the first results were mentioned.

UTAD participated and will participate in various events such as for example:

- UTAD participated as representative of RAPIDO project in the SCAR initiative **“Strengthening the links between Knowledge and agriculture innovation”** held in Angers, France, **6-7 October, 2008**.
- UTAD team will participate in the **International APDR (Portuguese Association of Regional development)** to be held in Cabo Verde from **6-11 July 2009**. The participation will count with 2 papers (1) “Innovation in rural areas and impact on job creation: evidence from EU and Portugal” using data from RAPIDO project to sustain case study analysis and “Multifunctionality of agriculture and innovation strategies of rural farms”, highlighting RAPIDO results on multifunctionality in rural innovative initiatives analyzed by the project.
- UTAD team will participate in the **112<sup>th</sup> EAAE Seminar** to be held in the Institute of Agricultural Economics – Belgrade, Serbia from **9th -11th December 2009**. A paper will be presented on “Multifunctional agriculture as an innovation path for rural areas” again highlighting RAPIDO results on multifunctionality in rural innovative initiatives analyzed by the project.

During the reporting period UVEG participated in:

- UVEG also gave a **seminar at the University of Barcelona (Master Programme)**, in which the main results of the analysis of the role of actors in the innovative projects in rural areas were presented.
- UVEG gave a **seminar** (4 hours) in the Autonomous University of Barcelona, in a **Master Programme on Local and Territorial Development**. Part of the seminar was on “Best practices in rural development initiatives. Some evidences from case studies in RAPIDO”, and we show results from several case studies in the analysis of actors and their networks (RAPIDO, WP 5).

Moreover, UVEG plans to disseminate the results in at least two more scientific events:

- In **May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009** we will give a conference at the University of Zaragoza (Spain): **“Best practices in innovative projects of rural development: the role of actors’ networks”**.
- In **June 29<sup>th</sup> June - 3<sup>th</sup> July 2009** we will participate in the III anglo-spanish Symposium that will be held in Canterbury (Great Britain): **“Changing Rural and Agricultural Landscapes in Europe”**, in which we will contribute with a paper on “The role of actors’ networks in Rural Development”.

UCV disseminated project results:

- In addition, project results have been presented on the International Conference organised by the University of Craiova, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen between **May 30th and June 1st, 2008**.
- Results of the Rapido project have been presented at the launching of the strategic project **“Technical Secretariat of the Pact for Employment and Social Inclusion”** in the South West Region of Romania, financed by the European Social Fund. The launching

took place on **January 12<sup>th</sup> 2009**. Focus was placed on the employment and social inclusion potential of rural areas.

- Results of the Rapido project have been presented to the members of the target group of the TREPAN strategic project implemented by the University of Craiova in cooperation with ISCTE Portugal, financed by the European Social Fund. The project aims at rethinking the entrepreneurial culture in 4 regions in Romania via training and capacity building for rural entrepreneurs. Results of the Rapido project have been particularly interesting for the members of the target group selected from rural areas in the four regions. Workshops have been taking place in **January, February and March 2009**.

FNL participation in conferences e.g.:

EISA, the **European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture**, as an association of seven national agricultural organisations allowed access to experts in different EU member states, which were addressed with the WP2 questionnaire in October 2007. Results of this questionnaire were presented in detail to the EISA Executive Committee on **12<sup>th</sup> December 2007** as a multiplying body into the respective national associations.

Robert Tinch (EFL) participated at a **Natural England workshop (March 2009)** on evaluation of economic, environmental and social aspects of ecosystem services in uplands areas, at which RAPIDO outputs were cited. He has also proposed a presentation on RAPIDO to a meeting of the UK Network of Environmental Economists (date TBC).

#### **Publications:**

In the first period of the project, Ecologic and FNL drafted an article on the RAPIDO project and first project results, which was published (by Agro-Öko-Consult GmbH) in fall 2008 under the title: **"Aktionen zur nachhaltigen Entwicklung in ländlichen Räumen - Chancenverbesserung durch Innovation und durch Traditionspflege."**

This publication is advertised on the Ecologic website under <http://ecologic.eu/2639>

#### **Newsletters:**

- Ecologic wrote a teaser on the RAPIDO project for the "Landaktuell – Newsletter 05/08" of the German network for rural areas (Deutsche Vernetzungsstelle ländlicher Räume), which was put online on 25 July 08: [http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05\\_Service/Publikationen/landaktuell/landaktuell\\_5\\_08.pdf](http://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/fileadmin/sites/ELER/Dateien/05_Service/Publikationen/landaktuell/landaktuell_5_08.pdf).
- News about the RAPIDO project was included 3 times in the Ecologic newsletter <http://ecologic.eu/2532> , <http://ecologic.eu/2645> , <http://ecologic.eu/2801>