

RUDI – Innovation Transfer for Rural Development (Specific Support Action)

6th Framework Programme
8.1. Policy-oriented research – Scientific Support to Policies
“Innovation and Know-How Transfer in Rural Development”

2006 Work Programme (Task 19)

In order to finalize the narrative part of the proposal we would need your input for the following topics/ points (max. 4 pages):

Name of the institution:

Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein, Austria

Responsible person for the project:

1. Short description of the key person/ responsible person in your institution for the project (including relevant publications and research projects – half page)

DI Renate Mayer

For the **management of international projects** there exists a special **support for “Acquisition”** at the HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein and Renate Mayer is responsible for project acquisition and actually for the coordination of the international projects NEPROVALTER, MounTRAIN and Rudolf.

She studied at University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences and lectured three years at the Institute of Spatial Planning and Rural Development and half a year at the former Institute of Forest Policy and Economy. She did research work in field of regional planning, landscape management, participation in land management, rural development, nature protection and protection of natural hazards. Since 1999 she is employee at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Watermanagement and responsible for the conception, instruction, realization and evaluation of national and international research and development projects in the fields of Rural Development, Prevention of Natural Disasters, Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management. She organized the interdisciplinary Platform of Research and Development for the protection of natural hazards and is member in the working group ecology for the implementation of the water frame directive into national law. Since September 2004 she works at the Federal Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein in Styria. Actually she is also project manager for the international cooperation in the projects RUDOLF, MounTRAIN and Neprovalter. The centre has excellent experience in supervising and training of international students and postdocs. For the realization and coordination of research training networks, the project **MounTRAIN**, “*Solutions to agricultural problems in mountainous regions of Europe*”, contract No (QLK5-CT-2001-60004) is part of the 5th Framework Programme. Within the thematic Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources, 11 fellows (6 male, 5 female) from six different countries were coordinated.

The project **RUDOLF (www.rudolfproject.org)** “*A training model in organic agriculture on a multimedia interactive platform*”, Program Leonardo da Vinci, Phase 2002-2006 (project No. I-02-B-F-PP-120222) is also a very important experience for multidisciplinary and international cooperation and networking.

In the project Neprovalter “*Network of the local agricultural production for the valorisation and the knowledge of the Alpine Area*” (INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space), the main activities from HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein are the promotion of local organic agricultural products, the

know how about production measures, quality criteria and subventions, marketing strategies and as second part the transfer of knowledge and alternative incomes according to a sustainable development and the creation of a transnational network of didactic and social farms.

Publications:

- MAYER, R. (1994), "Naturkatastrophen hausgemacht", aus: Zeitschrift Ländlicher Raum, Heft 1, Hrsg. Österreichisches Kuratorium für Landtechnik, Wien, S. 32f
- MAYER, R., A. Ottitsch (1996): Waldnutzungen im Urbanen Raum, Studien Unterlage zu Forstliche Raumplanung, Übungen im Gelände, Hrsg: Institut für Sozioökonomie der Forst- und Holzwirtschaft, Universität f. Bodenkultur Wien
- MAYER, R., Ottitsch (1996): Designing a Public participation Approach to natural Disaster Control and Risk Assessment, aus: Conflictmanagement and Public Participation in Land Management, Hrsg: European Forest Institute (EFI)., Proceedings No,14, 1997, Jonnsuu, S. 211-226
- MAYER, R (1997), "We are what we eat", aus: Strategies for a sustainable Austria, Hrsg: ÖKO Büro, Wien, S. 57ff
- MAYER, R (2002), Third National Climate Report, Chapter 6.3. Adaption Measures, Hrsg. Bundesministerium f. Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, Wien, (S 113-116)
- MAYER, R. (2004): Planung und Entwicklung zum Schutz vor Naturgefahren, aus: Neue Methoden der Gefahrenabschätzung, hrsg. BMLFUW, Wien, S. 5-7.
- MAYER, R (2004): Vorwort zu Handbuch Bürgerbeteiligung, Hrsg. BMLFUW, Wien, S. 1
- MAYER, R., EICKLER, B., Strzelec, E. (2005): MounTRAIN-Solutions to agricultural Problems in Mountainous Regions of Europe (Poster), Marie Curie Conference, 28th-30th September 2005, Pisa/ Livorno
- MAYER, R. (2006): Netzwerke und Kommunikation in Forschung und Lehre; Vortrag, Konferenz Forschung und Lehre am Puls der Zeit, Universität f. Bodenkultur Wien, 23.02.2006
- MAYER, R. (2006): Klimaforschungsbedarf – Strategien und Schwerpunkte im Ländlichen Raum, anlässl. 9. Österr. Klimatag, "Konferenz Klimawandel und Auswirkungen", Klimaforschungsinitiative AustroClim, 16.-17. März 2006, Wien (in Arbeit)

2. Short description of your institution (what is your institution doing in the field of the project, how many people involved, etc.) (half page)

The HBLFA Raumberg–Gumpenstein is a department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Watermanagement in Austria, in the province Styria. The centre enjoys a unique position in Europe since we research conventional agriculture as well as organic farming. Students of a great number of foreign research institutions make good use of the ample study opportunities in Ennstal. In this context the network could be successfully extended beyond Europe to transatlantic regions. The centre researches the most relevant rural issues embedded in EU-research projects. International conferences and seminars ensure an immediate transfer of knowledge and expertise to university students and local students as well as practising farmers. Since we do research work and teaching in one institution, the findings can be passed on without delay to our students and by consulting practising farmers. Furthermore, young people are enabled to participate and cooperate in EU-projects.

The Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein comprised four departments:

- Department of Livestock Research (Animal Nutrition, Alternative Cattle Production Systems and Herd Management, Sheep and Goats),
- Department of Plant Production and Landscape Science (Grassland Management, Environmental Ecology, Vegetation Management in Alpine Regions)

- Department of Animal Welfare and Animal Health (Animal Husbandry, Stable Climate and Animal Welfare, Agricultural Engineering and Ecolometry, Business Management, Veterinary Medicine),
- Department of Organic Farming and Biodiversity (Organic Grassland Management and Livestock Research, Organic Arable Farming, Preventive Animal Health, Biodiversity and Livestock, Organic Legislative Activities).

The centre is in *intensively contact with 1512 Institutions within the Eastern and Western part of Europe and 48 institutions in overseas*. Some partners are now in the new consortium for this RTN. 6 scientists are teaching at different Universities at home and abroad. The staff of 310 employees consists of 24 scientifically collaborators, 40 teachers, 23 technicians, 196 employees and workers and 13 trainees.

The HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein has 187 ha agricultural area for field experiments, 168,35 ha wood and 11,88 ha water areas including biotope and ponds at eight different places. A *Bio-didactic – and research farm “Moarhof” and 18,4 ha Bio-attempted fields*.

The excellent infrastructure contains also two big conference centres, a huge number of seminar rooms with up-to-date edv-technical equipment and apartments for external students.

The centre is **Lead partner** in two INTERREG projects “**Sure**” (www.sureproject.net) and “**SeenLandwirtschaft**” (www.seenlandwirtschaft.net) and project partner in a large number of other national and international projects (for example **AlpiNET Gheep, Neprovalter**; www.neprovalter.org, **ALTER Net**; www.alternet.info).

Beside the research and teaching activities, several conferences, seminars, workshops and instruction courses about animal husbandry and farm buildings, working group for farm building advisory service and animal welfare, Training (practise) about the Animal Needs Index, seminars for consultants for organic farming, seminars for stable constructions, International Lysimeter Conference, Seminars for Soil and Watermanagement, with international experts are also priorities of the HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein . The priorities of the agricultural college focus on Agrarian management and – marketing, practical training and boarding school. With the 426 students and 54 teachers is a permanent contact between researchers, teachers and students (cooperation projects, diploma works, seminars, conferences). At the college are also students from Europe and all over the World (www.raumberg-gumpenstein.at)

3. For the description of your experience related to the project, please provide information on the following issues:

Please describe your involvement in the elaboration of rural development strategy, actions plans etc. on the policy level.

Strategies on political level:

„LEARNING REGIONS“ is a cooperation between the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Watermanagement with the Austrian Institute for Adult Education, the Leader+ network and Support and the Regional Management Austria (background Info: Ländliche Räume sind im rasanten Wandel begriffen und es gilt vor allem auch der Wissensgesellschaft gerecht zu werden. LERNENDE REGIONEN zeigen den Weg auf, um die regionale Bevölkerung zu aktivieren und passende Bildungsangebote zu entwickeln. Sie fördern die Vernetzung in der Region und helfen Wissen dorthin zu bringen, wo es gebraucht wird).

The development of regional innovation centres with all stakeholders of the region, best practise examples, new initiatives

Internetplattform www.le07-13.lebensministerium.at for interesting user contributions, dialog days for the development of new strategies and the realization into public policy

Austrain Environmental Programme ÖPUL (Programme for Rural Development):

Subvention measures:

- Environmental Programme ÖPUL

- Additional compensation for disadvantaged areas
- Subvention, adaption and development of rural areas (=Article 33, former 5b-subvention)
- Subvention for investigations of single farms, bonus for new young farmers
- Improvement of processing and marketing of agricultural products
- Forestry measures
- Further education

Participation on regional programs of regional activators (bottom-up-process) for example with the regional chamber of agriculture, nature park academy Sölktaier,

Close cooperation with local governmental authorities and other societies

Working-programme Sustainability of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Watermanagement

Which methods aiming at job promotion, including diversification in rural areas do you promote?

As agricultural research and education centre we can set up different initiatives: we use external experts (students, technicians and researcher) for several national and international projects, for our national and international conferences and seminars (around 25/ year between 50 and 150 persons) we support local and regional SME's for bio-catering, shuttle service, private hotels (bed & breakfast), restaurants for dinner service, we promote SME's from the region in our projects and activities (day open, fairs, press, publications), and we inform our international project partners about local production, tourism and sport activities in our region (for example holidays on farms), We have cooperation with schools of the region to promote the network of didactic farms and in cooperation with Slovenia, Province Carinthia/ Austria and South Tyrol and other Italian partners we develop a network of social farms or social activities on farms. We cooperate with the "Lebenshilfe" (institution for handicapped people) they can use our fields for the production of herbs and vegetables and we help them with the marketing of their products (day open, excursions). The students at our technical college write diploma-works in cooperation with firms and SME's. We set initiatives with local week markets for the promotion of regional products, Event management with local and regional enterprises
A potential partner for cooperation is the AMS (service centre for unemployed people)

Please describe your activities in the field of innovation measures and knowledge transfer in rural areas.

Which innovative knowledge transfer methods ("best practice" from your institution) do you apply?

Interactive web-platform

education and training: education plays a crucial role as factor of improving the quality of agricultural products as well as for promotion of non-agricultural rural employment possibilities (tutorials, courses, seminars, development of education material), contact points between rural and urban centres, marketing centres of regional products

Supply system for the promotion of regional products

Action days

Network of didactic farms and companies addressed to students and pupils and other groups of interest in order to recover people's confidence

Projects at school with practical experiences

experiments and guided tours

Knowledge transfer at HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein:

homepage, publications, workshops, seminars, conferences, press, media, fairs, day open, lectures at universities at home and abroad, cooperation projects between research and education, active information transfer with experts (discussions, working groups)

Which consulting services does your institution provide for rural development (thematic fields, organisation of consulting services public/private, target groups, financing etc.)

Consulting services:

international cooperation and projects, expertises for national and international political strategies, lectures at different universities at home and abroad, members in national and international working groups of agriculture and rural development.

The regional and international network and the excellent infrastructure of our research and education centre for research and education services (seminars, workshops, conferences, discussion platforms), big network of public and private institutions for information transfer, student exchange, know how transfer, project cooperation from all over the world.

Besides the topics of agriculture and regional land management, the Agricultural research and Education Centre HBLFA Raumberg Gumpenstein is also an information centre for biodiversity, agricultural engineering, soil and water research and lysimeter, alternative use of grassland as biomass for heating and biogas plants, geo information for rural areas, development of land use and farm structures in a spatiotemporal context environmental ecology, vegetation management, agrarian management and –marketing practical training and development services,

The cooperation with the Chamber of Agriculture, other institutions and societies education services, seminars, Workshops

Financing:

Basic funding by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Watermanagement, EU-Funding

In what form do you involve the local level in your activities relating to rural areas?

Information Transfer, Participation, Seminars, Workshops, Media, presentations, day open,

The HBLFA Raumberg-Gumpenstein has a very important network with local communities, farmers, technicians, public and governmental institutions and SME's. The technical college is involved in regional projects and agrarian management and agrarian marketing courses offer the students many possibilities for the development of interdisciplinary networks and projects,

the centre offers many workshops, seminars, conferences to different topics in the fields of

organic grassland management, low input systems, investigations on alternative plants for human consumption also for the local communities and experts.
Experiments and research activities with local farmers, know how transfer, implementation of practical experiences into research and education
projects with local schools, information and cooperation with regional tourism initiatives.
Promotion of local farms and producers of agricultural products for excursions and knowledge transfer
PR Activities for example in local newspapers

Key topics your institution could contribute expertise for (agriculture, forestry, biomass, environmental technologies, rural tourism, high quality production/organic production, financing of innovation transfer in rural areas, use of Information and Communication Technology, e-business etc.)

Expertises for:

Agriculture,
high quality production/ organic farming
use of Information and Communication Technology

High priority is given to practical research and transfer of knowledge into agricultural practise through training courses, expert reports, magazines, data sheets, reference books internet)

International networks of research and education (network of didactic farms, social activities on farms, initiatives with local SME's for garden products, herbs and vegetables and flowers, bio-catering, bio-products in cantins of schools, hospitals and other public institutions, Soft tourism and information transfer (courses and excursions) in cooperation with the nature park and national park service in the Region Enns Valley/ Styria. The integration of the local community and the experts, he SME's and other communities in our research and education activities is one of our strong point.

In which European Networks on the transfer of innovation in rural areas do you participate?

NEPROVALTER: Network of the local agricultural production for the valorisation and the knowledge of the Alpine Area; www.neprovalter.org, INTERREG III B Alpine Space

AlpiNET-Gheep: "Alpine Network for sheep and goat promotion for a sustainable territorial development"; www.trentagradi.it/alpinet/; INTERREG IIIB Alpine Space

SURE: "Successful restoration and rehabilitation accompanying infrastructural interventions"; www.sureproject.net, INTERREG IIIB Cadses

SeenLandwirtschaft: Sustainable agriculture in the EU-regional lake landscape (www.Seenlandwirtschaft.net); INTERREG IIIA

RUDOLF: A training model in organic agriculture on a multimedia interactive platform"; www.rudolfproject.org, Leonardo da Vinci, Education and Culture

ALTER-NET: Land abandonment and vegetation change in open landscapes; www.alter-net.info, 6th Framework Programme

DARKO: Research to Support Revision of EU Regulation on organic Agriculture (Organic Revision), www.organic-revision.org; 6th Framework Programme, STREP (SSPE-CT-2004-502397)

MIDAIR: Greenhouse Gas Mitigation for Organic and Conventional Dairy Production; www.energetik-leipzig.de/Bioenergie/Midair.htm; 5th Framework Programme, (EVK2-CT-2000-00096)

MounTRAIN: Solutions to Agricultural Problems in Mountainous Regions of Europe (www.raumberg-gumpenstein.at/mountrain), 5th Framework Programme, Marie Curie Training Site