



BID-REX

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

1st thematic workshop in Wallonia

Marc HERMAN General Inspector DEMNA

SPW- DGO3

marc.herman@spw.wallonie.be



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Introduction speech by M. Marc HERMAN, General Inspector of the DEMNA (Nature, Agriculture and Environment Studies Department/DGO3/SPW)

Dear partners,

We are very happy to welcome you in Belgium, especially in Wallonia for the first BID-REX workshop.

As we can see and hear every day, sustainable development has become a major concern for many citizens all over the world.

The Walloon decision makers, who I have the honour to represent today, are of course concerned with the importance of the biodiversity conservation in order to guarantee the ecosystem services. In order to achieve the sustainable development, the biodiversity preservation has indeed to be taken into account through projects which aim to improve the economic and social aspects. Indeed, a good decision process must integrate all the dimensions and every aspect of the issues, including of course biodiversity information.

For the implementation of the different strategies focusing these objectives, we need means, of course, but also tools and among others the different ones which you, as partners of this project, propose.

Therefore we are very happy with the Walloon government's decision to take part to this international project:

- Indeed, we consider it is really worthwhile to have the opportunity to exchange about experiences, best practices and know-hows of all the partners of this international project;

- Moreover, it is very important for us to assess the effectiveness of our regional processes in a wider framework.

This Bid-Rex project has to be managed in relation with a larger action plan in Wallonia which aims to take the citizens' opinion better into account. This has been recently developed through the tool shared by the Government and the Administration which is called « contrat d'administration » and which preconizes to expand the user approach.

We are convinced that our promising works based on this interregional knowledge exchange will be fruitful.

Wallonia is determined to play the game and is once again proud to be the stage for this first thematic workshop.

We thank you again for taking part to it and wish you a good and rewarding job.



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