



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development



European Network for
Rural Development



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Feedback from the Discussion Groups

Leader subcommittee
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Discussion Session One

Issues regarding the development of future Local Development Strategies by Local Action Groups

- What guidance is needed to support LAGs develop quality LDS?
- At what level should decisions on LDS themes and priorities be taken?
- What are the most effective methods for developing a LDS?
- What are the key considerations for building the evidence base to support a LDS?



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Question 1.1

What preliminary information and guidance is needed to support the development of a high quality Local Development Strategy by a LAG in terms of both form and content?

Indicative discussion points:

- Who needs what?
- What should the guidance cover?



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Question 1.2

At what 'level' should decisions on the strategic themes and priorities of a Local Development Strategy be taken?

Indicative discussion points:

- What degree of autonomy should LAGs have in defining their Local Development Strategies?
- What are the main considerations associated with deciding the appropriate degree of autonomy for LAGs?





Question 1.3

What methods are most effective for the development of a high quality Local Development Strategy

(e.g. participative methods, public meetings, consultancy, thematic discussion groups, validation by local community)?

Indicative discussion points:

- What methods/tools are most appropriate for different stages in the process?
- What methods/tools are most effective for different groups of stakeholders?



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Question 1.4

What should be the key considerations for a LAG when building the “evidence base” for its Local Development Strategy?

Indicative discussion points:

- What are the key statistics that LAGs need to collect?
- How can LAGs address the qualitative aspects of local development?



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Discussion Session Two

Requirements for the content and structure of future Local Development Strategies

- What – if any – should be the common priorities for LDS?
- How should LDS ensure complementarity between different funds?
- What is the most appropriate approval process for LDS?
- How should effective and efficient M&E be ensured in LDS?





Question 2.1

What, if any, are the common thematic priorities which all Local Development Strategies to be selected under a programme should address?

Indicative discussion points:

- Should any common priorities be at EU, MS, regional levels?
- Is there a need to ensure that specifically rural concerns are always highlighted in the LDS?



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Question 2.2

There is likely to be a requirement for future Local Development Strategies to take a broader perspective in order to strengthen complementarity with other funds.

What should the priorities for this complementarity be?

Indicative discussion point:

- How should the complementarity be demonstrated in the strategy?



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Question 2.3

What is the most appropriate process for the approval of Local Development Strategies?

Indicative discussion points:

- Should the approval process involve one step - or more?
- Should assessment simply be against clearly defined quality criteria/standards? Or should there be competition between LAGs / prospective LAGs?





Question 2.4

There is an explicit requirement that LAGs address monitoring and evaluation in the next programming period, what are the priorities this indicates for strategy development in terms of both process and content?

Indicative discussion point:

- Should all objectives of the local development strategy have measurable quantified indicators and targets?



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