

WORKSHOP B- Factors influencing efficiency of NSUs and their networking function

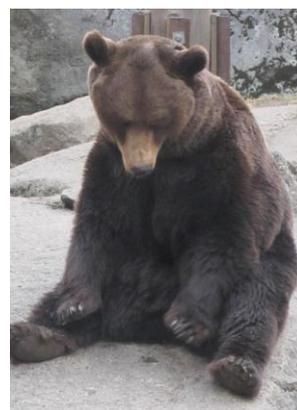
I SWOT analysis

Strengths



- Some strong steering boards
- Some good bottom-up participation of stakeholders
- Some open network participation
- Some use of LAGs to disseminate

Weaknesses



STRATEGY and TIME

- Lack of organizational/strategic planning
- Lack of synchronization in timing (RDP-NSU)
- Difficulties in balancing Regional and National strategies, finding common goals and activities.
- Unclear goals and indicators for individual NSU

OPERATIOINAL, NSU and MA

- Poor coordination/cooperation with Mas (too much influence vs lack of communication)
- Inadequacy of staff. Lack of capacities and skills (within NSU and MA)
- Lack of staff

PARTICIPATION

- Participation "fatigue"
- Difficulties in reaching certain target groups (i.e. practicing farmers)
- Difficulties to encourage participation/ involvement of stakeholders
- Participation fatigue
- Large variety of target groups and stakeholders. Unclear picture of who are target group.
- How much to secure (?)



- Stronger involvement of stakeholders in the network
- Rotating presidency
- Stronger steering groups
- Giving stakeholders' the responsibility for actions (with resources)
- Guidance (from Commission? ENRD?)

Threats



- Political instability (political changes might mean change of priorities)
- Insecure funding/Unstable budget
- Instability/Loss of staff
- Bureaucracy
- Rigid IT system of the MA hosting NSU
- Lack of transparency/information about program implementation (in outsourced NSU)
- Lack of flexibility in some working programmes in MS
- Threat of transition and loss of institutional memory
- Transition between programming periods

OTHER POINTS:

- Flexibility in implementation on NSU activities
- Where the NSU is situated? (In-house vs Outsourced).

DISCUSSIONS

Looking at the next programming period, we are walking to the right direction. However, the target group is "everyone" it might be to broad. The challenge will be how to identify the stakeholders not to end up giving nothing to everyone.

There should be more issues and thematic initiatives like to "Local food chains initiative". But the problem is how we get the NRNs to be involved, to participate? Should it be a explicit allocation of resources to be able to joint European initiatives? Should the work packages in the national programs include support to cooperation projects and dedication to European affairs?

Another issue is the cooperation with 3rd countries, some LAGs are already working together with developing countries. What is the capacity of NRNs to support in these cooperation projects?

The transition from one programming period and another is a burning question. There need to be resources to guarantee that the networking activities are not stopped in this period of time.

The allocation of budget to have third parties is a way to stimulate participation.

II Action points

STRATEGY/OBJECTIVES

-TRANSITION: lobbying, planning and executing

- **Structuring new program according to the swot analysis (to take into consideration experience form current programming period).** To keep the specific conditions of countries.

-More clear goals and aims

OPERATIONAL, NSU AND MA

-Increase the running cost of the Network

-Stability of the budget.

-Stability of NSU. Keeping staff with experience

-Minimum criteria set by commission by not too restrictive

-Establishment of a minimum budget and structure for the network.

-Improve relations/Connections with MA, Ministry

-Increase Flexibility in organizing the NSU.

-Promote Institutional capacity and skills capacity within staff.

-Possibility of exchange programmes for capacity building between networks (→ more common performance)

PARTICIPATION

-Better balance of stakeholders:

-Better targeting/management of information

-Better knowledge about stakeholders

-Rotating presidency in a board of stakeholders. (Objective: ensure balance amongst stakeholders: create an environment in which free speech and diversity of opinions is guaranteed)

-Shared agenda setting by stakeholders. Create an umbrella organization in which stakeholders can become members. (Objective: improve Bottom-up approach, increase involvement of stakeholders, inter communication)

-Improve farmers communication regarding specific Axis 1/2 support. (Objective: increase their participation and involvement)

-Extend the number of network actors

-Establish Guidelines to improve the representation of the stakeholders in the network

-Ensure involvement of the stakeholders from the beginning in the design of the Action Plan

-Use of Social Media