

Added Value of Networking



Added Value of Networking: NRNs and ENRD – working in collaboration

Story name: CLLD Cluster

Basic information	
NRN:	Hungarian National Rural Network
Keywords:	EU wide cooperation, community led local development, multi-funding
Coordinator:	Agnes Kiss
Partners:	Hungarian NRN, ENRD
Resources:	No resources needed
Period:	June 2013 – ongoing process

Background to the NRN and ENRD collaborative activities OR use and dissemination of ENRD information

Based on feedback that ENRD received from a wide range of stakeholders (including NRNs, LAGs and Managing Authorities), CLLD and multi-funding opportunities have been two of the most relevant themes of common interest for rural stakeholders. This encouraged the Hungarian NRN to cooperate with ENRD to explore how the CLLD approach could be successfully used in the next programming period. The CLLD thematic cluster was launched during the **18th NRN meeting in Portugal** (6th June 2013). In order to make the best use of the session devoted to the launch of the thematic cluster, interested networks were asked to send **initial suggestions** for key issues/proposed activities to be covered by the thematic cluster.

The activities proposed by the cluster's members were grouped under the following areas:

- Mapping exercise.
- Terminology study, development of common procedures/guidelines.
- Conferences, workshops, events.
- Research, working papers.



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- Virtual think tanks, speed virtual meetings.
- P2P learning.
- Collecting and sharing of best practice.
- Identifying methodologies and tools for the evaluation of CLLD.
- Thematic visits to other Paying Agencies.

Purpose and description of the NRN and ENRD collaborative activities

Articles 28 to 31 of the proposed Draft Regulation for the next programming period (2014-2020) on the Common Provisions for the ERDF, ESF, the Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and the EMFF sets out the details of the future CLLD. The new draft provisions are based on the LEADER approach and concern all Funds covered by the Common Strategic Framework.

CLLD is expected to mobilise and involve local communities and organisations to contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, fostering territorial cohesion and reaching specific policy objectives. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the more explicit support, in the form of a joint legal framework and harmonised rules for the five CSF Funds, will increase consistency and encourage the creation of multi-funded local community-led strategies.

The CLLD cluster had multiple objectives, among others it aimed to:

- enhance *cooperation and exchange of experience* among the main interested networks;
- help to *concentrate and economise* the efforts of networks (and avoid duplication of work) in understanding the possible forms and operation of CLLD (e.g. carry out joint surveys; rather than addressing NRNs through a range of surveys)
- produce *practically-focused tools* and guidance that can help NRNs and other key stakeholders in the CLLD implementation;
- influence the way (e.g. through policy working papers) the CLLD is advanced at *European and national policy-making levels*.

Who benefited from the activities and how

A wide range of rural development stakeholders including NRNs, LAGs, Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, and other EU institutions such as ELARD benefited from the work. All the institutions involved gained updated information through conferences, workshops, seminars and working groups.



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Main results of the NRN and ENRD collaborative support activities or information use and dissemination & added value of the chosen delivery approach

As the coordinator of the CLLD Cluster the HNRN's biggest achievement was to organise a **conference entitled 'CLLD – The message unheard' on 22nd July 2013**. The purpose of the conference was to bring together key rural development stakeholders (including Managing Authorities responsible for the management of Structural Funds in each member state), to promote the added-value of the CLLD approach and to discuss the main concerns with regard to CLLD programming and implementation. In preparation for the conference and in order to best address the needs of participants we asked active cluster members to prepare a short (1-2 pages) report on the state-of-play of CLLD planning in their member states, key organisations involved in planning, main concerns and barriers and possible ways of addressing these (observer cluster-members were also welcome to submit their contributions). The main purpose of these short reports was to better understand what the main concerns/dilemmas were with regard to CLLD implementation. One possible way to find out more about key issues was to address some stakeholders in other Managing Authorities with a short set of questions which could also help to make contacts and identify potential participants for the event. We organised 5 suggested working groups in the afternoon session based on the CLLD reports received from various Member State representatives (indicating key challenges within their countries/regions). These were as follows:

1. CLLD in Partnership Agreements,
2. The added value of CLLD in addressing different types of local problems and different types of territories,
3. Overcoming the administrative burden,
4. Administrative structures for CLLD management,
5. The role of LAGs with regard to raising awareness about the CLLD approach.

The purpose of the discussion groups was to discuss challenges and possible solutions with regard to the proposed topics, and to produce a report and summary with suggested practical outcomes and actions.

The 2nd Cluster Meeting was held on 27th November 2013, in Dijon, France:

The main purpose of the cluster meeting was to further develop a detailed action plan for the working groups around the main themes of interest to cluster members. An indicative list of possible topics to be covered was put together based on initial interests expressed by members. The meeting aimed to finalise the set-up of these groups, identify cluster members who were taking the lead on the work of individual working groups, and start to develop the action plan for the groups (including planned activities, methods, responsibilities about interested members and planned outputs). Since the cluster involves a wide range of stakeholders, there was a possibility to exchange on various aspects of future CLLD implementation from a range of stakeholder perspectives. The outcomes of the meeting was the establishment of new working groups outlined below:

Working Group 1: CLLD Exchange Platform, with the aim of creating a platform to exchange information and ideas on the practical details of planning and implementing the CLLD approach in a way which

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conforms to the new regulations. Next steps: the group planned to set up an exchange forum in early January and asked members to send topics of interest that they would like to discuss with colleagues and that could be posted to the discussion forum.

Working Group 2: Demonstrating the added value of the CLLD approach, with the aim of producing a document that explains and clearly demonstrates the added value of the LEADER approach to relevant stakeholders (including policy-makers). Next steps: a template was proposed for the collection of ideas and project examples.

Success factors and challenges

The main challenge for the Cluster is ensuring the work carried out reaches the decision makers. During the '**CLLD – The message unheard**' conference it proved difficult to reach them and encourage them to take part in this type of conference, where the lectures aim to introduce relevant good practice in this issue. Tackling this challenge during the second Cluster meeting in Dijon the participants launched the above mentioned working group no.2 which aims to raise awareness amongst policy and decision makers regarding the LEADER approach which is the basis of CLLD.

Description of NSU, ENRD and other partners contribution

The work of the Cluster is coordinated by the HNRN and benefits from the contribution of the ENRD. And in the same time a lot of NRN's, MA's, LAG's and other EU institutions (e.g. ELARD) are involved in the Clusters work.

Additional information and useful resources

1. http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en-rd-events-and-meetings/meetings/en/18th-nrn-meeting_en.cfm
2. http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/themes/clld/nrn-thematic-initiative-on-clld/en/nrn-thematic-initiative-on-clld_en.cfm
3. http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en-rd-events-and-meetings/seminars-and-conferences/financing-for-leader-clld/en/financing-for-leader-clld_en.cfm
4. http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en-rd-events-and-meetings/meetings/en/20th-nrn-meeting_en.cfm

Pictures

N.a.

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