



Minutes of the Extended 7th Leader subcommittee meeting

DRAFT

23 November, 2011
Brussels, Belgium

Compiled by the ENRD Contact Point



Connecting Rural Europe

<p>Agenda Item</p> <p>Presentation</p>	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Jose-Manuel Sousa Uva (DG AGRI) welcomed the participants of the Extended 7th Leader subcommittee and the representatives of 46 LAGs invited to the meeting to provide a practitioners perspective on the Focus Group 4 findings were particularly welcomed.</p>
<p>Agenda Item</p>	<p>Update on Leader implementation in EU Member States</p> <p>by Jean-Michel Courades, DG AGRI To view the presentation click here</p>
<p>Presentation</p>	<p>The European Commission provided statistics related to current state of play of LEADER implementation in the EU Member States. The presentation covered the main points of the LAG selection in the MS, progress in declaration of expenditures and financial implementation of LEADER compared to the financial plan of the MS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there is an increase in term of selected LAGs in the EU (Bulgaria and Romania have also selected their LAGs), and currently 2,308 LAGs in total. • The total of 890 Million EUR has been spent since the beginning of the programming period, which represents 15,2% of the planned expenditure. (For the overall EAFRD expenditure 44% of the planned expenditure was spent.)
<p>Agenda Item</p>	<p>Transnational Cooperation (TNC): Analysis of the TNC approved projects notified to the Commission</p> <p>by Kasia Panfil, ENRD CP To view the presentation, click here</p>
<p>Presentation</p>	<p>The ENRD Contact Point presented an analysis and state of play on transnational cooperation (TNC) projects under measure 421. The analysis was based on 187 TNC projects that were notified to the EC via the SFC 2007 tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest number of TNC projects where LAGs had a coordinating role were notified from Hungary (60 TNC projects) and France (35 projects). • There are few TNC projects with 3rd countries (Ukraine, Croatia, Switzerland, Serbia and also Latin America). • There is a big diversity between the projects in term of number of partners, duration of the projects, themes and budget.
<p>Discussion Points</p>	<p>The main discussion points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCF 2007 is a useful instrument to monitor TNC at EU level, however it has its own limits, since the data and information of the notified projects is very limited. • Difficulties arose during the analysis of the available data, since MS did not provide all minimum data on the projects and information on TNC projects is not sent to the EC on a regular basis.
<p>Action Points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS are asked to use this tool more systematically without delays and with attention to the project details (to provide minimum data, such as: project title, approval date, name of partners, budget, duration etc.) • The list of notified TNC projects is published on the ENRD website (under the LEADER Gateway/ Transnational Cooperation TNC). Participants were invited to consult the list and provide the EC with the missing projects or missing data in case of some notified projects.
<p>Agenda Item</p>	<p>Focus group on better local development strategies</p> <p>by Sanna Sihvola (Finnish MA) and Ana Pires da Silva Portuguese NRN), Co-chairs of the Focus Group 4 on better Local Development Strategies</p>

	To view the presentation click here
Presentations	<p>The co-chairs of the Focus Group 4 on 'Better Local Development Strategies' presented the progress report of group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The mandate and objectives of FG4 were introduced (to advise the MS on the current and next programming period and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the LEADER approach). The work of the FG4 is planned in 2 phases, both include an elaboration of a questionnaire and desk research. Both phases will be concluded with a progress report, the second of which will include the provisional final outcomes of the FG to be presented to the Leader Subcommittee in May 2012.• Findings of the LAG survey (based on 151 survey responses) were presented including detailed information on various aspects of the LDS preparation from the LAGs perspective, including details on: time issues of strategy preparation; Guidance received by LAGs related to LDS preparation; Support available for LAGs (eg. training, consultancy etc); Autonomy of LAGs to define their area and strategic themes; Budget and priorities; Involvement of various stakeholders in the LDS preparation; Most essential/missing elements of the LDS and the action plan.• The MA questionnaire results (based on 24 survey results) were also presented following a similar structure. The same aspects as listed above were covered but also the qualitative assessment of LDS from the MA perspective.
Agenda Item	<p>Small group discussions</p> <p>The meeting included discussions in ten small groups around two themes: 1) how can LAGs better prepare their LDS and 2) what are the requirements of the RDPs regarding the content and structure of the LDS.</p> <p>The results of the group discussions were reported back to the Leader subcommittee members by Michael Gregory and John Grieve (ENRD Contact Point).</p> <p>To view the full report on this session click here.</p>
Agenda Item	<p>Commission's legislative proposals for local development 2014-2020</p> <p>by Pedro Brosei (DG AGRI)</p> <p>To view the presentation click here.</p>
Presentation	<p>Pedro Brosei presented the Commission's legal proposal for local development 2014-2020 which was published on the 12 October 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Commission's legislative proposals for Local Development 2014-2020, were presented within the frame of the proposed new Common Strategic Framework (CSF). Through CSF, the EC aims to strengthen the coordination and integration of EU policies for the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy.• According to the legislative proposal, in the forthcoming programming period community-led local development strategies (called LEADER in an EAFRD context) may be funded by several European funds. The new legal proposal introduces a common approach that enables MS and territories/LAGs to coordinate the integrated use of all CSF Funds (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF and EFF) and to design and implement "multi-funded" LDSs.
Discussion Points	<p>The main discussion points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerns were raised as regards the shift from talking about the "LEADER approach" to the "Community-led local development (CLLD)". The EC has to ensure via the ENRD that rural stakeholders are informed about the fact that these

are the same, even if "bottom –up" will be replaced by "community-led". The LEADER approach stays for the EAFRD as such untouched.

- It would be helpful for the MS to receive any guidance from the Commission. The EC replied that a common guidance for MS administrations including multi-fund aspects will be issued by the EC. The ENRD website has a LEADER gateway (including a LEADER toolkit) explaining the LEADER approach which will be further developed with the work of the Focus Group on better development strategies.
- The issue of transition and the need to bridge the two programming periods to maintain local capacity was raised. The MS where the LEADER execution is quite advanced are in favour of the eligibility of LDS 2014-2020 preparation under the present programming period.
- Rules proposed on the preparatory support available for TNC projects are possibly too strict. Specifically, preparatory technical support would be available for LAGs only on condition that they can already demonstrate in specific terms the project envisaged; but according to some participants an exchange of experience, based on a cooperation concept should be eligible before LAGs decide to implement a cooperation project together.

Agenda Item

Presentation of the EN RD website Leader Gateway

by Kasia Panfil (ENRD Contact Point)
To view the presentation [click here](#).

Presentation

The 'Leader Gateway' section of the ENRD website was presented. All the main sections and features of the Gateway were explained:

- The 'Leader Tool Kit', which is a methodological 'guide book' that explains the LEADER method in concrete and practical means from beginners to advanced practitioners.
- 'LAG database' with contact details and basic information on selected LAGs;
- Through the Gateway users can access the result of the Leader Focus Groups works which aims to improve the Leader implementation.
- Transnational cooperation tools, such as: TNC guide, TNC offers database; and
- Finally 'Leader in Action' section which contains publications, brochures and audio-visual content on Leader.

Agenda Item

Forthcoming EN RD and NRN Leader events

by Riin Saluveer (DG AGRI)
To view the presentation [click here](#)

Presentation

The EC presented the list of upcoming ENRD and/or Leader-related events for 2011-2012.

Particular emphasis was given to the planned ENRD LAG Event on 'LEADER, Local development and Cooperation'. This Brussels based event will aim:

- to engage LAGs in discussions about enhancing the quality and implementation of their current / future local development strategies;
- to launch a new wave of transnational co-operation (TNC) projects;
- to promote all aspects / dimensions of co-operation as a key component of local development strategies;

The event will host around 400-450 participants by using an interactive and participatory approach for discussions.

Discussion

The main discussion points were:

Points

- Member States asked the EC to confirm the date of the event as soon as possible in order not to have any clash with the dates of other national/regional events.

Action Points

- The exact date and venue of the event in April is to be confirmed. .