

Leader and rural development policy post 2013 preparation - state of play -

Leader Subcommittee
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Outline

- General context
- Reinforcing multi level governance
- Improving Leader



General context EU's growth strategy

- Europe 2020 strategy => unlocking the EU's growth potential
- part of potential for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth lies in the **endogenous growth** potential at sub regional level
- Sub-regional development policies acting at grass roots level can in particular contribute to the **social inclusion** targets of Europe 2020
- The EU tools in support of the Europe 2020 strategy include levers for growth and jobs such as the **EU budget**
- EU financial support is delivered through the **EU funds** in shared management (EAFRD, ERDF/CF, ESF, EFF)
- a Common Strategic Framework (**CSF**) is proposed to strengthen the coordination and integration of EU policies for the delivery of the Europe 2020 strategy
- CSF will contain **strategic guidelines** for sub regional/local development
- Rules between the Funds for local development will be **harmonised**



Reinforcing multi level governance

Possible actions:

→ Improving strategic choices at Member State level regarding local development:

- Member States would have to choose/define the part of their territory which would be eligible for LDS
- Link local development potential with their overall growth strategy
- Identify a "lead" Fund (EAFRD, ERDF, ESF or EFF) for each LAG/LDS
- Broaden the funding base
- Reinforce rural-urban links



LEADER as the main local development instrument

- **The Leader approach based on its specific features will continue to be an important tool of rural development policy after 2013**
- **Within the EU priorities for rural development unlocking local potential will continue to be an important element**
- **The implementation mechanisms of Leader will be improved in order to be able to better meet the expected added-value of the Leader approach**



Improvements in the implementation of LEADER

...on the basis of the lessons learned from the previous Leader Community Initiatives and the „mainstreamed“ Leader in 07-13 (especially from the focus groups):

- **More guidance to the Member States in the legal framework: offering flexibility for the implementation without being too prescriptive**
- **Goal: Make Leader fit to better serve innovation and local governance**



Improvements in the implementation of LEADER

Concretely (1):

- Strengthening the role of the local development strategies (LDS) as the central tool to meet objectives: quality of design and implementation (including better monitoring and evaluation)
 - Ensuring the presence of all Leader specificities
- especially: more freedom for LAGs to chose those projects which best fit their strategies



Improvements in the implementation of LEADER

Concretely (2):

- **Clearer distribution of tasks between the authorities and the LAGs (depending on the implementation model followed)**
- **Greater focus on animation and capacity building (also for the preparation of the strategies)**
- **Strengthening the participation of the private sector in the partnerships**



Improvements in the implementation of LEADER

Concretely (3):

- **Streamlining transnational cooperation**
 - **Re-inforced networking tools for LAGs on EU and national level**
- synergies with the local development networking instruments of the other EU Funds**



Thank you!



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development

