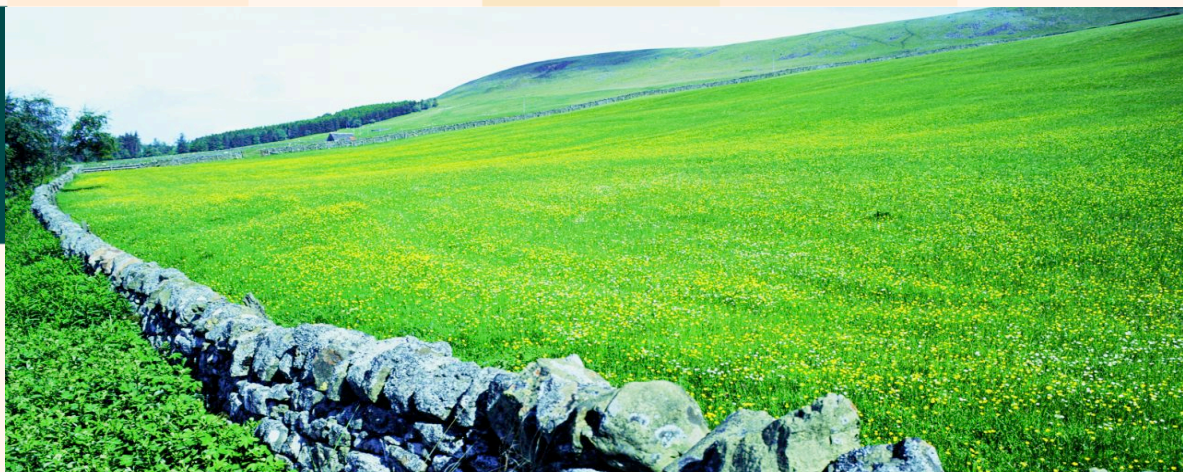




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Session 1

Implementation of the bottom-up approach

Leader subcommittee meeting – 25/11/2009



Objective of the session

- **Inventory of difficulties in implementation of the bottom up principle in particular related to the decision making process**
- **Identify good practices**
- **Identify candidates for the focus group_**



Issues to address

- **Is the distinct role of the local action group and other implementing bodies well defined ?**
- **Do LAGs have sufficient management capacity to implement local development strategies?**
- **Are LAG tools in place to implement the local development strategy ?**



A clear separation of function

- **LAG responsible for elaborating and implementing a local development strategy with its own with a decision-making power (Article 61 (c))**
- **Managing Authority responsible for ensuring that programme is managed and implemented in an efficient, effective and correct way (Article 75).**
- **Accredited paying agency responsible for ensuring that eligibility of payment claims is checked before being authorised (Article 6.1 of Regulation 1290/2005)**



Separation of function reflected in the operation approval procedure

- Managing Authority ensures that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the criteria applicable to the rural development programme (Article 75.1 a). “Selected for funding” in the sense of legal commitment/formal approval.
- Local action groups shall choose the projects to be financed under the strategy. They may also select cooperation projects (Article 62.4)



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Distinct role of Implementing bodies and interaction between them.

- **Is there a clear separation of functions between the local action groups, the managing authorities and paying agencies and other intermediate bodies ?**
- **How far do these bodies collaborate ?**
- **Is the role of LAGs well defined ?**
- **Are all tasks needed for the LAG management eligible ?**



Role of the LAG in the implementation of local development strategy :

- Technical local assistance for project development
- Project selection
 - Local calls for proposals (reception and eligibility assessment of proposals)
 - Selection of projects by the private-public partnership (selection committee)
 - Should LAGs take a decision on the exact amount of the support in order to set priorities and monitor the spending of the local development budget?
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Control tasks:
 - Should LAGs perform administrative checks on applications and payment claims as foreseen under Article 33.1 of Regulation (EC) n°1975:2006 (delegation of control tasks)?



LAG management capacity :

- **Do LAG management capacity receive enough attention ?**
- **How can Managing Authorities and National Networks address the LAG management skills needs ?**
- **What kind of support ?**
 - **training of LAG staff and partners**
 - **studies at LAG level**
 - **What kind of actions are developed by National Rural Networks ?**
- **Which measure is used ?**
 - **Are skills acquisition sub-measures (431 or 341) used ?**
 - **Is technical assistance used (e.g. management guidance note for the LAGs) ?**



LAG tools :

- **How to ensure that local strategic priorities are respected ?) Identify good examples (e.g. clear transparent project selection criteria)**
- **Examine the relations between LAGs and beneficiaries (monitoring and reporting obligations)**
- **Should LAGs monitor project implementation as part of the monitoring of local development strategy?**
- **Exchange of views on tools used for the evaluation of local development strategy**