



# **Preserving the innovative character of Leader: Claim & Reality**

**Netzwerk Land  
NRN Austria**

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# Framework for Innovation

**Wide scope for innovation in European, national and local RDP strategies:**

- Council Regulation
- National RDP programmes
- Local development strategies
- Leader approach

**The sky is the limit?**



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# Possible restrictions

Allocation of almost entire budget to predefined measures

Interests of Agriculture versus regional interests

More and less innovative administrations

Lack of criteria to assess the innovative character of projects: random decisions – not comprehensible

Focus on utilisation of subsidies reduces innovative character



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# Prerequisites for Innovation

**Organisational structures to manage innovation process (LAG)**

**Framework and strategic focus on innovation (local development strategy)**

**Creativity, flexibility, scope and budget for innovation (possibly restricted)**

**Creative milieu - diversity**



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# Innovation and Diversity

**Diversity powers innovation!**

**Innovation requires thinking differently!**

**Scott E. Page, Michigan University**

**Heterogenous composed networks are more innovative and effective!**

**Harald Katzmaier, FAS Research**

**Teams composed of heterogenous moderate members are more innovative than teams composed of excellent specialists**

**Cosma Shalizi, Santa Fe Institute**



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# Diversity and Leader

**Is Leader an attractive programme for:**

- **Entrepreneurs**
- **Women**
- **Youth**
- **Migrants**
- **NGOs (social, environment, culture etc.)**
- **Innovative and creative people outside established organisations**

**Or is Leader more a programme for:**

- **Mayors and municipalities**
- **Functionaries (agriculture, tourism etc.)**
- **Men between 40 and 60 years old**



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# Innovation of Innovation: „Leader of Excellence“

Complement Leader Mainstreaming with „Leader of Excellence“

Focus mainly on innovation (innovation as key message)

Ambitious competition to select „excellent“ Leader areas (restricted number of areas)

Independent jury of experts

Permanent support by experts for creativity and innovation



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# Thank you for your attention!

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