



# Summary of the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> LEADER Sub-Committee

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**Agenda Item**      **Opening of the Meeting**

**Discussion Points**

Rob Peters, (DG AGRI) opened the session by welcoming participants to the 10th LEADER Sub-Committee.

**Agenda Item**      **Bringing the programming period to a good end: overview of Leader and Transnational Cooperation (TNC) implementation**

**Presentations**

- [State of play of LEADER](#) by Jean-Michel Courades, DG AGRI
- [How different Member States are preparing for finalising Axis 4?](#) by Inés Jordana, ENRD CP

**Discussion Points**

**State of play of LEADER**

The presentation introduced the state of play of LEADER implementation in the current programming period and the transition rules, envisaged to be applied until 2015. Sources used for this presentation include the 2012 Annual Progress Reports (execution until Dec 2011), the Quarterly Financial Declaration (Q4 2012), ENRD CP preparatory survey and notifications on TNC projects under SFC (System for Fund Management in the European Community 2007 – 2013).

**Some important findings based on the data available include the following:**

- **EAFRD Expenditure declared:** On average only 30.9% of the Axis 4 budget has been spent (11 MS are currently below the EU average). Acceleration in budget execution has been observed in 2012. An average quarterly declaration of expenditure of 350 mio Euros would be needed until end of 2015 to spend the remaining 4.2 bio Euros programmed for Axis 4. A few RDPs will not be in position to spend the whole of Axis 4.

- In terms of budget commitment or contracted 9 MS are already above 85% of the budget allocated to Axis 4. The vast majority of the LEADER 2007-2013 projects are not completed and still being implemented.

- According to the 2012 annual progress reports 91.5% of projects supported in the period 2007-2011 fall under Axis 3 objectives, followed by Axis 1 (7%) and Axis 2 (1.5%). 90% of the beneficiaries come from the private sector and only 10% come from the public sector.

- Mid of April 2013 at least 913 inter-territorial projects were approved (data from 16 Member States) and 330 transnational approved transnational projects were notified to the EC. T

here is still time and budget available for new co-operation (inter-territorial and TNC) projects to be approved..

### How different States are preparing for finalising Axis 4?

The presentation illustrated the updated results of a survey conducted through the "MyENRD" platform aimed at exploring what approaches MSs are taking towards LEADER in the conclusive phase of the current programming period. On the basis of 24 replies from 20 MSs (as some LAGs and Regional Networks from the same MS also contributed), it emerged that actions are undertaken to ensure a smoother implementation of LEADER at programme and LAG level.

Actions at administrative level include a simplification of the application process or simplification of the catalogue of eligible costs based on a review of LEADER implementation, emphasis on networking and capacity building actions (for instance: training, workshops, audio-visual campaigns, MA staff appointed as an administrative support for each of the LAGs etc.);

Action at financial level a re-allocation of budget between LAGs or between Axis 4 measures;

Main points arising from the discussion:

- Majority of MSs still have budget to implement projects including cooperation projects.
- There was interest expressed in the simplification of the catalogue of eligible costs (Estonia) and speed up the process of financial claims (Lithuania).
- The financial crisis is delaying the implementation of projects. In some MS the local authorities with less resources focus only their mandatory tasks. A number of participants stressed the great importance of ensuring in advance a national envelope or a reserved line in local authorities budgets for the LEADER national public co-funding. In AT there is an obligation for local authorities to cover 40% of the LAG running costs
- In several MS beneficiaries obtain National public co-funding simultaneously with the EAFRD support. The additional national support if separate from EAFRD payment can impose additional eligibility conditions on the beneficiary. In FR the mid-term evaluation of Axis 4 shows that regional priorities were imposed to LAGs losing their autonomy to define local priorities.
- The use of interim payments to help cash flow for projects above a certain size we mentioned (AT)

COST;

## Agenda Item

## ENRD Year 6: your first ideas

### Presentations

- [ENRD Year 6 – initial ideas](#) by Donald Aquilina, ENRD CP

### Discussion Points

The presentation focused on the activities foreseen for year 6 of the ENRD. Some initial ideas on potential activities were presented which mainly comprised of: :

- Consolidation of the LEADER Toolkit which includes the development of new content related to LAG self-evaluation based on the work of Focus Group 4.
- Consolidation of LEADER web-based tools including updates of the LAG database and Map.
- LEADER cooperation which involves the on-going support to TNC activities but also undertaking a survey on the implementation of measure 431 (both inter-territorial and Trans-national) to have a better understanding of the number of projects supported, the budget and type amongst others.

Some ideas and suggestions arised from the discussion which include: :

- Proposals to support workshops on various topics: Financing mechanisms and procedures, LAG have already found a range of different tools that can be used), Self-evaluation and monitoring workshop (use of indicators to show the intangible value of LEADER)
- The multi-fund approach should be better explained.
- A question was asked on the state of play of the CLLD guidelines and it was explained that these are expected to be finalised by the end of April 2013. There is no significant change and they incorporate the feedback provided by the MS.

Drawing Summary of 10<sup>th</sup> LEADER Sub-Committee:

