

PROPOSED NRN THEMATIC CLUSTER ON COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

How to make CLLD a successful development tool during the 2014-2020 programming period?

Working Document

28 May 2013

1. Objective of the CLLD thematic cluster

Articles 28 to 31 of the proposed Draft Regulation for the next programming period (2014-2020) on the Common Provisions for the ERDF, ESF, the Cohesion Fund, EAFRD and the EMFF sets out the details of the future CLLD. The new draft provisions are based on the LEADER approach and concern all Funds covered by the Common Strategic Framework.

CLLD is expected to mobilise and involve local communities and organisations to contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 Strategy goals of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, fostering territorial cohesion and reaching specific policy objectives. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the more explicit support, in the form of a joint legal framework and harmonised rules for the five CSF Funds, will increase consistency and encourage the creation of multi-funded local community-led strategies.

The CLLD cluster builds on a set of common interests and objectives; among others it aims to:

- enhance *cooperation and exchange of experience* among key stakeholders;
- help to *concentrate and economise* the efforts of networks (and avoid duplication of work) in understanding the possible forms and operation of CLLD (e.g. carry out joint surveys; rather than addressing NRNs through a range of surveys)
- produce *practically-focused tools* and guidance that can assist NRNs and other key stakeholders in the CLLD implementation;
- articulate the needs and information gaps in view to inform the development process of the CLLD Guidelines and other strategic documents.

It is expected that member of the thematic cluster will be primarily NSUs. However, the CLLD thematic cluster will be open to other interested stakeholders (including Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies and LAGs).

2. CLLD in Hungary and the Hungarian National Rural Network as the lead network of the thematic cluster

The HNRN will take the leading role within the CLLD thematic cluster, and will be primarily responsible for the coordination of the cluster's work. The HNRN has become an important actor in Hungarian rural development, and it is actively participating in the planning of the rural development programme co-funded by the EU for 2014-2020. The Presidency delegated experts to every work group tasked by the Ministry of Rural Development with planning. The HNRN is also responsible for the social consultation of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

To date, the Hungarian Government has not taken a decision on how the CLLD and multi-funding approach will be applied in the next programming period. However, extensive discussions are taking place on how to apply CLLD and multi-funding. It is proposed that the CLLD method is implemented through multi-funding in those territories that also cover small towns, with the primarily aim to strengthen urban-rural relations.

3. Methodology & key issues

The proposed **methodology** consist of the following elements/actions:

- The Hungarian NRN agreed to take on the lead/ coordination role with regards to the CLLD cluster.
- As a first step of the cluster development, a survey is carried out and a report is being produced, with the primarily aim to map up the current state of play on CLLD and multi-funding in the individual member states.

- At the same time, an email will be sent to all NRNs in order to foresee which other NRNs are interested in taking part in the work of the cluster.
- During the setting-up phase, NRNs will be asked to identify some of the key issues of interest that the cluster should address; and a final set of questions/issues will be defined for the purpose of the cluster.
- It is considered to be important that cluster members are committed to take an active part in the activities. It is planned that a set of key activities will be defined in agreement with interested NRNs, and on the basis of key issues identified in cooperation among interested networks. Each (or most) participant NRNs will take a lead responsibility of one (or more) of the activities in coordination with the Hungarian Network.

Some of the **key issues** that the cluster may address include:

- *Glossary of key terms*: How a common understanding of key terms and notions (such as community ownership; social/interactive innovation; etc.) can be developed?
- *State of play*: How CLLD will be applied in different Member States? (building on initial findings of the survey carried out by the Swedish Network)?
- *Thematic showcasing*: What is the possible relevance of the CLLD approach in addressing specific thematic priorities of future development policies (such as climate change adaptation, environment protection and resource efficiency, sustainable transport and infrastructure networks, labour mobility, and social inclusion)?
- *The role of Local Action Groups in CLLD*: What roles LAGs will play in CLLD in the various Member States (roles and responsibilities, autonomy, cooperation with other stakeholders)?
- *Local Development Strategies & multi-funding*: How an integrated bottom-up LDS can be developed to address a variety of needs (area and population coverage, urban-rural, key issues/thematic priorities, etc)?
- *Cooperation & multi-level governance*: How far different stakeholders cooperate in developing and implementing local development strategies (vertical cooperation: EU, national, local levels; horizontal cooperation: between various ministries, cooperation between LAGs)?
- *Common guidance and training materials*: How to implement CLLD, and how CLLD can support the thematic objectives of EAFRD, EMFF, ERDF, ESF?

4. Indicative actions & activities of the cluster

A set of activities will be identified during the setting-up phase in cooperation with all interested networks, and on the basis of key issues of interests identified. Activities will typically include surveys/mapping exercise; literature review; meetings; preparation of strategic working papers; action plans; guidance and tools. The outputs of the CLLD cluster will have a strong practical focus, with the aim to provide LAGs, MAs, NRNs and other key stakeholders involved in future CLLD with useful guidance and tools.

It is planned that during the **first phase** of implementation:

- A survey report will be prepared on the 'state-of-play' on CLLD and multi-funding in the member states;
- The cluster and survey findings will be presented during the 18th NRN meeting in Portugal (on the 6 June 2013);
- A mapping exercise and the identification of key issues/dilemmas will be carried out (planned until end of July 2013);
- A conference will be held in Budapest in September 2013.