



European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development



European Network for
Rural Development



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Year 4 consultation process &
Proposal for a new focus group

Leader subcommittee
17 May 2011



Background

- **Leader subcommittee of November 2010:**
 - Results of previous FG-s
 - Further Leader issues still to examine in particular the local development strategy
 - Suggestion to transform the three focus groups into a new focus group
 - To advise the Member States with regards to the current and the next programming period,
 - To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Leader Approach
- **ECA Special Report on Leader**
- **Leader+ ex post evaluation**

Objective of the group

- **General objective:**
 - To advise the Member States and the EC with regards to the current and the next programming period
 - To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Leader Approach
- **Operational objectives:**
 - to identify the minimal elements in the design of local development strategies and
 - to collect tools and good practices used at LAG level ensuring an efficient implementation of local development strategies

Possible scope of the group

- What is a good quality local development strategy (LDS)
- Examples of regulatory framework at national/regional level both on:
 - selection procedure
 - LDS content
- Examples of LDS ensuring synergies between EU funds;
- What to avoid in designing and implementing LDS etc.
- The focus group could look at both levels:
 - LAG level
 - RDP level

Format and set-up

- To continue to use **Focus group flexible environment** that proved to work well:
 - value added from different actors (MA; NRN, LAGs, organisations) working together
 - improved levels of cooperation between Managing Authorities and Local Action Groups.
- **Main principles of a new focus group:**
 - To discuss as active cells on the critical follow-up of the implementation of the Leader approach in all MS, gathering information on different solutions and approaches
 - Bottom-up groups: will be chaired by volunteer members of Lsc
 - No reimbursement of expenses by the Commission
 - Report back to the Leader subcommittee
- **Participants:**
 - Volunteers – nominated by Leader subcommittee member
 - Flexible structure of membership/ open membership – a new member can join the FG at any time
 - Contact Point:
 - secretariat
 - expert support when needed

Next steps:

Formulation of the group and elaboration of the workplan	May-July 2011
Implementation of the workplan	July-October 2011
First results to Lsc	November 2011
Final results to Lsc	Spring 2012