

Added Value of Networking



Local Development Strategies in the Programme Period 2014-2020

Basic information	
NRN:	Portuguese NRN
Theme:	Success story
Coordinator:	Maria Custódia Correia
Partners:	Federation “Minha Terra”
Beneficiaries:	Mainly LAGs
Resources:	EAFRD (Technical Assistance of NSU and a project from Federation “Minha Terra”, supported by NRN Programme)
Period:	November 2012 – October 2013
Main element of networking:	Capacity building and training
Other elements of networking:	Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders Building common understanding of common policies

Background

The challenges faced in preparing the next programming period are demanding at several levels, namely the different national structures involved in programming and the local partnerships that support the Local Action Groups, in particular in the process of developing and writing participatory Local Development Strategies.

The National Rural Network in partnership with the “Minha Terra” Federation (the Portuguese LAG Association) began a process of reflection and information gathering to support the partnerships, LAG managers and technical staff.

Main activities

Module I – A seminar entitled “Leader and CLLD in the programming period 2014-2020”.

This seminar presented the European Commission’s view of the multi-funding approach (Mr. Sousa Uva from DG-AGRI) and the national perspective (Deputy Director of the Department of Planning and Policies, and National Strategic Reference Framework Observatory). There were also presentations on



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the main results of Focus Group 4 - Better Local Development Strategies (Petri Rinne); Testimonial of LAGs who already work with multi-fund strategies (LAG IRD Duhallow - Maura Walsh); and 2 Portuguese LAGs (Terras Dentro and Sol do Ave).

The NRN and Minha Terra Federation used this seminar to identify the needs of the LAGs in relation to the development, implementation and monitoring & evaluation of the LDS for the next programming period in order to organise the following additional modules.

Module II - Four regional training initiatives.

These took place in Caramulo, Sesimbra, Amarante and Évora during January and February 2013 and focused on development, analysis and evaluation of projects. This included Problem and Objective Trees; Logical Framework Matrix; and GANT and PRET Methodologies using participatory approaches.

Module III - Nine sub-regional workshops

These are due to take place in Faro, Beja, Lisboa, Castelo Branco, Mirandela, Santarém, Cantanhede, Felgueiras e Melgaço, during June and July 2013. LAGs specific needs will be identified with LAGs from neighbouring areas working together and exchanging experience to develop high quality LDSs with the support of a consultant.

Module IV – Nine sub-regional consultancy activities.

Taking place during November and December 2013 these activities will increase the specific and individual consultancy support provided to each LAG.

Main results/benefits

Module I – 130 people attended the seminar including LAGs, technical staff from the administration team at the Ministry of Agriculture, Universities and Agriculture Associations. Feedback forms were completed by those who attended. These showed that participants warned of the need to start preparation of the LDSs early and so felt this was a very timely theme. Feedback also showed that participants found the presentations very interesting and helpful. There was however little opportunity to debate with few people participating. It was also felt that networking and cooperation were not discussed enough. Suggestions for future events included elaboration of EDL and the multi-funding approach, and developing partnerships.

Module II - 4 regional training activities of 18 hours each took place with 51 LAGs participating. Feedback forms were completed by those who attended with participants feeling the training was very useful, they learned a lot and felt it was a success. The only negative mentioned was how intensive the schedule was.

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Module III - 9 sub-regional workshops will take place with each LAG receiving 2 hours support totalling 100 hours.

Module IV - 9 sub-regional Consultancy activities will take place of 2 hours per LAG totalling 100 hours.

Success factors

LAGs were very motivated to participate because the consultant utilised was very good and they were aware of him from other training activities delivered previously. The process of identifying LAG needs and developing that into this initiative was well disseminated among all the LAGs and their participation was excellent. All LAGs thought that this initiative was a good tool which helped them prepare their next LDS.

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The whole process was instigated by the NRN in partnership with the Minha Terra Federation. Every element of the initiative worked more effectively because of the networking role of the NRN. The NRN also has a great deal of experience in dealing with logistical issues which supported delivery of the activities with Minha Terra who has a very close relationship with all the LAGs.

Contribution of the NSU

Contribution of the NSU included co-ordination and organisation of the whole “process of qualification” and financial support for Modules I, III and IV.

Contribution of the partners

The partners were involved in the co-ordination and organisation of the whole “process of qualification” and financial support for Module II.

Additional information

Module II - After each regional training activity the consultant asked each LAG what their biggest difficulties were and what they would like to discuss in future events in order to prepare the specific actions in the next Module.

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Pictures



Source: Portuguese NRN

Last Update

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